

ASBESTOS NEWS

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RTL MORWELL RIVER DIVERSION SITE - CHAMPIONS

GARDS has a lot to be thankful for with a very generous donation from RTL Morwell River Diversion site workers. On Monday 11th of April representatives from RTL came for afternoon tea and presented a cheque of \$5,000 to GARDS. The workers on the site of the Morwell River Diversion raised \$2,500 and this was matched by RTL. The workers were asked who they would like to donate the money they had raised to and we were **it!** It is always a great honour to receive money from workers and companies alike who deem the work we are doing as important. It shows us that there are many supporters for asbestos sufferers and their families and this really helps these families to feel not quite so isolated. The diversion of the Morwell River through Yallourn Energy's Coal Mine in Latrobe Valley is on schedule for completion in May 2005. They have had a workforce of approx 70 this season and they have been building the \$120 million river diversion project. This project being undertaken by the Roche Thiess Linfox Joint Venture, under an Alliance contract with Yallourn Energy, is designed to extend the life of Yallourn's Mine to 2032 and ensure a sustainable coal supply for the long-term operation of the Yallourn W Power Station, which provides 20 per cent of Victoria's power needs. These very busy workers and companies also managed to find some time to raise money for several different charities in recent months one being GARDS. What a great bunch of community minded people we have out there. They are certainly CHAMPIONS in our eyes.



Pictured from left front are:
Trevor Callow,
Lyle Seear,
Laurice
Temple, Vicki
Hamilton,
Trevor
Williams,
Dorothy
Roberts, Gavin
Farrelly, Joe
Fossati
Rear from left
is:
Raigan O'Brien
& Pam
Nicholson

Supported
by



CHARITY BOWL SOCCER EVENT

GARDS has been overwhelmed with the support and generosity that it has already received from the Gippsland community in 2005 to help support asbestos sufferers. We received a phone call from the Gippsland Soccer Referees Association who had decided at a meeting to name GARDS the charity of choice for the annual Charity Bowl, where soccer clubs from all over the region come together for the first games of the season. They asked if we could find some volunteers to help take the voluntary admission fee at the gate and run an Easter raffle. GARDS put a call out to its members and received 16 volunteers to help out. GARDS was just blown away with the enthusiasm of the volunteers who helped out over the 3-day event. The referees, players and families welcomed the volunteers and were very supportive of the work we are doing. GARDS raised over the 3-day event \$2,500 from gate and raffle ticket sales. We would like to thank all those people who helped to make this such a monumental event for all concerned and it would not have been possible without the help of the whole community.

GARDS would also like to thank George Bruce for making us feel very at home at his facility the Latrobe City Sports Club in Morwell. George also offered free advertising space to GARDS on the sign boards, which surround the main playing ground, we thank you George for your great donation to us. Rod LeLievre, GARDS committee member, donated the time and paint – it looks great Rod!



Pictured left are some of the Referees from the Gippsland Referees Soccer League Association with GARDS Secretary Vicki Hamilton after the night game final where Moe United and Fortuna Soccer Clubs were the finalists. Fortuna Soccer Club took the cup 2 – 1



FEDFA & CFMEU MEMBERS DONATE TO GARDS INC.

GARDS was very fortunate to be donated \$2,000 from a great bunch of workers at P & D Rigging at Crane Hire Pty Ltd. They had heard all about their boss's generous donations and decided to raise some money of their own to donate to GARDS. Thank you so much to all those who helped with this terrific donation. A special thank you to Norm Rust.

A BIG THANKS!

GARDS ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY 2005

Don't forget our Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony, which is taking place on Thursday 28th of April at 11.00am in Victory Park, Traralgon. This will coincide with International Day of Mourning in memory of workers who die, are injured or fall ill as a result of work. Over 100 countries around the world observe this day.

Father Bickley from St Michaels Church in Traralgon will conduct an ecumenical service at this ceremony.

Speakers will include:

Bruce Lougheed – Latrobe City Mayor, Richard Elkington – concerned community member, John Parker – Secretary GTLC



Moe Old Time Dance Club Inc.

A big thank you to all the dance club members for their donation of a wheel chair to our organisation. The club wanted to do something for the local community and they were informed about GARDS and what it is doing in the community to support asbestos sufferers and their families. The GARDS committee and the Moe Old Time dancers joined for a night of dancing and merriment concluding with the generous donation of a wheel chair to support asbestos sufferers and their families. We thank all those that helped to make us feel welcome.

Pictured above front: Don Paterson & Eric Grant
Back right: Vicki Hamilton, Dorothy Roberts, Yvonne Grant & Evelyn Paterson



ATO GRANTS GARDS CHARITY TAX CONCESSION

GARDS has been working hard from the beginning of this year to work towards being a totally benevolent organisation with income tax exemptions & GST concessions to compliment our DGR status. After a lot of paper work going back and forth with the Australian Taxation Office we are now proud to inform you that as from July 1, 2005 our organisation will be entitled to access all charity tax concessions.

