



GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.
 GARDS is endorsed as a charity. Donations of \$2.00 & over are tax deductible.

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 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

ASBESTOS NEWS

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DID YOU KNOW!

India is a major importer of asbestos, currently using around 125,000 tonnes of asbestos each year; most of this comes from Canada.

Major sponsors:



QUEENS BATON RELAY

On the 1st of March, day 36 of the baton journey, at just after 9.00am in Commercial Road, Morwell, Vicki our Secretary ran with the Queens Baton. Vicki wanted to thank all those supporters and well-wishers that came along on the day to encourage her on. It was a moment in time and history dedicated for all those asbestos sufferers and their families that she was running for and great recognition for the good work that GARDS does in the community trying to make a difference in families lives affected by asbestos and the wider community.



C O M M O N W E A L T H
 G A M M E S

PREMIERS INVITATION TO GARDS

At the request of the Premier of NSW Morris Iemma on May 2nd in Sydney - Vicki, Lyle and Trevor will represent GARDS at a reception to recognise the signing of the agreement with James Hardie. Unions, Asbestos Support Groups and Lawyers from all over Australia who had been involved with the James Hardie campaign will be invited to attend this very historic moment.

The celebration will bring together like-minded individuals and organisations that have all worked collaboratively to bring about this monumental achievement that some said could not be done. They have been proven wrong! It only goes to show what can be achieved when people from all walks of life ban together and forget their differences to achieve a common goal.

Congratulations to all those who were apart of this achievement you all played your part in what has now become a very significant time in Australia's history. I know I speak for all those from the GARDS organisation when I say we were very proud to do our bit and we will be looking forward to meeting all those other people and organisations who helped to bring justice to asbestos sufferers and their families all over Australia.



MONASH MEDICAL SCHOOL TUTORIAL

GARDS members have again been asked to come and speak to first year medical students at Monash University Clayton campus on the 1st of May. We are really looking forward to being able to enlighten the students to the physical and emotional pain suffered by asbestos sufferers and their families. We will try and give some understanding to the students on how asbestos affects not only the health of a person but also their family and the community. We will talk about occupational health issues, environmental issues and the very real political and social justice issues that surround asbestos. We are very fortunate that the people who are coming with us to do this tutorial are very knowledgeable and are from all facets of the asbestos problem in our community.

We will be taking wives and children of workers who have passed away from asbestos related disease, workers who have lost mates and who are also affected with asbestos in some form and we are taking a family who are now waging their own battle with mesothelioma. To all these people you are unsung heroes for allowing yourselves to show just how painful these emotions can really be and sharing this with the students. We at GARDS know that this is a very brave thing you are doing but we believe that it will at least try to give some understanding to what a community who have been affected by asbestos are going through. This can only be good for future generations to come. The students are very lucky to have this opportunity to learn from those who are battling this in their everyday lives.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

May 20th & 21st will see the GARDS executive all travel to Rooty Hill Sydney for a National Asbestos Conference hosted by ADFA. It will be the first time that all the asbestos support groups will be together and it promises to be a great way for the groups to meet in person. The GARDS committee is very excited to be going and be able to meet many people who we talk to on many occasions by phone but have never met in person. We are looking forward to the speakers who are coming to give their insights and experiences from the medical, environmental, law and research areas. GARDS committee will be able to come back armed with a wealth of knowledge that they have learned to try and help their community and members better cope with their situations and problems.

CHURCHILL FESTIVAL

April 1st saw some of the committee and members giving out information on asbestos. Our concentration this year was on protection, safe removal of domestic asbestos and disposal. The weather was not kind to us on this day and the rain and wind did hamper our efforts to get the information out into the community but in the end it did not stop us, we managed to get all the information that we had prepared out. We were also very grateful to have our new marquee to be able to shelter under when things got a bit wild and woolly thanks to Slater and Gordon Lawyers.

GARDS believes that being at events such as these in our community helps people to understand not only what GARDS organisation is all about but to understand the issues facing our communities.

