



ABN 77 687 118 554
INC. A0042386U

Asbestos Council of Victoria (ACV) and
Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc (GARDS)



ASBESTOS

NEWS

INCORPORATING SILICA

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Before you start, be aware...

Asbestos lurks in more places than you'd think – Any house pre-1990 may contain asbestos somewhere – Get an asbestos assessment or audit done - It just might save your life or the life of someone you love



MAJOR SPONSOR OF ACV/GARDS



Make a Donation

DID YOU KNOW?

You can make an online donation to our group at our home page www.gards.org or using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au



GARDS is endorsed as a charity. Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
You can find our link on the home page of the ACV/GARDS website or at our facebook.com/gardsinc.



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
twitter.com/VickiHamilton@ACV_GARDS

DIY RENOVATOR CAUTION

FACT:

More Australians die each year as a result of asbestos exposure than in accidents on Australia's roads. Understand the risks before doing any home maintenance or renovations.

Find out more at
www.asbestos.vic.gov.au



Roll call on Asbestos & Silica Awareness sessions

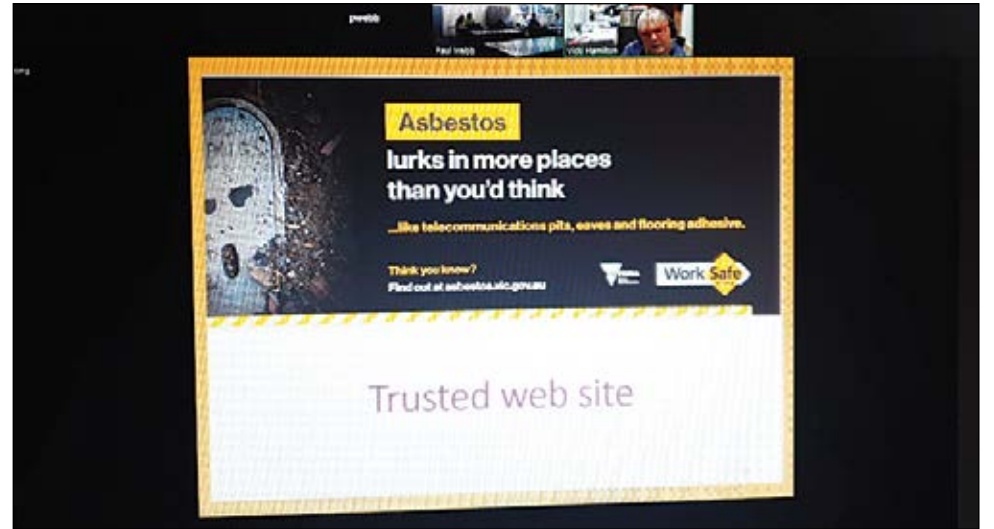


The Gordon TAFE – Geelong - Painting & Decorating

Thank you to trade teacher Paul Webb for arranging our web session with his apprentices.

It was great to get feedback that the apprentices enjoyed the session and learnt heaps. According to Paul it started many conversations around asbestos and silica.

Paul says that the apprentices are much more asbestos and silica aware now and it will put them in good stead for the years to come in their trades – We wish the apprentices all the best and hope that they can put this knowledge to good use and hopefully stay safe from workplace diseases/sicknesses



Painting & Decorating at TAFE Gippsland Newborough

We would like to thank Davin Nicholas, trade teacher and his associate trade teacher Michael Wardle, for arranging the space and time to address their classes.

It was really great to meet the apprentices and get back to face to face learning. There were some great questions asked and some interesting situations that we discussed through the presentation – we wish them all the best into the future.



Chisholm TAFE Frankston – Apprentice Carpenters

ACV/GARDS crew travelled down to Frankston to deliver an asbestos & silica awareness session to 140 VET apprentice carpenters.

We conducted one session in the morning to 70 apprentices and the other was conducted in the

afternoon to another 70 apprentices.

They were great session with plenty of interaction by the apprentices, ACV/GARDS and the trade teachers all adding to the session.

