



INSIGHT

GOOD SAMARITAN INDUSTRIES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

International Day of Disability

International Day of People with Disability is declared by the United Nations on December 3 each year and aims to promote an understanding of disability and increase awareness of the benefits of integrating people with a disability in every day political, social and economic life. The day is celebrated worldwide uniting people in acknowledging the achievements and contributions of people with a disability in our society.

GSI celebrated the Day with a number of events at our head office, our stores and offices. The major event was a fun lunch-time party at our head office, a light lunch for over 200 people and the presentation of our annual Sarah Potter Awards (see below).

GSI was honoured to have our Patron His Excellency the Governor Dr Ken Michael AC attend along with his wife Mrs Michael. We are very grateful for the support shown by the Governor as our Patron. The Moderator of the Uniting Church in WA Rev Ken Williams and his wife also attended and were

Excellent people

The Annual Sarah Potter Awards were cause for celebration at the International Day of Disability celebrations, these are cash awards made to selected staff with disabilities who have:

- Shown a positive attitude towards their disability.
- Achieved development and growth both personally and professionally.
- Contributed positively to the morale of their immediate workplace.
- Shown a genuine interest in the welfare of others; and
- Preferably involved themselves in wider community activities.

This year we had a record 73 people nominate for the awards making the selection of award recipients all the more difficult. Eventually the selection committee chose eleven fantastic employees as winners of the 2009 Sarah Potter Awards.

It was great to see the our Patron the Governor present the awards to Kelly Ashcroft, Peter Christoff, Karen Daly, Darryl Dempster, Geoffrey Downie, Kirsty Duncan, Wayne Hansord, Cameron Jones, Shereen McGuire, Linda Miles and Brenton Smith.

The obvious thrill and pride that each of the winners gained from their awards was a genuine delight to behold.

Sarah Potter bequeathed a considerable estate for

part of the formalities. Ken's guest the Rev Kuntadi Sumadikarya from Indonesia was welcomed as was the General Secretary of the Uniting Church in WA Kay Dowling.

Deputy Chairperson of the GSI Board Mrs Lorraine Paul lent her support in celebrating the Day as did other board members Rev Wilf Pearce, Rev Geoff Blyth and John Knowles. Many thanks to Ann Cunningham and her organising committee for making the celebration such a great success.

Best of all, the staff of GSI had a great time and that is what International Day of People with Disability is all about.

this reason, her husband had been a GSI Board member for many years and they had developed a great passion for the mission of GSI on behalf of its clients.

The awards are a wonderful opportunity to recognise the achievements of our staff by focusing on ability, rather than disability, and increasing the awareness of disability issues in the community. Congratulations to all our award winners and also to everyone who nominated for the award – well done!

See page 7 for a brief outline of each of the Sarah Potter Award winners.

The recipients of the awards pictured with the Moderator of the Uniting Church, Rev Ken Williams and the Governor of Western Australia His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC



**All at
GSI wish
you a very
blessed Christmas
and a happy New Year.**



From the Board

The Board of GSI has been very busy since the last edition of Insight. I am pleased to report that we have two new additions to the Board in Toni Stampalija and Barbara Whittle. Toni is a management consultant with extensive experience in the aged care industry and Barbara is a legal consultant recently retired from Clayton Utz. We look forward to their contribution towards GSI's mission and their expertise in governing our great organisation.



Robyn Ahern who has been on the Board for the last three years is retiring. On behalf of GSI our thanks are extended to Robyn, her strategic advice and support of our service is deeply appreciated. We wish Robyn well for the future.

The Board has recently approved new retail premises in South Lake, opening early 2010 taking the number of GSI stores in Western Australia to twenty-five. The South Lake store is expected to provide work for six people with disabilities and builds on our proud history of creating such jobs.

The Board has also reviewed the wages of all our workers with disabilities, as we did this time last year, and we have provided a further improvement in the working conditions for our staff.

Board members have also supported a number of GSI events including the Annual Ball, the Melbourne Cup Day Lunch and International Day of Disability, thanks to all our Board members who volunteer their support for these events.

As 2009 draws to a close the Board is looking forward to reviewing our strategic plan in early 2010 to ensure the growth and success of GSI stays on track for the people with disabilities that we serve.

In closing, I wish all Insight readers the joy and blessing of this Christmas season, I trust you will celebrate this special time of the year with family and friends. May you share God's blessings with your loved ones, friends and our community and enjoy peace and happiness going forward to a new decade in 2010.

