

# VCAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS TUTE AT LAVALLA COLLEGE

14th of September saw the ACV/GARDS team at Lavalla College where one of the VCAL students Ben Schena made a presentation to his class with asbestos as his topic.

Ben had been at a tute at GippsTAFE where he had listened to Vicki talking about all things asbestos. Ben decided he wanted to do something like this to his class mates as his end of year session/project (Ben was to be evaluated on this). Ben did a wonderful presentation in front of his peers and he and his class learnt so

much about asbestos and the issues. Vicki backed up Ben with a short presentation on some of the other issues. The class enjoyed it immensely and Ben was praised by his teachers for the wealth of knowledge he had been able to give the class and the high quality of his presentation.

Well done, Ben and the VCAL class of 2015 at Lavalla College Traralgon – thank you for being so welcoming to the ACV/GARDS team. Footnote to this story recently Vicki ran into Ben and Ben advised Vicki that he has secured himself a full time job starting next year in 2016 – Well done Ben, we are all very proud of you.




## LV DANCE PROMOTIONS INC. DONATION

On 3rd December we were very privileged and honoured to be given a monetary donation from the dance club. A great group of people who get together for the joy of dancing.

The group members also teach others to dance and it was a real pleasure to see young faces in the dance group enjoying the music and dancing to some old time favourites. The group raise money for the

running of the dance through raffles etc., and any money left over after insurance and hall hire and other things required for the dance to run each week is donated to charity. On the night we were invited to receive our monetary donation there were 5 other groups who would be receiving a donation from the group. Some of those were SES, Heart Kids, Local Ambulance, and Centenary House. Thank you so much to all those who were at the dance – it makes a difference and we all appreciated your support.






### LATROBE CITY SUCCESSFUL GRANT 2015/16

In November ACV/GARDS was thrilled to hear their Community Grant application 2015/16 had been successful. We applied for a small grant to help with the production of the Asbestos News. This goes some way to helping us to get the information to our members and out into the community.

We want to thank all those at Latrobe City for having faith in us to deliver a high quality news medium to all those interested in asbestos and the issues.



## MAURICE BLACKBURN LAWYERS SPONSORSHIP

We would like to thank Maurice Blackburn Lawyers for again sponsoring us this next 12 months. Sponsors are very important to our organisation without them we would find it extremely difficult to provide the services that we do to our sufferers and their families.

Our organisation relies on the generosity of the community, firms and companies to keep providing education, awareness, 24/7 support, and all of our medical equipment that we lend to our sufferers free of charge.

So we would like to say thank you to Jane McDermott, Principal in Asbestos Litigation at Maurice Blackburn along with Associates Sally Weir and Victoria Keays for having faith in us to keep delivering the services we provide to the community. It is so good to know that companies like this have community spirit. Thank you to you all.



Pictured above: Are the team of the Asbestos Dept at Maurice Blackburn



# VALE JOHN PARKER

**11/1/1949 – 28/11/2015 – On the 28th of November the world lost a truly amazing man. Here are some excerpts from the eulogy Vicki gave at his celebration of his life on the 9th December.**

I and the ACV/GARDS organisation feel very honoured and privileged to have worked alongside him – I personally became very close to John and he was like the big brother I never had. A good friend that I adored and loved. John was our Treasurer on the committee of ACV/GARDS for 4 years and he was made a Life Member of our Association in March of this year, to show how much he meant to us all.

I first met John when he came to the Valley to head up the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council – I viewed John with some scepticism as our relationship with unions at that point had not been all that flash and we were not trusting of many people and associations. In fact you might say we were very GARDED – excuse the pun!

He held the hand of friendship out and said that the GTLC wanted to work hand in glove with community groups like ours to make Gippsland a better place for all. I am so glad that we took that plunge with him and the trust and bond that grew up from that point onwards became links in a chain that has now spanned more than a decade and so many issues.

I was always ringing John up for his opinion on asbestos situations as we were dealing with them on a day to day basis from the community.

