



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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REICHSTEIN FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR ADVOCACY

The GARDS organisation was very pleased and proud to be the recipient of another grant this year from Reichstein Foundation. Their support will enable our advocacy for asbestos sufferers, their families and the community to continue. Reichstein's support will further GARDS work in the community on education and will forward the cause on other projects that GARDS is working on, some of these projects in the very near future will also be a very important part of Gippsland and may be taken up by other communities in Victoria into the future. With the popularity of home renovation these days becoming an ever-increasing choice amongst young homeowners it is now even more important that we address the issues around domestic asbestos. In the light of statistics that have been made available by the Victorian State Coroner on home renovators who have succumbed to asbestos related diseases since July 2004 till now 32 people have died as a result of home renovations. Remembering that these people did home renovations 30 to 40 years ago when renovating was not as popular as it is today nor was there as big a population as there is today. In 30 years time what will we be looking at in the increase of numbers then???

We thank Reichstein Foundation very much for not only having the courage but the foresight to support us with our ideas. We would again like to thank publicly Christa Momot for her support and encouragement for making this happen.

WORKSAFE SPONSORSHIP

GARDS was very pleased to find out that WorkSafe would continue their support to us and have also increased that support to help us meet the ever-increasing needs of our organisation. John Merritt, we thank you especially for your unwavering confidence in us, your encouragement allows us to keep up our support and information to sufferers, their families and the general community. With the incidence of asbestos related disease increasing each year the demands are increasing for knowledge, information and support in many forms. GARDS is conducting collaborative work with many diverse organisations and we are proud to be able to be a voice for asbestos sufferers, their families and the general community.

Major sponsors:



DID YOU KNOW

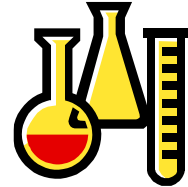
There are 11 countries
with numerous asbestos
support & advocacy
groups.

Countries listed at the
IBAS web site are:
Australia, Brazil,
England, France,
Japan, New Zealand,
Northern Ireland,
Scotland, Switzerland,
USA and Wales.

NATIONAL HEALTH & MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL FEDERAL GRANT



ASBESTOS RESEARCH ON LOCAL POWER INDUSTRY WORKERS IN LATROBE VALLEY



The National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant money of \$581,225 for the establishment of the "Latrobe Valley power industry cohort and biospecimen bank for the study of asbestos related disease" was very welcome news indeed for the Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support group (GARDS) who have been lobbying long and hard for research to be done in Latrobe Valley to help asbestos sufferers.

GARDS Secretary Vicki Hamilton said the GARDS organisation is proud to be a part of this ground breaking study and will be hoping for some major steps forward in the treatments, interventions and maybe cures into the future of asbestos related disease. Vicki stated that it is extremely important to our area to finally have studies being conducted here as Latrobe Valley has 7 times the state average for mesothelioma. Our community will finally see money being spent on this very important health issue that might hold some hope for future asbestos victims and families to come.

Dr Tony LaMontagne has already been to visit our members on the 17th of October to give a broad outline on some of the areas that will be a part of this study, and Dr Andy Holloway will be coming early next year to give insight into what he hopes to achieve with the specimens of blood and samples that will be a part of this study which will go over a 3 year time span, and to explain the criteria of who will be able to take part and when the study will commence.

The project will be recruiting 5000 former power workers & contract workers who worked for the power stations and were exposed to asbestos, samples will be sought from 1000 of them as part of the study, this will also include any former workers who have moved away from the area that wish to be involved.

The remaining 4000 will be provided with information, support and quit smoking programs. We thank Dr Andy Holloway and Dr Tony LaMontagne for the part they are to play in the lives of our community and we are looking forward to working with them on this project, to both doctors we wish you every success from GARDS.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual GARDS Christmas lunch is on again this year and all our financial GARDS members have been sent a flyer inviting them to this social occasion. The GARDS annual lunch will be on Saturday December 2nd at the Village Café Moe. It will be a two-course meal with two roast meats, 4 vegetables and gravy topped off of course with dessert. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be provided.

We hope to see all our GARDS members at this special time of the year. Our resident Santa will make an appearance to check to see who has been naughty and who has been nice. There will be lucky door prizes and much mirth and merriment on the day. So if you can make the time to come and be a part of this great get together. We would love to see you!!!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday 28th of January 2007.

Time: 1.00pm

**Venue: Village Community Centre
1 Ollerton Ave, Moe**

Election of Positions falling vacant:

Vice President

Secretary

Ordinary Committee Member

Election of Auditor for 2007

Returning Officer: Graeme Hamilton

Nomination forms can be collected from the GARDS office or forwarded by post on request to GARDS Secretary.

