



ASBESTOS NEWS

ABN 77 687 118 554
INC. A0042386U

GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.
GARDS is endorsed as a charity. Donations of \$2.00 & over are tax deductible.

JUNE / JULY 2011
VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

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DID YOU KNOW?

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

Make a Donation to our Group

using the secure engine of ourcommunity.com.au

[CLICK HERE](#)

GARDS van going places



PROUD SPONSORS and SUPPORTERS who made this project possible

- TRUenergy Yallourn
- Margaret Cook
- Massaro Motors Volkswagen Morwell
- Production Services Network Sale
- Staff at Centrelink Traralgon
- Slater & Gordon Fund through The Melbourne Community Foundation
- Pilotlight Australia

Some donors wish to remain anonymous - you know who you are **thank you** so much

GARDS is very happy to see one of its projects that we have been working on for the last 12 months come to fruition. The van (named "Cookie" after one of our GARDS families) GARDS has just taken possession of a Volkswagen Multivan which is a very welcome addition to the GARDS organisation. It will enable

us to take our medical equipment which we loan out free of charge to our asbestos sufferers and their families - items such as oxygen concentrators, wheel chairs, shower/toilet chairs, electronic conserving devices etc.

Vicki Hamilton CEO/Secretary stated "the new van will be alot easier for loading and unloading of

equipment and give us good OH&S around handling the equipment.

For the last 11 years the equipment has always been transported in my car, either in the vehicle or in the boot which made it extremely difficult to get the medical equipment in and out because of the size/weight of some of the pieces"

Continued page 2

Sponsor of Newsletter



Principal Sponsor



Local charities benefit from Bass Strait Project



Left to right: Elaine Coetzee LRH, HSR Rep Aaron Moss, Peter Kenny KTT Deputy project manager, Claire Kent (LRH), Vicki Hamilton (CEO GARDS) HSR Rep Joe Fyffe, Dorothy Roberts GARDS, Brian Clegg GARDS president, Denis White KTT installation manager, Damian Thomlinson (Commando Welfare Trust), Bruce Parker (Commando Welfare Trust), Brunel rep Jamie Carroll.

GARDS van going places

From page 2

Vicki went on to say “GARDS has many meetings and events that it attends & organizes and in the past we had to take multiple vehicles to transport members, equipment etc. and this will reduce our costs in many areas.

It is a wonderful asset for our organisation and will be appreciated in so many ways.

This sort of project would not have been possible without the generosity of these Sponsors and Supporters and we thank them so very much for all they have done for us and our sufferers and families”

Keep a look out for the van it will be on the road somewhere in your area.

GARDS was lucky to be one of three Gippsland community organisations who received more than \$30,000 each in donations from the workers and companies involved in current gas platform and pipeline construction in Bass Strait – the Kipper Tuna Turrum (KTT) Project.

As part of the KTT Project safety program for offshore workers, project partners – ESSO Australia, McDermott Australia and Brunel – established an incentive scheme to achieve goals that would provide a donation fund to be split between local community groups nominated by the workers.

Following the achievement of their safety targets in the first round, the workers have nominated donations to go to Latrobe Regional Hospital, Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support (GARDS) and the Commando Welfare Trust.

The Latrobe Regional Hospital relies on donations to supplement government funding in order to ensure that vital capital improvements are made that will benefit patient care and ultimately save lives.

GARDS is a non-profit voluntary organisation dedicated to supporting

victims of asbestos and their families.

The Commando Welfare Trust supports the families of serving and former members of Special Operations Command units who were killed or injured in the course of duty.

Cheques for just over \$31,000 each were presented to the charities in a ceremony at West Sale Aerodrome. KTT Project Manager Paul Charlesworth of McDermott Australia said the project partners and workers were pleased to be able to contribute to local communities in Gippsland, as well as being involved in delivering the broader

benefits of the KTT Project for all Victorians.

