



*Working with Ability*



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## Where to find NOVA

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## Celebrating Success!

The local Broken Hill mining company's decision to lay off 400+ workers provided NOVA staff with the desire to 'do something'.

We wanted to recognise the contribution made by local employers to our cause – helping people who have a disability achieve their career goals, and we also wanted to showcase some of the remarkable achievements of the present Transition to Work trainees.

The means chosen to achieve these aims included inviting a remarkable guest speaker, Mr Paul Hockey, self-described 'one-armed bandit' who has successfully conquered the planet's highest mountain (Mt Everest), to be our guest speaker and then seeing if we could get the support of the town employers to celebrate the achievements of local people with disability and their own contribution to the community of Broken Hill. NOVA is fortunate to have a very committed and motivated team at Broken Hill – Jess, Brenda, Georgie & Linda worked very hard to find a great venue and organise an entertaining and inspirational night.

NOVA has been in Broken Hill for nearly 14 years and dozens of people have found work through the efforts of our staff. We chose to highlight the latest achievers from this group and particularly the success of the State government's Transition to Work program.

The evening was a great success.

As a direct result we have been offered 2 extra jobs and reminded the town's employers that while the mine might ebb and flow, the community spirit of Broken Hill's employers remains exceptional.

To view the 'Special Edition E-zine featuring this Gala event click the following link:  
[http://www.novaemployment.com.au/ezine/08-10\\_E-Zine\\_Special\\_Edition\\_Broken\\_Hill.pdf](http://www.novaemployment.com.au/ezine/08-10_E-Zine_Special_Edition_Broken_Hill.pdf)

## Where are they now?

After leaving school, I enrolled in TAFE to pursue a pathway course in horticulture. It soon became obvious that the physical difficulties I experience due to Cerebral Palsy meant that I was unable to continue. I switched courses and was offered an Australian Traineeship in General Office Support Services. Whilst studying I worked in the Business Services faculty at Richmond College.

After graduation, I approached NOVA Employment for assistance to find open employment in this field. With NOVA's support, I was successful in gaining employment as the Administration Assistant at a local disability service.

I loved this job and was very successful at it. NOVA continued to support me with travel training. I also managed to work for Australia Post, as a postal sorting officer during peak periods throughout the year. I remained with the disability service for ten years becoming the longest serving employee until the services' funds were cut and the position no longer existed.

Currently, I am seeking open employment with the help of NOVA. I hold a significant role as a volunteer secretary and communications member for the NSW Rural Fire Service in my local area and continue to study Information Technology at TAFE. I also participate in the community, welfare and pastoral care program at the local hospital. I love the people I meet and enjoy every moment of my work. My association with NOVA Employment continues because I have made friends and have been encouraged to continue job seeking in open employment of my choice.



Martin Wren with Matthew at the Opening of the new Richmond Office.

**Matthew, Richmond NSW**

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING DENNIS

NOVA Employment Hurstville

## How do you climb Mt. Everest?



I first met Dennis in early 2007. He was shy, quiet, rarely looked up and when he spoke it was almost a whisper. Dennis has an Intellectual Disability. It had took several phone calls and many letters to encourage him to show up for his first appointment and when he did he was late. A timid young man who spoke softly and was unsure of what he wanted to do next - he clearly lacked confidence. He tried to smile but he found even this was too difficult.

**Silence, a blink and we jump  
to November 2008.**

A young man, immaculately dressed in a black suit walks into the office, stands proud and greets me. He smiles, a smile that feels like it's originating from deep within him perhaps from his soul. A smile that could warm any room, an infectious smile that automatically makes you smile back.

Dennis says he loves his job, that he has a great boss, terrific workmates and a safe workplace.

His manager, owner of Hungry Jacks Dallas Kumar speaks highly of Dennis and says that he a true success story. Dennis is now one of the most valuable team members. He is polite, helpful and friendly and is being considered for the position of Crew Trainer a new step in his career in the hospitality industry.

With the strong, positive guidance and support of NOVA Employment, Dennis has grown into a mature, professional, confident worker. Dennis reminds us that a job is not just a job, but a key.

A key that unlocks the real person within us, the person we can become in the future.

So how do you climb Mt Everest?

**In small steps of course.  
Travel well Dennis.**

Check out the video starring Dennis by clicking this link:

<http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=pSy68HO4ySQ>

## WOW!

What a year for Bernadette. In April 2008, Bernadette started working at the Catholic Education Office in Sydney. With the support provided by Annita, her Employment Consultant, Bernadette was able to master her role as a General Assistant (Catering). Her duties include maintaining the kitchens, setting and clearing the dining room, preparation of morning and afternoon teas, and washing up. Another important responsibility is the upkeep and appearance of the chapel and vesting areas.

## Congratulations Bernadette

NOVA's policy of 100 hours of onsite support is a GREAT benefit to both the client and the employer. With this support, Bernadette has been able to learn her duties at her own pace. The Catholic Education Office is very happy with Bernadette, the support given by Annita and Nova Employment.

