



ASBESTOS

NEWS

INCORPORATING SILICA

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VOLUME 26 JULY 2026 ISSUE 1

ASBESTOS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA - GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.
GARDS INC. is endorsed as a charity. Donations of \$2.00 & over are tax deductible.

What does asbestos lurk behind ? Do you know where ?



Asbestos hides in old roofs, eaves and sheds.



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CAN KILL

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MAKE A DONATION
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



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 X
twitter.com/Vicki_Hamilton@ACV_GARDS



Treasury and Finance



Do you know what contains silica?

Crystalline silica is a common, naturally occurring mineral found in most rocks and soils.



Respirable crystalline silica (RCS) is generated when crystalline silica products are subject to mechanical processing.

RCS particles are typically **100 times smaller** than a grain of beach sand.



Exposure to RCS can cause serious lung disease leading to **permanent disability and death**.

A 2022 study estimated

584,000

Australian workers are exposed to RCS



This exposure is expected to result in up to

103,000

silicosis cases &

10,000

lung cancers



Globally, silicosis accounts for

90%

of all **pneumoconiosis** cases and is a serious public health issue.

Silica-related diseases are preventable.



Effective controls

All Australian workplaces must follow work health and safety laws. These can vary between states and territories although the duty of care for employers and workers across Australia is similar.

Employers are required to ensure the health and safety of their workers and others at their workplace.

Employers have a duty to control the risks associated with work.

Workers must take reasonable care of their own health and safety, must not negatively affect the health and safety of other people and follow any reasonable instruction and workplace health and safety policies.

To follow work health and safety laws, employers should eliminate or reduce exposure to hazards by following the risk management process. If suitable control measures are not in place, anyone working around silica dust has an increased risk of developing lung cancer. Workers should always be involved in the process.

The occupations with the greatest exposure include:

• miners • construction workers • farmers • engineers

You may be exposed to silica dust if your work involves:

• breaking, crushing, grinding or milling material containing silica dust

• sand blasting or casting

• paving, surfacing or cement finishing

• bricklaying

• demolition work

• road construction

• stone masonry

• mineral ore-treating processes

• manufacture of glass, ceramics, brick, concrete, tile, metals or machinery

Monash 1st Year Medical Students Bios — placement at ACV/GARDS

Hi. My name is Khushi Patel

I grew up in India and then migrated alongside my parents to Australia when I was only 8. Being able to move countries and start a new life here in Australia has been very eye opening for both my family and me. On a daily basis we got to see both the wonders the community had to offer and the hardships that people faced - especially with their health.

Whenever as a child I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, the first thought that came to my mind was an astronaut (the spaceship called my name)! However, that wasn't the path destined for me. Later down the track I got involved in numerous council and community volunteering projects, where I got to work with the wonderful community

I call home. I realised firsthand that dedicating my skills and energy to the people here means

more than exploring planets - maybe! My parents continue to inspire me to lend a helping hand and be vocal about injustices; always aiming to make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Medicine for me in a way is as cool as exploring planets and understanding the ways that our wonderful body works to keep us going. Hence, I chose to complete a Bachelor of Biomedical Science as my undergraduate degree and now I am just a few months into post-graduate medicine at Monash University. I am really interested in neurology and cardiology.

Moving to Gippsland to start my medical degree has been a wonderful experience so far. Whilst it wasn't easy moving out of home for the first time, the nature, the warmth of a loving community, and of course the beloved animals makes me feel grounded and connected once again. Apart from Medicine, I enjoy going on hikes, chasing waterfalls and

gardening whenever I can and can't wait to explore the wonderful Gippsland during this year. A personal goal of mine is to have my own vegetable garden in the future and grow the biggest pumpkin!

I jumped at the opportunity to start the long journey of medical school and become a doctor. Knowing that one day everything I learn, not just academically, but also the experiences I will gain along the way, will help someone see another day in this beautiful world. The experience of doing my community placement at GARDS has been very enriching and eye-opening. Vicki's passion for making a change in her community and beyond has really inspired me to learn about how such a tiny particle can have debilitating impacts on an individual's life. And as a future doctor, it is our responsibility to understand such medical conditions and help people mitigate the impacts of this condition. I look forward



to continuing to raise awareness and being an active voice in preventing such conditions from affecting our community.

Hi. My name is Elbetel Tesfaye

I am currently a first-year medical student at Monash University. Before entering medicine, I completed a double degree in Biomedical Science and Commerce, majoring in Finance. That pathway allowed me to explore two areas that have both shaped how I think: the scientific foundations of human health and the broader financial and structural systems that influence people's lives. Through Biomedical Science, I developed a strong understanding of physiology, disease processes, and research, while Commerce gave me a different but equally valuable lens through which to approach problems, one grounded in analysis, strategy, and decision-making.

Alongside my studies, I had the opportunity to intern at PwC and ANZ, experiences that played an important role in my development before medicine. At PwC, I worked within the Reward team alongside the Mergers and

Acquisitions and Deals division, where I was exposed to complex business problems and the importance of careful, data-informed thinking.

That experience helped me build confidence in working collaboratively, communicating clearly, and approaching challenges in a structured way. My time at ANZ further broadened my understanding of large organisations and the financial sector, while strengthening skills in professionalism, teamwork, and strategic thinking.

Although these experiences were in finance and business, they continue to shape the way I approach medicine. They gave me a greater appreciation for the fact that healthcare does not operate in isolation. Patient outcomes are influenced not only by clinical care, but also by systems, access, funding, leadership, and the way decisions are made behind the scenes. Because of this, I have become increasingly interested in the intersection between medicine and the wider structures that support it.

I value the opportunity to think both at the individual level and at the systems level, and I hope that this perspective will allow me to contribute meaningfully in the future.

Beyond academics, I have also been actively involved in student leadership and university communities. Through these roles, I have contributed to initiatives focused on student engagement, inclusion, and creating supportive environments for others. These experiences have helped me grow in confidence, communication, and leadership, and have reinforced the importance of empathy, collaboration, and service.

As I begin my journey in medicine, I carry with me a background that may seem unconventional, but one that I see as a strength. My experiences across biomedical science, finance, and professional internships have each contributed to the person I am becoming. I am excited by the opportunity to learn, grow, and eventually contribute not only to patient care, but also to the broader



healthcare system in a way that creates meaningful and lasting impact. Thank you.

Profile Emma Sadler

at Asbestos & Silica Safety Eradication Agency (ASSEA)

I have worked at the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) for almost four years as Assistant Director, Secretariat, and I have learned a great deal during that time. In this role, I have supported our advisory committees and the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council.

Coming from a similar role at Safe Work Australia, where I worked for eight years, allowed me to hit the ground running when I joined ASSEA and gave me a strong foundation in asbestos and silica-related matters.

Over the last 20 years, I have also provided secretariat support at the Murray-Darling Basin Authority

and DonateLife Australia—agencies that make an incredible difference and that I have been proud to contribute to in helping improve the lives of Australians.

