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ASBESTOS NEWS

ASBESTOS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA (ACV) AND
GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC (GARDS)
GARDS is endorsed as a charity. Donations of \$2.00 & over are tax deductible.

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W127 Major Outage - Energy Australia Yallourn



ACV/GARDS held a thank you morning tea on the 7th November for a number of representatives from participating contractors along with Energy Australia Yallourn representatives for the donations made to them. These donations were in lieu of individual health and safety awards at the conclusion of a recent major outage, employees opted to make donations to selected community groups. Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS was lucky to be one of those recipients.

Employees nominate groups they would like to support, which are then assessed against Yallourn's

sponsorship guidelines (to ensure a consistent approach). Shortlisted groups are then invited to present their case to a meeting of outage Health & Safety Representatives, and three or four recipients are then chosen to receive funds. The amount of funds available for allocation depends on the achievement of a number of KPI's which are set at the commencement of the outage. Of the four KPI's set at the start of the W127 Major Outage, three were successfully met, this enabled Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS to be one of the recipients.

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Major Sponsor of
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You can find our link on the home page of the GARDS website or at [facebook.com/GARDSInc](https://www.facebook.com/GARDSInc)



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

Sponsor of this edition



W127 Major Outage - Energy Australia Yallourn cont...

A number of outage contractors have also contributed significant funds and/or goods to try and cover the "wish list" provided by the groups that were chosen.

Presented to Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS was a cheque for \$3,275 from EnergyAustralia, an Office Chair and Samsung Galaxy Tablet from WACO, \$1,000 Harvey Norman voucher from Insulmet, \$500 Harvey Norman voucher from

Toshiba, \$1,000 Electronic Oxygen Conserver from Traralgon Industries and a \$500 hire Voucher from COATES.

CEO/Secretary Vicki Hamilton said that the organisation was just thrilled to receive the donations of money and goods. Vicki stated that all the equipment and money would be put to good use within the organisation to support asbestos sufferers and their families. She wanted to thank

everyone from the outage for picking ACV/GARDS as one of the recipients - we felt very privileged and honoured to be deemed worthy of the donations. Since the donations were made we have now purchased a new computer - key board - mouse and screen with the Harvey Norman vouchers - again thank you so much - this will make life so much easier for us.



ASBESTOS AWARENESS MORNING TEA 2014



On the 25th of November 2014 saw people come and go from the ACV/GARDS office having a chat, morning tea with scones, jam and cream and having some serious talks about asbestos and the issues. On hand for the general public to talk with at length if they wished were some experts in the field of asbestos litigation, OH&S and our local council - all were more than happy to talk with anyone who walked through the door looking for information.

We were very pleased to see so many turn up. It is a great way to meet the people and get to know the issues in the community that people are experiencing .

We want to thank Maurice Blackburn Law firm for sponsoring the scones, jam and cream. We would also like to thank Slater + Gordon and Adviceline Injury Law firm and Acclaim Law firm for coming along to give their expert opinions. We would also like to thank Mairin OHS&E for coming to talk about asbestos audits and sampling of asbestos with people and to Latrobe City for making available their contact person for the Domestic Asbestos Removal Kit available from Latrobe City. The raffle raised \$123 - thank you so much to those who donated items for the raffle. All in all it was a great morning with heaps of conversation happening. Great to see.



ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY EVENT 2014



We would like to thank our speakers who came along to add their views to the day. It was a special gathering of our members, families and workers.

Evelyn Ramirez who caught the attention of all with her heart felt story about her husband Sergio who has peritoneal mesothelioma and her young daughter Bella - I think everyone that attended got a very real picture of what it is like for the sufferers and their families.

Russell Broadbent MP - Member for McMillan, Victoria & also Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Group for Asbestos Related Diseases (PGARD) - spoke of his support for the cause.

Steve Dodd - AMWU organiser and Secretary of the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council - spoke of always improving the standards of good OH&S and being ever vigilant about asbestos

Vicki Hamilton OAM - CEO/ Secretary of ACV/GARDS spoke about the families they support and the issues around asbestos

Beryl Stevens - Civil Celebrant - conducted our Ecumenical Service - and our wreath laying ceremony.

Rod Keep from UGL - made a donation to ACV/GARDS on behalf of UGL and the workers - which was gratefully accepted by Vicki.

We would also like to thank very much GTLC for the BBQ that they provided and to Greencap/NAA for sponsoring the food and drink on the day.

A special mention must be noted. We want to advise the original speaker who was to talk at this special day passed away on the 15th November - his name was Lyall Watts and if you look further into our newsletter on page 10 you will see a tribute to Lyall. Lyall also had Peritoneal mesothelioma. Our condolences go to Lyall's partner Gary Kenny and Lyall's family. We wish that they could also have been a part of the event but that was not be. Rest in peace Lyall



I think these pictures just say it all. The weather was kind to us and the tributes were emotional and inspirational to asbestos sufferers and their families everywhere. Thank you to all those who attended - it was made very special by all who came along.



1st INTERNATIONAL ASBESTOS CONFERENCE 2014 - ASBESTOS SAFETY & ERADICATION AGENCY

The Conference was held on the 17th & 18th of November last year . It was the first for the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency and hailed a success. There were many wonderful speakers and topics. The facilitator was Matt Peacock well known ABC reporter - Professor Ken Takahashi - Professor of Environmental Epidemiology, Director of WHO Collaborating Centre, Japan, Peter Tighe - CEO, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, Dr Richard Lemen - Assistant US Surgeon General (retired), Laurie Kazan-Allen - Coordinator, International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS), Linda Reinstein, CEO/President, Asbestos Disease Awareness Organisation



The conference discussed current challenges and practical solutions to addressing Australia's asbestos legacy and agreed to a final communique outlining the way forward towards an Australia free of the risks of asbestos.

We would like to thank Acclaim



Health Group for funding our attendance at this conference.

Pictured here with ACV/GARDS members are some of the people who attended the conference that we were lucky enough to catch up with.



XMAS LUNCH PICTURE GALLERY FOR 2014

