



*Our October Newsletter is
Sponsored by:*

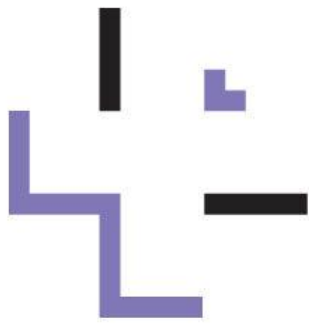
May, Cheryl and Family

With wonderful memories of

Newman 'Lucky' Locke

With us always





The WESLEY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Making a difference today

Volunteers needed for study into Asbestos Related Disease

The Wesley Research Institute's Asbestos Research Group is seeking volunteers diagnosed with Malignant Mesothelioma who are:

- Aged over 18 years
- Willing to complete a questionnaire
- Willing to give a blood sample

The aim of this study is to gain a better understanding of genetic and environmental factors in the development of asbestos-related disease.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more information, please call The Wesley Research Institute Clinical Trials Centre on 07 3721 1523 or visit www.asbestosresearchgroup.org.au.

The Wesley Research Institute Limited
Clinical Trials Centre
Level B2, Moorlands Wing the Wesley Hospital
451 Coronation Drive Auchenflower Q 4066 Australia

T 61 7 3721 1523 / f 61 7 3721 1594
clinicaltrials@wesley.com.au
www.wesleyresearch.org.au

October 2010 NEWSLETTER



Secretary's Report

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CONTACT Q.A.R.D.S.S

Information & Support Centre
Level 6, Silverton Place
101 Wickham Terrace
BRISBANE QLD 4000
1800 776 412 (free call)
Office Hours
Mon – Fri **9.00am to 5.00pm**
Kerrie & Kay

Web: www.asbestos-disease.com.au

Email: asbestoshelp@westnet.com.au

Secretary Raymond Colbert
07 3200 4491 or 0408 758 963

*Asbestos
Awareness
Saves
Lives*

Queensland Health Department Grant:- On Tuesday the 14th September 2010, the Queensland Premier Anna Bligh told Parliament her Government will donate half a million dollars to a not-for-profit organisation set up, (QARDSS) to help people suffering from conditions linked to asbestos, so the group (QARDSS) can employ a social worker and two support workers, over the next three years.

Anna Bligh: "As many members of the House will be aware mesothelioma for example can carry between a 10 and 70 year lag time and on average will not manifest itself until 40 or 50 years after contact with the asbestos product."

"In the 10-year period from 1998 to 2008 over 1000 Australians were hospitalised with asbestosis and the rate of diagnosis continues to grow. In the last two decades the rate of Queenslanders diagnosed with mesothelioma has almost tripled."

Community Gaming Fund Grant:- On Wednesday the 8th September 2010, the Community Gaming Fund operated through Queensland Treasury announced that the Society had been awarded a grant of \$22,000.00 to purchase a motor vehicle (a Sedan) to assist in the operations of the day to day running of the Society.

We have extended our sincere appreciation to the Premier Ms Anna Bligh and Her Deputy (Minister for Health) Mr Paul Lucas and of course our two very hard working MP's Ms Di Farmer Member for Bulimba and Mr Evan Moorhead Member for Waterford without whom none of this could have happened.

Race Day: - The second Wednesday in September was again a great success with over 900 people sharing a fun filled day at the races and supporting their favourite charity at the same time. The Shirley White Cup this year was won by the Liquor Hospitality & Miscellaneous Union (LHMU), who was also great supporters of the auctions. The success of this event is due to the hard work and support of a lot of people (too many to list here), including Society volunteers and in particular one man who stands out is Gerard (**Bud**) Neiland, without whose efforts and co-ordination, this event would not be possible. A big thank you must go to all the Unions who support the event, the Construction Industry and all the individual groups, **well done**. Have I missed you, I am truly sorry. Give me a call and I will remedy it in the next newsletter.

