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ASBESTOS NEWS

ASBESTOS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA (ACV) AND
GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC (GARDS)

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ISSUE 3

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SENATE INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS



Mrs Vicki Hamilton, OAM, Chief Executive Officer; Secretary, Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS Inc showing Senator Ketter and former Senator Xenophon samples of products containing illegally imported asbestos including crayons and beaded jewellery.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Non-conforming45th/Interim_report_asbestos

Remember in our last edition of the Asbestos News we reported our visit to the Senate Inquiry on the 14th of July 2017 the ACV/GARDS representatives were invited to make a statement about the issues they have been seeing in the community around asbestos products.

The Former Senator Nick Xenophon and Senator Chris Ketter listened

to Vicki Hamilton our CEO/ Secretary as she explained what our organisation & Mairin OHS&E Consulting had been investigating in the last 5 years. Vicki took samples of items/products to the hearing for the Senators to view and understand what sorts of items they had picked up off Australian shop shelves and bought on line. Items such as crayons, necklaces, rocks from crystal shops and science kits for children, along with brakes and gaskets. The Senators were very

interested to see the other side of the story about asbestos products coming into Australia that were not building products and how they were purchased. Our organisation was very honoured and pleased to be able to show the issue of asbestos in a different light. Albeit just as dangerous and very insidious. Please continue to page 2 to see the recommendations from the Senate Inquiry that have just been released late November 2017.

Continued on page 2...



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MAJOR SPONSOR OF ACV/GARDS



SENATE INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS cont.

Economics References Committee - Non-conforming building products - Interim report: protecting Australians from the threat of asbestos

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

2.49 The committee recommends that through the Council of Australian Governments, the Australian Government pursue a coordinated and consistent whole of government approach to strengthen federal and state legislation and regulations to address the illegal importation of asbestos.

Recommendation 2

2.50 The committee recommends that the Australian Government adequately fund the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency so it is able to deliver the next National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness and to carry out its other functions, both current functions and new functions set out in recommendations in this report.

Recommendation 3

2.62 The committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Australian Border Force undertake an external review of their industry consultation arrangements with a view to strengthen and formalise the contribution from stakeholders. Ideally, these should be through formal meetings on a regular basis with those who are on the front line who are adversely impacted by illegal asbestos importation.

Recommendation 4

2.87 The committee recommends that the Australian Government continue to strongly advocate for the listing of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention and support a change in the voting rules if required for this to be achieved.

Recommendation 5

2.88 The committee recommends that in the event that the Australian Government is unsuccessful in listing of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III at the 2019 Rotterdam Convention, the Australian Government should consider pursuing bilateral or multilateral asbestos treaties with importation disclosure requirements equivalent to an Annex III listing.

Recommendation 6

2.89 The committee recommends that the Australian Government in its course of the regular review of free trade agreements with other countries, include in the review provisions regarding asbestos containing materials.

Recommendation 7

2.90 The committee recommends that the Australian Government continue its support for asbestos bans internationally and promotes awareness of the risks of asbestos in the Asia-Pacific region. Recommendation 8

3.26 The committee recommends that the Australian Government require mandatory Asbestos Awareness Training for a wide range of occupations in the construction industry and provide adequate funding for nationally accredited training for this purpose.

Recommendation 9

3.37 The committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Australian Border Force consider the merits of developing and implementing

a comprehensive education campaign for all importers of the risk and responsibilities regarding asbestos containing materials and the definition of asbestos containing materials used in other countries.

Recommendation 10

3.38 The committee recommends that the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency develop a one-stop-shop website to provide single point for participants across the supply chain to access information regarding the illegal importation of asbestos.

Recommendation 11

3.64 The committee recommends that the Australian Government review the Australian Border Force staff resourcing required to effectively monitor and prevent the illegal importation of asbestos.

Recommendation 12

3.65 The committee recommends that the Australian Government consider the merits of having a specialist unit within Australian Border Force to manage illegal asbestos importation.

Recommendation 13

3.87 The committee recommends that the Australian Government review the Customs Act 1901 (and other relevant legislation) to address the challenges of enforcing the existing importation of asbestos offence, with the aim to close loopholes and improve the capacity of prosecutors to obtain convictions against entities and individuals importing asbestos. This review should include consideration of increasing the threshold required to use 'mistake of fact' as a legal defence.

Recommendation 14

3.88 The committee recommends that the Australian Government prioritise prosecution of illegal asbestos importation cases.

Recommendation 15

3.89 The committee recommends that the Australian Government review the quantum of penalties for breaches of Australia's importation ban with a view to increasing them.

Recommendation 16

4.19 The committee recommends that where an importer intends to import goods that have been deemed high risk of containing asbestos, the Australian Government require the importer, prior to the importation of the goods, to conduct sampling and testing by a NATA accredited authority (or a NATA equivalent testing authority in a another country that is a signatory to a Mutual Recognition Arrangement).

Recommendation 17

4.20 The committee recommends that the Government examine the European Union's regulations and processes for testing of products for asbestos prior to import and determine if it is suitable to adapt them to benefit and enhance Australian requirements.

Recommendation 18

4.36 The committee recommends that the Australian

Government consider placing additional mandatory requirements on procurers of high-risk products to have a due diligence system in place for the prevention of the import and use of asbestos containing materials.

Recommendation 19

4.40 The committee recommends that other states and territories pass similar legislation to Queensland's Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products—Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2017.

Recommendation 20

4.60 The committee recommends that Commonwealth, state and territory governments work together to develop nationally consistent legal obligations to require the removal and/or disposal of illegally imported asbestos (if it is safe to do so following consideration of the hazards likely to be faced by the workers undertaking the work) and to make importers responsible for the cost of such removal and/or disposal of asbestos.

Recommendation 21

4.64 The committee recommends that the Australian Government review and clarify the role of the Federal Safety Commissioner with regards to asbestos containing materials in building products in line with the Commissioner's responsibilities.

Recommendation 22

4.73 The committee recommends that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission conducts compulsory recalls where asbestos is found in consumer products, unless there are significant issues and risks associated with a compulsory recall, noting that legislative change may be required.

Recommendation 23

4.74 In circumstances where the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission becomes aware of a product containing asbestos and subsequently determines not to issue a compulsory recall of that product, the committee recommends that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission shall within thirty days of that decision publish a statement of reasons.

Recommendation 24

4.75 The committee recommends that the Australian Government review the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's public reporting of asbestos containing materials in consumer products, both in relation to informing the public where there are risks to safety, and also monitoring and aggregating reporting of incidents over time.

Recommendation 25

4.83 The committee recommends that the Australian Government establish a national public asbestos register.

Recommendation 26

4.84 The committee recommends that the Australian Government consider the merits of requiring importers and suppliers to hold mandatory recall insurance for potential asbestos containing materials.



Jacob's Mullet Cut Fundraiser



On December 10th ACV/GARDS organisation was very honoured to attend a fundraising event in Memory of Barry Wood whom ACV/GARDS supported in his last months of life.

Jacob Wood, Barry's grandson and Carly Mullen-Bianconi, Jacob's girlfriend decided they wanted to help our organisation by raising money, so Jacob and Carly decided it was time for Jacob's mullet hair cut to come off. His hair had been growing like that for 3 years. It seems all their

friends and family thought Jacob was overdue for a haircut so the fundraiser was arranged. I am quite sure that Jacob's grandmother Sandra Wood is very proud of what her grandson and his girlfriend arranged, I know we are just overcome with pride to have these two young people want to help us in this manner. So many people came to support Jacob it was really wonderful to see our community care about what these two young people were trying to achieve. We want to thank the Publican's, The McMahon family from the Newborough Hotel for allowing the

hair cutting event to take place at the pub. At the time of going to print with the newsletter Jacob's Mullet cut fundraiser had raised over \$3,700 a fantastic effort. Thank you so much for all you have done not only highlighting asbestos issues in our community but helping others who need help – very generous thing to do. From all of us at ACV/GARDS a big thank you to Jacob, Carly Mullen-Bianconi – Jacob's family and all their friends and the wider community – it was just amazing and heart-warming. Pop Wood would be proud of you Jacob.

SLATER+GORDON LAWYERS SPONSORSHIP



We would like to thank Slater+Gordon Lawyers for again sponsoring us this next 12 months.

