HAS LEWOOD MINE FIRE DISASTER

As you can see above in this photo - the smoke and toxic fumes from this fire were horrendous - this is what the people of Morwell and surrounding districts were subjected to for 45 days. Our members who suffer with asbestos related lung disease of different kinds struggled through this disaster.

Most of our members who have extreme difficulty in breathing evacuated as soon as they could see the severity and size of the fire. Many of them had worked at one of the power stations here in the valley and knew what it would take to get a fire of this sort under control and had an idea it would take weeks not days.

But there were the members that could not leave for one reason or another and had to hunker down in their homes. Every day living became an effort and struggle - cleaning the constant barrage of ash off everything it lay on and trying to breathe through the constant smoke/stench that enveloped them each day. Members taped up vents - seal doors and kept windows shut to try and keep the smoke/fumes and ash out - kept air conditioners going to try and filter the air and those on oxygen ordered more oxygen from their supplier to help them at other times.

Continued on page 2...
As you can see from the photos above this was the devastation that the fire caused when it ran down the highway from Hernes Oak towards the mine on that dreadful 9th of February. The fire fighters did a marvellous job under very difficult circumstances - the wind was horrendous and the day was extremely hot - the ground extremely dry - one of those perfect days for a disaster.

We cannot speak more highly of the CFA, SES, Police, Council officers, Red Cross and many other wonderful volunteers who put their lives on the line during this very difficult time. Fire fighters from across Victoria and interstate came to assist in trying to get the mine fire out. Over 7,000 fire fighters helped with the blaze during the 45 day period.

Children were evacuated from schools in Morwell and were bussed each day to classes in other towns while the fire was being fought. Of course this sort of fire in the Mine is nothing like a bushfire - coal mine fires have a whole different energy to them and this brings its own set of dangers with it. At times the level of dangerous fine particle pollution reached more than 15 times the maximum recommended levels - blanketing cars, homes and businesses. The toxic smoke/fumes that were being emitted from the mine were believe quite dangerous, residents complained of sore eyes, headaches, blood noses, rashes that were breaking out on them and dry retching from the acrid smoke pouring out of the mine. We will not know all of the effects on human health from this fire for some time.

There have been four substantial fires that have previously broken out at Hazelwood open-cut coal mine in the past decade, all of which have prompted reviews and recommendations - what happened to all those recommendations?

Of course the fire is not really out completely - it will still be smouldering away underground as these fires do - the fires underground have been known to go on for many decades.

A Hazelwood Mine Fire Enquiry was set up to investigate all facets of the fire - the head of the enquiry and former Supreme Court justice, Bernard Teague, said the inquiry was focusing on three questions: what caused the fires; the health implications for people in Morwell; and how a repeat of the fire can be prevented.

Public hearings were conducted from the 26th May to the 18th June where people from all aspects involved in the fire were called to make statements on their experience through the 45 days of the fire. The inquiry conducted 10 community consultations before the public hearings and heard from over 250 people.

Mr Teague said “We also received and read hundreds of written submissions, many with extremely helpful guidance” ACV/GARDS made submissions to the Enquiry and were asked to testify at the public hearings that were conducted. Our members were severely affected by this disaster and are still feeling the effects from it to this day.

We now await the recommendations from the Enquiry which we expect to be handed down in August sometime. We hope that all the recommendations from the Enquiry are adopted.

If you have a computer and the internet - type into a search engine Hazelwood Mine Fire you can see many photos of the fire in the mine. Please take time to see just how big this fire was and its ferocity.

A footnote to this article while writing this - the fire which still remains smouldering underground since the mine fire started in Hazelwood in February has escaped today, 31st July due to the high winds we have been experiencing on the Eastern batters of the mine. The CFA are battling this fire as I type. As you can see these fires are never really out. We have always lived with risk.

Asbestos Awareness Day Event

SAVE THE DATE FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
Centenary Rose Garden, Commercial Rd, Morwell - 11am

There will be a free community BBQ with the compliments of the GTLC - along with musicians, choirs and the ACV/GARDS bagpipers.

Speakers for this event are:
- Russell Broadbent MHR Federal Member for McMillan also the Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Group for Asbestos Related Disease (PGARD)
- Lyall Watts - Lyall is living with Asbestos disease and he is an Activist for the cause & an ACV/GARDS member
- Steve Dodd - Secretary of the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council and an AMWU organiser
- Vicki Hamilton OAM - CEO/Secretary - Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS
ON the 30th of July the ACV/GARDS team were again privileged to be a part in the tutorial for the 1st year medical students - this is our 6th year in attendance. There were approx 85 students learning about the impact that asbestos has on the sufferers and their families.

Again this year, a new set of students learnt about the health, social, emotional and environmental issues that are brought about by this deadly material - asbestos.

The students had lots of questions for our team of community experts and we hope that with the experience provided by the speakers that they got a real insight into the effects that asbestos has in a community.

The ACV/GARDS team, that took part this year tried to give the students a perspective of what it is like for both the sufferer, as well as the family who have to cope with the diagnosis of asbestos disease, not only in their family environment but also with the day-to-day health issues that they must face.

