



ABN 77 687 118 554
INC. A0042386U

Asbestos Council of Victoria (ACV) and
Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc (GARDS)



ASBESTOS

NEWS

INCORPORATING SILICA

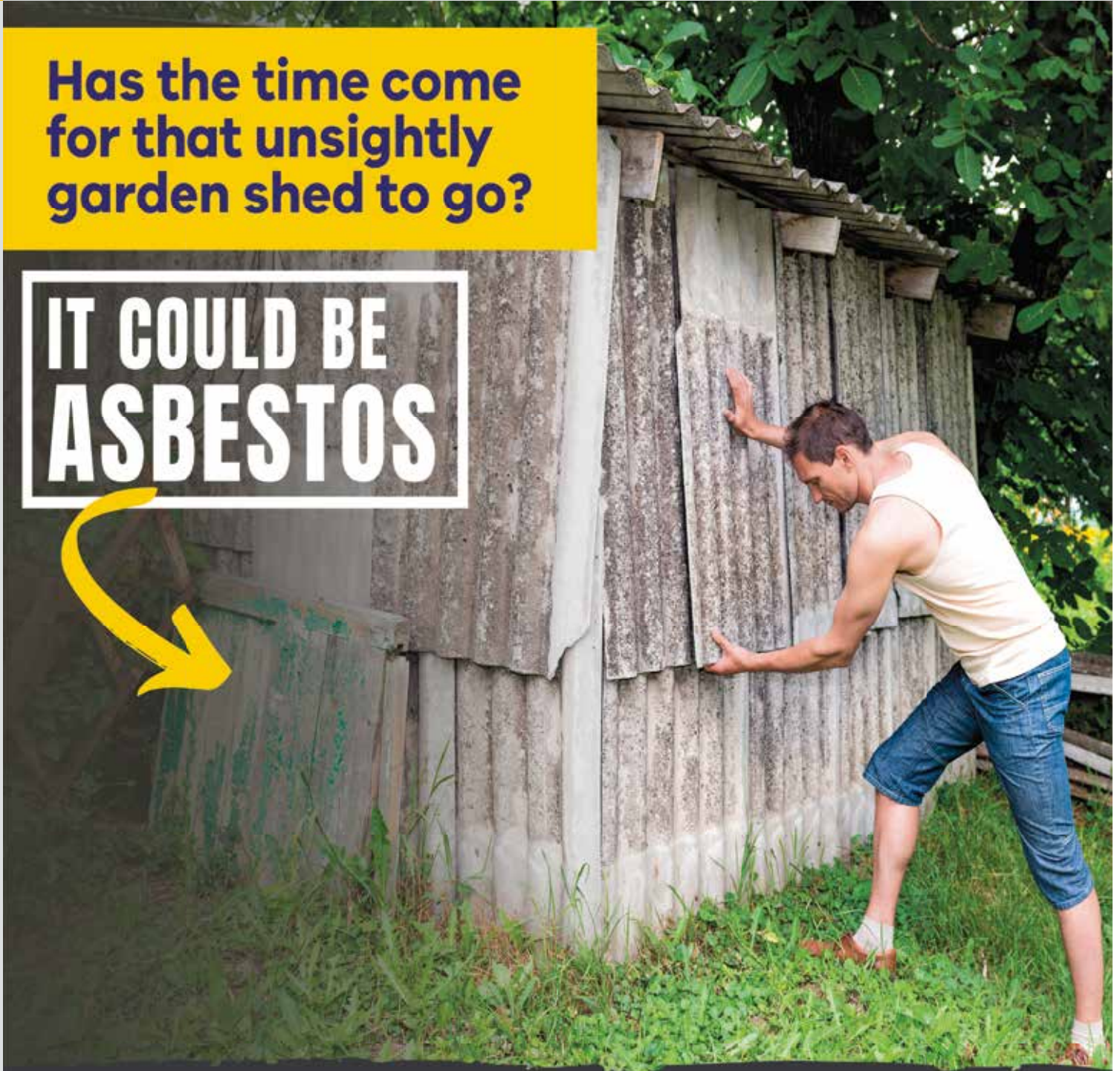
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VOLUME 21 JULY 2022 ISSUE 1

- Page 2.**
Jarni's story by her mum Jessie
- Page 3.**
Photos of Jarni and family
- Page 4.**
1. Breath taking renos ad
2. Where you may find asbestos in your home
- Page 5.**
1. Legal Case Study – Seltam Pty Ltd vs Maria Reid
2. LV Asbestos Task Force fundraiser Bunnings
- Page 6.**
WorkSafe Vic asbestos poster
- Page 7.**
1. Profile on Kate Carmichael
2. Farm World Warragul
- Page 8.**
1. Tess Dickie – Eye on Wittenoom
2. Residential property disclosure tool
ASEA link in fact sheets
- Page 9.**
1. WorkSafe Vic silica poster
- Page 10.**
Asbestos Management Conference Sydney – Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency
- Page 11.**
1. Continue Sydney Conference
2. Labour Day Dinner – GTLC
3. Annual General Meeting of ACV/GARDS results
- Page 12.**
1. Hak's Story – Silica
2. Dust Containing Crystalline silica – What is Crystalline silica?
- Page 13.**
WorkSafe Vic silica poster
- Page 14.**
International Workers Memorial Day
- Page 15.**
IWMD continued
- Page 16.**
1. TAFE Gippsland – Newborough campus – Apprentice Painting & Deco Asbestos & Silica Awareness
2. Foster Probus – Asbestos & Silica Awareness
ACV/GARDS Fees?
3. McDermott Richards Lawyers donation
4. Have you paid ACV/GARDS annual fees?
- Page 17.**
1. Meeting Dates for Support Groups
2. Loy Yang B Power Station sponsorship grant for Defibrillator at office
- Page 18.**
Special People & Organisations
- Page 19.**
1. ACV/GARDS Membership Form
2. Up & Coming Events
3. Committee of Management Details
4. Have you paid your Membership Fees
- Page 20.**
1. ACV/GARDS Info page
2. Sponsors & Supporters

Has the time come for that unsightly garden shed to go?

IT COULD BE ASBESTOS



Asbestos was used in over 3,000 building products
Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

MAJOR SPONSOR
OF ACV/GARDS



Make a Donation

DID YOU KNOW?

You can make an online donation to our group at our home page www.gards.org or using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au



GARDS is endorsed as a charity.
Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

You can find our link on the home page of the ACV/GARDS website or at our facebook.com/gardsinc.



