

## GLASS GALLERY DAY OUT FOR GROUP...

On a bright and sunny day in March some of the GARDS support group went on a GARDS bus outing to the Glass Gallery at Lillico -

Lillico Glass Studio in West Gippsland offers an all-round experience. It is the home and working studio of well-known glass artist, Haydn John.

Haydn showed the group how he made glass items and talked about the glass he used in his creations.

The business is a real family business as the glass jewellery pieces are made by Haydn's sister.

The GARDS group browsed in the sun-filled gallery and viewed the wide range of beautifully handcrafted glass designs, including many original and unique art pieces. Haydn's works of art are perfect for a special out of the ordinary gift.

We wander through the gardens, enjoy a light lunch in the summer house and took some time to browse the delicious treats available from the Clearly Delicious produce store, where there was an assortment of country style preserves and homemade jams to suit all our tastes.

Cathy and Haydn looked after us and made us feel very welcome. Truly a great day out.

Pictured are the GARDS group enjoying the day.



# TRANSFIELD WORLEY POWER SERVICES & AGL LOY YANG MINE DONATION

In April 2013, the Gippsland Asbestos Related Disease Support (GARDS) organisation was the first organisation to accept a donation of \$4,400 from TRANSFIELD WORLEY POWER SERVICES & AGL LOY YANG MINE.

The Funds were raised through the “No Harm Day” behaviour initiative. The objective of the initiative was twofold. The first consideration was to implement an initiative that engaged the work force at Loy Yang Mine, one that gave them ownership of a demonstrated leadership, cultural and behaviour change. The second consideration was to build on the existing relationship between TWPS and AGL, by continually



**Pictured LEFT TO RIGHT are: Jack Wilson (Head of Mining - AGL Loy Yang), Andrew Twite, Ray Smith, Dylan Shaw, Michael Billings (TWPS Contract Manager – AGL Loy Yang Mine), Rod Felmingham. Front centre are Vicki Hamilton, Dorothy Roberts and Marie Smith from GARDS**

searching for ways to improve their operations. This initiative demonstrates the commitment that the two companies have with regards to working together to achieve a workplace that is without

risk to its employee’s health and safety. Every day that passes without even a minor injury to a worker, the two companies contribute a dollar amount to a nominated charity. The workforce was responsible

for nominating the charities through the Site Health and Safety Representatives. Every quarter one charity is selected to receive the No Harm Day pool

Vicki Hamilton GARDS, CEO/ Secretary said that “the GARDS members were thrilled to receive not only the donation but the support from the local mine workers and TWPS & AGL”. While out at the mine accepting the donation some of the GARDS committee were treated to lunch by TWPS & AGL mine representatives. GARDS representatives then received the cheque from Jack Wilson (Head of Mining - AGL Loy Yang) with the TWPS workers present. The GARDS committee “thank all those workers who deemed us worthy of this donation, it was certainly an honour and privilege to receive it and we felt very humble”.

## TELSTRA - CONTRACTORS - ASBESTOS HANDLING - DIELDRIN

**As most of you would know through the media the roll out of the National Broadband has come to a grinding halt due to asbestos exposure in Telstra pits. ACV/GARDS believes there needs to be an independent audit of all future work involving asbestos-contaminated Telstra pits being used for the NBN.**

Asbestos was disturbed in three pits in Penrith a month ago as contractors were preparing to lay fibre optic cable for the NBN.

Community outrage ensued, with many residents forced to evacuate from their homes, amid frustration over the amount of time NBN Co and Telstra took to respond to the issue. There were many families that were rightly outraged by the actions of Telstra’s lack of safety with the contractors who were employed.

As well as New South Wales, asbestos in pits has been uncovered in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, while there was also a complaint about safety issues in Tasmania.

Telstra made announcements on results of findings from Telstra’s preliminary review which focused on subcontractor management, as well as information gained from key stakeholders. It followed incidents brought to Telstra’s attention of possible non-compliance by its contractors with asbestos handling guidelines.

Telstra identified that each key contractor has specific areas for improvement in their processes

to manage subcontractors. Contractors have been advised that the relevant improvements are mandatory before any return to work. Telstra expects its contractors to comply with their agreements otherwise they will not remain key suppliers.

**Telstra now requires contractors to take the following actions –**

- Strengthen field supervision staffing and oversight of sub-contractor staff.
- Address gaps in induction procedures for new staff. Some contractors were found to have participated only in basic asbestos awareness and competency training.
- Disclose sub-contractor procedures to Telstra to ensure safe asbestos handling and removal can occur.
- Ensure all contractor and subcontractor staff complete mandatory training in asbestos management.
- Work with Telstra to reinforce the required standards for subcontractors’ field team supplies, ensuring all field staff carry adequate supplies for safe asbestos handling including signage, barricades, suits, masks, ground cover, removal bags, water supplies and recording equipment.

Work with Telstra to strengthen community engagement in remediation areas. Telstra has committed to working with NBN Co to create standard community engagement procedures and documentation.

Telstra’s Chief Operations Officer, Brendon Riley said: “The preliminary review and other information we have gained, has shown there are important areas for improvement among contractors. Prior to allowing recommencement of works, we are requiring our contractors to make changes to ensure they comply with their contractual commitments.

“The review supports our decision, announced in late May, to implement a number of measures including increased oversight of our contractors.

“We are recruiting additional inspectors and quality specialists. We expect the number of inspectors and quality specialists to reach up to 200 as the NBN volumes increase. These specialists will be critical in inspecting and supervising asbestos-related remediation work by contractors and their sub-contractors.

“We are working closely with Comcare and other stakeholders to strengthen mandatory training and field inspection for contractors and subcontractors. Anyone working as a contractor or sub-contractor for Telstra will be required to undertake this retraining before commencing any remediation work on the cement pits.

“We will continue to be open about the status of these issues and the work we are doing to strengthen contractor management of asbestos handling. We will not allow recommencement of cement pit remediation work until we are satisfied the necessary safety measures are in place.”

*Continued on page 10*