

ASBESTOS NEWS

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

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INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY 2009



On Tuesday the 28th of April our Annual wreath laying event took place amongst the roses in a picture perfect garden. The weather was kind to us; it even broke through with rays of sun at appropriate times in our ceremony. We were very privileged to have again this year some wonderful speakers which included Johan Scheffer – Upper House Member for Eastern Victoria, Raelene Billingsley volunteer worker with the SES, Chris Ireland – Sydney photographer, Colin Ross – President of the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council, and our ecumenical service was conducted by Reverend Steve Briggs from the Baptist Church Moe. Paddy O'Dowd and the GippsTAFE musical department add to our special event with many diverse songs and music.
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Major sponsors:



GTLC again put on a truly sumptuous BBQ for all in the community and everyone enjoyed it. The families and individuals who come to this event find a great sense of empathy and support from the Gippsland community, we believe that it is essential that families know there are many in the community who appreciate the sacrifice that some give in the course of their work. We also highlight on this day the need for good OH&S routines in any work place to ensure that workers work in a safe environment – it is their right to feel safe and be safe in the work that they do.



Pictured left
Reverend
Steve Briggs
Baptist
Church
Pictured
Right
Johan
Scheffer –
Upper House
Member for
Eastern
Victoria



Pictured
right
Chris
Ireland –
Sydney
photograph
er



Pictured
Left
Raelene
Billingsley
Volunteer
SES
worker



Below right
Colin Ross
– President
GTLC

Left
Singer
/Musician
Paddy
O'Dowd



RETIRING TREASURER

During the course of last month we received sad news that our Treasurer Pam Nicholson could no longer continue in her role as Treasurer. It was with great reluctance that we accepted Pam's resignation. Pam has been with the organisation since November 2002 and has been a tireless worker and great support for our organisation. We will all miss her very much. Thank you Pam for all that you have done in so many ways and we wish you health and happiness in everything you do into the future from all at GARDS.



ARE YOUR FEES DUE?

Just a reminder, if you have not already paid your fees can you please do so as soon as possible. The fees you pay go a little way to helping with the newsletter and the flyers we send out during the year. We try to keep our fees to a minimum by applying for any Foundation monies that we might be eligible for and also through kind and generous donations from the community, memorial bequests and sponsorships. Financial membership of this organisation helps us when we are tackling issues for asbestos sufferers and their families and we can say that we are speaking for our members and for their right to be heard. To those of you who have paid thank you so much for your support of our organisation, it is greatly appreciated.

JAMES HARDIE – ASBESTOS INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

On the 7th of May three from the GARDS executive flew to Sydney for meetings with asbestos support groups from around Australia, the JH Asbestos Injuries Compensation Fund and the Attorney General of NSW, unions and lawyers. These meetings were held on Friday the 8th of May to discuss the short fall being flagged in the compensation fund. The fund was just set up in Feb of 2007 and with the economic down turn in markets across the world James Hardie are signalling that they too are feeling the pinch. Their claim to this is that 70% of the building market they have in America has seen the bottom drop out of their building market. The asbestos support groups have been assured that JH is a sound company and in 3 to 5 years will be making good profits that will see it get on top of this crisis. In the short term though the problem that asbestos sufferers face is the prospect of the fund having to go to instalments to meet its obligation of payments to asbestos sufferers for the next 3 to 5 years. Asbestos sufferers and their families have suffered immense pain and suffering already and now face the prospect of payments to families who are already doing it tough! The meetings that took place were to discuss options that might be able to be explored and put forward to try to work some sort of deal to help sufferers and their families to be able to access their compensation in full and not go to instalments.

At this present time all those who attended the meetings are writing to their Premiers of each State, their Attorney Generals, the Prime Minister of Australia and the Attorney General of Australia for urgent talks on suggestions as to how the fund might be able to meet its obligations for the next 3 to 5 years through this rough patch it is experiencing. We need to help asbestos sufferers and their families from feeling any more pain and suffering than they are already experiencing. Pictured below are representatives from the asbestos support groups in between meetings on Friday



WONTHAGGI MINE MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS



Pictured here are a group of supporters from unions, GTLC, Member of Parliament, GARDS members, and Wonthaggi mine supporters preparing to descend into the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine for a tour of what the conditions were like for miners extracting black coal from underground. The conditions for miners in the underground mine were very different from that of their brothers in the open cut mines in Latrobe Valley. The museum above ground was a wonderful tribute to the work of miners and their families and it was a real step back in time where you felt very much a part of the struggle of families and workers of that period. The friends of Wonthaggi State Coal mine prepared and served a delicious lunch for all those who attended the day and we thank the friends for a very welcoming and enjoyable visit. The mine site is a credit to those who have returned it to its former glory and is a wonderful tribute to the men who worked the mine and fought for a better way of life, decent pay and working conditions for their work mates.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY OF THE LEGACY OF ASBESTOS



