



July 2010

focus on ABILITY

NOVA OFFICES

NSW

- Bankstown
- Blacktown
- Bourke
- Broken Hill
- Camden
- Campbelltown
- Canterbury
- Caringbah
- Cobar
- Forster
- Hurstville
- Ingleburn
- Katoomba
- Penrith
- Port Macquarie
- Richmond
- Rockdale
- Rouse Hill
- Springwood
- St Marys
- Taree
- Windsor

QLD

- Baubadesert
- Beenleigh
- Logan

CEO Comment— Martin Wren

July has been a particularly exciting month for us with some great 'extras' taking place.

The first was the return of Steven Pocklington and Frank Bristol to present the facilitators training program for our WRAP project. NOVA now has some 30 facilitators capable of delivering the 3 day introduction to WRAP (although we will probably vary the delivery format.)

I would like to give Stephen's new venture 'Well, Beyond Recovery' a plug and say how much I appreciated hearing our instructor's views on the concept of recovery in mental health and particularly for their conviction in relation to the concept of moving beyond 'Recovery' to a state of wellness.

Our second visitor aroused just as much excitement. Mr Dale DiLeo delivered his material (commissioned directly by NOVA) entitled 'Career and Recovery for people with Psychiatric Disabilities'. This was a watershed event for NOVA and the 36 attendees really enjoyed hearing both the confirmation of their own beliefs and practices and exposure to the cutting edge of service delivery.



As a result of these trainings NOVA staff are working on both the revision and upgrading of our induction and staff development programs to incorporate and further refine the material we have received.

Oh yes, we also had a bumper month for placements, the best for 2010 and a great start to the second half of the year. An Ezine 'special' listing the highlights of the training is in development.

- RICHMOND
1st September
- PENRITH
2nd September
- BLACKTOWN
3rd September
- KATOOMBA
8th September
- ST MARYS
9th September
- CARINGBAH
10th September

Focus on Ability 2

The 'Focus on Ability 2' short film competition has drawn to a close and has been a great success. With 28 entries from all around the country and also a few international it was a closely fought out battle for the top 2 places in each category.

There was an extremely high quality of entries this year and a very diverse range. From choirs to dance groups to film clips to sporting groups everyone was showcasing their abilities. Viewers were given great insight into many people's lives and the challenges that many have overcome, providing inspiration to many viewers.



34,035 viewers and voters from a remarkable 56 countries, making this competition a truly global event.

And the winners are.....Stay tuned.

The winners will be announced at the premier event of the year, the NOVA Employment Short Film Competition's Awards night, to be held at the Hoyts Entertainment Centre in Moore Park, Sydney.

The short films can still be viewed at

<http://www.focusonability.com.au/films.asp>



Sharny Van Herp had this to say about the short film 'It's all about ability,' "This film brought tears to my eyes. What a wonderful thing these people are doing!!! To see those children doing complicated steps with confidence, & to see their world expand as it contributes to their general ability & self esteem was an absolute treat."

With the voting period wrapping up on the 30th July it was time to tally the votes.



Hands up for NOVA By Angeline Dawson

NOVA employees have a broad range of skills that suit many job requirements. Placed individuals boast an 80% success rate – those numbers don't lie. As an employer, it's worth it to give challenged Australian's a hand up, not a hand out. Will you put your hand up?

What does putting your 'Hand Up' mean? More than 5,000 businesses have made the decision to put their 'Hand Up' and work with NOVA, allowing job seekers an opportunity to shine.

We have created a place for employers to go to share and connect. We want to know how our people are doing in the field, no matter what the feedback and we want to hear it directly from you. Our goal is to build a community of both current and potential employers and allow them to interact with each other and share helpful information.

Hiring staff is time consuming and expensive, trusting a company to do it for you takes a leap of faith, but knowing that you can ask for advice or feedback from other employers will help the decision making a little easier.



Join others who have put their 'Hands Up for NOVA' on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Hands-Up-for-NOVA/125773594125283>

NOVA Employment is also now on twitter. To keep up to date with the latest information and events go to

<http://twitter.com/novaemployment>

Some more NOVA Employment links



- CAMPBELLTOWN
16th September
- HURSTVILLE
17th September
- FORSTER
21st September
- TAREE
22nd September
- PORT MACQUARIE
23rd September

Due to popular demand



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Can-do expert

Jodie De Ruvo inspires people to aim for the stars and achieve their potential, writes **Dannielle Elms**

BEING paid to spend all day on Facebook is a dream for many people. Yet this is an everyday reality for Jodie De Ruvo, 25, the first disability social facilitator with Nova Employment, an organisation helping people with disabilities find work.

De Ruvo took up the role after being approached by Nova Employment CEO Martin Wren, who wanted to reach out to a younger generation. He believed her likable personality and constant optimism in the face of her own disability made her perfect for the job.

"I love inspiring people," she says. "Part of my job is to cheer up people if they are in a bad frame of mind. The best thing is to hear them say to me, 'Thank you so much, you've made my day!'"

De Ruvo, who was born with brittle bone disease, communicates with people with disabilities and has learned that she can best relate through her own experiences.

"I want to help people with disabilities to realise that just because you cannot walk, or are hearing or sight impaired [does not mean you can't] do anything you want to and anything in this world is accessible."

Her correspondents are dealing with home, lifestyle and employment issues. De Ruvo has experience of the latter after being unemployed for a year. Some employers continue to have misconceptions about how much people with disabilities can contribute in the workplace, she says.

"I'm so lucky to now be in a position which allows me to try to alter this mindset."

De Ruvo maintains a blog site and a Facebook page with inspiring stories of people with disabilities. This involves researching, interviews, writing and editing, skills De Ruvo says come easily even though she has had no formal training.

"I always wanted to be a presenter and I've always enjoyed writing. People have said I'm a natural," she says. De Ruvo had previously worked as a customer service representative, a receptionist, and with promotions, dealing with people on a daily basis. She is also taking a leadership course to help develop her mentoring skills. And she watches other people's interviews to help develop her own techniques.

"I'm a perfectionist so I'm always working to improve. I watch my interviews thinking was there something I could have done differently," she says.

And learning will continue, as Nova helps De Ruvo realise her potential.

"I've found the perfect job. Nova has accommodated my disability right down to the right height desk; they have made everything so easy," she says. Find De Ruvo at candoability.com.au or on Facebook as Jo Blogs.

How to be a disability social facilitator, page 36

Dream job: Jodie De Ruvo revels in her role at Nova Employment
Picture: Katrina Tepper

Inside: Special report on careers in local government

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