

# GARDS on the Move LV ENTERPRISES



**The GARDS members were very fortunate recently to be able to tour the Latrobe Valley Enterprises, touring their 4 main departments of business. Signmaking Dept, Recycling, Grounds Maintenance Dept and Gippsland Roses. The tour took approx 2 hours and was extremely interesting.**

Latrobe Valley Enterprises is a not for profit company with a network of commercially viable businesses that provides employment opportunities for people disadvantaged by disability.

LVE is a registered Training organisation approved by the Victorian Qualifications Authority to provide Nationally Recognised and Accredited Training. Anyone in the community who purchases any of the products and services provided by LVE help transfer the power of work to people disadvantaged by disability. Each service or product

# GARDS on the Move LV ENTERPRISES



you order helps LVE to gainfully employ people and train them with skills to achieve their maximum potential.

I know the GARDS members enjoyed meeting some of the staff and employees in these different venues and we were very impressed with the goods and services provided by LVE.

Many of the GARDS members bought roses at the Organic Rose farm located at Nadenbouschs Road, Hazelwood, where we were overawed by some 60 hot houses with thousands of rose bushes in full bloom. It certainly was a sight to see. We encourage you to ring LVE as your first port of call when looking for goods and services such as LVE supply. These pictures are of some of the services provided by the organisation. We would especially like to thank Debbie Rankine, Compliance Co-ordinator, for showing us around and the workers of LVE for being so obliging and friendly.



# Eternit in Casale Monferrato - Italy

# **GUILTY!!!**



**The Swiss former owner of a company that caused 3,000 Italians to die from asbestos-related diseases has been sentenced to 16 years in prison.**

In a ruling that could have an impact on similar cases around the world, billionaire Stephan Schmidheiny was found guilty.

The company's major shareholder, Belgian aristocrat Jean-Louis Marie Ghislain de Cartier de Marchienne, has been given the same sentence.

Neither man attended the trial.

The proceedings, which have taken two years, were held in the industrial northern Italian city of Turin.

The company, Eternit, ran four plants in Italy, where many people worked with asbestos without protection up until the 1980s.

Despite the company being bankrupt, 6,000 Italians are seeking damages.

Eternit is located in Casale Monferrato, Italy

One of the biggest environmental cases ever to come to trial in Europe began around two years ago in the northern Italian city of Turin.

An asbestos cement multinational called Eternit has factories in Italy, Switzerland, France and South America.

Swiss billionaire Stephan Schmidheiny and Belgian industry baron Jean Louis de Cartier de Marchienne were accused of violating safety rules, ignoring workers' health.

The day of judgement: Monday February 13, 2012.

Public Prosecutor Guariniello said: "The big choice made was to try to establish responsibility for fundamental decisions in the company. The people who decided what to spend, how to spend it, what to do... were not Italians. They were first the Belgians and then the Swiss."

Astolfo Di Amato, defence lawyer for industrialist Stephan Schmidheiny, insisted that: "When

Stephan Schmidheiny became the company's chief executive in 1976, its branches in Italy had turned zero profit, and it had invested what was an enormous sum at the time – 73 billion lire – on safety."

Between 1906 and 1986, the city of Casale Monferrato, not far from Turin, was home to the biggest asbestos cement factory in Europe. It contributed to the region's economic development. But the people who worked here paid a terrible price. And they are still paying it.

Since 1947, 1,800 have died from pleural mesothelioma, an untreatable cancer. It did not only attack the workers in Eternit but also the population who had never set foot in the factory.

Bruno Pesce, head of an association fighting on behalf of former Eternit workers and their families, in an

impeccably organised and austere office said: "All these white files are on the workers who died. The pink ones are other citizens of Casale, unfortunately also dead from mesothelioma; the green ones are those still living but who have the cancer. The yellow ones are for all the former Eternit workers who are ill."

Nicola Pondrano, the former Eternit worker, and also head of the CGL Union of Casale, said: "When Eternit closed down, declaring operations unviable in 1986, the workers were right alongside Bruno and me – not against us: with us."

Bruno Pesce said: "In the years following the closure, the fight kept spreading throughout the territory, to go after three objectives: justice, rehabilitation and health research."

Today, Casale counts an average of around fifty asbestos victims per year, most of them aged between 40 and 60, people who breathed in the fibres before the factory closed.

Dottoressa Daniela De Giovanni, oncologist at the Santo Spirito Hospital of Casale, said: "The inhabitants of Casale are afraid of becoming ill. That adds psychological suffering to physical suffering. It's the fear that the same illness that struck a friend, a parent or a loved one can strike us too."

Romana Pavesi, the victims' association chair, lost her husband – an Eternit worker – and her sister, a cousin and daughter to cancer.

Romana said: "In 2004, one day my daughter came to me. She had done all the tests. She was sure. She told me, 'Mama, sit down. I have to tell you something. I have it too.' I was devastated. It was the last thing I expected. I took her in my arms and told her: 'I won't let you go.' But I knew very well there was nothing I could do. I had been through the thing before. It was very hard with her. She went fast, but she suffered terribly."

The doctor, De Giovanni, said: "There is a kind of acceptance with other kinds of cancer, a resignation to accept one's destiny. But not with mesothelioma. The cause is known. It has nothing to do with chance. There is a culprit. And often there is a rage against the guilty party."

**Parts of this story must be attributed to: <http://www.euronews.com/2012/02/10/long-awaited-eternit-asbestos-verdict-expected-soon>**

## **FOOT NOTE:**

Through [www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org](http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org) - we would like to bring this Petition to your attention - **Ask UN to declare Eternit-founder Stephan Schmidheiny "Persona Non Grata" at Rio+20.**

## **A SOLEMN APPEAL TO SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

We, the undersigned, strongly urge the United Nations, international authorities, heads of State and Governments, and President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil to declare Mr. Stephan Schmidheiny "persona non grata" at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held June 20 – 22, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As a criminal convicted of causing an environmental disaster, Mr. Schmidheiny should be prohibited from participating in this important meeting to plan for and protect the future of our Planet Earth.

While Mr. Schmidheiny is the Founder and Honorary Chairman of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), **he is also the former owner of Eternit**, an asbestos-cement company as well the "philanthropist" founder of AVINA Foundation that supports social and environmental actions in Latin America.

**On February 13, 2012 in Turin, Italy, Mr. Schmidheiny was sentenced to 16 years in prison for causing a "willful and permanent environmental disaster" and "willful negligence in implementing health and safety regulations (preventive measures)"** that would have protected his employees and the general population from the long-recognized mortal risks of exposure to asbestos. Asbestos is a carcinogenic mineral that causes the deaths of over 107,000 people a year according to the World Health Organization.

Based on the criminal verdict rendered in Italy and the environmental damage he has been proven responsible for, we hereby urge the United Nations and President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil to declare Mr. Stephan Schmidheiny "persona non grata" and prohibit him from participating in Rio+20.

# Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous people from

## GJ Crosby Contractors, Irene Elliott in Memory of Doug

We would like to take this opportunity to thank individuals who have donated to us in different ways over the last few months:

■ Andrew Dimsey ■ Dawn Hall in Memory of Ray her husband ■ Faye & Julie Walker ■ Bill Skinner ■ Ken Rowlinson ■ Graeme Giblett ■ George Davis ■ George McLeod ■ Dorothy Grace



The GARDS organisation wants to reiterate its appreciation of all the wonderful people/organisations/companies who donate to us. Without all of you helping us, we would not be able to support sufferers and their families. We rely totally on your generosity and kindness. We are so proud to be a part of such a giving community.

## THANK YOU SO MUCH

The GARDS organisation would like to acknowledge the support that we get from Bob & Val Cornelis South Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide and also Tony Robinson East Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide. Both these agents fit our oxygen concentrators and conserving devices for our sufferers when ever needed - they do this for us as a donation to our organisation. You are truly wonderful people who should be commended for your good deeds.

## Donations made in Memory of Laurence Hall

Gwen Hall and family, M Gould, WJ & NB Jackson

## Donations made in Memory of Ken Jackson

Mick Chopping

## Donations made in Memory of Graham McMahon

Gary and Pam Dove, Anonymous \$20

## THANK YOU



## Maree Hall

The GARDS committee and members thank you so much for your continued support and donations.

