

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

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2007
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

Inside this issue

Page 2.

1. Asbestos Awareness Week
2. GARDS Xmas lunch
3. Vale to Graeme Guy
4. GARDS AGM

Page 3.

1. GARDS Goose story so far...
2. Equal Access
Recommended for Alimta Treatment

Page 4.

Peter Mac & University of
Melb Power Workers Study

Page 5.

1. VTHC OH&S Reps
Conference 2007
2. WorkSafe Awards Dinner

Page 6.

1. 1st Year Allied Health
Students
2. Thank You – Donations
3. Seasons Greetings from
GARDS

Page 7.

1. Generosity from the
Workers on the Rigs

Page 8.

1. Asbestos Awareness
Badges
2. Slater & Gordon Donation
3. 5th Australasian
Conference on Safety &
Quality in Health Care

Page 9.

Meetings for 2008

Page 10.

GARDS membership form

Page 11.

Sponsors & Supporters

Page 12.

GARDS Info page

REICHSTEIN SPONSORSHIP

The GARDS organisation was very pleased and proud to be the recipient of a 3rd year of funding from Reichstein Foundation. Their support will enable our advocacy for asbestos sufferers, their families and the community to continue. Reichstein's support will further GARDS work in the community on education and will forward the cause on other projects that GARDS is working on. A project that has come from our sponsorship is the Asbestos in the Home Removal Kit which is being piloted in Latrobe Valley and may well be taken up by other councils in Victoria into the future. With the popularity of home renovation these days becoming an ever-increasing choice amongst young homeowners it is now even more important that we address the issues around domestic asbestos. Statistics that have been made available by the Victorian State Coroner on home renovators who have succumbed to asbestos related diseases since July 2004 till now show that 36 people have died as a result of home renovations. Remembering that these people did home renovations 30 to 40 years ago when renovating was not as popular as it is today. With an ever increasing population what sort of numbers will we be looking at for asbestos related disease into the future? We hope to educate the community in the right way to deal with asbestos and marginalise it in our community. We thank Reichstein Foundation very much for not only having the courage but the foresight to support us with our ideas. We would again like to thank publicly Christa Momot for her support and encouragement for making this happen.

WORKSAFE SPONSORSHIP

GARDS was very pleased to be informed that WorkSafe were continuing their support to us in 2007/8. GARDS has grown immensely over the last 12 months and we appreciate the support we get from organisations such as WorkSafe. Without this support we would struggle to keep up with the demand on our resources and could not continue to keep the office door open to all those in the community who need our support and information. With the incidence of asbestos related disease increasing each year the demands are increasing for knowledge, information and support in many forms. GARDS is conducting collaborative work with many diverse organisations and we could not do this without the support of WorkSafe. We are proud to be able to be a voice for asbestos sufferers, their families and the general community and we will continue to do so well into the future.

Major sponsors:





ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK



Asbestos Awareness Week is the last week in November and GARDS will be holding its Annual Asbestos Awareness Event for the community.

Venue: Rose Garden in Morwell **Date:** Friday 30th of November **Time:** 11.00am

The event highlights and raises the awareness of asbestos and its effects on families and the community. There will be an ecumenical service to remember those who are suffering and those who have succumbed to asbestos disease, Minister Russell Jones of the Uniting Church Moe/Newborough will conduct this. There will be a time set in our ceremony where families will be able to lay flowers and pay tribute to their loved ones.

Guest speakers will be

- Eric Windholz – General Manager of Strategic Programs and Support from WorkSafe
- John Parker Secretary of the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council
- Vicki Hamilton Secretary of GARDS
- Ian Nethercote Chief Executive Officer for Loy Yang Power, will speak on behalf of the power generators in Latrobe Valley.

GARDS Scottish bag pipers Bill Dunbar & David Duncan will supply music for this year's event.

At the conclusion of the ceremony there will be a **free** BBQ lunch with the compliments of Gippsland Trades & Labour Council and all those in the community are most welcome to attend.

Asbestos Awareness Day badges with our feather symbol will be on sale for a cost of \$2 for those wishing to support us. If you would like to purchase one before the day please contact the GARDS office.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual GARDS Christmas lunch is on again this year and all our financial GARDS members have been invited, by personal invitation, to this social occasion. The GARDS annual lunch will be on Sunday December 2nd at the Newborough/Yallourn RSL – Cnr Ellinbank Street & Darlimurla Ave, Newborough to commence at 12 noon.



