

XMAS PICS Continued



We hope you enjoyed the picture gallery of members having fun at the Xmas lunch provided by ACV/GARDS to its members. I think the pictures tell you the story. We would like to thank all our members who made the day a great success by attending and joining in all the fun. The ACV/GARDS Xmas raffle raised \$256 on the day.

To all our members who donated gifts for the raffle & the lucky door prizes we thank you so much for your generosity. To the winners on the day we hope you enjoyed your

prizes. I think we ended up with over 14 prizes to give out.

A big thank you to Silks Restaurant - Moe for providing us with some magnificent food for the smorgasbord, the roast meats were exceptional, it was so delicious and the sweets were absolutely wonderful. I can assure everyone reading this news item no one went home hungry. Thank you so much Manny, Vicki and Stewart at Michaels Golden Hen - George Street, Moe - Silks Restaurant is located at the rear.

CORNER INLET CANCER SUPPORT GROUP FOSTER



Towards the end of last year we made a visit to our friends at Foster - The Corner Inlet Cancer Support Group to give an asbestos awareness information session. We were pleased to see so many of the group turn up for our session and we made many new friends.

We would like to thank the group for having us come along and have a frank discussion on asbestos in the community and the health effects from exposure. A special thanks goes to Helen Soderlund for arranging for us to come and meet the group.

JANE WEST MEMBER VISITING FROM SA



We were thrilled to get a call from Jane who was touring around on holidays and decided to take a visit to see us. Jane lost her father Kenneth A. R. West to asbestos related disease which he contracted while living and working in Latrobe Valley. Jane contacted us quite a few years ago and between sending her local papers for her dad to read and phone calls and emails we have managed to stay in touch.

It was the first time that we had

actually come face to face as all our interaction has been by phone or email.

Jane sat down and had lunch with us and showed us lovely pieces of art work painted by her father and herself.

It was lovely catching up with Jane and hearing all about her Dad .

She is seen here from left to right with Vicki, Jane, Dorothy and Marie. We hope to keep this friendship for many years to come.

BMC BOYS - DE-INKING PLANT - APM DONATION



ACV/GARDS would like to thank so much the "BMC Boys" from the De- Inking Plant at the APM for their wonderful and surprise donation to us. We were absolutely thrilled to receive a donation from the guys who just walked in off the street and said "we want to donate to you - we think you do a great job in the community"

What a terrific compliment they paid us. We can't tell you how much this means to us to have workers like this support us in this manner. We rely on donations for all the work we do in the community and this goes part way to helping with that.

To all of the BMC Boys at the De-Inking Plant at the APM we thank you so much for deeming us worthy of your support.

VALE TO LYALL WATTS



Pictured above are two photos one personal one that Gary, Lyall's partner gave me and one we had of Lyall with Gary and Santa's Elf Tanya and Santa at our Xmas lunch in 2013 - we all had a wonderful day that day. Below is a eulogy that we compiled for Lyall's celebration of life which was read out in our absence. As the ceremony was conducted on the same day as our Xmas lunch for ACV/GARDS and we were unable to attend. We would like to share this with our readers. Lyall passed away on the 15/11/2014.

On behalf of the Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS committee and members we would like to say how saddened we are that Lyall has lost his battle with mesothelioma. We are very disappointed we cannot be here with all of you today.

We first met Lyall in 2010 and the relationship between us grew from our first meeting and we became quite close over the years - ringing each other and comparing notes, ideas and thoughts.

Lyall was a tireless worker behind the scenes for the asbestos cause - he was a quiet unassuming gentleman - he had joined just about every support group around Australia. We were lucky enough to meet him and he joined us too.

Lyall came to our events and he

bought Gary along a few times too! It was always good to see them and we always had plenty to say to each other.

When Lyall's and our relationships became closer in the last few years he voiced his opinions on many things

Lyall had a strength and determination which drove him to push for research - which he was passionate about, and making people aware of the dangers of asbestos. When he told us that he had decided to donate his mortal remains to science we were so proud of him. Lyall never thought of himself as a victim (he hated that word) always as someone suffering from asbestos disease. He never liked "victim" as he believed that the word victim made it sound like a sense of hopelessness - of not being able to do anything about the situation and not in control.

Of course everyone he met - he made sure that he was doing everything he could to change the outcome for others, and he was no "victim" but a "champion" of the cause.

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS considers themselves very honoured and proud to have known such a wonderful man whom we considered a friend of our organisation.

Lyall was a staunch supporter of

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS and was very close to me (Vicki) and other members of our organisation - I will miss him very much and our long talks on the phone about all sorts of issues. Many in our group were saddened to hear of his passing. Lyall was a consummate gentleman and one of the finest men I have ever known.

I don't have to tell you all that Lyall battled many adversities with his illness over the time since his diagnosis - most times his illness just seemed to get in the way of what he wanted to do.

Gary, we wish we could be here today to give you a big kiss and cuddle but our Xmas lunch for our members has got in the way of being able to be with you all today and exchanging personal stories and happy memories about Lyall. I know Lyall would have liked to have been with us for the ACV/GARDS Xmas lunch today - he enjoyed coming and being with us and was intending to come if well enough this year.

We hope you can feel the love we have for you Gary our emails & phone calls between us have been personal and at times very emotional. After more than twenty years though you will have many happy memories of your life together and can feel very proud of the legacy Lyall has left us all - he has left us with a bond that has united us all.

Finally we would like to thank you so much Lyall and Gary for allowing us to be a part of your lives in some small way - we were very privileged and honoured to have known Lyall. We hope Gary that you will keep contact with us and will still be a part of our group for many years to come.

Lyall's membership badge has been put up on our Memorial Board and was on display at our Asbestos Awareness Day event on Friday 28th November where we did a Vale to Lyall so our community could know what a kind gentleman Lyall was.

Lyall will be sadly missed by all who knew him - but will never be forgotten.

Rest in Peace Lyall your duty on this earth is done. It is up to the rest of us to live up to your dedication.

Vicki Hamilton OAM - CEO/ Secretary - Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS

Footnote to this Vale - Gary Kenny, Lyall's partner has made a wonderful donation to our organisation in Memory of Lyall - thank you so much for thinking of us at a time of great sorrow for you. It is a very generous thing to do - thinking of others!

ACV/GARDS & GTLC - INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY 2015



This annual event is to honour those who have lost their lives through workplace accidents and illness

Tuesday 28th April 2015 at 11am - Centenary Rose Garden, Commercial Road, Morwell - Guest Speakers Include:

Bree Knoester: Adviceline Injury Lawyers: Workcover and Personal injury lawyer

Darren Van Heurck : Work Place Accident Representative

Anne Murphy: Executive of the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council - Danny Boothman - Member of the Strzelecki String Busters singing ballads

Beryl Stevens - Civil Celebrant : Conducting an ecumenical service

David Duncan & Bill Dunbar: Scottish bagpipers

Free community BBQ at the conclusion of the event with the compliments of GTLC - All are welcome

GIPPSLAND TRADES & LABOUR COUNCIL MEMBER BENEFIT CARD PROGRAM

Don't forget to support the GTLC's Member Benefit card. A range of Valley-based community organisations will 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/ GARDS and other volunteer organisations in need of additional funding.

"Currently at this point in time, ACV/GARDS relies 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.

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.

THANK YOU TO RAY WATSON



ACV/GARDS organisation would like to thank Ray Watson for being a part of our committee for the last 2 years and we wish him every success in the future. We thank you for all your good work you did for us Ray.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 31ST 2015

On Saturday 31st January 2015 the Elections for Positions that were falling vacant were: **Secretary, Vice President, Committee Member** -

We are pleased to announce that these positions were taken up by the

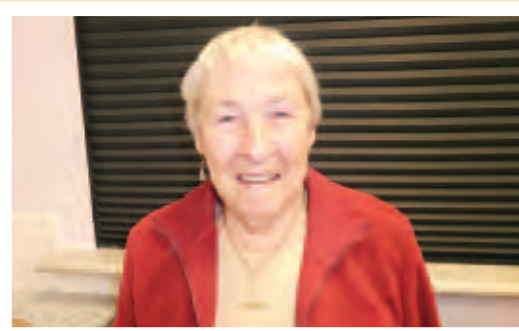
following people below. We have done a little profile on each for you to get to know them. We welcome Vicki Hamilton OAM who was re-elected to the position of Secretary unopposed and Marie Smith who was re-elected unopposed to the

position of Vice President and as our newest member of the committee we welcome Ray Whittaker who was elected unanimously. The term on our committee is 2 years with half of our committee members standing down each year. Our 3 new

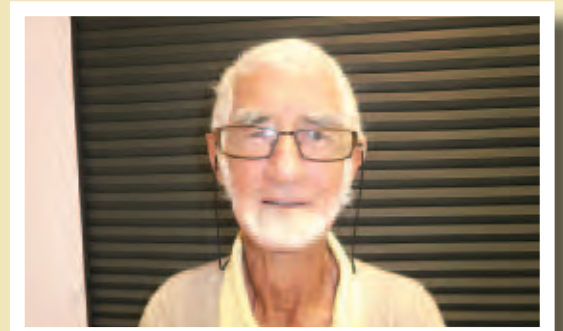
committee members will be on for a term of 2 years. We wish them well in their endeavours and look forward to seeing them at our events and meetings.



