



# Global Vaddo Charity

Providing hope and inspiration for the children of Goa, India

Newsletter....

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www.gvc.org.au

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## From the Chair



GVC children and visitors at the building site

I spent 10 weeks in Goa early this year working with at the GVC centre. I had the opportunity to meet with a number of parents in their homes. It was both a humbling and thought-provoking experience to be welcomed into their homes and to share what life means for the poor and underprivileged. It also vindicated the need for help in the area and I take the opportunity to thank you all our donors and supporters who help us make this happen.

During our stay, we had the pleasure to welcome a number of donors, and GVC supporters from Australia and Dubai. Thank you to Jim, Veronica, Esther and George from Tasmania, Nick from Melbourne and Raj from Sydney, Theo, Mary, Sonya and Sean (and family) from Dubai, and, Maxine and Ken from Tasmania for making time to visit the children at the GVC, and putting a smile on their faces.

New changes are exciting, challenging and renewing and at the GVC changes that bring about improvement and excitement are ongoing. In addition to our teacher, Priya NePanikar who joined us in March, we also have two volunteers, Delilah and Teresa who joined the GVC in March have had previous experience working with charities. Having recently retired they decided to give back to the community by imparting their experience and knowledge to the underprivileged. We welcome them and thank them for their commitment.

*Evelyn Pereira é Robertson*  
**Chairperson**



Priya, Delilah & Teresa

## GVC Sponsor Visits Goa

How often do we get the chance to see for ourselves where our donated charity dollars are actually spent?

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the Global Vaddo Charity Learning Centre in Goa, India with my family in February 2011.

The experience was both humbling and exhilarating at the same time.

Our tour guide was my former colleague and GVC founder Evelyn Robertson-Pereira; and the visit also coincided with visits by Evelyn's son Horatio, daughter Ginelle, and Ginelle's husband Reg.

We were fortunate to visit the GVC school while the class of approximately 20 adorable young 4-6 year old children were studying English, and later enjoying some play time and story-telling. We were impressed with the fantastic impact that the GVC Charity was obviously having on these young lives, who were being given an educational opportunity that they would not



otherwise have had.

On the day of our visit, it was a balmy 34 degrees Celsius, yet the children were proudly wearing colourful red fleecy tops (previously donated by other GVC sponsors); and one child was even sporting a balaclava! Ginelle mentioned how much the children valued those fleecy tops as a uniform, which are always kept spotlessly clean by their parents.

At present the GVC school operates in the former Pereira family home in the village of Tivim, approximately 20 minutes' drive from the beaches and tourist zone of Goa. [Goa is a beach tourist destination, on the west coast of India, popular with overseas tourists, particularly from the UK, Australia and Russia]

The Board of the GVC Charity has approved the construction of a larger educational facility on a nearby vacant block of land, also donated by the Pereira family. Evelyn and Reg gave us a guided tour of the proposed building site, to explain the future layout and design of the new school building. The building will accommodate three classrooms, a library, a kitchen, an open-air learning space and toilet facilities.



As a result of our visit, I am more than persuaded that the GVC Charity is genuinely striving to improve the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves, and is directly applying all donated funds for that purpose. A visit to a developing nation such as India is a valuable reminder of the disparity in life's opportunities; between the people of different countries who nevertheless all share the same fundamental needs and desires, but are denied the same levels of access to opportunities. All donors and sponsors of the GVC Charity can rest assured that the maximum proportion of the donated dollar is finding its way directly to services and facilities which are reaching the most deserving of the poorest of the Goan community in Tivim.

As an unabashed supporter of this charity, I urge

anyone who can afford to do so, to make a contribution, via the GVC website at [www.gvc.org.au](http://www.gvc.org.au) either as a one-off donation, or as ongoing sponsorship. Please note that all donations are also tax deductible.

*Jim Connolly*  
*Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*

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## Fun & Fundraising - Hobart

On Sunday May 22, GVC held a High Tea at New Town High School. With the help of many fantastic people (too many to name) we raised over \$1000!

A big thank you to New Town High School for the generous use of their hall, not to mention the teachers who kindly helped set up and those who attended the event. Thanks also to Esther Rupenovic (of My Kitchen Rules fame) and Rose Kokkoris for their time and culinary skills, both donating yummy platters (for those of you who loved Esther's goodies, she has a catering business, and for more information, visit her at <http://www.keepcalmandcookmore.blogspot.com/>, while Rose has plenty more delectable treats on offer at Smith St Store).



*Esther Rupenovic & Daniel Howard*



*High Tea*

Finally the day simply would not have been possible without the hard work of New Town High teacher (and my brother) Daniel Howard! We hope everyone involved had a lovely afternoon. Thank you!

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our faithful supporters who attend every event. Your support is greatly appreciated and GVC could not continue to successfully function without you. I ask that if you've enjoyed our events, please tell a friend - word of mouth is the best way to promote our charity and our cause. Friends can easily keep up-to-date by signing up

for our bi-annual newsletters on our website [www.gvc.org.au](http://www.gvc.org.au) or by joining the GVC Facebook Group. Thanks in advance for spreading the word!

Upcoming events... Cocktail Night and Comedy Show!  
Go to [www.gvc.org.au](http://www.gvc.org.au) for details.

**Erin Howard- GVC Fundraising Committee, Hobart**

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## Construction of New Learning Centre Begins

GVC commenced the construction of a new learning centre in March. The new centre is located on a property close to the existing learning centre and is being constructed using local workers based in Tivim. Currently, GVC operates the learning centre from a small renovated house, which is limiting the delivery of our learning programs due to the building size and amenity issues.

The new centre will enable us to better deliver our current education programs and ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of the local community by increasing the intake of children and expand our range of learning programs. In addition, the new building will enable delivery of other future programs, including industry-specific prevocational training and community health and hygiene programs. The building is due to be completed in March 2012.



For further details on the project, including more photos and plans, please visit our website at [www.gvc.org.au](http://www.gvc.org.au)

**Rod Jones**  
**GVC, Board Member**

## Field Trip Report

Evelyn Robertson, Horatio Cardoz, Rodney Jones and myself visited Goa during January this year. We spent approximately 8 weeks with the children at the centre, observing and participating in teaching, meeting families and monitoring ongoing developments for the new learning centre.

Spending an extended amount of time at the centre gave us an insight into how the children were responding to the curriculum and the way that it was being taught. Also, we were able to identify specific education needs for each of the children and to spend extra time teaching those children who needed extra assistance. Two well experienced volunteers joined the GVC shortly before we departed, who will continue to provide assistance to the main teachers.

Our visits to family homes was very valuable. It was very difficult to see the circumstances that these individuals face, and inspiring to witness their resilience and hope despite facing the ongoing struggles to survive.

The GVC children, GVC staff and each of us are very much looking forward to the completion of the new learning centre. At present there is a growing waiting list of disadvantaged children wanting admission and assistance. Due to limited facilities, we were forced to turn many of these parents and children away, disappointed. The new learning centre will allow us to assist many more families.

**Ginelle Jones**  
**GVC Board Member**

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### **Volunteering with the GVC Melbourne Fundraising Committee**

Interested persons are invited to put in an Expression of Interest to join the GVC Fundraising Committee in Melbourne by writing to [contact@gvc.org.au](mailto:contact@gvc.org.au) or call Evelyn Robertson on 0438334841

### **Donate**

You can help us by making a donation via direct deposit to the following account:

Account name	Global Vaddo Charitable Trust – India Relief Fund
Bank	National Australia Bank
BSB	087 007
Account number	170394196