Kipper Tuna Turrum is a \$4.4 billion dollar project that will develop cleaner-burning natural gas supplies to help secure Victoria’s energy future, and holds enough energy to power a city of a million people for 35 years. GARDS wants to thank so much the Companies and workers who made this donation possible it means a great deal to us to know that people care this much to help us in this manner.

We felt very honoured to be with two other such distinguished organisations who do equally wonderful work in the community.

Thank you to all of you.



Labour Day Dinner 2011

This year's Labour Day Dinner was held at the Waratah Restaurant in Morwell by the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council. The evening was a great success with interesting speakers talking about climate change and the effect this will have on our power industry and jobs in the valley.

John Parker talked about what the GTLC have been involved in over the last 12 months especially about what GARDS and GTLC have been trying to achieve around the domestic asbestos scene in Victoria.

All in all a good night was had by all.

GARDS would like to congratulate the students & management at the Waratah Training restaurant for the wonderful service and great meal provided on the night. Well done!



Pictured far left to right are: Marie Smith, Dorothy Roberts, Tanya Hamilton, Steve Dodd, Alison Parker, Val Prokopiv, Graeme Hamilton. In front are: John Parker and Vicki Hamilton



GARDS on the Move Again - Gippsland Water Factory Tour

The GARDS organisation is going to the Gippsland Water Factory for a tour on our support group day Tuesday 26th July. We will be leaving the GARDS office at 9.30am to be there for 10am tour of the Factory. We will be there between 10am and 11.30am.

GARDS will be running a bus from the GARDS office and would anyone wishing to come with us please let us know asap. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Please note that we have been informed that if you find it difficult to walk and climb stairs you will not be able to participate in the tour. Flat shoes must be worn on the tour.

Should you like to still be a part of the support group day - when we return at approx 12 noon BYO your own lunch and we will have the usual afternoon tea and get together at the office. Looking forward to seeing you here on the date.

Blue Stockings Evening



The GARDS ladies attended the annual Blue Stockings evening at Waratah Training Restaurant which is sponsored by Monash University, Dept of Education & Early Childhood Development, GippstAFE celebrating women being empowered through education.

We were enthralled by 3 inspirational speakers 2 of whom came from local government, one from Latrobe City who is the General Manager of Economic

Sustainability & the other was from Baw Baw Shire who is the Governance Officer and the 3rd was a young High school teacher. Their lives were very diverse and the path they had travelled so far was a very interesting story to hear. The evening was a great time for all who attended to network with good company.

Congratulations to all those who helped to put the event together and to the Waratah Training Restaurant the service was wonderful and the meal terrific, a credit to the students and the management. Keep up the good work!

Monash University - Medical School - Clayton Campus

Again we were privileged to be a part of the tutorial for the 1st year medical students.

This year there were approx 350 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 the perspective 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.



Pictured far left to right: Dorothy Roberts, Rhonda Dunn, Ray Whittaker, Pam De Vries, Vicki Hamilton, Graeme Hamilton and Marie Smith

This is the 10th year our GARDS team has made the trek to Monash Clayton, and each year that we go there are another 300 plus students

that learn something about the issues and the hardships these brave men and women endure. We want to thank Ray Whittaker for agreeing to

take part this year Ray was able to give a very comprehensive account of what it is like to work with those who succumb, while having the disease himself and having a wife who was also diagnosed with asbestos related disease.

We thank Rhonda Dunn, Dorothy Roberts, Graeme Hamilton, Marie Smith and Pam De Vries for also being a part of this tutorial, all have very different areas in which they have knowledge.

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 having not experienced the real life facts that unfolded in front of them.

Each year these 1st year med students are so lucky to have been 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.

Officers Course at Officers' Training School RAAF Base East Sale

On the 10 of May 2011, the students of 01/11 Initial Officers Course at Officers' Training School RAAF Base East Sale, held their Training Dining In Night.

The night is a way in which the staff show the students the traditions and ceremony behind such an event that has made the RAAF what it is today and culminates with them receiving their rank.