*Raymond Colbert
Secretary*



Asbestos Disease = Latent Onset Disease

One of the features of asbestos disease is that it is termed as a "latent onset disease". What this means is that asbestos disease develops years after a person is exposed to asbestos – this is referred to as the latency period. This delay between exposure and disease, which often can be a number of decades, can pose problems for the assessment of compensation benefits.

This can be particularly problematic in the area of workers' compensation. A worker may be employed by an employer in say the 1960's and exposed to asbestos then but develop a disease in 2010. Is the entitlement to compensation to be determined based on 1960's entitlements or on current entitlements? Is the question whether a person is a "worker" or whether their asbestos exposure contributed to the condition to be assessed by the law in the 1960's or the law today?

These issues have caused some controversy in a number of cases including decisions of the Queensland courts. A recent decision of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, *Fletcher -v- Q-Comp* which was handed down on 30 September 2010, highlights this issue.

Mr Fletcher was exposed to asbestos whilst employed as a baker by Arnotts Biscuits Limited between 1966 and 1975. He developed an asbestos condition in about 2008 and after he passed away his wife lodged a claim for dependency benefits.

The decision of the Industrial Relations Commission dealt with whether or not there was true "dependency" given that when Mr Fletcher passed away he wasn't earning an income from work but was in receipt of a Centrelink pension.

This decision is a complicated one and will not be fully reviewed in this article but ultimately the Industrial Relations Commission found that Mrs Fletcher was dependent on the late Mr Fletcher. The findings of fact in the case are somewhat unique in that the Industrial Relations Commission found that Mr Fletcher ceased work in 1988 because of symptoms common to the eventual diagnosis of mesothelioma. Whether this is found in other cases is unclear but it does highlight the difficulty in applying workers' compensation legislation to asbestos cases. It's an area of legislation that may need some clarification in terms of amendment and thankfully in Queensland we do have a government that is sympathetic to the needs of those with asbestos disease and has been willing in the past to clarify the law to ensure that those with asbestos disease and their loved ones receive just and proper compensation.

If there are any questions regarding the Fletcher decision please feel free to contact me on 0418 621 654 and Raymond Colbert, Secretary of the Society, has been reviewing this decision as well.

Thady Blundell
Senior Legal Officer

Asbestos Awareness Week:- 21st – 27th November 2010.

We are fortunate this year to have the support and backing of Safe Work, Queensland Health, Department of Environment, Workplace Health and Safety and the Queensland Council of Unions. After lobbying by Mr Paul Goldsbrough Senior Director Policy, Department of Justice, arrangements have been made for all 29 Bunning's Stores in Queensland to promote Asbestos Awareness, Safe handling and disposal practises of Asbestos, including Safety equipment. Mr Paul Bastian National Secretary AMWU will be giving a talk on Tuesday evening 23rd November 2010 at level 5, TLC Building, Peel St, South Brisbane. Paul is a long time campaigner for the rights of Asbestos disease sufferers, he has fought tirelessly to keep Hardie's and CSR honest, his talk will be at 6.30pm. Come along, a light supper will be served. Reminders to all Asbestos Awareness events will be sent out in early November along with an invitation to our Ecumenical Service.

Safe Work Week:- 24th – 30th October 2010 is Safe Work Week. This year the Society will be manning an information stand in King George Square on Thursday 28th October, from 7.00am. This is a wonderful opportunity to distribute our new publication and create some real public awareness of Asbestos and Asbestos Related Diseases.

CONFERENCE REPORT by Prof. Roger K.A. Allen (8.9.10).

THE 13TH WORLD CONGRESS ON PAIN, MONTREAL, CANADA, 29th August-2nd September, 2010.

I wish to thank the Queensland Asbestos Related Disease Support Society Inc. for their generous financial support in assisting me to attend this international conference in Montreal. I wish to add that the hundreds of hours of work I did for this project was done *pro bono* and for those of us in private medical practice, the cost of taking time away from work is considerable as our running costs continue undiminished. I appreciated being able to use the Business Class lounge particularly when my flight was delayed in Vancouver for six hours due to engine trouble and to be able to sleep lying down when I boarded the plane home at 4am Montreal time.

