

# ASBESTOS NEWS

GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.  
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## GARDS ART EXHIBITION IN LATROBE VALLEY - A light for you

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Page 2.

1. GARDS Art Exhibition cont.
2. Thank you to Special People

#### Page 3.

1. Launch of Australia Mesothelioma Register
2. APM Construction Group donation

#### Page 4.

1. Martin Kingham farewell
2. Monash University Clayton Tute

#### Page 5.

1. CSR Demerger
2. Asbestos Summit
3. Warragul Rotary Dinner Fundraiser for GARDS

#### Page 6.

1. Image Intensifier for LRH
2. Fees Change for GARDS

#### Page 7.

- 1 Asbestos Summit Flyer

#### Page 8.

1. Rotary Charity Dinner

#### Page 9.

Meetings for 2010

#### Page 10.

GARDS membership form

#### Page 11.

Sponsors & Supporters

#### Page 12.

GARDS Info page

### DID YOU KNOW

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Make a Donation to our Group

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## GARDS ART EXHIBITION IN LATROBE VALLEY

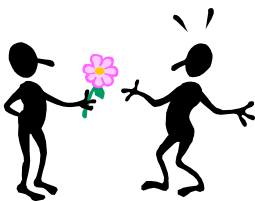
Over the month of May 2010 we were very proud to display art work from the GARDS members at the On Trak Gallery, Traralgon with many thanks to the Traralgon Art Society.

The exhibition was opened by Latrobe City Mayor, Kellie O'Callaghan and invited guest speaker, photographer, Rev Alan Mathews of the Uniting Church spoke passionately about the unsung heroes of Latrobe Valley Power Industry and their families. Alan mentioned the linking of art with life: as a doorway. Artistic Director of this exhibition & artist in her own right, Sheena Jones, stated that the telling reveals the everyday heroism in the lives of people behind the state of Victoria coming alight. It is told by them, it isn't staged according to another's belief or understanding in how these stories should be told. The families that brought light to Victoria are heroes with lives much like our own. There is a difference, however, to the pride that is integral to what this community has achieved. Loss is a big part of every day. Despite, or more importantly, in spite of this, the GARDS artists decided this project would not make loss a focus of the work produced. Instead the story in this exhibition is about the everyday human pride we all share in achievements at work and at home. And yet, the art still reveals a sense of absence of loved ones, bleeding through the fabric of pride and self worth that is part of being a strong and capable citizen, community or family member.

The media that was employed in this exhibition was thought provoking, a broad development of objects and method of expressions were used. This is in no small measure due to the individuality of those that came on board for this creative journey. Each artist had their own powerful understanding of the events that made them who they are now; this individuality was expressed in the work.

"If you were lucky enough to be able to make the journey over to Traralgon to see the exhibits you were given a real treat into the private lives of some very stoic families" Vicki Hamilton stated. Thank you to everyone who made this project come to life, it is an important part of our community and history and should never be forgotten.

The front page illustrations are samples of the work that was produced by the group. The GARDS committee Sheena Jones, Russell Jones and Tanya Hamilton are pictured at the gallery opening



### THANK YOU TO SPECIAL PEOPLE & ORGANIZATIONS



**Regular Monetary donations made to GARDS by  
G & J Crosby Contractors & Doug & Irene Elliott**

*Richard Elkington, Neil Lawson, Centre Link Staff Traralgon, Monash University - Clayton Campus, Stan & Ivy Brown, Jessie & Duncan Fergus, James Pearless,*

**Peter Butcher & Associate  
PBA Financial Group**

Thank you for all your help & your in kind donations to us. It is greatly appreciated by all at GARDS

**International Power  
Hazelwood**

Thank you for your sponsorship & support of our organization. We appreciate it.

**Loy Yang Power**

Thank you for your donation and the support to our organization. We really appreciate what you have done for us

**WISH  
MARKETING**

Thank you Jenni for your expertise & personal donation to our organization

**Gippsland Water Staff  
Traralgon**

Thank you so much to all the staff - it means a lot to us to know you support our organization

**AMWU - NSW**

Thank you for helping us to be able to attend the Asbestos Summit in NSW at the end of the month, we appreciate your support

**CFMEU - Construction &  
General - Victoria**

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## LAUNCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN MESOTHELIOMA REGISTER



GARDS along with the other asbestos support groups from around Australia were invited by the Cancer Institute of NSW and Safe Work Australia to the launch of the Australian Meso Register. The launch took place at the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, Bernie Banton Centre at Concord Hospital, Sydney. The Hon. Julia Gillard MP, launched the Registry which will collect more detailed and accurate information on mesothelioma and related asbestos exposure than has been possible in the past.

