



ASBESTOS NEWS

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

You can make an online donation to our group at our home page www.gards.org

Make a Donation



Using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au

Wood PSN ESSO BHP Billiton Longford Gas Plant employees safety incentive scheme donation

In March GARDS received some wonderful news that they had been chosen as the lucky recipients of a terrific donation from the Longford Gas plant employees and their employers Woods PSN Esso BHP Billiton. We were very excited and felt very honoured to be held in such high esteem.

Some of the GARDS committee were invited to Longford to receive the donation from the workers and their employers. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with the workers at their work site.

The GARDS committee were treated to a morning tea along with the workers where many introduced themselves and we had a chance to talk and get to know them. The companies were presented with a certificate of appreciation and the workers also received a certificate of appreciation from GARDS.

The Safety Incentive Scheme, **Wood Group PSN** and **Esso/BHP Billiton** donation comes under the umbrella of a Safety Performance Incentive Scheme which is implemented across all of our projects with Esso/BHP Billiton (Long Island Point, Hastings, Bass Strait offshore facilities, and Longford Gas Plant).

The scheme basically rewards superior safety performance and recognises positive safety behaviour and is essentially a "points for dollars" system where workgroups are awarded points on a monthly basis for achieving zero recordable injuries, completing workplace inspections and management reviews, and maintaining compliance with their training matrix. GARDS just wants everyone to know how much we appreciated the donation and you can be assured we will help support asbestos sufferers and the community.



This April edition sponsored by
**W426 YALLOURN
OUTAGE DONATION**

Principal Sponsor



W426 Yallourn Outage Donation

The GARDS organisation was extremely lucky that as part of the TRUenergy Yallourn 2011 Major Outage (W426) an amount of money was made available to be donated to local organisations based on the health and safety performance for the outage.

Contributions were made to this fund by TRUenergy and its outage contractors—Lendlease (formerly Conneq), Traralgon Industries, Toshiba, CAPE and BMC.

Four organisations received money from this fund— and GARDS felt very privileged and honoured to be one of those lucky organisations.

Representatives from the Outage Health & Safety Forum enjoyed afternoon tea at GARDS & were able view what was purchased with the donation made to us — a Samsung Galaxy Tablet & Keyboard, Laser Printer, Telecommunication System and two phones, plus one edition of



the GARDS Asbestos News - April 2012. Vicki Hamilton and the GARDS team were very appreciative of this support which will greatly help them in their work with those suffering from asbestos

related diseases and their families. We thank all the workers who made this possible.

Pictured (above) at the afternoon tea are Chris Thompson (BMC), Lindsay Fawcett (Outage

Manager), David Carpenter (Andreco Hurl), Wally Wilkinson (PS Alliance) and the GARDS representatives Brian Clegg, Marie Smith, Ann Clegg, Dorothy Roberts and Vicki Hamilton.

Gippsland Combined Trade Unions Picnic and Social Committee Inc. Donation

The GARDS committee were thrilled to receive a cheq from Toby Thornton who represented the Gippsland Combined Trade Unions Picnic and Social Committee. Donations to our organisation are received gratefully anytime, but they are even more special when we receive them because the workers deem us worthy!

The Gippsland Combined Trade Unions Picnic and Social Committee have been donating to GARDS for the last 3 or 4 years and this money is used to help support our families by keeping our office front open and taking our medical equipment to our sufferers to make their life more comfortable. GARDS presented the group with a certificate of appreciation for their continued support of the work we do in the community. Without donations such as these the support we give would not be possible. It is a vital role that organisations such as this play in helping us to keep our support and advocacy going. So thank you to one and all who helped to keep these donations coming to us.



Pictured here is some of the GARDS committee and Toby Thornton CFMEU union organiser with Dorothy Roberts, Ann Clegg, Brian Clegg, Marie Smith and Vicki Hamilton

Sponsorship Donation

GARDS was very pleased to receive our annual sponsorship donation from Maurice Blackburn Law firm.

We are always pleased to receive sponsorship from companies and firms who want to support the work we do in the community. If we did not get sponsorships annually or donations GARDS could not survive. GARDS relies totally on the generosity of the public and workers to support asbestos sufferers and their families. The sponsorships from firms such as M & B pays for our newsletters, pamphlets, booklets, the day to running of the office and helps us to buy up to date office equipment to make our job that much easier.

Maurice Blackburn have been supportive of GARDS for quite a

**Maurice
Blackburn
Lawyers**

Since 1919

long time now and we are happy that they do so in this manner.

We would like to thank Andrew Dimsey for his advice and support to GARDS he has been invaluable and we appreciate that he makes himself available to us for advice when required and it is never any trouble to help where needed.



Andrew Dimsey

ATTENTION GARDS MEMBERS!

The GARDS committee is currently involved in preparing its 3 year Business plan and would like input from GARDS members on what sort of issues you would like to see GARDS tackle next. Also what you think the GARDS organisation might look like in the next 3 years or beyond.