These apprentices are very lucky to have this talk at the beginning of their chosen profession and to be armed

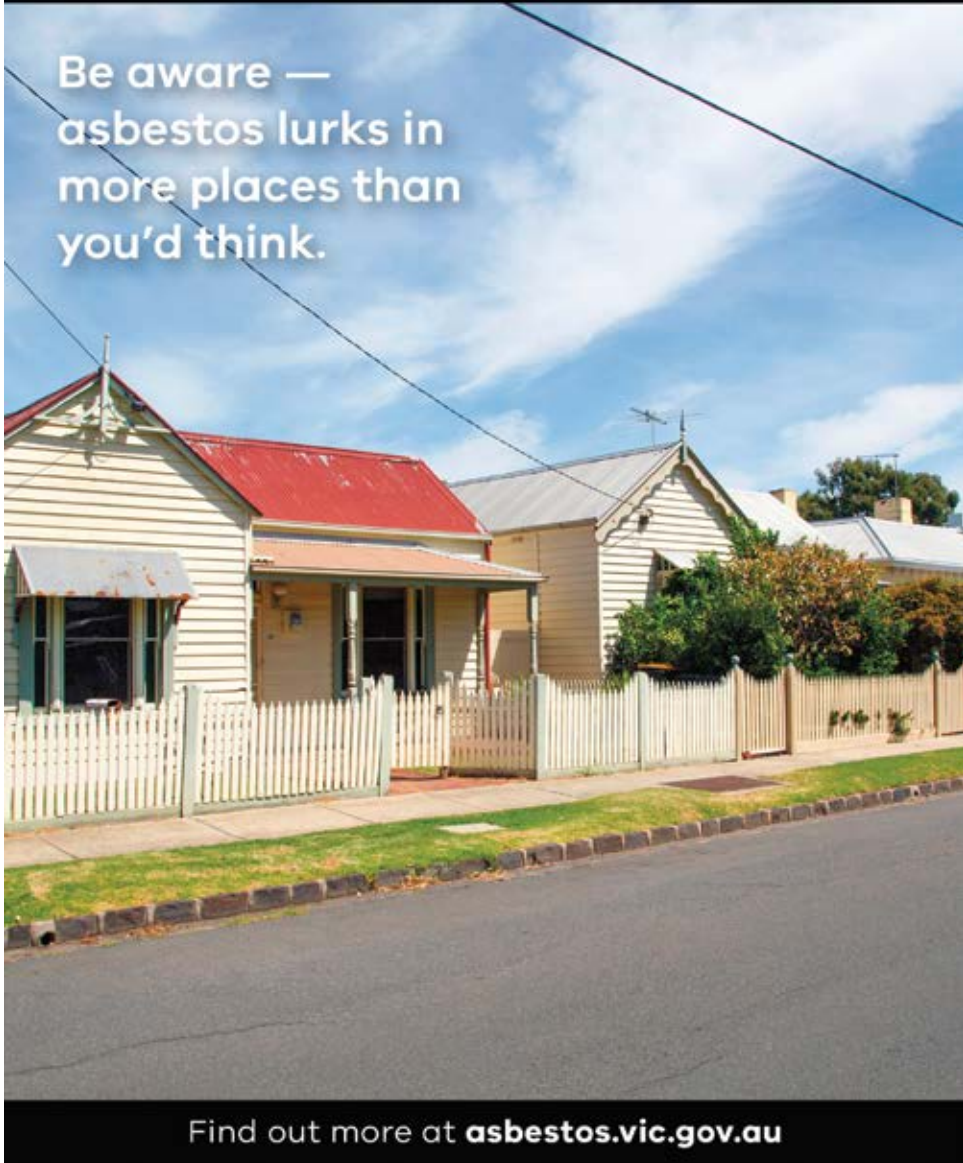
with info to take into the future – as asbestos and silica will be around for a long time to come.

We wish the apprentice carpenters all the best for their futures.

Thank you to Ian Malcolm and Kevin Morris two of the trade teachers that makes this happen.



Around 80% of homes in the City of Latrobe contain asbestos



Be aware —
asbestos lurks in
more places than
you'd think.

Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au



Maurice Blackburn Sponsorship

We would like to say a big thank you to the team at Maurice Blackburn for all the support that they give ACV/GARDS.

It has been wonderful to have them support us. We have had a long relationship with MB. They

helped immensely when we were setting up our Melbourne support group a few years ago as one of the 3 sponsors of that project. The support group in Melbourne is going very well and is helping both asbestos and silica sufferers and their families. This sort of support could not happen without the help of

these sponsorships from socially minded companies such as this and ACV/GARDS could not continue its work in the Victorian community without the good will from organisations that support us in this manner. Again, thank you from us all we really appreciate it.