Vicki Hamilton OAM - CEO/Secretary of ACV/ GARDS since 2002 - hobbies include fishing, walking, dining out and watching a good movie with family and friends, Ballet, Opera, reading a good book, & loves animals.



Marie Smith - Vice President of ACV/GARDS for 4 years. Retired Nurse - her hobbies & interests are Ballet, Opera, reading a good book, travelling, gardening, sewing and the occasional knitting project.



Ray Whittaker - Committee Member of ACV/ GARDS - Retired - Ray's is an avid Lawn Bowler so much so he is always on the green somewhere.

ADVICELINE INJURY LAWYERS SPONSORS OF ACV/GARDS

In the second half of last year our organisation was very happy to accept sponsorship from Adviceline Injury Lawyers. Bree Knoester, Partner in this firm has recently opened an office in Kirk Street, Moe. Bree attends the office every Tuesday and sees clients and makes home visits to those who cannot make it to the office.

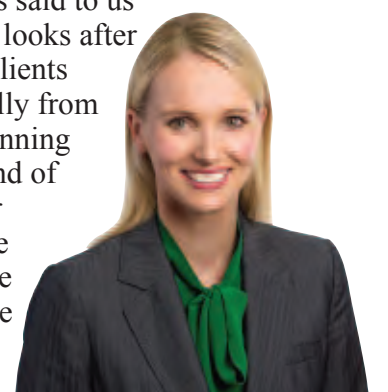
Adviceline Injury Lawyers have become our second major sponsor after WorkSafe Vic, and we welcome their support to our organisation.

We hope this partnership will be a long and happy one. We welcome Bree Knoester to our organisation - she has a long history in asbestos litigation and has been personally touched by mesothelioma in her own family. Bree knows only too well what sufferers and their families go through when a diagnosis of this sort is made. Bree was also born and raised in Traralgon and has family in Glengarry and Morwell.

Bree is also in charge of all Gippsland WorkCover claims so she is very familiar with the types

of injuries suffered by people in this region, particularly asbestos related diseases and the practices of the former and current major employers in the region.

Bree has said to us that she looks after all her clients personally from the beginning to the end of the their case. We welcome you Bree



SLATER + GORDON DONATION



ACV/GARDS has been very fortunate to receive another sponsorship this year to help support asbestos sufferers and their families and the work we do in the community. It is great to have asbestos litigation law firms such as Slater + Gordon recognise the importance of support groups, and their role in helping to do whatever it takes to take care of asbestos sufferers and their families. We would like to thank very much Steve Plunkett and the team at Slater + Gordon in Morwell for their friendship and expertise. It is a friendship that we have had for a number of years and very valued.

Annual fees are OVERDUE!!

ACV/GARDS fees are now overdue and were payable by the 30th September 2014 - we appreciate all those members who have already paid their fees.

We do not send out reminders as this adds to our costs - so we would appreciate it if you could make your payment as soon as you can. The fees due do not cover the costs associated with being a member of the organisation but they do help to go towards some of the information that is sent to you. Thank you to all of you for your membership as this gives us strength.

GIPPSLAND HOME AND LEISURE SHOW 2015



As usual you can find us at the annual Home Show at Kernot Hall in Morwell every year and this year was no exception. There were many people who came to the show looking for innovative ideas and products to enhance their homes or ideas for leisure time. ACV/GARDS always enjoys meeting the public at this time to highlight awareness around home renovations, and asbestos awareness when attempting some planned jobs in the home. We carry a great deal of information from companies about auditing, removal of asbestos, the Domestic Asbestos Removal Kit available from certain councils and identification and examples of what asbestos

might be contained in. We had many enquiries about home renovations and we were only too happy to give out this information to keep people as safe as possible.

We would like to thank some of the ACV/GARDS committee for giving up their time to help us over this 3 day show in talking with the public, and we would also like to thank Dennis Day and Graeme Hamilton for helping to set up our display and take it down. It is wonderful to have such great help from our members. All of this combined to make the show a great success for us.

Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Services LUNG CANCER CONFERENCE 2015



Vicki Hamilton and the ACV/GARDS team attended the Lung Cancer conference where Vicki was invited to speak about the consumer perspective of asbestos related lung disease. Vicki spoke to a broad range of clinicians who attended the conference, and also spoke to others attending. Some of the other speakers were: Thoracic surgeons, Respiratory Physicians, Radiologists, Medical Oncologists, Pathologists, Nuclear Physicians, Cardiothoracic Surgeons, Radiation Oncologists, Palliative care/District nurses and Cancer Care nurses.

There were many and varied topics of conversation around Symptoms of Lung Cancer, Challenges faced to make the diagnosis, Screening

of Lung Cancer, Symptom Management. I think one of the highlights for us was when Prof Cliff Choong showed some of the instruments he uses in his operations for mesothelioma sufferers - this was very interesting and gave us a good insight into just how some of the operations are carried out.

We were very pleased to have so many clinicians come up to us at the morning tea and lunch break and introduce themselves to us. It has put some faces to names that we had read and heard a lot about. We hope that we have given them an insight into support and advocacy groups and what they do to help support sufferers and their families.

GippsTAFE ASBESTOS AWARENESS SESSION



As you can see by the photos we were pleased to see many of the trade students and their teachers at a session that ACV/GARDS gave on asbestos awareness in their trades of choice. Over 150 students attended the 2 hour session where there was much interaction over what asbestos can be found in and what they should be doing to keep themselves protected.

The trades that attended were from the Painting and Decorating, Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry and Motor Mechanic sections, along with Engineering.

The feedback we received from teachers and the students was very positive - all commented that they had no idea what sort of things asbestos could be found in. It also gave them a new perspective of the issues around asbestos and made them aware that it is not a thing of the past but of the now and into the future. We would like to thank Davin Nicholas for helping to arrange this session with the trades, and we look forward to conducting another one next year.



GTLC LABOUR DAY DINNER 2015



A good time was had by all at the dinner. Guest speakers were: Harriet Shing - Upper House Member For Eastern Victoria along with the Minister for Industrial Relations Natalie Hutchins and Steve Dodd the Secretary of the GTLC and AMWU organiser all spoke with inspiration and passion. I think the highlight of the night for us was when John Parker was made a Life Member of ACV/GARDS and also of the GTLC . Alison Parker was given a gift of thanks for all her support of our org. It was a very emotional night with many good friends and lots of stories of many battles won and lost.

GIPPSLAND COMBINED TRADES UNION PICNIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We would like to thank all the members and their families of the trade union picnic and social committee for their generous annual donation to our organisation. At the Labour Day dinner Toby Thornton was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the support that the members have given us. It is terrific to have such support from the workers and their families. You are the best!!!!

Asbestos Snippets

IN AUSTRALIA

Bins full of suspected asbestos sit on property while council wrangle over who is responsible - Therese Allaoui From: Mordialloc Chelsea Leader March 23, 2015

FOR three months Tasha Strelkoff has lived with bins full of suspected asbestos on her property while two councils wrangled over who should clean it up. Ms Strelkoff came out of hospital just before Christmas to find four City of Whitehorse wheelie bins, filled to the brim with construction material, dumped on her Mordialloc property. Landlord Brad Griffin said his calls to Whitehorse and Kingston councils were met with refusal to deal with the potentially dangerous bins. Kingston Council even threatened to fine Mr Griffin up to \$2000 in a January letter, which ordered him to "remove four refuse bins suspected of containing asbestos from the property". More than three months later, Ms Strelkoff said she was angry the council had washed its hands of the mess, which could be a danger to herself and passing pedestrians. "It's a council issue that someone has dumped some possibly really toxic stuff in the front lawn," Ms Strelkoff said. "It's a concern because it could be lethal. If anyone decides to walk past and flip the lids open, or if a wind gust decides to flip the lid open, there's a danger to it."

