



March 2012

NOVA Employment invites you to a free seminar

# Autism & The Transition to Employment

See Page 4 for more information

## 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*

### *March Magic!!*

So many exciting things have either happened during March or have been organised for the next few months. Here are some highlights:

For the second time in the organisations history more than 100 people started work in a single month. That's about 5 new job starts for every working day and this total is more than we managed in the first 3 years of our operation!

Staff attended training and conferences around Australia and the world as we continue our program of skills development. We met with employers, workers, colleagues and job seekers with a particular emphasis on ensuring the NOVA team have the skills necessary to properly help job seekers with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

I was part of this program and can say I have been on a turbo charged learning curve that I am convinced will ensure we are at least as good as the best programs around the world.



We also came across a 'new way' of looking at how employment programs are provided and, while this is a work in progress, we believe there are some exciting possibilities for opening up even more job opportunities for our clients.

One last thing: Next Month (April) NOVA hosts Professor Carol Schall, an expert in the support of young people with autism barriers to Australia. Prof Schall will be providing staff training to our teams and we also have a public meeting organised for April 16th, see our home page for details on how you can reserve a seat.

See you there!



## Forster-Tuncurry's Transition

*Tracey Steele- Transition Job Coach*

*NOVA Forster-Tuncurry recently witnessed ABILITY in action when Transition to Work Job Coach Tracy Steele invited Liesl Tesch to speak about her experiences and WorkCover.*

The visit to the Tuncurry office drew a large crowd of job seekers and potential job seekers from Transition to Work in Forster-Tuncurry, Taree and Port Macquarie. Local schools were also represented, all involved with NOVA.



Liesl Tesch was just 19 years old when she crashed her bicycle, falling two metres onto a cement driveway. She suffered a broken back and was told she would never walk again

Against all the odds Liesl went on to become a member of Australia's successful Women's National Wheelchair Basketball League.

Among the most decorated and respected members of the Australian team, five-time Paralympian Liesl Tesch is continuing her quest for an elusive gold medal. Since retiring from wheelchair basketball and taking up sailing in January 2011, Liesl has already proven she is as adept at her new sport as she was at her old.



Aiming for gold, the Gliders left Beijing 2008 with a bronze medal which has only inspired Liesl to continue her dream of gold through sailing. By the end of her sporting career she hopes to have a Paralympics medal in every colour.

Trainees learnt about WorkCover and the need for workplace safety and were able to offer up suggestions of their own during the workshop section.

Liesl inspired and motivated the trainees and team members who felt that anything is possible. This kind of encouragement is an example of the work done with NOVA trainees to lift them out of thinking of a disability and into thinking of CAN-DO-ABILITY.

## North Coast's New Television Commercials

*NOVA Employment would like to welcome on board the four new North Coast businesses who are now featuring in our testimonial based television commercials.*

The advertisements feature a wide array of employers with Taree employer Discount Veterinary Wholesale, Tuncurry Bowling Club, Port Macquarie's Office Choice and First National Real Estate.

To see the first 3 commercials in this new campaign simply click on the images.



## 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?



### NOVA OUTLET OPEN DAYS 2012

- Blacktown 1st August
- Windsor 2nd August
- Penrith 3rd August
- Camden 7th August
- Richmond 8th August
- Bankstown 9th August
- Campbelltown 10th August
- Taree 14th August
- Port Macquarie 15th August
- Forster/Tuncurry 16th August
- Canterbury 22nd August
- Hurstville 23rd August
- Caringbah 24th August
- Rockdale 28th August
- St Marys 29th August
- Rouse Hill 30th August
- Katoomba 31st August
- Campbelltown Deaf 4th Sept
- Ingleburn 5th September
- Springwood 6th September
- Bourke 11th September
- Broken Hill 13th September
- Logan 18th September
- Beenleigh 19th September
- Beaudesert 20th September

# Autism and the Transition to Employment

## Free Seminar

### Registrations Essential

To register for the seminar please phone Amie Ross on (02)9833 2500

*NOVA invites you to a Free Seminar, Monday 16 April at 6 pm in the The Concept Room, Novotel Sydney Rooty Hill, 33 Railway Street, Adjacent to Rooty Hill RSL.*



*Guest Speaker, Carol M Schall, Ph.D*

The challenges of supporting individuals through transition from school to adult life are many.

In this seminar you will learn about the characteristics of individuals with autism in adolescence and the essential person centred program components and curriculum adjustments needed to support individuals with autism in primary and high school, higher education and in adult service agencies.

Dr Schall has been learning from and supporting individuals with autism since the early 1980's. She is involved in supporting individuals across Virginia through her work as the director of technical assistance at Virginia Commonwealth University Autism Centre for Excellence.

She is well versed in completing functional behaviour assessments and using positive behaviour supports to develop comprehensive plans for individuals from a person-centred approach. She is a state trainer for the Positive Behaviour Support project with the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University. Finally, she is the principal investigator for the VCU ASD Career Links Project.

Her research interests include the monitoring of psychotropic medication for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, transition from school to work and adulthood, and training for parents and professionals on serving individuals with developmental disabilities.



*Master of Ceremonies, Paula Duncan*

Paula Duncan has worked extensively on stage, film and television, and has been a household name throughout Australia for over half of her life, not only as an actress but as one of Australia's most loved personalities.

For her work with charity, Paula was nominated for the Australia Day Award for work with people with disability, and in 1997 was awarded the Executive Woman of the Year for Contribution to the Arts and the Community. Paula was also presented with an Australian Achievement Award for work with people with disability, and most notably was awarded an Order of Australia for Outstanding Contribution to the Entertainment Industry and the Australian Community.

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