I must say that the students were very engaged and asked many and varied questions - we were impressed with their enthusiasm to want to know all facets of this terrible carcinogen and how it effects all those who come into contact with it. A few of the students stayed after the tutorial to ask more questions and to talk about other things related to asbestos issues.

We left the students with packs of information to browse and a good insight into asbestos. ACV/GARDS would like to thank Rhonda Dunn, Marie Smith, Dorothy Roberts & Graeme Hamilton for sharing their stories with the students. We would also like to thank Dr Margaret Simmons for making this happen.

Mr Dodd said memberships would also provide discounts through participating local businesses. “It’s about getting people involved with the trades and labour council network, with an added incentive to support local businesses and industry” he said.

He has called on businesses and the public to join the program.

If you are a business and would like to offer discounts in your store to members, please get involved - you will receive free advertising on the GTLC web site. All community that are interested in obtaining a member benefit card to receive discounts on purchasing at a store involved please contact Val at GTLC - 0351 337 684 - the $5 a week can be direct debited from your credit/debit card account.

Gippsland Trades & Labour Council - Associate Member

The Launch of the GTLC’s Associate Member Program will see a range of Valley-based community organisations receive extra funding through weekly members donations.

GTLC acting Secretary Steve Dodd said a $5 weekly membership fee would help support Asbestos Council of Victoria (ACV) / Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support (GARDS) and other volunteer organisations in need of additional funding.

“Currently at this point in time, ACV/GARDS rely on donations and sponsorships, so it’s about giving these groups like ACV/GARDS an extra income stream to prop them up and do the work they need to do in the community” Mr Dodd said.

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The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

ACV/GARDS and our members and community are calling on the Hon Eric Abetz, Minister for Employment & the Hon Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance to stay committed to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency remaining a standalone agency.

Treasurer Joe Hockey was applauded for his ongoing commitment to the work of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency - with the Federal budget locking in continued funding for independent, nationally coordinated action to improve asbestos education and move towards the future eradication of the deadly substance from Australian homes and workplaces.

The bipartisan support for the Agency, which was set up July 2013 was welcomed by all. Unfortunately we were deeply concerned by the recommendation of the National Commission of Audit stating the Agency, and its advisory Council, should be abolished as a budget saving measure. It has also been touted that the Agency might be assimilated into another agency and the advisory council disbanded. Statements such as this show a lack of vision and foresight.

When Minister Abetz stated not long ago “Over the years, we have all seen and heard of too many cases of people who have passed away or who are living with a disability because of exposure. These are the stories of cases that not only cripple the families but impact entire communities” Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Minister for Employment.

Minister Abetz - as you recognise the huge cost that asbestos is having on our community now and into the future - we implore you to keep the Asbestos Eradication Agency funded as the small cost now will save you billions of dollars and save hundreds if not thousands of lives.

Don’t ignore this very real danger to our community - lives are being lost every day from unsuspecting people not knowing of the dangers of asbestos.
On 29th July the ACV/GARDS support group took a trip to the local Latrobe Regional Art Gallery in Morwell.

A guide from the gallery took our group around the gallery pointing out the art pieces of interest. We were very excited to see one of Chris Irelands portraits of an asbestos widow ACV/GARDS member that the gallery purchased - they have two others portraits of ACV/GARDS widows in storage - which we would have dearly loved to see. The group stayed for a bite of lunch in the So Swish Cafe on site at the gallery - we had a lovely lunch and a great day out. Some of the group returned to the office in the afternoon for a cuppa and chat.

Mr Adrian Pick M.B.B.S., F.R.A.C.S. - Cardiothoracic Surgeon and Surgical Director of Acclaim Health Group will be attending the support group meeting on the 30th September at 1.30pm at the ACV/GARDS office. Adrian has been in private practice for 18 years specialising in lung cancer curative procedures and the treatment of asbestos related diseases. He is a consultant surgeon at The Alfred, Southern Health Monash Clayton, Peninsula Health Frankston Hospital and Cabrini Malvern and Peninsula Private Frankston.

Gabrielle Pick, will also be in attendance and she is the Managing Director of Acclaim Health Group, specialising in the identification of patients with asbestos related diseases through verbal history with a view to pre-surgical work up that will identify radio graphical evidence of exposure. Gabrielle works collaboratively with respiratory physicians, radiologists and pathologists to ensure patients are identified for asbestos disease and working with patients to access an efficient and effective palliative intervention.

James Wise, the principal of H.K.S Lawyers, will be accompanying Mr Adrian Pick and Gabrielle Pick - he is an experienced asbestos litigation lawyer who has successfully acted on behalf of countless sufferers of mesothelioma, asbestosis and asbestos related pleural disease living in Victoria.

Having witnessed the devastating effect an asbestos exposure related diagnosis can have on a patient and their loved ones, James established H.K.S Lawyers in an endeavour to simplify the legal process for those who elect to file claims and ensures that sufferers get the compensation that they deserve.