Portrayed by the widows

Don't forget Chris Ireland's photographic display. The exhibition will officially open in Sydney on Friday the 17th of July and will run through till the 22nd August at the Australian Centre for Photography, Oxford Street, Paddington. It will then come home to Victoria. **The exhibition will commence at the Latrobe Regional Art Gallery in Morwell on the 24th August to the 4th of October and is expected to have a great deal of support from the local community.**

Chris is currently developing a memorial page on his website to list those lost to asbestos related disease. It is hoped this will demonstrate the enormous affect asbestos has had on Australian lives.

For more info visit these sites listed

www.chrisirelandphotography.com
info@chrisirelandphotography.com

Names for Memorial Tribute

Chris would like anyone who has lost a loved one to contact either GARDS or himself via the email above if you would like to add your loved ones name to his Memorial Tribute which will be listed on the web site with the photos. To find out more please contact either Chris or Vicki at GARDS.

NEW TREASURER FOR GARDS

Due to a vacancy being made in the Treasurers role GARDS has approached John Parker to be our Treasurer at this present time. John has accepted the role and we thank him very much for his assistance and support. We hope that you will all say Hi to John and make yourselves known to him at one of our meetings or events.



MONASH TUTORIAL CLAYTON CAMPUS 2009

The GARDS team were again at Monash University Medical School - Clayton campus this year. Again we were privileged to be a part of the tutorial for the 1st year medical students.

This year there were approx 310 students learning about the impact that asbestos has on the sufferers and their families. They too learnt about the social, emotional and environmental issues that are brought about by this deadly material - asbestos.

The students had lots of questions for our team of community experts and we hope that with the experience provided by the speakers that they got a real insight into the effects that asbestos has in a community. The GARDS team that took part this year certainly gave the students the perspective of what it is like from the effect it has on a sufferer and the family who have to cope with the diagnosis of asbestos disease, not only in their family environment but also with the day to day health issues that they must face.

This is the 8th year our GARDS team has made the trek to Monash Clayton and each year that we go there are another 300 plus students that know something about the issues and the hardships these brave men and women endure. We want to thank Ian & Betty Moore for agreeing to take part this year Ian & Betty were able to give to the students a very comprehensive account of what it is like to live with server asbestosis. We thank Rhonda Dunn, Evelyn Griffiths, Dorothy Roberts, Graeme Hamilton, Marie Smith & Lyle Seear for also being a part of this tutorial, all have very different areas that they have knowledge in. In the past those who have made this trip with us to Monash Clayton have also given the students very different accounts of their experiences and these students would be all the poorer for having not experienced the real life facts that unfolded in front of them. I always believe that each year these 1st year med students are so lucky to have been granted a small piece of the precious time of these very brave people's lives for just an hour or so to listen and experience what so many families endure while fighting to maintain their dignity in battling this very preventable disease. Preventable because it should not have happened in the first place.

Well done gang, you did a truly awe-inspiring job and GARDS is proud of your contribution. **Pictured from left rear: Dorothy Roberts, Rhonda Dunn, Evelyn Griffiths, Ian Moore, Vicki Hamilton, Front left: Marie Smith & Betty Moore – Missing from picture was Graeme Hamilton & Lyle Seear – Picture taken by Ricka**



GENEROUS DONATION FROM LAW FIRM



Pictured from far left are: Lyle Seear, Dorothy Roberts, Shaun Marcus from Ryan Carlisle Thomas and Vicki Hamilton



GARDS was lucky enough to secure sponsorship from Ryan Carlisle Thomas law firm. GARDS has been giving RCT brochures to asbestos sufferers along with other asbestos law firms for the last 9 years and we are very pleased with our association. GARDS feels privileged to have this firm become one of its sponsors. The work that GARDS does in the community has made a difference to the lives of many asbestos sufferers and their families, and firms such as this recognise the achievement by supporting and encouraging us to keep doing what we do. Without sponsors GARDS would not exist in the community doing the service it provides, as it has no direct continuous funding from any source. We look forward to a long and happy relationship with RCT and GARDS will be able to keep providing services to asbestos sufferers, their families and the community.

