



December 2011



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

- Beaudesert
- Beenleigh
- Logan

CEO Comment— *Martin Wren*

It's the Christmas season and we are about to go on leave for 10 days.

The shops are bustling with their busiest time of the year and many businesses are starting to slow down.

Not my mob.

NOVA Employment had the very best month of our 21 year history in November and December is already (and I am writing this on the 13th of the month) the very best December we have seen.

Why the demand for the labour of people that have a disability?

Because at last we are beginning to see general acceptance that an inability to perform in a particular area does not mean a person won't make a highly profitable employee, using their enthusiasm and skill.

As I was writing this I was informed we have another job start – a clerks position at a very pleasing \$53+k a year – congratulations to that new worker and



to my Rouse Hill staff for some icing on today's very sweet cake!

This has been a marvellous year of achievement for the team at NOVA – have a great Christmas break, stay safe and don't drink and drive, remember speeding kills, it's a double demerit point holiday and enjoy yourselves (can you tell I am a parent?).

See you next year!

The Inaugural Transition to Work Gala

The TTW Team

On Friday the 9th of December, NOVA Employment held the first End of Year Gala event for the Transition to Work Program and it was a truly inspiring and heart warming event.



MC Glen Wheeler from Channel Seven's 'The Morning Show' entertained attendees including NOVA CEO Martin Wren, representatives from the funding body Aging Disability & Home Care, delegates from local schools, the TTW management team, Work Experience Coaches and Job Coaches, parents and of course the TTW participants – called trainees. Approximately 180 people attended, including the trainees and managers from Broken Hill, Port Macquarie, Windsor, Katoomba, Caringbah, Penrith, Blacktown, Hurstville, Campbelltown, St Marys and Ingleburn.



“At Caringbah our TTW trainees are considered part of our team, and it was great to see them acknowledged for their hard work, but also to see them cutting loose and having a ball on the dance floor! It was a great afternoon that made me very proud to be associated with the program and all its successes.” Manager Gae England, Caringbah.

NOVA's Chief Executive, Martin Wren thanked the TTW managers for their contribution to the great achievements of the team:

“NOVA Employment & Training would like to recognise and thank the Transition to Work team for their remarkable achievements in 2011 with students moving into a wide range of interesting and valuable work options.

Employment is life defining and the movement from student to employee is part of the rite of passage associated with reaching adulthood – for people with a disability this can be a challenging time and Transition to Work is a very

effective State Government initiative designed to help students with greater obstacles to work. This Year NOVA Transition helped 14 young adults begin their careers and our gala highlighted their achievements.”

Graduating trainees each received their Certificate 1 in Work Education, and their hard work was acknowledged with awards for both attendance and work experience placements for 2011.



Transition Coordinator Megan Elliott commented, “Two years of hard work has paid off for the 35 second year trainees as they were presented with their Certificate 1 in Work Education at this end of year gala. I am so proud of them and wish them well in their future endeavours.”

Afterwards everyone let their hair down with the DJ on the dance floor. Some of the dance moves had to be seen to be believed!

“Our young people were well behaved, beautifully presented and socially skilled. Many of them already have jobs and are making great employees,” glowingly said Anne Goyer, Training & Development Manager for NOVA Transition.

“I am so proud of NOVA Transition's staff for putting together this event, and hope that this will be the first of many to come. We need your support. We have great young people just waiting for the right job. If you need staff and would like to give a young person with a disability a head start into employment, please make us your first port of call.”

Broken Hill manager Lisa Sayers is already looking forward to the 2012 gala event. “To see so much happiness, enthusiasm and many clicking of the camera by proud family members, it gave Broken Hill TTW and I such a buzz, we could not talk about anything else, we are eagerly anticipating next year, bring it on.”



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?



DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK CELEBRATION *by NOVA Forster*

Tuesday 6th December saw Forster Tuncurry celebrate Disability Awareness Week with lots of action, laughter and socialising.

Organised by Lifestyle Solutions Manager Steve Church, Forster Ten Pin Bowling saw their bowling lanes booked with people from Nova and other disability organisations in the local community.

The week was held to raise awareness and promote a positive image of people with disabilities as valued members of our community.

All ages from school students to the elderly were represented with some choosing to be observers and cheerers and others active participants.

Splashes of colourful T shirts, bandanas, streamers, shakers and horns helped create a sense of action and fun.

Shouts, roars and cheers of encouragement to team members rose when players scored as well as for great efforts shown by all participants.



Games were followed by a well earned lunch accompanied by much socialising and laughter.

Donations were provided throughout the community which assisted in this fantastic day taking place.

Disability Action Week helps to promote a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for people with disabilities, their families and carers in the community.