James personally conducts all asbestos related disease claims as H.K.S Lawyers, and limits the number of cases undertaken each year to ensure that optimal and expedient results are achieved for all clients.

So if you would like to come and have a chat and find out more about your health and asbestos litigation - all are welcome.

Are you nursing a loved one with a terminal illness?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

The Latrobe Valley Palliative Care Fundraising Association “provides financial assistance to patients and their families” by paying for equipment hire needed in the patient’s home to help them be more comfortable and make it easier for their carers. If necessary, we can assist with medical help for medication and oxygen.

This service operates with the hard work of volunteers and the generous public who help us raise the funds needed to run the service, thereby making a big difference to numerous lives. Would you care to Join us? Call No list below.

We have also been aware of the need to train workers in the Aged Care Homes within the Valley, wishing to honour our two late leaders Angela Dempsey/ Bernadette Carstein we have set up a Scholarship in their names.

Last year we paid for 11 Aged Care personnel this year we have 16 doing the course of “Palliative Care - A short Course” at Monash University, Churchill.

CALL 0429 689 827 or 03 5167 1589
To discuss how we can assist with the comfort of your loved one and make it a little easier for you.
Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS & Gippsland Trades and Labour Council held the annual International Workers Memorial event. People on the day found the event to be most beneficial - saying how good the speakers were and how very uplifted they felt knowing there were people actively trying to make a difference in protecting people in the workplace.

The hopes and aspirations of those who attended the event talked about more responsibility on OH&S standards, accountability for those who continually flout the law and risk innocent lives.

No one knows more about that than those who attended the day as most had lost a loved one, work colleague or friend to a workplace accident or illness.

The community that attend the day said it gave them hope and a sense of community and support, knowing that people care about them and the plight of people who are caught up in a workplace accident.

Speakers on the day were:

Paul Fixter - CFA - career Fire-fighter for 20 years - in more recent fire situations he was involved in the 2014 Hazelwood Mine fires.

Howard Williams - Gippsland Trades & Labour Council - Executive member of Gippsland Trades and Labour Council and also local resident of Morwell living next to the Hazelwood Mine fire and Vicki Hamilton CEO/Secretary of ACV/GARDS and Russell Jones conducted our Ecumenical Service.

Steve Dodd - Secretary of the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council and an AMWU organiser - Talked from the union perspective about OH&S issues.

Danny Boothman - singer/musician - gave the day a flavour of hope and inspiration.

We were lucky the weather was kind to us on the day and after the official event was adjourned those who attended were invited to stay for a free BBQ lunch.

Thank you to Gippsland Trades and Labor Council for the wonderful BBQ on the day.
ACV/GARDS would like to pay tribute to a wonderful man who always tried to make sure that he took care of asbestos sufferers and their families that reached out for help. He was there for anyone in need and certainly held the banner high for The Asbestos Related Disease Support Society of Qld Inc.

We send our deepest condolences to Helen and the family. Helen worked tirelessly beside her husband Ray and gave him great support in everything that Ray did.

Ray worked very hard to make sure the Society went from strength to strength - even fundraising by going on Ray’s Ride where he travelled from Toowoomba to Brisbane raising over $60,000 in much needed donations to support Queensland sufferers of asbestos diseases.

Ray has been a great friend to ACV/GARDS and we will miss him very much. We will miss our talks and get togethers. We remember only too well when he and Helen took the helm of the Society in 2009 - as Secretary and Helen as President - we always found Ray to be a welcoming and thoughtful person and we know that all at the Society will miss him very much. We felt privileged and honoured to have known him and he can rest in peace knowing he has done a magnificent job.

IN AUSTRALIA

Indented Head business owner fears he will have to sell his home to cover $100,000 damage bill JONNO NASH GEELONG ADVERTISER MAY 05, 2014 12:19PM

BELLARINE Bayside has said there is no need for concern after large asbestos fragments were sprayed along the Indented Head esplanade and left unattended for more than 24 hours. Visible remnants of a fibro roof damaged in a vandalism raid at the Beachlea Boat Hire company on Saturday night were only removed by locals Monday morning.


Asbestos dump cleaned up By ADAM WRIGHT May 5, 2014, 6 a.m. South Coast Register

THE illegal asbestos dump in Nowra reported in Friday’s South Coast Register has been removed by a private company. When Neil Wallace from Asbestos Reporting and Mark Afflick from MGA Contracting learnt a pile of asbestos had been left on a public track for more than four months after authorities were notified, they decided to act in the interests of public safety. Crown Lands was responsible for cleaning up the site. Asbestos removalists from MGA Contracting in Ulladulla came to Nowra on Friday to remove the material after being contacted by Mr Wallace.


Asbestos dump discovered in Sydney park May 07, 2014: NINE NEWS

A park in Sydney’s west has been fenced off after 20 garbage bags containing building material were discovered, sparking asbestos fears.