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

twitter.com/VickiHamilton@ACV_GARDS



Jarni's story

by her mum Jessie

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-for-jarni>

Jessie's Parents

2015 – My mother was admitted to Hospital due to issues with her diabetes. 3 weeks later to the day, she had passed away from cancer no one knew she had.

August 2020 – My father was admitted to Hospital for his CPOD (he had asbestos spots in his lungs from his SEC days) a week and a half later he had passed away – again from a cancer that no one knew he had.

2 weeks later – and 1 week after his funeral – I was diagnosed with Esophageal cancer. Seven surgeries – the major being an esophagectomy in January 2021. I was

then sent for chemo – due to my age, they hit me hard with five different drugs and eight cycles. That chemo started in February 2021.

1st of March 2021 – whilst in active chemo, my 16-year-old daughter Jarni had shoulder pains. Investigation found a clot that was running from her jugular vein in her neck down to her elbow with many other clots throughout her veins in her neck and upper chest area. She was airlifted to Monash Children's Hospital where she spent 6 weeks.

During those 6 weeks, I would travel to

Melbourne to be with Jarni coming back home to East Gippsland every second week for my chemo treatment. I would have my chemo done, stay home for the first 2 days then drive myself back to Monash to be beside my girl as they continued their testing.

They were looking for cancer in my 15-year-old. They didn't find it – at that time. Her lymph biopsy came back as "Mesothelial Cells" which has only occurred in 37 (now 38) people in the world. None of whom have gone on to have Mesothelioma. Some have had nothing come of it – others were kidney disease, lung disease etc. – 37

people is too few to have an accurate estimate of what causes the cells of the lung to mobilize into the lymphatic system.

We were sent home for three monthly scans to monitor. Her last scan of 2021 had shown less active lymph nodes and we thought all was good and clear.

January 2022. She was struggling to breathe so I took her to our doctor – this was on the Friday, and she was due for her next scan on the next Monday.

After our local hospital worked out that she had fluid in her lungs – Jarni was once again airlifted to Monash Children's





Hospital. I have never seen our local hospital move so fast, then Monash also moved her fast – straight to a bed in their PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit).

This time we were in Monash Children’s for just on 10 weeks. During this time Jarni went for multiple surgeries – lymph biopsies, a major surgery that included collapsing her lung to access the back of her sternum for a biopsy. This surgery also led to an emergency cardiac surgery at 10pm the following night and saw them put Jarni in an induced coma for 48 hours. I watched them put my baby to sleep in the PICU for this one – including watching them put in arterial lines in as she was too unstable to move – fluid had built up around her heart to such an extent that it couldn’t beat properly.

Fluid was throughout her body – the buildup caused her to have as many as four drains in her body at a time during those 10 weeks.

On the 1st of February – during her stay in the PICU – Jarni celebrated her 16th Birthday.

What a present – approximately 2 weeks after that Birthday we had an answer to what had caused her clots in 2021 and

what had caused her body to flood with fluid – specifically Chylothorax. She was diagnosed with Peritoneal Mesothelioma. An extremely rare childhood cancer – to the point that they required direction from Oncologists from Paris and the UK. None of the Oncology team at Monash nor Royal Children’s had ever seen it in a child so young. A cancer that is caused by exposure to asbestos and typically found in those who have worked with it, renovated with it – done something with a high amount of exposure – not a 16-year-old girl who had obviously had it since she was fourteen.

Our lives have been focused on cancer for so long now and we still have such a battle ahead. She is five cycles into a 6-cycle treatment of chemotherapy. As a pediatric patient – none of our local hospitals will treat her so all treatments, appointments, scans, tests etc. are done at Monash Children’s – which means a LOT of travel from East Gippsland.

I have such pride in me when I look at my daughter – her body has been through such extreme trauma, it is still being battered by chemo, wound therapy (from all of the drains) and other treatments but still she smiles at me. Her strength is what gets me through each day even whilst I

wonder how I will find the strength to keep going, she just keeps smiling at me.

The last couple of years our lives have become all about cancer, and we have more years of fighting to come but we are going to beat this and keep fighting on.

If you would like to support Jarni and the family in some way you can make contact with them by sending a message on the GoFundMe page they have set up. Link at

the top of the page. Messages of support or in-kind donations that you think would be helpful are all appreciated.

Jarni’s local Football and Netball Club are having a Trivia night to raise funds for Jarni and her family if you would like to go along to the Trivia night please go to this face book link <https://fb.me/e/2j0gWKpHs>. And register to have a fun night with the Paynesville community – it would be very much appreciated.

38% OF LATROBE CITY WORKPLACES STILL HAVE **ASBESTOS**

NEW TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL
SEEK ADVICE FROM YOUR TAX PROFESSIONAL

Australian Government
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Buying or selling a home built before 1990?

THINK TWICE ABOUT ASBESTOS

Breathtaking Renovations TV and Social Media

The Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce, of which ACV/GARDS is a member, has developed a new video to increase awareness among homeowners – and DIY home renovators in particular – about the risks of asbestos exposure in homes built before 1990.

In considering the various ways in which to engage the community, the Taskforce approached a specialist behaviour change video company to consider ideas, and the “Breathtaking Renovations” video concept was born. The objective was to deliver an important message but in an entertaining way to capture the audience’s attention.

The video features “Tim,” the host of a DIY Home renovator show getting ready to swing a hammer and knock down walls, only to be told by the show’s Producer to wait as it hasn’t been checked for asbestos. He grows increasingly frustrated as he can’t find an area of the home that he can do work on because asbestos could be present. In the end, he calls in the asbestos professionals himself to get an asbestos test.

