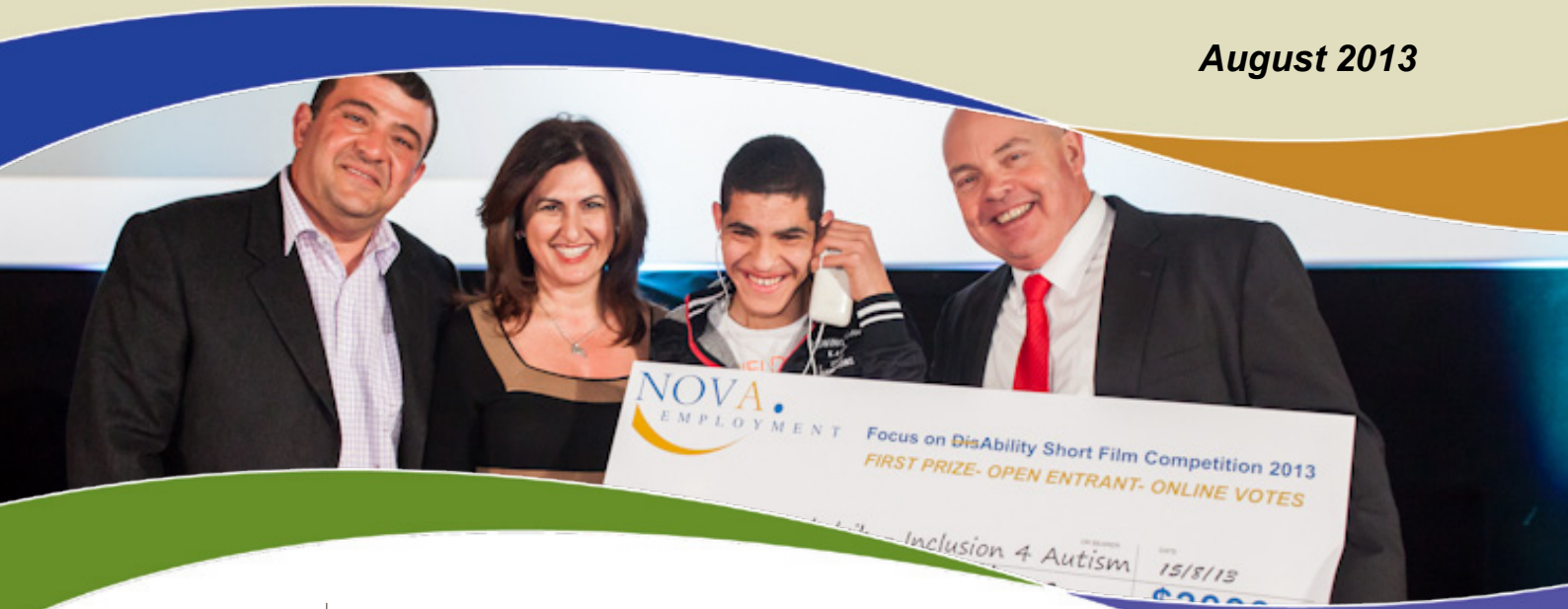




August 2013



CEO Comment

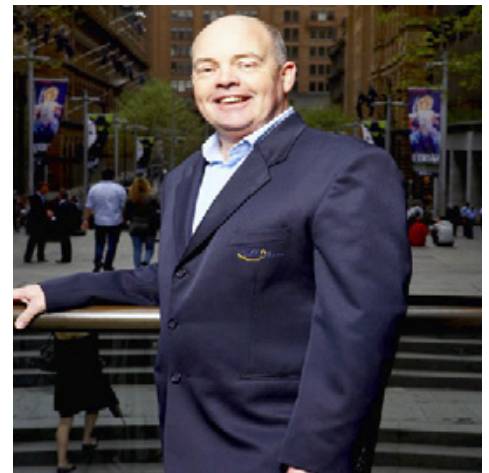
Martin Wren

It's a shame to have to start this edition with a negative but the proposed changes to FBT (Fringe Benefits Tax) if introduced would be disastrous for organisations like NOVA.

Unheralded and without discussion the arbitrary nature of the government's so called 'BMW tax' is nothing of the sort. Rather, if our government remains committed to their introduction, the changes will be a 'Barina Tax' affecting the working conditions of my staff by more than \$400,000pa!

If NOVA supplied ute's to employee's we would pay no tax – these are viewed as 'tools of trade'. By supplying vehicles to our workers enabling the safe and reliable transport of people with disability we suddenly become liable for taxation when these are plainly made available for the same purpose; they are tools of trade.

The majority of the funds NOVA receive come from the Commonwealth. The



introduction of this tax without exempting charities simply returns Commonwealth funds that were designed for one purpose to be used to reduce a deficit – this is a tax on the capacity of charities to carry out their business and clearly not in the interests of people with disability.

Saturday the 7th of September allows voters the chance to seek more considered responses to the needs of our community.

