



GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.

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ASBESTOS NEWS

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FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT LATROBE VALLEY

In early May GARDS were very honoured to speak about asbestos and related issues to about 40 first year medical students at Monash University, Clayton. This is the second year that GARDS have participated in this Tutorial on Social Position and Health.

GARDS gave the worker/family perspective of this very real and tragic legacy which has affected many lives in Latrobe Valley.

The medical students asked some very poignant questions related to peoples work/former work situations, life styles and general health. They were also given a very real sense of what it is like for the families of these sufferers and how they cope with the very emotional and sometimes very disturbing situations arising from this disease. We are hoping from this perspective that they have been given that they remember not just the clinical side of medicine and identified problems that occur but the emotional impact that it leaves on the whole community. We are looking forward to next year's tutorial.

RESEARCHER'S GUESTS OF GARDS

Researcher Dr Jock McCulloch addressed members of GARDS at our last meeting and gave a very enlightening talk on the blue asbestos still being mined in South Africa today. Dr McCulloch worked as a legislative research principal for the Australian parliament and has taught at various universities. His principle research interests are in contemporary African history and he has worked in Algeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Kenya. He is the author of seven books including a study of the asbestos industry in Australia *Asbestos: Its Human Cost* (1986). He is co-founder of the International Studies program at RMIT University. He is presently writing a global history of the asbestos industry. Jock will be returning next year to catch up with the GARDS members and give us an update on his trips to Canada and South Africa which he is planning to do toward the end of the year.

Also at our meeting was Dr Tony LaMontagne, associate professor with the Centre for Study of Health and Society at the School of population health at the University of Melbourne. He is looking to interview former SECV workers, their families, local trade union representatives, members of GARDS and the wider community. If you would like to be apart of this research please contact Vicki Hamilton at the GARDS office and we will forward your name and details. All in all a very successful night and a big thank you to Jock and Tony.

DID YOU KNOW

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

Just write to:

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

REPORT ON GARDS ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The annual Wreath Laying Ceremony which was conducted on the 29th of April was well attended by GARDS members, Unionists, Members of Parliament and their representatives Federal and State, and a representative of the Moe/Newborough Ministers' association Father Scott Lowry who administered the service on the day. Mr David Duncan our Scottish piper did a wonderful job with the 3 laments that he chose for this occasion. He graciously donated his time in memory of his work mates and others who had lost their lives from asbestos disease. Representatives from local unions gave moving speeches on the tragedy of this disease that has affected workers and the community. The wife of an asbestos sufferer came forth to talk about her husband's and her families' personal battle with asbestos disease and the effects it has had on their lives. At the conclusion of the service everyone adjourned for afternoon tea.

VICTORIAN ASBESTOS COMMITTEE

In recent months there have been moves afoot to create a committee of concerned community members who wish to try and address some of the issues facing Victoria about asbestos.

This committee has been given the title of **The Victorian Asbestos Committee** and GARDS have been invited to participate as a member of this group.

The committee will have its first inaugural meeting in July. These meetings will be held in Melbourne on a monthly basis.

CHANGES TO PUBLIC LIABILITY

As you would be aware, the State Government has recently tabled new legislation **Wrongs & Limitation of Actions Act (Insurance Reform) Bill** that will severely restrict the procedures and compensation awarded in Asbestos matters.

GARDS has information on some of these changes and an explanation as to how they may affect asbestos compensation claims.

Information is attached to this newsletter with compliments from Slater & Gordon. GARDS thanks this firm for producing this information sheet for asbestos sufferers.

A personal thank you to Caroline Flake.

COMMONWEALTH CARELINK

At the afternoon support meeting last month GARDS was lucky enough to secure a speaker from Commonwealth Carelink. Carelink provide a free telephone service about aged care and disability services available in your local area and how to contact them. The Carelink centres are for anyone, including older Australians, people with disabilities, their families and carers, general practitioners, health professionals and organisations wanting information for their members. GARDS has information packs available to interested persons, you can pick one up from the office and if you would like to access this service yourself the free call number is **1800 052 222**

ASBESTOS REGULATIONS 2003

Since early last year GARDS has been involved in the creation of the draft Asbestos Regulations. These regulations are now finalised and were printed into booklet form in March 2003.

GARDS now has two copies of these regulations in the office and if anyone would like information on these new regulations phone or call into the GARDS office.



A.D.A.S. NOW OPEN IN MELBOURNE

GARDS attended the opening of the **Asbestos Diseases Advisory Service of Australia**. The opening was held at the Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens. The meeting was well attended and GARDS met many new people interested in helping in the asbestos issue. The co-ordinator of this service is Nikki Diver who is a qualified counsellor wishing to help sufferers and their loved ones. We wish them well in assisting asbestos sufferers and hope to be able to work along side them in the struggle to improve conditions for asbestos sufferers and their families across Victoria.