How best to approach some of the situations that we will all face at some time whether it is through sickness from asbestos, through home renovations or environmental issues that we must contend with now and into the future. GARDS believes that education can only benefit the community and hopefully look after future generations and the environment.

PETITION FOR GLOBAL BAN ON ASBESTOS

International groups representing labour are making a global asbestos ban a top priority on this year's April 28 activities on International Workers' Memorial Day. The Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) are mobilizing their "members throughout the world to engage in peaceful demonstrations and petitions at

Canadian Embassies and Consulates to convince the Canadian government to call a halt to its aggressive marketing and promotion of asbestos in developing countries such as India, Zimbabwe and Brazil." In a recent press release, BWI General Secretary Anita Normark said: "Today's exposures guarantee an epidemic lasting at least another generation, with the asbestos graveyards shifting from the developed to the developing world." On April 28, other unions are also engaging in activities to raise awareness of the global asbestos scandal. Also on April 28, a document will be published by Senator Alain Destexhe, which is a Call by Global Parliamentarians for an asbestos ban. To compliment these efforts by labour and politicians, we have lodged a petition on behalf of civil society on the web, which calls for a Global Asbestos Ban. You can sign this petition by following this link: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/878671812> we hope to receive 10,000 signatures. On April 28, we will make sure this document is sent to major international bodies such as the United Nations, the ILO, the WHO, medical associations, trade bodies and others. GARDS has signed this petition. Please pass this on to others.

GRAND JUNCTION HOTEL SMALL RAFFLES A WINNER

GARDS has been very lucky to be the recipient of over \$5,000 in the last 26 weeks, which has been raised from small raffles conducted at the Grand Junction Hotel Traralgon. The GARDS organisation believes it is a mighty effort from the patrons of the Hotel and also the companies that donated their goods to the raffles each week to help raise the funds for GARDS. We would like to thank the following companies for their generous donations: Aygee Gippsland, Parkinson's Wholesale Food Supplies, Morwell Seafoods, Campbell Quality Meats, Manny's Market, P & V Meats and Gormandale Cricket Club for allowing us to use their spinning wheel each week. Secretary Vicki Hamilton said it is great to have local businesses supporting local charities and even more terrific having the local community supporting asbestos sufferers and their families. The people behind the scenes who have organised and run these raffles each week need to be applauded for their tireless work for our organisation, without their enthusiastic efforts this sort of thing could never happen. Our thanks goes to Duane Morrell, Terry Carroll (GARDS Saints) for organising and running these raffles every week, Hotel proprietor Maria Vogt, Chef Ken Barnes and his wife Debbie, Heather Kelly, Katie Morrell, Mick Lubawski, Jessie Morrell and Amy Huntjens and all the patrons of the Grand Junction Hotel, you are all very special to us.

Pictured below from back left are:

Katie Morrell,
Pam Nicholson,
Mick Lubawski,
Duane Morrell,
Terry Carroll –

Front from left
Amy Huntjens,
Jessie Morrell,
Dorothy Roberts,
Vicki Hamilton
and Marie Smith



THANK YOU TO THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE SO GENEROUS WITH THEIR DONATIONS.

Pam, Ken and Julie De Vries for their donation of \$200 in memory of Hank De Vries

Norm Rust and Workers at Siemens Basslink for their donation of \$313 raised from drink machine and BBQs

Esme Sherwood from Sydney for her generous donation of \$200

Andrew Dimsey from Maurice Blackburn and Cashman Lawyers for the donation of a book called Asbestos House to our GARDS library

Brendan Jenkins MP, Member for Morwell and staff for their donation of \$200 for our trip to Sydney

Maree Hall from Moe for her donation of \$50

Marie Smith from Newborough for her donation of \$100

Stan and Ivy Brown for their donation of \$20

Thank you all for your generosity and good wishes we appreciate you all for supporting asbestos sufferers and their families.



