



# INSIGHT

## March 2010

### Good Samaritan Industries Newsletter

#### CANNING VALE BUILDING UPGRADE

Good Samaritan Industries gave a warm welcome to local Member of Parliament, Peter Abetz MLA, on 29th January. Peter was at GSI to make a \$1.6m Lotterywest cheque presentation as a major contribution to GSI's capital works programme.



GSI is embarking on a project to upgrade the roofing, air-conditioning and fire safety in the GSI factory to improve the working environment for our staff. Staff have dreamt of a day when the factory will be cooler in summer and better protected from the winter weather that the 30 year old building currently struggles to cope with.



Peter Abetz MLA, Lorraine Paul (Deputy Chair) and staff

To this end the State Government, through Lotterywest, has provided \$1.6m to GSI as a major contribution to the \$2.7m capital works project. "On behalf of all our employees, volunteers and Board members, we sincerely thank Lotterywest for the magnificent contribution to the working lives of people with disabilities" said GSI CEO John Knowles.

The project also complements a parallel capital works project to upgrade the GSI canteen and toilets for staff. "When these projects are finished we will have further built on GSI's already excellent record in providing a contemporary working environment for staff, something that all supporters of GSI can be proud of" said John Knowles.

#### GOOD SAMMY OPENS IN SOUTH LAKE

Good Sammy's latest store opened on Monday 8th February at the Lakes Shopping Centre. Supported by a grant from Jobs Fund, an Australian Government Initiative designed to maximise job and training opportunities in local communities, the store is large, bright and airy and this is complemented by the fantastic team who staff the store.

Trading has been brisk since opening and it is refreshing to see the local community patronise the store so well. The store was officially opened the following week with a morning tea and blessing by Board Member Revd Wilf Pearce, and attended by the Chair of GSI, Board Members, staff, families and neighbouring businesses.

Wilf provided the store with a Celtic blessing:

*May this place always be filled with warmth  
May those who work here find joy in their work  
May those who come here find a place of welcome  
May those who shop here find what they want  
May your days be blessed with good fortune  
May your lives be brightened with a song  
May your heart be warmed by the smiles of those you meet  
And may you find fulfilment and God's blessing in all you do*



L-R Cheryl Hindley Jongen, Candace Siew, Michelle Guy, Cheryl Henson (Manager), Neville Kirk and Charmaine Hall



FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to all supporters of GSI for this first edition of Insight in 2010. As usual, we have been very active on a number of fronts to ensure GSI continues as a major employment service for people with disabilities, and that we have a proactive role in the Uniting Church community.

GSI has recently made a significant financial contribution towards the cost of establishing a new Multicultural Ministry placement within the Church. The placement is to ensure the Church's commitment to being a multicultural and cross cultural Church continues to flourish.

GSI also believes a welcoming and diverse community is essential for a healthy society. This belief is a cornerstone of GSI's employment services for people with disabilities and to make a contribution to the Church's work in this helps us fulfil our mission.

During January we welcomed local Member of Parliament Peter Abetz to GSI to present a Lotterywest Grant of \$1.6m towards our building works programme. Although this story is acknowledged on the front cover of Insight, I wish to extend our most sincere thanks to Lotterywest for their support. They have certainly made the task of upgrading roofing, air-conditioning and fire safety at GSI a reality for 2010.

In February, I had the pleasure of opening our newest and 25th Good Sammy shop at South Lake. In the first month this shop has exceeded our expectations on the sales front, most importantly, it has created work for six people with disabilities in the local area something we are very proud of.

We have also welcomed Ms Barbara Whittle to our Board. Barbara is a legal consultant with a wealth of senior experience and is already proving a valuable addition to the team.

As GSI works hard in 2010 to advance its cause I also wish God's blessing on readers of Insight for their support of our work.

Rod Bennes—Chair



One of the great challenges facing organisations that specialise in supporting people with disabilities is how to find the funding to provide the necessary supports this group and their carers so richly deserve.

In recent times, a major initiative to establish a National Disability Insurance Scheme has gained momentum, and GSI has been one of the early organisations to join in lobbying for this—the scheme as designed will provide “no fault insurance” funding for people with a disability to access much needed support services. The organisations behind this have established a web site at [www.ndis.org.au](http://www.ndis.org.au) for information and lobbying purposes.

The Commonwealth Government has established a major investigation of this proposal through its Productivity Commission. Use the above website to register an interest in this fabulous idea, it is a once in a life-time opportunity for all of us to push the Australian Government to establishing supports that mean people with disabilities and their families do not need to continue to “take out the bowl” to receive the services that by right should be theirs.