The video production was made possible due to funding received from



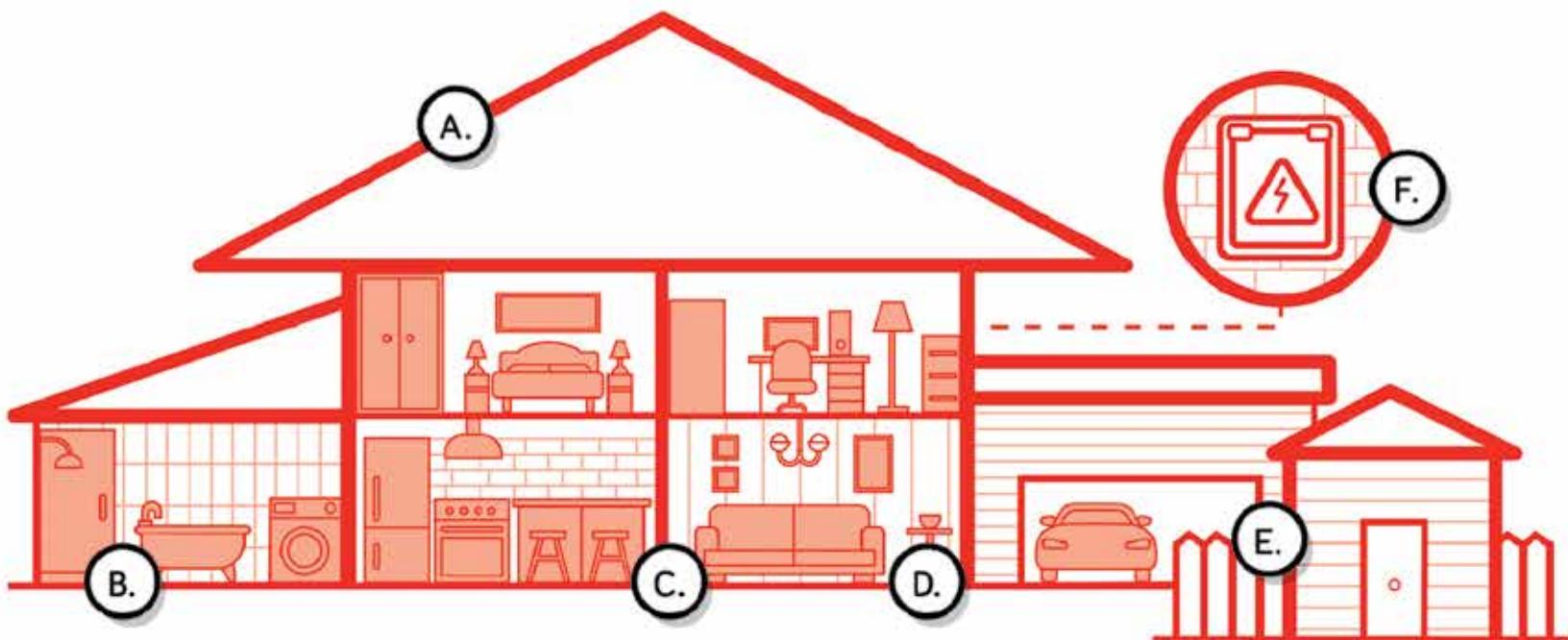
ENGIE, Delta Group, AsClear, A W A R E, SLH industries, and the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning.

Please watch the video and let us know

what you think! You can also help spread the message by sharing it with your friends, family, and colleagues. You can find this video on the Task force web

site – a pop up page will appear, or you can watch it on ACV/GARDS Facebook site or it is in our news feed on the ACV/GARDS web site

Asbestos locations diagram



A. Exterior

Roof sheeting, gutters, downpipes, ridge capping, imitation brick cladding and lining under eaves.

B. Bathroom, toilet and laundry

Wall and ceiling panels, vinyl floor tiles and backing for wall tiles.

C. Kitchen

Wall and ceiling panels, backing for splashbacks, vinyl floor tiles, backing of vinyl flooring and insulation in stoves.

D. Living areas

Wall and ceiling panels, carpet underlay and insulation in domestic heaters.

E. Backyard

Fences, garden sheds, garages, carports, outdoor toilets, dog kennels, buried and dumped waste materials.

F. Other areas

Backing of electrical switchboards, insulation in roof cavities, hot water pipe insulation, textured paint and plaster patching compounds.

LEGAL CASE STUDY

Seltsam Pty Ltd v Maria Reid



Tess Dickie, Principal Lawyer,
Asbestos & Dust Diseases,
Gordon Legal

Thankfully, for sufferers of asbestos related diseases, the majority of compensation claims settle out of court through a process of negotiation. It is rare for asbestos cases to go to trial - and even fewer cases result in a written judgment from the Court.

However, in November 2021, in the case of *Seltsam Pty Ltd v Maria Reid**, the Victorian Supreme Court of Appeal considered an application for leave (permission) to appeal against

a Supreme Court Judge's landmark award of \$580,000 for a mesothelioma sufferer's pain and suffering and loss of amenities. This was Australia's largest ever award by a judge for what is known as "general damages". Fortunately, the appeal failed, and the Judge's award of general damages was maintained.

Up until this recent judgment, there has only been limited guidance on how much a person suffering from mesothelioma should be awarded for general damages in Australia. In particular, it had been over ten years since a jury (rather than a Judge) awarded Mr King a record sum of \$730,000 for his pain and suffering in the Victorian Supreme Court jury trial of *Amaca Pty Ltd v Eric King*.

In this most recent case, Ms Reid was exposed to asbestos as a child. She had grown up near the Wunderlich factory in Sunshine, where asbestos building products were manufactured. During her childhood, Ms Reid had walked to her nearby school and played on asbestos waste at the back of the Wunderlich factory. Sadly, at the age of 69, Ms Reid, a mother and grandmother, was diagnosed with mesothelioma. Before getting sick, she had enjoyed gardening, cooking, and caring for her young grandson three days a week.

Ms Reid made a claim for damages in the Supreme Court of Victoria against

Seltsam Pty Ltd (formerly Wunderlich). Her case focused on the calculation and amount of compensation including general damages that she should be awarded. In assessing her general damages, the Judge noted that Ms Reid's mesothelioma had "not simply diminished her quality of life, it is destroying it in every aspect." Ms Reid's lawyers and the lawyers representing Wunderlich put forward suggested amounts for Ms Reid's general damages, with Wunderlich's lawyers suggesting that only \$250,000 was appropriate. The Judge awarded a significantly higher amount of \$580,000.

On top of the amount awarded for

general damages, the Judge also awarded Ms Reid over \$240,000 for her loss of ability to provide gratuitous care to her grandchildren – recognition of the value placed on gratuitous care provided to dependents.

While no amount of compensation will ever be enough for a person diagnosed with mesothelioma, this case provides important guidance on the amount of damages that might be awarded in these types of cases and is a significant acknowledgment of the devastating impact asbestos related disease has on sufferers and their families.

**Ms Reid was not a client of Gordon Legal.*



Latrobe Valley Asbestos Task Force Fundraiser for ACV/GARDS INC.

BUNNINGS BBQ NOV 2021

LVAT

ACV/GARDS would like to thank the LVAT members for taking time out of their weekends to come and raise awareness about asbestos and to raise funds for our organisation.

The money raised was able to buy four new tyres for our van – this is very much appreciated – great bunch of volunteers.