Menu:

Roast: Choice of two meats – Pork & Lamb
Roast potatoes & pumpkin, honeyed carrots, broccoli, cauliflower au gratin & gravy.
Choice of two desserts –
Plum pudding, cream & custard
Apple slice
Coffee & Tea

We hope to see all our GARDS members at this special time of the year. Our resident Santa will make an appearance to check to see who has been naughty and who has been nice. There will be lucky door prizes and much mirth and merriment. We look forward to seeing our financial members on this day to share the fun and excitement of the season!!!



Vale

GARDS would like to say how very sorry we were to see the passing of one of our older serving GARDS members. Mr Graeme Guy. He will be sadly missed by those who remember him and by his loving family. To Iris and the Guy family our hearts go out to you at this very sad time. Graeme fought a brave battle valiantly but could not wage his war with his illness any longer. May you find comfort and peace, Iris, knowing he will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday 27th of January 2008.

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: 1 Ollerton Ave, Moe

Election of Positions falling vacant:

President

Treasurer

Ordinary Committee Member

Election of Auditor for 2008/9

Returning Officer: Graeme Hamilton

Nomination forms can be collected from the GARDS office or forwarded by post on request to GARDS Secretary.

GARDS GOOSE STORY SO FAR.....

The heroic dog named after our organisation and Peter 'Goose' Griffiths has been doing some amazing things over the last few months. The dog with a lot of heart has certainly had its ups and downs and we wanted to share some of the amazing stories we are gathering about this truly special dog.

The Latrobe Valley Express wrote a little article in the sports section mid Oct on the wonder dog and this is part of what they said about him. The greyhound won again at last Friday's Traralgon meeting, by almost 10 lengths and in the best time of the day for the 513 metres, 30.06. GARDS Goose is building up an impressive record, with four wins and a placing from seven race starts. The stake earnings have risen to almost \$2,500 and it is likely the youngster will take on his Melbourne counterparts in the not too distant future.

But poor old GARDS Goose what you don't know is that it has had two mishaps in its very short racing life. The first was on its maiden race when the dog literally fell out of the starting box ran the race and came fourth in the field; it was only after that that the owners found out that GARDS Goose broke his shoulder as he came out of the starting box. GG was out for a couple of months resting his shoulder.

The other incident was one of the first few races it ran in Melbourne at the 'Meadows' (Sandown). GG got away first out of the pack but unfortunately he fell head first and flipped right over, GG got up disoriented and started to run but unfortunately for him he was going in the wrong direction and ran into all the other dogs. He skittled a few and others fell over each other so the race had to be abandoned. GARDS Goose was out for a few weeks recovering from what would probably be concussion. Our wonder dog has certainly

had a colourful career already and is shaping up to be the topic of conversation. We believe GG is getting back in shape and will be out on the track in a few more weeks showing everyone what he can do.

You can be assured that some of the GARDS gang will be there to cheer our name sake on. We will try to keep you up to date from issue to issue of what is happening in the life of this much watched dog.

He gets the seal of approval from the GARDS gang.

Well Done GARDS Goose
You're a champ !!!!



EQUAL ACCESS RECOMMENDED FOR ALIMTA TREATMENT

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has now recommended providing equal access to mesothelioma treatment via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Asbestos disease groups, clinicians, and patients nationwide are very pleased that the committee have made this recommendation and we are now calling for the Federal government to ensure a quick PBS listing. GARDS is very pleased that this inequity of treatment access for victims of mesothelioma will finally be addressed. I know that all the GARDS members were thrilled to get the news of the committee's decision and we thank them and the Federal Government for allowing this positive stride forward in securing a PBS listing for mesothelioma treatment. Now our mesothelioma sufferers wait for the final part of the journey for a quick listing onto the PBS. At this present time a full six cycle course of the standard of care chemotherapy treatment for meso is approx \$20,000 - \$22,000 per patient so we hope that the Federal Government approves the PBAC's recommendation that the chemo drug be made available via public subsidy.

GARDS would like to thank all those who have helped in some way to let the government and other officials understand the plight of mesothelioma sufferers, the incidence of mesothelioma in Australia is not expected to peak until 2020 - it will by then have taken approx 18,000 - 20,000 lives. It is so important to show these sufferers all the care and support we can muster in their fight against this insidious disease, which is through no fault of their own

PETER MacCALLUM CANCER CENTRE & UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE POWER WORKERS STUDY

Dr Andrew Holloway and Associate Professor Tony LaMontagne visited Moe on October 16th and presented their research plans for the Latrobe Valley Power Industry Cohort Study to the local community. The study is being jointly run by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and The University of Melbourne, and aims to study the effects of exposure to asbestos in a large group of current or former Latrobe Valley Power Industry workers, as well as developing an education program and a program to help asbestos exposed people to quit smoking.