SPEAK UP TOGETHER OH&S REPS CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 25th of October the GARDS organisation was there to display and inform the 1700 reps who took part in the OH&S conference at Crown Palladium, organised by Trades Hall Council about the dangers of asbestos – medical, environment, social and emotional issues that come with this highly toxic carcinogen. The event is a part of Work Safe Week and 5 members from the GARDS organisation got together kits and displays for the day's events. We believe the day was very successful with many individuals asking questions and receiving information. GARDS members also caught up with many of their friends, acquaintances and OH&S reps. I know I can say that we were all very tired when we arrived back in Gippsland. I would like to thank especially Dorothy and Marie who for nearly two months have pain stakingly not only put together the kits but also changed some 700 booklets which had our old contact details on them and sat for many hours putting stickers on with our new contact details. I thank them very much. I would also like to acknowledge the work done by Pam Nicholson and Rod LeLievre who are always there when a hand is needed for some of the very big tasks that GARDS take on, you are terrific too!

Our volunteers put in large amounts of time to make sure the general public are aware and educated about the dangers of asbestos products and this is a very big task without their dedication to the asbestos issues many more people would unknowingly put their lives and the lives of their families at risk.

I thank them very much for their support from the Secretary of GARDS.



Thank You

Pictured here from left to right: Dorothy Roberts, Marie Smith, Vicki Hamilton and Pam Nicholson, taking the photo Rod L.

LATROBE CITY COMMUNITY GRANT FUND SUCCESS

A few months ago the GARDS organisation applied for a Community Grant to air-condition our new office space. The application was successful and Latrobe City granted two thirds of the money to supply and install a split-level airconditioner that will cool the two main offices of GARDS. We were very pleased and proud that the application had been approved, as this will enable our volunteers who staff our office some comfort when they come and give freely of their time. It is always wonderful to receive news like this but it is made more special because it comes from our local government authority. The balance of the money that was needed to purchase and fit the airconditioner was gathered from donations made to GARDS. We thank all those people at Latrobe City who made this possible and we thank all of you in the community who donate to GARDS freely so that every effort is made to look after our volunteers who come and do a variety of jobs and help the GARDS organisation to run smoothly.

UPDATE on new premises – Since our move in June to our new premises we finally have settled in and found a place for most of our equipment. We now have a proper kitchen to ourselves instead of part of our office as it was before and our meeting rooms are across the corridor from our office space, which is just really terrific. We have an abundance of parking for our visitors and volunteers and those of you who have come and visited us at our new place already have remarked how much nicer and more comfortable the new space is.

ANNUAL WORKSAFE AWARDS DINNER 2006

On Thursday night the 26th October the WorkSafe awards dinner took place at the Exhibition Buildings in Melbourne where nearly 1,000 guests attended. The GARDS committee were invited guests to this event; finalists for innovative OH&S initiatives from all round Victoria attended for the judging in different categories of the best OH&S ideas for 2006. It was a very interesting night and many deserving contestants took part. To all those finalists we congratulate you for all your hard work that went into helping to keep workers safe at their work place, you all deserved to win.



ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK 20th OF NOV – 24th OF NOV 2006

GARDS are conducting their Annual Asbestos Awareness Day Ceremony

Venue: Rose Garden in Morwell

Date: Friday 24th of November

Time: 11.00am

Our Theme This Year is

“Partnerships In The Community”

&

REMEMBER - ASBESTOS DUST KILLS



The event highlights and raises the awareness of asbestos and its effects on families and the community.

There will be an ecumenical service to remember those who are suffering and those who have succumbed to asbestos disease, Heather Marten of St Mary's Anglican Church Morwell will conduct this. There will be a time set in our ceremony where families will be able to lay flowers and pay tribute to their loved ones.

Guest speakers will be

- John Merritt Executive Director of WorkSafe,
- John Parker Secretary of the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council,
- Dr Susan Lee & Dr Louise Peters – Palliative Care Nursing, School of Nursing & Midwifery, Monash University Frankston – will speak about their study grant on “A Very Public Death – Exploring the needs of a person dying of mesothelioma or asbestos related lung cancer”,
- Vicki Hamilton Secretary of GARDS,
- Alistair Tompkin Chief Executive Officer for International Power Loy Yang, will speak on behalf of the power generators in Latrobe Valley.

GARDS Scottish bag piper David Duncan will supply music for this year's event.

At the conclusion of the ceremony there will be a **free** BBQ lunch in the gardens and all those in the community are most welcome to attend.

Caffe Alfresco will also be there **selling** cappuccinos, lattes, iced coffee frappes, coffee and tea

For further information contact Vicki Hamilton 0407274173 or the GARDS office: 5127 7744

Asbestos Awareness Day badges with our feather symbol will be on sale for a cost of \$2 for those wishing to support us. If you would like to purchase one before the day please contact the office.