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/inner-south/bins-full-of-suspected-asbestos-sit-on-property-while-council-wrangle-over-who-is-responsible/story-fgnvli9-122724255379>

Lyons couple discover their home was formerly owned by Mr Fluffy asbestos insulator Dirk Jansen - March 21, 2015 ACT News Georgina Connery

Leo and Lorraine Carvalho were living their dream, pouring their life savings and years of hard work into their Lyons home – until a knock on the door changed everything. The couple's dream has become their nightmare, after discovering they are living at the epicentre of Canberra's Mr Fluffy asbestos crisis – the home where the company founder Dirk Jansen began his deadly trade. The creator of the toxic legacy not only pumped loose-fill asbestos into his own home but stored bags of the dangerous substance on the property.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/lyons-couple-discover-their-home-was-formerly-owned-by-mr-fluffy-asbestos-insulator-dirk-jansen-20150321-1m142c.html>

The House Detective: Asbestos inspection incomplete - Barry Stone, Certified Building Ins

Pector March 21, 2015

DEAR BARRY: We own a home that was recently flooded. Now the interior must be stripped to the framing and rebuilt. An environmental inspector was hired to determine if there is any asbestos. He found none, so the contractor proceeded with demolition. While removing plaster, he uncovered heating ducts that are insulated with asbestos. That material was damaged in the process of opening the walls, so now that contractor must report this to the air quality control board and to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, and we may be subject to fines. The contractor says the asbestos insulation should have been reported by the asbestos inspector, but the asbestos inspector says he was only required to test surface materials. Who is right? — Art

DEAR ART: The asbestos inspector's responsibility was to determine all possible sources of asbestos on the property and to advise you accordingly, prior to demolition. Whether he was limited to testing surface materials or not is irrelevant. The location of the air registers should have indicated to him that there were air ducts inside the walls.

<http://newsok.com/the-house-detective-asbestos-inspection-incomplete/article/5403177>

Dumped asbestos removed swiftly from Osborne site, Renewal SA says - Fri 20 Mar 2015, ABC News

Government agency Renewal SA says tonnes of dumped waste including asbestos has been swiftly removed from a site at Osborne in Adelaide's north-west, to ensure there is no public risk. A union made the danger public when it found out about the illegal dumping and notified the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Port Adelaide MP Susan Close. A Renewal SA official said the waste was dumped on former defence land it now owned at Osborne. "We acted as soon as we were notified, arranging for a contractor to remove the waste for appropriate disposal at a licensed landfill," a spokesperson said. "This work [was] supervised by a specialist environmental contractor."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-20/dumped-asbestos-removed-quickly-from-osborne-site-renewal-sa-sa/6337150>

Asbestos feared dumped at popular Adelaide leisure spot near Port River - Fri 20 Mar 2015, ABC News

A union official says waste dumped in Adelaide's north-west, close to the Port River, appears to include asbestos. CFMEU official Dave Kirner checked the area at Osborne after a tip-off and took photographs of the dumped material. Environment Protection Authority (EPA) officers have since sealed off the area and taken samples of the dumped material for testing. The union said the area was popular for dirt and quad bike riding, four-wheel drives and other leisure activities. Mr Kirner said there appeared to be roof or fence sheeting in the dumped material and he urged people to keep away.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-20/asbestos-feared-dumped-at-popular-adelaide-leisure-spot/6333938>

Lismore man fined for dumping asbestos - 19th Mar 2015 2:03 PM, The Northern Star

LISMORE City Council has fined a 36-year-old Lismore man \$4000 for dumping asbestos, and are sending a strong warning to anyone

else thinking of illegal dumping. Council said the man dumped 220kg of asbestos-contaminated material on Boatharbour Road and was tracked down following the thorough investigative work of a Council Compliance Officer. Council's Manager Development & Compliance Peter Jeuken said the material had to be removed by a licensed asbestos contractor and would only have cost the man approximately \$120 to dispose of legally as a result of EPA subsidies.

"People are trying to avoid paying quite reasonable fees, only to be lumped with a large fine, and in the meantime they are putting people and the environment at risk," Mr Jeuken said. "The material samples taken at this particular dump site were sent for analysis and tested positive to two types of asbestos."

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/news/lismore-man-fined-dumping-asbestos/2579623/>

Asbestos claiming bush lives - SALLY CRIPPS 19 Mar, 2015

DEBRIS scattered across the landscape in the wake of Cyclone Marcia has set the asbestos alarm bells ringing for people cleaning up in central Queensland, but those with long-term knowledge of the dangers associated with the product are urging people in the bush and on farms to be on the lookout for it in their daily lives. More cases of illness from rural areas are diagnosed every day. Lined shearers quarters, broken cement pipes lying exposed on dam banks or used to feed stock with, hay sheds with flaking asbestos cement roofs - examples of the many ways country people are still at risk of exposure to the deadly product. Elisha Parker was introduced to the pain that asbestos is wreaking on rural families in 2002, when she started work with law firm Turner Freeman, which deals specifically with damage caused by the product. "Asbestos is in so many industries - it's startling," she said. "It's common to associate it with buildings, but banana farmers have been affected by bags they covered their fruit with, for example, and their wives inhaled fibres when they were washing dirty clothes."

<http://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/news/agriculture/general/news/asbestos-claiming-bush-lives/2726954.aspx>

Another Mr Fluffy home confirmed in the Hume Shire - March 17, 2015 ACT News

Another Mr Fluffy home has been discovered in the Hume Shire – halfway between Wagga and Albury. Just last fortnight the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities in NSW confirmed a Queanbeyan home had been confirmed to contain Mr Fluffy as part of an independent investigation into loose fill asbestos in NSW. The latest discovery brings the total number of affected homes across NSW to 61. As of March 12, 2,186 premises across 26 Local Council areas have registered for the free sampling service. Of these, 1,284 properties have been tested with 1,280 samples determined to not contain asbestos.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news>

Cyclone Olwyn: Restoring Carnarvon water supply priority, warnings over hygiene and asbestos - Nicolas Perpetch 15 Mar 2015, ABC News

"We want to get the message out there that people need to be aware of their health." Mr Dunn said the damaged buildings meant asbestos was another issue. "There's a little bit of asbestos around town as well, so if people come across items that look like asbestos, stay away from that," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-15/cyclone-olwyn-carnarvon-water-supply-problems/6320562>

Asbestos victim wins right to claim compo - 16 March, 2015 Ben Hagemann, Australian Mining

A former Gove alumina refinery worker has successfully claimed \$425,000 in compensation for malignant mesothelioma, which developed as a result of asbestos exposure during the 1970s. Zorko Zabic, 74, was denied compensation by a Supreme Court ruling in January as he did not make the claim within the period outlined in the statute of limitation. Zabic began to experience chest pains in January 2014, after a typically long latency period for that type of cancer, but it was ruled a year later that his claim was statute-barred as it should have been filed before 1987. Justice Barr said at the time he was satisfied that Zabic's condition was caused by unprotected exposure to asbestos dust and fibres during his employment as a result of negligence by Alcan Gove (purchased by Rio Tinto). However, Justice Chief Riley has told the Court of Appeal that Zabic's appeal has been granted. Zabic's lawyer Roger Singh of Shine Lawyers said the decision would pave the way for other asbestos victims in the Northern Territory previously denied the ability to make similar claims, ABC reported. "Today's decision is a win for workers, a win for their families and a win for humanity," he said last week. A spokesman for Rio Tinto said although company did not own the refinery at the time of Zabic's employment, they had sought to resolve the matter fairly as owner of the site.

<http://www.miningaustralia.com.au/news/asbestos-victim-wins-right-to-claim-compo>

Submissions sought on loose fill asbestos action plan - 11 Mar 2015, ABC News

The head of the taskforce investigating Mr Fluffy asbestos in New South Wales suspects there are more than the three houses identified with the issue. The properties, in the Berrigan Shire and at Queanbeyan, have been identified through a free testing program that has been running since last year and on offer in 26 local government areas. Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Taskforce Chairman, Dave Owens, says more than 2000 people have sought free tests, with over 1,200 tests completed. Prior to the free testing program starting, houses were identified in Queanbeyan, Parramatta, Manly, Lithgow, Yass and Bungendore as being affected by Mr Fluffy. Mr Owens says he is preparing an action plan for the New South Wales Government but believes affected homeowners are not coming forward. "Why is it that in the ACT they had over 1000 properties? Are we missing other properties in New South Wales?"

