

## No Time to Waste

*Utilising new technologies in old, decrepit power stations is like trying to fit a 2010 Commodore Engine into a 1956 FC Holden.*

It can't be done.

For seven years, the Gippsland trades and Labour Council has been calling for new modern power stations to be built to replace Hazelwood and Yallourn. The reduction in emissions would have been significant, in the first instance from having the latest technology in new stations and secondly from the stations having the capacity to keep pace with ever evolving technology. These calls were ignored. Instead we have had endless stories of proposals to capture the market in new technologies that have never eventuated.

We have now missed that boat.

Governments and investors will not commit to building a new power station unless it is carbon neutral.

But the world will not allow Hazelwood and Morwell to operate after 2020 and Yallourn will not be allowed to operate after 2040. That's if they last that long.

So the question is what do we do?

We will drive the agenda for change. We will strive to ensure the Gippsland region is transformed into a world leader in new climate friendly technologies and



industries.

We drive the strategy for a just transition to new green jobs.

The first stage of the Gippsland Trades and Council's program is underway. The Just Transition Forums held through 2009 have examined future sources of energy generation with particular emphasis on their environmental, social and economic impact.

Secondly, we will have a draft policy to take to our activists in mid February 2010.

Finally we will begin our campaign for new jobs and new investment.

Without the spin.

John Parker



**The Gippsland Trades & Labour Council Wishes all  
Delegates and Supporters  
A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

The GTLC Office will be closed from  
Friday 18 December until Monday 11 January 2010.

John Parker will be available to assist with urgent enquires  
Tel: 0419 747 756.

**GIPPSLAND TRADES  
&  
LABOUR COUNCIL INC**

Supporting Workers and Their Communities

# Still Much to Do to Eradicate Asbestos

The Gippsland Trades & Labour Council and Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support (GARDS) have continued to campaign for the eradication of asbestos from our society.

While there is widespread recognition of the serious health problems caused by exposure to asbestos, there are still a number of major outstanding problems. A major source of asbestos is in residential housing.

Regulatory requirements do not apply to the DIY renovator in Victoria, and many home owners do not have easy access to practical information and equipment required to work safely. Often they have nowhere in the area that they can safely dispose of asbestos waste.

It is our vision to develop a safe way for home renovators to remove and dispose of domestic asbestos.

Our aim is to assist in providing practical solutions to this problem. We have worked with a number of Government agencies, including the EPA and Latrobe City Council, to introduce a comprehensive program of information, advice, and equipment to safely dispose of domestic asbestos. The program that was trialled by Latrobe City Council provided:

- \*A copy of the DHS booklet Asbestos in the Home
- \*A kit that included equipment to prepare a work

site, do the job safely and package the waste material.

\*An instructional video explaining how to use the equipment and complete the task safely

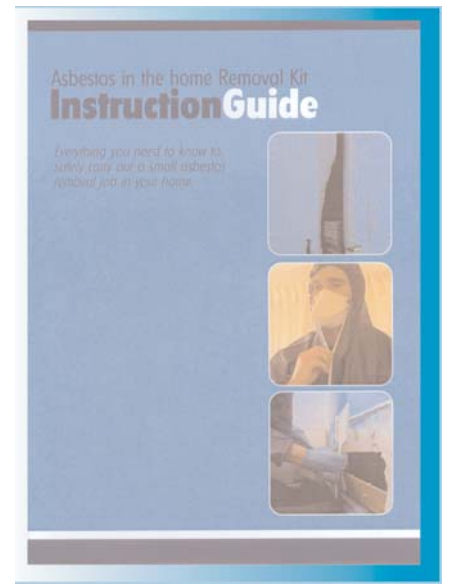
\*Written advice about the landfill facility, location and hours when waste material and used equipment will be accepted

\*Records of the distribution of these kits and subsequent depositing of waste at the landfill facility

This trial was completed and was hailed as a great step forward for the control of domestic asbestos.

We now have draft a Charter of Better Practice. Other Shire Council's will be invited to become a signatories.

The next area that the Gippsland Trades & Council and GARDS is looking at is a new storage and transfer station to eliminate the risk to both home owners and council workers that are exposed to asbestos at landfill facilities.



## GTLC Women's Action Coalition

The Gippsland Trades and Labour Council's Women's Action Coalition (WAC) has hit the ground running! The recently formed group boasts a strong and vibrant membership who will tackle some of the big issues, including pay equity, women's information deficit on climate politics and climate protection and work-life balance.

An application has been made for funding from the State Government's Women's Leadership Grants so they can develop a series of forums through the region on these vital issues.

The official launch of the group will be held in



March 2010 at the GTLC's International Women's Day Lunch.

