



ABN 77 687 118 554  
INC. A0042386U

# 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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## DID YOU KNOW?

You can make an online donation to our group at our home page [www.gards.org](http://www.gards.org)

**Make a Donation**



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

## YOKOGAWA/CONNEQ - LOY YANG A POWER STATION



**ACV/GARDS along with 3 other organisations were very lucky recipients of a donation recently through AGL Loy Yang employees and contractors' safe work practices during a recent power station outage. It resulted in \$40,000 being donated to local causes through the annual safety awareness initiative.**

For over a decade, AGL Loy Yang and its major contractors have raised in excess of \$300,000 for worthy community causes through a safety awareness scheme.

Conducted during major outages, the scheme

encourages safe working behaviour by making donations to charities and community organisations when safety standards are met.

As a result of safety performance during the recent Unit Three major outage, cheques for \$10,000 were presented to:

- > Gippsland Asbestos Related Disease Support Inc. on behalf of Yokogawa/Conneq.
  - > Gippsland Lifeline, on behalf of AGL Loy Yang
  - > Latrobe Regional Hospital Children's Ward on behalf of Lend Lease
  - > Gippsland Cancer Care Centre on behalf of Siemens
- Continued on page2...**

**Primary sponsor of this December edition**



**Major Sponsors of ACV/GARDS**



# YOKOGAWA/CONNEQ LOY YANG A POWER STATION

## From page 1...

AGL Merchant Operations Chief Operating Officer Doug Jackson said a tremendous effort had gone into raising the \$40,000 and he commended the partnership approach underpinning the achievement. "This has provided an opportunity to partner with our workforce, our contractors and the community to make a difference," Mr Jackson said. Major outages of generating units are among the most significant projects undertaken by AGL Loy Yang to ensure ongoing plant availability and

reliability. Mr Jackson said safety was a critical element of power station outages.

Over 1,500 safety activities during the outage helped to make the community donation possible and sessions were held with Local Learning and Employment Network students on safety and career advice.

The outage's 58 days involved more than 20,000 man hours of labour. The benefits of this major outage were immense including contributing \$10 million in wages to the community, creating up to 500 jobs and employing up to 30 subcontractors.

Three organisations who received the money were treated to a morning tea at Loy Yang, where we spoke about our organisations and what we do in the community. We were also taken on a tour of Loy Yang A. ACV/GARDS would like to thank all those who made this possible by nominating us for this very generous donation. We would especially like to thank Warren Veneman for taking the time to show us what Yokogawa/Conneq's part was in the outage. It was very impressive and we learnt so much.



## Asbestos Awareness Morning Tea 2013



**A gold coin donation to ACV/GARDS opened the door for a scrumptious morning tea of scones, jam and cream at the Moe RSL, function room on the 28th November.**

On site to talk to anyone who was looking for information on Asbestos relating to litigation, health and environmental or where asbestos products might be found were **ACV/GARDS, Slater & Gordon Law Firm, Maurice Blackburn Law Firm and Mairin OHS&E Consulting**

Examples of asbestos containing products were on display which generated much interest. ACV/GARDS would like to thank our sponsors **Moe RSL and Maurice Blackburn Law firm** for their help in supporting the activity. We hope those who came along enjoyed the scones and came away with information to help them.