## Rossmore Hotel Fundraiser Incorporating Yallourn North Bowling Club

DECEMBER 2011 and FEBRUARY 2012

GARDS would like to take the opportunity to thank very much the O'Gorman family, patrons and Pam & Julie De Vries - Mal Paulet - Club President & members of the YN Bowling club for supporting GARDS with fundraising. We are so pleased to have you on our side.

## Donations made in Memory of Walter Grenenger

Audrey Kitwood, Ian Oatley, Val Skinner, Peter Grass

## Home Taste Restaurant Newborough

The GARDS committee would like to thank Pinky and Tony Lau for supporting GARDS. We appreciate your friendship and generosity.



## Graeme Woods

- the Committee and members would like to thank you so much for making regular donations to us in memory of your father - you are a generous hearted person.

# Asbestos Snippets



## IN AUSTRALIA:

### Australian breakthrough has potential to save thousands

Researchers at ADRI, led by Professor Nico Van Zandwijk at Concord Hospital in Sydney, have identified markers in the blood of mesothelioma patients, making a blood test for the aggressive cancer possible in the future.

### Key Funding to Tackle Asbestos

Applicants from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia have been awarded grants under the Comcare Asbestos Innovation Fund announced by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Bill Shorten today.

<http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/shorten/key-funding-tackle-asbestos>

### Asbestos report card

Schools around Tasmania will be checked for asbestos and any health risk it poses under a three-year deal finalized by the State Government.

MCA workers to be offered health checks after asbestos fears  
More than 1,200 workers potentially exposed to asbestos inside and around the Museum of Contemporary Art will be advised to have full medical checks after more material suspected to be asbestos was found at the site on Thursday.

### Asbestos victims get cash boost

A multi-million dollar injection of funding for asbestos victims will make NSW a world leader in the treatment of Mesothelioma, a cancer specialist says.

### Asbestos farm link

A farm near Waurn Ponds has been identified as the source of the asbestos-contaminated soil that has forced the closure of much of Jan Juc Creek Reserve.

### Asbestos Removal Vow

THE RACV has vowed to clean up asbestos contaminated parts of Jan Juc Creek Reserve as a matter of urgency following soil tests this week. The organisation's site manager Bruce Van Every said the work would be carried out "as quickly as possible".

"The tests show that the vast majority of the reserve, where civil work was done, is clear of contamination," he said. The discovery of asbestos, linked to the RACV's development of Torquay Golf Club, has caused a large tract of parkland to be cordoned off.

[http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2012/03/03/310801\\_news.html](http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2012/03/03/310801_news.html)

### US helps James Hardie to 32pc third-quarter profit rise

Building products maker James Hardie industries reported its closely-watched net-operating profit jumped 32 per cent on-year in the third quarter to \$US27.7 million, helped by a more stable operating environment in the US.

### Gardeners find contaminated mulch

Residents in South Coast towns have discovered asbestos in the mulch they were spreading on their gardens.

### Maritime workers still face asbestos risk

Australian maritime workers are still being exposed to deadly asbestos fibres aboard foreign registered ships which have been discovered carrying fake documents certifying they are asbestos free.

### Asbestos stash uncovered at Port Fairy beach

More than 200 kilograms of asbestos has been uncovered at Port Fairy's East Beach, prompting Moyne Shire councillors to urge for greater state intervention.

### Asbestos Removal Scheduled at Bendigo Health

Bendigo Health workers are brushing up on their asbestos knowledge. Bendigo Health's new Bendigo Hospital project team recently hosted an asbestos education session as part of the lead-up to a major demolition project. New Bendigo Hospital

executive director David Walker said the information session was designed to put staff at ease and enhance their understanding of asbestos.

<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/news/local/news/health/asbestos-removal-scheduled-at-bendigo-health/2485436.aspx?src=rss>

### O'Farrell Denies Families of Asbestos Victims Fair Compo

The NSW O'Farrell Government has cruelly voted down a Bill to provide fairer compensation to asbestos victims – which would have seen the relatives of victims who die before their cases are finalised receive part of the compensation the victim would have been awarded.

