



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, 2005
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

ASBESTOS NEWS

Inside this issue:

Page 2.

Asbestos Awareness Day
James Hardie Update
Annual General Meeting

Page 3.

Construction Worker's
donate
AsClear donation
Esme Sherwood donation

Page 4.

Christmas Dinner
GARDS AGM
Two Great Men

Page 5.

P & D Rigging Donation
Are Your Fees Due?

Page 6.

Meeting Dates for 2005

Page 7.

Sponsors Page

Page 8.

About GARDS

DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS IN 2005 FOR GARDS

Tattersall's Centenary Award

Our first celebration for the New Year of 2005 was being informed that GARDS had been chosen as the **Tattersall's Centenary Award Winner** for a local community group. Tattersall's and the Latrobe Valley Express newspaper asked the community to nominate a worthy local charity, organisation or individual whose sustained efforts make a difference to the quality of life for all or others in the local community. A panel comprising representatives of Tattersall's, The Express and the local community decided the most worthy recipient. We are very humbled and proud to be that winner and thank all those who helped to make this happen. We received a cheque for \$8,000 and you can be assured that the money donated will be put to good use to help in the support of asbestos sufferers and their families. Thank you to all those people who support and encourage us, without your support we could not accomplish what we do.

Latrobe City's 2005 'Citizen of the Year'

The other wonderful news that was received early into the New Year was that our own secretary Vicki Hamilton was selected as Latrobe City's 2005 'Citizen of the Year'. This award is a way that Council and the citizens of Latrobe can show their appreciation to people who are dedicated to serving the community in some form or another – whether by way of giving one's time to aid the disadvantaged, serving on a committee or representing one's area in the sporting arena. The award was presented at the Australia Day Celebrations at Kernot Hall in Morwell on the 26th of January. Vicki said that she was surprised, honoured and proud to accept the award. She dedicated the award to her father, grandfather and all those who had succumb to asbestos related disease. They are the real hero's. I would not have received this award without the support & encouragement of the GARDS committee and members.

DID YOU KNOW

That the Liberal & National Parties have passed on James Hardie donations to asbestos groups all over Australia and GARDS was a recipient of some of this money.

*Thank you so much
to all those who
thought of us.*

Supported by





ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY 2004

On the 30th of November in the Rose Garden, Morwell GARDS held its annual Asbestos Awareness Day. There were a number of speakers who were asked to speak on asbestos issues, some of those were: Peter McGauran MP Member for Gippsland, Brendan Jenkins MP Member for Morwell, Darrell White Latrobe City Mayor, John Parker Gippsland Trades & Labour Council, Bette Phillips Creative Ministries Network and Angela Jones daughter of a woman who passed away with mesothelioma. Around two hundred turned out on this hot and sunny day and all those who attended thought that the day had been a memorable one and had been a significant step forward in the recognition of asbestos issues in Latrobe Valley. We thank all those people who attended and we thank you for your support to asbestos sufferers everywhere.

JAMES HARDIE UPDATE

October 28th 2004 saw the GARDS members back on the road again (thank you CFMEU for the bus) protesting at the Telstra AGM where Donald McGauchie Chairperson of Telstra was conducting their AGM. Mr McGauchie is also a board member of James Hardie (conflict of interests) many good workers at Telstra had lost their lives to asbestos produced by James Hardie. Mr McGauchie was being asked to resign. The protest drew a lot of attention and our members who participated felt that it had been worthwhile. Then on December 21st 2004 GARDS received news that a Heads of Agreement had been reached and signed that day by the ACTU, NSW unions, Bernie Banton representative of the asbestos victims. This document is not a legally binding document but is a significant step forward towards making sure that the James Hardie company funds current and future compensation liabilities to Australian victims of its asbestos products. A legally binding 'Principal Agreement' will conclude the negotiations by June 2005. The 'Heads of Agreement' provides for:

An open ended funding commitment – ie. No cap on the overall funding,

No cap on payments to victims,

The creation of a Special Purpose Fund, which may be the MRCF, which will receive funding from James Hardie and make payments to claimants,

The payment of an up-front cash 'buffer' equivalent to two years of claims plus the payment of a further year of claims in advance – this buffer will be approximately \$250 million,

Additional annual payments from James Hardie based on an annual actuarial assessment of the liability for asbestos claims

A maximum amount, or cap, on the annual James Hardie payment will be set at 35% of the company's free cash flow. In the first year of the agreement this cap is equivalent to over \$70 million

A minimum term in the funding arrangement of 40 years. The term of the agreement will be extended indefinitely if this required,

Funding from James Hardie for asbestos education and medical research

The 'Heads of Agreement' also deals with other important steps details such as how funding for asbestos compensation will be secured, how the arrangements entered into will be made legally binding on the company and how the company can ensure, that it can put this all behind it and get on with business. The Principal Agreement will need to be voted on in June 2005 and accepted by James Hardie shareholders.

This will be the largest personal injury settlement in Australia's history. A great achievement for everyone involved. Well done to all those who have participated in some way!