Researchers are currently seeking 5000 power industry workers to join the groundbreaking study which hopes to find a way to diagnose mesothelioma earlier. Mesothelioma is a cancer of the lung lining and at this present time has no cure and is caused by exposure to asbestos fibres.

The two doctors have recently had approval by the University Ethics Board enabling the research to begin and will look at asbestos exposure in a large group of former Latrobe Valley power industry workers.

Dr Holloway who is keen to start the recruitment process is now looking for former workers in the power industry, who were directly employed by the SEC or as a contractor in the power stations. He is looking for anyone from the industry who worked in manual trade or people who worked as managers as well as in clerical roles. It doesn't matter if you were directly or indirectly exposed to asbestos, the study would work better if they had a varying high to low frequency to conduct a proper study.

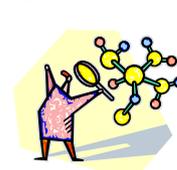
The researchers are looking for 5000 former power industry workers with documented asbestos exposure to help carry out the comprehensive study.

Dr Holloway said he will go through the 5000 and determine the levels of exposure and then pick 1000 of the most highly exposed. Annual blood samples will be taken for 3 years from these 1000 and their blood will be used to look for genetic markers of mesothelin. Mesothelin is a protein in the blood which may indicate the presence of mesothelioma prior to a clinical diagnosis.

Dr Holloway said it was important to involve the Latrobe Valley in the study as the region had the highest record of asbestos related illnesses in Victoria. Dr Holloway stated that without this research and others there was not a great deal that could be done to help current cancer patients. GARDS members are hopeful that through this research there might be some sort of earlier diagnosis with interventions or a tool that might be able to give those suffering an extended and good quality of life. Any research into this deadly disease will hopefully do some good and bring hope where there has been none.



Pictured here are : from left – Tony LaMontagne- Melbourne University, John Parker – Secretary Gippsland Trades and Labour Council, Deb Vallance - Melbourne University, Vicki Hamilton – Secretary GARDS, Andrew Holloway – Peter MacCallum. **Picture compliments of Latrobe Valley Express**



VTHC OH&S REPS CONFERENCE 2007

Over 1400 OHS Reps from around the state converged on the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre on the banks of the Yarra River on Wednesday the 24th of October to discuss the challenges and issues in seeking to achieve the best OHS standards possible. GARDS was there with their display giving out information. Reps come from all over the state to this event, the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere. We always like attending this event as it is a time for us to catch up with people who are



like minded. It is interesting hearing what is going on in the OH&S area and what reps are being faced with in their day to day working environment. We believe this years event was even better as the venue this year was excellent, many people commented through the day on how organised it was and how much more room there was. These events are very important in keeping the work force up to date on information and the latest in OH&S standards. Well done to all those who organised the day!!!

Picture taken by Rod LeLievre

WORKSAFE ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Crown Palladium was the venue for this year's WorkSafe Annual Awards Dinner on Tuesday 23rd of October. This dinner is held in WorkSafe Week and attracts just on 1000 people. They come together from all walks of life to celebrate the achievements being gained in good work practices. This year's event was no exception with many bright and innovative ideas coming out of practical experience. It is always special to hear about someone or something that is inspired through personal experience and we certainly saw some very talented individuals and teams display their creativity to address dangers to people's health and safety. There were 31 finalists from across the state for the 19th annual awards and everyone of them deserves to win. The night was diverse and very enjoyable and we saw some wonderful innovations to help protect people while they go around doing their work, the whole community can only benefit by such good ideas that protect and make life much easier for all. We would like to thank John Merritt for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this special night.

Picture here from left rear: Marie Smith
Rod LeLievre, Vicki Hamilton
Front from left are Dorothy Roberts,
Pam Nicholson





1ST YEAR ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS

Allied Health students visited the Gippsland region in August. The students were here to learn about health promotion and disease prevention approaches, as well as seeing how various sectors and health disciplines fit together in rural and regional settings.