John's opinions and the wealth of knowledge that John had taught me so much- I was an integration aide working at Newborough Primary School when I first met him and I was trying to juggle my work commitments with the demand on us from the community to help with all things Asbestos – as most of you here would know

now - this was a mammoth job on its own. John inspired me to be the very best advocate I could be for asbestos sufferers and their families. He reassured me and supported me when those in the community were not so supportive of the work our organisation was trying to achieve for sufferers and their families. Thank goodness times have gotten better in recent years around support from the community and starting to understand the issues that our area and the nation face into the future – he helped us wherever he could and joined us in meetings with whomever it took to make change. He was our rock and if anyone dared to down us John was there to stand up for us. A truly great CFMEU organiser – one of the best – some of John's sayings to me included he was the feather duster not the rooster – lets go deal with those who can make the change – another of his sayings was I am just the oily rag not the engine driver – lets go see who can take this forward for us. He had a wonderful ability to clear away the bullshit so the problem could be seen clearly by everyone. He empowered so many people and organisations to deal with their problems and make change for the better. This is a great legacy he has left Gippsland with a very big foot print on all of us.

John never crowed about his achievements – but he derived so much satisfaction knowing that he had helped to bring about that change.

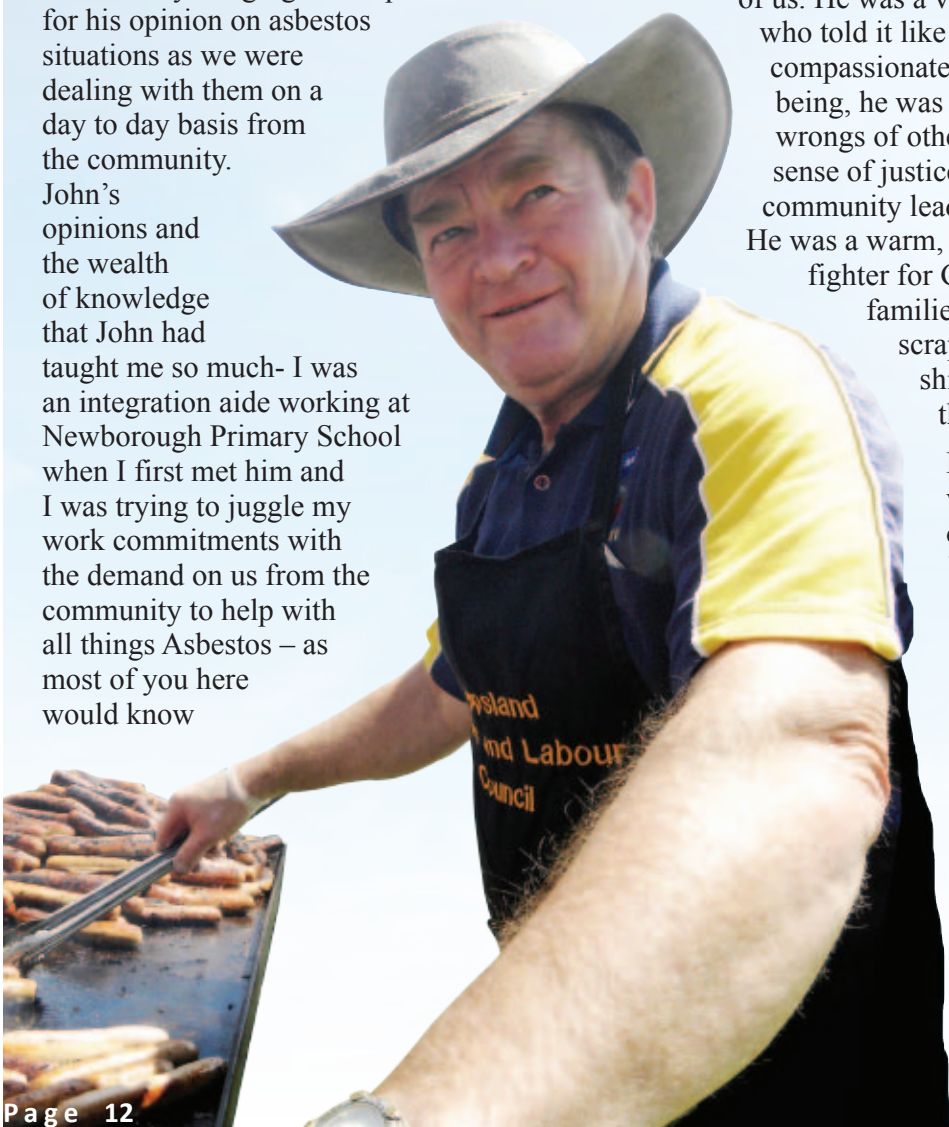
I know that all the ACV/GARDS members join with me in saying the world has lost a truly special person who will be sadly missed by all of us. He was a visionary, an honest bloke who told it like it is, selfless, caring and compassionate for his fellow human being, he was always trying to right the wrongs of others - man of integrity and a sense of justice compared to none. A true community leader that we admired greatly. He was a warm, gentle and a passionate fighter for Gippsland workers and their families. He use to call himself the scrapper! – because he never shied away from a battle if that is what it took.

