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www.gards.org

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Asbestos Awareness Week 2011



GARDS held its 10th Annual Asbestos Awareness Day event in the Rose Garden Morwell. Around 150 community members gathered in the gardens to listen and learn about what is happening and not happening around asbestos issues in Australia.

Speakers from various walks of life spoke of their experiences and lessons learnt.

Lisa Sturzenegger, General Manager of Operations with WorkSafe Victoria spoke of the role of WorkSafe in the community and the important role that they play as a regulator.



John Gordon, Barrister Juris; LLB spoke of his early involvement with asbestos issues and the impact that had on his professional career when he befriended a person and his family who were dealing with the

trauma of mesothelioma, and his eventual death and the devastating loss that John felt with his passing. He also spoke emotionally how this

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Principal Sponsor



ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK 21st - 25th November 2011



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person has inspired John to fight for the rights of asbestos sufferers and their families where ever and whenever he can.

Mia Lindgren, Senior Lecturer in Journalism at Monash University, with her student Zoe Taylor-Lynch who is completing her Masters in Journalism, spoke of the families they met while collecting the very important stories/journeys of the families and the sufferers along the way - how stoic and determined they were in their fights around asbestos issues and the disease. They are collecting these stories in Gippsland to place onto the Australian Asbestos Network site - if you would like to view their stories you can go to www.australianasbestosnetwork.org.au

John Parker, Secretary of the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council, spoke of his involvement in asbestos issues for the last 30+ years and how the fight must go on to hold governments accountable for the management of asbestos in Australia, especially around domestic asbestos.

Beryl Stevens, Civil Celebrant conducted a wonderful ecumenical service to remember those who are suffering and those who have lost the battle. She also highlighted the families that feel the pain everyday over the loss of their loved ones.

Paddy O'Dowd, musician and singer entertained the crowd with some wonderful songs, one especially composed and sung by Paddy in remembrance of lost friends and work mates.

The GARDS Scottish bag pipers David Duncan and Bill Dunbar played the bagpipes like there was no tomorrow. The music could be heard from streets away.

GARDS was also very privileged to have the Newborough Primary School choir enthral the crowd with their singing and enthusiasm, they were a delight to watch and to listen to.

GARDS would like to thank GTLC for the terrific BBQ lunch they provided to the community for free and also Transfield for supplying four brilliant guys to help with set up and pack up of equipment on the day and to Toby Thornton -CFMEU Organiser for helping organize this.



ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK

Asbestos Seminar



**Maurice
Blackburn
Lawyers**
Since 1919



On Wednesday of Asbestos Awareness week GARDS was privileged to have 3 speakers who have decades of experience in their respective fields. Dr Tony Sasse Respiratory physician gave the medical perspective on asbestos related disease.

Andrew Dimsey, Principal lawyer with Maurice Blackburn, talked about litigation and clients and cases that have driven him.

John Parker, Secretary Gippsland Trades and Labour Council, talked

about the issues around work place and the domestic scene. About Home Renovations and keeping people safe. He spoke about the Asbestos in the home Removal Kit and the Mobile/Static facility that has been designed to take domestic asbestos and small quantities (less than 10 square metres) from trades persons.

At the conclusion of the seminar Q & As were taken from those who attended ending in a delightful supper. We want to thank Maurice Blackburn for sponsoring the night - it was deemed a great success and valuable information sharing by those who attended.



ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK

Morning Tea - Davies and Moller



Thursday saw some of the GARDS committee travel to the morning teas being conducted at two Davies and Moller Chemist sites.

The employees at the chemist sites baked all week to provide the food for the morning teas and what a sight it was! The food was scrumptious and there was a never ending supply of customers to come along and partake of all the goodies on offer.

GARDS was blown away with all the time and effort that was put into the social events. Many of the Davies and Moller customers learnt about GARDS.

The Davies and Moller employees arranged their window displays with GARDS posters, pamphlets and newsletters. The chemists raised a total of \$684.35 in donations. What a great achievement - thank you all so much.



ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK PGARD LAUNCH



On the 22nd November GARDS along with many other organisations and support groups travelled from all over to attend the launch of the Parliamentary Group on Asbestos Related Disease (PGARD) which is being supported by Gippsland MPs Russell Broadbent and Darren Chester.

PGARD is an apolitical group which is open to all Senators and Members to enable them to come together to raise awareness of asbestos related disease. Mr Broadbent is the co-chair of PGARD with Mr Chester one of 10 founding members.

Around 60 people attended the launch including PGARD founding members, key stakeholders, law industry representatives, affected families and community workers. Also in attendance were Gippsland Asbestos Related Disease Support (GARDS) Chief Executive Officer Vicki Hamilton and members Brian Clegg, Dorothy Roberts and Marie Smith.

Guest speaker was Matt Peacock who is the author of 'Killer Company: James Hardie Exposed'.

Mr Broadbent said the group would advocate on behalf of those affected by asbestos related disease.

"Australia has one of the highest rates of asbestos



Hon. Darren Chester, Vicki Hamilton, Matt Peacock and Hon. Russell Broadbent

related disease in the world, with nearly 10,000 recorded cases of mesothelioma since records began in the 1980s," Mr Broadbent said.

"While most of this is attributed to men who worked with asbestos up until the 1980s, the rate of diagnosis in women is increasing as we begin to experience a third wave of sufferers from home renovations.

"Too many lives have been affected by asbestos related disease and together we must work together to address the asbestos-related issues. PGARD aims to be a conduit between the local community and the parliament on asbestos related issues."

Mr Chester commended GARDS on its work and said he looked forward to working with the organisation as part of his role with the Parliamentary group.

"GARDS has done an incredible job in advocating on behalf Gippsland families who have been affected by asbestos related disease," Mr Chester said.

"Credit must also go to Russell Broadbent who has helped setup PGARD to give MPs and Senators a chance to raise awareness of asbestos related issues at a Federal level.

"I'm looking forward to working with Russell to promote the work of groups such as GARDS in raising awareness of asbestos related issues."

THIS ARTICLE WAS TAKEN FROM THE NATIONALS WEB SITE <http://vic.nationals.org.au/news/Article.aspx?ID=13637>



Senator Lisa Singh and EPA Gippsland representative Dieter Melzer with some of the GARDS committee

Tour of Latrobe Valley Enterprises

GARDS members will be starting our year off on February 28th AT 9.30am, 2012, travelling by bus to tour LV Enterprises at 547 Princes drive, Morwell which will encompass the Signmaking Department, Recycling and Grounds Maintenance Department, this will take around 45 minutes.

From there we will travel by bus to 155 Nadenbouschs Road,

Hazelwood where we will continue the tour at Gippsland Roses. All members who would like to come, it is suggested you wear comfortable foot wear, appropriate for muddy conditions if the weather decides to turn for the worse. The tour will take approx 2 hours.

Please advise Vicki at the GARDS office by the 21st February 2012 if you wish to come. We will return for afternoon tea to the GARDS office.

THE GARDS

Christmas Lunch

**LINE-UP
2011**



At the start of December the GARDS organisation held its annual Xmas lunch for members at Silks Restaurant in Moe where the members were treated to a smorgasbord lunch topped off with plum pudding, cream and custard and fruit salad. Everything was cooked to perfection and I can tell you there was not a lot

left over at the end of the afternoon. We want to thank Manny and Vicki for the scrumptious food and the wonderful service we enjoyed at Silks, it was truly something to remember. Of course there wouldn't be a Xmas lunch without Santa who came along and gave out much merriment and mirth over the course of the lunch - those members who had been good during the year were treated to sweet surprises from Santa's bag of goodies We

would like to thank so much Graeme Hamilton for being such a good sport and donning the red suit each year for our members. Pictured here over the next few pages are just some of those members who had a wonderful time enjoying each other's company on the day.