Thank you to Kate Carmichael, Megan Richardson, Richard Massey, Robyn Duffy, Vanessa Ebsworth, Steve Dodd, Kevin Roberts and John Dowling – all champions!





Asbestos

**lurks in more places
than you'd think.**

Did you know asbestos was used in more than 3000 common building materials before it was banned? It's still found in 1 in 3 Australian homes, lurking in things like walls, eaves and flooring. Knowing what to look for might not be as easy as you think.

Think you know? Find out at asbestos.vic.gov.au



Reducing workplace harm.



PROFILE ON Kate Carmichael



Senior Program Manager

**Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce
Department of Environment, Land,
Water and Planning**

In the middle of 2019, an opportunity came up to work with the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce, which was a 2018 state election commitment to review how asbestos is managed in the broader Latrobe Valley region and make recommendations to government. I was attracted to the role because it meant working with, and bringing together, all stakeholders to tackle an important issue. Having very little knowledge about

asbestos and asbestos management, I soon came to understand how complex the area is, and why it is of the utmost importance that everyone is at the table.

Over the past three years, I have learnt much more than I ever thought I would know about asbestos, from the regulatory operational environment, to understanding attitudes and community awareness, to the devastating impacts on families. While it has been challenging, I think the hardest thing is knowing that asbestos-related disease is preventable. There needs to be greater community awareness accompanied by changes in attitudes and behaviours. There is an entire generation of young people buying older homes in need of renovation who were not exposed to conversations in the 1980s and 1990s about the dangers of asbestos in the lead up to the national asbestos ban on 31 December 2003. And so, their risk of being exposed to asbestos is significant.

At the National Asbestos Conference held in May, I sat on a panel that was asked: What would be the one thing you think could make a difference? (Or along those lines). My response was “more accessible and affordable removal and disposal.” This is something that has come up time and again in the many meetings of the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce – the people who do want to get rid of it safely and professionally, struggle to find an affordable option.

There are of course many more areas that the Taskforce has been looking at, and right now we are in the middle of writing up the next set of recommendations to be presented to the government in the second half of this year. As a people person, I have

thoroughly enjoyed working with all Taskforce members, who come from many different organisations and have different experiences and points of view. Bringing that together in one place has been extremely valuable and, also for me personally, very rewarding. The dedication shown by Vicki Hamilton as the ACV/GARDS representative on the Taskforce is second to none, and her experience, knowledge and connections are enormously valued and appreciated.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Taskforce, please visit the website: www.asbestostaskforce.net. A highlight has been the production of the “Breathtaking Renovations” video, a parody of a home renovation tv show, which has been viewed more than 510,000 times on social media. A 30-second version has also been broadcast on television in Gippsland, both in 2021 and in the four months to June 30 this year. Please feel free to search for it online and share with your own networks - it would be fantastic to see this go state-wide.

Farm World March 2022



The Latrobe Valley Asbestos Task Force staffed a display at the Farm World event to hand out information to the general public on asbestos and to discuss their concerns of what might be on their properties and how to obtain the knowledge to find out. Members of the Task

Force that came along to give out info and answer questions found it very interesting and rewarding. The Task force members met a diverse crowd at the event over 4 days. Perdita Dickson - WorkSafe Vic and Vicki Hamilton ACV/GARDS pictured on the stand on Sunday

Thank you to



for sponsoring the production and printing of this newsletter

ASBESTOS LURKS



Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

DO YOU HAVE AN INVESTMENT PROPERTY THAT MAY CONTAIN **ASBESTOS?**



NEW TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR ASBESTOS TESTING AND REMOVAL

SEEK ADVICE FROM YOUR TAX PROFESSIONAL

Tess Dickie's eye on Wittenoom

The Wittenoom asbestos mine is one of the darkest legacies in West Australian – if not Australian – history.

Between the 1940s and 1960s, thousands of Australians mined blue asbestos at Wittenoom Gorge, exposing themselves, their families, and local residents to unimaginable health risks.

The mine officially closed in 1966, but the damage was done.

According to the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia, over 2,000 people have died to date from asbestos exposure in Wittenoom. That number could continue to rise as the years go on.

Despite the passage of time – 1966 was, after all, over 50 years ago – Wittenoom remains contaminated and continues to pose a significant health threat to anyone nearby.

However, alarmingly, people continue to visit the area as tourists and risk their lives.

To those people, I have a very simple message: please stop.

Visiting Wittenoom for leisure is both irresponsible and ignorant.

The mining activities many decades ago left behind three million tonnes of toxic asbestos tailings. To this day, these tailings laden with deadly asbestos dust and fibres, remain littered around Wittenoom, ready to be inhaled straight into the lungs of anyone in the area.

Even small and fleeting amounts of exposure to asbestos dust and fibres can cause mesothelioma, an incurable cancer that can rip life away from you. You don't need prolonged and repeated exposure to asbestos for it to be a problem.

In other words, one trip to Wittenoom could be fatal.

I'm a senior lawyer who works with people suffering from asbestos-related diseases. I've seen first-hand the devastating effects asbestos can have on both individuals and their families, as their lives are cut short from these terrible diseases.

I commend the steps being taken by authorities to discourage public access to Wittenoom, and to shut down the town completely. While deeply saddening, it's the only logical and safe option anyone can take to prevent the risk of serious disease.



However, it cannot be ignored that it is one of the most dangerous places on earth, with asbestos tailings polluting both the land and air.

It is, after all, the largest contaminated area in the southern hemisphere.

Exactly how governments and authorities should clean up the terrible mine site and take actions to restore the land is outside my area of expertise and not something I can answer.

But where my expertise does lie is asbestos-related diseases. And it is with that knowledge that I reiterate my message to anyone considering visiting Wittenoom as a tourist: just don't do it.

It's dangerous, it's life-threatening, and it's simply not worth it.

Australia is one of the most incredible countries on earth. There are countless vibrant national parks

and spaces suitable for hiking, camping, and exploring.

If you're after an outdoor adventure, go anywhere your heart desires – just not Wittenoom.

Tess Dickie is a principal lawyer at Gordon Legal, with a particular interest in asbestos and occupational lung disease.

However, time and time again we see people disregard these warnings and visit Wittenoom for leisure.

Whether these people are aware of the significant health risks and choose to ignore them is unknown. Whatever the case may be, it reflects a serious need to continue educating the community about what happened at Wittenoom, and that it's still very dangerous today.