He had many sides to his very being – he was like an onion that you could peel back the layers on and if you were lucky enough to be close to John some of John's other interest shone through such as his love for wood and the carving he did with just the right piece of wood that he would go out and scout for and some here today may have had the privilege to see him carving and the wonderful things he



created with his magic hands and keen eye – his love of painting – and the magic he created on canvas – his interest and love of rock collecting that he was passionate about - maybe something that you did not know was John could knit, sew and do needle point – for a tuff union organiser the inner layers of this onion would astound you. He was a true gentleman and he has left Gippsland with a wonderful legacy of all that he has loved and been involved in – it is up to us to keep up the standard John has set.

Again lastly I want to thank Alison and her family for sharing the truly amazing man we called John, Friend, mate and comrade with us – we are so grateful to the Parker family for allowing us to have our piece of John Parker to keep and remember. We had some laughs along the way and many cherished memories to go over in our minds and I know I will always look back on the times I had with John and cherish them.





# THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA AT NEWBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL



The grade 3/4 s invited community groups and individuals who volunteer making a difference in our community to a thank you afternoon tea. We were honoured to be invited and partake of a beautiful afternoon tea prepared by the grade 3/4s.

We also were treated to a video made by them thanking all the different groups that came along in

the video.

It was a delight to listen to them sing a wonderful song that they had put together.

They are a great bunch of kids and we thank them and their teachers for such a fun way to celebrate volunteerism in our communities. They learn so much from this about the value of volunteering and giving to your community and who knows one day they will be the next volunteers enjoying have grade 3/4s afternoon tea.

## ACV/ GARDS closing dates over Christmas/ New Year Holidays

The ACV/GARDS office will be closed over the holiday period. Our office will close on: Friday the 18th of December 2015 at 4.00pm and we will resume full operations on Monday the 18th of January 2016.

**ANY URGENT ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO VICKI HAMILTON VIA THE ACV/GARDS PHONE 03 5127 7744 24/7**

**FROM ALL OF US HERE AT ACV/GARDS WE WISH EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU A MERRY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR - THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ACV/GARDS IN 2015 AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2016**

# 2ND INTERNATIONAL ASBESTOS SAFETY & ERADICATION AGENCY CONFERENCE



On 22nd – 24th November ACV/GARDS was lucky enough to be sponsored by ASEA to attend the International Conference in Brisbane – It was great to catch up with those we had not seen for some time.

Many interesting speakers on all things asbestos. One of our heroes who attended was Barry Castleman, we were lucky enough to meet him and have our pic taken with him. We also met our honorary ACV/GARDS member of two years Vilada from Lao – she was at the conference as an APHEDA rep. It was so lovely to catch up – we had so much to chat about. We also had a chance to catch up with our friend Matt Peacock Senior journalist with the ABC. We were also thrilled to talk to our friends who came from Sydney from ADFA and our friends from SA from AVA along with one of the asbestos litigation lawyers we work with, Bree Knoester ALIL – it was nice to get time to catch up on all the news from everyone around asbestos issues and much more. We also liked being able to say a big Hi to Brian Sketcher and his wife from Asbestos Audits Queensland. Thank you so much to ASEA for our sponsorship, we really appreciated their support in getting us there – it meant a lot to us.





# Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous companies

**GJ Crosby Contractors** thank you to Judi, Kerri and all the family & we would also like to thank Paul Erbs & Darren Carman and all the team at **Mairin OHS&E Consulting**

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

- Jack & Pat Fawcett,
- Jean Evans,
- Glenda Rowley,
- Muriel Glover,
- Moira & Davey Duncan for a monetary donation & their donation of various items for our raffles,
- Rhonda Dunn,
- Sister Joy Hanrahan,
- Brian & Ann Clegg,
- Terry Mead,
- Gwen Hall,
- Giuseppe Iannantuono,
- Dawn Hall,
- Dell Blanch,
- Kurt Rieger,
- Ann Bishop,
- Anne & Brian Turner,
- Mary & Liam Rossney,
- Vincent Roberts,
- Ron Whitmore,
- Brian & Shelly Cotterill,
- Godfrey Sargent,
- Robert Rawlings for his kids torch donation,
- Phill Edwards,
- Marian Carrigy for her efforts

## South Gippsland & East Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide

The ACV/GARDS organisation would like to acknowledge the support that we get from **Paul Cornelis, South Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide** and also **Tony Robinson, East Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide**.

Both these agents fit our oxygen concentrators and conserving devices for our sufferers whenever needed - they do this for us as a donation to our organisation. You are truly wonderful people who should be commended for your good deeds.

## Are you nursing a loved one with a terminal illness?

### WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

The Latrobe Valley Palliative Care Fundraising Association "provides financial assistance to patients and their families"

By paying for equipment hire needed in the patient's home to help them be more comfortable and make it easier for their carer. If necessary, we can assist with financial help for medication and oxygen.

This service operates with the hard work of volunteers and the generous public who help us raise the funds needed to run the service, thereby making a big difference to numerous lives. Would you care to join us? Call the number listed below.

**CALL 0429 689 827 OR 0351 273 283**

To discuss how we can assist with the comfort of your loved one and make it a little easier for you.

THANK YOU!

## On line donations

- Michael Hutchinson,
- Kate Keenan,
- Valarie Donald

## Ken Rowlinson

Thank you so much for your donation and we hope you are still punching above your weight – hope to see you sometime soon.

## Jean & Ron Harwood

Thank you so much to Jean & Ron for the wonderful clock and bottle of Whiskey to be raffled in the future – you are so thoughtful.

## Donations made in Memory of – Heather Maier

- Kate Keenan, ■ Valarie Donald, and multiple Anonymous donations

## Advice Line Injury Lawyers Donation

We would like to thank Bree Knoester so much for the generous donation made to us. We appreciate your support and the money will go to supporting asbestos sufferers and their families.

## Donations made in Memory of - Maree Archer

- Lee Archer & Peter Clark

## Donations made in Memory of - Graeme Snape

- Jenny Snape

## Donations made in Memory of - Rob Ruiter

- Nell Ruiter,
- Wendy Bright

## Katrina Walker

Thank you so much Katrina for all the items that you donated for our raffles into the future – there were many items and your generosity was overwhelming.

## Petra Webster

A big thank you from us to Petra Webster for the wonderful knitted rug she has made us for the raffle. It is absolutely beautiful and so much care has gone into it. We had a raffle at the Xmas party on the 5th of Dec and one of our members was lucky enough to win it. As well as one made by Lynne Mansfield

## Val Prokopiv – GTLC

A big thank you to Val who donated one of her own handcrafted art pieces to our Xmas raffle. That was a lovely surprise & greatly appreciated

## Eleanor and Roy James

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Eleanor and Roy for the monetary donation they made to ACV/GARDS to help improve the lives of asbestos sufferers and support them. Eleanor and Roy have moved away from Gippsland to be closer to their family, and we wish them all the best in their new home.

## Clynn & Kevin Lord

ACV/GARDS would like to thank very much Clynn & Kevin for their generous donation to our organisation – it will be put to good use to support asbestos sufferers and their families

## Michael Hutchinson

Thank you so much to Michael and his family for their generous 2 x donations this year. We wish him every success with his new job in Hong Kong. Don't forget to come home sometimes – we would all like to see you. We will keep you in touch with all the news in town by email.

## Rossmore Hotel Yallourn North Bowling Club

We would like to thank the Rossmore Hotel publican, staff and patrons and the Yallourn North Bowling Club Mal Paulet and club members for supporting the ACV/GARDS org by allowing us to fundraise at the hotel and the bowling club. We have made some great acquaintances and the Yallourn North community make us feel very welcome. Thank you for your support in 2015.

## Home Taste Chinese Restaurant, Newborough

The ACV/GARDS organisation would like to again thank Pinky and Tony Lau for their continued support & friendship with our organisation. We thank you for all your support in 2015. Please support Pinky and Tony by visiting their restaurant and having a meal. They would be pleased to see you.



