



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

FEBRUARY 2006
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

ASBESTOS NEWS

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ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY 2005

November 30th again saw the Annual Asbestos Awareness Day ceremony take place in the Rose Garden, Morwell. This is to coincide with Asbestos Awareness Week, which is the last week in November.

A crowd of over 250 turned out on a hot and sunny day to show their support and concern of the issues surrounding asbestos in our community, along with some wonderful speakers who each in their own way highlighted what asbestos awareness week meant to them and their organisations, the day was truly enlightening & inspirational.

The speakers included David Pargeter, Executive Director, Commission for Mission, Uniting Church, Michael Hutchinson from TRUenergy speaking on behalf of the power generators of Latrobe Valley, John Parker from Gippsland Trades & Labour Council and Nicole Steers from Latrobe Regional Hospital – Cancer Care Centre.

There was an ecumenical service conducted by Heather Martyn from St Mary's Anglican Church, Morwell at this event to honour and remember those who were suffering from asbestos diseases & those who had succumbed to this very preventable killer.

A lone Scottish bag piper, Dick Henry, whose music rang out over the picture perfect gardens, provided music. A BYO lunch finished off the ceremony where many people made new friends and renewed old acquaintances. All in all a very memorable and moving occasion for all who attended and great to see the whole community getting involved in the issues surrounding asbestos.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2006

In December 2005 our own Vicki Hamilton was rung by the Queens Baton Relay committee for the Commonwealth Games to take part as a runner for the Baton.

Vicki accepted this great honour and on behalf of all asbestos sufferers everywhere will proudly run with the baton from 122 Commercial Road to Ryan Street in Morwell at approx 9.00am on the 1st of March, which is day 36 in the journey of the baton.

To the anonymous person/s who nominated her for this memorable event Vicki would like to say thank you and she will run with pride for those in the community that GARDS supports and cares for in their time of need.

If you would like to show your support of Vicki & GARDS come and line the street where she will be running and share in the moment. We would love to see as many people there as possible. This is certainly an historic event for all Australians to be apart of and enjoy.

DID YOU KNOW

The International Labour Organization – estimates that 100,000 people die each year from work-related asbestos exposure. In Western Europe, North America, Japan & Australia, an estimated 20,000 new asbestos-induced lung cancers and 10,000 new mesothelioma cases occur each year.

All of this is preventable!

Major sponsors:





VALE TO A LONG STANDING SUPPORTER

In late October 2005 a very dear member and long-standing supporter & advocate for asbestos sufferers, John Robinson passed away. Over some ten years John, his wife Pat and family have always been great supporters of the work and issues that GARDS is trying to achieve. The Robinson family generously donated an oxygen concentrator to GARDS so that we could loan the machine out free of charge to an asbestos sufferer in our Gippsland community who could not afford to rent one and who did not qualify for one under the government scheme. The thought disturbed John & Pat immensely to think someone was trying to do without because they could not afford it. This was the generosity of not only John but also his whole family. He will be sadly missed by all at GARDS and our sympathy to Pat and her family on the passing of a good man.

JAMES HARDIE - A VICTORY FOR ASBESTOS SUFFERERS

On December 1st 2005 James Hardie Industries signed off on an agreement worth 4.5 billion dollars, which will secure personal uncapped claims for compensation of James Hardie victims/sufferers for the next 40 years.

As most people would be well aware this is the largest personal injury settlement in Australia's history. It has also sadly become the biggest corporate scandal in Australia's history.

It is a very sad state of affairs that this fiasco ever started and it was even more disconcerting that it continued to go on for so long. Many unsuspecting wonderful Australians have passed away from a very preventable disease. Big corporations should and need to be made accountable for their actions in the board room and this saga only serves to highlight the need for reforms to the corporations act so that the high flyers who sit on these boards and make decisions that affect & devastate peoples lives like this has done are held accountable.

The Federal government needs to take a firm hand without fear or favour and make some strong changes to the laws in this country to make sure this situation never happens again to any good Australian with any other substance that could harm.

GARDS would like to congratulate all the good people who were apart of the campaign to "Make James Hardie Pay" and our committee and members were very proud to play their part in this very important page in history.

It is great to see so many Australians come from many walks of life with one voice speaking out to show that they care what happens to their fellow Australians. We all need to ban to together now to ask the hard questions and pressure the Federal government into making those changes to corporate law happen and not allowing tokenism to take place to become only bandaid cures. The fight goes on to another chapter!!

GRAND JUNCTION HOTEL – TRARALGON

GARDS has been very privileged to have Maria Vogt offer her premises to run small raffles once a week for 26 weeks to help fundraise for GARDS. We are doubly honoured because two guys we dubbed the Saints are running those raffles for us each week, they are Terry Carroll and Duane Morrell. Between the Barnes family (Ken & Debbie), and the boys they have got many companies to support and sponsor the raffles and we at GARDS are just in awe with what they are doing. Some of those companies are: **Aygee, Parkinson's Wholesales, Morwell Seafoods, Campbell Quality Meats, Manny's Market, P & V Meats.** We urge all our supporters and members to go and have a great bistro meal to support the Hotel who are doing a great job of supporting us. While you are in the Hotel make sure you say Hi! to Heather Kelly, who is doing a terrific job too!