That fact that many locals have deep connections to Wittenoom and the surrounding land is certainly not lost on me – especially cultural connections.



IF THE HOME YOU ARE BUYING WAS BUILT BEFORE 1990 IT CAN CONTAIN DANGEROUS ASBESTOS

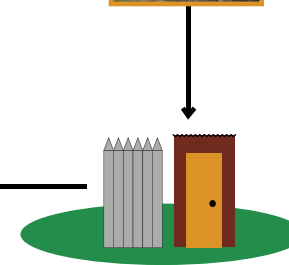


FIND OUT WHERE ASBESTOS MIGHT BE - 4 COMMON PLACES ARE:

1 EXTERIOR
roof sheeting, gutters, downpipes, ridge capping, eaves, cladding, electrical switchboards



2 BACKYARD
fences, sheds, garages, carports, buried or dumped waste



4 WET AREAS - BATHROOM, LAUNDRY AND KITCHEN
wall and ceiling panels, vinyl floor tiles, backing for wall tiles and splashbacks, hot water pipe insulation



3 INTERNAL AREAS
wall and ceiling panels, carpet underlay, insulation in domestic heaters



ASBESTOS MATERIALS BECOME DANGEROUS WHEN



BROKEN OR IN POOR CONDITION



DAMAGED ACCIDENTALLY



DISTURBED DURING RENOVATION OR REPAIRS



1. CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL

OR

2. VISIT A GOVERNMENT WEBSITE

asbestos safety



Cutting, grinding or polishing?



Silica dust can be toxic from the first cut.

Don't risk it.

Protect the lives of your employees and yourself.

Learn more at [worksafe.vic.gov.au](https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au)



Reducing workplace harm.



ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency – SYDNEY

May 18th, 19th & 20th saw people in the asbestos arena getting together to talk all things asbestos.

Our organisation ACV/GARDS has attended every single conference since ASEA was formed. It has been a journey of learning and collaboration all these years and each year we see real progress. This year, the event, co-hosted by Blue Mountains City Council with the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA), attracted participants from councils across Australia as well as state and federal government agencies, safety industry and support and advocacy groups from all parts of Australia.

International delegates from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Indonesia also attended. There were some 370 delegates represented in person and virtually.

Amongst those attending was the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Task Force who were asked to speak at the conference on what the LV Asbestos Task Force has been doing over the past 3 of its 4-year funding. Vicki Hamilton represented Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS Inc., Rob Antonic represented Baw Baw Shire, along with Perdita Dickson from WorkSafe Victoria and Senior Program Manager Kate Carmichael for the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Task Force. This team represented its 17 members of the Task Force to give examples of our learnings and show participants some of the ways the Task Force has been investigating and changing the way people view asbestos disease, management, obtaining real time data to gain insight into where we need to concentrate our efforts, so the team are hitting their target audience and really getting down to the major issues identified. Kate Carmichael was again on stage in the afternoon of Friday with another panel that was gathered from persons who



are heavily involved in addressing asbestos issues and those on the panel were asked questions on a broad field of issues and what they saw as important steps forward from here.

The main two-day conference brought together a diverse range of stakeholders to tackle the complex and multifaceted issues that asbestos creates in all communities.

Collaboration between those working on the front line, dealing with asbestos related issues day to day, with those who shape the policies, laws, and practices within the asbestos safety management space, and those who are dealing with the sufferers and their families and the general public on issues every day. All of this is essential to ensuring the

system can effectively deal with Australia's asbestos legacy, ASEA Chief Executive Officer Justine Ross was very pleased to see so many taking a keen interest and involving themselves in the issues that matter.

Justine said, "The 2022 Asbestos Safety and Management Conference facilitated this collaborate approach."

Throughout Australia there are many organisations who are leading the way in creating new initiatives to improve asbestos management within the built and natural environment. This conference gave participants the unique opportunity to learn from these case studies, exchange ideas with peers, and collaborate with others in the industry and community.

Continued next page...



ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE



It was a very well-planned conference, and I am sure anyone who came to the conference were enlightened to new ideas and initiatives as well as making connections to others that they may not have known existed in this space. ACV/GARDS caught up with many whom they have not seen since before COVID and renewed our friendships with our friends in Lao, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia. It was wonderful catching up

Some of the pics here show our new ASEA council members – along with friends from across the seas – support groups and panel members



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESULTS

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS Inc conducted its AGM Saturday the 29th January 2022 -at the ACV/GARDS office

Those elected to positions were:

President – Dorothy Roberts

Treasurer – David Fairbairn

Committee Member – Ray Whittaker

Jamie Coltman was elected as Auditor for 2021/22

Congratulations to all who were returned on the committee thank you for your past endeavours and we look forward to the good work continuing for the next financial year

Gippsland Trades and Labour Council Labour Day Dinner



ACV/GARDS members were lucky to be sponsored by GTLC to attend their annual dinner – this is the first one since COVID hit and it was really nice to be face to face with people enjoying a chat and meal and listening to some very great speakers. Our members were thrilled to be there and enjoyed the banter with others at the dinner. During the evening Frank Murtagh was awarded the John Parker Award by Steve Murphy the National Secretary of the AMWU. All in all, a great night We thank all for inviting us along.

ASBESTOS
CAN CAUSE CANCER
AND OTHER DISEASES

Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

Australian Government
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Renting a home
built before
1990?

RENT

THINK TWICE
ABOUT ASBESTOS

Hak's Story

Scleroderma Linked to Silica Dust

For 27-year-old Hak Kim, his diagnosis of scleroderma induced by his occupational exposure to dust containing silica has left him fighting for his life.

Scleroderma also known as systemic sclerosis is an autoimmune condition affecting the skin, connective tissue, and organs, including the lungs. The rare condition affects an estimated 2.5 million individuals worldwide and has been linked to exposures to dust containing silica.

As a former asbestos removalist and soft demolition labourer, Hak's employer imposed rigid safety measures in preventing his exposure to asbestos dust but failed to recognise the risks of silica dust to Hak's health.

While performing soft demolition work, Hak was exposed to dust containing silica arising from the demolition and removal of silica containing building materials including concrete, brick and tiles while working in enclosed spaces and in proximity to other workers demolishing concrete and masonry structures. He was not made aware of the hazards of silica dust and without adequate measures to ensure his safety, his exposure to and inhalation of the deadly dust caused irreversible damage to his health.