Sponsors are very important to our organisation without them we would find it extremely difficult to provide the services that we offer to our sufferers and their families. Our organisation relies on the generosity of the community, firms and companies to keep providing education, awareness, 24/7 support, and all of our medical equipment that

we lend to our sufferers free of charge.

So we would like to say thank you to Margaret Kent, Principal in Asbestos Litigation at Slater+Gordon along with Steve Plunkett and Maryanne Cluderay for having faith in us to keep delivering the services we provide to the community. It is so good to know that companies like this have community spirit. Thank you to you all. Pictured above is Steve Plunkett & Maryann Cluderay with CEO - Vicki Hamilton.



The ACV/GARDS organization was very honoured to accept a generous donation in Memory of Karl Mohr from the Mohr family.

We only knew Karl for a short time but in that time we did a lot of talking, laughing and if you did not know it Karl was a wonderful singer. On one of my visits to Karl's home he sang a song to me he had composed and then went and got some CD's he had

recorded & among them was a song named "Gippsland" it was just the best song about Gippsland I had heard. So on my next interview on ABC radio I had to pick some songs that were my favourites for them to play with the interview they were doing so I picked Karl's song and gave them the CD and they played it on air. Karl was larger than life and he lived life to the full. A very nice man with a generous heart. He will be sadly missed by his family and all who knew him. RIP Karl.

ACV/GARDS

Christmas Lunch TO MEMBERS 2017

On December 2nd some of the members of ACV/GARDS enjoyed our last function of the year. It is always a great get together and a time that a variety of our members get to let their hair down and enjoy a bit of fun and laughter. This year was no exception with much laughter and conversation. We were pleased to have Santa in attendance – lunch was absolutely scrumptious as usual from Michaels Golden Hen - Silks restaurant – thank you to Manny, Vicki and Fay Gelagotis for making it a special afternoon for our members. There was present giving and a raffle with prizes galore. Congratulations to all those who were lucky enough to win a raffle prize. Take a look at our members telling Santa what they wanted for Xmas.









Welcome to our NEW SPONSOR

Kim Price Partner

Kim has been a partner of Arnold Thomas & Becker since 2013, after commencing with the firm in 2008. Kim leads ATB's asbestos Disease Kim acts for clients suffering Mesothelioma, Asbestosis, lung cancer and asbestos related pleural disease. He has represented many individuals affected by asbestos related disease, including employees, self-employed workers, bystanders, spouses and family members. Kim can be contacted at any time to provide legal advice or to discuss your asbestos claim on **0407 222 867** or at kprice@arnoldthomasbecker.com.au



At Arnold Thomas & Becker, we've been helping people with injuries for more than fifty years. If you or someone close to you suffers an asbestos disease, we are available to talk to you today.

We leave no stone unturned to help our clients get everything they're entitled to. And if there's no win, there's no fee. Arnold Thomas & Becker Lawyers are proud to act for victims of asbestos exposure. We understand that most victims of asbestos exposure are unable to fund compensation claims, especially against insurance companies and large corporations. That is why we offer a No Win, No Fee 10% Costs Cap Guarantee to our asbestos clients.

About Us

Arnold Thomas & Becker is a law firm specialising in acting for people injured and suffering from compensable diseases, such as those caused by exposure to asbestos. Our firm was established in 1968. Over the past decades we have grown steadily and are now one of the largest personal injury law firms in Victoria. We are recognised for the diligent and personalised service we provide to our clients and the excellent outcomes we obtain.

Your Asbestos Claim

If you have been diagnosed with Mesothelioma, lung cancer, Asbestosis or asbestos related pleural disease, you may be entitled to significant compensation as a result of being exposed to asbestos.

You may have knowingly or in some cases unknowingly been exposed to asbestos dust, fibres or products at work, home or in public. Sometimes the exposure may have occurred decades prior to your diagnosis and only for a short period of time. Strict time limits apply so it is important that you seek legal advice as soon as you are diagnosed with an asbestos related condition.

Our No Win, No Fee 10% Legal Costs Cap Guarantee

We understand that funding a compensation claim is beyond the reach of most people. We therefore conduct asbestos claims on a completely 'No Win, No Fee' basis. This means that we will act on your behalf without any up-front payment for costs. You will then only be charged costs at the end of your claim if we obtain compensation on your behalf. We also understand the concern many people have with the costs they may be charged if they are successful. This is why we also provide our asbestos clients with a guarantee that any costs deducted from their compensation will be capped at 10%. If your costs are less than 10%, you will be charged even less. This provides our asbestos clients with peace of mind that at least 90% of their compensation will be paid to them or their families and not lawyers. We also pay for all out-of-pocket expenses, such as medical reports and Court fees. In some cases these can total up to \$30,000. Many other firms require their clients to obtain litigation loans to fund these expenses on which they are charged exorbitant interest rates. If your case is unsuccessful, you will not have to reimburse us for these expenses.

Lee Flanagan Managing Partner

Lee has been the managing partner of Arnold Thomas & Becker since 2001. Prior to working at ATB, Lee practiced at Slater & Gordon in Traralgon for 7 years. During his career, Lee has acted solely on behalf of injured individuals against insurance companies and large corporations. He has acted for over 4,000 clients and is regarded as being one of the most experienced practitioners in the industry. Lee is experienced in pursuing a wide variety of asbestos disease claims, including Asbestosis, Mesothelioma and lung cancer cases. Lee can be contacted at any time on **0418 852 040** or at lflanagan@arnoldthomasbecker.com.au



ASBESTOS SAFETY & ERADICATION AGENCY SUMMIT 2017

The ACV/GARDS girls travelled to Canberra for the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency Asbestos Summit being held at Old Parliament House on 26th - 28th of November 2017.

This was only made possible by our sponsors who helped to get us there. Gippsland Trades & Labour Council, Mairin OHS&E, Arnold Thomas & Becker Lawyers – and the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency - thank you so very much.

The summit started on Sunday with a support & advocacy group network meeting made up of nearly all the groups from around Australia - we then moved onto a meet and greet at night of all those attending the conference. The next 2 days were packed with speakers of interest from both overseas and from around Australia. Some many interesting topics to pick from and time to ask questions. Monday night the ACV/GARDS girls attended a dinner where the leader of the opposition Bill Shorten was invited to speak

and mix with the guests, which he did. All in all a very interesting and enlightening conference where everyone got something out of the event. Even the most knowledgeable among us picked up on new and emerging issues that will face us as a nation into the future. Thank you to all at ASEA for making a special Summit talking about Asbestos Management in Australia, managing asbestos into the future and the challenges that we will face. Great time was had by all



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ACV/GARDS MEMBERSHIP FEES?

Please check 2017/18 fees now due

The fees are: \$5 for concession & \$15 for employed persons - Joining fee remains the same at \$5

ACV/GARDS membership fees only cover some of the cost associated with being a member of the organisation – it does help us to send out information to you & keep you informed, but we cannot send out personal reminders of fees due as this adds too much to our costs. We thank all those who support us by being a member as this gives us strength and unity to fight for those things in life that our sufferers and their families need and want. Thank you to those members who pay 2 & 3 years in advance, your gesture is greatly appreciated.



ACV/GARDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Saturday 27th January 2018 - Time: 2.00pm -
Venue: ACV/GARDS office - 41 Monash Road, Newborough

Election of Positions falling vacant:
President – Treasurer - Committee Member
Other business to be conducted - Election of Auditor for 2018/19

Returning Officer: Graeme Hamilton - Nomination forms can be collected from the ACV/GARDS office, or down loaded from the ACV/GARDS web site or forwarded by post on request to ACV/GARDS Secretary- Completed nomination forms need to be received by the Returning Officer no later than 7 days prior to the election to PO Box 111, Moe, Vic. 3825 or handed in at the ACV/GARDS office.

Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

ASBESTOS AWARENESS MORNING TEA 2017

SPONSORED BY: SLATER + GORDON LAWYERS

Our Asbestos Awareness Morning tea took place on 22nd November at the ACV/GARDS office. Community members dropped by during the morning – asked some great questions of our expert specialists and got some informed advice. There were samples of products on display so that community members could get a feel for what dangerous items concern us in our community. Visitors even had time to have a coffee or tea and some scones, jam and cream. There was a raffle on the day and we congratulate all those winners who took home some very nice prizes, some hand made by our members. Take a look at our pictures



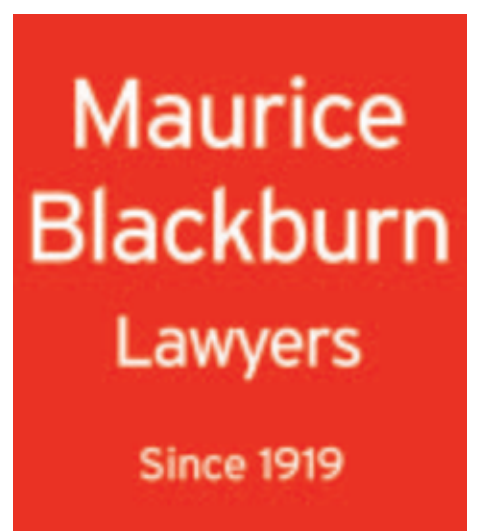
Maurice Blackburn Lawyers Sponsorship

We would like to thank Maurice Blackburn Lawyers for again sponsoring us for this next 12 months. Sponsors are very important to our organisation, without them we would find it extremely difficult to provide the services that we do to our sufferers and their families. Our organisation relies on the generosity of the community, firms and companies to keep providing education, awareness, 24/7 support, and all of our medical equipment that we lend to our sufferers free of charge.

So we would like to say thank you to Jane McDermott, Principal in Asbestos Litigation at

Maurice Blackburn along with Associates Sally Weir and Victoria Keays, and their very capable staff for having faith in us to keep delivering the services we provide to the community. It is so good to know that companies like this have community spirit. Thank you to you all.

A big congratulations goes to Sally Weir and Her husband on the safe arrival of their lovely baby girl a month or two ago “Harriet” - such a little cutie :) we loved meeting her at our Asbestos Awareness Day event – thank you for bringing her along.



ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY EVENT 2017

Our Asbestos Awareness Day took place on 24th November 2017 in the Centenary Rose Garden, Commercial Road Morwell. Our Great

Speakers were:

Executive Director - Simone Stevenson from the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency,
Vicki Burgess - Wife and carer of deceased mesothelioma sufferer and past member of

ACV/GARDS Trevor Burgess,
Steve Dodd - Secretary & Treasurer of the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council and AMWU organizer.

Our fantastic **Scottish Bag Piper Dick Henry** piped out across the garden.

Singing and music was performed by very talented **Susan Parrish, Joe Omar** and **Phil Edwards** who entertained the crowd.

Our very moving ecumenical service was conducted by **Pastor Simon Fink**.

A wonderful BBQ was supplied and cooked by **GTLC**.

Thanks to all the union guys who came and helped set up and pack up and to all our members that helped on the day - it was a successful day because the community cared for each other. **Thank you one and all. :)**



ACV/GARDS on the go....

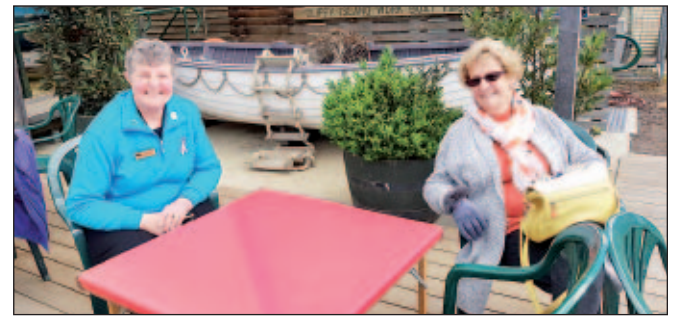


Maritime Museum Port Albert



On the 31st October the ACV/GARDS gang travelled to Yarram Maritime Museum to take in a bit of history about Port Albert and the shipping industry.

We all learned a lot about the shipping in the area and the first settlers who endured so much heart ache to open up a rugged country side and make it a prosperous and thriving area. The weather was kind to us in the midst of what had been a week of torrential rain. The sun was shining and it was quite hot. The gang also enjoyed a trip to the Wharf Fish and Chip shop for lunch – what a wonderful lunch it was too. The Fish and Chips were absolutely delicious – everyone enjoyed the lunch and the companionship of the day. Lots of laughs and jokes were exchanged during the day. A very successful trip all around.



Asbestos Snippets

AUSTRALIA

Asbestos dumped at Bass Point, cameras to be installed in response – Illawarra Mercury - by Ben Langford - December 6 2017

A Dapto resident has labelled as “stupidity” the actions of someone who dumped a load of asbestos-contaminated material near the boat ramp at Bass Point. The dirty deed will now prompt Shellharbour City Council to set up video surveillance of the site, the city’s mayor said. Cameron Gilbey found the dumped material and

immediately reported it to the city council. He said it was “grossly irresponsible” to dump the poison at such a place. “Bass Point contains elements of bush, beach and ocean that create a visually spectacular environment of both land and sea,” Mr Gilbey said. “Dumping asbestos waste is particularly odious because it’s a health hazard to everyone who goes near it, and to dump it in a highly popular state reserve is stupidity.” Shellharbour Mayor Marianne Saliba said the asbestos was removed on Thursday morning, and said further action would be taken. “A small amount of asbestos was located at the site, along with household rubbish,” she said. “Gates at Bass Point were locked immediately so there was no risk to the public. “This is not common in Bass Point. In fact I believe it may be the first time at this location. “As a result council has spoken with the Regional Illegal Dumping Squad and The Environment Protection Authority. “We believe that further attention needs to be placed here. Covert security cameras will be placed at this location to see if we can apprehend future offenders.” Mr Gilbey suspected people illegally dump because they don’t want to pay the cost of waste disposal. “Some may not understand, by breathing in asbestos fibres when removing the material, it could cost you your life, decades after the event. Passers-by the site where asbestos has been dumped may also inhale the fibres and could ultimately die. So all in all it’s not a particularly cheap option is it? “If you are even remotely considering dumping asbestos waste and/or other non-domestic waste in places that you shouldn’t – don’t,” he said. “It isn’t worth getting a criminal record, being fined more than you could possibly ever afford and contracting an asbestos related disease. It is grossly irresponsible to endanger the health of others too.”

Pulled muscle’ was death sentence for GP – Ballina Shire Advocate - by Emma Reynolds - 3rd Dec 2017

WHEN a healthy, successful GP felt a pain in her shoulder one day, she wasn’t too worried, assuming it was a pulled muscle. To her shock, the

63-year-old discovered she had developed an aggressive cancer in her ribcage from asbestos exposure at a hospital in the NSW Hunter Region. She would be dead within months. Pauline Vizzard’s family, friends and patients were devastated to learn the energetic doctor was riddled with disease in the lining of her organs. They had never thought for a second that she was at risk from this quiet killer in her line of work. “It was a surprise on everyone’s behalf,” son Ben Harrison, 34, told news.com.au. “You sort of associate asbestos cancers with people who may work in industry for all their life, and to have someone who is so removed from what you’d normally expect to be a high-risk industry ... there’s no cure for mesothelioma at all, it’s fatal 100 per cent of the time. “You hear about survival rates for cancer improving year after year, but with mesothelioma, it’s a death sentence straight off the bat. There’s no hope for a cure, no hope of getting better and that’s quite a terrible diagnosis. The treatment was purely to prolong life, to get a few more months.” Dr Vizzard had contracted the cancer at a public hospital where she regularly conducted ward rounds in the ‘70s and ‘80s. Dust and particles from deteriorated lagging around hot water and steam pipes accumulated on top of ceiling tiles and slid into the hallway when the tile was tipped up during frequent maintenance. Inhaling an asbestos fibre can cause thickening of the pleura (membrane around the lung), the appearance of plaque in lung tissue and excess fluids in the pleural space. This can lead to laryngeal, colon, ovarian and lung cancers. While many believe asbestos-related illness is dying out, it is in fact a growing risk to Australian employees thanks to ageing workplace infrastructure. The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency’s 2016-17 report recorded an increase in occupational exposure to 70 per cent from 64 per cent the previous year. Despite a 2003 nationwide ban on the production, importation and use of asbestos, Australia continues to grapple with the legacy of being one of the world’s highest users per capita of asbestos materials from the mid-40s to late ‘80s. To add to the tragedy, at the time of her diagnosis, Dr Vizzard was sole carer for husband John, who had late-stage Parkinson’s and dementia. “Mum was always quite upbeat about things. She did her best,” said Mr Harrison, from the NSW Central Coast. “She was still trying to be everyone’s mum. “She had to undergo chemo and other forms of radiation therapy to try to prolong her life and give her a few more months and that had a huge negative effect, and then in the last month or two, she went into a rapid decline.” Dr Vizzard died in April 2015, and her husband followed not long after. One patient wrote on a tribute page: “I’m finding it extremely hard to believe this every morning when I wake. Pauline was my doctor close to 30 years. I will miss her dreadfully.” Another said: “Not only a great doctor and an integral part of the Singleton community but an aunty who I have always loved and admired. Sadly missed but so fortunate to have