While a secretariat role may sound fairly straightforward putting together agendas, coordinating papers and taking minutes—it has given me a valuable opportunity to hear about the issues facing a wide range of stakeholders, including government at all levels, industry, employees, employers and support groups.

This is probably what I enjoy most about my job: it is not often you have the chance to listen to and connect with such a broad range of stakeholders and gain

insight into what is happening at every level.

As with any job, there are challenges—I am known as the person who is always following things up—but I would not change it for anything, and I have found that a little chocolate can work wonders when something is needed quickly. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time in the garden, collecting recipe books that I rarely cook from, and being with my family, including my bossy boy, Oscar.



Profile

Natasha Woods

at Asbestos & Silica Safety Eradication Agency (ASSEA)

Tash Woods is a proud Gamilaraay / Gomeroi woman of the Gomeroi Nation in the northwest region of New South Wales through her mother's family, with strong cultural connections to the Ngarrindjeri Nation along the southeast coast of South Australia through her father's family. She carries her culture with pride and is deeply committed to honouring her heritage, caring for Country, and supporting her community.

Since October 2022, Tash has been part of the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency, where she began her career as a cadet through the Indigenous Australian Government Development Program. During this time, she has gained broad experience working across multiple teams, contributing to project work and administrative support. Tash values being part of an organisation that prioritises protecting people's health and improving the environment—principles that closely align with her own beliefs about caring for people and land.

With a background in childcare, Tash has always been passionate about supporting and empowering others. She believes that encouragement and

kindness are essential, not only for children but for adults as well. She is a strong advocate for self-improvement and maintaining a positive mindset, living by the belief that every day presents an opportunity to learn and grow.

Tash was raised with strong values passed down by her parents, including the importance of integrity, respect, and kindness. She lives by the principle that "one wrong doesn't make a right" and continues to treat others with the same respect and care she hopes to receive. Guided by her belief in karma, she strives to do good for others, knowing that positivity has a way of coming back.

Outside of her professional life, Tash enjoys spending time outdoors,

connecting with nature, and making meaningful memories with family and friends. She has a natural ability to bring joy to those around her, often sharing a laugh or a funny story, as she firmly believes that laughter is one of life's best remedies.

Grounded in culture, driven by purpose, and guided by kindness, Tash will always remind you to "keep your head up" and to look for the silver lining.

Funny Truth Telling Story

The Time the Crocodile Was ACTUALLY Real

When I was younger, I went on a school camping trip.

We stayed in tents at a caravan park right by a river... and along that river was this big, barbed wire fence.

Now I remember looking at it thinking, "Hmm... that's a bit suspicious... what are we keeping out?" —or

worse—what are we keeping in?! Well... I found out that night.

And the boys are laughing like, "Relax, it's just a joke!" Very funny... at the time.

Fast forward to the next morning. We're all packing up, nice and early. I walk out of my tent with my stuff, half asleep... take a few steps... look over.....and I FREEZE.

Because standing there... right next to the SAME girls' tent... IS A MASSIVE CROCODILE.

I sit down, out of breath, and say, "Yeah... we're going nowhere fast."

Suddenly everyone has the same idea—people are sprinting to the bus like it's the last lifeboat on earth.

We all pile in, doors shut, and we sit there... watching... while professionals come to deal with this crocodile. And those girls? Not laughing anymore.

Moral of the story:

Sometimes the joke... comes back bigger, scarier... and with teeth.

"Laughing is good to do. I hope you like my truth telling story. With this in mind, although each day may not always be perfect, however, every day still has purpose. I hope you continue enjoying your day and do your best to keep your head up!" **Tash.**



Asbestos hides in more homes than you think.



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CAN KILL

asbestossafety.gov.au

GTLC - May Day Dinner



1/5 - saw the ACV/GARDS team at the GTLC May Day dinner at the @morwell RSL guest speaker was Dave Sweeney AM, ICAN Nobel Peace Prize Winner - Hearing from Dimity and Dave from International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was a powerful reminder of everyone's duty when it comes to nuclear - pictured here with our sponsors for the table

were the #mauriceblackburn Lawyers crew and us - plenty of chatter and exchanging information happened around the tables on the night. Congrats to Burt Blackburne for winning the John Parker community activism award on the night - our own Vicki Hamilton won this award a few years ago and it is great to see community activism being recognized.

International Workers Memorial Day

APRIL
2026
29

ACV/GARDS attended the GTLC - International Workers Memorial Day event in Latrobe Valley in the Morwell Rose Garden - a moving tribute to workers of the valley with the main speaker being Tracie Lund talking about her husband Simon.



APRIL
2026

18

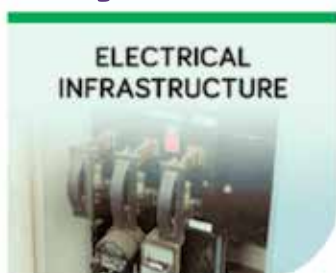
TAFE Gippsland Newborough Campus

18th April #asbestos #Silica
#tafegippsland

Just bringing you up to date. ACV/ GARDS conducted an asbestos & silica awareness session at Newborough campus 18/3 - 30 apprentices - many and varied questions were asked by the apprentices - they are now much more aware - thanks to Joanna McNeill & Jarni Greateorex who both came to enlighten the apprentices with their stories - it is a real privilege to present the session with these two wonderful people who help when they can. Also pictured are our 1st year Medical students from Monash Uni who came along to listen - they are with us for a community placement for a week.



Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency



The Asbestos Product Guide, developed by the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA), provides a visual reference for various types of products with asbestos containing material (ACM) that can still be found in Australia.

It provides images and descriptions of asbestos products, information on when and where they were used, as well as marketed brand and product names where known. Some images are sourced from manufacturer publications

to aid recognition and provide provenance for some products. Updates will occur from time to time, as more images and information become available – you can find the guide at this link <https://products.asbestossafety.gov.au/> or use search bar on ASSEA web site.

asbestos
product
guide

Fundraising For ACV/GARDS Memorial For Asbestos Sufferers

Asbestos and the Latrobe Valley

We used to climb over that [asbestos lagging], it was just like fluff and it used to blow up into the air and we used to throw it at each other and play in it and have a good old time. That was just normal.

Former power station employee

Thousands of people have died of asbestos-related illnesses in the Latrobe Valley since the power industry began. Although the adverse health effects of asbestos were noted as early as 1899 and the lethality of asbestos recognised by governments in Britain and the United States, the dangers of asbestos only became widely-known in Australia in the 1970s.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the SEC was informed of the dangers of exposure to asbestos dust in its power stations but the information was widely disregarded by the authorities. A former SEC

employee at Yallourn power station noted that in the 1960s ‘you could walk into “A” station and you couldn’t see the other end of the boilers.’

