The recent International Day of People with Disability was celebrated at GSI with more than 400 people attending a function to see scholarships and awards presented to 37 outstanding recipients.

Mr Jim Walker, Chair of the State Training Board; Uniting Church Moderator, Rev Steve Francis; Quadrant’s Executive Manager, Corporate Affairs, David Parker, Fleet West Directors, Phil Oliver and Laura Alvaro-Oliver and GSI’s Chairman and Deputy Chair, Trent Bartlett and Chris Walker presented awards to a very talented group of people.

Sarah Potter Awards are presented each year to GSI staff who show a positive attitude, achieve development and growth, show genuine interest in the welfare of others and involve themselves in wider community activities. This year we awarded seven winners with a $1,000 payment in recognition of their efforts over the past year.

Quadrant Energy, who are a long time supporter of GSI and a leading Australian producer of oil and gas – being one the largest exploration and production companies in Australia, sponsored 15 scholarships.

A further three scholarships were sponsored by Fleet West who manage GSI’s vehicle fleet and are also a long time supporter of GSI.

We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for their support which enabled us to provide a total of 47 scholarships and awards to people with disabilities this year worth $47,000.

40 x $1,000 scholarships were awarded to high school students in years 9-13 with a disability to set them on the road to further training and employment - building brighter futures.

See inside of this magazine for all the winners, congratulations to everyone.
Chair’s Article

As we near the end of another busy and successful year it’s a good time to reflect on our achievements this year. We continued providing opportunities for people with disabilities, focusing on young people - assisting the transition from school to work. International Day of Disability saw us recognize many of these students and a number of our excellent staff who received awards. For many, Christmas is a time for being with family and friends, celebrating the birth of Jesus and his hope and salvation for humankind. In this time of togetherness, GSI encourages you to spare a thought for those who may not share these blessings. Find a way to help those doing it tough. Two ways to help are to donate your recyclable goods to GSI or make a monetary donation to the UnitingCare West Christmas Appeal, see our Good News article, to assist them deliver Christmas Cheer.

In this spirit of togetherness and on behalf of the GSI Board, I wish our clients, staff, volunteers, supporters, friends and well-wishers a safe and happy Christmas and with God’s Blessing a New Year that brings positivity.

Trent Bartlett – Chairman

Acting CEO’s Article

The happiness that radiated from thirty two young people who received scholarships at our recent International Day of Disability celebrations was heartwarming for everyone at the event – with no one more proud than the respective family members who beamed with joy, and some tears, throughout the presentation.

Fifty nine years ago, our founder, the Reverend Ralph Sutton recognised the importance of giving people with disabilities opportunities and it is a privilege that we are able to continue delivering on his dream today.

On behalf of GSI I wish all our supporters, staff and Board a Merry Christmas and I look forward to your continued support in what promises to be a Happy New Year.

Debbie Cameron – Acting CEO

More Scholarship Success…

In total this year we awarded 40 student scholarships to Years 9-13 students with a disability across WA – each receiving $1,000 to assist with their further education, training or work related equipment.

Over 100 applications received for the scholarship have been respectfully acknowledged, everyone considered should be proud of themselves. We thank Quadrant Energy and Fleet West for their ongoing sponsorships, which helps acknowledge the talent and skills of many young people.

Employee of the Year 2017

Every month GSI staff are nominated for Employee of the Month. At the end of the year an Employee of the Year is selected from the monthly winners.

Congratulations to Michelle Purvis of our South Lake Store and Denise Ramshaw from our Supply Chain at Canning Vale who were joint winners of the 2017 Employee of the Year.

Michelle Purvis was nominated by a number of co-workers for being an ‘amazing staff member’, always happy and friendly to customers and staff and consistently completing every task perfectly.

Denise Ramshaw was nominated for always making work experience students so welcome, with her friendly nature and taking time to train students and staff. No job ever fazes Denise with her ‘can do’ attitude. Well done to both Michelle and Denise.

Volunteer of the Year 2017

All Volunteer of the Month winners are eligible for consideration to win the GSI Volunteer of the Year award.

Congratulations to Cathy Richardson who volunteers at our Southern River store and was nominated by her Store Manager for her high level of commitment - volunteering every Monday and Thursday and never missing a day, Cathy works in all areas of the shop, helping team members and customers and always with her cheery manner.

Thank you Cathy for your hard work … GSI is richer for having volunteers like Cathy on board.
International Day of People with Disability Celebrations

Our 2017 IDD theme was BLACK & WHITE
Donate in December

Christmas is upon us and what better time to get in to the festive spirit by doing a good deed and donating your pre-loved items and clothing to Good Sammy!