Australian Asbestos Snippets

Asbestos Found By Electrician at Winoria Road Public School – 15th May – Mitchell Van Homrigh – The Daily Telegraph

Deadly fibres of asbestos have been found after an electrician put their foot through the roof at Winoria Road Public School in Sydney's south.

Another New South Wales school has had a chance detection of asbestos in a building just months after it was revealed more than 350 schools had the deadly fibre at their facilities. The naturally occurring fibrous mineral, which can cause lung cancer and mesothelioma, was discovered at Woniara Road Public School, in Hurstville, on Thursday. The chance finding only happened after a worker put his foot through the ceiling of a building in the high school, which specialises in dealing with students who have emotional or mental issues, just before midday.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/asbestos-found-by-electrician-at-winoria-road-public-school/news-story/22c84469048efb3b57b5afffb06c5c?btr=afd18fbe02aaffc86fa9a02e703c6ba1>

News in brief: New treatment approved for mesothelioma; Dairy intake influences asthma risk; Long term results for lumacaftor-ivacaftor – 17th May – The Limbic

TGA approves improved treatment option for mesothelioma Nivolumab (Opdivo) plus ipilimumab (Yervoy) has been TGA approved for first-line treatment of unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma. The combination's registration is based on recent results from the CheckMate -743 trial, which found nivolumab plus ipilimumab improved overall survival compared to standard of care chemotherapy. The international study, published

<https://thelimbic.com/respiratory/news-in-brief-new-treatment-approved-for-mesothelioma-dairy-intake-influences-asthma-risk-long-term-results-for-lumacaftor-ivacaftor/>

Port Adelaide Salvage to front court over 17 charges from the EPA – The Advertiser – Ben Cameron – 14th May

The director of a demolition and waste contractor has been hit with 17 charges after he allegedly hindered, assaulted and abused EPA officers. The director of a northern suburbs demolition and waste contractor allegedly hindered, assaulted and used abusive language towards Environment Protection Authority officers, the agency claims.

Port Adelaide Salvage and its sole director, Maurizio Corsaro, have been charged with 17 offences under the Environment Protection Act. The EPA alleges the company and Mr Corsaro operated illegal depots in Houghton and Sedan between 2017 and 2019. They are also facing charges of breaching clean up orders and hindering, assaulting and using abusive language towards EPA officers. The EPA allege both failed to heed three clean up orders.

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/messenger/north-northeast/port-adelaide-salvage-to-front-court-over-17-charges-from-the-epa/news-story/80d66762cbcf537300ff06b8d4d678e8?btr=3dcb1b8971ad0cd85fc6bb44fbcf4793>

Government assistance for asbestos victims – Canberra Weekly – 6th May

The ACT Government is establishing an Asbestos Disease Assistance Scheme to help Canberrans who contract mesothelioma (malignant tumours in the lungs, abdomen, or heart) from asbestos in former Mr Fluffy

homes. Chief Minister Andrew Barr said the scheme was an important next step in the Government's future response to the legacy of Mr Fluffy. "While the remediation process to remove Mr Fluffy affected homes once and for all has been successful, we may see more Canberrans suffer the harshest impacts of exposure to loose fill asbestos in the home," he said. The Federal Government will contribute up to \$8 million to establish the scheme, ACT Senator Zed Seselja, Health and Aged Care Minister Greg Hunt, and Assistant Minister for Territories Nola Marino announced today. Senator Seselja said it was the right thing to do. "I have heard the heartbreaking stories of Canberrans who have suffered greatly as a result of living in a Mr Fluffy home. I hope that in some small way this Scheme can ease the burden they and their loved ones face." Mr Barr said the Federal Government's contribution recognised joint responsibility to assist sufferers.

<https://canberraweekly.com.au/government-assistance-for-asbestos-victims/>

Soil sign-off slammed - Melton & Moorabool Star Weekly, Melbourne, General News - Benjamin Millar – 18th May

The state opposition has accused the government of "scandalous" attempts to pressure the state's environmental watchdog to cut corners in its approvals for the dumping of toxic soil from the \$6.8 billion West Gate Tunnel.

Star Weekly last month reported that Melton and Moorabool councils are demanding an urgent review of the state government's approval for soil riddled with PFAS and asbestos to be dumped in Ravenhall and Bacchus Marsh after the Environment

Protection Authority admitted it may have lacked the legal grounds to sign off on the plans earlier in the year.