Part of the night is a time for everyone, in an orderly manner, to tell witty banter and other stories of their 18 weeks at OTS. During this time donations are made to the course's chosen charity, for 01/11 their charity was GARDS, an organisation close to my heart as I lost my father-in-law to mesothelioma.

Over the course of the evening the students managed to raise \$1822.95 with some help from the Staff of OTS who also attend the evening.

On the morning of the 11 May 2011 Vicki Hamilton, CEO of GARDS, along with volunteers, President Brian Clegg, Vice President Dorothy Roberts and Committee member Ann Clegg came out to the RAAF base to receive the cheque from the students of 01/11 IOC.

***Story by - SGT Steve Meyer
Military Skills Instructor, OTS***



Pictured above Vicki and FLG OFF Gareth Buckett with the cheque

International Workers Memorial Day 2011



On the 28th April at 11am we remembered workers from all corners of Australia and the world.

Invited speakers from the CFA - Shane Mynard - Officer in Charge at the Morwell Operations Centre, WorkSafe Vic - Mary Chojnacki - Deputy Director of Manufacturing, GTLC - Steve Dodd - Vice President GARDS - Vicki Hamilton CEO/Secretary



Each gave insightful speeches on OH&S and how important it is to support your fellow worker and to remember the workers who have been injured, ill or who have died due to a work place incident.

Speakers reiterated the need for good work practices so that workers went home at the end of the day to their families.

The Reverend Steve Briggs from the Moe & Traralgon Baptist Church gave a truly inspiring ecumenical service.

Our GARDS bagpipers David Duncan and Bill Dunbar belted out some wonderful laments that all the Valley could hear.

Danny Boothman member of the Strzelecki String Busters entertained us with songs of love and hope.

GARDS holds this day each year so that our community can come together for support to families and sufferers of work place accident and illness. To show those families/loved ones left behind by work place death that they have not been forgotten by the community and that the one they loved gave the ultimate sacrifice and will never be forgotten. That their death was not in vain as the laws are ever changing, that we learn from tragedy and rebuild a better work place for future generations.

Following on from the event all those gathered were asked to join in a community BBQ with compliments of the GTLC.



Asbestos Management Review Issues Paper and Public Consultation Period

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/WorkplaceRelations/Policies/AMR/Pages/IssuesPaper.aspx>

Asbestos management in Australia is regulated in a range of different ways by various government agencies at the local, state, territory and Commonwealth level. These management approaches cover asbestos management in workplace, environmental and public health contexts. The Australian Government is working together with states and territories to develop harmonised workplace health and safety laws which include regulations and codes of practice relating to asbestos management and removal. The Australian Government has tasked Mr Geoff Fary to make recommendations for the development of a national strategic plan to

improve asbestos awareness and management. Mr Fary will report on the following matters related to asbestos awareness and management:

- ✓ the enhancement of education and public awareness;
- ✓ the efficacy of asbestos import and export controls;
- ✓ asbestos removal, handling, storage and disposal;
- ✓ mandatory reporting and disclosure where asbestos is detected; and
- ✓ mandatory collection of data and reporting on associated health issues

The Issues paper and the associated public consultation period provides all interested persons with the opportunity to have input into the Review. The recommendations of the review will have the potential to affect all Australians. Contributions from the public are vital to inform the Issues under consideration to ensure robust, practical recommendations for a National Strategic Plan to improve asbestos Management and awareness in Australia. GARDS encourages everyone who has an interest in asbestos issues to submit your views. **Submissions close 5pm Friday 9/9/2011**

Special people and organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous people from

GJ Crosby Contractors, Irene Elliott in Memory of Doug

We would like to take this opportunity to thank individuals who have donated to us in different ways over the last few months:

- Joanne McGill
- Mrs P Conn
- David O'Neill
- Graeme Giblett
- Stan & Ivy Brown x 2
- Central Gippsland Region Water Authority,
- Eva & Peter Panayiotou
- Ken Rowlinson
- Anonymous.

Donations made in Memory of

Barney Evans

- Jean Evans and Family
- Anonymous donations x 3
- AKZ Reinforcing P/L
- Joyce Insley
- The Owers & Armstrong families.