Hak's condition of scleroderma became apparent in 2018, having developed Reynaud's phenomenon with discolouration and skin thickening on his hands, forearms, skin, torso, and face. Pulmonary symptoms related to his condition developed in early 2020, affecting his lungs and heart, and in 2021, he was placed on a lung transplant waiting list under the care of Alfred Hospital.

**Maurice
Blackburn
Lawyers**
Since 1919

Hak's future remains uncertain, and he faces physical and psychological challenges on a daily basis. He is no longer able to work or play soccer, a sport he once enjoyed, and quite often battles to breathe. Features of everyday life which most people take for granted are a challenge, with Hak's partner and family having to aid him with activities of daily living including dressing and showering. Like many other couples, Hak and his partner also hope that they can experience the joys of rearing their own children and have elected to undergo IVF treatment given Hak's medication can impact his fertility.

Hak hopes for a brighter future and that his own life story will create greater awareness about the hazards of silica dust, prompting urgent action to protect workers.

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers

Through Maurice Blackburn, Hak successfully pursued compensation against his former employer for failing to provide him with a safe system of work, exposing him to dust containing silica. He was compensated for his loss of earnings, medical and life expenses and pain and suffering. While the compensation will not restore Hak's health, it will provide him with financial security for him and his family.

Occupational Exposure to Silica

Occupational exposure to silica, a widely



abundant mineral compound, has become one of the most common and serious hazards for various occupations including construction and demolition workers, stonemasons, and sandblasters. These workers are at risk of developing lung conditions including silicosis, chronic bronchitis, lung cancer, emphysema, and diffuse dust fibrosis.

If you or someone you know has been exposed to silica dust or been diagnosed with a silica related condition, please contact Maurice Blackburn Lawyers on 1800 810 812.

You can also document your exposure on

Maurice Blackburn's register in case you develop a silica-related lung condition. To register your exposure, please visit Maurice Blackburn's website.

Written by Anita Arian

Associate – Maurice Blackburn

University of Michigan Scleroderma Program. What is Scleroderma? Available at:

<https://www.uofmhealth.org/conditions-treatments/rheumatology/what-scleroderma>

Dust containing crystalline silica What is crystalline silica?

Crystalline silica is a natural mineral found in construction materials.

The amount of crystalline silica in products can vary.

Examples include:

- Material Amount of crystalline silica (quartz)
- Engineered stone Up to 95 per cent
- Sandstone 70–90 per cent
- Concrete, mortar 25–70 per cent

- Brick Up to 30 per cent
- Granite 20–45 per cent
- Fibre cement sheets 10–30 per cent
- Demolition dust 3–4 per cent
- Marble 2 per cent
- Quarry workers ??

If you're not sure if a product contains crystalline silica, check the safety data sheet (SDS). If you work in a quarry or in

site offices at a quarry and are unsure of your health risks – ask

What are the risks?

Inhaling respirable crystalline silica can lead to the onset of silicosis, which is a serious and irreversible lung disease that can be fatal. Silicosis is generally found in people with high regular exposure to respirable crystalline silica over a long period of time however even high exposure over a short period has been

known to lead to silicosis. For this reason, it's incredibly important that a worker's respiratory health is monitored among individuals who are exposed to silica through their work.

Trusted sites for information:

www.worksafe.vic.gov.au -

www.gards.org

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/silica>

Silica dust can be toxic from the first cut.

Protect the lives of your employees and yourself.



Use tools with water suppression



Wear a fit for purpose respirator



Use on tool extraction



Carry out air monitoring



Ensure annual health checks

Learn more at [worksafe.vic.gov.au](https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au)



Reducing workplace harm.



International Workers' Memorial Day



IWMD is always an emotional event and certainly it was again this year especially as we have not been able to gather for the last 3 years.

We were very privileged to have some very strong speakers who told of workers experiences with poor OH&S and those who spoke about changing the system to always keep trying to improve OH&S. The families that came along felt supported and had a good sense of that they had not been forgotten. Asbestos and Silica were mentioned as diseases that should not be in our workplaces but asbestos stills manages to put lives at risk with poor work practices by some and Silica

dust seems to be still quite prominent in our work places amongst those in the tile and concrete cutting industry as well as those fit for purpose fake marble bench tops which seem to still be putting lives at risk even though strict guidelines were put in place only a few years ago. Of, course we cannot forget all those others who die in tragic workplace accidents and some who develop mental anguish or lose a limb. The three leading causes of work-related injuries treated in an emergency department were contact with objects and equipment, overexertion and bodily reaction, and falls, slips and trips without a fall. Also, others in the top list are: Being Struck by Or Caught in Moving Machinery. ...Vehicle Related Accidents. ...Fire

And Explosions. ...Repetitive Stress and Overexertion Injuries.

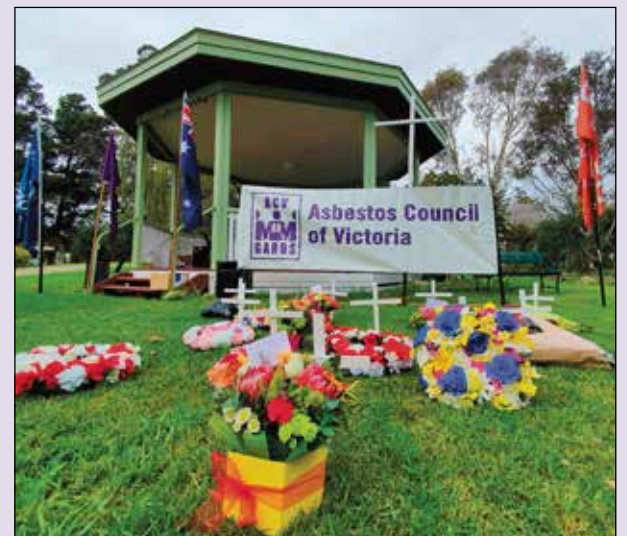
We want to thank the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council, for supplying the BBQ and meat on the day and for helping to set up marquees and pack them up the guys did a great job – to Delta Group for sponsoring the park entry and some of the food provided on the day it was greatly appreciated

Our speakers who contributed their thoughts at the event were: Perdita Dickson - Manager, Occupational Health and Operational Programs, Prevention, Strategy & Planning Division WorkSafe Victoria – John Webb – Union organiser and member of Gippsland Trades and Labour Council - Tessa Dickie Lawyer from

Gordon Legal - Leah O'Keefe Lawyer from Maurice Blackburn.

Reverend Marilyn Obersby who conducted our ecumenical service – to our musicians Susan Parrish and David Wakefield from In Harmony and our Scottish bagpiper Richard Harris -this all added to the event to remember those we have lost and those who are suffering and the families and communities that are affected by these very preventable disasters that change people's lives. We look forward to seeing you again next year.





