

Sunshine Coast IGA stores walk the talk

ELEVEN Sunshine Coast IGA stores are proving philanthropy is alive and well on the Sunshine Coast.

While many charities struggle to secure corporate sponsorship, local IGA stores are continuing their commitment to give back to the community.

Stores from Noosa to Glasshouse Mountains will support the second Walk With Me fundraising event for MontroseAccess, a support organisation currently working with 60 families and children with disabilities.

White IGA director Roz White said she was proud to have three stores involved.

"Aside from giving back to a wonderful charity, I think the reason we've all jumped on board is the synergies between IGA and MontroseAccess," Roz said.

"We really like how MontroseAccess works directly with their clients and how they support the whole family, including the siblings and parents. The IGA ethos is about supporting local families that support our stores.

"Regardless of how the economy is going, we have a commitment to always putting money aside through our Community Chest program."

Woombye Supa IGA general manager Chris Garratt echoed Roz's sentiments and said businesses needed to support the community that supported them.

"For us it's simple, we wouldn't survive if it wasn't for the support of the community choosing to shop or use our services," Chris said. "The concept of giving back is not something we consider. We



BEST FOOT FORWARD: Chris Garratt of Woombye IGA (left), Roz White of White IGA, and Saul Fernandez of Nambour IGA, are all getting ready for the Walk With Me fundraiser.

PHOTO: CADE MOONEY



■ To support MontroseAccess or make a donation, visit the following stores: Luke's Supa IGA at Caloundra, Cooroy, Noosa and Glasshouse Mountains; White's IGA at Bli Bli Mooloolah and Mount Coolool; Maleny Supa IGA; Woombye Supa IGA, IGA Noosa Outlook and IGA Maroochydore.

■ People can register to walk on the day, sponsor a 2012 ambassador or donate at www.walkwithme.org.au.

believe it's something we have to, should do.

"We're also really glad to see the profits raised from this year's event will stay on the Coast and

allow MontroseAccess to continue supporting local families."

Participating stores have teams walking on the day and leading up to the event are selling raffle tickets at their stores.

The event is at Pierce Park in Maroochydore this Saturday from 9am. The walk will be followed by a family-friendly party with rides, entertainment and food and drinks and an appearance from ABC TV's popular kids presenter Jimmy Giggie.

MontroseAccess CEO Darrel Bourke said the team was over the moon that the IGA stores were supporting Walk With Me.

"All money raised at this year's Walk With Me will assist us in supporting local, many of whom have no other means of regular support for their children," Darrel said.

Record management rights deal secured

MANAGEMENT rights have emerged as a more favoured investment option over traditional public companies according to a finance broker that has just sealed the Sunshine Coast's largest partnership deal.

PCS Finance, the primary finance broker for management rights in Queensland that has handled most of the larger purchases on the Sunshine Coast, has put together a partnership that has purchased the management rights to Uni Central and Varsity Apartments in Sippy Downs.

The total price is well over \$10 million, a record for the Sunshine Coast.

Alan and Karen Netherwood are the managing partners and will run both complexes together.

"The partners in this project are confident of growth both in student number and also in the values of management rights in Queensland," PCS managing

partner Steve Burton said.

"PCS Finance has brokered more than \$50 million in management rights deals so far this year in south-east Queensland.

"More partnerships are now buying the larger management rights businesses as opposed to public companies as the unit owners are generally looked after much better with a mum and dad running the business who has their money also invested into it.

"The costs to the unit owners can be substantially less than with corporate ownership."

The previous largest management rights deal was Landmark Resort in Mooloolaba. Dreamtime Resorts who markets Landmark uses PCS Finance and has a partnership structure for all their acquisitions.

"After a few quiet years PCS Finance is seeing an upsurge in interest for investment in the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane," Mr Burton said.

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Significant damages paid for tunnel ball game injury

AN EMPLOYEE has successfully sued her employer in the District Court of Queensland after sustaining a closed fracture to her left ankle during an employer-sponsored tunnel ball game.

The injury was sustained by the employee when she slipped whilst moving from a rough surface to a relatively smooth surface during the tunnel ball match.

Liability was not considered an issue by the Court who then focused on determining the measure of damages that were to be awarded on the particular facts of the matter. In determining the amount of the damages to be awarded, the Court considered the extent of the injury, current and future surgical treatment that may be required, medication costs as well as the treatment costs of a psychiatric injury sustained by the employee as a result of the injury.

Importantly, the Court considered the extent to which the employee may contribute to the



WORKPLACE LAW
Lisa Aitken

workforce in the future, having regard to her education, her skill set and the likelihood of ongoing medical treatment. The Court determined that there was a significant likelihood that the employee's working life would be reduced in duration, and consequently ordered \$173,831.51 in damages for future loss of income.

In total, the employee was awarded \$269,644.70 in damages for past and future medical costs relating to both her physical injury and her subsequent psychiatric condition, as well as her expected loss of income as a result of her injuries.

Implications for employers

This case serves as a reminder that the Courts look beyond the treatment of the actual injury itself, and examine the peripheral impact of the injury on the employee. By taking into account the psychiatric condition sustained as a result of the physical injury, as well as the proposed treatments for both injuries, the Court significantly increased the scope (and subsequent value) of damages in this case. It also reinforces that employers can be held liable for injuries sustained by employees engaged in recreational activities arranged by the employer. *Lisa Aitken is an accredited specialist in workplace relations law and the principal of Aitken Legal, a law firm specialising in employment law for employers. www.aitkenlegal.com.au. The information in this column is intended as a guide only. Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation.*

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