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-11/fluffy-submissions/6300252>

More sick BHP workers expected to come forward after damages payout - 12 Mar 2015, ABC News

Lawyers for a terminally ill ex-Newcastle BHP steelworker, who has won the right to keep a massive damages payout, say they expect more sick workers to come forward. A court has dismissed an appeal by BHP Billiton against the \$2.2 million payout awarded to Steven Dunning, 54. He has mesothelioma after inhaling asbestos dust while working in Newcastle in the 1980s. The Court of Appeal agreed BHP had failed in its duty of care. Mr Dunning's lawyer Joanne Wade said she has no doubt other workers are sick. "Asbestos was there and it was used in the steelworks and, in reading the decision of the judge and the Court of Appeal, BHP were negligent in protecting workers, like Mr Dunning," he said. "So I am sure that there will be other workers, and there will be other people diagnosed with lung illnesses arising from exposure at BHP at Newcastle." Ms Wade said the appeal court judges unanimously concluded the company had breached its duty of care. "If you read the decision of the judge, he did make findings that BHP did know of the dangers of asbestos, and BHP knew it could cause mesothelioma," she said. "They did not take precautions to protect people, such as Mr Dunning."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-12/more-sick-bhp-workers-expected-to-come-forward-after-damages-pa/6305422>

Asbestos confusion mounts with conflicting reports on dates - Christine Mckee 11th Mar 2015

WHEN Colin and Lenore Lindsay had their new home built in 1970, they were assured the new Hardiflex product being used to clad the house contained no asbestos. "We were told by the builder the building sheets were not the old Fibrolite sheets like they used on my parents' house, built by dad in the 1940s. "But now we are being told any house built before 1990 in some reports and 1985 in others contains asbestos and needs special and expensive handling." A testing laboratory was established at the Department of Agriculture on 25 Yepoon Rd by Octief, which can test samples. Current legislation means any fibro material prior to 1989 could contain asbestos but according to Octief asbestos services manager Brendan Worrell, it is impossible to put a blanket statement around dates. "If in doubt, double wrap a small sample - a 50 cent size is enough - and take it to the laboratory for analysis. "People do need to take the necessary precautions but if they are a bit nervous, we have people who can come out and take the sample." Mr Worrell said. For more information, call Octief on 1800 628 433.

<http://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/asbestos-cladding-is-it-or-isnt-it-cyclone-marcia/2570199/>

Asbestos testing helps CQ stay safe after Cyclone Marcia - 9th Mar 2015

Kerrin, the sales and training manager of Yatala-based company Octief, said they hoped to make things easier for Central Queensland clean up crews handling potentially deadly asbestos. Octief have established an asbestos laboratory and hygiene service in Rockhampton's former Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry building. Kerrin said they would provide same-day verbal results for samples of suspect material. She said previously, samples had to be sent to Brisbane via courier, hampering any clean up effort. "By setting up here we're able to keep the momentum and clean up going, work isn't stopped for hours on end while they're waiting for results to come back," Kerrin said. Kerrin, the sales and training manager of Yatala-based company Octief, said they hoped to make things easier for Central Queensland clean up crews handling potentially deadly asbestos. Octief have established an asbestos laboratory and hygiene service in Rockhampton's former Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry building. Kerrin said they would provide same-day verbal results for samples of suspect material. She said previously, samples had to be sent to Brisbane via courier, hampering any clean up effort. "By setting up here we're able to keep the momentum and clean up going, work isn't stopped for hours on end while they're waiting for results to come back," Kerrin said.

<http://www.centraltelegraph.com.au/news/asbestos-testing-helps-cq-stay-safe/2567175/>

Mr Fluffy asbestos: Offers from ACT Government to buy contaminated homes reach \$500 million - 666 ABC Canberra 5 Mar 2015

The ACT's Mr Fluffy Taskforce has made more than \$500 million worth of offers to buy properties contaminated with the deadly loose fill asbestos. Taskforce head Andrew Kefford said about 87 per cent of the 1,021 affected homeowners in Canberra had now opted in to the Mr Fluffy buyback and demolition program, indicating they would like independent valuations undertaken of their properties. "As of yesterday, 891 had asked for the valuation process to occur," he told 666 ABC Canberra, in an update about the progress of the taskforce. "I've made offers on 750 and that's a total of just over \$500 million now in offers that are in the community." He said to date, 553 homeowners had accepted an offer from the ACT Government, and the Government now owned 158 of those homes. "We're maintaining those homes and preparing to demolish them," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-05/mr-fluffy-offers-from-act-government-reach-500-million/6282162>

<http://www.asbestos.com/news/2015/03/05/lymphoma-drug-fights-kills-mesothelioma/>

Former Vickers-Armstrong worker's plea to former colleagues

Asbestos Snippets

after deadly mesothelioma diagnosis - 5 March 2015 by Bruno Clements, Social media and web editor

Jim Black has been diagnosed with mesothelioma, which he believes he contracted while working for Vickers-Armstrong in South Marston or on passenger ships such as the QE2. A RETIRED factory worker who spent over 20 years working at the Vickers-Armstrong factory in South Marston is appealing to his former workmates for help in his legal battle after he was diagnosed with mesothelioma - an incurable asbestos-related cancer. Jim Black, 77, a Swindon grandfather, was given the deadly diagnosis in November 2014, devastating him, his wife of 57 years and their family, including two children and four grandchildren. Mr Black started to feel unwell in September 2014 when he developed a cough and started suffering from shortness of breath. Following a biopsy at the Great Western Hospital he was told that he had mesothelioma, an aggressive cancer that has been widely linked to past asbestos exposure, which affects the lining of the lungs. Mr Black believes he was exposed to deadly asbestos dust while working for Vickers-Armstrong.

<http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/11833746>
Former Vickers Armstrong worker's plea to former colleagues after deadly mesothelioma diagnosis/

Cyclone Lam: Galiwinku tent city nears completion; asbestos to be stored 'off the community' - ABC March 2, 2015

Construction of a tent city on Elcho Island to house residents left homeless after Cyclone Lam is nearing completion, while the work of clearing asbestos debris continues. The NT Government has not said where the debris will be ultimately stored, other than that it would be somewhere other than Galiwinku. There are widespread concerns in the community about disturbed asbestos, including at the childcare and mediation centres. Infrastructure projects manager Graham Locke said an asbestos removal team was in Galiwinku and was making its priority removing loose and broken asbestos at the two centres. "The asbestos debris will be stored in accordance with national standards/guidelines and buried or relocated off the community once the removal process has been finalised," he said. "Following removal of broken and loose asbestos a hygienist will attend the community to conduct an independent assessment where asbestos has been removed, including the surrounding area of each lot to assess if it is safe for building owners and occupiers or tradesmen to enter. "If it is safe a clearance certificate will be issued."

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/26478950/>
cyclone-lam-galiwinku-tent-city-nears-completion-asbestos-to-be-stored-off-the-community/

Asbestos closes JBS plant indefinitely - INGA STÜNZNER 26 Feb, 2015

ASBESTOS from damaged buildings at JBS Swift in central Queensland could see the meat processing plant closed indefinitely.

JBS took a hit from Tropical Cyclone Marcia last Thursday and the damage is clearly visible, with uprooted trees and the roof ripped from one of the buildings. It is understood the roof, made of asbestos, will need to be removed safely and then replaced. JBS Australia's chief executive John Berry said he was not willing to comment until the company received technical advice. On Thursday evening, Tey's general manager for corporate affairs, Tom Maguire, confirmed that the Rockhampton plant will be closed longer than anticipated - either late next week or early the following week.

<http://www.theland.com.au/news/agriculture/agribusiness/general-news/asbestos-closes-jbs-plant-indefinitely/2724886.aspx>

Concern for tug workers after asbestos found on two boats - Fri 27 Feb 2015, 1:10pm

There is concern tug workers in the Port of Newcastle have been put at serious risk after asbestos was found on two imported tug boats. The Maritime Union says the material has been found above safe levels on the Chinese-built Svitzer tugs, Warrunda and Warrego, despite both being issued with asbestos-free certificates. Union organiser Glenn Williams said there is great concern for the safety of his members. "Our members all need to be tested, obviously, put onto an asbestos register," he said. "The vessels have been quarantined and are being worked on now to remove all asbestos"

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-27/concern-for-tug-workers-after-asbestos-found-on-two-boats/6267558>

Officials Will Release List of Mr. Fluffy Asbestos Homes to the Public - Feb 23, 2015 Lorraine Kember

Government officials in Australia are making public a list of properties that tested positive for traces of deadly Mr. Fluffy asbestos insulation products. Affected homeowners and others have mixed reactions to the June 30 publication of the list containing more than 1,000 homes across Canberra and parts of New South Wales in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Safety advocates say publishing the list of hazardous homes is in the public's best interest to protect others from asbestos exposure that could lead to deadly diseases, such as mesothelioma. While some homeowners feel it's an invasion of privacy and will make matters worse.