Asbestos scare shuts down Blacktown Hospital upgrade works indefinitely JESSICA OXFORD BLACKTOWN ADVOCATE MAY 15, 2014 3:34PM Daily Telegraph

MORE than 100 workers and members of the public have potentially been exposed to asbestos after it was found at Blacktown Hospital. CFMEU spokesman Rebel Hanlon said construction on the hospital’s $320 million upgrade would be shut down “indefinitely” until the harmful material was completely removed from the site. Mr Hanlon said contaminated soil had been found near the main entrance at Blacktown Hospital, in a nearby car park and the childcare centre, potentially putting the general public and young children at risk. The potential of asbestos exposure for the 130 workers at the site was “quite significant” Mr Hanlon said.


Rising asbestos liabilities hang over James Hardie profit By business reporter Michael Janda Thu 22 May 2014, 5.21pm

James Hardie may have doubled its profit this financial year, but potential asbestos liabilities continue to cloud its outlook as a rise in the number of victims surprises the firm. The building products manufacturer, shrouded in controversy as a rise in the number of victims surprises the firm.


CONTINUED NEXT PAGE..
“While we are aware that some students will be disappointed by this news, the safety of our students and staff is the school’s main priority and we believe that this course of action is necessary,” she said. “It is our absolute intention to still operate a Year 3 camp in 2014 and you will be notified of plans for that as they become available.”


Attorney-General pays tribute to asbestos campaigner

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Jarrod Bleijie has paid tribute to asbestos campaigner Raymond Colbert, who has sadly passed away.

“Ray was a tireless champion for fellow sufferers of asbestos-related diseases and my thoughts are with his loved ones,” Mr Bleijie said.

“The input from Ray and the Asbestos Related Disease Support Society Queensland was integral during the development of the Government’s Statewide Strategic Plan for the Safe Management of Asbestos, which he recently launched with us.

“Ray was so committed that he would at times work through the plan’s detail with my staff from a hospital bed.

“Thanks in part to him, Queensland now has the most comprehensive and rigorous asbestos management strategy of its kind in Australia.

“Ray’s legacy will be better awareness about the dangers and safer management of asbestos and the Government will continue to strive to make Queensland’s work sites the safest in the country.”


INTERNATIONAL

Contractor admits bungling Kensington Heights asbestos work - By Phil Fairbank | News Staff Reporter | Buffalo news.com updated 1 May, 2014 at 11:32 AM

Contractor’s failure to properly remove asbestos from the former Kensington Heights housing project resulted in the repeated release of asbestos into the environment


Concern over asbestos handling in Christchurch By: Emily Murphy, New Zealand News | Thursday May 1 2014 13:23

Growing concern over the way demolition workers are handling asbestos during the Christchurch rebuild. All residential red-zoned flat land is due to be cleared by the end of next year, with the rate of demolitions expected to speed up over the coming months

http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/auckland/news/ubn/183952233-concern-over-asbestos-handling-in-christchurch

Bay State drugmaker targets asbestos-linked cancer Thursday, May 1, 2014 By Allison Connolly and Sonali Basak - News Telegram.com

Heather Von St. James, 45, remembers her father, a demolition worker, coming home covered in dust and dirt. Still, she’d hug him each night and, sometimes, put on his coat and shoes to play. Thirty years later, she paid a price.

At age 36, with a 3-month-old daughter, Vox St. James was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a deadly, incurable cancer tied to asbestos exposure that can take decades to develop and often kills within months after symptoms appear.

She was told only chance to live was to have a lung removed. She opted for surgery, and later learned she had excised the disease in time


Queanbeyan residents warned on Mr Fluffy asbestos

July 16, 2014 Kirsten Lawson CHIEF ASSEMBLY REPORTER FOR THE CANBERRA TIMES.

Eleven property owners in Queanbeyan and tenants of a block of flats have received a letter warning them that Mr Fluffy asbestos could still be in their homes. While the 1000 or more houses in Canberra with loose-fill asbestos pumped into their ceilings had the bulk of the dangerous material removed 20 years ago, it remains in the ceilings of Queanbeyan homes, with the township never included in the clean-up program. No one knows how many Queanbeyan homes might contain Mr Fluffy asbestos.

Queanbeyan City Council knows of just 11 properties whose owners came forward about the time of the ACT clean-up, but suspects there could be as many as 60 if the same percentage of people used Mr Fluffy insulation in as Canberra.


Two Mr Fluffy home owners diagnosed with mesothelioma by Kirsten Lawson - CHIEF ASSEMBLY REPORTER FOR THE CANBERRA TIMES. July 22nd 2014

Two people in Mr Fluffy homes have been diagnosed with mesothelioma this year, said woman for the Fluffy Owners and Residents Action Group, Brianna Heseltine, says, a revelation set to focus attention on the health risks of the homes.

Others living in homes contaminated with loose-fill asbestos had tumours and other diseases possibly linked to Mr Fluffy exposure, she said.

Acting chief health officer Andrew Pengeilley confirmed the cases of mesothelioma, but said it was not possible to draw conclusions about the risk of living in a Mr Fluffy home. It was unknown how many people had lived in the homes since the insulation was installed more than 40 years ago.