known her.” Mr Harrison says he’s not angry with anyone over what happened to his mother, but wants people to be aware asbestos exposure can still be a risk in what we may consider unlikely settings. “It’s one of those unfortunate things that this material that we now know is so deadly managed to find its way to the most innocent of places, even hospitals,” he said. Dr Pauline Vizzard died after asbestos exposure at the hospital where she worked. Asbestos has this year been discovered in classic cars, on a Melbourne kindergarten site where children were playing and in homes damaged by storms. Experts have warned the rise of DIY home renovations fuelled by reality TV could lead to a “third wave” of asbestos-related diseases in Australia. Around 600 people die of asbestos-related illness around the country each year. David Jones, Hunter Region executive partner from Carroll & O’Dea Lawyers, which managed Dr Vizzard’s case, said: “As the case demonstrates, mesothelioma has a long latency period after exposure, meaning that workers exposed to asbestos a generation ago might still contract the disease. “Asbestos in situ can still be found in many older public buildings and homes, and as the fabric of these infrastructures containing asbestos products deteriorates, the dangers of exposure to asbestos fibres is on the increase. Many are part of the ageing public infrastructure.”

ASBESTOS TIPS

- Show caution when removing asbestos in the home. If in doubt, have a licensed removalist assess, safely remove and properly dispose of it for you.
- Some toys and crayons from overseas, particularly from China, have been found to contain asbestos. Avoid crushing, scraping or melting them, as this can release asbestos fibres.
- Be careful when buying online - buying a cheap toy on eBay from China may not be worth the risk.
- Buy from reputable brands and businesses that demand high safety standards from suppliers.
- If you have any concerns about your workplace, talk to your employer.
- To find your nearest accredited testing lab, call 1800 621 666. If you think you may have been exposed to asbestos, register your details on the National Asbestos Exposure Register.

Asbestos Snippets

Bega Valley Shire water pipelines contain asbestos cement - *Alasdair McDonald Bega District News - OCTOBER 31 2017*

Council has revealed almost 20 per cent of the shire's pipelines contain asbestos cement. Manager of water and sewerage services Jim Collins said the weight of evidence indicates ingested asbestos is not hazardous to people's health, but there is a potential danger from dust when the pipes are disturbed. "The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 indicate there are insufficient data to set a guideline value for asbestos in drinking water," he said. "It is unlikely, however, that the numbers of asbestos fibres present in most drinking water supplies would be a health concern." Of the 621 kilometres of water pipelines in the shire, installed between the 1940s and the mid-1980s, 117 kilometres consists of asbestos cement, or AC. According to the federal government's Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, while the "risk of contracting an asbestos related disease from ingesting asbestos is considered low", the "bigger risk remains from the degrading pipes being excavated from the ground and disposed of at another site". The Water Services Association of Australia says there is "no elevated risk of asbestos-related diseases from drinking or using water from asbestos cement pipes. "Over the past four years WSAA and our members have also been involved with research carried out in Canada and the US designed to ensure that guideline levels around asbestos cement pipes are appropriate," the association states. The federal government's Australian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines state there is no evidence of cancer from ingested asbestos. The guidelines do say it is "not clear whether asbestos fibres ingested in drinking water can pass through the walls of the gastrointestinal tract in sufficient numbers to cause adverse effects", and animal studies "on the carcinogenic effects of ingested asbestos have been inconclusive". "The guideline should be reviewed as soon as more toxicological data are available," it reads.

<http://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/5023950/>

almost-one-fifth-of-shire-water-pipelines-contain-asbestos/

<https://www.news-mail.com.au/news/storm-leaves-behind-asbestos-havoc/3279235/>

Australian Group Leads Push for Global Ban of Asbestos - *Tim Povtak - Nov 30, 2017*

The Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) in Australia has intensified its campaign for a worldwide ban on the use of asbestos.

ADRI is producing a special issue for the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health that includes the first scientific collaboration of so many global leaders aimed at banning asbestos. "This is a big step, something that's never been done before, the research examining the societal transition required for countries to phase out asbestos," Dr. Ken Takahashi, ADRI director, told Asbestos.com. "It's not going to be an easy task, but we're moving in that direction."

The special issue, "Global Panorama of National Experiences in Public Health Actions to Ban Asbestos," is aimed particularly at developing countries that need a roadmap to instituting a ban. There are 61 countries in the world that have banned asbestos, according to International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS), but Japan is the only one of the 10 most populous countries to do it. That leaves almost 140 countries and more than six billion people, according to Takahashi, still vulnerable to continued use of asbestos. Brazil, for example, is the fifth most populous country in the world with more than 207 million people. It is still producing an estimated 300,000 tons of asbestos annually — most of it for exportation. China, with a world-leading 1.4 billion people, produces 400,000 tons of asbestos each year.

Documenting the Roadmap to an Asbestos Ban

The special issue documents the experiences and technologies that have been used to institute bans in respective countries, moving them from asbestos-using cultures to economies no longer dependent on the toxic mineral. "We needed some kind of documented reference points so that developing countries who have an intention to move toward banning asbestos have a path to follow," Takahashi said. "This special issue is dedicated to that purpose." Takahashi, who orchestrated this ongoing collaboration, joined ADRI less than a year ago after more than a decade at the University of Occupational and Environmental Health in Japan.

ADRI Stepping Up

ADRI, which formed in 2009, is the world's only research institute focused exclusively on asbestos and asbestos-related diseases.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral still coveted in some countries for its heat resistance, tensile strength and affordability.

Unfortunately, it also becomes toxic as it ages or when it is disturbed. Asbestos exposure can lead to a range of serious health issues, including asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. Takahashi is a renowned epidemiologist whose career has been focused on the prevention of asbestos-related diseases. His research in Japan often attracted worldwide attention. In his previous position, he organized annual international conferences aimed at drawing awareness to the dangers of asbestos.

Even before Takahashi joined ADRI, his research prompted several countries that had banned asbestos to provide support for a global ban. "So many people around the world don't realize what a problem [asbestos] is," he said. "And asbestos-related disease is 100 percent preventable." The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 100,000 people die each year from an asbestos-related disease.

<https://www.asbestos.com/news/2017/11/30/australian-group-leading-global-asbestos-ban/>

Mayor won't rule out selling hospital to developers - *By Hamish Broome - The Northern Star - 1st Dec 2017*

BYRON Shire Council won't rule out selling off the Mullumbimby Hospital site entirely to private developers, but that would be a "worst case" scenario, according to mayor Simon Richardson. A report tabled at the council's Tuesday meeting revealed the asbestos riddled building posed a "very high" risk to surrounding residents if left in its current state and

must be demolished as soon as possible. The demolition bill, originally loosely estimated at \$1.8 million, is now expected to cost significantly more. Healthy Buildings International (HBI), who were engaged to conduct the independent review of the building, described the presence of unstable, degraded, and friable asbestos containing materials in the ceiling of the building which present "a very high risk to users and occupiers of the facility as well as the surrounding community". But Cr Richardson said the findings were not unexpected. He said the council was always expecting the asbestos removal - a difficult, high risk job - would cost millions. He said the council never wanted to profit from the purchase, but "we at least want to have a break even (financial) result". "That's just going to have to be factored in." He said in the "absolute worst case" of turning the substantial land into a residential subdivision "we'd more than make our money back". "It's pretty prime real estate with a lot of elevation. "Don't forget the (Ocean Shores) roundhouse site, we made about \$3 million on that. This is so much more valuable." The mayor speculated that the most likely result was a mix of development on the land which would include both community and private use, which he likened to a "fruit salad". The HBI report also found that every month the council delays demolition after it takes ownership of the site it will also incur significant holding costs, which "have been very high" for NSW Health. The level of degradation of the friable asbestos materials on the roof and in roof spaces is "extremely advanced and any failure of the enclosure system could result in wide spread contamination for the facility and the surrounding areas". An asbestos control strategy could "not be feasibly instigated and maintained to permit future use of the facility, with associated risk acceptable to all stakeholders". The holding costs which must be borne by the council until it organises the demolition include providing security fencing, security guards building integrity inspections, air quality monitoring, rectification of any security breaches, ground maintenance and professional services for asbestos management and incident management. "Purchase of the Mullumbimby Hospital site will result in significant operational costs that are unlikely to be offset by income for an as yet unknown period of time," the staff report concluded. A follow up report is expected in February, after which the council will start canvassing ideas for the site.