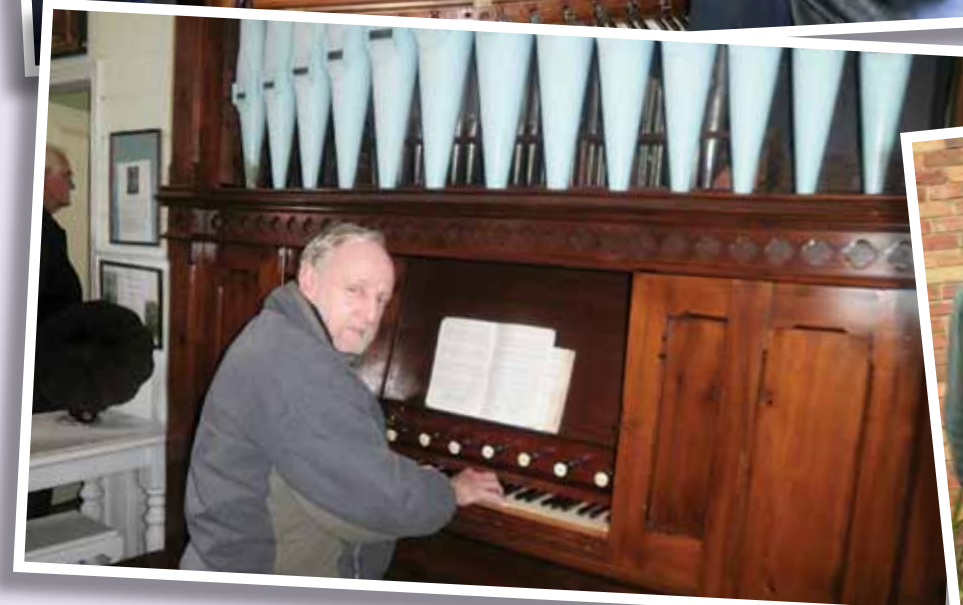
***Pictured are some of those who attended the morning tea - top left Russell Broadbent MP with members of ACV/GARDS and below some of the crew from Maurice Blackburn - Slater & Gordon - Mairin OHS&E Consulting along with independent lawyer Andrew Dimsey.***

# ACV/GARDS on the move...

## DARNUM MUSICAL VILLAGE



The October support group members travelled to the Darnum Musical Village where we enjoyed strolling around the village, being shown all the wonderful musical instruments, some dating back two hundred years. All of them in working order or being restored to their former glory. Hundreds of musical instruments - Magnificent!



*Pictured left: Are the gang at the musical village - Albert Fox, Susan & Colin Parrish & Peter Drysdale. Thank you for a wonderful day out - we really enjoyed the musical interlude, lunch and laughs*

# ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY EVENT 2013

## Renovating? If in doubt - check it out!

**Hundreds of people from all walks of life - came together to remember those suffering from asbestos disease and those who had succumbed. The day is also to raise awareness and educate the community to the clear and present dangers of this deadly product in our community.**

Fact - asbestos products are still slipping through customs and into

this country in vehicles, diesel locomotives, tiles, and yes even in children's games. Fact - home renovators are exposing themselves and their families unwittingly through lack of education and awareness. Fact - even though workplaces are regulated, workers are still being exposed to asbestos, this is a tragedy/crime Mesothelioma will outnumber ovarian cancer and melanoma in the next few years. Estimates of asbestos disease

peaking around 2020 are clearly under stated. We cannot stress enough the importance of getting an audit on your home if you are thinking of renovating. If possible get a suitably qualified registered and accredited asbestos removalist, if this is not possible then make sure you get all the information & PPE possible to do the job. ACV/GARDS would like to thank all our speakers/musicians and choirs who added to the day.

**Gary Blackwood MP** - Member

for Narracan, **Russell Northe MP** - Member for Morwell, **Johan Scheffer MP** - Member for Eastern Victoria, **Margaret Cook** - GARDS Member & wife of Graeme Cook who succumbed to Mesothelioma, **Steve Dodd** - AMWU organiser & Gippsland Trades & Labour Council member. Thanks also goes to **Beryl Stevens** - Celebrant, **Coal Valley Male Chorus & Gay Michau**, **Newborough Primary School choir & Vice Principal Sue McLaren**, **David Duncan & Bill Dunbar** our bagpipers.



Photograph: Bryan Petts-Jones LV Express



Photograph: Alison Parker



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Photograph: Alison Parker





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Photograph: Alison Parker



Photograph: Bryan Petts-Jones LV Express



Photograph: Bryan Petts-Jones LV Express



Photograph: Alison Parker



Photograph: Alison Parker



Photograph: Alison Parker

# QUEENSLAND ASBESTOS SYMPOSIUM

**ACV/GARDS was fortunate to receive a sponsorship from ARDSSQ to be able to attend the Asbestos Related Diseases Support Society Queensland's Asbestos Symposium on the 26th & 27th of November.**

It was really wonderful to catch up with all in the Queensland organisation and the Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia.