<http://www.asbestos.com/news/2015/02/23/mr-fluff-asbestos-homes-list-made-public/>

House drops and crumbles, exposing asbestos - 11th Feb 2015

WITH his house collapsing around him, Woolgoolga resident Ron Harris thought he was experiencing an earthquake. After making sure his 14-year-old son was safe, he fully expected to go outside and see destruction. But to Mr Harris's surprise, his house was the only one affected. Heavy rain last week had drenched the ground, moving the piers and making the house drop more than a metre in seconds. Making

things even worse, Mr Harris was told he could not enter the structure to retrieve any possessions because asbestos had been exposed

<http://www.coffscostadvocate.com.au/news/family-home-collapses/2539148/>

Asbestos still not cleaned up two years after fatal Tuncurry explosion - 12 Feb 2015

The owner of a home damaged by a fatal gas explosion in Tuncurry in June 2013, is still waiting to return home despite winning a legal dispute with her insurer. An elderly man died in the blast and his fibro home was destroyed, strewn asbestos across neighbouring properties on The Lakes Way. If I didn't get suspicious, if I didn't do my research and if I didn't trust my gut I would have gone along with my insurance company. A neighbour, Tanya Cross took a dispute with her insurer ANZ to the NSW Ombudsman, after the ANZ contractor failed to clean up asbestos on the site. The Ombudsman ordered ANZ to pay her rental and repair costs. "When I first met the insurance appointed asbestos expert I just knew he wasn't doing things properly because I researched, and I knew it wasn't right," she said. "They just didn't believe me, they just thought I was crazy or whatever they thought. "But in fact all I ever wanted was a safe home. "I now have the money, and it's just a matter now for them being able to schedule my job." Ms Cross said she is worried low quality asbestos remediation could be endangering residents elsewhere. She said a casual approach to an asbestos clean-up is too common. "If I didn't get suspicious, if I didn't do my research and if I didn't trust my gut I would have gone along with my insurance company," she said. "I would have moved my son there and my property is not safe."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-12/asbestos-still-not-cleaned-up-two-years-after-fatal-tuncurry-ex/6087450>

Mr Fluffy asbestos: ACT Government commissions health study into links between mesothelioma, homes - 16 Feb 2015

The ACT Government has commissioned the nation's first detailed long-term health study into the risks of living in houses contaminated with Mr Fluffy asbestos. The \$415,000 government-funded study will be conducted over two years by the Australian National University (ANU) National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health. Researchers will review the rate and distribution of the asbestos-related disease mesothelioma. The team will also estimate exposure levels for former and current residents of Mr Fluffy properties and the risk of developing mesothelioma.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-16/act-government-commissions-mr-fluffy-health-study/6114008>

Study to probe national Medicare database and state-held cancer databases in attempt to get to the bottom of Mr Fluffy health risk - February 16, 2015 Canberra Times

Researchers aiming to assess the health impact of living in Mr Fluffy asbestos-contaminated homes will seek access to the national Medicare database and state-held cancer databases from around the country. The two-year study will aim to get a list of everyone who has ever lived in a Mr Fluffy home, using the Medicare database which tracks back to 1984 and includes addresses, then compare those names with the cancer databases. Mesothelioma records go back to 1982. The aim is to come up with a risk level for living in a Fluffy home. The study, by the Australian National University's Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, reaches well beyond the ACT, with authorities pointing out on Monday that former Mr Fluffy residents could have scattered around the country over nearly 50 years.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/study-to-probe-national-medicare-database-and-stateheld-cancer-databases-in-attempt-to-get-to-the-bottom-of-mr-fluffy-health-risk-20150216-13fya4.html>

Families of NSW asbestos victims missing out on compensation, advocates urge law change - Nick Dole 20 Jan 2015 - ABC News

Asbestos awareness groups say the families of asbestos victims need more time to seek compensation because some sufferers are dying before they get a chance to start legal proceedings. Under current laws, unless a victim initiates legal proceedings while they are still alive, their families may be entitled to nothing. Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia president Barry Robson said families are often too busy caring for their loved ones to think about their legal affairs. "For mesothelioma ... on average, [the time] from diagnosis to death is 155 days. That's not a lot of time to get your head around a death sentence," Mr Robson said. He said families who have lost a loved one face added distress when they learn they have missed the compensation deadline.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-20/families-of-nsw-asbestos-victims-miss-out-on-compensation/6029664>

ACT Health contractors unearth asbestos on 'healing farm' site - January 15, 2015 - Canberra Times

Contractors hired by ACT Health to work on a government-owned property near Tidbinbilla have potentially been exposed to asbestos on a site reserved for an indigenous bush healing farm. Workers may have come into contact with asbestos despite warnings from the long-term resident property manager Ben Broers that the area they were working in was contaminated. Mr Broers has subsequently had his contract terminated by ACT Health and has been asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. The directorate started building works two months ago at Miowera, a property in the Tidbinbilla Valley. The government bought the land in 2008 to build an indigenous drug and alcohol rehabilitation service - to "reconnect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to land and culture, using participation in land management activities and programs". The 320-hectare site has extensive asbestos contamination due to remnants of two bonded asbestos sheet houses that burnt down in the 2003 fires, the asbestos sheeting from the Old Cotter Pub, and other asbestos refuse from around the region which has been dumped in a landfill gully. Hundreds of metres of asbestos fencing have also been

bulldozed over the years, leaving asbestos footings submerged in the soil.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/act-health-contractors-unearth-asbestos-on-healing-farm-site-20150115-12qlvg.html>

Indigenous leader criticises lack of warning about asbestos contamination on bush healing farm site - January 18, 2015 - Canberra Times

The chairman of the ACT's elected indigenous body says he was not warned of asbestos contamination at the site of a bush healing farm his constituents have spent years fighting for. The Ngunnawal bush healing farm, a specialised Indigenous drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre, finally started construction two months ago, following a protracted legal battle that had stalled the project for years. Last week, it was publicly revealed that asbestos contamination had been discovered at the site at Miowera, a property in the Tidbinbilla Valley, something the government says is common across development sites in the ACT. ACT Health contacted the subcontractor and work was halted on the farm on December 2.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/indigenous-leader-criticises-lack-of-warning-about-asbestos-contamination-on-bush-healing-farm-site-20150118-12rzqv.html>

Asbestos found at Apollo Bay - Samantha Landy Herald Sun January 13, 2015

ASBESTOS pieces have been found in three separate spots around popular beachside town Apollo Bay. But testing carried out by the Environmental Protection Authority last week found the asbestos had not contaminated the soil itself, making the clean-up process easier. Chunks of asbestos sheeting - ranging in size from 2cm to 5cm - were uncovered at the Apollo Bay Golf Club, Pony Club and an area of the foreshore next to a playground after four days of testing. EPA chief executive Nial Finegan said a member of the public had expressed concern about fragments of asbestos in the soil early last week, sparking action by the authority. "EPA, on a precautionary basis, quickly ensured the soil was contained and then conducted testing on the fragments and the soil to determine whether there was any asbestos present." Mr Finegan said. He said the soil containing contaminated pieces had been covered and fenced off, with warning signs erected to deter the public.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/asbestos-found-at-apollo-bay/story-fni0fit3-1227183385201>

Decades-old Kenbi land claim held up by \$32m clean-up bill for asbestos and pollutants hazard - Nadia Daly and James Dunlevie 12 Jan 2015 - ABC News

Australia's oldest unresolved Aboriginal land rights claim is facing a huge asbestos problem which the Government says will cost almost \$32 million to clean up. The Kenbi land claim was lodged in 1979 and 36 years later has still not been fully resolved.

The claim covers the Cox Peninsula, west of Darwin, which had been used by the Commonwealth Government for over 70 years for communications and defence purposes during WWII, with a lighthouse and other government buildings spread over 4,750 hectares of land. A report by the Department of Finance submitted last month stated that buildings and their surrounding areas on the land are harbouring dangerous levels of asbestos, pesticides, heavy metals and other toxic pollutants, which "pose a significant risk to human health" and represent a "liability for the Commonwealth". The area has also been used as a dump for decades, with building debris from Cyclone Tracy in 1974 being offloaded there.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-11/decades-old-land-claim-held-up-by-asbestos-hazard/6011096>

Mr Fluffy asbestos: Cabinet papers show decade of warning and inaction Craig Allen 1 Jan 2015 - ABC News

Cabinet papers have revealed the Federal Government was warned as far back as 1968 about the risks of loose-fill asbestos insulation, but did nothing to stop it being used in Canberra homes for a decade. The National Archives of Australia released cabinet submissions and minutes of the third Hawke government, covering 1988 and 1989 - the period when the emerging asbestos crisis was being addressed. The product known as Mr Fluffy insulation was pumped into the roof spaces of more than 1,000 Canberra homes between 1968 and 1978. Despite a Commonwealth-funded clean-up program in the 1980s and 1990s, remnant asbestos fibres were still being found in the wall cavities and sub-floors of some properties. The cabinet papers revealed two government departments were alerted to the potential risks to householders in 1968 - the year the Mr Fluffy company began work on homes in the Canberra region. "Whilst the government was not in any way involved in the asbestos installation process, the then departments of interior and works were advised of the possibility of a problem for house occupants by the then health department in 1968," cabinet minutes from July 1988 said. "No action was taken to ban the substance, although action was taken to control occupational exposure."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-01/cabinet-papers-show-a-decade-of-inaction-on-mr-fluff-asbestos/5987558>

