



ASBESTOS NEWS

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

ABN 77 687 118 554
 INC. A0042386U

MARCH 2009
 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

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GIPPSLAND BUSHFIRES



PHOTO PROVIDED BY: ANTHONY HEINEMANN

I wouldn't think there would be one place in Australia that would not know about Black Saturday the 7th of February 2009. Nightmares and scary movies are made of what happened on that fateful day. GARDS wants to send heart felt sympathy to all those who lost loved ones in the fires. We had members who lost their homes, pets and livestock that day, as did other communities in Victoria who are now left to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives.

Fires raged on both sides of the Valley that hot 47 degree heat day - one that was deliberately lit on the outskirts of Churchill and the other a freak of nature in the Bunyip State forest. Some of our members experienced the full force of the fires, others were under ember attack – no one could see more than a few feet in front of them and by late afternoon, day was turned into night with a terrifying orange glow and gale force winds that brought the sound of the fire burning in the bush through you like a train. Some likened it to what they thought Armageddon would be like.

Fires raged all round the state and many of our members had relatives and friends who were fighting fires in other parts of Victoria that day trying to save lives and personal belongings. After the main fires went through GARDS was invited to do site

inspections of bushfire-affected properties and we saw first hand the devastation that the fires left in their wake. It was like walking into a war zone. Continued on page 2

DID YOU KNOW
GARDS ARE MOVING
 Shortly we will be moving to our new home at
41 Monash Road,
Newborough, Vic. 3825
 Telephone no will remain the same. See story on page 7



Major sponsor:

The earth scorched beyond belief, homes reduced to ash. Populations of native wild life and fauna wiped out. The GARDS mission was to inspect properties and look at areas where asbestos contamination could be found – we found asbestos sheeting/cladding, vinyl floor tiles, flues and out buildings which had been incinerated/destroyed by the fire, and the contamination that surrounded those sites was prolific. Immediately after the fires GARDS was making noises about keeping authorities/victims safe when they were returning to these properties to collect their personal belongings, looking for survivors or doing security around these premises. It was imperative to make sure everyone entering these sites was protected with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). We did not want to see anyone affected by asbestos fibres or any other dangerous substances. I believe GARDS did a good job of bringing the issue to the notice of all concerned. Our ultimate goal is the safety and good health of all and we do not want to see anyone suffer from an asbestos related illness in 15 to 20 years time from the tragic events that took place on Feb 7th 2009 (black Saturday)

The devastation from the fires will leave a mark on all of us; it will be something that no one who was involved in will ever forget. I am sure with the generosity & humanity that has been shown by so many wonderful people in our communities and with a lot of love and understanding we can over come our adversities, we can rebuild these shattered lives and try and make sense of what has taken place. Gippslanders/Victorians are known for their ability to bounce back and take charge of their lives and this situation will be no different I am sure. We will rebuild and we will go on.

The GARDS organisation wants to thank the volunteers who came along and donated time to packing extra equipment in the bushfire kits that were used throughout Latrobe City. John Sturk, Anthony Bennett, Graeme Hamilton, Henry Winters. Thank you Graeme and Anthony for transporting boxes for us at short notice. A big thank you to Latrobe City for taking extra care of your citizens – you did a great job and we enjoyed working with you to keep everyone safe.

GARDS would also like to commend the Federal government and Victorian State government for taking charge and paying for all bushfire affected sites in Victoria to be cleaned up by professional asbestos removalists – this was, we believe, the right and socially conscious thing to do, and this is one of the things that GARDS was asking government to take charge over. This was great news and we applauded them for their actions in going the extra mile.



Pictured left
Pam Nicholson
Marie Smith
Vicki Hamilton
Dorothy Roberts
Peter Collins
Packing extra
equipment into the
bushfire kits

*Photo with
compliments of Peter
Collins*



A PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY OF THE LEGACY OF ASBESTOS

Portrayed by the widows

Update on our very talented photographer Chris Ireland from Sydney. The Exhibition will be called

BREATHE – here is a short explanation of what this project is all about.

Portrait photographer Chris Ireland (who's diaries have appeared in GARDS newsletters) launched his project *BREATHE*, a photographic series viewable online, at the end of last year to coincide with asbestos awareness week.

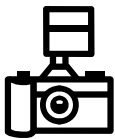
His work explores the lives of widows whose husbands passed away from asbestos related disease. The portraits are taken in environments that tell us a story about how the widow grieves, copes, or looks for answers.

The exhibition will officially open in Sydney on Friday the 17th of July and will run through till the 22nd August at the Australian Centre for Photography, Oxford Street, Paddington. The photos have enjoyed strong press support. GARDS volunteer Dorothy Roberts had her portrait published on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald. Her image accompanied an interview with Herald journalist Matt Buchanan.