<https://brimbanknorthwest.starweekly.com.au/news/soil-approvals-questioned/>

UQ temporarily closes theatre complex due to asbestos concerns – The National Tribune – 14th May

The University of Queensland has made the decision to temporarily close building 22 at the St Lucia campus following a briefing about asbestos dust and electrical concerns.

The building including the Schonell and Geoffrey Rush theatres, the Pizza Café and Chatime closed from 6pm last night (Thursday 13 May). This decision will be reviewed after critical health and safety remediation works and inspections have been completed by independent experts – Environmental & Laboratory Solutions (ELS) and UGL.

While asbestos levels in the Schonell Theatre are monitored regularly as part of an asbestos management program for the University, the trigger for the decision was results received on Wednesday 12 May from ELS.

The testing showed 17 positive results of asbestos dust on surfaces in Theatre 1 but no evidence of asbestos in the air.

<https://www.nationaltribune.com.au/uq-temporarily-closes-theatre-complex-due-to-asbestos-concerns/>

Cutting, grinding or polishing?

Silica dust can be toxic from the first cut.

Don't risk it.

Protect your employees and yourself.



Use tools with water suppression



Wear a fit for purpose respirator



Use on tool extraction



Ensure annual health checks

Learn more at [worksafe.vic.gov.au](https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au)

Cutting, Grinding or Polishing?

Silicosis diagnosis

At the appointment, your doctor will ask you about your symptoms and work history. The doctor will examine you and listen to your lungs with a stethoscope.

Tell the doctor about your exposure to silica dust and whether you were issued with any safety equipment, such as a face mask, when you were working.

The doctor may send you for tests such as:

- a chest x-ray to look for abnormalities in your lungs
- a computerised tomography (CT) scan of your chest to produce more detailed images of your lungs
- lung function testing (spirometry) to see how well your lungs are working

Silicosis treatment

Unfortunately, the damage to your lungs can't be reversed. But your doctor can offer treatments such as inhalers and oxygen therapy to improve your breathing and your quality of life.

Your doctor might also suggest that stop smoking (if you smoke), have regular tests to check for tuberculosis (TB), and have the annual flu jab.

Prevention of silicosis

Silicosis can be prevented if you:

- avoid prolonged exposure to silica dust
- wear protective masks (but not disposable paper ones)
- wet down tools and materials to suppress dust
- use tools that have dust-collecting attachments

All workplaces, employers and employees in Australia must comply with their workplace health and safety procedures.

Types of silicosis

The 3 common types of silicosis are:

- chronic silicosis — exposure to silica dust for more than 10 years
- accelerated silicosis — exposure to silica dust for 3-10 years
- acute silicosis — develops within weeks or months of exposure to silica dust

All 3 types affect you in the same way. The difference is how long it takes for problems to develop.

What are the signs of silicosis?

Symptoms of silicosis:

The main symptoms of silicosis are

shortness of breath, chest pain, cough and tiredness. But in the early stages of silicosis, there may be no symptoms.

The symptoms become severe as the condition gets worse. Eventually, you might find simple activities such as walking or climbing stairs difficult. You might also have trouble sleeping and eating properly.

Silicosis can also increase your risk of getting other serious conditions such as tuberculosis (TB), chest infections, emphysema, kidney damage and lung cancer.

If you develop the symptoms of silicosis, make an urgent appointment with your doctor if you work, or have worked, with products that create silica dust

Can you get silicosis from cutting concrete?

Common sand is almost 100% quartz. Fine particles created by cutting and grinding can get deep into the lungs. Most concrete and masonry products contain large amounts of sand. When you inhale the dust, silica particles scar your lungs, causing a disabling, irreversible, and incurable lung disease called silicosis.