On my return yesterday, I was saddened to read of the death of Mr. Christopher John Smith in your newsletter as I gave expert evidence in his landmark case in Melbourne a few years ago. Whenever I came across him in the wards at the Wesley, Chris was always smiling and exuded a sense of stoical optimism.

With regards research in general, there is a tendency by the lay public to give it a somewhat mystical aura worthy of great hushed respect. To me it is purely a matter of curiosity; of asking a question about something unknown and applying energy and reason to find an answer or a better way of doing something. As I flew home on a non-stop flight from Vancouver to Sydney across the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, I thought of Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith who was, to my way of thinking, a pioneer of aviation research although by convention we tend to call this "exploration". It was in 1927 that my father as a young boy saw Smithy land at Eagle Farm. We now take such a trip for granted as we do with advances of medical research with its forgotten heroes of its discoveries. Who can name the discoverers of the link between asbestos and mesothelioma, or who thought of the idea of MRI or the CT scan let alone mundane drugs such as Panadol (paracetamol) and Normison (temazepam)? We know far more about the heroes and anti-heroes of sport and politics.

For some time now I have been looking at the question of chest pain which I and others believe is caused by benign asbestos diseases i.e. pleural plaques, pleural thickening, folded atelectasis and asbestosis. At this meeting, I was privileged to present the results of our findings on this subject and was the only paper out of 2,000 on this. The poster was entitled, *Chest pain in 282 patients with benign asbestos disease*, with my co-authors Professor Tess Cramond and Ms Deborah Lennon of the Wesley Research Institute, neither of whom were able to attend. This was well received by those who discussed the findings with me and with not one dissenting voice. Indeed, many who had no experience with this condition thought it surprising that not everyone suffered from pain. During my poster session I met several Canadians who were very apologetic about Quebec's still mining white asbestos in the hundreds of thousands of tons a year. Most of it was being exported to India where it is used in the building industry.

The photo is of me and Dr Frank New, psychiatrist from the Tess Cramond Multidisciplinary Pain Clinic, RBH. Frank and I were in the same year and Julia Fleming who is in charge now was in the same group in our Fellowship exams in Melbourne.



For a full copy of Professor Allen's 6 page article please contact the office and we will forward it to you.

The following article is from the CBC News – Montreal. (30/08/2010)

We felt this may be of interest to you.

ASBESTOS MINE GETS \$3.5M FROM QUEBEC GOVERNMENT

Canadian Cancer Society calls decision 'deplorable'

The Quebec government will guarantee a \$3.5-million line of credit for one of the country's last asbestos mines. The money will allow the Jeffrey Mine in Asbestos, Quebec, to reopen and resume exports of asbestos — also called chrysotile — for the next month. During that time Bernard Coulombe, the owner and president of Jeffrey Mine, hopes to attract private investors in order to secure a \$58-million loan from the provincial government. The mine's supporters say the \$58 million will create 400 direct and 1,000 indirect jobs, and allow the mine to remain open for another 25 years. Coulombe said the production and use of chrysotile are safe, and the mine needs to meet an international demand for the mineral. "If we operate now, we have a better chance to be able to attract partners," Coulombe said. The Canadian Cancer Society, as well as doctors across Quebec and Canada, have lobbied the Quebec government to not support the production of asbestos by lending money to the mine. "It accounts for about 90,000 deaths each year," said André Beaulieu, spokesperson for Quebec's branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. "The government ... should provide a transition support to affected communities and find new economies and new businesses locally," Beaulieu said. Beaulieu is also calling for a global ban on the production of asbestos in all its forms. More than 50 countries have banned the production and use of asbestos in all its forms, but Canada continues to permit the mining of chrysotile fibres, mainly for export. The Jeffrey Mine has until the end of December to pay back the loan.

