



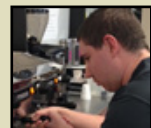
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April 2014



CEO Comment

Martin Wren

April has been a terrific month! – a genuine ‘Celebration of Ability’!

At the end of March (22nd) it was my pleasure to attend NOVA's ‘Hope’ luncheon at the Campbelltown Catholic Club. I joined about 320 other people who had come to be entertained, wined and dined and exposed to the ability of people with disability.

The celebrities (Peter Fitzsimons, Paul Nunnari & Daryl Braithwaite) were as entertaining as you would expect and the highlight of the whole event was the enthusiastic acceptance of some of our job seekers as suitable employment candidates.

Our 100 jobs in 100 days in the St George and Sutherland areas came to an end and, while we didn't make the target we did make a tremendous contribution toward raising awareness of just what can be achieved by workers who have a disability – we also received



some terrific coverage of the campaign (my thanks to Fairfax press) with about a dozen newspaper articles and some good radio promotion as well.

And finally, not content to call it quits we are moving the campaign to support our outlets in the Macarthur region (Campbelltown, Ingleburn and Camden) with a media launch scheduled for May 1st. Once again we are aiming to achieve 100 job starts.

NOVA OFFICES

- Camden
- Campbelltown
- Caringbah
- Engadine
- Hurstville
- Ingleburn
- Katoomba
- Penrith
- Richmond
- Rockdale
- Rouse Hill
- Springwood
- St Marys
- Windsor

Sarah's career off to a flying start

Starting your first job can be a daunting experience, even more so if you have a disability. But not if you are Sarah, who was guided every step of the way by the team at NOVA Employment.

Fresh out of school, Sarah enlisted the help of Sydney based charity NOVA Employment to set her on the employment path. Nicole Willis, Sarah's Employment Manager found her a job at Italian Flavour in Northmead.

"We found her a position with Anil at Italian flavour and they have taken her on in a position for 15 hours per week, she said."

NOVA offers employers post placement support to ensure all employees a smooth passage into the workforce.

Italian Flavour owner Anil Soni has 2 people from NOVA working in his team, and despite initial reservations he has been very happy with the experience.

"I was a bit sceptical at first, thinking I'm just a small business currently with only 3 or 4 staff and it wouldn't suit me, but I am glad I made the step," he said.

Sarah could not be happier with her role, where she has now been employed for over 6 months. "The people are amazing, the work environment is awesome. It is a great place to work at," she said.

"My life has changed dramatically. I'm getting my self confidence up and am now hanging out with people at work that I'd call my best friends."

Due to an increased case load capacity, NOVA Employment is looking to assist more people with a disability into the workforce. If you have a disability, are currently unemployed and require support to find and keep a job, call them today on 8886 1700.



Engaging Life with Hope Luncheon

March 22nd NOVA held the 'Engaging Life With Hope' lunch at the Campbelltown Catholic Club, raising funds for the Emmaus project.

Emmaus provides 24 hour supported accommodation to 16 people with an intellectual disability, across 4 homes.

The day may have raised more than \$10,000, but NOVA Employment chief executive Martin Wren said there were five bigger reasons to celebrate the organisation's fund-raiser on Friday.

"The best result for us is that we had five job offers," he said.

The sold-out event attracted an audience of over 320 people from local businesses and the community.

Mr Wren said local employers at the lunch were inspired by the stories of the organisation's clients.

He said they approached the organisation about hiring five NOVA Employment clients.

"It was a productive spin-off," he said.

Guest speaker Peter FitzSimons provided a captivating speech that had the audience both enthralled and laughing, showing why he is one of Australia's most sought after speakers.

Former Paralympic athlete Paul Nunnari who was a regular on Australian television screens during last year's Australia's Got Talent show, also spoke at the event. Paul gave great insight into his highly successful sporting career, his death defying talent act and now his transition into the corporate world.

Entertainment was by none other than Aussie singing legend Daryl Braithwaite who proved he is still one of the best in the business, having the whole crowd up singing and dancing, a great way to cap off the event.

NOVA would like to thank everyone who came to the event, our wonderful sponsors and the Campbelltown Catholic Club for being such great hosts.



Some NOVA links

Watch our latest video on NOVA's Youtube channel



Become a fan of NOVA on Facebook. Recommend us to your friends.



What's news at Can-Do-Ability?



Want some great employment tips?



Ingleburn TTTW is a brand new program that started up this year. The trainees surprise and inspire both Inderjot and I every day with enthusiasm; positive attitude and determination to overcome obstacles and reach their potential in their life.

As part of our TTW we are lucky to have the facilities to train our trainees as Barista's in St Marys. Our trainees took the opportunity to travel to St Marys and utilise these facilities with the help of Vanessa. Vanessa did a wonderful job in guiding our trainees through the ins and outs of making quality coffee.

We used this opportunity to practice the skills that we have been learning in our program, planning, organisation, budgeting and time management. They researched and planned how, when, and the cost to travel to St Marys by public transport. They had the added challenge to take into consideration the difficulties of traveling by public transport when wheelchair bound. This was a great learning experience and eye opener for our able bodied trainees and myself, it also provided an opportunity for our trainee who is in a wheelchair to become a mentor.

Each trainee spent one on one time with Vanessa practicing the processes of making coffee and working cleanly and efficiently and with WHS standards..

Identifying understanding and utilising the functions of the Coffee Grinder and Coffee Machine, along with safely and hygienically creating fantastic tasting coffee, was no small feat for our trainees. It goes a long way to highlighting the quality skills, enthusiasm and professionalism of Vanessa. Thank you again.

Apparently we have some budding Baristas in the making at Ingleburn and I was impressed to witness the beginning development of their professional mannerisms and customer service techniques. It was a great opportunity for those trainees who struggle with communication and confidence to interact and practice their skill in a fun, practical and safe environment. It was amazing to see some who struggle with communicating, come out of themselves and find their confidence and their voice to speak up, ask questions, smile and joke in situations they usually wouldn't speak in or give eye contact.

Seeing their small improvements, gaining confidence, seeing the smiles on their faces when they tasted the "professional" coffee they were responsible for making, and seeing them stand taller. Being a part of these inspirational young adults' lives is a privilege and a joy. This is the most heart-warming and satisfying part of being a Job Coach, and one that I am truly thankful for. I look forward to witnessing their continuing development in the coming year.



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