

100 Jobs in 100 Days campaign

by Greg Martin

Now I'm putting up a thousand dollars to go to the Unknown Soldier's Mother if any of you can tell me the biggest film festival on the planet.

Some may opt for the United States' Sundance, others for Cannes and a few of you for Toronto or the Berlinale.

Tick, tick, tick, time's up!

The correct answer is Nova Employment's innovative Focus on Ability Short Film Festival which this year has attracted nearly 300 entries from film makers in countries right around the globe.

Yours truly and the magazine's publisher, Julie Ryan, were guests at the 2019 launch of Nova's hugely successful 100 Jobs in 100 Days campaign.

You don't require the intellect of Albert Einstein to know that it's not every day a job seeker with a disability gets a job – but it can be so!

In 2014 Nova Employment launched its first 100 Jobs in 100 Days campaign across Greater Sydney.

Business owners and companies from across the St George and Sutherland Shires, Nepean and Macarthur regions were introduced to job seekers who matched the roles they needed to fill.

In 2016 the Nepean district handed in the best performance thus far, with 160 jobs secured by people with disabilities.

During the lunch, managers across the regions reported that the 2019 campaign had kicked off in a blaze, with

early employment figures indicating new records are on target to be set this year.

The 100 Jobs in 100 Days campaign attracts offers of employment across the whole spectrum of employers - family-owned shops to warehousing, manufacturing, real estate and hospitality.

People with hearing impairment, Asperger's, Downs Syndrome and intellectual disabilities are getting a 'fair go' - the right to work, earn money and pay taxes just like the rest of their fellow Australians.

The lunch was truly inspirational as Nova's Chief Executive Officer, the always entertaining Martin Wren, introduced live and filmed interviews of people with disabilities, and their employers who sang the praises of not only the campaign but for what Nova does for our society.

Interested in giving a person with disabilities a fair go in life?

For more information please contact us on 1 300 ABILITY (1 300 224 5489).

Which brings us to the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival.

The festival requires film makers to 'Focus on the Ability' of people with a disability and tell a story on film for the world to view.

The eleventh festival is set to be the biggest yet with a host of generous sponsors donating \$160,000 worth of cash and prizes to encourage film makers and people with disability to tell their stories.

Martin Wren kicked off the festival in 2009, with a belief in the ability of people with disability, and the goal of bringing



Jane McLean (Mudgee Wines), Sharon Turnbull (NOVA Employment Richmond Manager) and Margo Keegan (George St Loft).

that belief to the world through the medium of film.

Martin recognised the power of film to challenge people's fixed beliefs and perceptions about the lives and abilities of people with disability around the world.

NOVA, together with Paula Duncan, known for both her success in the Australian film and television industry, and passion for supporting people with disability, have worked tirelessly to bring this festival to the world.

The Focus on Ability Film Festival is for people of all talent levels, with many first time film makers taking out major prizes.

Previous years films have been both educational and inspirational and have been viewed in 168 countries across the world and voted on by over 700,000 people.

Feedback from people who have viewed the films has shown that these entries have the power to change attitudes and challenge perceptions.

The 2019 awards will be presented in front of 800 guests at Chatswood's salubrious The Concourse on 6 September – the event will be live-streamed on the Focus on Ability Short film Festival Facebook page.

NOVA
EMPLOYMENT

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100 Jobs
in 100 Days
for people with disability in
the Hawkesbury

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