Update
September 2014
Tastex Update
Is the official annual newsletter of Tastex Knitwear & Uniforms.

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Supported employees—15

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Australian Disability Enterprises
More than just good business

E. O. Overview

Tastex Vision
“Equality In Employment, Quality In Product”

The 2013/2014 financial year has once again proved to be both interesting and challenging. Highlights included the installation of our latest Stoll Knitting Machine which incorporates state of the art technology with ease of operation. This welcome addition has increased our production capacity and reduced lead times for our increasing customer base.

The introduction of our “Envirowoolly” range of Australian Native Animals, which are aimed at the tourist market is proving very successful. Being made here in Tasmania increases their sales potential. “Envirowolly’s” are made from our own recycled waste wool product which makes them both sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Our lasting success is due to the determination and versatility of our highly skilled production team. Combining this with the superior quality of our Australian made knitwear, together with the excellent service provided by our experienced sales team, ensures our customers receive excellent value and the best possible service.

We continue to explore opportunities which may increase sales and augment the already wide range of training options which we provide for our supported employees who have intellectual disabilities.

As always, our heartfelt thanks go to our customers! Their continuing loyalty and support enables us to provide both a diverse and satisfying workplace.

We embrace our Mission!

“To enable people with intellectual disabilities to experience meaningful employment in a supportive environment”

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First came the “Critter”, cute little toys made from scrap woollen offcuts, destined for our factory outlet shop.

Then came the “Enviro Bear”, originally made for Canberra Girl’s Grammar School, he is proving to be an extremely popular fellow with schools who want a keepsake for year 12 students. Bear can be individualised by incorporating school colours and the school crest.

Our latest innovation is the “Envirowoolly”, which is aimed at the niche local tourist market. We currently produce a Tassie Devil, Tassie Tiger, Koala, and both a black and a white sheep. Envirowoollys fill a gap in the market for locally made animals which appeal to our growing tourist industry.

“Enviro Bear” was followed by the “Mini Enviro Bear”. He is a smaller bear, easier for young children to handle. Sometimes a new friend may be just the thing when a bit of encouragement is needed to leave Mum behind at the start of a new kindergarten year!

“A number of Tasmanian tourist ventures are selling our “Envirowoolly’s”, including The Tasmanian Devil Park, Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, Made in Tasmania Salamanca and the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery.

The demand is growing steadily, with suggestions that we might add to our “Envirowoolly” family. Perhaps a Wombat, or a Spotted Quoll. What an exciting prospect!

These innovative toys are not only fun to make, they are providing Tastex with both ongoing training opportunities for Supported Employees and a welcome additional income stream.

“The Envirowoolly Family Are a Hit!”
Thanks to the generosity of The Tasmanian Community Fund, Tastex has been able to purchase one of the latest “Stoll CMS 502HP” knitting machines from Germany.

Stoll Flat Bed knitting machines have been manufactured in Germany since 1873 and are considered the best available.

We needed to expand our production capacity to enable timely delivery of orders to our customers.

Two of our aging machines were becoming difficult to maintain as parts are no longer available, and increased volumes meant our newer machines were already running at capacity.

We applied to the Tasmanian Community Fund for a grant to assist us with the purchase, following increased orders for school rugby jumpers.

Our new “502HP” machine combines state of the art technology with ease of operation.

Utilising touch screens, the machine is simple to program and much more user friendly. This has enabled the increased participation of Supported Employees in the operation of the knitting machines. Additional training in machine operation is now an integral part of our ongoing commitment to increasing our Supported Employee’s skill base.

The “502HP” runs faster and more smoothly than our older machines, resulting in very few faults in the knitted fabric.

The decreased wastage and improvement in production has made it possible to reduce time frames which facilitate improved delivery schedules for customers.

We can now look forward to increasing production numbers, improving training options and exploring the possibility of expanding our knitwear range to include additional styles and colours.

Tastex is indeed fortunate to have this opportunity.

A big thank you to The Tasmanian Community Fund for their ongoing support and generosity!
Staff Profile

Senior Seamstress
Rowena Delaney

Rowena Delaney has been employed at Tastex for over 14 years. Rowena specialises in producing many of our popular Corporate styles of knitwear, including our Ladies Zip Front Cardigans and Men's Half Zip Jumpers, both styles are extremely popular. Rowena especially enjoys designing new styles to add to our expanding corporate range.

In her role as a Senior Seamstress, Rowena also cuts, sews and over locks School Jumpers, Cardigans, Vests, and Rugby Jumpers.

At Tastex we maintain ISO 9001:2008 Quality Assurance. Our quality control procedures are an integral part of production. Rowena undertakes the required quality checks for each garment prior to completion. This ensures our knitwear is of the highest quality.