The group is open to all women activists. If you are interested in joining please do not hesitate to contact Val at the Office on 5133 7684.



# Ballarat and Gippsland Trades & Labour Council Return to Work Project

The two year Return to Work Project: Workable Solutions was successfully completed in September.

The purpose of the project was to raise awareness and understanding among regional employees, employers and other stakeholders of the need for effective RTW processes and to identify methods for achieving more sustainable and effective RTW outcomes.

The Project, a joint venture between GTLC and Ballarat Trades and Labour Council, was made up of four distinct but overlapping areas: research, workplace visits, information sessions and resource centre enhancement.

## Research

The research was undertaken by Dr Darryn Snell from RMIT University and Alison Hart from Monash University Gippsland

The result is a comprehensive report, 'Return to Work After Injury: Experiences and Perceptions From Two Victorian Regions.' The report put forward 16 recommendations to improve RTW outcomes which we hope will be useful in improving the system. The report is due to be released in January 2010.

## Workplace Visits

Project Officers, Anne Murphy in Gippsland and Paul Clempson in Ballarat had the opportunity to address workplace meetings, OH&S training courses and engage with employers and employees. In so doing they were able to raise the level of awareness of the RTW process and to ensure that all involved were aware of the information available from the Trades & Labour Councils.

## Information Sessions

The two hour information sessions were of a high quality and delivered by the Project Officers to a high standard. The uptake of the sessions high with some very positive feedback.

## Resource Centre Enhancement

Workable Solutions: Resource Packs were developed and have proven successful. Both centres are stocked with the relevant information and packs are available.

Thank you to Anne Murphy for your valuable contribution to the project and we welcome you as a Delegate to the GTLC and WAC.

## 2010 Diary

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 11 January      | GTLC Office re-opens                                   |
| 25 / 26 January | Australia Day: Office Closed                           |
| 15 February     | GTLC General Meeting                                   |
| 8 March         | Labour Day: Office Closed                              |
| 9 March         | GTLC General Meeting                                   |
| 5 March         | International Women's Day Lunch (Date to be confirmed) |
| 12 March        | GTLC Labour Day Dinner                                 |
| 2 - 7 April     | Easter: Office Closed                                  |
| 13 April        | GTLC General Meeting                                   |
| 11 May          | GTLC General Meeting                                   |
| 8 June          | GTLC General Meeting                                   |



|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 14 June      | Queens Birthday: Office Closed |
| 13 July      | GTLC General Meeting           |
| 10 August    | GTLC General Meeting           |
| 14 September | GTLC General Meeting & AGM     |
| 12 October   | GTLC General Meeting           |
| 9 November   | GTLC General Meeting           |
| 14 December  | Christmas Break Up             |



# COMMUNITY LINK

Getting the message out



G.A.R.D.S.

GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.

Provides support & information to asbestos sufferers, their families & carers.

41 Monash Road, Newborough, Vic. 3825

Phone: 5126 0354

Fax: 5126 0354

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

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

Call in for a chat and a cuppa



## KURNAI COLLEGE HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Have you thought about being a homestay for an International student?

"Having an international student is great... it's an education for us, it's inspiring for us ... and it's a laugh."

Overseas students bring a different perspective; a set of cultural and social values that add to any community they are part of. It is for this reason Kurnai College is looking to increase the numbers of overseas student enrolments.

The Precinct Campus is the ideal environment for International students. But for international students the school is only a part of the package. Equally important is their life outside school and this is where a safe and supportive homestay is critical.

Our homestay families find that having an international student is not just about providing a room and meals.

Finding and maintaining suitable homestays is a key expectation that the Education Department places on schools. It is for this reason that there is a strong support network developed by the school to assist homestays if an issue arises. You are not left to manage on your own.

Nor are you expected to do this as a volunteer. All homestays are paid \$200 per week to cover room and board when the student is staying with them. It may not be the main reason you become a homestay but it is not to be ignored either.

If you would like more information about being a homestay please contact Danny Johnston on 5165 0600 during school hours. He will make a time to talk to you about the many advantages of being a Kurnai College homestay.

Give us a call.

## Warragul Lapidary Club

Annual Show

Yarragon

16 & 17 January 2010

## Neil Street Cup

Newborough

7 February 2010

## GTLC Labour Day Dinner

12 March 2010

Book Your Table Now:

Ring 03 51337684

If you would like assistance in getting your message out, just give us your details and we will endeavour to help

### Published by:

Gippsland Trades & Labour Council Inc

Tel: 03 5133 7684

Fax: 03 5133 3313

PO Box 240, Morwell

Email: [gvlc@wideband.net.au](mailto:gvlc@wideband.net.au)

Website: [gippslandtlc.com.au](http://gippslandtlc.com.au)

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