Seven cases of mesothelioma had been diagnosed in Canberra last year, similar to previous years and to rates in other parts of Australia, he said.

Dr Pengeilley believes the risk of disease from living in a Mr Fluffy home is low, based on rates in Wittenoom, an abandoned West Australian blue-asbestos mining town, and on studies of home renovators in the state.

At a health forum last week, he told residents background air in cities contained about 100 asbestos fibres per cubic metre, and buildings containing asbestos had 30 to 600 fibres per cubic metre. In Wittenoom, the air contained 900,000 fibres per cubic metre.

The death rate from asbestos among mine workers was one to two out of 1000. The mesothelioma rate among residents of the town was 26 per 100,000 people per year. Among home renovators in Western Australia, four to six people per 100,000 per year get mesothelioma. Mr Fluffy exposure was likely to be much lower, he said.

“There is an exposure to asbestos [in Mr Fluffy homes]. We think there is a non-zero risk. There is some risk but we believe this risk is low and the diseases that people are concerned about related to asbestos are rare,” he said.

But Ms Heseltine said Wittenoom was quite different. Kilogram by kilogram, the highly refined Mr Fluffy asbestos was far more dangerous than ore.

“I would have thought it would have been wise to ask people what asbestos-related diseases they have before telling them not to worry,” she said, incensed at Dr Pengeilley’s approach.


Mr Fluffy asbestos: Similar loose-fill insulation may have been pumped into homes in Sydney - By Nick Grinnan ABC News Sat updated 2.8.2014 12:32 am

Some Sydney homes may have also been insulated with the same dangerous form of asbestos that was pumped into the so-called Mr Fluffy homes in Canberra.

The Mr Fluffy insulation company installed loose-fill asbestos in the roof spaces of more than 1,000 homes across the ACT during the 1960s and 1970s.

A Commonwealth-funded clean-up program began in the 1980s but some cleared homes have been found to contain potentially deadly remnant fibres.

Now it has emerged that Mr Fluffy’s methods of pumping asbestos in its most dangerous form into roof spaces may have been much more widespread.

The evidence, contained in a newly-unearthed government report, suggests that for years, another company might have used similar methods in Sydney homes.

In 1968 a federal health official was asked by the Commonwealth’s Director of Public Works to provide advice on the health aspects of Mr Fluffy loose-fill asbestos.

The official, Arthur Spears, assessed the product being sold by Mr Fluffy owner Dirk Jansen as dangerous.

“It is considered desirable that D Jansen and company should be dissuaded or even prevented, if possible, from using Mr Fluffy fluff as insulation material in houses,” Mr Spears said in the letter.

“Not only are men being unnecessarily exposed to a harmful substance in the course of their work, which is against the best public health practises, but there is evidence that community exposure to asbestos dust is undesirable.

“In the light of the present stage of knowledge of the health effects of asbestos dust, it is prudent to limit asbestos to essential uses only and then in solid form.”

Mr Spears then went on to foreshadow the crisis that now faces Canberra residents 46 years down the track.

“Many people in the community will be exposed because some asbestos dust will be carried out of the roof space by air currents,” he wrote.

“In view of the harmful nature of this substance the use of asbestos fluff for the purpose of insulating should be discontinued.”


Fluffy Owners and Residents’ Action Group - Brianna Heseltine | Founder and Spokesperson.

Why have I formed this Group?

On 11 April 2014 - thanks to the Asbestos Safety and Endiciation Agency and the media’s public awareness efforts - I found out that I am the co-owner of one of Canberra’s 1,849 “Mr Fluffy” asbestos homes. Upon receiving this news, my husband and I arranged an asbestos assessment. To our horror, the assessor found loose fill amosite asbestos fibres in the return air intake of our central heating system.

For more info - http://www.fluffyaction.com/

There will be more to come on this very serious issue concerning Mr Fluffy and other contractors who may have used this deadly material - ACV/GARDS will keep across this and give you more info in the next edition.
Asbestos

Asbestos seized the properties last year due to unpaid taxes totaling $67,000 for illegally disposing asbestos contaminated debris. Lauter was reportedly diagnosed with malignant pleural mesothelioma in May 2013. He died at age 74 fewer than six months later, in October. Mesothelioma is a rare, fatal cancer that has been linked to asbestos exposure. The latency period can last decades between the time of exposure and the time of diagnosis.