ASBESTOS LURKS



Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

TAFE Gippsland – Newborough Campus

On the 23rd of June we were lucky to meet a group of apprentice Painter & Decorators – this group was switched on to the messages we were sending about its okay to ask, “is it asbestos?”

We discussed situations of coming across asbestos in unknown places and what to do if they are there to paint over some asbestos sheeting. While we were discussing asbestos we also talked about where you might find it and what some of it may look like.

We also discussed silica and about man made stone with over 90% silica rock mixed into a polymer and coloured to what shade and pattern the buyer wants. The group looked at our samples and asked some very deep questions about the subjects.

Painting and Decorating

It was good to hear from one of the students who informed us their older brother probably saved their life – the brother stopped him from pulling up some old carpet in room they were about to paint and he told him old underlay could contain asbestos and to just look in the corner and see what the underlay was and it turned out to be the hessian backed underlay that his older brother had been taught in one of the ACV/GARDS asbestos awareness sessions 5 or 6 years ago.

So, we were very pleased to hear this. Thank you to Davin Nicholas for arranging this session with his class.



ACV/GARDS would like to thank

Jane McDermott and Karen Richards

for donating to our organisation.



Thank you for helping us to look after Asbestos and Silica sufferers.

Foster Probus Asbestos and Silica Aware

On the 3rd of July we took a drive over to the coast to visit 25 Probus people who welcomed us with open arms. Thank you to Helen Soderlund for organising this session.

They were a great bunch of enthusiastic people who enjoyed what we had to show them and to explain what is happening with asbestos and silica in the State of Victoria. Tanya and I were taken out to lunch afterwards where we talked about experiences with asbestos that people in the group had encountered. It is always great to meet people and terrific when they ask questions. We learn as much about what has happened in the past as they do from us as we are



trying to change the landscape around this very deadly carcinogen. Some really great stories of people’s experiences

with asbestos and how it had affected some with the loss of a partner. Thank you for an enjoyable day.

THINK YOU COULD HAVE **ASBESTOS** ON YOUR FARM?



NEW TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL

SEEK ADVICE FROM YOUR TAX PROFESSIONAL

NOW MORE THAN EVER WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ACV/GARDS MEMBERSHIP FEES?

All fees are due and payable 30th September of each year

The fees are: \$5 for concession & \$15 for employed persons - Joining fee remains the same at \$5

ACV/GARDS membership fees only cover some of the cost associated with being a member of the organisation – it does help us to send out information to you & keep you informed, but we cannot send out personal reminders of fees due as this adds too much to our costs. We thank all those who support us by being a member as this gives us strength and unity to fight for those things in life that our sufferers and their families need and want. Thank you to those members who pay 2 & 3 years in advance, your gesture is greatly appreciated – You can make payment in many different ways – you can go to our GiveNow link on our web site, or you can pay it through our PayPal link – you can visit the office and pay in cash or by our square reader with your credit card or you can send us cheque or Direct Debit. Please take the time to support us as without you we cannot support others in need.

MEETING DATES

INCORPORATING OUR ASBESTOS/SILICA SUPPORT GROUPS IN GIPPSLAND & METRO

ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETING – OPERATIONAL/BUSINESS FOR 2022

GIPPSLAND - MOE

Third Tuesday of the month -
7.30pm to 9.30pm

Meetings are held at ACV/GARDS Premises 211 Lloyd Street, Moe

Meetings are face to face – but if you would like to join by phone that can be arranged

- Tuesday 16th August
- Tuesday 20th September
- Tuesday 18th October
- Tuesday 15th November
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP TBA

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR 2022

METRO - CHADSTONE

2nd Monday of the month -
1.30pm to 3.30pm

Meetings are held at Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre
34 Amaroo Street, Chadstone

If you wish to attend our support meetings at the centre contact Maitea Lovric- 0481987953 or Vicki 0407274173

- Monday 8th August
- Monday 12th September
- Monday 10th October
- Monday 14th November
- TBA NOV – Asbestos Awareness Day, TBA
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP TBA

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR 2022

GIPPSLAND - MOE

Last Tuesday of the month -
1.30pm to 3.30pm

Meetings are held at our premises
211 Lloyd Street Moe

Please note – We can conduct zoom or skype meetings for individuals wishing to connect virtually. Please contact our office for the link if anyone from Metro Melbourne or Gippsland would like to join for a chat.

- Tuesday 26th July
- Tuesday 30th August
- Tuesday 27th September
- Tuesday 25th October
- Friday 25th November - Asbestos Awareness Day, TBA
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP TBA

LOY YANG B POWER STATION GENEROUS DONATION

ACV/GARDS committee and members would like to thank all at Loy Yang B power station for sponsoring our org to purchase a Defibrillator for our office.

We were thrilled to get the news that a grant application we put in to purchase one of these units had been successful. We are at this present moment organising the purchase. This is really something the organisation had

wanted to get for a while but did not have the funds to purchase. This could be a game changer for anyone in our org that visits and may need lifesaving equipment or even in our area where we are situated that may need lifesaving equipment. So, again thank you for being so generous in granting us this sponsorship money. We will put a plaque beside it to say who donated it to us for all to see.

Loy Yang B Power Station

Powering  alintaenergy

ASBESTOS LURKS



Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

Australian Government
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Leasing your investment property

built before
1990?

You may have obligations regarding asbestos safety and disclosure. Asbestos testing and removal may be tax deductible.

THINK TWICE
ABOUT ASBESTOS

Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous companies – thank you to Sam Erbs and all the team at Mairin OHS&E Consulting – Moe – We thank you for your continued support – Steve Day and all the team at Latrobe Plumbing and Asbestos thank you for your support

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

- Mark Waltham, ■ Thea Robinson,
- Lorraine Fairbairn, ■ Jack Fawcett,
- Wayne Young, ■ Ann & Chris Clegg,
- Robert Rawlings, ■ Simon Stretton,
- Dianne Nicklen, ■ Paul Firth, ■ Maree Hall,
- Colleen Maxwell, ■ John Maxwell,
- Chris Healy, ■ Malcolm Fabiny

Donations made in Memory of - Peter Gunn

- Vivien Gunn

Donations made in Memory of - Tony Medina

- Maitea Medina and family

Donations made in Memory of - Ken West

- Jane West

Donations made in Memory of - Walter Wilkins

- Jane West

Thank you to Delta Group for your donation to us – it was really appreciated

A big thank you to Maitea Lovric for her donation to our org

Thank you so much to Peter Clark and Lee Archer for their generous donation

Thank you to Ian McEwan for his donation to ACV/GARDS

Phillip Edwards thank you so much for your donation

Gippsland Trades & Labour Council
Big thank you to GTLC for their donation to our org it is very much appreciated

THANK YOU!