Rod Benness
Chair

A theme of this edition of Insight is the celebration of International Day of Disability. GSI's contribution to the lives of people with disabilities signified by this day of celebration would not be possible without the support of our great Western Australian (WA) community:



- The 976,000 members of the general public who have shopped at our stores in the last twelve months allowing us to employ 250 people with disabilities
- The WA public who donate 3.5m kgs of recyclable items to GSI each year
- Uniting Church congregations who house donation bins and make donations, there are now 550 donation bins throughout the State
- Councils and businesses who support and sponsor our donation bins, make donations and partner with us in activities including providing employment for 150 people with a disability
- Volunteers who work in our stores and factory providing much needed assistance in our endeavours
- The hundreds of families and friends who support the people with disabilities that we employ
- The various levels of Government who provide grants and other assistance so we can do our work
- Our fantastic staff, over 400 people who work tirelessly to assist GSI achieve its mission

To all that have helped in the last year, may you have a happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

John Knowles
CEO

New Cage Design compliments of Sinclair Knight Merz

Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) is a leading engineering, sciences and project delivery firm. Its purpose is to deliver a positive and enduring impact on the world.

SKM has been supporting GSI in recent times by carrying out the structural analysis for the primary structure of our clothing cages to reduce the manual handling risk for our staff in removing stock from the cages.

With the mining boom in Western Australia in recent years, it has been very difficult to engage an Engineering firm to take on a job of this size however, SKM not only agreed to do the job for us, but did it as a community service.

Engineers worked directly with our Maintenance Team to design a cage that is not only safer, but bigger.

Our sincere thanks go to SKM for their support.



A new panel saw arrives at Good Samaritan Industries in Canning Vale courtesy of Apache Energy Limited

Apache Energy has provided valuable sponsorship to Good Samaritan Industries for the past 3 years. This year the funding was used to purchase a much needed 'panel saw' in our maintenance section.

Apache Energy is the Australian operating subsidiary of Apache Corporation (www.apachecorp.com), one of the world's largest independent oil and gas exploration and development companies. Founded in 1954, Apache Corporation has operations in the United States, Canada, Egypt, United Kingdom and Australia.

On asking our head of engineering (Ray Huntsman) what difference the brand new panel saw makes operationally to Good Samaritan Industries, Ray's comments were;

"It quite simply makes a difference in every aspect of what we do in this section. It is a lot safer and much, much easier to use, we can do so much more work in a day. Where it used to take 4 people to complete a job it can now be done by 2 people, plus we are delighted to have such a 'state of the art' piece of equipment in our workshop."

Good Samaritan Industries places a high priority on future development, the support from Apache Energy Limited is helping us to take giant steps towards our goal and we are proud to be associated with such a high profile organisation.



L- R Carol Foster, David Parker and Gavin Jacob (Apache Energy), Lorraine Paul (GSI Deputy Chair) and Ray Huntsman (GSI)



CEO John Knowles and Philip Solomojns try out the new cages.



Tapping Primary School

Castlereagh School

Forest Crescent Primary School

Carmel High School

Nedlands Primary School

Penrhos College

Scotch College

School Donation Drives

Through talks at school assemblies throughout 2009 and our HELP flyers that went out to all schools prior to each donation drive, we have been able to spread the word on what we do at Good Samaritan Industries and why we need donations.

Being invited into schools has given us the chance to tell more and more people about our mission to provide meaningful paid employment for people with disabilities

and provide an opportunity for students to get involved in their community.

A total of 9 donation drives in 2009 raised approximately 3 tonnes of donations. Not only does this significantly help people with disabilities, but it also helps to reduce landfill at a time when we all need to be mindful of taking care of your planet.

It is in everyone's interest to take care of the environment and recycle for our future and we believe that Good Sammy donation drives help students to understand the importance of this sensitive issue. Clearly there is strong focus on this topic in schools as today's students are tomorrow's adults.

We had great fun with the school donation drives this year, all schools who participated put their heart and

soul into promoting and collecting donations for Good Samaritan Industries.

To all those schools who got involved Good Sammy says) 'THANK YOU' and hopes you will all continue to work with us in 2010 to make a difference to the lives of people with disabilities and the environment.

Leadership WA

Leadership Western Australia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that facilitates leadership enhancement opportunities for high potential leaders. Leadership Western Australia balances individual development with public spirited, community involvement for the benefit of WA.

The Leadership WA course demands a high level of commitment from its participants who work very hard, take on board many projects and are required to thoroughly research many topics during the twelve month course.

This year, GSI's very own Sou Lin Tan, Divisional Manager of Corporate Services graduated from the Leadership WA course. Sou Lin is pictured at the graduating ceremony with I-r Gill Dale, Sou Lin, Cheryl Greene and Debbie Cameron



Well done Sou Lin from all your friends and colleagues at GSI.



