



May 2012



2012 EMPLOY DISABILITY

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*

May has been another great month for placements with almost 100 people moving into new jobs with some really great employers.

One of the questions I often get asked is 'what sort of jobs do you find'?

Here's a quick run through from just one NOVA outlet: "IT, logistics, restaurant, camper builders, Department of Education, steel fabricators, a hotel, mining contractors, a solicitors, car hire, new car sales..." "And so it goes.

So the question should rather be, 'where have you never placed anyone'?! That list gets smaller every month.

I might start next month's speaking round on the theme of 'the resource boom' with resource in this case talking to the ability of the more than 2000 people presently either registered with us as job seekers or getting help through post placement support.



More and more employers are seeing for themselves just how well our job seekers can fit in and how much they contribute to the teams they join.

When NOVA started it was hard to find employers who were prepared to be first, taking the lead in hiring NOVA clients. That's not the case anymore and perhaps a better question might be, 'do you want your business to be last'?

Looks like June is also going to be very exciting for the NOVA team and I look forward to bringing more good news next month.

Bankstown TTW off to a great start

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?



This year, we welcome Lucas and Kitty as job coaches and Nathan, Nicholas, Lucas, Michael, Allison and Ahmad as the Bankstown trainees. We have only been together for a few months now, however we have built an open and honest relationship with one another and work well alongside our Nova Employment colleagues. Every day is a new experience that brings fun activities and vibrant conversations to the training room.



A lot has happened at Bankstown Transition in the last month. We make a concerted effort each week to complete a number of activities relating to the preparation of work and promoting our independence. We have felt very welcomed by the Hurstville Transition to Work team and enjoy doing activities and attending industry visits together. The trainees from both Bankstown and Hurstville get along well and enjoy having the opportunity to interact and build our social and communication skills.

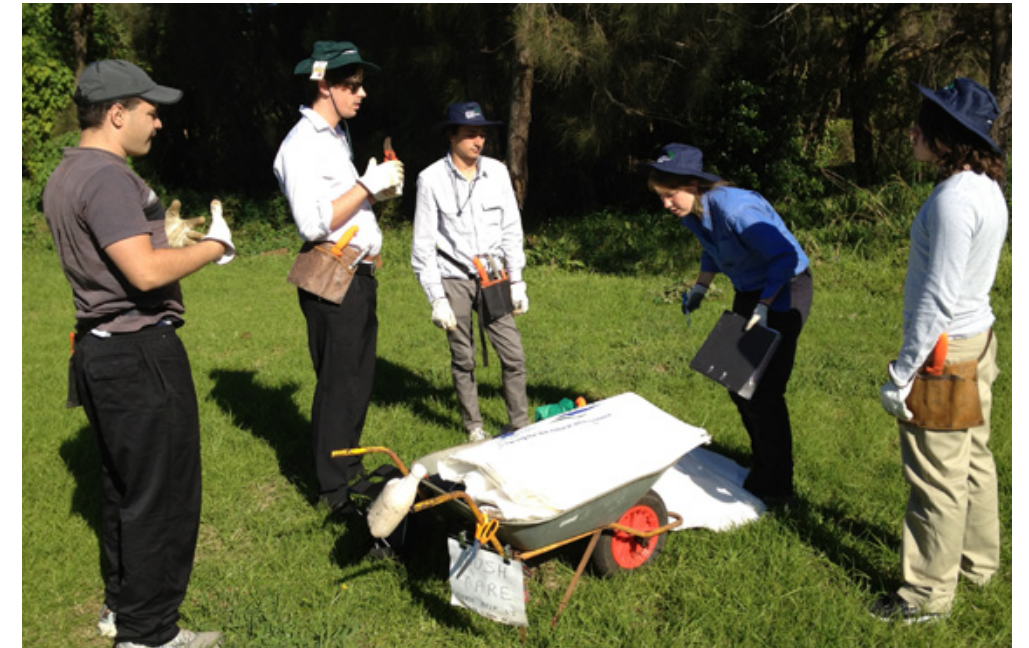
This month we have been to Sydney Olympic Park to watch Australia vs Japan in wheelchair rugby as well as playing host to Nidhi, our guest speaker who works in disability and speaks 5 different languages. We have also signed up to the Bankstown Council Bushcare program as two of the trainees are interested in landscaping as a career. This gives them valuable experience in how to care for the environment as well as providing the trainees with insight into the landscaping industry.

We concentrate a lot on developing our living skills and independence in preparation for work. We conduct weekly cooking classes to which all the trainees enjoy making (and eating) the results. We have cooked such things as omelettes, stir-fry's, fish and chips and spaghetti bolognaise. Doing this also gives the trainees practical experience and knowledge into the hospitality industry.

We also learn how to do our ironing, our washing, clean out the fridge and traveling by ourselves. We have also covered many things related to what happens when we find a job, including how to budget our finances, how to do tax, the difference between casual and full-time work and what an employer needs from you in order to get paid.

We have learnt a lot from our mock interviews and we will soon be doing weekly workshops to help build our customer service skills, telephone manner and interpersonal communication skills. We have just completed all of our resumes (which look great) and have all practiced completing a cover letter. We have spoken extensively on how to dress for work, how to be punctual and appropriate behaviour in the workplace. Our work experience is going well, with all the trainees learning some invaluable lessons in the work force and increasing their work experience hours.

In order to broaden our knowledge on different industries we have planned to visit to the Bankstown fire station and be a part of the audience for Ready Steady Cook. We have also arranged for another guest speaker, Jayme Paris who is a Paralympic gold medallist. So far, we have enjoyed the challenges and relationships built within Nova transition and we all look forward to the rest of the program.



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

NOVA Bio- Martha Siede

Hi, my name is Martha and I will be taking over for Jo Blogs while she is away.



I have been working at NOVA Employment for almost a year and a half as a job coach. I have supported, encouraged and trained jobseekers to look for work independently. It has been a privilege working with each and every one of the people I have worked with. They have taught me and enriched my life abundantly.

I have also been privileged to develop a set of workshops to use with my clients on finding work. Alongside these workshops I have produced a blog/website that can help anyone use similar tools to find work. The website can be found at: www.letsgetworking.com.au and I would love for you guys to access the tools, for the benefits of looking for work or if you are thinking of looking for work.

How did I get my job at Nova? I made an appointment to meet with the CEO of NOVA and when I met with him, I told him that I liked NOVA's integrity and values, and that I wanted to work for them. In the meeting the CEO asked what I could do? My Assessment and Workplace Training as well as my Counselling skills got me my role as Job Coach which was a new role I got to develop.

I have Cerebral Palsy and I use a wheelchair to get around. My hands don't work as well as I would like them to either and I use a computer to do as much as I can for myself, before I ask someone for help.

I met my husband, Andrew, at university and we have been married for twelve years. We have two puppies, Pupa and Bronte.

About two years ago I agreed to be part of a trial for Deep Brain Stimulation on Cerebral Palsy. The operation did not eliminate all my twitches, however they have been reduced considerably and I am a lot more comfortable.

By being more comfortable I was also more confident to apply to work at NOVA Employment. What I hope to bring to Jo Blogs are inspirational stories about people with disabilities that can encourage you and also motivate you to try harder and achieve more than what you are doing today. I believe that anything (realistically) is possible and that with some help from those around you, you can achieve more – the sky's the limit!

Until next time

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