Elderly residents seek flexibility on Mr Fluffy move - Canberra Times, Canberra, General News, Emma Macdonald 17 Mar 2015

About 30 frail and elderly Mr Fluffy residents are seeking government flexibility around a five-year time limit on them remaining in their homes. And they want to stay without losing further value on their

Asbestos Snippets

homes, which will remain at 2014 market value even when they are bought back in 2020. Local law firm Boettcher Law is representing aged Mr Fluffy residents pro bono in the hope it can achieve a more flexible settlement package from the government, which is forging ahead with its buyback and demolition scheme.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/elderly-mr-fluffy->

Asbestos disposal investigation - March 12, 2015

THE state's peak environmental watchdog could yet prosecute a company accused of illegally transporting and disposing of asbestos last year. Investigations are continuing after a quantity of the hazardous material was found last November on private property on Wandobah Road at Tambar Springs. The bonded asbestos is understood to have been contained in debris from a house in Gunnedah that had been demolished following a fire. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) issued a clean-up notice to the demolition company to remove and dispose of the material correctly. It also took formal regulatory action, in the form of a warning letter, against the company that transported the asbestos.

<http://www.nvi.com.au/story/2940404/asbestos-disposal-investigation/>

Asbestos checks on Spc of imports - *The Australian, Australia, General News, John Ferguson 11 Mar 2015*

BORDER control authorities have prosecuted only two cases of asbestos exports to Australia in seven years, despite a booming trade in products from China that are laced with the potentially killer substance. The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service has revealed also that no Chinese carmaker or importer has been pursued despite evidence of asbestos products in key components.

• Australia • Occupational Health and Safety - Press • ID: 381619705

James Hardie Proposes Compensating Asbestos Victims in Installments - Jan 22, 2015 *Lorraine Kember*

Asbestos victims who filed claims against James Hardie Industries, an Australian building materials company, may never live to see their legal compensation if a court approves the manufacturer's plan to pay claimants in installments, and not the traditional lump-sum payments. The reason for the installment plan: Hardie's Asbestos Injuries Compensation Fund is headed toward a \$184 million cash shortfall in 2017 because of a spike in mesothelioma claims. If the Supreme Court of New South Wales (NSW) grants approval, the installment plan will take effect July 1. Advocates for those affected by mesothelioma are outraged by the company's proposal because the average life expectancy for people diagnosed with the asbestos-related disease is less than two years. Those patients need the lump sum of their compensation as quickly as possible to pay for expensive treatments, lost wages, expenses not covered by insurance and other costs.

"Asbestos victims don't die in installments," Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia President Barry Robson wrote in a press release. "They don't lose the ability to work or care for themselves in installments, yet James Hardie wants to see them compensated in that way."

<http://www.asbestos.com/news/2015/01/22/james-hardie-proposes-compensating-asbestos-victims-in-installments/>

INTERNATIONAL

Asbestos registry demanded for federal public buildings - *Julie Ireton, Mar 11, 2015*

Tradespeople who say they were unknowingly exposed to asbestos while working in federal buildings say it's time to develop a registry to

let workers know what hazards may be in Canada's public buildings. Former House of Commons staff electronics technician Hugh Graham is one of a growing number of tradespeople calling for a national public building registry. Graham worked 18 years on Parliament Hill and has since been diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease. Graham was exposed to asbestos while working in the Parliament buildings in Ottawa, according to a 2000 report. Graham, now 80, has pleural plaques, or scarring over his lungs, that wasn't confirmed until a operation in Ottawa

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/asbestos-registry-demanded-for-federal-public-buildings-1.2989121>

The popcorn nobody wants: How to remove your own popcorn ceiling - *Lisa Greim Special to The Denver Post 03/21/2015*

Like cork walls, mirror tiles and avocado- green shag carpet, acoustic ceiling texture was all the rage in the 1970s and 1980s. Builders of thousands of new Colorado homes relied on it for a quick, inexpensive finish. The most common complicating factor in popcorn ceilings is asbestos. Until it was banned in 1978, asbestos was used in ceiling texture, and disturbing it creates a health hazard. Paint and drywall contractors will require that your ceiling be certified free of asbestos before they move forward. Cost guides provided by Golden-based HomeAdvisor estimate that popcorn ceiling removal projects in Denver cost an average of \$1,500. Professional asbestos abatement more than doubles that cost, to an estimated \$3,300. If your home dates from the early 1980s or earlier, wet down a small patch of ceiling, scrape some texture into a plastic bag and send it to a lab for asbestos testing.

http://www.denverpost.com/homegarden/ci_27755146/popcorn-nobody-wants-how-remove-your-own-popcorn

Tropical Cyclone Pam: Rescue teams remove over 100kg of asbestos from Port Vila's central hospital - *Hilaire Bule in Vanuatu, wires. 20 Mar 2015*

Australian rescue teams have removed over 100 kilograms of asbestos from Port Vila Central Hospital in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Pam. Gary Bailey from Australia's Urban Search and Rescue team told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat program the asbestos was found mostly in sheeting and roofing. "We spray (PVA) glue onto the asbestos to bond the asbestos fibres, we then wrap that asbestos in plastic and dispose of it in a proper manner," he said. "So our crews came with a lot of glue and a lot of sprayers to allow us to do that. "We've been going into various parts of the hospital and some primary schools today and rendering as much asbestos as safe as we can." Left undisturbed, asbestos poses no health risk but because of the damage sustained by many buildings during the cyclone, the asbestos needed to be removed immediately.

"Asbestos anywhere out in the open is a dangerous thing," Mr Bailey said. "When it's been broken up in the way it has by the storm, the fibres that come off from the asbestos, it's very dangerous to human beings and they can cause some very serious diseases. "So we need to clean it up as best we can."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-20/rescuers-remove-asbestos-from-port-vilas-central-hospital/6336666>

Most schools contain asbestos - *12:30 Friday 20 March 2015*

Asbestos is found in 66 schools in Lancaster according to data released following a Freedom of Information request. The data reveals that at least 570 of the county's 617 schools contain asbestos, the bulk of them in Preston, Chorley and South Ribble. But information held by the county council shows the highest number of schools known to contain asbestos are in Lancaster and Preston, which each have 66. The National Union of Teachers has been running a major campaign for more than a year to try to tackle the problem in the county

<http://www.thevisitor.co.uk/news/education/most-schools-contain-asbestos-1-7164371>

Canada - Asbestos concerns plague former federal workers

Former and current trades workers who worked at federal buildings say they are concerned their current health problems may be linked to asbestos in those buildings. CBC Ottawa's Julie Ireton shares their stories in this three-part series. Asbestos registry demanded for federal public buildings Tradespeople say they were unknowingly exposed to asbestos while working in federal buildings. Now, they say it's time to develop a registry to inform workers about hazards that may exist in Canada's publicly owned buildings.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/asbestos-concerns-plague-former-federal-workers-1.3000089>

Man was exposed to asbestos during wartime - *Tuesday 17 March 2015 in News - Daily Echo*

A WINCHESTER man died of mesothelioma after what is thought to have been one of the longest incubation periods of asbestos exposure in the Hampshire area. Philip Hall died at his home in Stoke Charity on June 13 as a result of malignant mesothelioma, while waiting for admission to a hospice. The 94-year-old retired chemist is believed to have been exposed while working at a munitions factory in the early 1940s. His daughter, Elizabeth Howlett Hall, said: "He very often used to tell us as children that heating in such a situation could not be by gas or open fire because of the rather large explosive components, so heating was by steam, pumped through the building through asbestos pipes." Simon Burge, deputy coroner for central Hampshire, recorded a verdict of death due to industrial disease.

http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/11860440.Man_was_exposed_to_asbestos_during_wartime/

EXCLUSIVE: Deadly asbestos hiding in nine out of 10 British schools - *Lucy Johnston Mar 15, 2015*

ALMOST nine out of 10 British school buildings harbour potentially deadly asbestos, but experts warn it would cost too much to remove it all. Figures obtained from Freedom of Information requests to local authorities show 86 per cent of all schools in the country contain the killer dust, far higher than previous estimates. But Professor Julian Peto, one of the country's leading experts on asbestos, said removing it all was not an option as it would "only save" around 25 lives a year in 50 years' time when effects of asbestos on pupils will take hold. He said: "You cannot rebuild all the schools in Britain to prevent about 25 deaths a year. "These are deaths that will occur predominantly over the age of 70. "You have to remember that is the effect of childhood exposure." However Michael Lees, 67, founder of the campaigning group Asbestos In Schools, who obtained the figures, argued: "We expose a large number of children to asbestos in schools and this is contributing to the terrible death toll. "Successive governments brushed this under the carpet because the disease can take decades to develop." Mr Lees, a father of two, from Hardsworthy, north Devon, lost his wife Gina, a primary school teacher, in 2000 when she died aged 51 from mesothelioma. Last week a review ordered compulsory asbestos training for teachers.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/564034/>

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 carer. If necessary, we can assist with financial help for medication and oxygen.