Victoria banned the use of asbestos in 2003, but the use of asbestos in the power stations of the Latrobe Valley has contributed to the development of asbestos-related disease in thousands of people. Asbestos-related illnesses have affected not only workers’ families but also the whole community.

ACV/GARDS Memorial Sculpture

This sculpture is designed as a memorial to the people who lost their lives to asbestos-related diseases contracted at power stations in the Latrobe Valley. The sculpture depicts a power worker with his young daughter to recognise that asbestos-related diseases did not, and do not, just impact workers but their whole families too.

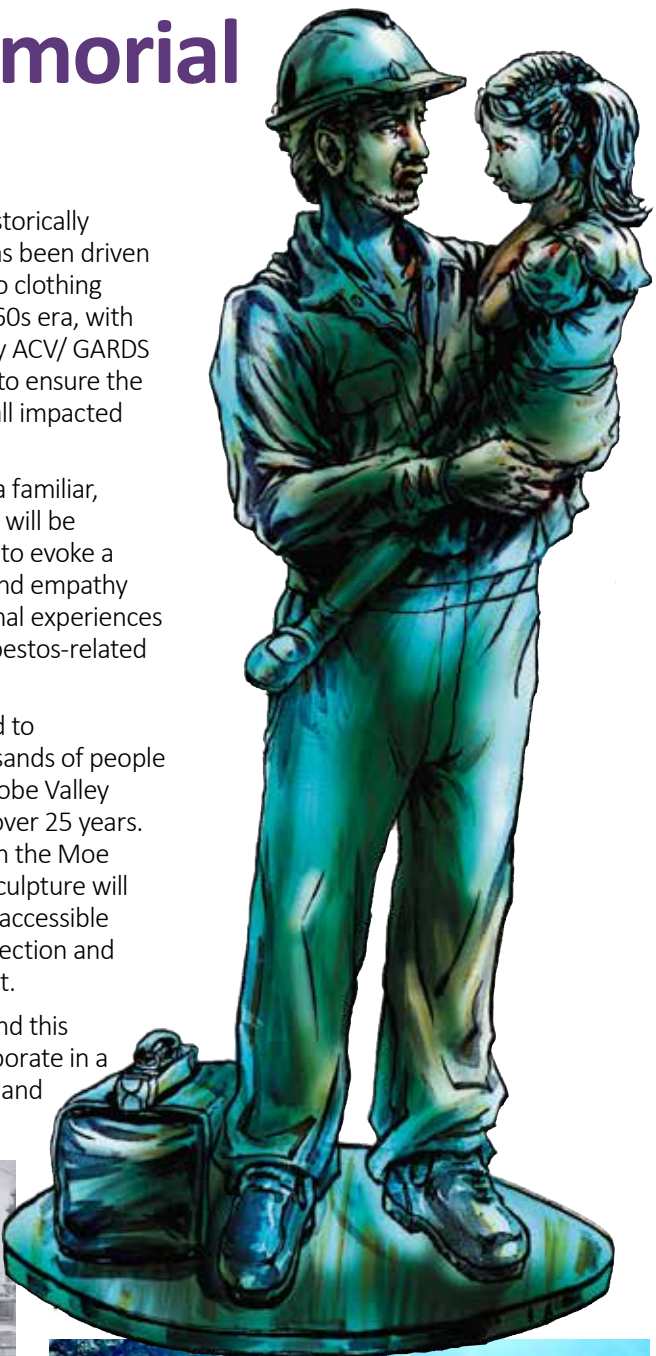
The sculpture uses a contemporary art approach to revitalise narratives of the power stations in a way that

is both respectful and historically accurate. Design work has been driven by historical research into clothing and objects from the 1960s era, with styles carefully chosen by ACV/ GARDS to reflect the 1920s-80s to ensure the sculpture is relatable to all impacted families.

The man and child have a familiar, unimposing stance. They will be produced at 1:1.15 scale to evoke a sense of connection to and empathy with the lived and personal experiences of those impacted by asbestos-related diseases.

ACV/GARDS have wanted to commemorate the thousands of people who died across the Latrobe Valley through a memorial for over 25 years. Proposed to be located in the Moe Botanical Gardens, this sculpture will provide a dedicated and accessible place for community reflection and remembrance at long last.

Here are some pics around this statue that we will incorporate in a mural a long with others and the statue itself.



How you can help

ACV/GARDS has commenced fundraising for this very important memorial in Gippsland to recognize all those who have suffered and passed away from this terrible carcinogen. We are intending to have a mural as part of the sculpture. Which we believe will complement the meaning of why we have created it.

If you would like to help us to get this dream realized for so many families, you can donate to our memorial fund by making a bank transfer to

Bank Australia
BSB 313140
Account # 12542553
Memorial fund

All donations will be recognized on a wall/plaque and you can notify us of your donation by emailing us at enquiries@gards.org or contacting the office on # 0407 274 173 so that we can document your name for the wall/plaque – you can also send us a letter to say you have donated – We already have a construction company who have advised they will be donating the footings of the monument this equates to an in kind donation worth \$40,000 - \$50,000 – we have just over \$21,000 + in the bank in donations.

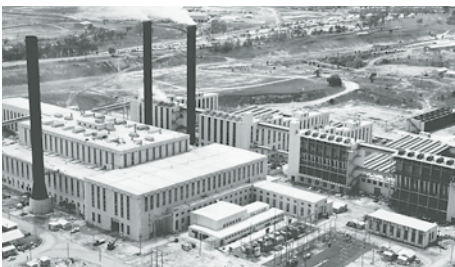
ACV/GARDS rep Vicki Hamilton and members have worked with corporate reps from Latrobe City to pick the best place for the memorial site to secure a home in the gardens



Yallourn Power Station



Hazelwood Power Station



Morwell Power Station



Loy Yang Power Station

Monash University Asbestos & Silica Awareness – 110 - 1ST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS

#asbestos #silica #monashuniversity

ACV/GARDS attended the Gippsland campus of Monash University to deliver a session on asbestos and silica to 110+ 1st Year Medical students - it was a great session and plenty of questions - really lovely to have Jarni come along to talk about her situation and the challenges she has faced. Truly inspiring - Vicki spoke about the org and what it has achieved over the years and how it supports people in Victoria and the projects and issues it is dealing with. Prof Jane Bourke spoke about projects she is involved with about silica and what those projects are trying to achieve - all in all it was wonderful meeting all the students and chatting with them after the tutorial - thanks Prof Shivaughn Hem-Lee-Forsyth for inviting us to address the students on Workplace Health and Safety



Out Now - Guidelines and Recommendations for the Management of Pleural Mesothelioma in Australia



ADDRI Meso Hour

Meso Hour is a free monthly online webinar series for people affected by mesothelioma, their families, carers, and health professionals.

Led by Jennifer Coles – Clinical Nurse Consultant, each monthly *Meso Hour* features an expert speaker covering a range of topics related to mesothelioma care, treatment, research, and support.

If you would like to read more about Meso Hour or register for the next available session, please click [here](#).