The Jeffrey mine in Asbestos, Que. has been lobbying the provincial government for a \$58 million loan. (CBC)



Condolences

Gerrard Killhulie
Bill Menzies
Wolfgang Biermann
Nicholas Carpenter
Chris Smith
Doreen Notley
Desmond Hickmott
Mustafa Beqiri
Barry Roberts
William Huxley
Jeffrey Hogan

Douglas Campbell
Shirley Cecil
Harry Beach
Graham James Stevens
Albert Victor Doyle
Ian Hutcheon
Eddie Anderson
Neville Charles Davison
Alex Cooper
Kenneth Lenneberg



'May you take comfort in knowing, an angel is watching over you.'

The New Executive Committee

The 14th September was the Annual General Meeting, where on the completion of business, the Society had a new Management Committee with several new faces.

The new Committee is as follows:-

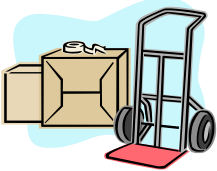
| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Helen Colbert |
| Vice President | Pat Cini |
| Secretary | Raymond Colbert |
| Assistant Secretary | Kerrie Williams |
| Treasurer | Kay Ravbar |
| Committee Member | Andrew Ramsay |
| Committee Member | Beverley Robertson |
| Committee Member | Eileen Stagg |
| Committee Member | Gerard Neiland |



I look forward to working with this committee for the next year.

Our New Premises

As mentioned in our previous newsletters, we are soon to be on the move!



Our new location will be at 16 Campbell Street, Bowen Hills. The office fit out is currently underway and progressing well, with the expected move date around the end of November. You will still be able to contact us on **1800 776 412**, and we will keep you up to date.

We would like to thank those at the CFMEU and Glen Wadsworth of Wadsworth Constructions Pty Ltd for their help and support with the arrangements for our office fit out.

Ecumenical Service

The Society would like to extend an invitation to all members, their families, carers, friends and the community to attend this year's annual ecumenical service, to be held at the cathedral of St Stephens, Elizabeth Street, Brisbane commencing at 11am on Friday 26th November, 2010.

We are honoured to have the 'Attorney General' Mr Cameron Dick as our Guest Speaker, again this year. The Ecumenical Service is a time of reflection and of hope. To reflect upon our loved ones with the hope that lessons learnt from their suffering and loss can be drawn upon to make a safer and fairer place to be for our future generations. This service is a time we can gather together to give one and other the support and comfort we all need, and not to forget. The Medical and Legal Professionals and Government Departments who are also faced with the challenges the effects of asbestos bring upon us.

We look forward to seeing you at this service.



*Remind us of love
Heal our grief
Give us courage
Honour our memories
Strengthen our pledge to continue*

Our Annual Charity Race Day



Helen & Ray Colbert with the lovely Bud!

This year's race day as with any major event is only as good as the support it receives. We have been very fortunate at QARDSS in that our loyal supporters are there each year and they need to be officially recognised for their efforts. The Race Sponsors this year were, and in fact for the past three years have been:-

- Race 1** Queensland Council of Unions
- Race 2** Electrical Trades Union
- Race 3** BERT CIP
- Race 4** Liquor Hospitality Miscellaneous Union
- Race 5** Turner Freeman Lawyers
- Race 6** Leighton Contractors
- Race 7** Construction Forestry Mining & Energy Union (General Division)
Builders Labourers Federation



Mr Garry Bullock - LHMU accepting the 'Shirley White Cup'



The Winning Post at Eagle Farm

Sponsors of the Trailer Raffle were:- Brisbane Brick and Block, Caelli Constructions for the Trailer, Coffee Club - Logan Hyperdome Shopping Centre, Construction Skills Queensland, Dean's Print n Frame, Di Farmer MP - Member for Bullimba, Floor Cover Queensland, F.T.F Bricklaying, Leighton Contractors, Normanby Hotel, Thomas Johnson, Wadsworth Constructions, Windsor Management, and BMD who sponsored band.

Our Trailer Raffle



Mr Michael Ravbar - CFMEU

THANK YOU AGAIN TO ONE AND ALL



*First Prize:
Winners of the
Trailer Raffle
Glen and Alan -
Urban Homes*



*The Shirley
White Cup*



*Second Prize:
Winner of the
Travel Voucher
Fiona Scalton
LHMU*



The Party Atmosphere!