9 of his 12 portrait sitters come from the Gippsland Region. This sadly reflects the legacy asbestos has left in the area. When finished in Sydney, the exhibition will come home to Victoria. **The exhibition will commence at the Latrobe Regional Art Gallery in Morwell on the 24th August to the 4th of October and is expected to have a great deal of support from the local community.**

Chris is currently developing a memorial page on his website to list those lost to asbestos related disease. It is hoped this will demonstrate the enormous affect asbestos has had on Australian lives.

For more info visit these sites listed



www.chrisirelandphotography.com

info@chrisirelandphotography.com

Names for Memorial Tribute

Chris would like anyone who has lost a love one to contact either GARDS or himself via the email above if you would like to add your loved ones name to his Memorial Tribute which will be listed on the web site with the photos. To find out more please contact either Chris or Vicki at GARDS.

Australian Mesothelioma Register

On the 17th of February at the Crowne Plaza Casino in Melbourne a stakeholder's forum was held to discuss and examine the purpose and scope of the Australian Mesothelioma Register and how to improve the collection of information on mesothelioma. A forum of experts and stakeholders were invited from all over Australia to attend this meeting of information sharing. Some of the topics discussed focused on data collection methods, governance and ethical considerations and options for future collection of information. I was encouraged to hear positive talk coming from the meeting about the importance of the register and feel confident that those responsible for making the decisions on what will evolve into the future with the register will be of a high standard. Given our use of asbestos in the past and being one of the highest consumers of asbestos per capita in the world, with consumption peaking 70,000 tonnes per year around 1975 and still thousands of tonnes of asbestos in our community in all forms we have a moral obligation to keep accurate records for decades to come so that researchers, scientists, health experts, governments and groups such as ours may access this information to prepare infrastructure around medical needs, research into the future and support structures of many kinds to address the needs of the community. A decision paper from the forum will go to the first meeting of the Safe work Australia Council.

Congratulations

Chris and Erin married on the 14/3/2009 – We wish you every happiness and have a wonderful life together with love from the GARDS organisation.



ANNUAL WREATH LAYING & INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Well it's that time of year again when GARDS holds its Annual Wreath Laying ceremony to coincide with International Workers Memorial Day on Tuesday April the 28th in the Centenary Rose Garden, Commercial Road, Morwell at 11.00am.

There will be a free BBQ with the compliments of Gippsland Trades and Labour Council. All in the community are welcome to attend to honour and celebrate the lives of those suffering or who have lost their life to a work related accident or illness. Invited speakers include – Chris Ireland – NSW photographer, John Parker Secretary of Gippsland Trades and Labour Council, and mystery guest speaker from the Defence Forces.

Of course our resident bag piper David Duncan will be in attendance (maybe with extras) and singer/musician Paddy O'Dowd will. Inspire & delight you. We would love to see all of you join us for this event.



2008 GARDS XMAS PARTY

The 6th of December the GARDS organisation held its annual Xmas lunch party for all its members. The lunch party was moved again this year to Silks Restaurant, Moe. Members travelled from Melbourne, East, South and West Gippsland to attend. This time of the year is when our members get a chance to let down their hair and have a great time. There were just on 60 members who attended.

Members tell me that they look forward to this party as it is a special one where quite a lot of our members come together to tell stories, reminisce and enjoy some of the fun and games. The meal was absolutely wonderful with succulent roast meats, vegies, sauce, and a choice of desserts. Our resident Santa wowed everyone with his enthusiasm and gave us many good belly laughs. All that attended were lucky enough to receive a lucky door prize and the GARDS raffle was a special event with some wonderful prizes. Our members informed us that they had a wonderful day and that is what it is all about – enjoying yourself. We hope to see many more members attend the 2009 Xmas party. We are already working on the lucky door prizes for this year's party. Here are some of the members with our Santa. We might even get Santa a new suit for this year's party if he is good.







TRUenergy Fun Run/Walk

THANK YOU TO THE CRANE FAMILY

GARDS would like to thank very much Joyce and her family for the generous donation they made to GARDS in memory of Jack Crane. The family made a donation of a wheel chair, shower chair and walker and we are very honoured to receive this equipment to help others in need. Thank you so much for your donation this will help many families into the future.



Thank You



Pictured above are the walking/running team and the cheer squad at the end of the event having a rest under the trees enjoying the festivities of the afternoon.

To all those who supported the fun run/walk we thank you very much. GARDS was happy and felt duty bound to tell TRUenergy that the money they were raising for us should go to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund to help bushfire victims. GARDS believes that the money would be best served helping the needs of bushfire victims in Gippsland. At the time of going to print with the newsletter the event had collected over \$30,000.