Meso Hour is an initiative of the Commonwealth Mesothelioma Alliance, made possible by the Biaggio Signorelli Foundation.



#asbestos #Addri

Great news the new Guidelines and recommendations for the management of pleural mesothelioma in Australia have just been released and you can view them at this link below - congratulations to all those who

were on the guidelines committee a great achievement - thank you to Prof Sonja Klebe and A/Prof Anthony Linton

<https://addri.org.au/.../guidelines-and-recommendations.../>



MARCH
2026
2-4

ASSEA & FAMANZ Conference Sydney 2026

2nd- 4th March saw the ACV/GARDS reps Vicki and Tanya attended The Faculty of Asbestos Management of Australia and New Zealand (FAMANZ) and the Asbestos and Silica Safety Eradication Agency (ASSEA) co-hosted the ASBESTOS 2026 Scientific Conference in Sydney, Australia. FAMANZ: The Faculty of Asbestos Management of Australia and New Zealand serves as the professional home for occupational hygienists, environmental consultants, and asbestos removal contractors. You can access their upcoming events and professional resources. ASSEA: The Asbestos and Silica Safety Eradication Agency leads the way in coordinating national strategies to eradicate asbestos-related diseases in Australia and has taken up the awareness of Silica and dust diseases. The event took place at Doltone House Jones Bay Wharf, overlooking Sydney. The event united international researchers, regulators,

and practitioners to address current scientific and regulatory issues in asbestos management, and to push for a cleaner, asbestos-free Asia-Pacific region. It drew attendees and delegates from across Australia, New Zealand, and six Asia-Pacific nations, including government officials and occupational health and safety (OHS) campaigners. Specialized sessions were held, such as the Elongate Mineral Particles (EMP) Risk Assessment Workshop, aimed at public health specialists and scientists involved in mineral fibre risk evaluation.

The key speakers for the event were: Paul Signorelli OAM: Founder and advocate Executive Chairman of the Doltone Hospitality Group. Marie Boland: CEO of Safe Work Australia. Jodie Deakes: CEO of the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA). Brian Eva: FAMANZ Chair. Associate Professor Anthony Linton: Asbestos and

Dust Diseases Research Institute (ADDRI). Carolyn Walsh: NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and National Transport Commission. Frank Ehrenfeld: Eurofins Built Environment Testing. Dr. Laurie Glossop: FAIOH, Maynard Marks. Mark Reggers: COH MAIOH, 3M Australia. Associate Professor Peter Franklin: The University of Western Australia. Rick Van Der Zwan: Facilitator of the ASSEA Technological Innovations Workshop. Andrey Korchevskiy: Specialist in Risk Assessment for Elongate Mineral Particles (EMPs). Jonathan Grant: BOHS FAAM. James Sumner: Safe Work Australia. Julia Collins: ASSEA. So many people from across the spectrum and around the world with various roles to play concerning asbestos. It truly was a great conference so much to offer anyone in this space. We have photos of some of those who attended



Support Group meeting Gippsland with Elbetel

MAY
2026
20

20th of May saw one of our Monash Uni 1st year med students Elbetel who came and worked with us in her community placement - she spent a period of 36 hours to understand the work we do at ACV/GARDS and meet many professionals while she was with us - we invited some of our members to hear about her intended career path into becoming a doctor - lots of questions for her from those who came to meet her - wonderful get together - we wish Elbetel all the best whichever career path she chooses in the medical profession.



MAY
2026
4

New Signage for Office



On the 4th May ACV/GARDS erected new signage at the office along our front fence with warnings about asbestos and silica on them - this was made possible by a Community grant through Latrobe City - these five signs will hopefully alert the public to the dangers of asbestos and silica and keep it in the public eye for years to come - this fence faces McDonalds drive thru so perfect for an audience that we would most likely not get to - thank you Latrobe City for helping us to achieve this goal.

Thank-you

to Dorothy Roberts retiring President

This is a part of a bio gathered together for an award that Dorothy was given by the GTLC for the John Parker Community Activism Award in 2016. I think this gives our readers a good insight into what Dorothy meant to ACV/GARDS and what ACV/GARDS meant to Dorothy. Vicki her daughter saw that Dorothy was struggling after her husband Alan died – Vicki found out that there was a group called GARDS and reluctantly Dorothy went with Vicki to her first GARDS meeting in the late months of the year 2000.

Even though at first she did not want to go – she found friends and support within the group and enjoyed the banter and comradery that the group afforded her.

Her confidence grew and when GARDS became an independent organisation in 2001 Dorothy volunteered to become an ordinary committee member for GARDS.

As she progressed and became more confident so did her roles within the group – she was supporting others who came into the organization looking for someone who had experienced and were experiencing what they were going through – she filled that role.

In the middle of all this Dorothy fulfilled a lifelong dream of Alan's that she should get her driver's licence – with the growing demand on her time with GARDS she needed to get herself

around and be independent of relying on transport from others. Dorothy got her driver's licence at the age of 70 and became one of the oldest at the time to get her licence at the Vicroads office in Morwell – the staff there clapped her when she passed her licence test.

Dorothy has spoken out on contentious issues around asbestos/health/environmental – something that Dorothy had never really ever done in public before. She has attended many many union meetings and protest marches in Melb and had a great relationship with Martin Kingham who was the head of the CMFEU for a time. They were actually on kissing terms instead of shaking hands.

She helped with the day to day running of the office and as the demand for GARDS grew was always there to help with whatever the job – including helping clean the medical

equipment when it came back from a family that had finished using it. All the unsung jobs that no one wanted to do.

She took part in protests when James Hardie was trying to nick off overseas and not pay its compensation that families and sufferers so rightly deserved. She was incensed and stood up for those who were not capable of doing it for themselves. She would do that again if JH decided not to be good corporate citizen. A footnote to this comment is that in 2004 when the JH campaign got going Dorothy

had to overcome her fear of flying and for the first time in her life had to board a plane and go to Sydney. After that initial flight she jumped many planes wherever she needed to be.

She has been a part of health studies to advance the recognition of asbestos disease with Monash & Melb University. She has done speaking engagements to University students and community groups when called on. She helps with social functions and outings for our members.

Has done well in excess of 1000's of hours attending meetings all over the south coast of Australia to do with asbestos – Victoria, NSW, Queensland and SA. Her roles progressed within the committee from Ordinary committee member to Vice President for several years and then onto President of Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS in 2014. She knew every role within the committee and she knew every member of the organisation. She knew the issues around asbestos inside and out. She worked in the office every day of the week and helped out on weekends when the organisation had a site at a home show or health conference or fundraisers at the local pub.

She conducted our monthly meetings and was an important part of all decisions made within the group.

Dorothy protected the organization and its members like a mother lioness protects its cubs.

Even though Dorothy is turning 90 this year she still

keeps in touch with what we are doing – she has been an active member of the Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS for the last 25 years.