<http://www.nswalp.com:6050/media/news/o-farrell-denies-families-of-asbestos-fair-compo/>

### Asbestos Fears 'Fossils' Found to be Asbestos

The Shire of Dandaragan says a popular camping site near Jurien Bay in Western Australia is safe despite a five-year-old child discovering chunks of deadly asbestos while playing in the area.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-03-13/jurien-bay-asbestos-camping-fears/3886200/?site=&source=rss>

### Asbestos fix may be \$2.4m

The ACT Government could be forced to pay up to \$2.4 million to rectify serious asbestos concerns at Taylor Primary School.

### Asbestos, the outlawed fibre with a licence to kill

Tonnes of asbestos-contaminated materials are being illegally dumped across the state, exposing current and future generations to the deadly fibres

### A town called Asbestos ... by name and by nature

Few people outside Canada have heard of the dot on the map called Asbestos. But, for a small town, Asbestos has been the subject of a big controversy over the past few years.

## INTERNATIONALLY:

### Clinical treatment CBP501 receives FDA Orphan Drug Designation for Mesothelioma

A new treatment for Mesothelioma, known as CBP501, received an Orphan Drug Designation from the Food & Drug Administration, reports CanBas Co. Ltd, maker of the treatment.

### Researchers use Common Cold virus to fight Malignant Mesothelioma

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania hope the common cold virus may prove helpful in developing targeted treatments for people with early stage malignant Mesothelioma.

### Pleural Plaques sufferers compensation success in Northern Ireland

The Damages (Asbestos – related Conditions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 has now been passed, meaning that as of 14 December 2011 anyone in Northern Ireland diagnosed with Pleural Plaques can claim compensation.

### Anti-asbestos motion blocked in Quebec National Assembly

Lisette Lapointe, wife of former Parti Quebecois premier Jacques Parizeau, who now sits in the Quebec legislature as an independent, used her lack of party ties Thursday to present a motion calling on the province to withdraw its offer to finance the reopening of Quebec's only remaining asbestos mine.

### Exxon Mobil sues Lloyd's, other insurers over asbestos claims coverage

Exxon Mobil Corp has filed suit against Lloyd's of London underwriters and other insurers in New York state court seeking to recover defense costs and payments resulting from asbestos claims.

### Is Mesothelioma Hereditary?

Could susceptibility to Mesothelioma pass from parent to child

through the genes? That is a question Greek scientists are trying to answer as they try to determine why some families seem to be 'prone' to Mesothelioma.

### Mesothelioma patient asks Canadian Government to create Asbestos Registry

A Canadian citizen diagnosed with Mesothelioma is lobbying his country for a national registry of all asbestos-containing buildings.

The quest to revive one of Canada's last asbestos mines — and possibly save the embattled industry — is destined for failure, says a Quebec politician who hopes the sector will be shuttered for good.

Opposition politician Amir Khadir said Friday that a credible source has told him that financial institutions refused to provide a critical loan to the company trying to relaunch Quebec's Jeffrey Mine.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/health/asbestos-mines-revival-doomed-as-investors-stay-away-quebec-politician-141216043.html>

### WorkSafeBC imposes almost \$5 million in penalties in 2011

WorkSafeBC imposed 352 penalties in 2011, totaling \$4,883,489.89 against employers for violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and the Workers Compensation Act in British Columbia.

### Supreme Court ruling could make it tougher for Railroad Workers injured by Asbestos exposure

Railroad workers filing liability claims over illnesses and injuries sustained from asbestos exposure may have a more difficult time after a surprise ruling this week by the United States Supreme Court.

### Leukaemia Drug fails Mesothelioma trial

An oral leukaemia medicine doctor's had hoped might help certain Mesothelioma patients won't be moving on to the next level of clinical trials.

### Asbestos workers risk heart disease

Already facing heightened risks of cancer, asbestos workers also run a greater danger of heart disease and stroke.

### Global Asbestos Awareness Week: Building a Culture of Prevention

The only way to "cure" Mesothelioma is to stop all forms of asbestos exposure. In a perfect world, asbestos use would be banned everywhere, asbestos mining would stop, all building would be properly abated and asbestos would be properly cleaned up. But that's not the reality.