THANK
YOU!

SHINE[®]
LAWYERS



Your Voice

Shine Law Firm donation - GARDS was very pleased to accept a donation from Caroline Flake Office Manager at Shine Law Firm, Dandenong. The donation will go a long way to support GARDS to keep on keeping on!

Graeme Woods

Thank you for your donation in memory of Dad.

Donations made in Memory of Tony Minnelli

- G Terranova
- Sebastiano Terranova
- Francesco Filippo
- G & G Forlano
- M Molinari
- Isabella & Dianna Logiadice
- Filippo & Stella Minnelli
- Laurie & Gwen Hall
- F J Merante

W. E. EVERAERT

Thank you so much for your generous donation through your fabulous fundraising efforts. We thank all the workers at Alstom - Hazelwood Power Station who supported his efforts to support us. We are so lucky to have you in our corner.

Berwick Opportunity Shop Volunteers

A BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL DONATION TO OUR ORGANISATION.

Thanks to our friends at the opportunity shop we have been able to purchase security cameras to make our equipment, office & volunteers safer.

Asbestos Snippets

- Yarra Ranges Council in Victoria put out an alert about old railway sleepers to its residents in the Yarra ranges not to burn old railway sleepers as firewood - they could contain asbestos and maybe likely to be contaminated with herbicides, heavy metals, grease and oil. When the sleepers are burned these substances could vaporise and release odours and potentially harmful fumes. Small stones from the track ballast could be embedded in the sleepers and also pose a risk.
- Canada - Quebec - where the site of the 2.5 kilometre open cut Jeffrey mine is situated, with the town of Asbestos not far away. This is where white asbestos is mined and exported to developing countries around the world, especially India and China. Shame on Canada for consistently opposing international efforts to regulate

the global trade in asbestos. The Canadian government know more than an estimated 100,000 people die each year from asbestos related illness. Shame on Prime Minister Stephen Harper who defends exporting this hazardous carcinogen. Shame on the Quebec government for approving a \$58 million loan guarantee for an expansion of the Jeffrey Mine, one of the primary producers. Seems that old saying all care but no responsibility really comes into its own. The power of the all mighty dollar above all else - have you no conscience!

- Asbestos Innovation Fund - The Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations Senator the Hon. Chris Evans launched the \$1.5 million Asbestos innovation Fund on the 14/12/2010 the program commencing 1/1/2011 and

concluding 31/12/2013. The fund will make available \$500,00 per year. The Fund is designed to sponsor programs and research to prevent and better manage asbestos exposure, as well as improve treatment for asbestos disease sufferers. Comcare is underwriting & administering the fund. The fund is divided into two streams: Research projects and Practical Initiatives and/ or activities. The fund is designed to encourage the development of practical programs and research on asbestos awareness, management and removal as well as improved treatment and support for asbestos related disease sufferers and their families. If you wish to know all about this fund please see web site details: http://www.comcare.gov.au/the_comcare_scheme/asbestos_innovation_fund



GARDS Inc. Membership Form

Name:
 Address:
 Postcode: Telephone: Email:
 Occupation:

Committee of Management

President:

Brian Clegg
 Ph. 51762286
 Mobile 0427007505

Vice President:

Dorothy Roberts
 Ph. 51274174
 Mobile 0407274174

CEO/Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton
 Ph. 51278219
 Mobile 0407274173

Treasurer:

John Parker
 Mobile 0419747756

Member:

Marie Smith
 Ph. 51271427
 Mobile 0427271427

Ann Clegg

Ph. 51762286
 Mobile 0439662282

GARDS Fees

Joining Fee: \$5.00

Annual Fees:

Pensioner/Concession
 Unemployed \$3.00
 Employed persons \$11.00

Meetings

SUPPORT:

Last Tuesday of month,
 1.30pm - 3.30pm

EVENINGS:

3rd Tuesday of month,
 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday
 10am - 4pm

Friday - By appointment

**CALL IN
 FOR A CHAT AND
 CUPPA**

GARDS NEW MEMBERS Joining Fee \$5.00

PLUS

GARDS Annual Subscription 2011

- 1. Concession (Pensioner/unemployed) \$3.00
- 2. Full Rate (employed) \$11.00

Upon my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound by the rules of GARDS Inc.