WISDOM'S FEAST GARDS ART DISPLAY

Sheena Jones, art director, has been working with a group of GARDS members on an art display for Wisdom's Feast at the Centre for Theology & Ministry of the Uniting Church in Melbourne. The public can view the GARDS art display from the 3rd of June. The GARDS members have been working on pieces of art they believe tell a story of power workers and their families from the 1920s through to present time. It is, we believe, a powerful display of the hearts, minds and souls of families and workers past and present and the journey that they have taken with its highs and lows, and the sacrifices that these individuals and families made to bring cheap electricity to the State of Victoria at a high price to human life. We urge all in the community to go and view the art as it conveys a strong message of love, hope, unity and the strength & dignity of a work force and their families who gave everything they had.





GARDS SHOP/OFFICE UPDATE



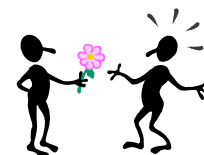
Thank you so much to this wonderful company for supporting us in this manner. Anyone who is considering doing any construction we urge you to support this firm who are a socially conscious community minded business. Service organisations such as ours highly regard & respect businesses that support charities. Thank you from all at GARDS Inc.

Thank You

We'll just fill you in on what's been taking place. Due to circumstances beyond our control we have not been able to finish the shop/office front that we are trying to move into. We have been at a stand still for the last few months with shop renovations. The only good thing in the last few months is that B & T Cabinets donated some of his time to the building of the cabinets for the kitchenette. We would like to thank Brian and Terri Trippett for supporting us. Then only a week ago we found out that Ross Clavarino from Kirway Constructions had heard about our plight and made the offer to fit out our shop. We can then arrange for a painter and move the project along to the fitting of our furnishings and finally operate from the new premises. What a wonderful gesture. We want to thank Ross, Brad Woodall, Dow and the team for being so generous and obliging coming to the rescue. A big thank you to John Parker for the role he played in bringing this to the attention of Ross.

VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE/ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE DONATED TO GARDS

**In kind donation: B & T Cabinets – Warragul - cabinet labour,
Slater & Gordon Law Firm – flight travel to Sydney**



**Monetary donations - G & J Crosby Contractors x 3,
Esme Sherwood – Sydney, J Schulz, Alex & Barbara Bathgate, L Hall,
Tina Doherty, Nunzio Bianconi, Duncan & Jessie Fergus, Ivy Brown, Jim McLean, Nellie Crane**

**In Memory of Allan Walker - Bryan & Kath Bertoli, Rhonda Kerkvliet, John & Jenny Henshaw
In Memory of Ray Hall – Dawn Hall, Janice & Geoff Ford,
In Memory of Tony Medina – A. E. Cowling,
In Memory of Alan Matheson – Matheson family, Bernie, Ron,
Daniel, Rachael, Jade and Adam Kemna, Bert & Jane Embregts,
Grimstead, Shane Embregts, Lee Matheson, Matthew Coulston,
Donald Stewart, Eleanor & Roy James**





A VERY SPECIAL TRIBUTE DONATION

GARDS was honoured to receive a donation of an oxygen concentrator from the Walker family at a recent meeting. Faye Walker made the donation in memory of her late husband Allan Walker who passed away from mesothelioma on the 16th of February this year.

Allan was a strong supporter and advocate of the work GARDS does in the community.

Among Allan's tireless efforts to educate the public to the dangers of asbestos he helped educate medical students at Monash University, had participated in radio and television interviews to highlight the plight of asbestos sufferers and attended many meetings to pass on his wealth of knowledge about the disease and how it effects a family and the community.

Allan will be sadly missed by the GARDS committee and members. It has been an honour to have known him.

We will never forget Allan's fighting spirit and the sacrifice he made of his very precious time to help highlighting the dangers of asbestos. Rest in Peace, Allan. Thank you to Faye and her family for the wonderful support they are giving to other families.

REICHSTEIN SPONSOR GARDS INITIATIVES

Earlier this year GARDS made application to Reichstein Foundation for help with support to our

Organisation. We are extremely happy that Reichstein has been able to fund our organisation for the next 12 months. We would like to thank Christa Momot for her support and encouragement of the work we do in the community. Foundations such as Reichstein are a valuable asset to groups such as ours and it is through their encouragement that ideas are able to come to fruition and help many disadvantaged people in a community.