<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/mayor-wont-rule-out-selling-hospital-to-developers/3279119/>

Energy Australia applies to store asbestos from Wallerawang power station onsite - *LITHGOW MERCURY* -

Energy Australia has announced its intentions to apply to Lithgow City Council for approval to build an asbestos dump on the site of the former Wallerawang Power Station in order to dispose of materials removed from the decommissioned station. EnergyAustralia said the proposed repository would accommodate 7000 cubic metres of material from the power station. The material would be buried at least three metres underground. The repository would lie wholly within the site of the power station in Wallerawang. "There is nothing more important than the safety and wellbeing of the community and our people who live and work nearby the old Wallerawang power station," Malcolm Murphy, the NSW head of EnergyAustralia, said. Split visions of the future come before Invincible PAC meeting "Exposure to asbestos fibres can be extremely dangerous to human health so we must take great care to properly plan a project like this. "It will be a long and thorough process done in accordance with government regulation and with extensive consultation so people can have confidence it's being done the right way." Mr Murphy said the rehabilitation of the power station was progressing and that greater amounts of work would be done on the site's demolition and clean-up over the next year. A spokesperson for EnergyAustralia said the company already had permission to store asbestos on the site under its Environment Protection License. "We already manage an existing asbestos disposal site. It's located on the western side of the Angus Place Coal Haul, south of Lidsdale Cut. The proposed repository is additional and intended to replace the old one." He said the repository would store material from the decommissioned Wallerawang power station identified as containing asbestos include sheeting, pipeline, building material and parts of auxiliary equipment. The repository is expected to be completed by mid-2018 if the application is accepted by Lithgow City Council. The Wallerawang Power Station was decommissioned in 2014, the rehabilitation of the site is expected to take several years. The station was built in the late 1970s. - Residents can contact EnergyAustralia about the proposal on 6354 811 or email community@energyaustraliainsw.com.au.

<http://www.lithgowmercury.com.au/story/5086576/ea-plans-to-dispose-of-asbestos-onsite-at-power-station/>

Asbestos questions after run-off from Mr Fluffy block floods Kambah home - *Doug Dingwall - The Sydney Morning Herald ACT News - November 29 2017*

A Kambah homeowner will ask the ACT government if run-off from a cleared Mr Fluffy block next door that flooded parts of her property has contaminated it with asbestos. A downpour on Saturday, during which 62mm fell at Tuggeranong between 6pm and 7.30pm, was so heavy that water flowed from the neighbouring property into the garage, yard and indoor pool area of Ruth Fenwick's home. But the ACT government, which owns the block, said it would not need to test for any contamination and that the lot had been found clear of asbestos. Ms Fenwick said the pool room's water rose about 70mm up the surrounding wall as the run-off seeped in through a back door. Her living room would have been soaked next if the water had risen much higher. "You can imagine it created a river down the side of the house into the yard, so all our landscaping is full of mud," she said. "We're used to rain coming into the pool, but not like this." Ms Fenwick had questions about whether her property had been contaminated with asbestos from next door.

The Asbestos Response Taskforce confirmed it owned and managed the neighbouring property, but said after the Mr Fluffy home was demolished and the lot's soil was tested, it was declared clear of asbestos.

A spokesman said the block was removed from the register of asbestos-affected homes in July. While it tested soil across the demolition zone during checks, this varied between sites, the taskforce said.

"In this case almost the entirety of the block was within the demolition zone and testing was conducted in accordance with the national standard. Water seeps through the door into the pool area. Photo: Supplied

"All testing returned negative results for loose fill asbestos fibres. "The taskforce is working with the neighbour regarding clean-up works but given the status of the formerly affected block, testing for loose fill asbestos fibres is not required." While the spokesman didn't respond directly to questions about the taskforce's efforts to prevent run-off after demolishing the Kambah house, he said it took measures to control erosion when needed while remediating Mr Fluffy blocks. Ms Fenwick, who early this week was pumping her pool to remove floodwater, said she would need to wait for the water to recede from the yard before checking for damage, and that none had been found inside after early checks. "If it keeps raining we're going to keep having this issue unless they do something about that block," she said, referring to the taskforce.

"Other people shouldn't be impacted by their negligence of the block they now own." The asbestos taskforce said it inspected the site on Monday after Ms Fenwick called, and met her on Tuesday morning about the incident. Ms Fenwick said it told her it would prevent any further run-off from the property.

<http://www.smh.com.au/act-news/asbestos-questions-after-runoff-from-mr-fluffy-block-floods-kambah-home-20171128-gzu9vi.html>

Senate inquiry recommends crackdown on illegal asbestos imports - *Daryl Passmore, The Courier-Mail - November 22, 2017*

TOUGHER penalties and a special Border Force unit to crack down on illegal asbestos imports have been recommended after the deadly product was even found in children's crayons. Despite an Australian ban on the use and importation of asbestos since 2003, contaminated products continue to be brought in to the country, particularly from China, a Senate inquiry found. "It's not just building products - asbestos has been found in jewellery and even children's toys, including crayons," said Queensland senator Chris Ketter, chairman of the standing committee on economics. More than 4600 consignments were identified as being high-risk between July 2016 and January 2017. Of 290 tested, nine were found to contain asbestos. "What we've discovered is really the tip of the iceberg," Senator Ketter said. "We don't know what we don't know." The report of the two-year inquiry also recommended companies intending to import high-risk goods be forced to have them tested beforehand, that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission conduct compulsory recalls of dodgy products and the establishment of a national public asbestos register.

"Mums and dads need to know if they are giving their children asbestos crayons to chew on," Senator Ketter said. Other products discovered included a detective game where the "fingerprinting dust" was actually asbestos. Engine and exhaust gaskets in thousands of Great Wall Motors were found to contain asbestos, as well as brake linings in some Polaris quad bikes. And work on the Queensland Government's "tower of power" 1 William St was halted last year when asbestos was found in metal skirting on the site. The most common form of asbestos - chrysotile - is not even categorised as asbestos by China, and the report calls for provisions to be included in free trade agreements. Senator Ketter said a much greater onus had to be placed on importers. "There has to be a fear of prosecutions and penalties."

The commonplace use of asbestos as a building material in the 1950s and '60s has left Australia with the world's highest rate of asbestos-related diseases.

More than 10,000 people have already died and another 15,000 fatalities are expected over the next 40 years. "It's an horrific death, one of the worst ways to go, prolonged and painful, and we need to take action to save lives," Senator Ketter said. The committee said it was "deeply concerned" workers in the building industry were increasingly unaware of the dangers and called for mandatory training. More public education is required for people renovating old houses as Australia enters "the third wave" of exposure to asbestos. "Everyone thinks asbestos is something of the past but it's a real danger," Senator Ketter said.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/senate-inquiry-recommends-crackdown-on-illegal-asbestos-imports/news-story/0610c28bbdc0a5d341d4f0843207d51d>

Frenchs Forest residents furious: Internet cut for a week after NBN infrastructure damaged - *by Robbie Patterson, Manly Daily - The Daily Telegraph - November 23, 2017*

FRUSTRATED residents of Frenchs Forest have been cut from internet connection for more than a week after construction works damaged NBN infrastructure.