PROFILE ON

Justine Ross – CEO of ASEA

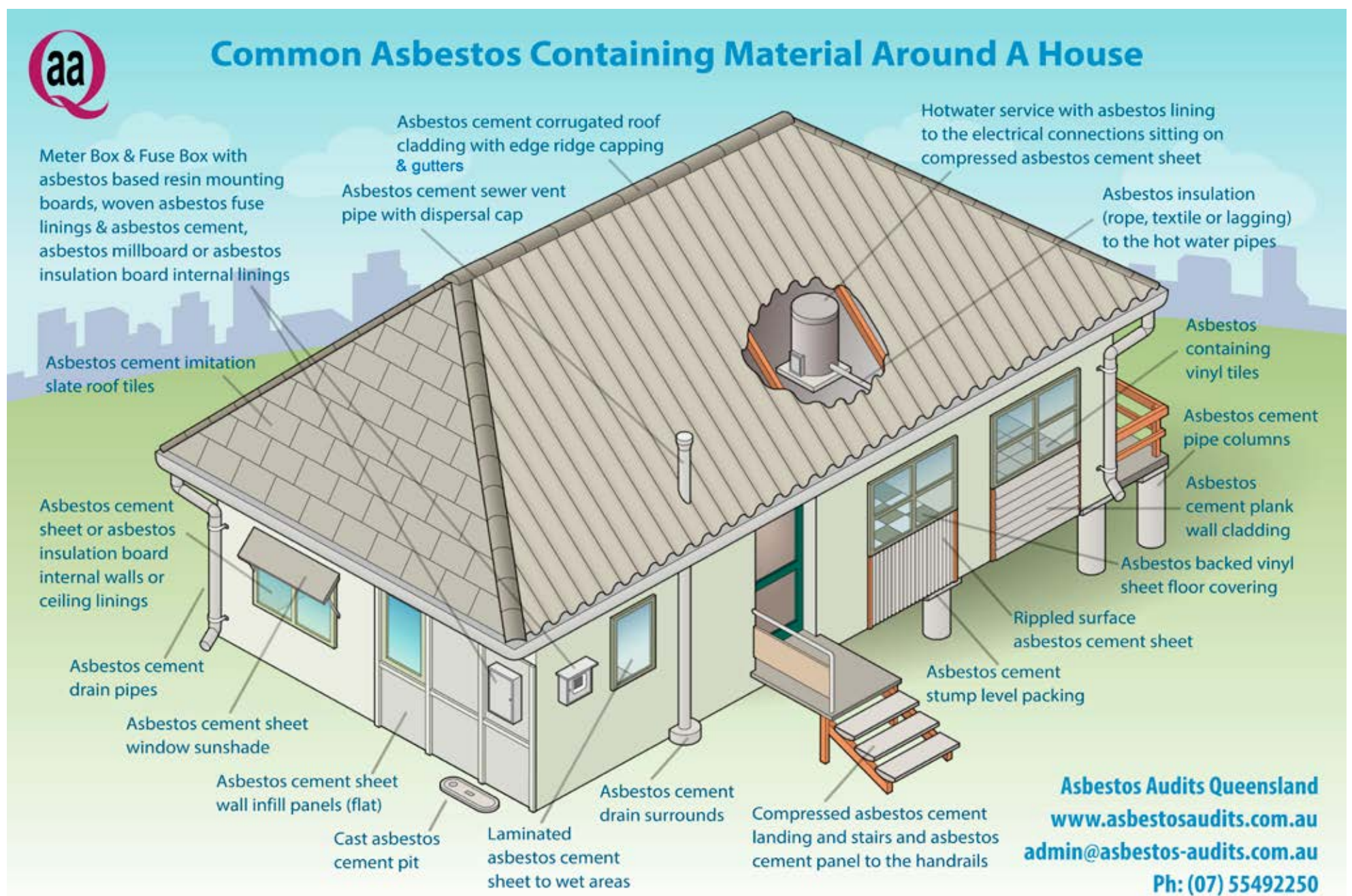
Justine Ross is the Chief Executive Officer of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency which was established in 2013 to co-ordinate the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness.

Justine's interest in asbestos safety and occupational health and safety more broadly began when she entered the Australian Public Service in 2001. She has been involved in policy formulation and the implementation of significant government reforms in areas such as employment rights, occupational health and safety and asbestos management.

In 2003 Justine worked on the laws that imposed the final ban on the manufacture, use and import of all forms of asbestos. In 2005 she worked on laws that transferred the liability for all asbestos-related claims brought against the Australia Government to Comcare so they could be more effectively managed and achieve more equitable and efficient outcomes. From 2009 to 2011 Justine worked for Safe Work Australia where

she helped develop the model asbestos regulations and codes for the workplace. In 2013 she worked on the laws that set up the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and established the Asbestos National Strategic Plan. Justine is an admitted to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor in the ACT. In 2016 she took time off to complete her Master's in Occupational Health and Safety at the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation in Italy. It was a valuable experience given that like Australia, Italians continue to suffer ill health and premature death from their past use of asbestos. The town of Casale Monferrato, the site of an Eternit asbestos-cement factory – known in the town as "the factory of death" it was close to where Justine studied.

