

# Help our Greg battle cancer

by Anna Yeo

HE HAS been fighting cancer caused by asbestos for more than two years, now the Hawkesbury community is getting behind Sackville North father of three Greg Scott to raise money for his treatment.

A benefit night has been organised at the Richmond Club on July 2 to raise money for Mr Scott and his family, who for the last two years have struggled to come to grips with his illness.

Mr Scott, 40, whose children are aged between 3 and 16, has lived and worked in the Hawkesbury for more than 15 years.

For the past two years it has taken a number of hospital admissions, operations and multiple tests before, in April this year doctors diagnosed Mr Scott with mesothelioma – cancer caused by asbestos exposure.

As Mr Scott had had no known exposure to asbestos, it was not even considered as a cause of his illness.

During the course of hospital admissions and procedures to make a diagnosis, Mr Scott was found to have thyroid cancer and required a major operation to remove his thyroid and multiple lymph nodes in October, 2010.

Last year he also had his chest opened, after doctors thought his condition was affecting his heart but this wasn't the case.

But four months later he began to become unwell again and after more procedures he was finally diagnosed at RPA as having abdominal mesothelioma.

His wife Aly said his thyroid cancer is now thought to have been caused by the mesothelioma.

"It was devastating," Mrs Scott said.

"We were hurt and felt betrayed that it had taken so long to diagnose.

"He now has constant bouts of chemo which have caused ulcers in his mouth, nausea, headaches ... he keeps saying 'no more', and 'when is the pain going to end'."

Asbestos was commonly used in the building and construction industry from the 1950s to about 1985.

Most Australian buildings built before 1983 contain asbestos, which means most people have had contact with it without being aware of it.

Asbestos is not dangerous unless the fibres become airborne.

The fibres are very fine and once airborne they can be breathed into the lungs or swallowed.

Mesothelioma takes many years to develop after first asbestos exposure, and sadly there is no cure for the disease.

Mrs Scott said they still aren't sure how or when Mr Scott was exposed to the asbestos, but it could have been as a child during home renovations.

Mr Scott's friends and family are organising a fundraiser to help him through his fight ahead, with all proceeds going towards medical treatment.

The fundraiser will begin from 5pm onwards at the Richmond Club on July 2, and there will be raffles, an auction and guaranteed fun for anyone who would like to attend.

If you are unable to attend the benefit, you can donate directly to the Greg Scott Fundraising Appeal, by direct debiting donations into ANZ account: ACC - 202876991, BSB - 012246.



Greg Scott with his three-year-old daughter Georgie.



Mr Scott receives chemotherapy in hospital.



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