GARDS was privileged to have a dozen of these students whose chosen profession paths are: Physiotherapy, Health Science/Social Work and Occupational Therapy. The students were placed with GARDS for the day and

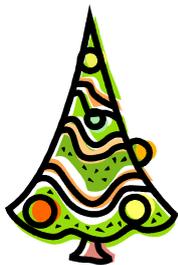
were given a variety of topics and speakers on asbestos issues, some of which were the Health, Emotional, OH&S, Political and Environmental aspects. In the afternoon some of the GARDS support group members came along to give personal insight into their health and wellbeing. We believe the students gained a great deal of knowledge about rural and regional life, so that they might more positively consider living and practising in this region in the future. Secretary Vicki Hamilton said the students were a delight to work with and very enthusiastic, this was our second tutorial and we hope to see more of this happening in the future. We wish these students all the best with their chosen professions. Pictured here are GARDS members & Students with their lecturers.



GARDS would like to say a very big thank you to **Maurice Blackburn** law firm for their generous donation to our organisation; we appreciate this support very much. **A special thank you to Andrew Dimsey for making this happen.**

The GARDS organisation would also like to thank the following individuals and organisations;

Kath Prust and family, Crosby Contractors for their continued supported of GARDS, International Power Loy Yang B – Mitsui & Co Ltd, Ida Karitjis, Esme Sherwood, Ray Whittaker, Tony Kind, International Power Hazelwood, R Hall, Gerald Coulson, Iris Guy, May Flanagan, Dorothy Fisher, SGS for their continued support of GARDS, Edward Tunn, Janelle Guy & Michael Howden, Heather Guy, Irene Hood, Chris Cheetham, B Simpson, Marion Harris, Rod LeLievre, Jim Field, John & Alison Parker



SEASONS GREETINGS

We would like to wish all our supporters a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you are heading off for holidays over the festive season please take care and drive carefully.

It has been a very busy year here at GARDS this year and we have made some significant strides

forward with asbestos issues but we still have a long way to go. We wish to say thank you for all the support we have received from individuals and organisations alike. We could not do this without the support and encouragement we receive from you the community. We will endeavour to continue to strive to bring continued support and education in the coming year 2008 and to increase the awareness to the community on asbestos and its dangers.

From all of the GARDS committee have a wonderful Christmas and we will see you in the New Year.



GENEROSITY FROM THE WORKERS ON THE RIGS



Pictured above is the instrumental & electrical shift
Pictured right is the mechanical shift.

Thank you all for thinking of GARDS, the asbestos sufferers and their families that we support we really do appreciate your encouragement of the work we do in the community.



Tuesday & Wednesday 13 & 14th of November saw Dorothy, Marie and Vicki representing the GARDS organisation take a trip to Longford to be presented with a cheque from the off shore crew in Bass Strait who do modifications and construction where needed on the oil rigs.

Esso/BHP Billiton and Production Services Network have a scheme in place where they reward superior safety performance and recognise positive safety behaviours across the various projects. The scheme is essentially a 'dollar for points' system where work groups are awarded points on a monthly basis for achieving zero recordable injuries, completing workplace inspections and management reviews, attending toolbox meetings and other safety initiatives.

We felt very honoured to have been chosen for a donation to our organisation and it was a real thrill to meet these workers and find out first hand what they do in their every day working life. We learnt a lot about what the men do in their every day work and about the oil rigs themselves, we found it very interesting and we now have a deeper insight into the operations of these very spectacular works of structural engineering. The pictures shown here are of some of the workers from both gangs who work the rig and who made this donation happen. These workers go off shore for a week at a time and are away from their families and friends. They do a terrific job.

ASBESTOS AWARENESS BADGES

The GARDS organisation would like to take this opportunity to thank Tanya Hamilton very much for the great job she did on the design of our badges. We know that Tanya did a lot of research into the shape of feathers and the many different varieties of Feathers. She spent quite a few nights playing around with lines and colours. Her final work was very simplistic in its form but we think that it is very powerful and hope that you our supporters will like it as well. The feather is a very fragile yet important component of birds, they need air to fly so we think that a feather is a fitting symbol for Asbestos Awareness Day as our sufferers' lungs could not survive without their lungs and the precious air they breathe. Tanya is one of our younger adult GARDS members and it is very pleasing seeing her take an interest in some of the facets of our organisation. You will see this design on our emails, in our newsletter, key rings and car stickers. Once again Tanya thanks for volunteering to help us make this symbol outstanding.