NOVA OFFICES

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

2013 FOA Awards Evening

Smiles, tears, laughter and celebration. The 2013 Focus on Ability Short Film Competition awards evening had it all.

Thursday August 15, saw 400 people attend Hoyts Cinemas at Sydney's Fox Studios to celebrate the ability of people with a disability. This year's competition broke every previous record with 80 entries coming in from every state in Australia and even one from the Philippines and Slovenia, making it a truly International success.



If the amount of smiles on faces is an indication of an amazing evening, then this one purely dazzled. School students, staff, parents, carers, film makers, sponsors, big businesses and celebrities all mingled in the foyer enjoying canapés and the live band before heading into the cinema.

Entertainment for the evening was the shoe tapping 'Boys in the Band, the 'Young Talent Development Project' and who could forget, the ever entertaining Special Olympic Dancers. With the wonderful NOVA ambassador Paula Duncan AM directing the evening, the full cinema was treated to 9 of the best films played on the big screen and all 12 awards presented.

The professional judging panel was made up of leading industry talent John Orcsik, Bill Hughes and David Cameron. They had the tough task of choosing winners in both the school and open entrant section, which can all be seen on the next page.

Congratulations to all the film makers in this year's competition. 2013 was an amazing success, but we are not resting on our laurels and promise that 2014 will be even bigger. Be sure to check out the full video of the 2013 awards evening by visiting www.focusonability.com.au

2013 FOA Film Competition Winners List

Open Entrant Film (It's Always a Beautiful day – Stanley Joseph)

- Judges Choice - 2 return tickets to Hollywood courtesy of Hawaiian airlines to study for 10 weeks at TAFTA's film and television school, including accommodation and \$3000 spending money.



Open Entrant Documentary (Welcome- Carl Thompson)

- Judges Choice -A Sugarlove masterclass with Bradley Patrick and a Sony SLTA57S twin lens kit camera.

Open Entrant – Most online Votes

- First prize - \$3000 (Inclusion 4 Autism- Emily & Randa Habelrih)
- Runner Up - \$1000 (Heart & Soul – Byron Phillips)

School Film

- Judges Choice \$15,000 Smeg appliance package (The track less travelled – Lucas Heights Community School)

School Documentary

- Judges Choice Sony Entertainment Package (Impossible – Chatswood High)

School Entrant Most online Votes

- First Prize - \$3000 (Spectrum Squad and the Misfortune of Miss Fortune - Kogarah High School Autism Unit)
- Runner Up - \$1500 (Paper Plane - Hope Courage & Determination -St Columba's High School)

Corporate Film

- Most Online Votes - A catered box at Swans match (Beau's Story – You Me Us)
- Most innovative - A Change the Game Video and Digital Marketing Strategy Session (Valued at \$2,500) and A Positioning Interview (Normally \$1,750.00) - <http://magneticdigitalmarketing.com> (Believe Achieve – Cerebral Palsy NSW)

NOVA Choice Award - A day of sailing on Wild oats 10 for 4 people (Seashells – Nathan Colquhoun)

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?



Windsor TTW - 100% success

Vanessa Herman

During each 2 year program a Job Coach is responsible for ensuring that our trainees are not only ready to become taxpayers but that when a trainee gets a job, they will have all the tools they need to keep it. To achieve this we need to ensure that there is a complete balance of learning various life and work skills... it may sound simple, but it's not a job we can do on our own. Not only do we rely on the trainees and their families to be supportive of the end goal, but also all of the staff in our NOVA family.

Where possible trainees are encouraged to be a part of the local community and this year, with the help of staff, community members, trainees and fabulous TTW family members (particularly the Lane and Rabe families) we managed to donate near \$700 to the Cancer Council by way of holding a Biggest Morning Tea at the Windsor office.

Embracing and supporting interactive learning is a wonderful way to inspire a deeper knowledge of the topics to be covered. Where possible trainees are encouraged to step outside the square and try something new or go somewhere different. You never know what surprises life will bring if you just go out once in a while!

Once it is understood that every goal requires steps and that everybody starts somewhere (and it isn't usually as the CEO), achievable, realistic, suitable and sustainable employment goals can be sought.

Like anyone looking for their first job, one of the most important things we need to obtain on our journey is people of merit who can vouch for our work ethic (referees). We obtain people willing to guarantee our suitability to be employed by work experience placements, community projects and doing everything we can to expand the network of people we know. Sometimes this means stepping out of our comfort zones, but it is a necessary part of moving on to the next stage of our lives... independence!

At Windsor we have achieved a past goal of 100% employment for our trainees, mainly by working together as a team to achieve a common goal. The team comprising of the trainee themselves, their families, our local community, Nova employment staff and Transition To Work staff.

We look to ending 2013 as another year full of achievement and success for our trainees, program and staff. Some trainees will gain employment and others will go on to study further. Whatever the choice our trainees make, they are one step closer to achieving their goals and progressing in their journey of being valuable members of the community.



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