Her husband Alan would not recognize her now from the wife and mother she once was to the Asbestos campaigner that she became – but we are all sure that Alan would be very proud of all her achievements and the changes that she has made in the asbestos arena to help save lives and take care of 100s of asbestos sufferers and their families.

Dorothy has now moved on with her life and lives in an aged care facility now – enjoying a totally different life style and being looked after as she turns 90 this year – she still keeps up with what is happening in ACV/GARDS and enjoys

seeing members when they come to visit – what a great life she has had and something to be proud of looking back. The family are so proud of her. Thank you for all you did for ACV/GARDS Dorothy.



Asbestos & Silica Awareness Day Event

MELBOURNE

The event will take place at the Flagstaff Gardens Hotel – 380 William Street Carlton – date: Thursday 12th November Time 11am

There will be morning tea available at approx. 10.30am on arrival and following the event there will be a light lunch served in the restaurant of the Flagstaff Gardens Hotel on the ground floor

Speakers of interest in silica and asbestos will be present to share info and their thoughts and experiences

Ecumenical service conducted by Rev'd Canon Matthew Williams from St James' Old Cathedral, Melbourne West - the ceremony will include an ecumenical service for families who have lost someone or are suffering with asbestos and or silica disease for the laying of flowers

**THE CHOIR OF HARD KNOCKS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE
TO SING AND INSPIRE**

Asbestos & Silica Awareness Day Event

GIPPSLAND

The event will take place at Gippsland Heritage Park, Lloyd Street Moe Friday 27TH November - Time 11am

Speakers of interest in silica and asbestos will be present to share info and their thoughts and experiences

Ecumenical service will be conducted by Rev'd Marilyn Obersby Associate Priest from the Anglican Parish of Traralgon – there will be an ecumenical service for those present with families who have lost someone or who are suffering with either asbestos or silica disease, a time will be made available in the service for the laying of flowers.

There will be a community BBQ at the conclusion of the event cooked by our Moe Lions Club

**THE CHOIR OF HARD KNOCKS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE
TO SING AND INSPIRE**

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS OF ASBESTOS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA/GARDS Inc.

Karen & Brian Healy

February 2026 at our AGM for our org we recognized two valued members of our association. Karen and Brian Healy. They have been members of our association since 2017 and have been actively involved with helping out and volunteering when they could.

Brian and Karen have helped out with numerous speaking engagements, television interviews and been a part of many meetings, they have helped at our events over the years helping to set them up and pack them up. They currently are taking care of our recycle program which has been a fantastic help. We have been extremely lucky to have both of them in our association.

They both have made many donations to us by

way of a portable oxygen concentrator, numerous donations to our memorial fund and many person hours helping with newsletter packing and distribution, helping out with Medical students with intimate chats and learnings for them from personal experience of living with mesothelioma both from the sufferers perspective and the carers perspective – such a wealth of information has been passed onto so many. We have been privileged to have them and we showed that appreciation in making them Life Members.



Profile Laurie Kazan-Allen

After a brief stint reporting on UK legal asbestos developments for US and UK publications, it became very clear to me that asbestos defendant corporations retained a strange-hold on information crucial for UK asbestos victims. To widen accessibility to key documents, in 1990 I founded The British Asbestos Newsletter (BAN); within a relatively short time, it became a vital resource for asbestos activists, claimants and legal professionals.

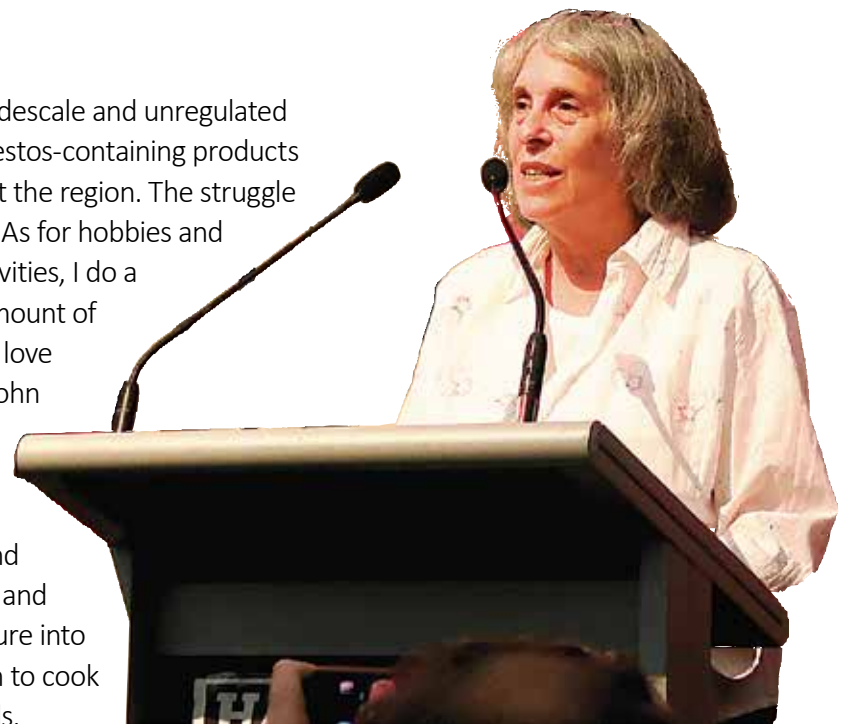
Reporting on repeated and prolonged injustices spurred me to reach out to others at home and abroad engaged in similar battles. As time went on these contacts coalesced into an ad hoc virtual global asbestos network. In collaboration with international colleagues, in 1999 I established The International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS). Working closely with a wide spectrum of civil society stakeholders, we progressed the worldwide campaign to ban asbestos and achieve justice for the injured.

IBAS organized and/or participated in asbestos events on six continents and pioneered outreach asbestos initiatives and research projects in key asbestos-consuming and producing countries including Russia, Canada, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, etc. Our monographs and publications were translated into several languages including: Dutch, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Thai, French, Portuguese, Farsi etc. Reviewing the IBAS website, an archivist for Strathclyde University

described it as “an authoritative, global hub for anti-asbestos advocacy, serving as a vital resource for journalists, researchers, and victims. It comprehensively aggregates worldwide news, health statistics, and policy documents while coordinating global awareness and lobbying campaigns.”