Virtual Consultation System at Ochser Could Help Mesothelioma Patients Everywhere — May 05, 2014 Tim Povtak Asbestos.com

The Ochsner Cancer Institute in New Orleans is exploring the viability of a novel, virtual consultation system that will allow its mesothelioma specialists to make recommendations to physicians who need assistance in caring for, and advising, their patients.

http://www.asbestos.com/news/2014/05/05/ ochsner-virtual-consultation-system/

Merseney man awarded over $125,000 compensation over death from “fog” in factories May 06, 2014 12:05 By Marc Waddington LIVERPOOL, ECHO

A Merseside man who was exposed to a deadly “fog” of asbestos in his late 20s has won more than $100,000 in damages. Stephen Norman, 67, said he endured “filthy, disgusting conditions” during his time as a training officer at a chemicals factory in Aintree. Mr Turner, 67, said he had taken the job at Courtaulds - now Akzo Nobel - to “better himself”, only for it to leave him with a terminal illness. He said: “The asbestos dust was thick like a fog. I mainly worked in the nylon section and it was everywhere. “Most evenings when I got home from the factory I would have to rinse out my nostrils. “I knew the conditions were bad for us, they were totally filthy and disgusting. “But I had no idea just how dangerous it was. I can remember complaining to the bosses that we need better ventilation to clear out the dust because it was hard to breathe.

http://www.liverpool Echo.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/ merseney-man-awarded-over-100000-7077459

At least one “unscrupulous contractor” responsible for asbestos illegally dumped in Roberto Clemente Park, DA says May 6, 2014 9:15 AM by SARAH Crichton and SADIE MANGER

At least one “unscrupulous contractor” was responsible for high levels of asbestos left in an estimated 32,000 tons of debris dumped at an Islip Town park in Brentwood, Suffolk County. A prosecutor said Tuesday, initial sampling from the surface at Roberto Clemente Park confirmed components of the debris include asbestos-containing materials – some pieces of which contained asbestos concentrations as high as 44 percent, District Attorney Thomas Spota said. The presence of the “dangerous contaminant” on the surface requires extensive sampling to determine if there’s more below asbestos.com/news/2014/05/09/

town of ulster will spend $13,490 to remove roofs, asbestos from two trailers 05/17/14 2:43 PM By William J. Kemble, Daily Freeman news

TOWN OF ULSTER >> The Town Board has approved spending $13,490 to remove asbestos roofing material from two trailers at 90-94 North Drive in the hamlet of Glenmere. The work, approved last week, will be done by T.J. Bell Environmental of Averill Park. The company will remove the roofing from a 600-square-foot trailer and a 96-square-foot “tag-along” trailer. “We have been clearing up the site... taking the debris, an enormous amount of debris away,” said town Supervisor Frank Perumara. “As soon as we get the asbestos material that has to be removed, we’ll get all of the buildings put back together and removed. The town seized the properties last year due to unpaid taxes totaling $46,000. Ulster County was unsuccessful trying to sell the properties and abandoned the site.

http://www.dailyfreeman.com general-news/2014/05/07/
Asbestos Council of Victoria / GARDS INC.

Asbestos Snippets

ASBESTOS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA / GARDS INC.

Page 9

A recent decision in June 2014 of the Supreme Court of Victoria in Multari & Selsam Pty Ltd has had a significant impact on the Victorian asbestos compensation jurisdiction, causing uncertainty for some asbestos disease sufferers seeking compensation.

As a result of this decision, Part VBA of the WorkCover Act 1958 has been found to apply to sufferers of asbestos related diseases, where they have been exposed to asbestos outside of employment governed by Victorian workers’ compensation schemes. For example, Part VBA will apply to claimants who were exposed to asbestos through home renovation work, or if they were exposed to asbestos dust washing the contaminated work clothes of their partners. Part VBA requires that these claimants obtain a ‘significant injury’ certificate in order to obtain damages for pain and suffering compensation. This process requires an assessment by a specially qualified AMA practitioner that the person has a 5% whole of body impairment.

The application of Part VBA to certain classes of asbestos disease sufferers creates an extra burden on vulnerable claimants already suffering under the weight of their diseases. It may also lengthen compensation claims by many months. There is no reason why claimants with terminal, immediately life-threatening asbestos related conditions should face unnecessary delay and red tape while attempting to receive fair compensation for themselves and their families. Clearly it is difficult to doubt the significance of injury for people suffering asbestos related diseases where they are battling painful disease progression and reduced life expectancies and the ACV, unions and law firms are working hard to claim the government to immediately exclude asbestos disease sufferers from such an unfair outcome.

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS are at this moment writing letters and in discussion with our local State politicians to try and have this unjust and cruel red tape changed for asbestos sufferers. Watch this space!!!

IMPORTANT NEWS

A recent decision in June 2014 of the Supreme Court of Victoria in Multari & Selsam Pty Ltd has had a significant impact on the Victorian asbestos compensation jurisdiction, causing uncertainty for some asbestos disease sufferers seeking compensation.

As a result of this decision, Part VBA of the WorkCover Act 1958 has been found to apply to sufferers of asbestos related diseases, where they have been exposed to asbestos outside of employment governed by Victorian workers’ compensation schemes. For example, Part VBA will apply to claimants who were exposed to asbestos through home renovation work, or if they were exposed to asbestos dust washing the contaminated work clothes of their partners. Part VBA requires that these claimants obtain a ‘significant injury’ certificate in order to obtain damages for pain and suffering compensation. This process requires an assessment by a specially qualified AMA practitioner that the person has a 5% whole of body impairment.