Storm Season

With Storm Season now here, we have included in this newsletter a factsheet issued by **Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Department of Justice and Attorney-General** on

'How to handle asbestos safely after a storm'

Visit the website www.worksafe.qld.gov.au to download other factsheets.



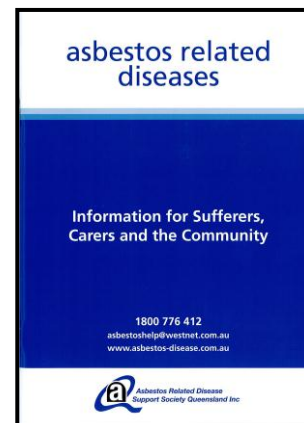
'Information for Sufferers, Carers and the Community'.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

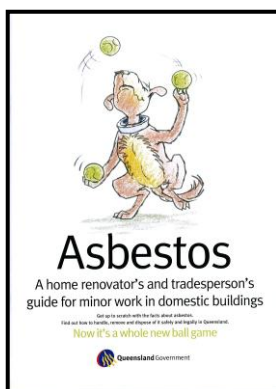
If not please call the office on 1800 776 412 and we will forward one to you. This publication will feature heavily in displays around Queensland during the upcoming events featuring Asbestos Safety.

These are: Safe Work Week 24th – 30th October
Asbestos Awareness Week 21st – 27th November

This publication has been very well received by the medical and social work professionals and the roll out to these people continues unabated.



Asbestos, A home renovator's and trades person's guide.



Asbestos, A home renovator's guide was originally launched at the Queensland Asbestos Related Disease Support Society's conference in 2007 and was a major step forward in education for the home renovator. As it has become very obvious that a whole new wave of Asbestos contamination is and will continue to increase among the home renovator group, it is for this reason that Queensland Health formed a working committee of Government Departments, the Asbestos Industry and the Asbestos Related Disease Support Society. Whilst this publication was successful, it was felt it needed to go one step further. That is to address the number of trade's people who were needlessly being exposed to asbestos. The new edition of Asbestos, A home renovator's and trade person's guide for minor work in domestic buildings will be officially released during Safe Work Week 24th – 30th October 2010.

This publication will be heavily promoted during an awareness campaign involving all 29 Bunnings stores across Queensland. As our numbers of this publication are limited, we would recommend anyone wishing to have a copy to download from the following website.

www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace/subjects/asbestos/householders/index.htm

Every Dollar Counts

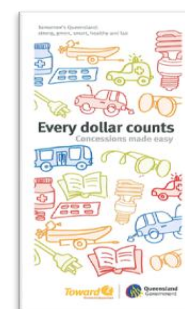
We recently received a letter from Ms Di Farmer MP Member for Bulimba, informing us of a new Queensland Government website that she thought might be beneficial to our members. The Queensland Government has also taken steps to address community concerns about the cost of living, with its *Every Dollar Counts* website.

The *Every Dollar Counts* website is a **comprehensive guide to concessions, retail discounts, rebates and assistance available to families, pensioners, and Queenslanders who may be financially stretched, or who want to save on future energy expenses.**

Every Dollar Counts aims to help Queenslanders access rebates and concessions on offer throughout the state.

Members, you will be pleasantly surprised, at the types of assistance available. *Every Dollar Counts* lists concessions offered by the Queensland Government on services such as ambulance, public transport, electricity, motor vehicle registration, council rates, health, recreation and education.

Please go to: www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/community/concessions/



Parking Permits:- What is the new Australian Disability Parking Scheme?

Recently, the Australian Government along with representatives from every state and territory undertook a process to streamline disability parking schemes across Australia.

The outcome of this process was the development of the new ADPS which provides permit holders with a universal permit design recognised in every state of Australia. The first phase of the new scheme is to replace existing Queensland blue permits with the new national permits (ADPP). New applications that are approved will then continue to be issued with the ADPP.

The new permit includes additional safety features such as micro printing, holographic foil and background printing to assist in preventing misuse of the permit.