This year (2026), we have been heavily involved in tracking down and exposing the global sale of asbestos-contaminated sand, playsets and toys; supported efforts of Hungarian campaigners calling for the eradication of unsealed asbestos-contaminated roads; and collaborated with campaigners in Asia to regulate/

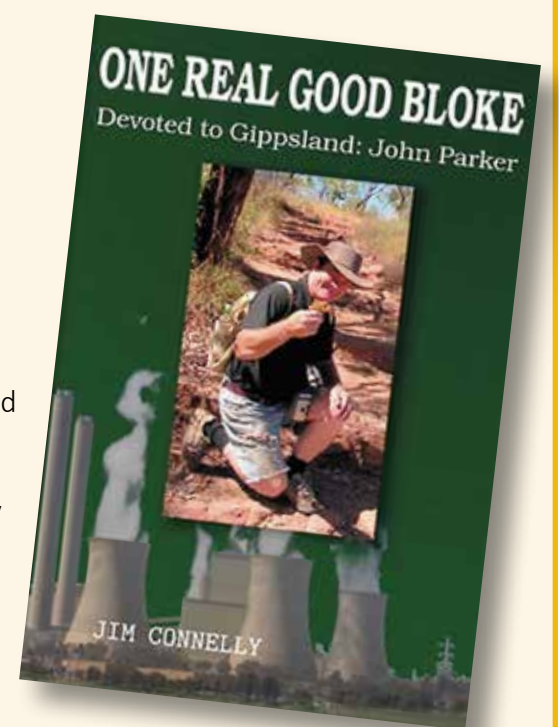
end the widescale and unregulated use of asbestos-containing products throughout the region. The struggle continues! As for hobbies and leisure activities, I do a minimal amount of gardening, love books by John Grisham and David Baldacci and every now and again venture into the kitchen to cook some meals.



John Parker book Launch 15th March

John Parker – true-trade union leader and member of the Gippsland community – the book launch was a great success and there were over 100 who attended the event for this wonderful and compassionate human being – the book tells a story about an all round good bloke – it has laughs and some

stories told about a man who tried to change his part of the world. I am sure you will enjoy reading the book. If you would like a copy please contact the office and we can put you in touch with John's wife so you can purchase a copy – they are \$25 a copy. Well worth the read.



Chris Ireland Photographic Display



In 2008, Chris photographed women in Gippsland Victoria and some from around the Sydney area whose husbands passed from asbestos related disease. Eighteen years later, He returned to photograph and interview the same women – revisiting not only a defining body of work from his early career, but the considerable distance life has travelled in the years between.

<https://www.christopherirelandcreative.com/>

Part of the Sydney Contemporary 2026 Carriage Works in Sydney

If you are in Sydney around these dates 3rd – 6th September we would love you to come and see this exhibition – the tickets can be purchased at this web site – they are on sale now - be quick though as tickets sell quickly for this venue/event

<https://sydneycontemporary.com.au/>

WORLD-FIRST Auckland study finds recalled play sand can release asbestos into the air children breathe

July 4, 2026 – New Wire

New research from Auckland has found that recalled children's play sand can release asbestos fibres straight into the air a child would breathe during ordinary play, overturning earlier official advice that the risk was low unless the sand was crushed or ground up.

The study, led by Associate Professor Terri-Ann Berry at Auckland University of Technology, is being described as a world first because no one had previously tested whether the asbestos already found in the recalled products could actually become airborne during normal use. The findings were released publicly on 2 July and have prompted urgent meetings between ministers and officials.

To run the test, a licensed asbestos removalist worked inside a sealed chamber and mimicked the way young children handle sand, writing and drawing in it, pushing toy vehicles through it, scooping it and building sand castles. Air samples were then collected and sent overseas, where two independent laboratories examined them under electron microscopes. The team looked at 15 samples drawn from three brands. The results were stark. Airborne asbestos fibres, both tremolite and chrysotile, were detected in the craft sand samples, with 90 percent of them returning a positive result. Moulding sand did not release detectable fibres in the tests, though the researchers stressed



that this does not make it safe to assume any recalled product is harmless.

Berry said the outcome was not what her team had hoped for. "It was incredibly disheartening to be honest, but at least we know now," she said. The point of the work, she explained, was to replace guesswork with evidence about whether children were being exposed, and the answer turned out to be yes. For more on this go to this link World-first Auckland study finds recalled play sand can release asbestos into the air children breathe - NEWS WIRE



James O'Loghlin The missing Piece - how James became an accidental activist

James O'Loghlin's best friend at university was Jum Wallner, but once careers and kids came along, they drifted apart. That was, until the day Jum felt a pain in his side and remembered he had grown up in a house filled with 'Mr Fluffy' asbestos insulation.

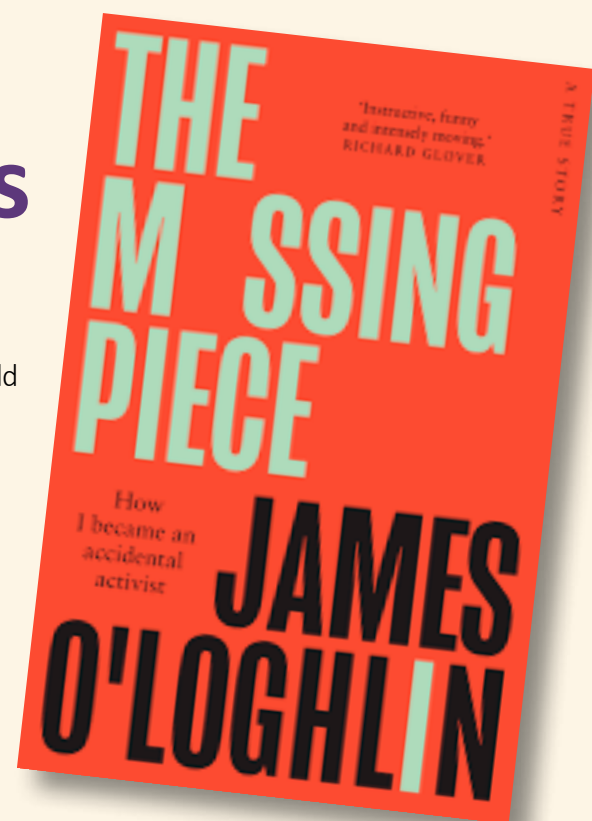
Nearly everyone who contracts an asbestos disease gets it from their work and is entitled to compensation or financial support. Jum discovered

that if you got one from your home, tough luck. You were on your own.

Before he died from mesothelioma, Jum wanted to change that. James leapt at the chance to help him, But with zero lobbying experience, how were they going to persuade the ACT Labor Government and the Federal Liberal Government to work together to help the victims of the 1000 'Mr Fluffy' houses? In the idle of COVID, how would they attract national media attention? Most importantly,

as Jum's illness worsened, could they get it done in time?

This is a story about amateurs figuring out how to influence government, how friendship can drift and then be found again, and how tragedy can make it clear what really matters. ACV/GARDS invites you to purchase this book from any good bookstore and have a read.