Donations can be made in any of our 29 Good Sammy stores (http://goodsamaritan.com.au/donating-to-good-sammy/store-locator/) or at one of our donation bins conveniently located throughout WA.

As a bonus for your Christmas spirit, we are offering all donors the opportunity to receive a 10% discount if you donate over the counter on the same day.

GSI’s Dinner Dance

The dancing shoes were on at the annual GSI Dinner Dance held at The Hilton Parmelia this year. It was the best attended Dinner Dance so far with more than 200 staff, family and friends attending for dinner, dancing and lots of fun.

A highlight of the evening was the Employee of the Year Awards which were won by South Lake’s Michelle Purvis and Canning Vale’s Denise Ramshaw, as well as Volunteer of the Year – which was won by Cathy Richardson from Southern River. Congratulations must go to all the monthly winners, from which the overall winners were chosen.

The Dance was a huge success with the DJ playing our favourite tunes, making sure the dance floor was full at all times, and the photo booth capturing a lot of happy memories.

Dillon embarks on his career journey

Dillon is an 18 year old, eager to embrace the world and its challenges – nothing will get in his way of achieving his goals. Dillon’s employment journey began in 2016 while he was still at Hamilton Senior High School and was offered work experience at our Fremantle Good Sammy store where he began gaining valuable employment skills and learnt a variety of practical tasks.

Dillon has now finished school and started working with us as a Retail Assistant. Since commencing work he has continued to build on his employment skills and achieved many goals, such as excellent customer service skills, learning how to price items and operating the cash register. What makes him stand out, however, is that he is always keen to put his hand up to help his co-workers and willing to give anything a go.

Outside of work, Dillon’s independence skills also continue to grow - he has mastered public transport and now gets himself to and from work independently. This wasn’t enough for Dillon and he is now preparing himself to achieve his next big goal – driving! This year Dillon successfully applied for one of our Sarah Potter awards which he will use towards purchasing his first car.

Dillon never lets barriers stand in the way of achieving his goals - obtaining his license and a car will help him on his employment journey and his career goal of becoming a landscape gardener.

Booming Butler

The doors opened to our new Butler store on 30th August and the local community supported the new Good Sammy store and donation centre with an overwhelming turn out.

The official blessing was held on 5th December where we welcomed Rev Craig Collas – GSI Board Member & Minister of Wesley Uniting Church, Mr Ian Thubron – GSI Board member, GSI Management, staff, family and friends for a celebratory morning tea.

Rev Craig Collas gave the blessing and Acting CEO, Debbie Cameron congratulated and thanked all staff involved in the setup of the store and for making it such a success. Congratulations to Joy (Store Manager) and her team of hard working staff and volunteers as well as the Retail Operations and Maintenance Team for the well-presented new store – it looks fantastic.

Well done to all – keep up the good work.

Congratulations Daniel, Nadia and Jess!

Research indicates that young people with a disability have much greater success in gaining employment if they have the opportunity to undertake work experience while still at school.

In the last two years, with support from the Education Department’s Non-Government Centre for Support, we have opened our doors to 396 students with a disability aged between 15 and 19 to provide practical on the ground assistance, helping them with the important transition from school to work.

This involved us providing structured workplace learning, scholarships to achieve further vocational goals, work readiness training and School Based Traineeships. A wonderful illustration of the outcomes from these opportunities are three young people who have successfully completed their Certificate II, School Based Traineeship in Warehousing Operations or Retail Services.

Pictured above are Daniel Zigon (Cert II in Warehousing Operations) and Nadia Stevens and Jess Seubert (Certificate II in Retail Services). It gives us great pleasure to be able to play at least a small role in helping these young people take the next step in their employment journey.
Congratulations to our Team Members of the Month

Yvonne Ganzer  
Mega Barn  
Employee of the Month – September

William Holland  
Canning Vale  
Employee of the Month – October

Becca Takiwa  
Canning Vale  
Employee of the Month – October

Stores of the Month

Fremantle - September  
Booragoon - October

Volunteer with us

We are always on the lookout for volunteers in all our stores as well as our warehouse and canteen in Canning Vale. If you are interested, please pop in to speak with your local store manager or call Julia Burke on 9463 0536 to find out more information.

CONGRATULATIONS to Marjorie Herrera for 20 years service.

Lynn Forbister 15 years service.

William Hannagan, Susan Howells and Antonia Whitham for 10 years service.

Daniel Botes, Samantha Cairney, William Holland, Agi Kapis, Tracy Partridge, Cos Puia, Bradley Symons and Cormet Zaw Win for 5 years service with Good Samaritan Industries.