In addition to her role as a Senior Seamstress, Rowena is also a valued member of our Support Staff Team, holding Certificate 3 in Disability Care. Rowena’s commitment to providing ongoing quality training and support for our 15 Supported Employees is invaluable!

Softwear - Wash & Wear

Comfy to wear and easy to care for.

Your Glen Mill Softwear school knitwear is not only comfortable, but tough and durable.

To maintain the smart look of your quality knitwear, follow the washing instructions on the back of the label.

Firstly, it is important to separate dark and light colours.

Simply turn the garment inside out and place in the washing machine. Use a Wool mark approved detergent as these do not contain bleach.

Set the machine to Wool Cycle and warm machine wash. Warm rinse and normal Spin.

Glen Mill Softwear garments can also be tumble dried. Use the dryer on the low heat setting.

Following the washing instructions will ensure that your Glen Mill Softwear knitwear will stand up to the test of time, giving you and your family great value for money.

Our “Softwear” range is available in a variety of styles. We can also design and manufacture to your specifications. Our range includes Jumpers, Cardigans, Vests, Rugby Tops, Scarves and Beanies.

Tastex delivers direct to your school with no added freight costs. We offer a 5% discount for all indent orders which allow 12 weeks for delivery!
Each year we celebrate International Day of People with a disAbility. We usually close the factory for the afternoon and head off to our local park for a BBQ or picnic.

This year we were very fortunate to have a “Special Treat”. The “Beatle Family” kindly offered to entertain us with their amazing acrobatic show which involved all members of their family including Mum, Dad, 5 children and their enthusiastic pooch!

We were thoroughly entertained and enjoyed the performance immensely. A big thank you to the “Beatle Family” for their wonderful performance. The “Beatle Family” are a popular act, often seen at Hobart’s iconic Salamanca Place during the summer “Taste of Tasmania” and “Sydney to Hobart” Yacht Race events. We topped off the afternoon with a BBQ, a game of football, some dancing and a number of enthusiastic Karaoke performances! An enjoyable day was had by all.

Our growing reputation for providing excellent service and a great product has resulted in a number of local Water Polo teams asking us to supply their uniform needs.

This year we have supplied the Tasmanian Water Polo U14 Boys & Girls State Teams, U16 Boys & Girls State Teams and the Sandy Bay Water Polo Club.

Our excellent embroidery service makes it possible for us to assist clubs with their designs, colours and styles, resulting in logos which please the most discerning customer. At Tastex, we are happy to design logos for your club, or to reproduce existing designs.

We provide a comprehensive range of quality garments to suit all sporting clubs, including polos, singlets, shorts, trackwear, hoodies, caps and bags.

By purchasing from Tastex, you are enabling us to continue to provide ongoing training and support for our Supported Employees who have intellectual disabilities!
The Wooden Boat Festival is held in Hobart each January. Tastex supplies and embroiders polos, jackets and caps for the festival organisation.

The organisation asked us to supply embroidered garments for The International Tall Ships Festival which visited Hobart in 2013. We were also recommended as the preferred supplier of merchandise for a number of the vessels participating in the International Tall Ships Festival.

Challenges included communicating with the ships whilst still at sea and in a different time zone. This meant that we were working within limited time frames with no room for error. The ships were due in port for a short time only and needed to take delivery of completed garments prior to setting sail as they needed merchandise to sell at their next port of call.

One of the ships, "The Bark Europa" from the Netherlands, wanted personalised logos on Tees and Hoodies together with embroidered "magnified" and embroidered names between Tastex and the ships Captain.

Tastex staff rose to the challenge. When the ships arrived, we were ready to deliver the finished garments. The results were fantastic, with the ships Captain welcoming us onboard. Everyone was extremely pleased with the outcome!

We are proud to say that Tastex embroidered garments are now sailing the high seas!

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Congratulations to Elizabeth Russell! Elizabeth took on the role of embroidery technician when Tastex purchased its first embroidery machine in 2008.

Elizabeth now operates 5 embroidery heads, digitises all new designs and continues to provide training and support for our supported employees who have intellectual disabilities.

Elizabeth’s achievements and exemplary work ethic were recognised when Elizabeth received a well deserved City of Glenorchy Excellence Award for “Pride of Workmanship” which recognises outstanding employees. This was presented by the Deputy Lord Mayor at The Glenorchy Civic Centre.

Pride of Workmanship Awards are sponsored by Rotary Tasmania, Glenorchy City Council and the Moonah & Glenorchy Business Association.

Elizabeth Russell is presented with the award by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Glenorchy, Hayden Neilson.
Tastex Mission

To enable people with intellectual disabilities to experience meaningful employment in a supportive environment.