### Mesothelioma still on the rise in Japan

While the rate of Mesothelioma continues to slowly decline in the U.S., the virulent asbestos-linked cancer is still on the rise in Japan.

### India, China headed for Asbestos Catastrophe: Experts

India and China are headed for "an absolute catastrophe of death and disease" because of likely massive jump in asbestos-related diseases in the coming decades, says a report written by Pulitzer winning journalist.

### Appeals Court: Pfizer liable for Asbestos claims against Quigley Corp.

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer is liable for the asbestos insulating products made decades ago by Quigley Corporation, one of its now-bankrupt subsidiaries, based on a New York federal appellate court ruling this week.



# GARDS Inc. Membership Form

Name: .....  
 Address: .....  
 Postcode: ..... Telephone: ..... Email: .....  
 Occupation: .....

## Committee of Management

### President:

**Brian Clegg**  
 Ph. 5176 2286  
 Mobile 0427 007 505

### Vice President:

**Dorothy Roberts**  
 Ph. 5127 4174  
 Mobile 0407 274 174

### CEO/Secretary:

**Vicki Hamilton**  
 Ph. 5127 8219  
 Mobile 0407 274 173

### Treasurer:

**John Parker**  
 Mobile 0419 747 756

### Member:

**Marie Smith**  
 Ph. 5127 1427  
 Mobile 0427 271 427

### Ann Clegg

Ph. 5176 2286  
 Mobile 0439 662 282

## GARDS Fees

Joining Fee: ..... \$5.00

### Annual Fees:

Pensioner/Concession  
 Unemployed ..... \$3.00  
 Employed persons ..... \$11.00

## Meetings

### SUPPORT:

Last Tuesday of month,  
 1.30pm - 3.30pm

### EVENINGS:

3rd Tuesday of month,  
 7.30pm - 9.30pm

## Office Hours

Monday to Thursday  
 10am - 4pm

Friday - By appointment

**CALL IN  
 FOR A CHAT AND  
 CUPPA**

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

### PLUS

**GARDS Annual Subscription 2011**

1. Concession (Pensioner/unemployed) ..... **\$3.00**

2. Full Rate (employed) ..... **\$11.00**

*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 the GARDS Inc. second the nomination of the Applicant  
 for Membership of the Association

Signature of Proposer: ..... Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2012

**1.30PM – 3.30PM**

Meetings are held at –

**GARDS Premises  
 41 Monash Road,  
 Newborough**

- Tuesday 28th February
- Tuesday 27th March
- Tuesday 24th April
- Tuesday 29th May
- Tuesday 26th June
- Tuesday 31st July
- Tuesday 28th August
- Tuesday 25th September
- Tuesday 30th October
- Friday 30th November – Asbestos Awareness Day, Rose Garden, Morwell
- Christmas Break-up to be advised

## G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2012

**7.30PM – 9.30PM**

Meetings are held at –

**GARDS Premises  
 41 Monash Road,  
 Newborough**

- Tuesday 21st February
- Tuesday 20th March
- Tuesday 17th April
- Tuesday 15th May
- Tuesday 19th June
- Tuesday 17th July
- Tuesday 21st August
- Tuesday 18th September
- Tuesday 16th October
- Tuesday 20th November
- Christmas Break-up to be advised

## OUR NIGHT/DAY MEETINGS

**Tuesday  
 29 May  
 1.30pm  
 Helen Skinner  
 and Trevor  
 Adcock  
 Disputes  
 Settlement Centre -  
 Consumer affairs**



# 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 in the information 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 with a qualified psychologist free of charge for those who have been diagnosed with asbestos related disease and also their family members. If preferred telephone counselling can be arranged.

We are situated at:

**41 Monash Road,  
Newborough,  
Victoria. 3825**

**PO Box 111,  
Moe, Vic. 3825**

On line donations

**<http://www.givenow.com.au/gards>**

Phone: **5127 7744**

Fax: **5126 0354**

Email: **[info@gards.org](mailto:info@gards.org)**

Web site: **[www.gards.org](http://www.gards.org)**



## GARDS Inc. Evening Meetings

**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.

# GARDS Inc. would like to thank these sponsors and supporters



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