After the launch a meeting of the management committee of the Registry, representative of the asbestos disease support groups and representatives of the relevant medical bodies where the project was explained in more detail.

Some of the groups were taken on a tour of the research facility. We wish the Register every success and this becomes another tool in the fight to save lives into the future from asbestos disease and exposure.

Picture left top - are Asbestos Support group representatives with NSW Premier Kristina Keneally. Pictured left - The Hon. Julia Gillard MP launching the new Australian Mesothelioma Register



Pictured right are the committee of GARDS and APM construction People & Culture representative, Sarah Mooney with her mother, Lydia and grandmother, Mauro Ingravalle at the presentation of monies raised for GARDS through the Triathlon APM Group. Over \$6,500 in total was raised with APM group management matching the money that the runners raised. What a terrific effort. GARDS was pleased to know that supporting the Ingravalle family had meant so much to them that their granddaughter had thought of GARDS when the runners and APM construction wanted to make sure charity money raised was donated to a good cause.

Thank you so much for being a caring family and to APM Construction management your social commitment to community is inspiring.





## MARTIN KINGHAM MOVING ON FROM CFMEU

GARDS committee members Vicki, Dorothy and Marie were very privileged to be invited to Martin Kingham's Tribute. Martin resigned as a full time official of the union after 24 years of service, his last position being Assistant National Secretary responsible for Health and Safety across the union. Martin was also the former secretary of the CFMEU in Victoria.

Martin gave a speech thanking family, friends and work colleagues for their support & we were treated to a short film in which Martin reflected on his time with the CFMEU. GARDS wishes Martin all the best, and hopes that he will keep in contact with us.

## MONASH UNIVERSITY CLAYTON TUTE

The GARDS team were again at Monash University Medical School - Clayton campus this year. Again we were privileged to be a part of the tutorial for the 1<sup>st</sup> year medical students. This year there were approx 320 students learning about the impact that asbestos has on the sufferers and their families. They too learnt about the social, emotional and environmental issues that are brought about by this deadly material - asbestos.

The students had lots of questions for our team of community experts and we hope that with the experience provided by the speakers that they got a real insight into the effects that asbestos has in a community. The GARDS team that took part this year certainly gave the students an understanding of what it is like from the effect it has on a sufferer and the family who have to cope with the diagnosis of asbestos disease, not only in their family environment but also



with the day to day health issues that they must face. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year our GARDS team has made the trek to Monash Clayton and each year that we go there are another 300 plus students that know something about the issues and the hardships these brave men and women endure. GARDS would like to thank Faye Walker, Pam DeVries, Rhonda Dunn, Marie Smith, Dorothy Roberts, Vicki & Graeme Hamilton, Lyle Seear all have very different areas of knowledge and this diversity makes it more interesting for the students. In the past those who have made this trip with us to Monash Clayton have also given the students very different accounts of their experiences and these students would be all the poorer for not having experienced the real life facts that unfolded in front of them. I always believe that each year these 1<sup>st</sup> year med students are so lucky to be granted a small piece of the precious time of these very brave people's lives for just an hour or so to listen and experience what so many families endure while fighting to maintain their dignity in battling this very preventable disease. Preventable because it should not have happened in the first place.

Well done gang, you did a truly awe-inspiring job and GARDS is proud of your contribution. We thank Monash Clayton for their donation to GARDS, it was greatly appreciated.



## CSR DEMERGER

In FEB/MARCH newsletter we informed you about the CSR demerger and the Federal Court decision to block the proposed plan to demerge its sugar business from its building products. CSR appealed the decision and a full bench of the Federal Court has upheld an appeal by CSR over its planned demerger. But this has also left a window of opportunity for further legal challenges to the demerger on asbestos compensation concerns.

CSR can now hold a shareholder vote on the demerger to gain their support but the scheme of arrangements, which is required by the Corporations Act, must return to the Federal Court for approval after CSR has met with its shareholders.

GARDS along with other support groups from SA, NSW and Queensland were invited to an information session in Sydney in May by CSR to outline their intent and to discuss the time line for procedures that CSR is taking during the course of this year. CSR at this present time are producing an information booklet for their shareholders and interested parties on their actuarial reports etc. This is due for distribution sometime at the end of June, beginning of July. CSR have stated that they will send this booklet out to all interested parties and if there are further concerns about their demerger they will be happy to meet and discuss any concerns we have.

GARDS at this present time has concerns, and looks forward to more information and a chance to discuss anything from the info booklet that might look potentially unbeneficial to any compensation claims that are laid against this company into future. If shareholders approve the demerger, it would also potentially open the door to a \$1.75 billion dollar bid by China's Bright Foods for CSR's sugar business. Will keep you informed on proceedings & outcomes.