SPECIAL INVITATION FROM WORKSAFE

On Tuesday night the 24th October the committee and members of GARDS were invited by John Merritt Executive Director of WorkSafe to a Special invitation function at Melbourne Museum to celebrate and acknowledge the significant contribution made by 3 organisations that WorkSafe sponsor, one of those groups was Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc. (GARDS). We were thanked for all our hard work throughout the year in supporting Victorians affected by workplace death and illness. It was a very moving tribute to the work that not only GARDS does in the community but the two other organisations mentioned - Industrial Deaths Support and Advocacy Inc. and Creative Ministries Network. Everyone who attended the evening had a great time and made many new friends and caught up with lots of old ones. We thank WorkSafe very much for their support of our organisations and look forward to working again with them in 2007. With partnerships such as these workers and their families are able to have a voice in work place safety and can

also contribute to the way in which families are supported in tragic circumstances. Thank you to all those at WorkSafe for caring.



**Pictured Left at rear are: Dorothy Roberts, Andrew Buzacott, Marion Taylor, John Merritt, Pam Nicholson, Bert Taylor - In the front from right Trevor Callow, Elaine Callow, Vicki Hamilton and Marie Smith
Photo taken by Rod LeLievre**

DONATIONS & FUNDRAISERS

The GARDS organisation would like to thank so very much all those individuals and families who have donated money to us, whether it be in memory of loved ones lost to asbestos or those who believe in the issues surrounding asbestos and for those of you out in the community who want to see sufferers and their families supported in every way possible. We thank you with all our hearts for your generosity and kindness it is most appreciated. Our thanks to Mr Antonelli, Mrs Prust, Residents of the Royal Freemasons Independent Units, Newborough Football/Netball Club, Newborough Football Club Past Players & Officials Association, Davies Family, Hall Family, Sullivan Family, Engel Family, Reverend Neil Thompson, Holmes Family, Vincent Family, Peter & Evelyn Griffiths, Brown family, Mrs Flanagan and Chris Cheetham for her lovely hand made rugs.



Thank you to Alstom Workers and Management for their support of GARDS and especially to Terry Carroll & Duane Morrell our two resident Saints. We would also like to give a big thank you to the Management & Mechanical Section of Alstom for their efforts to support us. A special mention and thank you to Diamond Power, you are a great bunch of people and we appreciate your efforts in supporting our organisation.

Gippsland Soccer League Junior & Senior Finals fundraiser – **GARDS had the opportunity to again fundraise for itself through the Gippsland Soccer League and we thank them for this opportunity & to those healthy members of GARDS – Bert Taylor, Graeme Hamilton who came to relieve Vicki Hamilton, Henry Winters, Bill Raymond & the two standbys Dorothy Roberts and Marie Smith thank you for being there at a moment's notice, it was greatly appreciated.**



INTERNATIONAL 1st Year Med Students Visit

On Tuesday the 2nd of August 16 Monash University, School of Rural Health medical students, visited GARDS. These students were undertaking a range of activities in Latrobe Valley as part of their rural health attachment. The focus the week they visited GARDS was to give medical students insight into rural life, the local health and community services, primary industries and the experiences of practising as a rural

health practitioner. GARDS was privileged and honoured to give the students a few hours of their time to be able to explain what the GARDS organisation does in the community. The medical students asked many questions and were very enthusiastic. After having afternoon tea with the GARDS committee they were all given information packs to take with them. The time together was so successful that the lecturers who accompanied the students have asked GARDS to again host students next year.

Pictured above are the 40 students with their lecturers and some of the GARDS members

1ST YEAR ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS VISIT GARDS

In the second week of August 140 1st year Allied Health students visited the Gippsland region. The students were here to learn about health promotion and disease prevention approaches, as well as seeing how various sectors and health disciplines fit together in rural and regional settings. GARDS was privileged to have 15 of these students with whose chosen profession paths are Physiotherapy, Health Science/Social Work and Occupational Therapy. The students were placed with GARDS for the day and were given a variety of topics and speakers about asbestos some of which were the Health, Emotional, OH&S, Political and Environmental aspects. In the afternoon some of the GARDS support group members came along to give personal insight into their health and wellbeing.

We believe the students gained a great deal of knowledge about rural and regional life, so that they might more positively consider living and practising in this region in the future. Secretary Vicki Hamilton said the students were a delight to work with and very enthusiastic, we hope to see more of this happening in the future. We wish these students all the best with their chosen professions.

Pictured here with the GARDS members waiting for the bus are the students and their lecturers



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





www.gards.org

Gippsland Asbestos Related
Diseases Support Inc.

Village Community Centre
1 Ollerton Avenue
Moe, Vic. 3825

PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825

Phone & Fax: 03 51 27 7744

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" all are most welcome for a cuppa and chat at any of the times listed.

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 & general community 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 November 24th
Asbestos Awareness Day
Rose Garden Morwell – 11.00am*

*Saturday December 2nd
GARDS members Xmas Lunch
Village Café, Moe*

*Annual General Meeting
Sunday 28th January 2007
1.00pm*

1 Ollerton Ave, Moe

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