THANK YOU TO 3 WONDERFUL WOMEN

GARDS is very privileged indeed to have been given a quilt lovingly made by 3 very special women in memory of Merv Treasure. Lyn King, Avril Mckeand and a lady who wishes to remain anonymous made the quilt and it will be hung in the new home of GARDS (when we move) to be enjoyed by all who come to our new premises. On behalf of the Treasure family and the GARDS

family we thank you ladies very much for this precious gift to remember Merv.





VALE TO TONY MEDINA

19/9/1965- 23/12/2008
Tony you were truly a wonderful friend to GARDS and a great advocate for asbestos sufferers everywhere. You were an inspiration to all who knew you. We feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to know you. Your struggle is over. Rest in Peace dear friend. Our heartfelt sympathy to Maitea and her family.



VALE TO ALLAN WALKER

21/5/1941-16/2/2009
Allan we were honoured to have had you as member. You educated and inspired all who met you. Your artistic talents were a gift. Our hearts were heavy when we had to say goodbye. You were a true gentleman. We will miss you. Rest in Peace dear friend. Our deepest sympathy to Faye & her family



OUR NEW HOME VERY SOON

GARDS has been very fortunate to have been offered this shop front to rent from Dr Tanja Bohl and we have accepted her offer. At this present time we are fitting out the shop area, which will be able to accommodate our meetings and has enough storage for all our equipment on the one site. This will be the first time GARDS has been able to have all its equipment together at the one time. We thank all of our members who had been storing and looking after GARDS

Equipment. Tanja Bohl has gone out of her way to help us where ever she could and we are very humbled by her generosity and hospitality. John Sturk (pictured right) offered his services free of charge to make the structural alterations required for our needs. Such generosity is overwhelming and he is truly a star in our eyes. Thank you John for all that you have done and are doing. We would also like to thank Anthony Bennett & Henry Winters for giving up their spare time to volunteer to help where ever directed by John. The move will take place in the next few months. Everyone will be notified



when this takes place. You will be all welcome to come and see our new home.



AGM NEWS

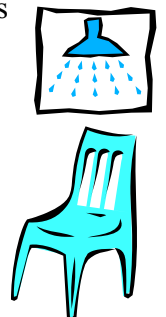


On February 7th the GARDS Annual General Meeting was held. Vice President, Secretary, & Committee member were elected. Those who were elected to the positions unopposed were: Vice President: Dorothy Roberts, Secretary Vicki Hamilton, Committee Member: Ann Clegg Congratulations to you all on gaining your positions. I am sure you will do a wonderful job. GARDS would also like to thank the outgoing committee members for a truly magic year full of surprises. Good luck to Rod LeLievre in all his new adventures. We wish him every success. We welcome Ann Clegg as our newest member to the committee and wish her all our very best for the coming year

Donation from the Ruiter/Bright family

We would like to thank Wendy Bright and Mrs Ruiter for the wonderful donation made in memory of Bob. Our GARDS families will benefit immensely from the shower chair and toilet chair that were donated. GARDS is always appreciative when we receive donations from families that we have supported, it is a very special gift from one family to another.

Thank you so much.





Asbestos Awareness Day 2008 - A day to remember

As the heading suggests it was a day to remember – Our Premier came to give the apology from the State Government to the power workers of Latrobe Valley. It was a truly historic day and one the members of GARDS will never forget. Pictured right are reps John Maxwell & Kenny Allan from Silcar Loy Yang who came to make a wonderful donation to our organisation, which was gratefully received. Below centre we also received a magnificent donation from all the Centre Link call centre staff in Traralgon – reps who came along on the day were: Paul Stephen, Danny Mccafferty & Shane Risk. It was truly a day to remember. Thank you

to all who came to make this day special it means so much to know you care



Thank You

November 2008 – Crosby’s Contractors, Shirley Fletcher, Rick Fawcett, Robert Dunn, Silcar Loy Yang, Ray Whittaker, Centre Link Traralgon, Stan & Ivy Brown, Irene Hood, Ritchies Stores, International Power Hazelwood

December 2008 – Esme Sherwood, Crosby’s contractors, Mr G Wood, Wendy Bright, Mr N Ruiter, Nicholas Bright, Nellie Crane, Don Stewart, Ivy & Jim McLean, Marie Smith, Stan & Ivy Brown, Slater & Gordon Lawyers, - Morwell, Loy Yang Power Management, Ella Coulson, Ritchies Stores

January 2009 – Gippsland Combined Trades Union Picnic & Social Committee – Donations In Memory of Tony Medina - Rodney Hart, Mrs Collins, Grupo Folklorico & Violeta Parra, John & Alison Parker, Mr Noye, Ms. Bibby, Julian & Zelda Herman, Mr Kennedy, Armonado & Nadesca Soto, John Setka, Mr Rossi, Cpina, Latin American Friendship Group, Mark Turner, Malcolm & Sam Baird, G & E Mc?, Morales family, Paola Idini, Peter Karaopolilos, R Zanatta & Mr D Walley, Darren Morrisson, John Duggan, Sally Maes, Merle Mitchell, Dave Noonan, Edith P?, Russell & Laurellei Vincent, Loretta Canever, Crosby’s contractors, Mr E C Baker, Mr V Robinson, Mr R Ferguson, Ritchies Stores, 2 x Anonymous Donations, Feb 09 Rose Nechwatal