We have had an offer from a wonderful person whose name is Robert Gaulton, and he has agreed to help the committee set out the next 3 year Business Plan. If any GARDS member would like to suggest constructive ideas and thoughts we would like you to contact Rob so we can try to incorporate it, - He is contactable by writing to his email address: gaultons@speedweb.com.au or snail mail **93 Kelso Road, Yallourn North; Vic 3825** or phone: **51671643** - Rob would be happy to talk with you.

From all of us at GARDS thank you Rob



Are you nursing a loved one with a terminal illness?



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

The Latrobe Valley Palliative Care Fundraising Association “provides financial assistance to patients and their families” by paying for equipment hire needed in the patient’s home to help them be more comfortable and make it easier for their carers. If necessary, we can assist with financial help for medication and oxygen.

This service operates with the hard work of volunteers and the generous public who help us raise the funds needed to run the service, thereby making a

big difference to numerous lives. Would you care to Join us? Call No list below.

We have also been aware of the need to train workers in the Aged Care Homes within the Valley; wishing to honour our two late leaders Angela Dempsey/ Bernadette Carstein we have set up a Scholarship in their names.

Last year we paid for 11 Aged Care personnel this year we have 16 doing the course of “Palliative Care - A short Course” at Monash University, Churchill.

CALL 0202 689 827 or 5167 1589

To discuss how we can assist with the comfort of your loved one and make it a little easier for you.

LATROBE VALLEY PALLIATIVE CARE FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION

GippsTAFE tutes on Asbestos Awareness



GARDS has been helping the Painting and Decorating Section of GippsTAFE with asbestos awareness training sessions to its students.

Last year and again early this year we have been enlightening the students to where they may find asbestos when they are on the job and also of the medical and OH&S issues that arise from finding asbestos on the job.

The students were treated to some informative DVDs on asbestos in the environment and talks ensued about the history of asbestos and how asbestos affects a sufferer, their family and the community.

The students had many questions and stated that they had learnt many things that they did not know in the incidental conversations that were had on the day of the tute. Information bags were given out to the students to take away and keep for future reference.

GARDS believes that only through education of all the trades who are likely to come in touch with asbestos can we empower these workers and keep them from being unknowingly exposed. Knowledge is power!



Home Renovators



Readers may have read in the media last month of the death of the Australian mountaineer and adventurer, Lincoln Hall, who died from mesothelioma at age 56. Lincoln famously cheated death when in May 2006, he survived a night at 8600m after being 'left for dead' near the summit of Mr Everest. But sadly, he was not able to escape exposure to asbestos as a nine year old.

His exposure has been linked back to helping his father build two cubby houses with asbestos sheeting as a nine year old. With around 700 people diagnosed each year, Australia has one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world, and cases such as Lincoln Hall's are part of what is now being called 'the third wave' of deaths caused by asbestos exposure.

Another area of great concern to GARDS is the use by home owners of high pressure spray equipment to clean asbestos cement roofs. In recent weeks GARDS has been called out on several occasions to home sites where this has occurred. This is a totally unacceptable practice,

and a toxic hazard, not only to the homeowner and their family, but to all the neighbours that surround the area. The pressure from these hoses dislodge the cement bonding (which is often deteriorated because of the age of the material) and releases the asbestos fibres into the atmosphere through the droplets of water that splash off the roof. These droplets can be carried by the breeze for great distances and pollute a wide area, landing in neighbouring yards and exposing other persons who will be totally unaware of what is happening.

This type of irresponsible behaviour is treated very seriously by the EPA, and can result in fines and clean ups costs that can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. As well as compressed air equipment, home renovators should

NEVER use power tools, abrasive cutting or sanding discs on any asbestos cement product, including asbestos roofing. Many people have been injured by falling through weathered asbestos cement roofs while attempting to treat or repair them. While all asbestos removal jobs are dangerous, attempting to remove a roof of corrugated asbestos sheeting is particularly dangerous, and should ONLY be done by a registered qualified asbestos removalist. A list of removalists can be obtained from the Victorian Trades Hall web site, or contacted by phone on (03) 9659 3511.

In recent times GARDS has also been disturbed to witness home owners removing old fake brick cladding and breaking it over their knees and putting it into a rubbish skip. Old fake brick cladding has asbestos in it, and should be handled just the same as asbestos cement sheeting. You should be protected with all the right gear while doing the job, and you should always dispose of in a designated lined asbestos skip. The general public should be aware that asbestos that is removed from a dwelling will be a far greater risk to you and your family than asbestos that is kept in good condition (i.e. not broken, and painted) and remains untouched.

If home owners insist on removing the asbestos from their homes themselves, then they should seek advice from their local council offices. Latrobe City residents are fortunate to have an excellent and affordable kit available for those who wish to 'do it themselves'. The kit is available for \$30, and includes a 30 minute information session, as well as all the personal protective equipment and clothing necessary to carry out asbestos removal more safely.

Anyone wishing to obtain the 'Asbestos in the home Removal Kit' should call Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700 to make an appointment.