Please accept our gratitude for all you are doing for our organisation and the people that we support, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY 2006

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.

APPRECIATION OF DONATIONS TO OUR ORGANISATION

We at GARDS are very humbled by the generosity shown by people in the community and it is always a very warming feeling to receive donations so freely given. In the last few months there have been some wonderful people who have come from nowhere to support asbestos sufferers and the work GARDS does. I would like to thank some of those people publicly for their generosity.

SILCAR – Loy Yang Station - especially 4 individuals who competed in the SILCAR social golf day who had decided before they hit off, to donate anything they won on the day to GARDS. The 4 gift vouchers from Harvey Norman were a lovely surprise. The guys who competed in that golf day were: Paul Tabone, Danny Milojevic, Bruce Baldock and Max Anderson. Thanks so much guys it was just such a wonderful gift to give.

THE ITALIAN AUSTRALIAN CLUB MORWELL – for their generous donation of meal vouchers for one of the raffles that have been conducted. Your donation of support was most appreciated.

RSL – MORWELL – for your generous donation of a venue voucher – for one of the raffles that is to be conducted. Your donation of support means a lot to us.

HOUSE – MIDVALLEY – Rob & Carol Jeffrey for their donation of a BBQ tool set for one of our raffles, you are very kind.

G & J CROSBY CONTRACTORS – Judy & Graeme for their donation of a spirits pack for one of our raffles. We greatly appreciate your support.



SPECIAL NOTE: THERE IS AN INSERT IN THIS QUARTERS NEWSLETTER WITH THE DATES AND TIMES FOR OUR MEETINGS FOR ALL OF THIS YEAR. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU TAKE IT OUT AND PUT IT UP TO REMIND YOU WHEN OUR MEETING DATES ARE. *Membership reminder – If you have not yet paid your membership for the year ending 2005 please forward all money to the Treasurer Pam Nicholson. This money goes some way to help with postage of newsletters and flyers during the year.*

CANCER COUNCIL OF VICTORIA – RELAY FOR LIFE

In mid November 2005 I (Vicki Hamilton) was the Patron for the Relay for Life in Latrobe Valley, which was conducted at the Joe Carmody Athletics' Track, Newborough. This event runs over a 24-hour period and teams can walk or run to raise money for the Cancer Council of Victoria.

There were 18 ½ teams who all sported funny names and it was certainly a very family orientated event with all age levels involved. Many fun things were organised for the 24 hour period from face painting, sack races, Red faces talent contest and trivia quizzes, to bands playing into the wee hours of the morning and to help you get through the night Café Lattes, Cappuccino's and good old coffee and tea. A BBQ tea was supplied by the Moe Lions Club and a yummy breakfast too!

All these great things made for a very memorable and enjoyable 24-hour period. Of course you could sleep if you wanted to but it was a real effort with all these things happening.

When it was all over and the summing up was done the event had raised over \$38,000 for the Cancer Council I think that this was a mighty effort by all who came along. I would like to thank these organisations that made a donation to GARDS team for the Cancer Council Relay – Gippsland Trades & Labour Council, CFMEU Victorian Mining & Energy District and Slater & Gordon Lawyers.

I certainly will be participating again this year in 2006 and urge all those who would like to join me to come and make a team with us and support the good work that the Cancer Council of Victoria do and support all those suffering cancer it means a lot to them!

GARDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of GARDS was held on Sunday 29th January at the GARDS premises 2.00pm. Annual Reports were read and elections carried out for President, Treasurer and committee member.

The nominations that were received were

Lyle Seear - President

Pam Nicholson – Treasurer

Dorothy Roberts – Committee member

As there were no other nominations received these people were duly elected.

We congratulate these people and wish them well in their roles over the coming year.

If you would like a copy of the Annual Reports of President, Secretary & Treasurer please contact the Secretary – Vicki Hamilton

GARDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Well it was on again the GARDS Christmas party / end of year break up Saturday the 10th of December.

The partying went on all afternoon with a yummy lunch consisting of roast meats, baked potatoes, sour cream, gravy, salads, sweets and Christmas cake donated by Joan Leister.

Lucky door prizes and of course our very own Santa came along to give sweets to those who had been good during the year. Of course Santa found everybody had been good.

We all looked back over the year to remember those who were not with us for this year's dinner and to sit back and reflect on the year of events that had taken place.

The GARDS committee hopes that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year, for those who were remembering loved ones at this time we hope you found some comfort in sharing this time with family and close friends.

We look forward to seeing all our supporters and friends sometime in 2006 and hope that like last year we keep making a difference in asbestos sufferers lives, their families and the community. We want to be able to make changes that help protect, support & educate now and for future generations.

Left: are some of the partygoers telling Santa they had been good.



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.

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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/hospital visits by GARDS volunteers, a telephone advice/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
28th of Feb

*Nicole Steers – Latrobe Regional
Hospital Cancer Care Centre*

28th March

*Sophie & Gil – IPAC Financial
Advisors*

28th April

Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony
Rose Garden Morwell – 11.00am

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