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To discuss how we can assist with the comfort of your loved one and make it a little easier for you.

JAMES HARDIE INSTALMENTS UPDATE - The Guardian Friday 27/2/2015

James Hardie asbestos victims to get extra \$106m in support from NSW - The government will remove the re-insurance recoveries loan cap for the James Hardie victims compensation fund, so it can borrow up to \$320m. The NSW government will provide an extra \$106m in support for James Hardie asbestos victims. The government will remove the re-insurance recoveries loan cap for the Asbestos Injuries Compensation Fund (AICF), which effectively means the fund can borrow up to \$320m to ensure victims can continue to be paid lump sums. The NSW treasurer, Andrew Constance, said the money would help provide certainty for asbestos victims and their families, whether they lived in NSW or any other state or territory. "While funding the compensation of asbestos victims is morally the responsibility of James Hardie, we are not willing to let a situation arise where those suffering do not get full and up-front payments," Constance said. The AICF had raised concerns it would have to pay asbestos victims in instalments because of a shortfall in the timing of funding from James Hardie. Constance said a 2010 facility agreement was supposed to allow the AICF to borrow \$320m from NSW - an amount intended to cover the unexpected downturn in payments from James Hardie as a result of the global financial crisis. But the loan cap restricts AICF borrowings to \$214m - the value of the outstanding insurance policy held by James Hardie. Just 45% of the payments from the AICF goes to NSW residents. The NSW premier, Mike Baird, has written to the prime minister, Tony Abbott, saying it is fair and reasonable to expect the Commonwealth, as well as other state and territory governments, to bear their fair share of funding for victims outside NSW. The AICF was established as part of an agreement with James Hardie in 2005 to provide compensation for asbestos victims.

FURTHER UP DATE ON - MULTARI V SELTSAM - Wrongs Act 1958!

WIN! WIN!

As we reported in our last newsletter IN NOVEMBER 2014 the decision in June 2014 of the Supreme Court of Victoria in *Multari V Seltam Pty Ltd* 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 Wrongs Act (Vic) 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, insidious, asbestos related conditions should face unnecessary delay and red tape while attempting to receive fair compensation for themselves and their families.

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS wrote letters to the Victorian Attorney General and our local State politicians to try and have this unjust and cruel red tape changed for asbestos sufferers before the State Government went into care taker mode before the up and coming elections on the 29th November. We were very pleased to advise our readers that the State Government did make changes to the Wrongs Act - this is the contents of a letter sent to us from the Justice Department prior to the last election.

Win Win Win Win!!!!

You will be PLEASED to hear that the Government has now made the Wrongs (Part VBA) (Asbestos Related Claims) Regulations 2014, which exempt sufferers of asbestos-related disease (defined as asbestosis, asbestos-induced carcinoma, asbestos-related pleural diseases, and mesothelioma) from the operation of Part VBA of the Act. The regulations commence on 30th October 2014 - **IMPORTANT PIECE OF NEWS** it was also stated in a media release that the Government will examine whether legislation should be introduced into the next Parliament to apply the changes to any proceedings already issued that may have been affected by the Supreme Court's

decision this year. This last statement made in the media release was because we had asked for the regulations to operate retrospectively - meaning we wanted those who had already initiated cases would also be included in the legislation change - this was so those sufferers did not fall through the cracks. ACV/GARDS pursued this with vigour when the new government was installed after the elections last November 2014.

We are pleased to inform you that we were successful in getting the claims already initiated and not finalised being included in the new law retrospectively - here are two Hansard Documents from Russell Northe - Member for Morwell and Harriet Shing - Upper House Member for Eastern Victoria where they talk about the win - we thank the new Labour Government for making the last part of the Wrongs Act 1958 **"RIGHT FOR ASBESTOS SUFFERERS AND THEIR FAMILIES"** ACV/GARDS are very proud to have played a part in this very important piece of legislation

Ms SHING (Eastern Victoria)—I rise for the first time to support a bill in this place, and it is with great pride and humility that I make my contribution to the Wrongs Amendment (Asbestos Related Claims) Bill 2014. In the first instance I join my colleagues from all sides of the chamber who have given their unequivocal

support to this bill and note from the outset that the work that has gone into its carriage and drafting and the consultation process which has preceded its introduction has been swift and effective and motivated by entirely the right reasons—namely, to give effect to alleviating impediments to access to justice for terminally ill Victorians who are suffering from asbestos-related diseases.

I have had the great pleasure and privilege of learning from the inspirational views and advocacy undertaken by people such as Vicki Hamilton, people who have spearheaded change and been enormously progressive in educating people from all over Victoria about the dangers associated with asbestos exposure, whether that be in the workplace, home or incidentally. Her work ought to be recognised as contributing to the consultation that went into this bill, which delivers on a very clear commitment by the Andrews Labor government to build further on the work commenced by the previous government to create prospective legislation, which we are now pleased to extend to become retrospective—for example, the significant injury process will extend back to cover claims filed after 30 October 2014 and the small number of claims that were still on foot and filed before that date which would not otherwise have extended the benefit of the changes to legislation and the

regulations effected under the previous government.

This bill covers all asbestos-related claims, including those that were filed before the making of the regulations. To that end the benefit and intent of the policy that underpins it is absolutely clear for all to see. In essence, the retrospective operation of this bill will give significant comfort to those who were directly affected by the 2014 decision in the Supreme Court in *Multari v. Amaca*, which held that claimants with asbestos-related conditions were not exempt from the requirement to demonstrate that they had suffered a

significant injury. In this instance the importance of making sure that significant injury is accepted as an outcome in incidents of mesothelioma, asbestosis, asbestos-induced carcinoma and asbestos-related pleural disease cannot be underestimated. The rest of Harriet speech can be read in the Victorian Hansard dated: Thursday 26th February 2015 - **WRONGS AMENDMENT (ASBESTOS RELATED CLAIMS) BILL 2014**

Mr NORTHE (Morwell) — It is a great pleasure to rise this afternoon to speak briefly on the Wrongs Amendment (Asbestos Related Claims) Bill 2014. It is good that in this place there is bipartisan support on some pieces of legislation, and we make it very clear that the coalition is supportive of this legislation. Asbestos has been and unfortunately still is a scourge on many of our communities. My community of the Latrobe Valley has suffered much from having asbestos in the industrial areas of Morwell and surrounds, but to this day a large number of residential properties still have asbestos in them. It is something we certainly need to be very cognisant of and careful about. As the member for Niddrie and the member for Hawthorn articulated in their contributions, the consequence of being in contact with asbestos is that people can suffer from awful, insidious diseases that prolong suffering. Unfortunately, particularly in my region, we have seen many people fall victim to asbestos-related diseases. There is much work that needs to be done in that regard. This legislation is in response to a Supreme Court case that was heard in June last year. I commend the then Attorney-General, who is in the chamber at the moment, for his great work in making sure that this anomaly within the act was addressed, firstly, by way of regulation and now by way of legislation. I repeat that we as a coalition are pleased to support this. I do not want to speak for long, because what needs to be said has already been said, but I want to commend GARDS, which is Asbestos Council of Victoria Gippsland Asbestos Related Disease Support Inc. Anybody who knows of GARDS would know Vicki Hamilton

and her team. I think every member of Parliament would well know of her and her team's advocacy over a long period of time. Unfortunately Vicki's family, like a lot of families in the Latrobe Valley, have had family members who have suffered from asbestos-related diseases. Her advocacy over a long period of time is well recognised. In fact she is now Vicki Hamilton, OAM, deservedly so, for her contribution to this particular space. I incorporate some comments from the GARDS newsletter of November 2014, just prior to the election. **STATUTE LAW REPEALS BILL 2014** Thursday, 12 February **2015 ASSEMBLY 301** In part it talks about an update on *Multari v. Seltam Pty Ltd* and the Wrongs Act 1958 under the heading 'Win! Win!'. It goes on to talk about the decisions made by the then Attorney-General, now the shadow Minister for Industrial Relations, who is at the table next to me, in introducing legislation to right the wrongs of what had occurred previously. In part it talks about the need for legislation to be considered in the future, which the new government has now introduced into the Parliament. I can certainly assure the house that while we continue to get strong advocacy from GARDS, the organisation is very pleased with the Attorney-General of the time and all members of Parliament for making sure that this anomaly was rectified. I put on the record that it has been bipartisan support. It is one of those issues where you can sit in a room with members of Parliament from all political persuasions and have a discussion about ways to find a good outcome. I conclude by quoting from that particular newsletter: Thank you to all concerned that made this happen — the Attorney-General Hon. Robert Clark and his department, Gary Blackwood, MP, member for Narracan, Minister Russell Northe, MP — I should include myself in that — Johan Scheffer, upper house member for Eastern Victoria — a Labor member — and those who helped with writing letters — the law firms who represent asbestos sufferers; unions — you all did a great job for a wonderful outcome for Victorian asbestos sufferers and their families. I think that says it all, and that is why we as a coalition support this legislation.