The application of Part VBA to certain classes of asbestos disease sufferers creates an extra burden on vulnerable claimants already suffering under the weight of their diseases. It may also lengthen compensation claims by many months. There is no reason why claimants with terminal, immediately life-threatening asbestos related conditions should face unnecessary delay and red tape while attempting to receive fair compensation for themselves and their families. Clearly it is difficult to doubt the significance of injury for people suffering asbestos related diseases where they are battling painful disease progression and reduced life expectancies and the ACV, unions and law firms are working hard to claim the government to immediately exclude asbestos disease sufferers from such an unfair outcome.

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS are at this moment writing letters and in discussion with our local State politicians to try and have this unjust and cruel red tape changed for asbestos sufferers. Watch this space!!!

Now hurdle for asbestos victims

Reported by Sally Weir - Associate at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers


Building and Woodworkers International Asbestos Conference, May 2014. ibas Secretariat

http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/ row-erupts-over-45m-flat-3550618

http://www.bwia-international.org/new-etu-website

On May 6 and 7, 2014, the Building and Woodworkers International Asbestos Conference took place at the Crowne Plaza in Dubai, where delegates for 32 countries joined to discuss asbestos related health issues and the need to have an immediate ban on manufactured asbestos products. The conference was co-hosted by the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS) and the Building and Woodworkers International (BWI). The conference concluded with a call for an immediate ban on manufactured asbestos. Pakistan's delegate at the conference, Umar Cheema, said that Pakistan suffers from asbestos related diseases. Pakistan has the highest number of asbestos related deaths in the world, with 2,500 deaths recorded in Pakistan between 2000 and 2010, according to the IBAS report "The asbestos lie. The past and present of industrial cancer.”


A personal loss has revealed collective tragedy in Karachi where a factory dumping site in Gadap Town is still exposing over two million residents to cancer-causing asbestos that annually kills 100,000 people at the global level. While 52 countries have banned asbestos, the Pakistani government, appears unconcerned. A study commissioned on the directives of the Supreme Court of Pakistan has found that the populations residing in Gadap Town and nearby areas are prone to cancer-like diseases through asbestos, as it is airborne.

Thank You!

Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous companies

GJ Crosby Contractors thank you to Judi, Kerri and all the family and we would also like to thank Paul Erbs and Darren Carman and all the team at Mairin OHS&E Consulting

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

- Ian Wilson, Ivy Brown.
- Ray Whittaker, Anonymous $11.
- George Locke, George Pickering.
- Kim Coad, James Wise.
- Brady Manning, Muriel Glover.
- Myrna & Andrew Seychell.
- Margaret Williams.
- Malcolm Fabiny, Anonymous $50.

Gippsland Water Social Club Inc.

Our organisation would like to thank the social club of Gippsland Water for donating to us again this year as a donation to our organisation. You are truly wonderful people and we are both true blue supporters and we appreciate it.

Paul Addison & GREENCAP/ NAA

We would like to say how very much we have appreciated Paul’s help on some interesting issues around asbestos and helping some of our clients to deal with it. We would also like to thank GREENCAP/NAA for lending their expertise when needed and being so obliging to our phone enquiries - it means a great deal to us and saves lives. Thank you all - you are stars!!!

Limnos Karvery Kafe

Our organisation would like to thank the proprietors Anne & Tony Fkiaras for the generous donation they made to us. We appreciate the support we receive from the community - thank you so much for caring - you can be assured that the money you have donated will support asbestos sufferers and their families.

Michael Hutchinson

Thank you for your generous donation - your support for our organisation is very much appreciated and will go towards supporting asbestos sufferers and their families.

Tracey Ditterich and Rob

Thank you so much for your wonderful donation to us we really appreciated getting a donation in memory of Geoff Ditterich from his daughter Tracey - it was so nice to hear from you and know that you still think of us every now and then.

Jean Harwood

Thank you so much for the donation of a bottle of Kentucky Gentleman Bourbon Whisky for our next raffle. You are always a great supporter of our organisation.

Valerie Heuch

Thank you so much for your kind gesture. It will certainly get donated to our organisation.

Donations made in Memory of - Yvonne Stewart

David Stewart and family, Anonymous $20, Anonymous $15.

Donations made in Memory of - Peter Black

Nanette & Peter Ither, Graeme & Jackie Lee, Anonymous $50, Orna Senior Citizens Centre Inc.

Donations made in Memory of - Jim Sargeant


Home Taste Chinese Restaurant

The ACV/GARDS organisation would like to again thank Pinky and Tony Lau for their continued support & friendship with our organisation.

South Gippsland & East Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide

The ACV/GARDS organisation would like to acknowledge the support that we get from Paul Cornelis South Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide and also Tony Robinson East Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide. Both these agents fit our oxygen concentrators and conserving devices for our sufferers when ever needed - they do this for us as a donation to our organisation. You are truly wonderful people who should be commended for your good deeds.

