



June 2014



### CEO Comment

*Martin Wren*

*June has been another good month for the team at NOVA with quite a few job starts and some really excellent apprenticeships/traineeships.*

There's also a whole bunch of other stuff happening, the 'International' section of the focusonability short film competition has closed and we have some really moving entries (well done all). Judging is next week and we'll be inviting some of the winners to join us in Sydney for the awards night (Sept 4th).

Last Friday also saw the annual 'Healthy Minds, Healthy Workplace' lunch at The Sebel at Windsor. For the last 2 years we've held this on behalf of Redbank School, raising money for a 12 seater Toyota Commuter bus and I am delighted to say that by close of event last Friday we had raised the \$50,000 odd dollars required and the bus is on the way .

While our next major event is the film awards we also have some other really important activities underway, not least of which is the 100 jobs in 100 days



campaign that NOVA staff are running in the South West of Sydney, a bit over half-way and we have almost reached half way and I am confident that my staff will be doing everything possible to achieve this challenging goal.

Finally, there's a lot of nonsense being bandied about around bludgers and system cheats on the DSP. NOVA has a wee bit over 1000 candidates, keen, motivated to work and ready for their opportunity, they represent a bargain to smart business owners. Rather than miss out, give your local NOVA office a call and see for yourself the talent on offer.

### NOVA OFFICES

- Camden
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- Penrith
- Richmond
- Rockdale
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- Springwood
- St Marys
- Windsor

## Client Profile - Lucas - Macarthur Area

*Lucas Bilauca is a 20 yo man seeking an opportunity to begin his employment career in the hospitality industry. He has recently attained his RSA and RCG certificates.*



Mr Bilauca has an extensive work experience history across a variety of food services as well as administration and retail positions. He is willing to work anywhere across the Macarthur and Liverpool regions.

Lucas like 230,000 other Australians has Autism. NOVA's trained staff provides on the job support and ensure a smooth transition into the work place.

Mr Bilauca has been a part of NOVA's Transition to work program which is a 2 year course producing a Certificate 1 in Work Education.

"I plan to develop the skills I have and hope to show an employer that I can be very punctual, show initiative and that I am willing to learn," he said.

Lucas is a client of NOVA Employment, a registered charity that aims to achieve the employment of people who have a disability in the general community. NOVA is aiming to place 100 clients into employment in the Macarthur area in 100 days.

NOVA CEO Martin Wren is excited by the future prospects of NOVA's clients.

"Employers haven't just been giving job starts, they have been changing people's lives," Mr Wren said.

"It's a promising time to be a client of NOVA's in the Macarthur area as we are heavily promoting their skills and abilities."

The campaign has been very well received with employers such as Phoenix Health Club, Combined Property & Maintenance Services and Sizzlers all employing.

With 38 job starts confirmed so far in the campaign, the search for more position continues with Macarthur businesses being called upon to see the significant benefit these quality employees can bring.

Susan Fletcher is Lucas's Employment Consultant and would love to hear from businesses looking for an employee.

"Lucas shows drive and passion. He is a very quick learner and as hospitality is his career goal, he will be extremely focussed," she said.

If your business could benefit from Lucas's enthusiasm and eagerness to learn, Call Susan at NOVA Employment today (02) 4632 3300

## Be sure to check out the FOA International Films

As June comes to a close, so does the International side of our Focus on Ability short film competition. With entries having already arrived from Finland, Germany, Rwanda, USA, Vietnam and the UK this competition is proving to be an extremely powerful and diverse way of communicating the positive "focus on ability" message.

From July 2nd the films will be available for viewing and commenting at [www.focusonability.com.au](http://www.focusonability.com.au)

### 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?



# Singapore Delegates Visit to Hurstville NOVA

Leisha Distefano

*12th June twelve delegates from the Education Department, various schools and employment services from Singapore came to NOVA Hurstville to find out about just what makes our organisation so special and so successful.*

These delegates specifically requested that they visit a NOVA outlet during their time in Australia, as they had heard how accomplished we are at finding and maintaining employment for people with disabilities.

The delegates also requested to have an inside glimpse at how our Transition to Work Program operates, and what it is that we do for our school leavers with disabilities.

NOVA Hurstville was the last stop on their four day itinerary, and I'm sure I heard them say that they had left the best til last.

They spent much of their time here asking dozens of questions of the Hurstville TTW trainees which were all answered by them with honesty, confidence and eloquence.

They certainly did our organisation proud and really showed just how much that the TTW program provides for the trainees here, and not just in the way of providing training in gaining employment, work experience and learning the necessities of being an employee, but also how much NOVA does to help boost the self esteem and self confidence of each and every trainee that passes through our program.

After the formalities of speeches, question and answer time our visitors were treated to an afternoon tea that featured true blue Aussie treats such as Vegemite sandwiches and Lamingtons.

The visitors also had the opportunity to speak personally with all of our trainees and our staff about NOVA Employment services and NOVA TTW.

I'm sure that they took away an abundance of ideas and strategies that they may be able to implement in Singapore.



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