And it is not known when it will be repaired after a "third party" damaged the connection. The Manly Daily has been inundated with calls and emails from residents, with some saying their entire street was disconnected. All phone service providers in the area have been impacted. And a prominent Facebook page for residents has seen hundreds of people venting their frustration. Andre Mauchle, 66, said he had been constantly calling Optus and the NBN to find what caused the week-long disruption - with little joy. "It is not good enough that we don't know what is happening," the Dundilla Rd resident said, "Nobody has contacted me or any of the neighbours to tell us what is happening. "Unless we pick the phone up and try to find out ourselves we are told nothing." NBN spokeswoman Marcela Balart said the company was investigating the cause of the damage. "NBN Co is working to restore services in Frenchs Forest after nearby third party construction works damaged NBN access network infrastructure," she said. "The damaged

Asbestos Snippets

equipment contained asbestos and requires legislated health and safety procedures to be followed before any network remediation can take place.” She said remediation would begin when the area was declared safe by authorities and there was no estimated time frame for services to be restored. “We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay and we ask residents for their patience while this critical work is carried out. “We are looking at a temporary fix to restore services as soon as possible, however, the first priority is ensuring the safe removal of the asbestos.” Roadwork for the Northern Beaches Hospital is ongoing in the Forest Way area where the damage is believed to have happened. An RMS spokeswoman said: “As part of the Northern Beaches Hospital road upgrade project, work is being carried out to relocate utilities in the project area. “RMS is not aware of any impact to internet services in the Frenchs Forest area.”

Mr Mauchle has been working on a fiction novel and said he had reverted to using his mobile phone hot pot. He said Optus had agreed not to charge him for any extra mobile data. His landline phone and Foxtel have also been down since last Thursday as all were connected to the NBN. He said he knew of at least 46 houses that had been impacted. On social media residents have counted hundreds. Shawn Elliott, a Greendale St resident, spent a week asking for answers. “Optus is saying there is an incident ... but it is the provider’s responsibility. We go to the provider, they say we don’t know,” he said. “They should be calling us and saying, ‘Hey, this is an issue, we don’t know how it happened but these are the things we will do to support you’.” “We just want clarity. The frustration is not that it has happened but that no one wants to own it.”

Turnbull determined to address NBN issues The father of two said it was frustrating. “We have no access to technology, our house has been built around technology and nothing works. “My children can’t do their homework, they can no longer access the online programs that the school facilitates it through.”

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/senate-inquiry-recommends-crackdown-on-illegal-asbestos-imports/news-story/0610c28bbdc0a5d341d4f0843207d51d>

INTERNATIONAL

Parents, Teachers Say Pinelands School District Is Ignoring Asbestos Questions – CBS 2 - November 30, 2017

LITTLE EGG HARBOR, N.J. (CBSNewYork) — Is the health of teachers and students at a New Jersey school at risk? Complaints have gone unanswered and some parents in Little Egg Harbor say they are being stonewalled by the school district after the high school was deemed unsafe for classes. On Thursday, CBS2’s Meg Baker joined teachers in demanding answers. In early October when Pinelands Regional High School was still up and running, roof work continued despite questions about air quality.

Students and staff complained of a noxious smell that was making them sick. Mel Reid is the president of the teachers’ association. He said the school was late in identifying the asbestos problem, and was told to stop work, especially since students and staff were inside. “This revelation caused serious concern because roofing activity continues through September in disregard of this recommendation,” Reid said. The latest testing done by the EPA shows asbestos not only inside the school, but outside on the school grounds. The district told CBS2 at the time that the closure would be brief, but the doors have now been shut for more than a month. The high school and middle school have been running on split sessions. “The half-day sessions, my son wants to go to college. This is hurting him, he’s a good student, but still frustrating for him,” Kenneth Persichetti said. “It’s like four hours of school, and we basically do nothing,” Chris Benya said. “We have a lot of work online, and it’s harder because we aren’t getting all the lessons,” Lex Kelley said. CBS2’s Baker went to the district office on Thursday, and was told the superintendent was not in. Emails also went unanswered.

The state department of education said the high school is meeting the minimum hours of instruction time for a school day, which is four hours. One father said the situation is drastically disrupting people’s lives, and wants the district to take responsibility. “If they are not communicating with us and not communicating with their staff, who in god’s world are they communicating with?” Persichetti asked. Parents want to know if their kids were harmed, and when the school will be back to normal. The department of education said it also checked to make sure the district is working with project professionals to ensure the school meets all health and safety requirements.

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2017/11/30/pinelands-asbestos/>

I-Team: Scientists unveil asbestos study results in Boulder City – Las Vegas Now.com - By: George Knapp - Dec 01, 2017

LAS VEGAS - Residents of Boulder City received chilling news Thursday night when scientists unveiled a new study about the risks of exposure to natural asbestos. The research project stems from a discovery four years ago by two UNLV geologists. They found widespread deposits of asbestos type fibers in the soil around Boulder City as well as across the Colorado River in Arizona. The fibers found are similar to those found in Libby, Montana, the site of the deadliest environmental exposure in U.S. history. As the I-Team previously reported, UNLV geologists Rod Metcalf and Brenda Buck warned about potential health risks from asbestos particles in the air. Those professors were joined by a Montana toxicologist who told Boulder City residents about the results of tests done on mice and potential health risks from low levels of asbestos exposure. “We saw an increase in antibodies in the mice. We saw examples of systemic immunity. We saw an increase in inflammation and kidney damage. All of the things you would see in an auto immune disease,” said Dr. Jean Pfau, expert. The doctor explained severe exposure to the fibers found in the soil can result in cancers or even mesothelioma, a fatal disease, but even at low levels, there can be serious risks to public health. The discovery of asbestos fibers here caused a one year delay in the construction of the massive I-11 project.

<http://www.lasvegashow.com/news/i-team-scientists-unveil-asbestos-study-results-in-boulder-city/872855705>

£190,000 to deal with asbestos in Telford schools - By Mark Andrews – Shropshire Star - Oct 30, 2017

Telford & Wrekin Council has set aside £30,000 to remove asbestos from Millbrook and Shortwood primary schools before the end of the financial

year in April. A further £25,000 has been earmarked for managing asbestos at the town’s High Ercall Primary School. The authority has set aside another £60,000 to deal with the problem at other schools in the borough over the financial year, which will be used to pay for surveys, removing asbestos, and awareness training. A further £75,000 has been committed to works dealing with asbestos in the borough’s schools for the 2018/19 financial year. Telford & Wrekin Council spokesman Chris Kowalik said: “As with all buildings of such an age, there is a risk that asbestos may have been used in their construction. “Telford & Wrekin Council is working through its schools estate to assess the risks and remove any asbestos safely.” Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act show that more than £1.4 million has been spent on managing and removing asbestos at schools across Shropshire over the 10 years up to 2016. Telford & Wrekin Council has spent just over £665,000 on such works, while Shropshire Council and its predecessors spent £779,000. Shropshire Council has set aside £350,000 to deal with asbestos management over the next 10 years.

The figures were disclosed following a request by campaigner Lucie Stephens, whose mother Sue died last year from an asbestos-related cancer after working as a teacher for 30 years. Miss Stephens, from Devon, is campaigning for new laws requiring every school in the UK to produce an annual report about the type and condition of any asbestos on its premises. “Parents have been kept in the dark about asbestos risks for too long,” she said. “Every child’s potential exposure to asbestos at school must be recorded and shared with parents. “This has been happening in the USA for the last 30 years.” Miss Stephens is also calling on the Government to introduce a policy for the phased removal of all asbestos from schools over the next 11 years, starting with the most dangerous types. “MP’s recommended this in 2012 but no action has been taken,” she said. She said 86 per cent of schools contained asbestos, putting more than seven million pupils at risk. “A survey in 2015 found that 44 per cent of teachers have not been told if their school contains asbestos,” said Miss Stephens. “This lack of awareness puts them and their pupils at risk of exposure.” More than 224 school teachers in England died of mesothelioma between 2003 and 2012, she added.

www.shropshirestar.com/news/education/2017/10/30/190000-to-deal-with-asbestos-in-telford-schools/#jCbvkeRpy3vSUV10.99

Asbestos released in Nieuwegein fire; industrial terrain closed for investigation – NL Times - By Janene Pieters on October 30, 2017

Asbestos was released during a large fire on industrial terrain Liesbosch in Nieuwegein on Sunday night. On Monday morning a number of roads around the terrain, including the N408 in both directions, are closed to the public, as the authorities investigate how far the asbestos spread. The fire started in a warehouse on Ravenswade, which used to be a distribution center for supermarket chain Albert Heijn, according to news wire ANP. Firefighters had the fire under control around 1:00 a.m. The cause of the fire is still being investigated. Men and women in orange clothing are redirecting traffic around the industrial terrain on Monday morning, AD reports. Nobody is allowed into the terrain, including work traffic and trucks carrying cargo. “Everything is quiet now”, a business manager for Haco Lichtreclame BV, located across the street from the affected warehouse, said to AD. “Normally everything is already in production by seven o’clock.” The specialized company found asbestos on the N408, according to the newspaper. The asbestos investigation is expected to take several hours. The Laagravenseweg is closed in both directions between the Hooggraven traffic circle and Houtenseweg. De Koppelijik is closed to all traffic near Utrechtseweg. The Seychellenpad is closed at the Koppelbrug and the Liesboschpad is closed at the A12. Bike paths on Waijensedijk are also closed near Fortweg. Traffic can reach Liesbosch via Winthoutlaan in a limited way. Traffic to and from Houten can use Limesbaan or De Staart. Residents of Nieuwegein are asked to avoid Plettenburgerbaan and Laagravenseweg. Residents of Houten are advised to avoid Utrechtseweg and Laagravenseweg. Residents of both towns are advised to keep their windows and doors closed.