A MAGNIFICENT MARQUEE

**Left is the Marquee out
and about at the
Churchill festival. Its next
outing will be the Annual
Wreath Laying
Ceremony**

At a recent support group meeting of GARDS Stephen Plunkett and some of his staff from Slater and Gordon were asked to come along to be awarded with a certificate of appreciation for the donation of a magnificent marquee. The members wanted to show their appreciation to the firm for helping to make their community events more comfortable for them and the general public. Vicki Hamilton GARDS secretary said that it is great to see local businesses supporting local groups in the community. Steve and the firm were given a resounding thank you from over 30 members who were in attendance on the day.

ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY 2006 INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Our Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place in the Rose Garden in Morwell at 11.00am. International Workers' Memorial Day – April 28th is the day each year that we conduct our wreath laying ceremony in memory of those who are suffering and who have lost the battle to asbestos disease. We invite all in the community to come along and be apart of this ceremony, knowing that people from all over the world will be remembering and supporting workers' in their corner of the world who have died as a result of their work. The international theme this year is asbestos and there is a push from across the world to ban asbestos in all countries that are still mining, manufacturing and



selling asbestos and its products. We in Australia are very proud to be one of the nations who have banned asbestos since December 2003, but there is much work left yet to do to ensure all nations follow suit. Mark the date in your calendar and come support your fellow workers' and their families. Speakers this year are: Jeff Thomas Executive Director of Construction with WorkSafe Victoria, Amy Down daughter of a worker who passed away with asbestos related disease, John Parker Secretary GTLC and Stephen Plunkett Lawyer

**G.A.R.D.S. INC.
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE
SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**





www.gards.org

Gippsland Asbestos Related
Diseases Support Inc.

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GARDS INC. SUPPORT

GARDS provides support and information to asbestos sufferers, their families and carers. This includes home visits by GARDS volunteers, a telephone information/support service 24 hours, 7 days a week. GARDS has an office, which is open for sufferers, their families, carers and the general community to access at the times listed below in the “About GARDS Inc section”.

GARDS INC. Support also conducts a monthly meeting (1.30pm – 3.30pm) on the last Tuesday of the month) where guest presenters are invited to provide information about support services of all kinds and any other topics of interest that the members might find of relevance. The meetings also provide a gathering place for experiences; GARDS Support is open to anyone whose lives have been affected by asbestos, their families and the general public.

GARDS INC. EVENING MEETING

GARDS has an organisational, activities and advocating arm. Interested financial members can come along to evening meetings, which are, conducted 7.30pm – 9.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

These meetings provide a focal point for information sharing and problem identification. The aim of this group is to focus on improving health and support services and any other issues deemed relevant to improving overall outcomes to asbestos sufferers, their families and the general public. Thus ensuring asbestos-related issues are kept in the public eye and trying to rid our environment of asbestos products.

ABOUT G.A.R.D.S. INC.

Committee of Management

President:

Lyle Seear – Ph. 51671376

Vice President:

Trevor Callow – Ph. 51342208

Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton – Ph. 51278219
Mobile 0407274173

Treasurer:

Pam Nicholson – Ph. 51275843
Mobile 0408535671

Member:

Dorothy Roberts – 51274174
Mobile 0407274174
Rodney LeLievre – 51261656
Mobile 0403397800

G.A.R.D.S. FEES

Joining Fee - \$5.00

Annual Fees:

Pensioners/Concession/
Unemployed - \$3.00

Employed persons - \$11.00

MEETINGS:

Support: Last Tuesday of
month, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Evening: 3rd Tuesday of month,
7.30pm – 9.30pm

UP AND COMING EVENTS

*Our Night/Day Meetings
Friday 28th of April at 11.00am
Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony
In Rose Garden, Morwell*

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY: 9.30am – 12 noon
TUESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.00pm
WEDNESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.30pm
THURSDAY: 12 noon – 3.00pm
FRIDAY: BY APPOINTMENT

CALL IN FOR A CHAT & CUPPA