



GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.  
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ABN 77 687 118 554  
INC. A0042386U

OCTOBER, 2003  
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

# ASBESTOS NEWS

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**LOY YANG POWER WORKERS  
DONATE \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ TO G.A.R.D.S.**

GARDS has been lucky enough to be one of 3 recipients chosen by workers at Loy Yang Power for the Safety Awareness Scheme during the Unit 2 Outage which has been operating throughout September. We were very honoured that the workers at Loy Yang felt we were an organisation worthy of their support. \$30,000 is made available by Loy Yang Power, Silcar and Alstom for the Safety Awareness Scheme and this money will be shared by three organisations.

GARDS representatives were invited to set up a display in the foyer of the administration building at Loy Yang A. The GARDS reps were also treated to a tour of Loy Yang by Richard Griffith and Don Wight. It was a most enjoyable afternoon. The donation will be made at the conclusion of the project with GARDS representatives to join contractors, workers and the other two organisations representatives. A big thank you to Rod from Valley Signs for the sign work on our display.

## PETITION FOR GIPPSLAND

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, GARDS, other concerned community members, legal representation, specialist Oncology and Respiratory doctors and Gippsland Unions met to discuss what could be done to address the medical issues of asbestos in Gippsland. As a result of that meeting GARDS organised a petition asking the State Government to keep its election promise and fund the specialist cancer unit with radiotherapy in Gippsland. The petition also asked for specialist respite/hospice and palliative care facilities. The petition has been well received not only in Gippsland but throughout Victoria, with petitions coming from as far away as Mildura and Myrtleford. The petition was available on the GARDS web site for people to access and download.

The petition closed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September and 7,400 signatures were obtained. The GARDS committee of management presented the signatures to Ian Maxfield MP and Brendan Jenkins MP at parliament on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. The petition was handed down to parliament on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. GARDS is waiting for a response from the government to these issues. For a photo of the hand over of the signatures refer to GARDS web site [www.gards.org](http://www.gards.org)

**GARDS committee of management and the members want to thank all those people who supported the petition. We thank you all who ever you are.**

### A BIG THANK YOU

GARDS would like to thank Pat & John Robinson & family of Moe for their very generous donation to asbestos sufferers. The Robinson family donated an oxygen concentrator for the free use of asbestos sufferers.

This machine will be put to good use in the up and coming years.





## ROTARY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

GARDS has been invited to speak at 3 Rotary venues over the last couple of months. We have spoken at Morwell, Moe and Warragul. It has been great to see people interested in asbestos related issues and the interest seems to be growing. GARDS is very happy to be getting the asbestos issue out in the public arena and making the community aware of asbestos and its dangers. GARDS representatives have been very pleased with the warm welcomes that they have received and the offers of help to our organisation and support for our asbestos sufferers, their families and carers. We are very aware that there are still a lot of people out in the community that do not understand the dangers related to asbestos. In conducting these talks about asbestos awareness and the illnesses that are caused by it we also explain the devastating effects that asbestos has on a family and the community in which they live. GARDS endeavours to identify negatives issues that families come up against while trying to support their loved ones and tries to help to change these and make the support of their loved one easier.

### SLATER & GORDON DONATION

GARDS was very privileged to receive a surprise donation of \$2,000 from Slater & Gordon. Caroline Flake made the donation announcement at our special meeting night for Dr Anthony Sasse on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. GARDS committee of management and member's thank Slater & Gordon very much for their generous donation to our organisation.



### SUCCESSFUL NIGHT MEETING

The night meeting held on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of September was a great success. The meeting was well attended with approximately 40 in attendance. The beginning of the night was kicked off with home made soup, sandwiches and sweets which were enjoyed by all. Tony gave an informative talk on asbestos and its related effects. People had lots of questions that Tony was only too happy to oblige in answering. Many people commented that they had got a lot out of the meeting and enjoyed meeting and sharing information with like minded people who also share an interest in asbestos related illnesses and issues.

### COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

On Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August the last Community Reference Group meeting was held. Professor Donald Campbell presented his draft report on the Lung Function Review Program to the members of the reference group. The most poignant thing to come out of the report was that mesothelioma was 7 times the national average in Latrobe Valley workers and the asbestos incidence will increase until at least 2020.

After the presentation CRG members had a chance to relay their concerns of medical needs in Gippsland to the Finance Minister John Lenders and the Deputy Health Minister Gavin Jennings.

### A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

The GARDS committee of management and the members wish to give a special thank you to a very special person. Her name is Marion Taylor and she has been a very busy lady making friends for GARDS in Queensland and making money for our group selling her wonderful hand made slippers as a fundraiser. It was a mighty big effort and she raised a considerable amount of money. Marion we hope that your fingers recover from all that crocheting.

**We wish to thank Trevor Watson from Skills on Line who maintains our web site. He has been very busy altering our information at a moments notice. YOU ARE WONDERFUL!**

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October at 7.00pm prior to the night meeting commencing at 7.30pm. The venue will be Latrobe Business Centre, Darlimurla Ave, Newborough.

The purpose of this meeting special meeting will be to adopt the new Rules of the Association and Statement of Purpose.

