



May 2015

2015 FOCUS ON ABILITY SHORT FILM FESTIVAL



CEO Comment

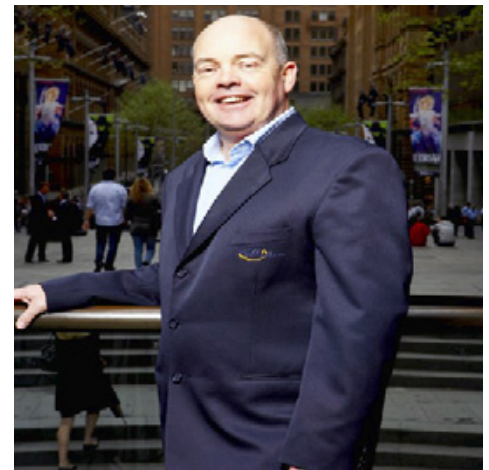
Martin Wren

May – what a month!

Apart from receiving excellent news in the Star Ratings I was off to Hawaii & New York to promote NOVA Employment as a provider of disability employment services and our 'Focusonability' film festival as a means of breaking down barriers for people with disability.

Hawaii was the (yes, I know, it's a tough life) venue for the 2015 Disability week conferences for both Pac Rim and IASSIDD. I was privileged to present some of the 'focus' films, encourage other individuals and organisations to get involved and highlight the skill and talent of Australian film makers. At the same conference NOVA's Anne Goyer and Professor Viv Riches of Sydney University's Centre for Disability Studies provided an in depth analysis of our Transition to Work program.

We were well received and made some great new friends – then it was off to New York!



Invited to present to a very welcoming audience we again showed a selection of entrants to the 2014 'focus' festival and once again met an enthusiastic response and many promises of entries for this year's program.

Returned to Sydney with some great ideas for improvement/additions to our programs and inspired to add new elements to the services we provide – it's great to be home!

NOVA OFFICES

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

The Apple of Engadine's "i"

Engadine TTW

TTW Engadine enjoyed a very informative industry visit to the Apple Store at George Street, Sydney where we learned about Connecting with Industry and Technology for Life and Work. The staff was very informative, enthusiastic and hospitable.



We were shown around the store's different levels, starting on the top floor, where we learned about the Genius Bar (helpdesk), where the experts solved problems with the various Apple devices. It was very interesting, the way they protect themselves and the devices they repair by simply wearing a small wristband that is clipped to a wire which is then clipped to something conductive. They told us this 'earths' the equipment, which protects the device(s) from something called electrostatic discharge. This can not only damage your device beyond repair but can also electrocute the repair person.

We then progressed to the second floor where you can be part of the repair workshop and troubleshoot your own device under expert supervision.

Lastly we came back to the ground floor and participated in an iPad workshop. We were each given our own iPad mini which was linked to the TV screen using AirPlay and Apple TV. We had a lot of fun taking selfies! And we were shown how to edit and send photos. We then learned how to install apps like Pages (similar to Microsoft Word), Numbers, and Powerpoint Presentation. Through this workshop it was surprising to learn that an iPad mini can work the same as a computer.

We then went on to learn about iMovie, Safari, and many other features, in which the instructor said we could use in the Transition training room. They told us a little bit about the new Apple Watch, whose price tag ranges from \$500 to \$10,000. And yes, the \$10,000 one is made of solid gold!

We get to learn so much with industry visits and it helps us visualise new job opportunities in the work force, see all the different jobs in the one place, and helps us gain independence when we learn how to get there and the opportunity to converse with the different people that work in that industry.

NOVA Transition to Work is a two-year program that prepares and supports year 12 school leavers with a disability to get ready for the workforce.

The NOVA TTW program achieves results; with more than 80 program participants progressing into employment each year.

If you would like to know more about the TTW program call the

NOVA Transition Coordinator - Megan Elliott 0414 322 911
or visit
www.transition.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?



Focus on New York!

www.focusonability.com.au

With great excitement the Focus on Ability Film Festival team headed to New York to showcase and highlight the positive message the festival has been spreading across the world.

Focus on Ability Film Festival screened for the first time overseas at the Hunter College in New York City on Wednesday May 27th.

It was an inspiring evening of films from past festivals and also very informative as the team spoke about the history of the festival, the importance of employment in the lives of people with disability and also NOVA Employment's Transition to Work program.

The screening was fully accessible with all the films captioned and also an ASL interpretation during the event.

Audience members ranged from potential film makers, disability advocates as well as employees of large advertising firms.

The team received tremendous feedback from the audience with some exciting offers for future events.

You can view the full presentation [here](#).



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