SLATER & GORDON DONATION

GARDS would like to thank Slater & Gordon law firm very much for their generous donation to our organisation. We would especially like to thank Steve Plunkett for his support of GARDS and being a significant factor in the donation that was made to us. Thanks to all at the Morwell office for the very nice afternoon tea they gave us at the presentation of the cheque. GARDS appreciates the donations that are made

to the organisation as these go a long way in providing support and information to asbestos sufferers, their families and the community.

Picture here are from left: Marie Smith, Vicki Hamilton, Dorothy Roberts & Steve Plunkett.



THE 5TH AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

Theme "The Power of Us"

On the 6-8th of August Vicki was lucky enough to be one of the Victorian Community Advisory Committee reps to go to Brisbane for this conference. She was representing our local Latrobe Regional Hospital and sponsored by Department of Human Services. She felt very privileged to be a part of this representation from Victoria. The conference provided an overview of safety and quality in health services from all Australia and gave insight into the ways some health services were dealing with issues within their area. There were international key note speakers and sessions on various themes to do with many and varied health topics ran over the 3 days of the conference. There were approx 18 – 20 consumer reps from Victoria who took part in this conference and they gained quite a lot of knowledge to take back to their respective health services. This knowledge will help them to better address issues in their hospitals. Pictured above are some of the CAC representatives who attended the conference dinner. Through this conference Vicki believes that Victorian CAC's have made some very strong links/bonds which can be built on to make a network of sharing of ideas and solutions to issues we are all facing in the health system.



**GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES
SUPPORT INC**

**G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2008
1.30PM – 3.30PM**

Meetings are held at **1 Ollerton Ave, Moe**

Tuesday 26th February

Tuesday 25th March

**Monday 28th April – Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony – Rose
Garden, Morwell**

Tuesday 27th May

Tuesday 24th June

Tuesday 29th July

Tuesday 26th August

Tuesday 30th September

Tuesday 28th October

**Friday 28th November – Asbestos Awareness Day – Rose Garden,
Morwell**

Christmas Break-up to be advised

**G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2008
7.30PM – 9.30PM**

These meetings are held at **1 Ollerton Ave, Moe**

Tuesday 19th February

Tuesday 18th March

Tuesday 15th April

Tuesday 20th May

Tuesday 17th June

Tuesday 15th July

Tuesday 19th August

Tuesday 16th September

Tuesday 21st October

Tuesday 18th 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 2008

- 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 GARDS Inc., second the nomination of the Applicant for membership of the Association.

Signature of

Signature of
 Seconder.....Date.....

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



Valley Signs
Ph 5126 1656
Mob 0403 397 800
www.valleysigns.com.au

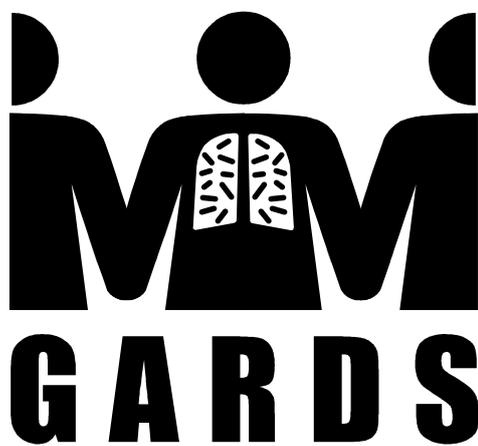


www.moneyplanners.com.au



**Gippsland Trades
& Labour Council**





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 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:

Trevor Callow – Ph. 51342208

Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton – Ph. 51278219

Mobile 0407274173

Treasurer:

Pam Nicholson – Ph. 51275843

Mobile 0408535671

Member:

Dorothy Roberts – 51274174

Mobile 0407274174

Rodney LeLievre – 51261656

Mobile 0403397800

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

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY: 9.30am – 12 Midday

TUESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.00pm

WEDNESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.00pm

THURSDAY: 12 noon – 3.00pm

FRIDAY: BY APPOINTMENT

CALL IN FOR A CHAT & CUPPA

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Our Night/Day Meetings

**Sunday Dec 2nd 2007 GARDS Xmas
lunch**

**Sunday 27th January GARDS AGM
1.00pm
1 Ollerton Ave, Moe**

Support meetings in 2008

26th Feb - IPAC Financial Service

**25th March – Anglicare Victoria –
Rights Centre**

**Monday 28th April – Annual Memorial
Wreath Laying Ceremony – Rose
Garden - Morwell**