Options Employment provides a range of services to people with a disability that are seeking employment in the open labour market. One of these services and an ongoing focus for Options has been assisting young people to transition from school into work. Through 2009 Options broadened our links into this area by developing relationships with school and other community programs.

Options Employment recognises that transitioning from school is both a challenging and exciting period for a young person and their family. Understanding and navigating the range of post schooling pathways that are available, exploring career opportunities, determining what training is available and learning about support provisions for students with a disability are just a few of the aspects to consider. Options Employment can help manage this daunting period by developing an individualised Employment Pathway Plan. These plans take into consideration the skills, abilities and aspirations of the young person and are constructed during one-to-one discussions with a dedicated Employment Coordinator. The plan will help determine a young persons vocational goals and also keep a focus on securing and maintaining appropriate, meaningful paid employment.

Good Samaritan Industries similarly recognises the importance of assisting a young person into the workforce by directly employing school leavers with a disability in our Good Sammy retail outlets and also in our Canning Vale factory. GSI offers a young person a wonderful opportunity to enter the workforce in a more supported environment

School to Work

with the assistance of a dedicated Employment Support Officer who will help train, motivate and encourage new recruits into our workforce.

GSI partnered with many schools this year and ran their Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) programs through our factory and retail outlets. SWL places students into work experience during their Senior High School years to get a 'taste' of employment at GSI. Often students will transition to, or return as, paid employees of GSI and work with us for a number of years.

The focus of GSI and Options Employment has been and will continue to be working together with students, their families and teaching staff to deliver an employment outcome that best suits the young persons aspirations and skills. In 2009 we worked collaboratively with over 30 schools across W.A. GSI and Options Employment are keen to bring more schools into partnership in 2010 and expand our services to even more students with disabilities.

Some of the schools we have worked with this year include; Canning Vale College, Cannington Education Support Centre, Seven Oaks Senior High School, Padbury Senior High School, Kalamunda Senior High School, Armadale Education Support Centre, Balga Senior High School, St Stephens High School Carramar,

Belmont City College and Rockingham Senior High.

2009 saw GSI and Options Employment partner up in career events run by the KEIP group (Kwinana Education and Industry Partnership) and the Canning Coalition (Linking SE Metro schools with post school service providers). We had a meaningful presence at the Abilities Expo in Forrest Chase this year and were also asked to present our services at other events including Belmont City College's Inclusion Expo. Options hosted our own Careers Evenings for students of Cannington College and plan to host more for other schools as the new school year begins.

We would like to thank all the Schools, Parents and Teachers who helped us to help their children/students in 2009. We look forward to working with you all in the New Year and beyond.

If you would like further information please contact our Client Referral Coordinator, Emma Brown on 9358 8888 or email: emma.brown@options.org.au





Options employees recognised

The Disability Employment Network (DEN) and Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) Employee of the Year Awards recognise the achievement and value of DEN and ADE Employees who work with people with disabilities in Western Australia.

Nominations for these awards are accepted from people with disabilities, carers, their peers and managers. Nominees are people who are recognised as valued and highly respected staff in their field of work and their achievements may be evident through:

- Building positive relationships with people with a disability based on dignity and respect
- Demonstrating a commitment to finding quality employment opportunities for people with a disability;
- Working with people with a disability in a way that develops their own sense of value, capability and influence;
- Demonstrating innovative solutions to overcome employment challenges;
- Working to integrate a person with a disability into the workplace culture including work team;

- Creating and maintaining a positive work culture focused on people with a disability – a 'leader in quality'; and
- Consistently supporting co employees and creating positive relationships within and across agencies

Congratulations to those staff who were nominated for the awards, three became finalists (pictured below l-r): Rosemarie Horsley (finalist), Wendy Harper-Penman, Jean Wheatley, Carol Kennedy (finalist), Ros Shaw, Val Boden (finalist)



International Day of Disability 3 December



2009 Sarah Potter winners

This year's Sarah Potter Winners were:

Kelly Ashcroft—Kelly works at the Midland store and has very good work ethics and works really hard and enthusiastically with every task given to her.

Peter Christoff – Peter is a valued member of the Bin Buddies team. He has also achieved a lot in his personal life, moving into his own place, learning how to budget his money and running a home.

Karen Daly – Karen is involved in many East Vic Park community activities. She helps out with the catering at the monthly blind society meetings and also makes the time to provide a little company to elderly people.

Darryl Dempster – Daryl works full time in the Packaging, Assembly & Sundries area of GSI. He is responsible for almost all of the loading of boxes, moving items on pallets and loading contract items on and off vehicles.