This exert can be read in the Victoria Hansard dated - Thursday 12th February 2015 -

http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/daily-hansard/Assembly_2015/Assembly_Daily_Extract_Thursday_12_February_2015_from_Book_2.pdf

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

& we would also like to thank Paul Erbs & 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:

- Barry & Ivy Fanning,
- Glenda Rowley,
- Anonymous \$50 for Asbestos Awareness Morning tea,
- Michael Young,
- Jane West,
- Margaret Williams - monetary and handmade gift for our raffle,
- Robert Rawlings for his gift for our raffle,
- Ron Whitmore,
- Cyril Hibbert,
- Ken Grant,
- Katherine and Christine Cheetham,
- Vincent Roberts,
- Joe Marschalek,
- Harold & Clay Rowe,
- Ray Logan,
- Keith & Gwen Lucas,
- David Stewart,
- Nunzio Bianconi,
- David & Lyn Madden,
- Lilan Harris.
- Norman Hughes,
- Peter & Sharyn Fenech,
- George Davis, Steve Flowers,
- Carl Hoppgood,
- Karen Karapulka,
- R Doyle,
- Mailed in Anonymous donation \$50,
- Jenna Gray donation from Jenna & Anthony's run

Donations made in Memory of - Jim Sargeant

- Mary & Liam Rossney

UGL MANAGEMENT AND ALL EMPLOYEES FROM HAZELWOOD X 2 donations

To Rod & Christine Keep and all the employees from Hazelwood we wish to thank all of you for your wonderful donations to our organisation. It has meant a lot to us to have your support and we were sad to hear you were leaving the area. We wish you all the best in your new contracts.



Donation made in Memory of - Peter Fenech

- Hannah Westgarth,
- Anonymous \$10,
- Anonymous \$20,
- Kathleen Kent,
- Tiffany,
- Rob, Tayla & Jared Dworzniak,
- R Kent,
- Work Colleges of Jason Fenech - at Blue Scope Steel - Uncoated maintenance area,
- Chris Badger,
- Jan & Jess Macri,
- Tina Marinucci,
- \$20 anonymous,
- \$100 anonymous

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.

UNIT 7 OUTAGE CREW UGL DONATION

We would like to thank very much Mark Williams, Costa Demetrios and the unit 7 outage crew of UGL for the wonderful donation they made to us - you are a great bunch and this is very much appreciated from all at ACV/GARDS.

Uniting Church Parish Of Yallourn/Uniting Church Op Shop - Newborough Donation Of Concentrator

Just before Xmas we were very lucky to receive a donation to purchase an oxygen concentrator for our bank of concentrators. As some of our machines wear out we need to replenish them and the Uniting Church Parish of Yallourn/Uniting Church Op Shop - Newborough were generous enough to make sure that we could retire one of our old ones with a new one. Thank you so much from all of us at ACV/GARDS.

THANK YOU!

Donations made in Memory of - Wally Reid

- Marilyn Reid

Donations made in Memory of - Bob Ruitter

- Nell Ruitter
- Wendy Bright

Graeme Woods Thank You

Our organisation would like to thank Graeme for making his annual donation in Memory of his Father - you are a champion Graeme!

On line donations

- Maree Hall,
- Peter Collins,
- Mary & Liam Rossney,
- Jan & Jess Macri,
- Tina Marinucci,
- Chris Badger

June Thomson Thank You

On behalf of all the Organisation we would like to thank you June for donating John's stamp album to be sold and the money donated to ACV/GARDS. This was done in March and the result of this was a donation of over \$1,100 to us and this was just a wonderful gift in Memory of John. She also donated a fold up electric scooter and nebuliser and walker. June your thoughtfulness is over powering and we thank you for all you have done for others at your time of sadness in losing John.

Combined Churches Craft Corner

It was a lovely surprise to receive a donation from the ladies at the Combined Churches Craft corner. Donations are much appreciated but when they come from the craft ladies it is very special and we really do appreciate it. Thank you so much.

Donations of Preloved Equipment thank you

A big thank you to Brian & Ann Clegg for the donation of walking frame, toilet chair and walking sticks. Big thank you to Joanne Strickland for the donation of a walking frame after the passing of her father George Sloan recently.

Ray Rowley Donation

Thank you so much Glenda Rowley for making a wonderful donation in Memory of your husband Ray. It is very much appreciated and will go towards helping asbestos sufferers.

Rossmore Hotel

We would like to thank the Rossmore Hotel publican, staff and patrons for supporting the ACV/GARDS org by allowing us to fundraise at the hotel. We have made some great acquaintances and the Yallourn North community make us feel very welcome. Thank you to all of you who buy the raffle tickets

Yallourn North Bowling Club

We would also like to thank Mal Paulet and all at the Y/N bowling club for their fantastic support for us and adding their patrons to the raffle at the Rossmore. What a wonderful community!!!!

John Hewson & The Warragul Philatelic Club Thank You

We were thrilled to have the Warragul Philatelic Club come and value the stamps donated by June Thomson - which took quite a few hours - because John Thomson's collection was substantial over a life time, John Hewson did this for us and made sure they were readied for Auction in March. Thank you so much to the club and John. Thank you to John Richardson for organising payment to us and delivering it in person.



ACV/GARDS would like to thank AGL Loy Yang Power for their generous community donation to our organisation. We appreciate all your support to us.



GARDS Inc. Membership Form

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone: Email:

Occupation:

GARDS NEW MEMBERS Joining Fee \$5.00

PLUS

GARDS Annual Subscription 2015

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 Whittaker
Mobile 0427 801 292

ACV/GARDS Fees

Joining Fee: \$5.00

Annual Fees:

Pensioner/Concession
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

**CALL IN
FOR A CHAT AND
CUPPA**

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2015

1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at –

**ACV/GARDS Premises
41 Monash Road,
Newborough**

- Tuesday 24th February
- Tuesday 31st March
- Tuesday 28th April - International Workers Memorial day, Rose Garden, Morwell
- Tuesday 26th May
- Tuesday 30th June
- Tuesday 28th July
- Tuesday 25th August
- Tuesday 29th September
- Tuesday 27th October
- Frid 27th Nov – Asbestos Awareness Day, Rose Garden, Morwell - 11am
- Christmas Break-Up TBA

ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2015

7.30PM – 9.30PM

Meetings are held at –

**ACV/GARDS Premises
41 Monash Road,
Newborough**

- Tuesday 17th February
- Tuesday 17th March
- Tuesday 21st April
- Tuesday 19th May
- Tuesday 16th June
- Tuesday 21st July
- Tuesday 18th August
- Tuesday 15th September
- Tuesday 20th October
- Tuesday 17th November
- Christmas Break-Up TBA

UP COMING EVENTS Our Night/Day Meetings

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY EVENT -

**28TH APRIL 2015 -
11AM IN CENTENARY
ROSE GARDEN,
COMMERCIAL ROAD,
MORWELL.**

FREE COMMUNITY BBQ AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EVENT - WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF GTLC - ALL ARE WELCOME!



DID YOU KNOW?

You can make an online donation to our group at our home page www.gards.org



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.

We are situated at:
**41 Monash Road,
Newborough,
Victoria. 3825**
**PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825**

On line donations
<http://www.givenow.com.au/gards>
Phone: **03 5127 7744 24/7**
Fax: **03 5126 0354**
Email: info@gards.org
Website: www.gards.org
SKYPE: **VickiGARDS**



[facebook.com/GARDSInc](https://www.facebook.com/GARDSInc)

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 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



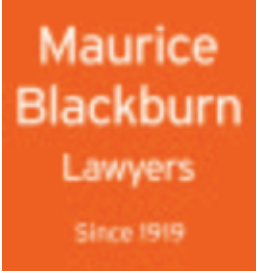
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