<https://nltimes.nl/2017/10/30/asbestos-released-nieuwegein-fire-industrial-terrain-closed-investigation>

EPA cleanup of Pillsbury site nearly complete; lawsuits pending – State Journal Register - By Tim Landis - Business Editor - Oct 31, 2017

The nine-month, \$1.8 million cleanup at the former Pillsbury Mills plant in Springfield -- including tons of asbestos-contaminated debris -- should be completed this week with removal of barrels containing waste oil and other chemicals. Federal and state court cases, meanwhile, are pending against the site owners. “We’re getting rid of the final containers of used oil and various containers of other materials stockpiled on the site,” Kevin Turner, site cleanup coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Monday. Turner said crews are scheduled to complete the removal Wednesday. Since the cleanup began in February, crews in hazardous-material suits have removed 2,200 tons of asbestos-contaminated debris, 1,160 cubic yards of bulk asbestos and approximately 3,700 mercury-contaminated light bulbs. The asbestos, primarily from boiler and pipe insulation, has been taken to landfills. Other toxic chemicals have been taken to special processing facilities. Crews had to work through more than two-dozen buildings at the site, which has been vacant since the mill shut down in 2001. Turner said the site has returned to the jurisdiction of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. The attorney’s general’s office filed a civil suit in Sangamon County Circuit Court in August 2015 accusing site owner P. Mills LLC of improper asbestos cleanup at the site. The federal EPA stepped in after owners failed to comply with court orders for a proper cleanup. Circuit Judge John Madonia earlier this month reinstated an injunction ordering P. Mills partners to work with the state EPA on securing the site, according to court records. A status hearing is scheduled for Jan. 22. One of the partners in the P. Mills, Joseph Chernis IV, is scheduled for sentencing Dec. 11 on federal charges of improper asbestos cleanup and making false statements about the cleanup in the state civil case. Pillsbury Mills Neighborhood Association president John Keller said he hopes security will be maintained now that federal EPA crews are moving on. Trespassing and illegal salvage operations were persistent complaints prior to the start of the cleanup. “It’s been pretty quiet, though you always have neighborhood kids trying to get in there,” said Keller. Hazardous waste and court cases have made it difficult to draw interest to the Pillsbury site, said Keller, though reuse of the site is among major long-term goals for the city of Springfield. “It’s cleaned up, and we’re grateful for that,” said Keller. Pillsbury Mills site: 18-acre abandoned since

mill shutdown in 2001. Federal environmental cleanup to be completed Wednesday; state and federal court cases pending against owners.

<http://www.sj-r.com/news/20171030/epa-cleanup-of-pillsbury-site-nearly-complete-lawsuits-pending>

Brazil asbestos ban strengthens the fight in our region – Medianet - 4 December 2017

Brazil asbestos ban strengthens the fight in our region

Australia welcomes the news that the Brazilian Supreme Federal Court has banned the use of asbestos in Brazil. The Court found there are no safe levels for the use of asbestos. Brazil is one of the top five asbestos consuming countries in the world, and it will now join more than 70 other countries, including Australia, to ban use of the deadly substance. Russia, China and Kazakhstan are now the only commercial producers of asbestos in the world. Australia plays an international leadership role in curtailing the deadly asbestos trade, by leading the push to stand up to the global asbestos industry, and helping Southeast Asian countries confront the problem.

As bans have dried up markets around the world, the global asbestos trade has focused on less developed and transition economies, including in Southeast Asia.

Between 2000 and 2012, Asia’s asbestos use went from 53 per cent of the world’s total, to 72 per cent.

Quotes attributable to Peter Tighe, CEO, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency:

“Australians are often surprised to learn that asbestos is still heavily mined, manufactured and used around the world.

“Australia will not be completely safe from asbestos until there is a total global ban.

“We are up against a pro-asbestos lobby, led by Russian-backed interests, that pulls out all stops to promote their heinous trade.

“Australia has done a lot of work to counter this, through the global treaty for the trade of hazardous chemicals, the Rotterdam Convention, and in working with our nearest neighbours in Southeast Asia.

“Brazil’s ban is significant, being one of the top five asbestos users in the world.

“It is our hope that Southeast Asian countries grappling with the huge burden of asbestos will follow suit.

“I congratulate the global asbestos campaigners who have fought so hard for so long to have the world’s major asbestos using countries finally do the right thing.”

<http://www.medianet.com.au/releases/149796/>

Asbestos Decontamination Tents Set Up in NYCHA Playground – The Low Down – Greg B Smith 1st November 2017

Shortly before the Thanksgiving holiday, local community activist Dasha Imperiale started asking questions about several tents that had been set up in the playground of NYCHA’s Seward Park Extension at 154 Broome St. Signs on one of the tents read, “Danger: Asbestos. Cancer and lung disease hazard.” She sent an email the other day to local elected officials and other community leaders, raising concerns about the issue. Today she got the attention of the Daily News with a story that carried the headline, “Decontamination tents for asbestos cleanup crews erected in middle of kids playground.” Referring to the scandal over the public housing authority’s lead paint inspections, Imperiale told the News, “It’s so ridiculous... They just got in trouble for lead... So you’re going to put an asbestos decontamination chamber in a playground because people don’t know what it is?” The playground is inaccessible, surrounded by a chain link fence. For the past several weeks, crews have been replacing old brick and caulking that contained asbestos. Workers use the tents to change between street clothes and haz-mat suits. According to a shop steward, the asbestos isn’t airborne unless you grind it, which is not happening at the Broome Street site. A NYCHA spokesperson told the News that the tents went in the playground because no other location was available and that crews are abiding by, “stringent safety protocols... (to) ensure no one — residents, children, or staff — is exposed to any asbestos materials.” The tents are supposed to be removed by Saturday.

<http://www.thelowdownny.com/leslog/2017/11/asbestos-decontamination-tents-set-up-in-nycha-playground.html>

Libby asbestos victims get their own court to resolve claims – 7kbzk - By Dennis Bragg - Nov 29, 2017

HELENA - Hundreds of Libby residents who are waiting for their claims over asbestos exposure to be litigated are getting hoped-for help, with the formation of a special court to consider their cases. On Tuesday, the Montana Supreme Court announced those cases will now be able to proceed through a special Asbestos Claims Court. The court believes it has captured most of the outstanding cases, but says anyone with claims that may have been overlooked should have their attorney contact the court.

For nearly two decades, Libby residents have hoped to have their individual claims over the health impacts of asbestos exposure resolved, exposure stemming from decades of vermiculite extraction at the W.R. Grace mine. But getting those cases before a judge has always been difficult, with a process complicated by federal bankruptcy proceedings against the mine owners. As many as 600 cases have been in limbo. The claims can include personal injury, wrongful death, loss or other injury arising out of an asbestos-related disease alleged to come from vermiculite mining, processing or the transfer, storage, installation or removal of a product containing vermiculite. Formation of the court was actually approved by the Montana legislature in 2001, but implementation was stopped by legal action in federal court.

