



ASBESTOS NEWS

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

ABN 77 687 118 554
 INC. A0042386U

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 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

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DID YOU KNOW

On the proposed new OH&S regulations 2007 employers will be able to direct cleaners & employees to clean up asbestos contaminated dust and debris.

Questions?

What constitutes a small amount of asbestos dust ?
 Why isn't dust & powder included in the Victorian definition of friable asbestos?

GARDS GONE TO THE DOGS

GARDS ended the year 2006 on a sad note with the passing of an esteemed member – Peter Griffiths. His battle over the last couple of years with mesothelioma was a very public one. Peter was a very caring individual who cared very much about his fellow human being. He helped GARDS in many different ways to educate not only the public but medical and allied health students to the emotional, social and the health aspects of a sufferer and his family. He has left a very big hole in all our lives here at GARDS and I know that all of us will miss him dearly. To Evelyn and her family we give our heart felt sympathy for the loss of a very warm, giving and generous man.

But on another side of this story Peter's son Wayne wanted to pay tribute to his father and to the GARDS organisation – so Wayne and two other men decided to buy a greyhound pup and named it what else! "GARDS GOOSE" the "goose" was Peter's nickname at basketball where he coached kids' basketball for some 20 years or more. Our members are overwhelmed with this tribute & wish "GARDS GOOSE" well in its racing career. We would also like to thank the Griffiths family for their generous donation of a portable electric oven & hot plates for our kitchen. It will certainly come in handy and is much appreciated.

Pictured below from Left are; Dorothy Roberts, Marie Smith, Trevor Callow, Vicki Hamilton, Lyle Seear, Pam Nicholson, Evelyn Griffiths and Wayne Vincent with GARDS GOOSE



Major sponsors:



ABB & TRUENERGY ALLIANCE - BONZA!

Just before Xmas the GARDS organisation was surprised and honoured to receive a donation from ABB & TRUenergy Alliance representatives. The donated funds came from the ABB/TRUenergy I & C upgrade project at Yallourn. The members of GARDS were thrilled to receive the cheque and the support from the two companies and its workers. We would like to thank each and everyone of the workers at ABB and TRUenergy for their kindness and thoughtfulness. If it was not for people like you GARDS would not

be able to exist.



Pictured here are from left rear:

Kevin Osborne,
Dominic Maruzza,
David O'Neill, Pam
Nicholson,
Kaye McLaren & Bob
Aitken.

Front left are:
Peter Simpson, Marie Smith
& Dorothy Roberts

Pictured taken by: Vicki
Hamilton



SILCAR WORKERS TRUE BLUE Thank You

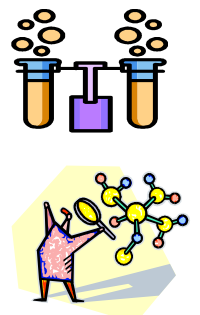


GARDS members were overwhelmed to receive a wonderful donation from the workers of Silcar at Loy Yang. It is an honour to accept donations from workers who have donated their hard earned money to help support asbestos sufferers, their families and the work GARDS does in the community. The news about the donation was received on the very afternoon of the Annual Asbestos Awareness Day in November; it was such an appropriately timed gesture.

The GARDS committee travelled to Loy Yang for the cheque presentation with John Maxwell and the Silcar workers. Thank you to you all, you are very caring individuals and we were over come by your support !!

PETER MAC CALLUM – DR ANDREW HOLLOWAY

The next afternoon support group meeting scheduled for 27th of February will see Dr Andrew Holloway as our guest speaker from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre– he will be talking about his research that is about to get underway. The project is titled "Establishment of a Latrobe Valley Power Industry Cohort and Biospecimen Bank For The Study Of Asbestos Related Disease". – Andy will out line the project to anyone from the community who may have worked at the power stations in the Latrobe Valley as an SEC employee or contractor to the SEC and who may like to help in his medical research. Andy will also be looking for volunteers to help in his other research projects on mesothelioma.



ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY NOVEMBER 2006

Nov 24th 2006 in the Rose Garden, Morwell was the scene of a very moving and insightful ceremony where people from all walks of life came together for differing reasons. Heather Marten conducted a moving ceremony dedicated to those who had passed away and those who are suffering. Our speakers on the day were: John Merritt the Executive Director of WorkSafe, Alistair Tompkins Chief Executive Officer for International Power Loy Yang, John Parker Secretary GTLC, Dr Susan Lee - Postgraduate Coordinator, Master of Nursing, Coordinator School of Nursing and Midwifery, Monash University, Tony Medina mesothelioma sufferer and Vicki Hamilton Secretary GARDS. All these spoke persons gave a varied, moving & insightful account of asbestos from very different perspectives which GARDS hopes will raise awareness through out the community.



JAMES HARDIE COMPENSATION VICTORY

Finally now in February 2007, after a six year battle we have seen the James Hardie fiasco put to bed. Shareholders have approved the \$4.5 billion compensation payout for the victims of James Hardie products for the next 40 years and the first payment of \$184 million has been deposited into the compensation account.

Justice! at last for thousands of victims and potential victims with up to 50,000 people expected to be diagnosed with asbestos related diseases by 2020, and the experts tell us that 13,000 of them will develop mesothelioma.

It is disgusting that this company thought it was going to get away with not meeting its obligations and even more low that the directors who made those decisions to run away could do that to other human beings. **Shame on you!!**

Now with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission commencing civil penalty against James Hardie Industries and others, including Meredith Hellicar, Peter Macdonald & Peter Shafron, we will see these individuals in the hands of the courts. Maybe we will see Justice done once again.

GARDS calls on the Federal Government to tighten the corporations' law so that it is made quite clear that no other companies will be able to restructure their operations and avoid their responsibilities. We do not want to see anyone else suffer a fate such as befell our loved ones and that was so preventable. What is a life worth!