It was wonderful to listen to what was happening in the different spheres of medicine and research. We heard about nutrition and alternate treatment from Professor Judith Bauer, Improving treatment

outcomes for Asbestos disease sufferers from Dr Maurice Heiner, and chemotherapy and immunotherapy research in mesothelioma from Dr Keith Horwood and Barry Robson from ADFA filled us in on some of the asbestos issues being faced around Australia and the new agencies (Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency) role in addressing these issues and many more. He also spoke on James Hardie and the next instalment. It was a truly great trip and Dorothy and Vicki enjoyed it immensely. Thank you ARDSSQ for your hospitality.



*Pictured left - back row from left to right: Helen Colbert, Kate Robson, Barry Robson - front from left to right: Dorothy Roberts, Ray Colbert and Vicki Hamilton*

## MAURICE BLACKBURN SPONSORSHIP



*Pictured from back: Victoria Keays, Jane McDermott and Sally Weir*

**ACV/GARDS has been very fortunate to receive sponsorship to help support asbestos sufferers and the work we do in the community.**

We are pleased to be recognised in this manner and the sponsorship helps us to keep the office ticking over.

The three lawyers you see in the

photo all do asbestos litigation and all have a relationship with ACV/GARDS, they pop into our office from time to time to catch up on the news and keep us informed on any new developments that they come across in asbestos litigation.

We hope that our sponsorship with them will continue into the future so that they may help us to continue the support we provide to asbestos sufferers. Thanks so much.

## GTLC OPENING

**On the 23rd October, the ACV/GARDS committee were invited to the opening of the new GTLC office in Buckley street Morwell. We wish to congratulate GTLC on the new office and think it will be a great place for people to drop in as it is accessible to the community by foot, train and bus, this is a must for those seeking help from GTLC.**

The office was opened by Dave Oliver, Secretary, ACTU.

Colin Long the Secretary of the Victorian Trades Hall Council congratulated the GTLC on the new office. John Parker, Secretary of GTLC spoke of the need for the new home and stated that it will be an asset into the future and gives them a place to call home.

We would also like to congratulate Val Prokopiv on being the first female President of the GTLC and wish her every success in the future - of course if you knew Val, you know she will succeed.



*Pictured from left - Vicki Hamilton, Val Prokopiv, Marie Smith, John Parker, Dorothy Roberts*

# Asbestos Snippets



## DOMESTIC ASBESTOS GIPPSLAND PILOT TRAINING PROJECT

Baw Baw Shire, Asbestos Council of Victoria (ACV/GARDS), Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group applied to the Comcare Asbestos Innovation Fund to seek funding for training to provide guidance for local government staff dealing with enquiries around domestic asbestos. We were successful in our application. The training has been supported and completed in

local councils across Gippsland and we are hoping that with this training front line council staff have a greater knowledge and understanding of how to direct enquiries from the general public to the right information and departments. We hope that other councils from around Victoria might follow the lead of Gippsland and will take up this project in their areas.



## IN AUSTRALIA

### Sorry state of rental home a shock to blind owner

Naomi Hockins 5th Dec 2013 11:08 AM

ASBESTOS, mould and termites - it's not what you'd expect to see in a house on Woorim's foreshore.

And that was the problem for Bribie resident Yabbi Welding.

Mr Welding, who is blind, rented the home just over a year ago and said he was not made aware of the numerous problems that have since come to light

<http://www.caboolturenews.com.au/news/sorry-state-of-rental-home-shock-to-owner/2105891/>

### Telstra NBN staff to return to work

25 Nov, 3:16 PM

Telstra Ltd staff working on pits and pipes for the national broadband network rollout are to return to work after stopping work in June amid asbestos fears, The Australian Financial Review reports.

According to the newspaper, Telstra chief risk officer Kate Hughes said the telco's own staff would return to work once it had "all the requirements in place".