Donations made in Memory of - John Jackson


Donations made in Memory of - Bryan Williams


Vale to Peter Black

We would like to say how very hard it was to say goodbye to our esteemed member of 7 years - Peter. Wanted to make his donations personally before he passed away - so in the days before his passing he called on Vicki to come and collect his portable oxygen concentrator, nebuliser and a collection of 50 cent pieces he had been saving up valued at $45. Peter sadly passed away a few days later after making the donations to our org and we are very proud and honoured to have known him. He was a charming man and always held in high regard what our organisation was doing to help asbestos sufferers and their families everywhere. Rest in Peace Peter - you were a top bloke!

Morwell Bowling Club

We would like to thank the management of the Morwell Bowling Club and a big thank you to Michelle Curtis who is helping to raise money for ACV/GARDS. Please support the club and you will be supporting us too. Thank you so much to all - it is great to have you in our corner.

Online Donations

Bree Knoester, Chris Healy

Donations made in Memory of - George Ridley

George Cooper, Anonymous $20, Anonymous $5

Donations made in Memory of - Bryan Williams


Valle to Peter Black

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Donations made in Memory of - Jim Sargeant


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Donations made in Memory of - Bryan Williams


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Donations made in Memory of - Jim Sargeant

GARDS Inc. Membership Form

Name: .................................................................................................................................
Address: ...............................................................................................................................
Postcode: ...... Telephone: ......................................................... Email: ...................................
Occupation: ........................................................................................................................

GARDS NEW MEMBERS Joining Fee $5.00

PLUS

GARDS Annual Subscription 2014

1. Concession (Pensioner/unemployed) ............................... $3.00
2. Full Rate (employed) .......................................................... $11.00

Upon my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound by the rules of GARDS Inc.

Signature: ................................................................. Date: ____/____/____

Please return to GARDS Inc. with payment, PO Box 111, MOE, Vic. 3825

Office Use Only

I ......................................................, a Member of the GARDS Inc. nominate the Applicant for
Membership of the Association

Signature of Proposer: .............................................. Date: ____/____/____

I ......................................................, a Member of the GARDS Inc. second the nomination of the Applicant
for Membership of the Association

Signature of Proposer: .............................................. Date: ____/____/____

Committee of Management

President:
Dorothy Roberts
Ph. 03 5127 4174
Mobile 0407 274 174

Vice President:
Marie Smith
Ph. 03 5127 1427
Mobile 0427 271 427

CEO/Secretary:
Vicki Hamilton
Ph. 03 5127 8219
Mobile 0407 274 173

Treasurer:
David Fairbairn
Mobile 0403 319 520

Member:
Collin Ross
Mobile 0402 420 398
Ray Watson
Ph. 03 5127 4361
Mobile 0401 092 291

ACV/GARDS Fees
Joining Fee: .......... $5.00
Annual Fees:
Pensioner/Concession ........................................ $3.00
Unemployed ...................................................... $3.00
Employed persons ......... $11.00

Meetings
SUPPORT: Last Tuesday of month, 1.30pm - 3.30pm
EVENINGS: 3rd Tuesday of month, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Office Hours
Monday to Thursday
10am - 4pm
Friday - By appointment

ACV/G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2014
1.30PM – 3.30PM
Meetings are held at –
ACV/GARDS Premises
41 Monash Road, Newborough
- Tuesday 25th February
- Tuesday 25th March
- Tuesday 29th April
- Tuesday 27th May
- Tuesday 24th June
- Tuesday 29th July
- Tuesday 26th August
- Tuesday 30th September
- Tuesday 28th October
- Friday 28th November – Asbestos Awareness Day, Rose Garden, Morwell
- Christmas Break-Up TBA

ACV/G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2014
7.30PM – 9.30PM
Meetings are held at –
ACV/GARDS Premises
41 Monash Road, Newborough
- Tuesday 18th February
- Tuesday 18th March
- Tuesday 15th April
- Tuesday 20th May
- Tuesday 17th June
- Tuesday 15th July
- Tuesday 19th August
- Tuesday 16th September
- Tuesday 21st October
- Tuesday 18th November
- Christmas Break-Up TBA

UP COMING EVENTS
Our Night/Day Meetings

SUPPORT GROUP
26 August 2014
Kate Veterinarian - Moe Vet
30 September 2014
Dr Adrian Pick
Cardiothoracic Surgeon and
Gabrielle Pick
Practice Manager and
James Wise
Principal of HKS Lawyers
28 October 2014
Bree Knoester
Barrister - Advice Line Lawyers and
Lois Williams
Central District
Older Adults Recreation network

SPECIAL EVENT
Asbestos Awareness Day Event
28 November 2014, 11AM
Centenary Rose Garden, Morwell
ACV/GARDS INC. SUPPORT

ACV/GARDS provides support and information to asbestos sufferers, their families and carers. This includes home visits by ACV/GARDS volunteers, 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 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; ACV/GARDS Support is open to anyone whose lives have been affected by asbestos, their families and the general public.

ACV/GARDS loans out free of charge to asbestos sufferers - oxygen bottle regulators, conserving devices, oxygen home concentrators, wheel chairs, oxygen bottle carriers, nebuliser, walking frames & walking sticks.

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

ACV/GARDS INC. 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.

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.

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

Thank You