If you wish to view these new rules you can either:

\*View on the GARDS web site  
[www.gards.org](http://www.gards.org)

\*Come to the GARDS office and Read them on our display board outside the office

\*Pick up a copy from the office in office hours

\*Phone the office on 51281218 for a copy to be sent to you

## GARDS TO SPEAK AT MONASH UNIVERSITY GIPPSLAND

GARDS representatives have been asked to speak to students at the School of Humanities. As part of their OH&S unit. We feel that this will be a great opportunity for students to hear first hand about asbestos and the issues associated with this.

## OUR THANKS TO THE RULES SUB COMMITTEE

The GARDS committee of management and members wish to thank the Rules Sub Committee for all their work with the new rules that are finally ready to go to the members. We appreciate your in put into this very important matter.



## PARTNERSHIP IN GRIEVING PROGRAM URBAN MINISTRY NETWORK QUILT OF HONOUR

GARDS has been contacted by a member of the Partnership in Grieving Program and asked if we would like to be a part of this commemorative quilt which is being undertaken to honour those who have died due to their work. GARDS has put in a collective square for all its members with our logo on it for those who have passed away but this will be an on going initiative and if you would like to make a special square for your loved one on this quilt for the following year to be added could you please contact Vicki at the GARDS office and she will give you details on what is required for the quilt square. There will be a launch in Melbourne on Sunday Oct the 26<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm for this commemorative quilt and GARDS will be in attendance representing its members, if anyone else would like to attend with the committee please contact us for more details.

## GARDS LOGO PATCHES

GARDS is now selling cloth patches with our logo to members and anyone who would like to purchase one for \$5. These are available from the office.



## ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY 2003

### Picnic In The Park

This year's Asbestos Awareness Day will be celebrated in the park opposite the GARDS office. Please bring a picnic lunch (there are no BBQ facilities).

Coffee and Tea will be provided.

Date: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of November

Commencing at 12.00 noon

(If it is inclement weather it will be inside the GARDS premises)

## G.A.R.D.S. CHRISTMAS BREAK UP FOR BOTH GROUPS

There will be a Christmas break up BBQ for both groups on the Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December commencing at 1.00pm.

The venue will be Latrobe Business Centre, Darlimurla Ave, Newborough, in the Training room. GARDS will supply the meat and bread.

Could members intending to come please bring a plate of salad or a dessert to share.

Santa will be making a visit to see who has been naughty or nice.

Coffee, tea and soft drinks provided.

Please BYO alcohol.



## THANKS TO BILL LAWLER AND LATROBE CITY

The GARDS committee of management has been working with Bill Lawler, Project Officer Rural Access, Latrobe City on a few projects such as our New Statement of Purpose, the draft Rules of the association and other projects GARDS are looking into etc. Bills help has been invaluable and he has become a firm friend of GARDS. We really appreciate your support Bill. On the subject of Latrobe City we would also like to acknowledge Mr Graeme Middlemiss, Mayor and the councillors for supporting the efforts of GARDS in trying to secure the specialist Cancer Unit for Gippsland.

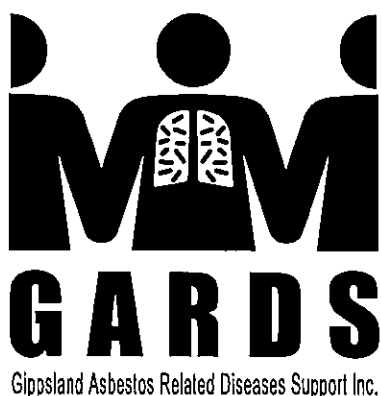


GARDS was invited to attend the Cancer Council Information sessions which were held at the Latrobe Regional Hospital. The sessions were very informative and there was a chance for information sharing. GARDS representatives met two very wonderful ambassadors for the Cancer Council and we have made some very firm links with these ambassadors. Thank you both for your support of our organisation. Our kind regards to all at the Cancer Council they are doing a wonderful job. Keep an eye out in the next Cancer Council Victoria newsletter for an article on GARDS.



Please note that our special guest presenter will be Michael Bramwell from the Cancer Council he will be in attendance at the next support group meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> of October at 1.30pm. See you there!

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY & SAFE NEW YEAR. SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR IN 2004



Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc.

Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc.

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Newborough, Vic. 3825

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Moe, Vic. 3825

Phone: 51281218  
Fax: 51261897

Email: [info@gards.org](mailto:info@gards.org)

Web site: [www.gards.org](http://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 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

#### Our Night/ Day Meetings

*Special General meeting*  
21<sup>st</sup> of Oct, 7.00pm

*Michael Bramwell – Cancer Council Vic.*  
28<sup>th</sup> of Oct, 1.30pm

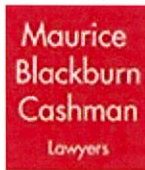
*Asbestos Awareness Day*  
28<sup>th</sup> of Nov, 12.00 noon

*Xmas Break up BBQ*  
7<sup>th</sup> of Dec, 1.00pm

#### 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

**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](http://www.valleysigns.com.au)**



**Loy Yang B Power Station**