ALSTOM FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

We at GARDS feel very privileged that we have been approached by two great guys, Terry Carroll and Duane Morell working at International Power Hazelwood to ask if they could fundraise for asbestos sufferers and their families on our behalf. They will be out there raising money for the rest of this year and we thank you guys for your efforts.



GOOD LUCK !

P & D Rigging Your Wonderful!

From all of us at GARDS we would like to thank Barry Stockdale who has also become a very wonderful supporter of GARDS he has donated another 2 wheel chairs to our organisation. Barry now has donated 3 wheel chairs in total. You are a great guy Barry. Norm Rust – CFMEU Shop Steward from Siemens at Bass Link needs to be congratulated for being a great ambassador for GARDS and asbestos sufferers in Gippsland. Well-done Norm! - You are doing a great job.

Pictured right are: Some of the GARDS committee and P & D Rigging employees with Norm Rust



James Hardie Update On Timetable

The NSW Government and James Hardie Industries NV agreed to a new timetable for finalising the agreement to fund compensation for victims of James Hardie's asbestos products. The Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr said the change in the timetable was due to legal complexities and delays in James Hardie settling on its preferred structure.

The Principal Agreement is expected to be signed early June James Hardie will then be able to call a meeting of its shareholders. If the shareholders approve the Agreement the James Hardie companies will begin making payments in August/September.

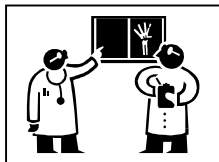
The delayed has been caused by:

- ❖ The legal complexities involved in developing a corporate structure that will be able to deliver funding for 40 or more years
- ❖ James Hardie taking two months to provide the Government with a first draft of the Agreement.

The NSW government will introduce legislation into the NSW Parliament in early June to implement aspects of the Principal Agreement. The Government is also preparing legislation to implement the Review of Legal and Administrative Costs in Dust Diseases Compensation Claims. There will also be Draft regulations that will be released for public consultation in mid April and amending legislation will be introduced in May. GARDS as well as many others will be watching closely the events that will unfold in the next few months.

MONASH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL TUTORIAL ON AGAIN

Well it's that time of year again where GARDS members are invited to speak to 1st year medical students at Monash University Medical School at Clayton. There will be 4 or 5 GARDS reps on May 2nd who will enlighten 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 social justice issues and how these young medical students can help in their way with this very serious problem that all of the community face now and into the future.



UPDATE ON DRUGS & TESTS FOR MESOTHELIOMA

GARDS is calling on the Federal Minister for Health & Ageing to intervene to ensure a drug to treat the asbestos – related disease mesothelioma is made available at a reasonable cost. Alimta, a drug that has shown it can prolong survival time and improve quality of life, helping people with mesothelioma, has been rejected for listing on the PBS. GARDS cannot understand why the Pharmaceutical Benefits Association has rejected the drug when there is no other chemotherapy agent approved for the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma in Australia.

A Mesothelioma Blood Test is being released in the very immediate future it is called Mesomark and with this new blood test it will help to detect mesothelioma in its early stages as this cancer is usually a hidden tumour that can grow without detection and can often take many months before diagnosis is made. The blood test will help doctors with the extra evidence they need to make the right diagnosis. Detection of mesothelioma early in its progression will mean therapeutic intervention is likely to prove more helpful.

FALCONS SOCCER CLUB HELP CHARITIES

Falcons soccer club committee, club members & players raise money for charities with some of the profits they make from the canteen they operate during the season. Recently they presented a cheque for \$200 to GARDS to help with the support and advocacy work that we are doing in the community. It is great to see such community spirit from a sports club helping victims of asbestos related disease. **YOU ARE WONDERFUL!**



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



Loy Yang B Power Station





www.gards.org

Gippsland Asbestos Related
Diseases Support Inc.

36 – 38 Darlimurla Ave
Newborough, Vic. 3825

PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825

Phone: 51281218
Fax: 51261897

Email: info@gards.org

Web site: www.gards.org

GARDS INC. SUPPORT

GARDS provides support and information to asbestos sufferers, their families and carers. This includes home visits by GARDS volunteers, a telephone advice service, and drop-in service at GARDS office.

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

26th April at 1.30pm

Treana Harris

Gippsland Foot Clinic

31st May at 1.30pm

Sue Wilson

Coroner's Court Melbourne

28th June at 1.30pm

Neil Harris

Dental Technician

26th July at 1.30pm

Cecily Hunter

Melb Uni – asbestos history

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