We are very proud to have played our part in this historic win and what a wonderful achievement by so many – people power achieved this outcome – this shows what we can all do when we all work together for the common good of those we need to protect. Thank you to you all

Monash University and GARDS Researching the Needs of People in the Latrobe Valley

Monash University's Palliative Care Research Team and the School of Rural Health have teamed up with GARDS to undertake a study of the supportive care needs of people in the Latrobe Valley with Asbestos related cancers. It is anticipated that cases of mesothelioma will continue to rise significantly over the next fifteen years with power station workers having a risk second only to asbestos mill workers. Because most cases of mesothelioma are related to work exposure to asbestos, cases are often a part of local and regional increased incidence and most people are familiar with what happens to people and their families when they have the disease. The study, funded by Monash University is the first to examine the care experience of people in the Latrobe Valley. A number of health professionals and other key supporters have been interviewed but now the researcher's need people diagnosed with mesothelioma and asbestos related lung cancer and family carers for interviews about their experiences. The interviews are conducted by an experienced research nurse, take up to one hour and may be conducted at times and in a place suited to the individual. If you would like to be involved in an interview, you can phone the project leader, Susan Lee on 03 9904 4204 or email Susan.Lee@med.monash.edu.au. Alternatively, you can ask Vicki at the GARDS office for an information pack.

Thank you to some very special people in our community

The GARDS organisation would like to thank so very much all those individuals, families & organisations who have made generous donations. We would like to thank: Marion Harris, TRUenergy, Hand In Hand Craft Shop (Baptist church), Stan & Ivy Brown, John Postlethwaite through VicRoads, Don Stewart, Laurie & Gwen Hall, John & Alison Parker, Nellie Crane, Esme Sherwood, Marie Smith, Gerald & Pat Moore, Robert Ferguson, Dr Tony Sasse & Maree Hall. **We would also like to thank those who made donations in memory of Peter Griffiths** – those people were: P & L Lloyd, S Vickers, Wulffers Family, B& J Ringin, Garry & Jenny Sullivan, S & L Taylor, Sedleys Family, S Mehaffey.

Thank You

GARDS XMAS LUNCH 2006

At the beginning of Dec 06 the GARDS organisation held its annual Xmas lunch party for its members. The lunch party was held at Village Café where members from Melbourne, East, South & West Gippsland attended. There were many stories, memories and laughs traded between members on the day. Some had not seen each other for over 20 years and had a lot to catch up on.

The meal was marvellous with two roast meats, vegies, sauce and terrific plum pudding with custard. Santa paid a visit to the gang and everyone was lucky enough to receive a lucky door prize. After lunch those that remained stayed for the afternoon at the GARDS premises and left around tea time.

All in all a wonderful day was had by all. See if you can spot someone you know!



GARDS XMAS LUNCH 2006



AGM NEWS

On January 28th the GARDS Annual General Meeting was held. Vice President, Secretary & Committee member were elected. Those who were elected to the positions unopposed were:
Vice President: Trevor Callow,
Secretary: Vicki Hamilton
Committee Member: Rod LeLievre
Congratulations to you all. We would also like to thank these same people as they did a great job last year.

GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC

G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2007 1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at Village Community Centre,
1 Ollerton Ave, Moe

- Tuesday 27th February – Dr Andrew Holloway – Peter Mac
 - Tuesday 27th March – Karen Price – Alzheimer's Australia
 - Friday 27th April – Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony – Rose Garden, Morwell**
 - Tuesday 29th May – Peter Williams – Cancer Council Vic
 - Tuesday 26th June
 - Tuesday 31st July
 - Tuesday 28th August
 - Tuesday 25th September Anne Leversha – Manager Pharmacy LRH
 - Tuesday 30th October -
 - Friday 30th November – Asbestos Awareness Day – Rose Garden, Morwell**
- Christmas Break-up to be advised**

G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2007 7.30PM – 9.30PM

These meetings are held at the centre

- Tuesday 20th February
- Tuesday 20th March
- Tuesday 17th April
- Tuesday 15th May
- Tuesday 19th June
- Tuesday 17th July
- Tuesday 21st August
- Tuesday 18th September
- Tuesday 16th October**
- Tuesday 20th November

Christmas Break-up to be advised

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



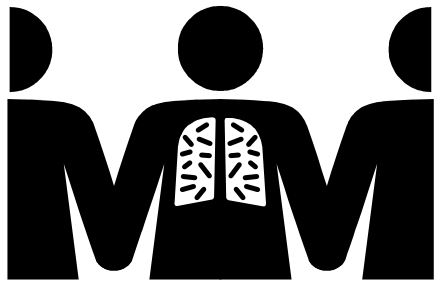
Valley Signs

Ph 5126 1656

Mob 0403 397 800

www.valleysigns.com.au





GARDS

Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc.

www.gards.org

Gippsland Asbestos Related
Diseases Support Inc.

We are situated at:

1 Ollerton Ave,
Moe, Victoria. 3825

PO Box 111,
Moe, Victoria. 3825

Phone & Fax: 51277744

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 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

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY: 9.30am – 12 noon

TUESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.00pm

WEDNESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.00pm

THURSDAY: 12 noon – 3.00pm

FRIDAY: BY APPOINTMENT

CALL IN FOR A CHAT & CUPPA

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Our Night/Day Meetings

27th Feb 1.30pm

Dr Andrew Holloway

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

27th March 1.30pm

Karen Price

Alzheimer's Australia

Friday 27th April 11.00am

Annual Memorial Wreath Laying

Ceremony

Rose Garden, Morwell

29th May 1.30pm

Peter Williams

Coordinator Cancer Support Groups

Cancer Council Victoria