



November 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 is my absolute privilege to report that the combined NOVA staff are 'playing a blinder' in November.

For some time it has been our goal to pass the 100 new job starts in a single month. This is the month in which we achieve that milestone – or at least, that's the plan.

Where are these new opportunities? – All across our outlets – I just received an email from our team in Bourke with confirmation they have added a gardener to the list of trades assistants, pool cleaners, accounts clerks apprenticeships and trainees that have all either kicked off their careers or made the transition from welfare to taxpayer

And what an honour it is to be a taxpayer! The folk NOVA places into work this month will contribute more than \$10,000 a week in tax. Regular readers will remember a recent post that pointed out the cost of keeping people on the Disability Support Pension is currently \$297 a second!



However, the benefits from working aren't just savings for the rest of us – the real benefits come from the freedom associated with earning a regular income – plan, save, dream and scheme are only possible when you have some disposable income and despite sensationalist stories about how easy it is to get by on a pension the reality is that's money is tight and there's very little discretionary spending.

Earning an income changes that and my congratulations to each of the new taxpayers we have supported to achieve their jobs this month and check out our home page to see if we make 100.

The Wheelie Amazing Race



Peter Hickey- On behalf of the NOVA Wheelies, NOVA Can Dos and NOVA Angels taking part in this year's 'Wheelie Amazing Race' on 7 November, this was really unique and at times challenging to say the least. This awareness raising event was well organised if not a little chaotic when trying to negotiate peak hour pedestrian traffic around Central Railway Station in wheelchairs which highlighted some of the barriers that people in wheelchairs experience. I know our staff had a fun time as well as having the opportunity to experience a glimpse of what it is like encountering various challenges like getting on lifts, withdrawing money from a ATM in a wheelchair, catching trains using ramps. At one point one particular team fell behind and resorted to taking up the 'eating worm challenge' that would result in a speedy catch up – yummy.

From my observations and chatting to staff afterwards we experienced mainly positive interaction with the general public, many understood what we were trying to achieve.

Belinda Hamburger- I was very proud to represent NOVA at 'The Wheels for A Day' event. I was also very unprepared to discover just how hard it is for people in wheelchairs to get around. This event was a big eye opener and made you appreciate the simple things in life that we take for granted such as train travel, crossing the road, using an ATM as well as even going to the bathroom. I found myself getting angry at other commuters as they pushed past to get into the lift first and not leaving any space for a chair to get across the road. I also asked myself, have I ever been guilty of this. What a wonderful event, on leaving I felt that perhaps it should be compulsory for Sydneysiders to do this at least once, and appreciate the person in the chair trying to get to where they are going, it's not as easy as it seems.

Lee Gardner- I participated in the Wheels for a Day "Wheelie Amazing Race". This was an experience that I will treasure for many years to come. The race opened my eyes to the struggles that people confined to wheelchairs face on a daily basis - rutted pathways, elevators that aren't working, using an ATM that isn't designed for a person in a wheelchair, taking a bit longer to get where you need to and the hardest part... navigating in peak hour and not running into the back of people. I have a deep respect for those that deal with this on a daily basis and don't complain about it. I only did it for 2 hours and I was frustrated beyond belief. I look forward to participating again next year.

Alicia Taylor- The experience of wheels for a day was very eye – opening! I couldn't believe the amount of obstacles people who use wheelchairs still face and the simple things we take for granted such as stepping of a gutter or even using an ATM. Very fun and enjoyable morning though, was good to tell people of the initiative and also to raise money for a very worthy cause!

Yvette King- Well I found it to be a great experience and had an awesome team to work with. To be at the train station and using wheelchairs was a task on its own but to have done what we did in peak hour was an enormous challenge. I am really glad we had the chance to do it, I have always had an appreciation for people in wheelchairs but now it is just greater. Look forward to participating next year.

Debbie Black- I found it a lot of fun (apart from eating live meal worms) and it highlighted the issues people in wheelchairs have on a daily basis trying to get around Sydney by train etc.

I had spent a few months in a wheelchair a long time ago so I had a small understanding but this was a real eye-opener. I have a lot more understanding for the challenges faced by people with mobility issues, not just getting around in the Sydney CBD but in general.



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?



Campbelltown TTW's Rhys secures full time traineeship by TTW Campbelltown

Campbelltown TTW has 18 trainees. We have 8 – 2nd years and 10 - 1st years. We are very proud of every one of our wonderful trainees and know that they will have a positive outcome like Rhys.

Providing work experience in areas of our trainee's choice is challenging with this amount of trainees, but with perseverance and determination we are achieving great results and Rhys is a shining example of this.

Rhys started attending TTW Campbelltown in 2010 and has completed many different types of work experiences in his time with NOVA, also completing his Cert 1 in Work Education. This included time in his chosen field of graphic arts/signs writing with The Art Supply Shop and Just In Signs (sign writing company).



Rhys was supported during the early days of this placement and WOW has this payed off!

As of November 18, Rhys has over 600hrs work experience hours! The minimum required is 300hrs.

Rhys was offered a traineeship during his work experience placement at Just In Signs. This is a full time position and Rhys loves the independence and responsibilities that come with full time employment.

We are very proud of Rhys. He has grown into a confident young man during his time at NOVA and is a great role model to the Year 1 trainees. We wish Rhys every success in his future career from Campbelltown TTW.



novaemployment.com.au
Ph: 02 9833 2500
Fax: 02 9833 2499



novatraining.com.au
Ph: 02 9833 2511
Fax: 02 9833 2499



transition.com.au
Ph: 02 9833 2500
Fax: 02 9833 2499



deafjobs.com.au
Ph: 02 4625 7888
Fax: 02 4625 5955
TTY: 02 4625 8395

Head Office
50 Chapel St
St Marys NSW
2760
Ph: 02 9833 2500

NOVA.
EMPLOYMENT
www.novaemployment.com.au