## ASBESTOS SUMMIT IN SYDNEY



GARDS along with all the asbestos support groups from around Australia will be attending the Asbestos Summit being organized by the AMWU and supported by Cancer Council and the ACTU. It is a two day summit, first day being just for asbestos support groups and the second day for all who are interested in asbestos issues in Australia. Unions, Government Dept, Local Government agencies & Environment Protection Agencies are being encouraged to attend.

This event will bring many of the issues on asbestos that are affecting Australia to the table so that meaningful discussions and ways forward can be found.

The Summit is at the end of this month and GARDS was lucky to have been sponsored to attend this summit with help from the **Victorian CFMEU Construction & General Division** and the **AMWU NSW**. We thank you so much for helping us to get there to be a part of the discussions and we look forward to catching up with current colleagues, renewing old friendships and making new ones. The flyer for the summit is on page 7 of this newsletter.

## Warragul Rotary Club Raise Money for GARDS

GARDS would like to thank all those Rotarians who are helping to put on a fundraising dinner for us. The Gippsland Gourmet Gala Dinner with the Yuletide theme in July will help to raise funds for a portable oxygen concentrator for GARDS.

The rechargeable oxygen Concentrator will enable some of our sufferers to go away on holidays and not have to worry about organizing oxygen while they are away. The machine is small enough that it does not take up much room. This also enables GARDS to use the machine as a temporary measure to help our sufferers until one of our home oxygen concentrators becomes available, as there are times when all our machines are out. So thank you so much Warragul Rotary, we feel very honoured and privileged that you have deemed us worthy of your support. Our members appreciate your kindness and compassion. If



you would like to join GARDS members and the Rotary Club of Warragul at this very special event then please go to page 8 of this newsletter. The flyer for this culinary night out gives you all the details. Looking forward to great food, good friends and a night to remember.



## IMAGE INTENSIFIER FOR LATROBE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

A part of Vicki's community work involves being a member of the Community Advisory Committee for the Latrobe Regional Hospital and also a board member of the LRH Foundation which raises money for Latrobe Regional Hospital - pictured here are Lorraine Bartling, Chair & fellow members, Peter McShane and Anthony Van Breugel - viewing the new equipment bought with money raised from the community



The Operating Theatres at Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH) have taken delivery of a significant piece of equipment purchased entirely with money donated by the community.

The hospital has purchased an Image Intensifier worth \$140,000 with proceeds from the Operational LRH appeal.

Orthopaedic surgeon George Owen said the new Image Intensifier is a wonderful resource as LRH is the major referral hospital for the entire Gippsland region.

“An Image Intensifier is a highly complex piece of equipment which allows surgeons to see images on a monitor during surgical procedures,” Mr Owen said. “The Image Intensifier is used in the

repair of bone fractures, the placement of catheters for chemotherapy and renal dialysis, for the insertion of long term intravenous lines and when checking for gall stones.”

The Operation LRH appeal is nearing the halfway mark and has raised \$209,000 to date. The state government does fund new equipment on a regular basis, however fundraising increases the hospital's capacity to deliver services and improve health outcomes for the community.

Latrobe Regional Hospital Foundation Chair Lorraine Bartling said the purchase of the Image Intensifier was a significant achievement for the LRH Foundation.

“The donated funds were raised via various community and hospital events, including the 2009 Gala Ball,” Mrs Bartling said. “The Operation LRH appeal is very close to being able to purchase more equipment used in the detection of certain types of cancer.

“A new Colonoscope and Video Processor worth \$84,000 will also be purchased with money from the Operation LRH appeal. “The acquisition of this type of equipment will put our surgeons at the leading edge of technology and enable the hospital to meet an increase in demand for testing.”

“The purchase of this specialised equipment will enable us to continue to provide high quality patient care and services to our community. “We are so grateful to the community for their continued support of the Operation LRH appeal.” **Photo courtesy of Latrobe Valley Express**

## INFORMATION/CHANGE TO FEES?

Some of our members find it quite hard to remember when their fees fall due. So it was decided that the due date for fees would be changed to one collective date for all. The new date for all fee renewal will be the **31st of October of each year**. This is the end date of the financial year of the organisation. We hope that all will find this less confusing and it will make it easier for the administration to keep track of fee renewal. All those with fees falling due in the next 7 months, if you pay your fees now your fees will not be due till 31st of October 2011. If anyone has an issue with this or has hardship in paying their fees please come and see Vicki to arrange other ways for your fees (it will be treated in the strictest of confidence) We hope this will be a much easier method of fee paying from now on. Thank you for your understanding