Peter Mac Up date on Power Workers' Study

The Latrobe Valley Power Industry Cohort Study is moving into the second year of blood sampling. Almost 800 people have enrolled in the study, and just about everyone has donated their first blood sample. Thanks to everyone for contributing to our research in this valuable way. As part of the project, we would like to collect three small samples of blood, approximately one year apart. By collecting a series of samples like this, we can determine if any of the markers we are studying in the blood vary significantly over time. A useful diagnostic marker would have relatively stable levels, and only increase if there was asbestos related disease developing. At present, the markers in use have not been rigorously tested in this way. So, over the next few months (approximately one year after your first blood donation), all the participants in the study will receive a letter inviting them to donate a second sample, once again at any branch of Gippsland Pathology. Some participants have enrolled, but have not sent in a questionnaire, or had their first sample of blood collected, or both. We'll be sending a reminder letter to these folks soon as well, to see if they still wish to be involved. It's not too late to donate a sample, or complete the questionnaire! Once again, Tony and I are very grateful for the support we have received in this project from the people of the Latrobe Valley, and look forward to a continued involvement with the community. As usual, if you have any queries about the study, you can call us on 1800 060 183 (a free call), or send us a letter at LVPICS, Reply Paid 67680, A'Beckett Street, VIC 8006 (no stamp required).

GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC

G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2009

1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at – *Newborough/Yallourn RSL
Cnr Ellinbank Street & Darlimurla Ave, Newborough*

- Tuesday 24th February – Gippsland Water Factory
Tuesday 31st March – Linda McRae – A Transexual woman with a story
**Tuesday 28th April – Memorial Wreath Laying – Rose Garden,
Morwell**
Tuesday 26th May – Companion Pet Care – Pam Dunstan & Gay Michau
Tuesday 30th June – Allan Elliott - Independent Third person – Office of
the public Advocate
Tuesday 28th July – Bush Poet/Stories - Malcolm May
Tuesday 25th August
Tuesday 29th September – Margaret Peters - Nurse
Tuesday 27th October - Morwell Denture Clinic – Neil Harris
**Friday 27th November – Asbestos Awareness Day – Rose Garden,
Morwell**

Christmas Break-up to be advised

G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2009

7.30PM – 9.30PM

These meetings are held at the centre
These meetings are held at – *Newborough/Yallourn RSL
Cnr Ellinbank Street & Darlimurla Ave, Newborough*

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

Christmas Break-up to be advised



GARDS Inc. Membership Form

Name.....
 Address.....
 P/Code.....
 Telephone.....Email.....
 Occupation.....

GARDS NEW MEMBERS Joining Fee **\$5.00**
PLUS

GARDS Annual Subscription 2009

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1. Concession (Pensioner/unemployed) | \$3.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Full Rate (employed) | \$11.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Upon my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound
by the rules of GARDS Inc.**

Signature.....Date.....

Please return to GARDS Inc. with payment, PO Box 111, MOE, Vic. 3825

Office Use Only

I....., a Member of the GARDS Inc. nominate the Applicant for Membership of the Association

Signature of Proposer.....Date.....

I....., a member of GARDS Inc., second the nomination of the Applicant for membership of the Association.

Signature of

Signature of
 Seconder.....Date.....

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



Your Voice



LAWYERS



Gippsland Trades & Labour Council





Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc.



GARDS INC.

We are situated at:
1 Ollerton Ave,
Moe, Victoria. 3825

PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 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 loans out free of charge to asbestos sufferers - oxygen bottle regulators, conserving devices, oxygen home concentrators, wheel chairs, oxygen bottle carriers, nebuliser, walking frames & walking sticks. We also have an extensive library of books, DVDs and CDs on asbestos issues, health, social and environmental that we loan free of charge to those wishing to improve their knowledge

GARDS can provide professional counselling free of charge for those who have been diagnosed with asbestos related disease and also their family members with a qualified psychologist. This support can be face to face or in a group situation, which is conducted in a private room at the GARDS premises, or telephone counselling can be arranged if this is preferred.

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:

Dorothy Roberts – Ph. 51274174

Mobile 0407 274 174

Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton – Ph. 51278219

Mobile 0407 274 173

Treasurer:

John Parker – 51337684

Mobile 0419 747 756

Member:

Marie Smith – 51271427

Mobile 0427 271 427

Ann Clegg - 51762286

Mobile – 0439 662 282

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

*30th June – Allan Elliott- Independent
Third Person – Office of the Public
Advocate*

*28th July – Malcolm May – Bush
Poet/Stories*

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY to THURSDAY:
10.00am – 4.00pm

FRIDAY: BY APPOINTMENT

CALL IN FOR A CHAT & CUPPA