John Knowles—CEO



SUCCESS AT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY



Tania is a good example of what can be achieved with a positive attitude, strong family support, an encouraging employer and Options Employment in support.

After being unemployed for many years Tania has recently secured employment as a Care Support Worker with the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Western Australia—thanks to Options Employment.

Tania is now working in a team that seeks to provide timely access to services and support for people recently diagnosed with rapidly degenerative neurological conditions so they can remain living in their own home. Tania is very excited for the opportunity that the program provides, it requires her to work with clients and their families in their own homes.

After initial induction and training Tania's nerves at returning to the workplace were overcome as her confidence and self esteem grew. With her Supervisor's ongoing support and training and Option's support, Tania progressed competently and is now independent in her role. Tania acknowledges that her husband, and their five children who range from ages 9 years to 19 years, have been so supportive in her return to work and have become very helpful in getting home life organized so that she can stay focused on her employment.

Whilst Tania has only been recently employed by the great team at the MS Society ... she reports that she has been looking forward to this opportunity for over 17 years ... free from reliance on welfare payments. Tania enjoys her role and the challenges it brings. Tania works 65 hours a fortnight and states that before she was employed she had lost motivation in daily household chores but now she says that not only has she increased motivation but it has also rubbed off on her family as they look at new ways to manage family life.

Joan Sutherland, Team Supervisor from The MS Society and the family that Tania provides care for are very satisfied with Tania's appointment and are both very happy to have found a great match in Tania. Tania is appreciative of the help she has received from everyone, especially Options Employment.



## PANCAKE DAY




*Canning Vale staff enjoying their delicious pancakes*



*the very successful pancake stall outside our Northam store*

Staff at the Canning Vale complex enjoyed free pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, courtesy of GSI who made a donation to the Uniting Church fund on their behalf. Special thanks to Anna and the Café staff, and the Canning Vale Options crew, for cooking up such a delicious feast—beautiful pancakes topped with cream, berries, maple syrup!

In Northam the Northam Uniting Church held a daytime event outside the Good Sammy store on the main street. They felt it was important to be able to show the different parts of the Church working together. Northam's event coordinator, Ann Barnes, said "GSI is there linked with the Uniting Church. It comes under our banner of caring and we consider that an area of outreach we would like to support". 

## SOCIAL CLUB OUTINGS



Over the last 3 months the GSI Social Club has held some very well patronised outings with a barbeque lunch at Point Walter for nearly 60 people, a trip where 30 staff met at Fremantle Train Station and then caught a bus to Rockingham Beach and nearly 90 staff and their families enjoyed a fabulous day on Rottneest Island.

It is a lot of work to transport, feed and provide a fun activity for so many people. To Social Club Committee regulars Lee McNaughton and Val Boden, a big thanks from GSI for your work on behalf of our clients. Val's husband should also be recognised as he has been able to organise a bus for activities and this makes it easier for people to attend.





# RECOGNISING DEDICATION & 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:



George (front centre left) with his work colleagues



Frankie Lau and CEO John Knowles

## George Retires

After 25 service to GSI George Mortley of the Good Sammy Dianella store has retired. George completed his final shift at the beginning of March and will be pursuing some much more relaxing activities in his retirement, such as going to the movies and taking some leisurely walks. This will be a big change from moving furniture, tidying racks and stocking shelves. Well done George and congratulations on a terrific career and best wishes for your well earned retirement.

- 40 Years  
Allan Thomas
- 30 Years  
Wayne Hansord
- 25 Years  
Frankie Lau
- 15 Years  
Jan Losik
- 10 Years  
Robbie Caraher
- 5 Years  
Susan Gugiatti  
Sandra Freeman  
Angela Eidam  
Chris Coe  
Brenda Ronald  
Grant Stark  
Janelle Mazzotti



L-R Robbie Caraher, John Knowles, Fui Lin Leong and Brenda Ronald



Allan Thomas and CEO John Knowles



Susan Gugiatti (centre) with fellow staff members at the Perth store

## WELL PROGRAM

A number of our staff have recently completed courses in Numeracy and Literacy in the Workplace in conjunction with West Coast Institute of Training, and certificates were recently presented by trainer Lara Perry to some very proud recipients!



Clockwise from top left—Phillipa Gilham, Robyn Wincey, Aaron Heathwood and Michael Walker with Lara Perry

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 Canning Vale.

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:

• 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.  
33 - 35  
Bannister Road  
Canning Vale, WA  
6155

Phone: 9463 0500  
Fax: 9455 3300

This service is provided with the assistance of the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations. The views published in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the Commonwealth.



More than just good business



AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE