



# ASBESTOS NEWS

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## DID YOU KNOW

You can FOI yours or family members' medical records from the SECV archives for \$20. These may make for a very interesting read.

Just write to:

SECV FOI  
Mr. John Cudmore  
Level 8  
459 Collins Street  
Melbourne, Vic. 3000

## ASBESTOS BLUES

BY JOCK MCCULLOCH

COMING IN MAY

Our evening meeting date in May has been changed to accommodate our very special guest speaker Jock McCulloch whose book 'ASBESTOS BLUES' deals with blue asbestos which is still mined in South Africa, where industry and government have been slow to respond to the environmental and health issues.

- **Were mining and manufacturing companies, as they claimed, the victims of imperfect science and inadequate state regulation?**

Since the 1930's growing evidence of the health risks was often suppressed by companies and the South African government

- **Is enough being done to clean up the environmental damage caused by the mines?**

Large areas of the Northern Cape have been made permanently hazardous by asbestos mining. Wind-borne fibre continues to spread that hazard in an ever widening circle of risk. The Department of Environment has allocated R100 million to clean up un-reclaimed mines, but far more will be necessary to make the landscape itself safe.

- **Should British companies be held responsible for the behaviour of their South African subsidiaries?**

The prosperity of the asbestos industry in South Africa depended on apartheid. Company profits and the dividends paid to British shareholders were fuelled by the lowly paid and hazardous work of women and juveniles in South African mines.

**Jock McCulloch also produced another book in 1984 called 'ASBESTOS ITS HUMAN COST'**

This book deals with the Asbestos issues in Australia and its ramifications.

Jock is a Lecturer in the Faculty of the Constructed Environment, RMIT University, Australia.

**The meeting date for this very special event will be Friday 16<sup>th</sup> of May at 7.00pm this will take the place of the night meeting scheduled for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.**

## WREATH LAYING CEREMONY 2003

GARDS will be holding its annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in the park across from the GARDS office located in Darlimurla Avenue, Newborough. This event will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April at 2.00pm.

This ceremony is conducted in memory of the workers and their families who have passed away or been affected by asbestos and industrial toxins in some way.

At the conclusion of the ceremony there will be afternoon tea supplied at Latrobe Business Centre in the training room.

All members of the community are most welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FAY NEEDHAM – 51272038 OR GARDS INC. DURING OFFICE HOURS ON 51281218



### POSITION FILLED

At the Special General Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March at 7.00pm the position to the committee of management was filled. The new committee of management have now had a meeting and have placed Pamela Nicholson in the position of Treasurer. The committee of management also placed Vicki Hamilton into the position of Secretary. It is hoped that this will help with the day to day running of the GARDS office.

**A big thank you to Dorothy Roberts for helping in our time of need.**



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### CONGRATULATIONS

Goes to Shirley White of the Queensland Asbestos Diseases Society for her well deserved award 'ORDER OF AUSTRALIA'

### SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

The sub-committee that was formed to review the Rules of the Association has come up with some recommendations which were brought to the night meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Those recommendations are:

- Committee agrees that the old rules should be thrown out and the association adopt the Model Rules. With minor changes recommended suiting the association. The sub committee will reconvene after they have checked the model rules.
  - The sub committee stay in place to adapt the rules to suit the organisation as it grows.
  - Either this committee or another committee develop procedures to be followed by the organisation for eg.
    - ❖ Grievance procedures
    - ❖ Asbestos procedures
- ETC.

The sub-committee will meet again to fine tune their recommendations to the committee of management.

**G.A.R.D.S INC. ANNUAL FEES ?**

Did you join around April 2002, May 2002, and June 2002? Then your annual fees are due and payable as soon as possible.

Annual fees go part way to helping pay for the postage on the newsletter that we send out to you and any flyers during the year.

Pensioner/Concession (unemployed)

Annual Fees are \$3.00

Full Rate (employed)

Annual Fees are \$11.00

**If you are not a member of GARDS INC. and wish to join the Joining Fee is \$5.00 plus your annual fee.**

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To Bill Raymond for volunteering to man our GARDS office every Wednesday. It's great to have such wonderful GARDS members who are willing to give up their time freely.

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GARDS is still searching for the book called OLD BROWN COAL MINE by Kath Ringin  
If you know where we can get a copy please contact our office.

**LOOP HOLE FOR ASBESTOS DEFENDANTS?**

Laurie Kazan-Allen has posted some very interesting articles on her ibas site on the web one of these articles is to do with Bendix Mintex (Honeywell) company to sell to the Federal Mogul company.

In essence these documents say that Bendix has settled 53,000 asbestos claims, averaging \$1,000 each, there are 47,000 more asbestos -related claims pending. A bizarre solution has been found which is breathtaking in its audacity: pass these claims to a company already enjoying judicial protection against asbestos lawsuits.

These companies are all over the world and it seems that Federal Mogul has little to lose by taking on the asbestos liabilities of the Bendix brakes parts business. Due to its Chapter 11 status, thousands of asbestos claims against Federal Mogul are frozen. It appears that if this deals proceeds, claims for asbestos injuries will no longer be possible against Bendix or Honeywell: all future lawsuits, including those from non-US. Litigants, will be brought against a paralysed company, Federal Mogul, instead of the still viable Honeywell group.

If you would like to read this article in its entirety and other articles you can find these on

[www.ibas.btinternet.com.uk](http://www.ibas.btinternet.com.uk)



## SOCIAL JUSTICE UNIT OF THE UNITING CHURCH Visits GARDS INC.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March at our support meeting we had a very special guest come along to meet the GARDS members, his name was David Pargeter.

David was very interesting to listen to and he knows a great deal about the Latrobe Valley, he worked in and around the Power Stations as an Industrial Chaplain for some time.

David was very keen to hear the members' stories and experiences with asbestos disease.

David has promised to come back to GARDS later in the year to meet with our members again. We look forward to seeing him.

### **Work and Health in the Latrobe Valley: Community Perspectives on Asbestos Issues.**

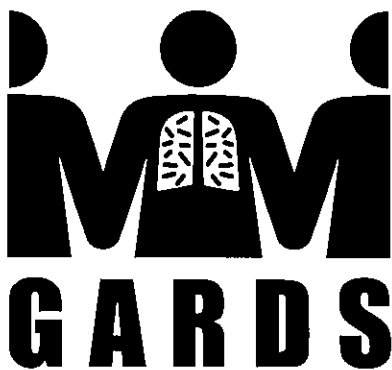
What do you think are the main issues regarding asbestos for the community? What needs to be done about these issues? These are some of the questions Hannah Walker and Tony LaMontagne (from Melbourne University), hope to answer in the next few months by talking to people in the Latrobe Valley about their views on this very important issue. We are very keen to bring some of the asbestos issues in the Latrobe Valley forward, through the voices of the people most affected. This area has been underdeveloped in previous research and policy-making, and it is only through talking to people in the Valley that we can develop a comprehensive public health response to asbestos issues. We will be speaking to former SECV workers, their families, local trade union representatives, members of the Gippsland Asbestos Related Disease Support Network and members of the wider LTV community. If you are contacted by Hannah or Tony we hope you will consider being involved and we look forward to speaking with you and hearing your views. This research will yield crucial information to guide the development of interventions to address asbestos issues in the Latrobe Valley and will be unique in its focus on the perspectives of those most affected by asbestos issues.

**To Edison Mission Energy and Maurice Blackburn & Cashman for their generous monetary donation to our organisation.**



### **SECOND FAX LINE INTO GARDS INC.**

Our second fax line is now up and running. If you wish to make contact with us by fax please feel free to use either of our fax lines. Thanks again to Mid Gippsland Football League.



Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc.

Gippsland Asbestos Related  
Diseases Support Inc.

36 – 38 Darlimurla Ave  
Newborough, Vic. 3825

PO Box 111,  
Moe, Vic. 3825

**Phone: 51281218**

**Fax: 51261897 or 51273844**

**Email:**

**gards@datafast.net.au**

### GARDS INC. SUPPORT

GARDS provides support and information to asbestos sufferers, their families and carers. This includes home visits by GARDS volunteers, a telephone advice service, and drop-in service at GARDS office.

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 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

#### Treasurer:

Pam Nicholson – Ph. 51275843

#### Member:

Fay Needham – 51272038

Dorothy Roberts - 51274174

### 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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month,  
7.30pm – 9.30pm

### UP AND COMING EVENTS

#### WREATH LAYING DAY

29<sup>TH</sup> Of April

In the park opposite Latrobe

Business Centre

(GARDS OFFICE)

Darlimurla Ave, Newborough

#### **JOCK McCULLOCH** author

16<sup>th</sup> of May, 7.00pm

#### **CARE LINK**

27<sup>th</sup> of May, 1.30pm

### OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY:** 9.30am – 12 noon

**TUESDAY:** 1.00pm – 3.00pm

**WEDNESDAY:** 1.00pm-3.30pm

**THURSDAY:** 12 noon – 3.00pm

**FRIDAY:** BY APPOINTMENT

CALL IN FOR A CHAT & CUPPA