Previously, there were over 100 different disability parking schemes across Australia. The aim of the new scheme is to streamline the rules that apply to the distribution and use of disability parking permits.

Eligibility for the ADPS (as an individual) in Queensland

Currently, to be eligible for the ADPS (as an individual), the applicant must satisfy the Queensland blue permit eligibility criteria. The applicant must satisfy **all** of the following conditions.

- Be a Queensland resident over three years of age.
- Have either a permanent or temporary loss of mobility resulting in total dependence on a wheelchair or a large mobility device (for example, a walking frame).
- Require a wide parking bay to exit and enter their vehicle.

Note: A ‘large mobility device’ does **not** include splints, crutches, walking sticks or shopping trolleys.

Asbestos Support Group Morning Teas

Sunshine Coast

1st Monday of the month 10 to 12pm (Feb - Dec)
Maroochydoore RSL, Memorial Drive, Maroochydoore

Chermside

3rd Monday of the month 10 - 11.30am (Feb - Nov)
Chermside Library, 375 Hamilton Road (Cnr of Kittyhawk Drv)

Bethania

4th Monday of the month 9.30 - 11.30am (Feb - Nov)
Bethania Community Centre, Station Road, Bethania

Brisbane

To be advised when we have our new venue.
We do apologise for any inconvenience.

Capalaba

4th Tuesday of the month 9.30 - 11.30am (Feb - Nov)
Main Hall, Capalaba Place, 14 Noeleen Street, Capalaba

Tweed Heads/Gold Coast

1st Wednesday of the month 10am (Qld time) (Feb - Dec)
The Secret Garden, South Tweed Sports Club, 4 Minjungbal Drive,
Tweed Heads

North Lakes

2nd Wednesday of the month 9 - 11.30am (Feb - Dec)
Pathways Library, The Corso, North Lakes

Robina

2nd Thursday of the month 9.30 - 11.30am (Feb - Dec)
Robina Community Centre, 196 Robina Town Centre Dr

Sunnybank

3rd Thursday of the month from 9.30am (Feb - Dec)
Sunnybank Hills Library, Shopping Centre

Ipswich

1st Friday of the month from 10 - 11.30am (Feb - Dec)
Auditorium, QLD Health Plaza Centre, Bell St, Ipswich

Toowoomba

4th Friday of the month 10 - 12pm (Jan - Nov)
Gallipoli Room, Toowoomba R.S.L

****Phone call the office 1800 776 412 or email
asbestoshelp@westnet.com.au for further details
or to confirm attendance.****



Self Help Queensland Inc.

Recently we were invited to have a display at the Self Help & Support Groups Awareness Week which was promoted on Thursday 9th September, along with 56 other groups. It was a very informative day, meeting with other organisations which may be of use to some of our members in the future.

We were able to gather useful information from the other support groups whilst giving them a better understanding of our role in the community. We look forward to participating in this event next year.

Thursday 9th September, 2010 at
Reddycliff Place, Top of George Street Mall, 266 George Street, Brisbane.



SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY

Corporate Sponsors



**Queensland
Council of Unions**



Your consideration of these organisations would be greatly appreciated - their assistance is invaluable.

Corporate Members

Air Liquide Healthcare Pty Ltd
AMWU - Your Rights at Work
Australian Rail, Tram & Bus Industries Union
Australian Services Union
Aust Federated Union of Locomotive Employees
Beaudesert RSL sub-branch
Builders Labourers Federation
CEPU Plumbing Union – Qld Branch
CEPU Electrical Division – Qld Branch

Communication Workers Union
Liquor, Hospitality & Miscellaneous Union
Logan Funerals
Niagara Therapy
PFG Financial Services
Queensland Independent Education Union
Queensland Nurses Union of Employees
Safe Work College of Workplace Health & Safety

The contact details for all of our corporate sponsors and corporate members are available by ringing the QARDSS office on 1800 776 412.

**QARDSS is an endorsed charity (ABN 29 150 479 514).
Membership fees and donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.
*We thank all members for their ongoing support.***