ASBESTOS AND SILICA ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORUM IN CANBERRA

MARCH 2026
24

MARCH 2026
25

Vicki attended the Asbestos and Silica forum conducted by the Asbestos and Silica Saferity Eradication Agency the advisory committee meetings in Canberra at Reds Shed - 1st day saw all of us together who are involved in asbestos and silica issues and planning our way forward to 2030. The following day the two advisory committee groups got together to talk about the way forward to 2030 - all in all a very busy few days and very productive - a job well done by all who attended. A great chance to meet each other in the same room and understand where all of us sit in these important issues going forward Hon Patrick Gorman MP visited and spoke at the ASSEA forum held in Canberra - Vicki was happy to talk to him about all things asbestos and silica –on the day



Thoracic Oncology Group of Australia (TOGA) conference in Melbourne

MARCH 2026
20

ACV/GARDS attended the Thoracic Oncology Group of Australia (TOGA) conference in Melbourne - it was about small cell lung cancer - some to the treatments that are happening and research and the Psychosocial issues around lung and health. Tanya and Vicki were very privileged to attend and listen to some very learned professionals in their fields.

We would like to thank the TOGA committee and Megan Sanders CEO of TOGA & Dilu Uduwela- Events Manager for their support of us attending this important conference so that we could learn more about small cell lung cancer to help our clients.

ASBESTOS

An estimated 4,000 Australians die annually from asbestos-related diseases³



Asbestos is in one in three homes across Australia⁵



Time and cost to recover from a disaster increases significantly if asbestos is present⁷



Every dollar spent on increasing the rate of asbestos removal can return a positive net benefit to the Australian economy⁶



Approximately 6.4 million tonnes of asbestos materials remain in our built environment⁴

6.4m



Increased asbestos removal from buildings can prevent up to 28,000 deaths by 2100⁶



Asbestos materials are degrading, increasing the risk they pose⁷



128 countries still use asbestos, although worldwide consumption halved in the past decade, decreasing to 1.3 million tonnes in 2022⁸



Working on a pre-1990 build?



Asbestos is dangerous. And it could be in your home.



Damaged asbestos is dangerous.

Asbestos hides in more homes than you think.



Was your home built before 1990?



ASBESTOS CAN KILL

asbestossafety.gov.au

Hazelwood Rehabilitation update



Trucks loaded up ready to take hay to north-eastern Victoria.

Hazelwood supports fire victims

The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project has made its own contribution to the communities in northern Victoria impacted by the Longwood fires early this year.

The Project, along with local farmers who lease land around the site, shipped off 110 large round bales in March, as part of the statewide support effort. Tony Rosato who leases land around the site, was one of the key contributors by cutting and baling the hay.

The bales will be distributed as needed to farmers in the affected areas. Two trucks from Hazelwood joined a convey of more than 40 trucks at Seymour, which met at the Euroa saleyards as the key distribution point.

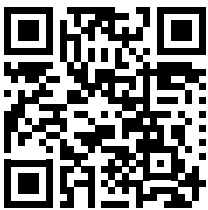
The broad area impacted by the fires continues on the road to recovery, as the long process of restoring fences and reestablishing stock takes place.



The National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry

Information on work related respiratory diseases is being collected by the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry. This information will support the protection of workers health and improve health care for patients suffering from work related respiratory diseases.

Occupational and respiratory health specialists must report silicosis cases diagnosed on or after 22 May 2024. Your doctor can also report other occupational respiratory diseases and silicosis cases diagnosed prior to this date, with your consent.



To learn more about what information is collected and how it is used, please scan QR code or visit: www.health.gov.au/our-work/nordr



A broom with a grey handle and black bristles is sweeping a pile of light-colored dust and debris on a wooden floor. The dust is piled up on the right side of the broom, while the left side of the floor is swept clean.

Exposure comes in all forms

BEWARE OF

**SILICA &
ASBESTOS DUST**



**Asbestos Council
of Victoria**
Incorp. Silica

MEETING DATES

INCORPORATING OUR ASBESTOS/SILICA
SUPPORT GROUPS IN GIPPSLAND & METRO

GIPPSLAND MOE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 2026/27

Last Tuesday of the month -
1.30pm to 3.30pm

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

- Tuesday 27th JULY
- Tuesday 25th AUG
- Tuesday 29th SEPT
- Tuesday 27th OCT
- **Friday 27th Nov - Asbestos & Silica Awareness Day event – Gippsland Heritage Park, Lloyd Street, Moe**
- **Dec - Xmas Lunch to be advised**
- **Xmas Break & New Year**
- **Tuesday 23rd Feb 2027**
- Tuesday 30th March
- Tuesday 27th April
- Tuesday 25th May
- Tuesday 29th June
- Tuesday 27th July

METRO CHADSTONE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 2026/27

Second Monday of the month,
1:30PM-3:30PM

Meetings are held at Amaroo House
Amaroo Street, Chadstone

- Monday 13TH JULY
- Monday 10th AUG 2026
- Monday 14th SEPT
- Monday 12th OCT
- **Thursday 12th Nov Asbestos & Silica Awareness Day Event – Flagstaff Gardens Hotel – 380 William Street, Melbourne**
- **Dec – Xmas Lunch to be advised**
- **Xmas Break & New Year**
- **Monday 8th Feb 2027**
- Monday 15th March
- Monday 12th April
- Monday 10th May
- Monday 7th June
- Monday 12th July

NIGHT MEETING, OPERATIONAL/BUSINESS FOR 2026/27 - GIPPSLAND MOE

Third Tuesday of the month,
7:30PM-9:00PM

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

- Tuesday 21 JULY
- Tuesday 18th AUG
- Tuesday 15th SEPT
- Tuesday 20th OCT
- Tuesday 17th NOV
- Xmas break & New Year
- Tuesday 16t Feb 2027
- Tuesday 16th March
- Tuesday 20th April
- Tuesday 18th May
- Tuesday 15th June
- Tuesday 20th July

Injured Workers Support Team - We're Stronger Together



We are a group of injured workers offering support, advocacy and assistance to injured workers. **"Where no one walks alone".** Online Support Group Injured Workers Support Team – We're Stronger Together A Facebook Group of injured workers offering support, advocacy and assistance to injured workers, 'Where no one stands alone'. The group is by invitation only so please contact the info line of the Facebook site for assistance and to join. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/416951452944110/>

Greetings to our new President Matt Erbs

Matt Erbs is the General Manager and Director of Mairin OHS&E Consulting, where he leads work in asbestos identification, removal monitoring, and occupational health, safety and environmental consulting. He is passionate about helping workers, businesses and the wider community understand the hazards of asbestos and how to manage or remove asbestos-containing materials safely. Born in 1976 and raised in Trafalgar and Yarragon, Matt began his career in the Australian Regular Army, serving for ten years in Australia and overseas. Alongside his role as a soldier, he worked as a chef and continued in the trade after leaving the Army, including roles in Albury, Trafalgar and Hamilton Island. Matt joined Mairin, the company founded by his late father in 2006, around 17 years ago and has been committed to the business and its purpose ever since. He is also

proudly part of the ACV/GARDS team, supporting its advocacy and community work. Outside of work, Matt enjoys camping, fishing and spending time with his wife Jenna and their two children, Alyssa and Eli. He and his family are proud supporters of the Melbourne Storm Rugby League Team.