Geffery Downie – In the short term that Jeffery has worked for the Gosnells store he has shown to be a great asset to the store. Jeffery helps many people in the community and on his days off he voluntarily assists with many of the outside chores.

Kirsty Duncan - Kirsty works very hard at the East Vic Park store and has improved her skills as a retail assistant by learning how to use the cash register. Kirsty has also improved her communication skills immensely and is now much more confident and outgoing.

Wayne Hansord – Wayne is an inspiration to us all as he has fought back from a very serious illness. He is a pleasure to work with as he is a happy positive person. Wayne looks forward to a long and happy life with his wife Kathy.

Cameron Jones – Cameron has only been with GSI for a short time after being out of work for a number of years, but has learnt a number of skills working in the Maintenance Section, using his initiative in assisting in the process of building 300 donation bins. He has also worked hard to get his drivers' licence and buy his own vehicle, and matured enormously since joining GSI.

Shereen McGuire – Shereen is actively involved with her local church in Northam. Shereen loves working with children and takes on the responsibility of looking after the little ones when they are in church. Shereen has taken part in many community and cultural activities and assisted with the making of a video about the elders of the community.

Linda Miles - Linda is a reliable and honest person and well liked by all her co-workers. She is going to donate some of her award money to her church to help people in her community, less fortunate than herself.

Brenton Smith – Brenton is a member of the Bin Buddies team and is a volunteer with St John Ambulance, restocking their supplies and helping the Ambulance staff with their chores. Brenton also does voluntary work for the Lions Club.

New website for GSI

GSI has launched its new website at www.gsi.org.au updating the information we have to offer Jobseekers with a disability, shoppers at our retail stores and the Western Australian community who donate so generously to GSI supporting our mission to create employment choices for people with a disability. The new website

also has links to our You Tube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/OptionsEmployment where several videos for Jobseekers, Employers and those people interested in our history. We hope you enjoy the GSI Internet experience!





Recognising dedication and loyalty

Since the last *INSIGHT* publication, Long Service Awards have been given to the following staff in recognition of their contribution to Good Samaritan Industries over the years:

25 Years

Cathryn Campbell
John McDonald

20 Years

Steven Graham
Wing-Kiah Bee
Julie Cooper

15 Years

Libby Theophile
Janet Kingi
Loy Hioo
Leo Topler
Mark Mladenovich
Fui Lin Leong
Danuta Lakocy

10 Years

Robert Masiello
Raymond Edge

5 Years

Lee Houston
Connie Sze
Adam Elliss
Linda Naris
Elizabeth Willimott
Rosemarie Horsley
Tracey Clarke



Cathryn Campbell receives her award from CEO John Knowles



L to R Marion Xavier, Julie Cooper, John McDonald, Wayne Hansord, Marie Theophile, Janet Kingi, Connie Sze, and Robert Masiello.

GSI Annual ball

Saturday night 21st November set a record with 140 people attending the annual GSI Social Club function.

A new venue was used this year—the Citigate Hotel in the city—and it was a roaring success. But next year we will have to move to an even larger venue due to this year's sell-out.

The band kept everyone on their feet for the evening, with some great music, and a fantastic display of Elvis impersonations by Wayne Hansord and Shane Timbrell.



**Are you a parent or carer of a person with a disability?
Do you have a disability and want to work in a friendly environment?**

Good Samaritan Industries have provided employment opportunities for people with disabilities for 50 years. We are currently recruiting supported employees at our warehouse located in CanningVale.

We offer our employees a supportive work environment, a great social atmosphere and the opportunity to develop skills and be part of a team.

Want to know more?

We will be conducting an information session, tour and a morning tea to provide information on Good Samaritan Industries and the employment opportunities we offer.

The information sessions and tours will be conducted at 47 Magnet Road Canning Vale on the following dates, please allow at least an hour:

- Friday January 22nd 2010 at 9.30am
- Monday February 22nd 2010 at 9.30am
- Tuesday March 30th 2010 at 9.30am
- Wednesday April 28th 2010 at 9.30am
- Thursday May 27th 2010 at 9.30am
- Friday June 25th 2010 at 9.30am

Bookings are essential - to book please call 9463 0500



Good Samaritan INDUSTRIES




Good Samaritan Industries' services are:

Options
Employment for people with Disabilities

Packaging and Assembly

Good Sammy
Retailing of recycled goods

Insight is the quarterly newsletter of Good Samaritan Industries, 47 Magnet Road, Canning Vale, WA 6155. Phone: 9463 0500 Fax: 9455 3300

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