As part of the World Youth Day celebrations, Bernadette was invited to attend a cruise around Sydney Harbour with the Pope and even had her photo taken with him.

Over the last six months Bernadette has grown and thrived in her new role. The photo below shows just how happy Bernadette is.

NOVA Employment Hurstville



Bernadette

NOVA Employment Hurstville

## New Premises for our Richmond Team



The Richmond branch of NOVA Employment and Training held an Open Day to celebrate their new premises now situated at:

**Macquarie House  
24 Bosworth St  
Richmond NSW 2753**

Martin Wren CEO of NOVA spoke about the services provided by NOVA Employment which include;

- NOVA Employment
- NOVA Deaf Jobs
- NOVA Training
- Transition to Work

and the support afforded to the local community



This Open Day was an opportunity to network with employers, other agencies, parents of and the general public and showcase what we actually do.

Louise Markus Federal MP for Greenway presented Job Club Certificates to year 10 students from Kuyper Christian School and year 12 students from Richmond High School.

NOVA would like to thank; First Lease Australia, Paul Wakeling for the donation of Holden merchandise, Woolworths, McDonalds Richmond, Locs Bread Springwood, Brian Harris from MacArthur Party Hire, Bushes Fresh Meats, Subway, North Richmond, Angels Florist Windsor, Reject Shop Richmond, Janel Collins for her organisation and support and the staff of NOVA Richmond.



## TTW + Nova = Success!

When Joshua left school he commenced the Transition to Work program in NOVA's Miranda office (now Caringbah), where he learnt skills to prepare him for the workforce. Through this exceptional program Joshua received training in work ready skills. In particular Joshua was able to learnt the importance of being punctual, how to return from breaks on time, and how to use public transport to travel to and from work.

The training he received whilst a Transition to Work trainee certainly paid off as Joshua has been employed for the past 16 months.

After graduating the program Joshua was assisted to find this employment at Harvey Norman by one of NOVA's highly skilled Employment Consultant Julie Zahra.

Even though Joshua has been employed for a substantial amount of time, Julie still remains in contact. This contact also extends to Joshua's family, his employer and the close knit team of co-workers. Joshua says that he is looking forward to his second end of year party with them in December.



Joshua is also enjoying the independence that employment brings. He has updated his pushbike and his music collection, and still has enough money to go out with his friends.

*At NOVA Employment our professional staff's mission is to help people with a disability find and keep satisfying jobs of their choice ....*

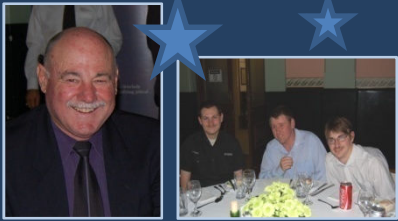
Freecall 1800 ABILITY



The Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer

Staff of Cafe 64 in Walgett decided to have fun and support Canteen's Bandana Day by getting into the spirit of the event and wearing their bandanas.

CanTeen's mission is to support, develop and empower young people living with cancer. Through a wide range of camps and programs, CanTeen encourages young people to share their experiences, make great friends and of course have FUN!



### AWARD Winners

The evening was enhanced by the presentation of prizes to clients and employers who have proven that they are capable and determined to not only succeed but excel in their working lives. Branch Manager, Jess Burton, made special mention of clients Tony, Breanna and David (pictured below). Special mention must be made of the two bar staff who during the evening were offered employment opportunities due to the skill, enthusiasm and work ethic they demonstrated.

Well done NOVA Employment Broken Hill.



### Gala in Broken Hill

Nova Employment hosted a Gala Dinner to acknowledge the employers, community members, clients and carers of Broken Hill. Having operated in Broken Hill since 1995, "We thought it was time to acknowledge local businesses who support our clients whilst celebrating the successes of the clients themselves" enthused Broken Hill Branch Manager, Jess Burton.

Headlining the night was the inspirational guest speaker Paul Hockey, to date the only person with a disability to reach the summit of Mt Everest from the north side. NOVA's CEO, Martin Wren was excited to host such an event and remarked that the spirit and generosity of the town never fails to surprise him.



To dear Jess & Staff

Thank you so much for a wonderful evening last Friday.

The meal was lovely, the guest speaker inspirational, the presentations to NOVA clients really moving and the atmosphere was just great.

Congratulations and thank you again

Kindest regards

Pam Clarke ( & Adam)  
Broken Hill Skills Centre

Dear Jess and Staff

I would like to thank you very much for allowing me to be part of your inaugural Gala Dinner to celebrate the success of your service and its participation in Broken Hill.

I was impressed by the friendly but formal atmosphere of the proceedings. Your guest speakers were enthusiastic and entertaining giving me a new appreciation of the 'mountains' some people need to climb each day just to be able to live and work in the community.

Please pass on my congratulations on to the worthy recipients of your awards and thank Tony for his speech/ I hope to share this experience with you next year.

Congratulations again on an experience that was well planned and memorable for me (and I am sure others).

Yours truly  
Helen Walton  
Broken Hill High School