WORKERS DONATE TO GARDS

GARDS was very pleased to accept a generous donation of \$460 from management of Hooker Cockram and construction workers at the Police Court Complex & Cancer Care Centre sites. Some of the worker's from one of the construction sites made the presentation. The worker's informed GARDS committee that the men at both of the sites raised the money. Vicki said that she was very proud that the workers had gone out of their way to raise this money for GARDS and the asbestos sufferers. A big thank you to all the workers on both sites it is wonderful to have such generosity in our community. Pictured below are some of the construction worker's & some of the GARDS committee being present with the money.



Thank You

ASCLEAR SPONSOR GARDS MEMBER'S

Two GARDS members Rodney LeLievre and Trevor Callow were lucky enough to be sponsored by AsClear to do courses on OH&S Regulations (ASBESTOS) 2003 for Supervisors and Asbestos Handling & Removal Type A Course. These courses were completed in late November. Congratulations to Rod and Trevor and thank you very much to AsClear for sponsoring our two members.

We would like to thank very much Esme Sherwood from Beverly Hills a suburb of Sydney NSW. Esme has very special links to GARDS and has generously donated \$200. Thank you so much we really appreciate your support. You are a very special person.



Thank You



CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Sunday the 5th of December GARDS held its annual Xmas dinner/party at the GARDS premises. There was a full Xmas dinner served with Roast Pork and Lamb, baked potatoes and salads; multiple desserts were had by all. Santa put in an appearance to find out who was naughty and nice. Of course all who attended said they were nice! Santa gave out sweets to all. The party went on well into the night. Pictured below are members whooping it up!!!!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of GARDS was held on Sunday the 30th of January. The 3 positions that were advertised as vacant were: Vice President, Secretary and Committee person. As there was only one nomination for each position the vacancies were declared filled by Trevor Callow -Vice President, Vicki Hamilton - Secretary and Rodney LeLievre Committee Person. Congratulations to those people. If you would like a copy of any of the reports from the AGM please contact the GARDS office during office hours.

A TRIBUTE TO TWO GREAT MEN

It is my sad duty to inform our members and all those who have been keeping up with the James Hardie campaign that Bruce Smith a truly wonderful and giving person who had helped with an article in the Sunday Herald Sun on September 26th headlines of “**Life styles of the Rich and Shameless**” passed away on 26th of December 2004 unexpectedly. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Marie his wife and their two sons and family members. We will all miss him!

We are also saddened with the loss of Fred Gibbs who on January 17th passed away after a long battle with asbestosis. Fred was the face of the Make James Hardie Pay campaign. He received a great deal of notoriety with this and was very pleased that as sick as he was he could help in the campaign. Fred was known affectionately as the poster/pin up boy of GARDS. He will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Thelma and their family. Fred you **did** make a difference for asbestos sufferers everywhere! **You will always be remembered. Thank you!**

A BIG THANK YOU TO P & D RIGGING



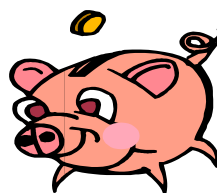
GARDS was privileged to receive a very generous donation of a brand new wheel chair with an oxygen bottle carrier attached. We would like to thank **Barry Stockdale of P & D Rigging** so much for his wonderful donation to asbestos sufferers and their families. Barry found out that GARDS needed another wheel chair through visiting the construction workers on the site of the Police Court complex where he had business to conduct. He over heard them saying that they had just raised money to try and buy another wheel chair for asbestos sufferers. Barry said how much does one cost and they replied \$650, Barry simply said “Oh well I will buy one for them”. What a wonderful generous person you are Mr Stockdale. If the world were full of people like you we would not have any people missing out. A very **big** thank you to a wonderful person. Pictured above is Barry on the left of the wheel chair, with Hooker Cockram site foreman Ian and some of the construction workers presenting the wheel chair to the GARDS committee.

Thank You BARRY!

ARE YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE?

Could you please check with the GARDS Treasurer Pam Nicholson if your membership fees are due? These fees go part the way to helping us get the newsletter out to you and also to send any flyers that may need to be sent during the year to keep you in touch with us.

Please contact us if you are unsure of when your fees fall due.



GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES
SUPPORT INC

G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2005
1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at Latrobe Business Centre,
36 – 38 Darlimurla Avenue, Newborough

Tuesday 22nd February
Tuesday 29th March
Tuesday 26th April
Tuesday 31st May
Tuesday 28th June
Tuesday 26th July
Tuesday 30th August
Tuesday 27th September
Tuesday 25th October
Wednesday 30th November – Asbestos Awareness Day

Christmas Break-up to be advised

G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2005

7.30PM – 9.30PM

These meetings are held at the centre

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

Christmas Break-up to be advised

**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

Treasurer:

Pam Nicholson – Ph. 51275843

Committee Member:

Dorothy Roberts – 51274174
Rodney LeLievre - 51261656

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

Refer to page 6 this edition for
2005 meeting dates Support &
Night

(different color page)
Speakers to be advised at later date

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