## Donations made in Memory of – Michael Young

- Jeanette Young and family, ■ Robert Young, ■ Irene Hood, ■ Anonymous \$10,
- C Elliot, ■ Lance Fisher, ■ Bev Collins, ■ Ruck, ■ Mr & Mrs J Shurey,
- Joan & Noel Rodda & Judy Hall & friends, ■ Val Gebert, ■ Bob & Sandra Shurey,
- Libby Besse, ■ Gippsland Model Engineering Society, ■ Tom Kirchner,
- Johanna Bartholomeusz

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

ACV/GARDS membership fees were due 30th September 2015. Could you please make sure your fees are up to date. We do not send out personal reminders for membership as this adds burden to our costs. The fees only cover some of the costs associated with being a member of the organisation - it does help us to send out information to you. We thank all those who support us by being a member as this gives us strength and unity. Thank you to those members who pay 2 and 3 years in advance, your gesture is greatly appreciated.

## ACV/GARDS NEW WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We would like to thank **Italicherry Design studio Wendy McEwan** for all the great work she is doing for us – she has been very generous with her time & expertise [www.italicherrydesign.com.au](http://www.italicherrydesign.com.au)

All those who have donated to our information on the web site, we will be placing their logos on our new web site shortly in appreciation







# ACV/GARDS Inc. Membership Form

Asbestos Council of Victoria/Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc.

ABN: 77 687 118 554 - Inc. No. A0042386U

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Telephone: ..... Email: .....

Occupation: .....

**ACV/GARDS NEW MEMBERS Joining Fee \$5.00**

**PLUS**

**ACV/GARDS Annual Subscription 2016**

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 ACV/GARDS Inc.*

Signature: ..... Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

### Office Use Only

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

Signature of Proposer: ..... Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of Seconder: ..... Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Committee of Management

### President:

**Dorothy Roberts**  
Ph. 03 5127 4174  
Mobile 0407 274 174

### Vice President:

**Marie Smith**  
Ph. 03 5127 1427  
Mobile 0427 271 427

### CEO/Secretary:

**Vicki Hamilton**  
Ph. 03 5127 8219  
Mobile 0407 274 173

### Treasurer:

**David Fairbairn**  
Mobile 0403 319 520

### Member:

**Collin Ross**  
Mobile 0402 420 398

**Ray Whittaker**  
Mobile 0427 801 292

## ACV/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 - 9.30pm

## Office Hours

Monday to Thursday  
10am - 4pm

Friday - By appointment

## ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2016

**1.30PM – 3.30PM**

Meetings are held at –

**ACV/GARDS Premises  
41 Monash Road,  
Newborough**

- Tuesday 23rd February
- Tuesday 29th March
- Tuesday 28th April, International Workers Memorial Day, Rose Garden, Morwell
- Tuesday 31st 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, 11am
- Christmas Break-Up TBA

## ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2016

**7.30PM – 9.30PM**

Meetings are held at –

**ACV/GARDS Premises  
41 Monash Road,  
Newborough**

- Tuesday 16th 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 TBA

## UP AND COMING EVENTS IN 2016 Our Night/Day Meetings

- Support Group  
Tuesday 24th February  
Luke Prust – Pharmacist
- Support Group  
Tuesday 31st March  
TBA
- International Workers' Memorial Day event  
28th April – 11am  
Rose Garden, Commercial Road, Morwell
- Bus excursion to Power Works in Morwell
- Bus excursion to the Darnum Musical Village

**CALL IN  
FOR A CHAT AND  
CUPPA**

## ACV/GARDS AGM 2016

**Sat 30th January 2016 – 2pm**

41 Monash Road, Newborough

**President \* Treasurer Committee Member**  
Other business to be conducted Election of Auditor for 2016/17  
Change of Membership fees



# ACV/GARDS INC. SUPPORT

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

ACV/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; ACV/GARDS Support is open to anyone whose lives have been affected by asbestos, their families and the general public.

ACV/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.

ACV/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: **03 5127 7744 24/7**  
Fax: **03 5126 0354**  
Email: [info@gards.org](mailto:info@gards.org)  
Website: [www.gards.org](http://www.gards.org)  
SKYPE: **VickiGARDS**

 Find us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/Asbestos Council of Victoria/ GARDS Inc.](https://www.facebook.com/AsbestosCouncilofVictoriaGARDSInc)

 Follow us on Twitter  
[twitter.com/Vicki Hamilton@ACV\\_GARDS](https://twitter.com/VickiHamilton@ACV_GARDS)

## ACV/GARDS INC. EVENING MEETING

ACV/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 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.



# THANK YOU ACV/GARDS Inc. would like to thank these sponsors and supporters



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