Support Hub for Silicosis sufferers

Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute - ADDRI have created a new silica support hub [@silicosis.org.au](https://silicosis.org.au)

Take a look at the new site. It has a lot of info to help support silica sufferers and their families.

Well done ADDRI, this is a much needed resource.



ADDRI Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute

ACV/GARDS AGM

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS Inc AGM was held on Saturday on 7th February 2026 at 211 Lloyd Street Moe

We welcome our new committee members:

**President: Matt Erbs Treasurer: David Fairbairn
Committee Member: Karen Healy**

We had one new person come onto the committee – with Matt Erbs taking the Presidents position and two that were returned unopposed.

So we would like to congratulate Matt Erbs as our new President, Karen Healy returning as committee member and David Fairbairn returning as Treasurer congrats to all it was a very successful meeting.

We wish them well for 2025/26.

Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous companies – thank you to:

Sam & Matt 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 diverse ways over the last six months – Vicki Hamilton, Graeme Hamilton, Dorothy Roberts, Roger Nicholls, Peter Moylan, Angela Jones, Tony McCarthy, Maree Hall, Stephanie Sabrinskas, Malcolm Fabiny, Mark Waltham, Vivien Gunn, Chris Healy, Thea Robinson, Boris Vujcic.

Online donations made by: Carolyn Davis regular donations each month thank you Carolyn.

Donations made in Memory of:

- **Alan Roberts** – Vicki & Graeme Hamilton, Dorothy Roberts, Robert Rawlings
- **Richard Roberts** – Dorothy Roberts & Vicki Hamilton
- **Jim Sargeant** – Mary & Liam Rossney
- **Sandy Gunn** – Vivien Gunn
- **Peter Gunn** – Vivien Gunn
- **John Jackson** – Doreen Jackson
- **Jordan Metlikovec** – Suzy Metlikovec
- **Graeme Snape** – Jenny Snape
- **Kenneth Edebohls** – Glenda Edebohls and family
- **Peter Fenech** – Sharyn, Jason & Michelle Fenech

Thank you so much to Ian Lee for his donation to our org – it helps in so many ways

Thank You

Churchill and District News A big shout out to the wonderful donation made to us by those at the news – it was a thrill to receive the donation – thank you for helping us to raise funds

Thank you to Mairin OHS&E for the fundraising donation through their office you made to us – that was such a lovely surprise

Big Thank You to McDermott Richards Law firm for your wonderful donation to us Thank you Jane and Karen very much we really appreciated it

A big thank you to Petra Webster for all the rugs, throws and scarfs she makes for us that go into our raffles and for others to purchase her creations – she is so clever & we are so lucky to have her helping in this way

Thank you to Brian & Karen Healy setting up our fundraiser for Recycling and looking after the disposal of the recycle as it comes into the office – it is very much appreciated – Thank you to all who contribute their cans and bottles to making this a success

A big thank you to Engie for sponsoring our newsletters this year – wonderful to have your support – special thank you to Tom and Ian

ENGIE

Michael Hutchison and family thank you so much for your wonderful donation to our work

Dr James Watson thank you so much for your generous donation to our work

Thank you for donations to our Workers Memorial

- Brian & Karen Healy
- Sharyn Fenech in memory of Peter Fenech
- Zaparas Law Firm
- Jane West & Terry Wilkin
- Lee Van der Meulen
- Jenny Jackeulen
- Luke Van der Meulen
- Leigh Gatt
- Uniting Church Parish of Yallourn Thrift Shop & Volunteers
- AGL Loy Yang
- Alinta Loy Yang
- Energy Australia Yallourn
- Hon. Harriet Shing MP
- Margaret Theile
- Brenda White in memory Raelyn Walker
- Suzy Metlikovec in memory of Jordan Metlikovec
- Vicki & Graeme Hamilton in Memory of Richard Roberts
- Dorothy Roberts in Memory of Alan Roberts
- Glenda Edebohls in Memory of Kenneth Edebohls
- Combined Churches Craft Corner
- Churchill & District News

The 9th Global Asbestos Forum Conference is coming up!

Save the dates: 16 & 17 November 2026, at the elegant Library of Birmingham (UK). This year's conference motto will be: 'Asbestos: A call to action!' Read the programme and register at <https://www.globalasbestosforum.org/programme-and-registration-2026/>

A top conference

The Global Asbestos Forum conference is widely recognised as one of the leading asbestos conferences worldwide, with visitors and speakers from dozens of countries. This year, the conference will provide some 30 global top speakers, confronting current issues and insights, new policy, new innovations etc. There will be several state-of-the-art scientific presentations on the scope and nature of the asbestos issue, that will be nothing less than utterly game-changing.

For asbestos victims and professionals

This conference offers a programme that will both educate and allow for superb networking opportunities, with several extra activities, an

excursion, interactive workshops, a fantastic photo exhibition, round table discussions and an outstanding Gala Night. It is a wonderful opportunity for every dedicated asbestos professional to engage with both speakers and colleagues from across borders and sectors. Perhaps also worth mentioning: the event is also known for having a very amicable and enjoyable atmosphere, that sets it apart from many other events.

NB: usually, the conference is specifically geared towards the dedicated asbestos professional, but there will be extra focus on the comparative situation of asbestos victims as well this year.

The stands are fabulously located to allow for direct contact with the attendees and overlooking the German Christmas Market on Centenary Square. If you would like to know more on sponsorship, stands or registration, you are warmly welcomed to email to the founder and president, Dr. Yvonne Waterman LLM FFAAM at waterman@globalasbestosforum.org





Asbestos Council
of Victoria
Incorp. Silica

Committee of
Management

President:

Matthew Erbs
Mobile 0417 504 680

Vice President:

Maree Phillips
Mobile 0458565726

CEO/Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton OAM
Mobile 0407274173

Treasurer:

David Fairbairn
Mobile 0403319520

Member:

Sharyn Fenech
Mobile – 0423587363

Member:

Karen Healy
Mobile -0429960537

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 - 9.00pm

211 Lloyd St, Moe

By telephone conferencing and
face to face

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday
10am - 4pm

Friday - By appointment

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: ____/____/____

Up and coming
events 2026

Asbestos & Silica
Awareness Events

■ Flagstaff Gardens Hotel –
380 William Street, Melbourne
12th November at 11am

Morning tea will be provided
before the event at 10.30am
Light lunch provided

■ Gippsland Heritage Park -
Lloyd Street Moe
27th November at 11am

Community BBQ provided by
the Moe Lions Club

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



Our support group

Facilitator Maitea Lovric, who conducts our ACV/GARDS Metro support group can
be contacted by mobile # 0481 987 953



Online donations
<http://www.givenow.com.au/gards>
Mobile:
0407 274 173 (24/7)
Website:
www.gards.org
SKYPE:
VickiGARDS

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

 Find us on Facebook
Facebook.com/Asbestos
Council of Victoria/GARDS
Inc.

 Follow us on X
Vicki Hamilton
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, 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



Treasury and Finance