Donations made in Memory of - Kenneth Edebohls

- Glenda Edebohls

Donations made in Memory of - Barney Evans

- Jean Evans

Donations made in Memory of - John Jackson

- Doreen Jackson

Donations made in Memory of - Ted Kukula

- Eugene Bole, ■ M & K Cristofaro,
- Zofia Felton, ■ Andrew Gasz,
- Czeslaw Szpakolski, ■ Anton Szpakolski

Donations made in Memory of - David Magnuson

- G&B Mitchell, ■ Anonymous \$5,
- Anonymous \$90, ■ Helen Gliddon,
- Anonymous \$50, ■ Anonymous \$20,
- Anonymous \$50, ■ Lauren & Michael Bauer,
- Denise Jones & Maureen McLeod

Donations made in Memory of - Bruce Smith

- Marie Smith

Donations made in Memory of - Ray Rowley

- Glenda Rowley

Donations made in Memory of - Garry Dunn

- Rhonda Dunn

Donations made in Memory of - Garry Scott

- from the Clifton Springs Community Men's Shed

Donations made in Memory of - Con Fenech

- Sharyn Fenech and family

ACV/GARDS would like to thank Marlene Cameron for two fundraisers over the last 6 months she has organized, and she has donated some of the money from the two fundraisers to us – such a wonderful thing to do – so thoughtful

A big thank you to Marie Smith for her generous donation to our org

Big thank you to Michael Hutchinson and family for your wonderful donation

A big thank you to the Clifton Springs Community Men's Shed

A big thank you to Justin Griffin from AWE Legal for his generous donation

A big thank you to the Paynesville Neighbourhood Centre who are helping Jarni and the family – we are thrilled that you could support the family – great bunch of volunteers

A big thank you to Sharyn Fenech and family for their wonderful donation

Thank you so much to Jean Evans for her donation to ACV/GARDS

A big thank you to Doreen Jackson for her donation

A big thank you to the Paynesville Lions club who are helping Jarni and the family – we are thrilled that you could support the family – great bunch of volunteers

Donations made in Memory of - Jim Sargeant

- Mary and Liam Rossney

Donations made in Memory of - Peter Fenech

- Sharyn Fenech and family

Palliative Care Fundraising
On the closing of this organisation, we were donated some of the funds from the wind-up of this org – we thank the volunteers of this org very much for all their hard work over the years – you will all be sadly missed



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 Initial Fee of: **\$5.00**

PLUS Concession or Full Rate below in first year – each year after only annual fee

ACV/GARDS Annual Subscription 20 _____

1. Concession (Pensioner/unemployed) **\$5.00**

2. Full Rate (employed) **\$15.00**

All membership prices include GST

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
Mobile 0407 274 174

Vice President:

Maree Phillips
Mobile 0458 565 726

CEO/Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton OAM
Mobile 0407 274 173

Treasurer:

David Fairbairn
Mobile 0403 319 520

Member:

Sharyn Fenech
Mobile 0423 587 363

Ray Whittaker
Mobile 0427 801 292

ACV/GARDS Fees

Joining Fee: **\$5.00**

Annual Fees:

Pensioner/Concession

Unemployed **\$5.00**

Employed persons **\$15.00**

Meetings

Operations at this present time

GIPPSLAND - MOE

SUPPORT:

Last Tuesday of month,
1.30pm - 3.30pm

211 Lloyd St, Moe

All meetings are face to face at our office

METRO - CHADSTONE

SUPPORT:

2nd Monday of month,
1.30pm - 3.30pm

**Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre -
34 Amaroo St, Chadstone**

Contact Maitea Lovric or
Vicki Hamilton – all meetings are
face to face

ORGANISATIONAL/OPERATIONAL

EVENING:

3rd Tuesday of month,
7.30pm - 9.30pm

211 Lloyd St, Moe

By telephone conferencing and
face to face

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday
10am - 4pm

Friday - By appointment

**Our support group
Facilitator Maitea Lovric, who
conducts our ACV/GARDS
Metro support group can be
contacted by mobile #
0481987953**

Up and coming events 2022

**Our aspiration is to conduct 2 x Asbestos Awareness Day
events this year in 2022: one in Gippsland and one
in Metro Melb – venues and dates to be confirmed
later in year**

Have you paid your ACV/GARDS Membership Fees



All fees are due and payable

30th September of each year

**The fees are: \$5 for concession & \$15
for employed persons - Joining fee
remains the same at \$5**



We are situated at:
211 Lloyd Street, Moe
Victoria Australia
PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825

Online donations
<http://www.givenow.com.au/gards>


Phone:
03 5127 7744 24/7

Mobile:
0407 274 173

Website:
www.gards.org

SKYPE:
VickiGARDS

 Find us on Facebook
[facebook.com/gardsinc](https://www.facebook.com/gardsinc)

 Follow us on Twitter
[twitter.com/@ACV_GARDS](https://twitter.com/ACV_GARDS)

ACV/GARDS INC. SUPPORT

ACV/GARDS provides support and information to asbestos & silica sufferers, their families, and carers. This includes 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 2x monthly meeting (1.30pm – 3.30pm) one on the last Tuesday of the month in Gippsland at 211 Lloyd Street, Moe & one on the 2nd Monday of the month at Chadstone – Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre – 34 Amaroo St, Chadstone) 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 or silica, their families, and the public.

ACV/GARDS loans out free of charge to asbestos & silica sufferer's members – (Gippsland only) - oxygen bottle regulators, conserving devices, oxygen home concentrators wheelchairs, oxygen bottle carriers, nebuliser, walking frames & walking sticks, shower & toilet chairs.

We also have an extensive library of books, DVDs and CDs on asbestos & silica 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 or silica related diseases and their family members. If preferred telephone counselling can be arranged.

ACV/GARDS INC. ORGANISATIONAL/ OPERATIONAL 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 at our office.

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 & silica sufferers, their families, and the public. Thus, ensuring asbestos & silica related issues are kept in the public eye and trying to rid our built environment of these carcinogens



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



Major Sponsor



Mairin OHS&E Consulting



Since 1919



Queensland Asbestos Audits