February 2009 – Donations in Memory of Ray Hall – \$160 of anonymous Donations, GM & WH Brown,

Crosby’s contractors, Maree Hall, Gerald & Pat Moore – Donations In Memory of Allan Walker – Faye Walker, Evelyn Griffiths, J & S Adrichem, Ron & Mary Hawthorne, A & J Bek, Troy & Jodi Bodley, Coral McCulloch, Anonymous, J & G Shankland, Stephen Shankland, Paul & Lee Shankland, Kathleen Warren & Family, Judy Lipman, Mr A Wells, Mr & Mrs K Beath, Mary & Peter Hopkins, Wesley & Kate Weight, Mr & Mrs S McIntosh, Rod & Grace Shields, Brendan Ridley

Pictured right is Slater & Gordon Lawyers Stephen & James Plunkett with Dorothy Roberts and Vicki Hamilton from GARDS receiving a generous donation to support the work of GARDS.



GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC

G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2009

1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at – *Newborough/Yallourn RSL
Cnr Ellinbank Street & Darlimurla Ave, Newborough*

Tuesday 24th February – Gippsland Water Factory
Tuesday 31st March – Linda McRae – A Transsexual woman with a story
**Tuesday 28th April – Memorial Wreath Laying – Rose Garden,
Morwell**

Tuesday 26th May
Tuesday 30th June – Allan Elliott - Independent Third person – Office of
the public Advocate

Tuesday 28th July
Tuesday 25th August
Tuesday 29th September
Tuesday 27th October

**Friday 27th November – Asbestos Awareness Day – Rose Garden,
Morwell**

Christmas Break-up to be advised

G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2009

7.30PM – 9.30PM

These meetings are held at the centre
These meetings are held at – *Newborough/Yallourn RSL
Cnr Ellinbank Street & Darlimurla Ave, Newborough*

Tuesday 17th February
Tuesday 17th March
Tuesday 21st April
Tuesday 19th May
Tuesday 16th June
Tuesday 21st July
Tuesday 18th August
Tuesday 15th September
Tuesday 20th October
Tuesday 17th November

Christmas Break-up to be advised



GARDS Inc. Membership Form

Name.....
Address.....
P/Code.....
Telephone.....Email.....
Occupation.....

GARDS NEW MEMBERS *Joining Fee*

\$5.00
PLUS

GARDS Annual Subscription 2009

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1. Concession (Pensioner/unemployed) | \$3.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Full Rate (employed) | \$11.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**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.....

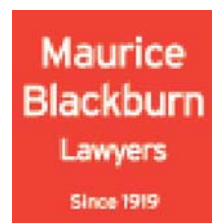
I....., a member of GARDS Inc., second the nomination
of the Applicant for membership of the Association.

Signature of

Signature of

Secunder.....Date.....

**G.A.R.D.S. INC.
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE
SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**





Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc.



GARDS INC.

We are situated at:
1 Ollerton Ave,
Moe, Victoria. 3825

PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825

Phone & Fax: 51277744
Email: info@gards.org
Web site: www.gards.org

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 free of charge for those who have been diagnosed with asbestos related disease and also their family members with a qualified psychologist. This support can be face to face or in a group situation, which is conducted in a private room at the GARDS premises, or telephone counselling can be arranged if this is preferred.

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.

ABOUT G.A.R.D.S. INC.

Committee of Management

President:

Lyle Seear – Ph. 51671376

Vice President:

Dorothy Roberts – Ph. 51274174
Mobile 0407274174

Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton – Ph. 51278219
Mobile 0407274173

Treasurer:

Pam Nicholson – Ph. 51275843
Mobile 0408535671

Member:

Marie Smith – 51271427
Mobile 0427271427
Ann Clegg - 51762286
Mobile - 0439662282

G.A.R.D.S. FEES

Joining Fee - \$5.00

Annual Fees:

Pensioners/Concession/
Unemployed - \$3.00

Employed persons - \$11.00

MEETINGS:

Support: Last Tuesday of month,
1.30pm – 3.30pm

Evening: 3rd Tuesday of month,
7.30pm – 9.30pm

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Our Night/Day Meetings

Tuesday March 31st

Linda McRae

A transexual woman with a story

Tuesday April 28th

*Memorial Wreath Laying
Rose Garden, Morwell*

11.00am

BBQ lunch for all

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY to THURSDAY:

10.00am – 4.00pm

FRIDAY: BY APPOINTMENT

CALL IN FOR A CHAT & CUPPA