<http://www.kbzk.com/story/36947466/>

libby-asbestos-victims-get-their-own-court-to-resolve-claims

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Regular donations made to us by these generous companies
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We would like to take this opportunity to thank individuals who have donated to us in different ways over the last few months:

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- Edna Mason,
- Alan Faith

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF - PETER SLEGGERS

- The Franklin Family,
- Betty Clinche,
- R & M Geisler,
- Ms. Mitchell,
- \$10 Anonymous,
- \$40 Anonymous

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF - BRIAN CLEGG

- Ann Clegg

SUMMIT THANK YOU TO SPONSORS OF ACV/GARDS

A Big Thank you to our sponsors who donated money to get some of the ACV/GARDS crew to the ASEA Summit in Canberra in November- Mairin OHS&E, Gippsland Trades & Labour Council and a donation from Arnold Thomas & Becker Lawyers & Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency for our registrations. It was very much appreciated without this we would not have been able to attend.

ROSSMORE HOTEL YALLOURN NORTH BOWLING CLUB

We would like to thank the Rossmore Hotel publican, staff and patrons and the Yallourn North Bowling Club Mal Paulet and club members for supporting the ACV/GARDS org by allowing us to fundraise at the hotel and the bowling club.

We have made some great acquaintances and the Yallourn North community make us feel very welcome.

Thank you for your support in 2017 and we look forward to talking to everyone and catching up on all the news. See you at the pub! Big shout out to Derek Jones for the donated slabs this year.

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF - BOB RUITER

- Nell Ruiter
- Wendy Bright

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF - JOHN RYAN

- Elaine Ryan,
- Fred & Barbara West,
- Raija Ketonen,
- Mick Callaghan,
- Doug Palmer,
- Jeanette Youl,
- Don Byrnes,

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF - JOHN SIMPSON

- Kath, Phillip & Jackie Simpson,
- Fay Oosterkamp,
- Anonymous \$20,
- Anonymous \$20,
- Anonymous \$50,
- K&B Brunsch,
- Dorothy Sturgess,
- Mark Waltham

AIR LIQUIDE & EAST GIPPSLAND AGENT FOR AIR LIQUIDE

The ACV/GARDS organisation would like to acknowledge the support that we get from **Air Liquide** and also **Tony Robinson, East Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide**. We are so grateful for the service and support that we receive for our members who rely on the oxygen that this firm set up for us. They have been long-time supporters of our work and go out of their way to support our sufferers by setting up our sufferers with our oxygen concentrators as a donation to the work we do. Thank you so much.

JEAN EVANS THANK YOU

We would like to thank Jean Evans for her donation to our organisation it was a very kind gesture

Thank you to **Adviceline Injury Lawyers** - Bree Knoester and her team for the donation that the firm made to our organisation recently. It is always great to get donations to help us to do the work we do in the community. Thank you for your support we could not do it without you.

adviceline
injury
lawyers

THANK YOU SO MUCH GRAEME WOODS

Our organisation would like to thank you Graeme for again donating in Memory of your father David Woods. It is a wonderful tribute you pay to your father every year to help others. For all those others we thank you so much for your generosity in helping us to support them.

DAVID HOWIE THANK YOU

ACV/GARDS would like to thank you for your surprise donation and for all the help that you have given to Vicki over this past 12 months. It has been most appreciated.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MADE ON LINE DONATIONS & BANK TRANSFERS

- Mark Waltham,
- Michael Barnes,
- Shaydon Wood,
- Dolder,
- Portelli,
- Lynette Mullen,
- Maree Hall,
- Liam Durkin,
- Gabby Mullen,
- Belinda Langmaid,
- Sean Spiteri,
- Dave Gerrish (DJG Electrical),
- Crazy Wal,
- Wayne Goode,
- Kathleen Kent,
- Jane Van Den Dolder,
- Matthew Portelli,
- Kosta Pizzi,
- Steve Hale,
- Holly Brown,
- Nathan Reid,
- Renee Blandford,
- Cheryl Lee,
- Alison Ruddell,

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS closing dates over Xmas/New Year/Holidays

The ACV/GARDS office will be closed over the holiday period. Our office will close on: Friday the 15th of December 2017 at 4.00pm and we will resume full operations on Monday the 15th of January 2018.

ANY URGENT ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO VICKI HAMILTON VIA THE ACV/GARDS
 PHONE 03 5127 7744 24/7

FROM ALL OF US HERE AT ACV/GARDS WE WISH EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU A MERRY AND SAFE XMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR - THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ACV/GARDS IN 2017

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2018

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.

This service operates with the hard work of volunteers

and the generous public who help us raise the funds needed to run the service, thereby making a big difference to numerous lives. Would you care to join us? Call the number listed below.

CALL 0429 689 827 OR 0351 273 283

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



ACV/GARDS Inc. Membership Form

Asbestos Council of Victoria/Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc.

ABN: 77 687 118 554 - Inc. No. A0042386U

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone: Email:

Occupation:

ACV/GARDS NEW MEMBERS Joining Fee \$5.00

PLUS

ACV/GARDS Annual Subscription 20

1. Concession (Pensioner/unemployed) **\$5.00**

2. Full Rate (employed) **\$15.00**

All membership prices include GST

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

Signature: Date: ____/____/____

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

Office Use Only

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

Signature of Proposer: Date: ____/____/____

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

Signature of Seconder: 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 OAM
Ph. 03 5127 8219
Mobile 0407 274 173

Treasurer:

David Fairbairn
Mobile 0403 319 520

Member:

Sharyn Fenech
Mobile 0423 587 363

Ray Whittaker
Mobile 0427 801 292

ACV/GARDS Fees

Joining Fee: \$5.00

Annual Fees:

Pensioner/Concession
Unemployed \$5.00

Employed persons..... \$15.00

Meetings

SUPPORT:

Last Tuesday of month,
1.30pm - 3.30pm

EVENINGS:

3rd Tuesday of month,
7.30pm - 9.30pm

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday
10am - 4pm

Friday - By appointment

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2018

1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at –
ACV/GARDS Premises 41 Monash Road, Newborough

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

ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2018

7.30PM – 9.30PM

Meetings are held at –
ACV/GARDS Premises 41 Monash Road, Newborough

- Tuesday 20th February
- Tuesday 20th March
- Tuesday 17th April
- Tuesday 15th May
- Tuesday 12th June
- Tuesday 17th July
- Tuesday 21st August
- Tuesday 18th September
- Tuesday 16th October
- Tuesday 20th November
- Christmas Break-Up TBA

UP AND COMING EVENTS 2018

ACV/GARDS AGM

Saturday
27th January 2018
– 2pm

Venue ACV/GARDS office – 41 Monash Road, Newborough

- Tuesday 27th February 2018 – 1.30pm **Support Group meeting**

Speaker- Ellen-Jane Browne – Principal Advisor – Latrobe Health Innovation Zone – Dept of Human Services

Other speakers for 2018 meetings TBA

CALL IN FOR A CHAT AND CUPPA





ACV/GARDS INC. SUPPORT

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**

Email: info@gards.org

Website: www.gards.org

SKYPE: **VickiGARDS**



Find us on Facebook
[facebook.com/gardsinc.](https://www.facebook.com/gardsinc)



Follow us on Twitter
twitter.com/VickiHamilton@ACV_GARDS

ACV/GARDS provides support and information to asbestos sufferers, their families and carers.

This includes home visits by ACV/GARDS volunteers, a telephone information/support service 24 hours, 7 days a week. ACV/GARDS has an office, which is open for sufferers, their families, carers and the general community to access at the times listed in the information section.

ACV/GARDS INC. Support also conducts a monthly meeting (1.30pm – 3.30pm) on the last Tuesday of the month) where guest presenters are invited to provide information about support services of all kinds and any other topics of interest that the members might find of relevance. The meetings also provide a gathering place for experiences; ACV/GARDS Support is open

to anyone whose lives have been affected by asbestos, their families and the general public.

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

We also have an extensive library of books, DVDs and CDs on asbestos issues, health, social and environmental that we loan free of charge to those wishing to improve their knowledge

ACV/GARDS can provide professional counselling with a qualified psychologist free of charge for those who have been diagnosed with asbestos related disease and also their family members. If preferred telephone counselling can be arranged.

ACV/GARDS INC. EVENING MEETING

ACV/GARDS has an organisational, activities and advocating arm. Interested financial members can come along to evening meetings, which are, conducted 7.30pm – 9.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

These meetings provide a focal point

for information sharing and problem identification. The aim of this group is to focus on improving health and support services and any other issues deemed relevant to improving overall outcomes to asbestos sufferers, their families and the general public. Thus ensuring asbestos-related issues are kept in the public eye and trying to rid our environment of asbestos products.



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



Major Sponsor



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