Signature: Date: ____/____/____

Please return to GARDS Inc. with payment, PO Box 111, MOE, Vic. 3825

Office Use Only

I....., a Member of the GARDS Inc. nominate the Applicant for
 Membership of the Association

Signature of Proposer: Date: ____/____/____

I....., a Member of the GARDS Inc. second the nomination of the Applicant
 for Membership of the Association

Signature of Proposer: Date: ____/____/____

G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2011

1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at –

**GARDS Premises
 41 Monash Road,
 Newborough**

- Tuesday 22nd February
- Tuesday 29th March
- Thursday 28th April – Memorial
- Wreath Laying – Rose Garden, Morwell
- Tuesday 24th May
- Tuesday 28th June
- Tuesday 26th July
- Tuesday 30th August
- Tuesday 27th September
- Tuesday 25th October
- Friday 25th November – Asbestos Awareness Day, Rose Garden, Morwell
- Christmas Break-up to be advised

G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2011

7.30PM – 9.30PM

Meetings are held at –

**GARDS Premises
 41 Monash Road,
 Newborough**

- Tuesday 15th February
- Tuesday 15th March
- Tuesday 19th April
- Tuesday 17th May
- Tuesday 21st June
- Tuesday 19th July
- Tuesday 16th August
- Tuesday 20th September
- Tuesday 18th October
- Tuesday 15th November
- Christmas Break-up to be advised

Up and Coming Events

Tuesday

30th August

Katie Yeomans

Inspirational speaker

Tuesday

27th September

Damien Murphy

Mairin OHS&E
 Consulting

Friday

25th November

Asbestos

Awareness

**Day Event,
 11am**

Rose Garden Morwell





GARDS Inc. support

GARDS provides support and information to asbestos sufferers, their families and carers. This includes home visits by GARDS volunteers, a telephone information/support service 24 hours, 7 days a week. GARDS has an office, which is open for sufferers, their families, carers and the general community to access at the times listed below in the "About GARDS Inc section"

GARDS INC. Support also conducts

a monthly meeting (1.30pm – 3.30pm) on the last Tuesday of the month) where guest presenters are invited to provide information about support services of all kinds and any other topics of interest that the members might find of relevance. The meetings also provide a gathering place for experiences; GARDS Support is open to anyone whose lives have been affected by asbestos, their families and the general public.

GARDS loans out free of charge to asbestos sufferers - oxygen bottle regulators, conserving devices, oxygen home concentrators, wheel chairs, oxygen bottle carriers,

nebuliser, walking frames & walking sticks.

We also have an extensive library of books, DVDs and CDs on asbestos issues, health, social and environmental that we loan free of charge to those wishing to improve their knowledge

GARDS can provide professional counselling with a qualified psychologist free of charge for those who have been diagnosed with asbestos related disease and also their family members. If preferred telephone counselling can be arranged.

We are situated at:

**41 Monash Road,
Newborough,
Victoria. 3825**

**PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825**

On line donations

<http://www.givenow.com.au/gards>

Phone: **5127 7744**

Fax: **5126 0354**

Email: **info@gards.org**

Web site: **www.gards.org**



GARDS Inc. evening meeting

GARDS has an organisational, activities and advocating arm. Interested financial members can come along to evening meetings, which are, conducted 7.30pm – 9.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

These meetings provide a focal point for information

sharing and problem identification. The aim of this group is to focus on improving health and support services and any other issues deemed relevant to improving overall outcomes to asbestos sufferers, their families and the general public. Thus ensuring asbestos-related issues are kept in the public eye and trying to rid our environment of asbestos products.

GARDS Inc. would like to thank these sponsors and supporters



Principal Sponsor



LAWYERS