<http://www.businessspectator.com.au/news/2013/11/25/nbn-buzz/telstra-nbn-staff-return-work>

### Lady Brooks Kindergarten remains closed after playground asbestos find, some classes moved to Kyneton Primary School

DAMIEN RACTLIFFE, MADELINE HEALEY  
MACEDON RANGES LEADER

NOVEMBER 13, 2013 11:00AM

### CHILDREN from a Kyneton kindergarten, which has been closed since asbestos pieces were found in a playground, have started attending sessions at a primary school.

Lady Brooks Kindergarten has been closed since Friday, and won't reopen until Monday, after two pieces of asbestos material, each about the size of a 50 cent coin, were found in a playground. The council has said it's investigating whether the pieces were from the remains of a previous building, or if they were brought on to the site, and is working to clear any potential asbestos material.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/north/lady-brooks-kindergarten-remains-closed->

after-playground-asbestos-find-some-classes-moved-to-kyneton-primary-school/story-fnglenug-1226758825611

### James Hardie shares hit record high

BY STEPHEN JOHNSON AAP NOVEMBER 14, 2013 1:42PM

JAMES Hardie shares have hit a record high, adding \$691 million to the company's value, after it more than doubled its first half profit.

The building products maker made a net profit of \$US194 million (\$A208.52 million) in the six months to September 30, up from \$US84 million in the same period in 2012. Much of that was attributable to a 25 per cent sales revenue increase in the US and Europe during the second quarter of 2013/14.

James Hardie's Asia Pacific business also increased sales, but a weaker Australian dollar, compared to its US counterpart, muted earnings growth.

Its shares gained as much as 15.6 per cent on Thursday, hitting an all time high of \$12.07. They closed at \$12.00, valuing the company at \$5.3 billion.

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/business/breaking-news/james-hardie-more-than-doubles-profit/story-fnhrvfsf-1226759594902>

### Asbestos researcher named WA Australian of Year

The West Australian November 10, 2013, 12:16 pm

Cancer researcher Professor Bruce Robinson AM has been named WA's Australian of the Year 2014 for his world leading study of asbestos related cancer.

WA Governor Malcolm McCusker congratulated the 2014 WA's Australian of the Year Award recipients at an awards ceremony at Government House yesterday. Professor Robinson, 63, leads a big research team at the University of WA's School of Medicine and Pharmacology which is studying cancer immunology and asbestos diseases. He and his team have been responsible for many world-first breakthroughs, including the first blood test for mesothelioma

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/19763622/asbestos-researcher-named-wa-australian-of-year/>

### Asbestos risk as low-density fibreboard (LDB) wrongly classified in Queensland Government guidelines

TUCK THOMPSON THE COURIER-MAIL  
NOVEMBER 09, 2013 1:00AM

HOMEOWNERS have been exposed to dangerous crumbling asbestos through an error in guidelines supposed to make houses and businesses safe.

State government guidelines have reclassified low-density fibre board, LDB, from a high-risk friable asbestos product to a bonded one, making it far cheaper to remove but, industry groups say, ignoring how much more dangerous it is to handle.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/asbestos-risk-as-lowdensity-fibre-board-ldb-wrongly-classified-in-queensland-government-guidelines/story-fnii5v70-1226756187166>

### Asbestos scare strikes Chinese imports to Australia

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Broadcast: 26/11/2013 Reporter: Matt Peacock

Asbestos found in 10 heavy-haul trains imported from China follows a similar discovery in Chinese-made cars last year and has unions demanding tougher policing of imports. Transcript - LEIGH SALES, PRESENTER: Railway workers have been exposed to potentially hazardous asbestos after the deadly dust was found in locomotives brought in from China. It's a breach of a 10-year ban on the import of products containing the carcinogenic fibre.

It's not the first incident of its kind and unions are now demanding tougher policing of Chinese imports, describing the current asbestos-free certificates as a farce.

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2013/s3899597.htm>

### NSW to waive waste levy on asbestos

AAP NOVEMBER 07, 2013 11:06AM

THE NSW government will waive the waste levy for asbestos disposal to discourage people from illegally dumping the deadly material.