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A BIG THANK YOU TO THESE PEOPLE AND THE FOLLOWING ORGNAISATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Dr. Tony Sasse for his monetary donation
 Mrs. Kath Prust for her monetary donation
 Slater & Gordon for their donation of a great book
 Australian Diseases Society of Australia for their donation of a book to our library.



DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS

For the information of GARDS members who live in Latrobe City
 Owners/Occupiers of residential premises within the municipality may dispose of small quantities (under 3 cubic metres) of asbestos at the Morwell Landfill. The disposal will be by appointment on 48 hours notice and disposal will only be available at 4.30pm on Wednesdays. The asbestos is to be securely wrapped in two layers of 0.2 mm thick plastic and restricted to a load size that may be carried by one person. This provisional arrangement will be re-evaluated at the end of November 2003.

All commercial asbestos contractors are asked to note that they no longer have access to the Morwell Landfill. Commercial asbestos may be deposited at the Dutson Downs or the Lyndhurst Landfill asbestos disposal facilities.

Telephone Rod Shields 0439 957 019 for appointments and queries at Latrobe City.



SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

The rules sub committee have met and produced some recommendations for the committee. The model rules are adopted with changes to:
Rule 35 Winding up of the Association
 Changes to this rule will allow for GARDS assets to be distributed to a like organisation, should anything happen to GARDS.
Rule 23 Elections of Office Bearers
 Changes to this rule will facilitate the use of a Returning Officer to organise & run GARDS elections.
Appendix 1. The present Membership form is kept.
 It was also decided that it would be left to the committee to determine when the new rules should be adopted.
Options are: Adopt at the AGM or A Special General Meeting

G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2003
1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at Latrobe Business Centre,
36 – 38 Darlimurla Avenue, Newborough

Tuesday 24th June
Tuesday 29th July
Tuesday 26th August
Tuesday 30th September
Tuesday 28th October
Tuesday 25th November
Christmas Break-up to be advised

G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2003

7.30PM – 9.30PM

These meetings are held at the centre

Tuesday 17th June
Tuesday 15th July
Tuesday 19th August
Tuesday 16th September
Tuesday 21st October
Tuesday 18th November
Christmas Break-up to be advised

***If any of our members wish to recommend a
speaker/organisation that they would like to invite as a
guest presenter GARDS would be only too happy to try and
secure them for a meeting date***

**G.A.R.D.S. INC.
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Gippsland Asbestos Related
Diseases Support Inc.

36 – 38 Darlimurla Ave
Newborough, Vic. 3825

PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825

Phone: 51281218
Fax: 51261897

Email: info@gards.org

Web site: www.gards.org

GARDS INC. SUPPORT

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

GARDS INC. Support also conducts a monthly meeting (1.30pm – 3.30pm) on the last Tuesday of the month) where guest presenters are invited to provide information about support services of all kinds and any other topics of interest that the members might find of relevance. The meetings also provide a gathering place for experiences; GARDS Support is open to anyone whose lives have been affected by asbestos, their families and the general public.

GARDS INC. EVENING MEETING

GARDS has an organisational, activities and advocating arm. Interested financial members can come along to evening meetings which are conducted 7.30pm – 9.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

These meetings provide a focal point for information sharing and problem identification. The aim of this group is to focus on improving health and support services and any other issues deemed relevant to improving overall outcomes to asbestos sufferers, their families and the general public. Thus ensuring asbestos-related issues are kept in the public eye and trying to rid our environment of asbestos products.

ABOUT G.A.R.D.S. INC.

Committee of Management

President:

Lyle Seear – Ph. 51671376

Vice President:

Trevor Callow – Ph. 51342208

Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton – Ph. 51278219

Treasurer:

Pam Nicholson – Ph. 51275843

Member:

Fay Needham – 51272038
Dorothy Roberts - 51274174

G.A.R.D.S. FEES

Joining Fee - \$5.00

Annual Fees:

Pensioners/Concession/
Unemployed - \$3.00

Employed persons - \$11.00

MEETINGS:

Support: Last Tuesday of
month, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Evening: 3rd Tuesday of month,
7.30pm – 9.30pm

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Our Night/Day Meetings

CFA – Gary Weir
17th of June, 7.30pm

LIFE LINE
24th of June, 1.30pm

LV VILLAGE HOSTEL
29th of July, 1.30pm

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY: 9.30am – 12 noon
TUESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.00pm
WEDNESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.30pm
THURSDAY: 12 noon – 3.00pm
FRIDAY: BY APPOINTMENT
CALL IN FOR A CHAT & CUPPA