Environment Minister Robyn Parker says the \$3 million, 12-month trial will also reduce tip fees in participating council areas.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/nsw-to-waive-waste-levy-on-asbestos/story-fni0xqi4-1226754647409>

# JENNA IS A WINNER FOR HER DAD ...Neil MELBOURNE MARATHON OCTOBER 13TH 2013

Remember Jenna Gray, when she was 10 years old her father died from Mesothelioma. November marked the 20 year anniversary since his passing. He died at the age of 45 leaving behind a wife and four children.

She wanted to make a tribute to her father by running the half marathon

at the Medibank Melbourne Marathon on October 13th to help raise funds to support Gippsland locals who suffer from asbestos related diseases.

Well Jenna raised funds and made the 21km distance and she certainly has made a difference.

Jenna raised approx \$1,656 - what a wonderful effort. We want to thank all who supported Jenna. She could not have done it without all those

who supported her. Thank you so much Jenna for all you have done for ACV/GARDS and its members

Thank you to the following people:

John Foster, Maree Hall, Bec Smith, Maureen Douglas,

Laura Jones, Daniel Skurka, Terri Gaylor, Rebecca Gaylor, The Team at Target Melbourne city, Craig Gray, Angela Proctor, Sandra Prokopiwskyi, Dolly Barrow, Vicki Lim.



## Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Saturday 1st February 2014

**Time:** 2.00pm

**Venue:** 41 Monash Road, Newborough

Election of Positions falling vacant:

- President
- Treasurer
- Committee Member
- Election of Auditor for 2014/15

**Returning Officer:** Graeme Hamilton - Nomination forms can be collected from the ACV/GARDS office, down loaded from the ACV/GARDS web site or forwarded by post on request to ACV/GARDS Secretary

Completed nomination forms need to be received by the Returning Officer no later than 7 days prior to the election to PO Box 111, Moe, Vic. 3825 or handed in at the ACV/GARDS office.

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 0429 689 827 or 03 5167 1589**

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

**DID YOU PAY YOUR ACV/GARDS FEES FOR 2013/14?**

If you have not already done so, fees were due and payable on the 30/09/2013. Thank you so much to all who have already paid. The management of ACV/GARDS asks can you please make sure they are paid as soon as possible, as this money goes part way to help subsidize our mail outs and newsletters to you during the year.

The GARDS committee of Management appreciate your co-operation in this.



**Gary BLACKWOOD MP**

*Member for Narracan*

*My staff and I are always available to provide support and advice for State Government issues.*

Electorate Office - 3/24 Mason Street Warragul

w. [www.garyblackwood.com.au](http://www.garyblackwood.com.au)

p. 5623 1960

e. [gary.blackwood@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:gary.blackwood@parliament.vic.gov.au)



# SLATER & GORDON SPONSORSHIP

ACV/GARDS would like to thank Slater & Gordon for their continued sponsorship of our org.

It means a great deal to have them support us in this manner. The donation is annually given to us to help towards the office running expenses or any other item that we need at the time.

We would like to thank Steve Plunkett for his support over the years - he is always positive in his manner and works very hard for his clients to get them the best outcome possible.

*Pictured right back row: Kieta Van der Meulen, Maryann Cluderay - front left - Marie Smith, Dorothy Roberts, Vicki Hamilton, Steve Plunkett*



# PHILLIP ISLAND ASBESTOS SEMINAR

Jim West, former local builder, knows only too well the dangers of asbestos products as he has contracted mesothelioma and wanted to alert others to the dangers of asbestos. Jim

was very keen for residents that live on Phillip Island to come and listen to some practical information from those who are dealing with asbestos issues on a day to day basis.

Maurice Blackburn Law firm were there to talk about asbestos litigation. Asbestos Council of Victoria spoke about home renos, asbestos products and support, Mairin OHS&E spoke about audits and regulations and brought along products containing asbestos for

people to see where asbestos may be lurking in now and in the past, Gippsland Trades & Labour Council representative spoke about councils and unions involved with asbestos in the workplace.



*Pictured from left: Collin Ross, Vicki Hamilton, Sally Weir, Jim West, Darren Carmen, Jane McDermott*

*Photo courtesy of Anne Oswin Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser*