Outside of her professional career her interests are largely based around the arts. She started her career as a graphic artist before commencing a law degree and working as a government lawyer. She spends most of her spare time doing something creative with her family whether it be painting, sewing, restoring old furniture, cooking, or gardening.



Thank you to Brian Sketcher – Queensland Asbestos Audits for allowing us to reproduce this diagram of where to find asbestos in your pre-1990's home.

PROFILE ON

Shane McArdle – Director of ASEA

Shane McArdle is a Director with the Australian Government Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA).

He started his working life in 1985 as an apprentice Fitter and Machinist with the NSW State Rail Authority in Sydney and has worked in many varied roles over the years before joining the newly established ASEA in October 2013.

I thought my first exposure to asbestos was during my apprenticeship and trades work on the NSW Railways in the mid to late 1980s, but I realise now it was probably much earlier than that.

Growing up in the newly constructed suburbs of Campbelltown, south west of Sydney in the 1970s, I would have been exposed to asbestos. Our next-door neighbour at the time built a large shed in the back corner of their yard - given the era, I'd say it was AC sheeting and super 6 roofing. His children and me and my siblings were all over it, playing in the dust and debris.

Moving forward to my work as an apprentice, we obviously got all the good jobs like stripping lagging material from cooling pipes (most likely ACM) and cleaning gaskets (also most likely ACM) from diesel engine parts. To make this easy, we would use a high-speed pneumatic wire brush that would spread the waste material everywhere, on clothes and anyone who was nearby.

In the late 1980s, work practices changed considerably when removing ACM from wherever it was found. Strict safety procedures for the workers who were removing ACM were introduced but the damage had already been done for many hundreds of tradespeople or labourers. I have often wondered how

many of my old work mates, or family members, from back then were affected by ARDs.

In November 2018, I was honoured to accept an invitation from Vicki Hamilton to attend and speak at the ACV/GARDS Awareness Day in Morwell during National Asbestos Awareness Week. Meeting the many families who have lost loved ones in that local region alone shows the impact asbestos can have on the community and why action needs to be taken to reduce asbestos-related disease.

Too often, we hear of avoidable exposure events where someone has done something to disturbed asbestos fibres which has put other people at risk. An estimated 4,000 Australians die annually from asbestos-related diseases which is more than double the national road toll – a figure that surprises a lot of people.

As Director for ASEA, I want to use my personal history and experience to ensure that people in the community know about the dangers of exposure to asbestos and how to protect themselves, their families and their friends or neighbours.

Another aspect of this job I find rewarding is the work ASEA does internationally - assisting our regional neighbours in South-East Asia and the Pacific to build a case for introducing national bans on asbestos production and use in their countries. If we can help reduce the number of countries that rely on ACMs, we can gradually reduce the influence of the asbestos mining and manufacturing companies and the global market for asbestos materials.



Around 60% of homes in the Shire of Baw Baw contain asbestos

Be aware —
asbestos lurks in
more places than
you'd think.



Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

Demolition of Hazelwood Power Station

Reports on Hazelwood Power Station from ENGIE

The major demolition works at the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project are set to recommence in late April 2021.

Undertaken by the principal contractor Delta Group, this year's program will see the explosive controlled collapse of Boiler Houses 3, 2 and 1. The last of the Large Mining Equipment, Dredger 9, will also be demolished by explosive controlled collapse.

The schedule at this stage is for Boiler House 3 to be brought down in late April / early May 2021, with Boiler House 2 in June 2021 and Boiler House 1 in August/ September 2021. Dredger 9 is scheduled for May 2021.

As usual, the exact dates for each demolition will be governed by suitable weather conditions and as such are subject to change.

One benefit to the program this year is that Dredger 25, which was originally marked for explosive demolition, is being mechanically demolished. This follows demolition of Dredger 24, which is slightly smaller than Dredger 25. However, the lessons learned from Dredger 24 enabled a review of Dredger 25 works and demonstrated it would be possible to safely demolish by mechanical means.

Dredger 24 and Dredger 25 are significantly smaller than Dredgers 11 and 10, both demolished by explosive controlled collapse in 2020, and Dredger 9.

Just before each explosive demolition, notice will be provided to near neighbours, the communities of Morwell and Churchill, with notification also provided through local media. The Emergency Vic app will also run a community notice just before each blast.

Updates on all of the works will be available through the website www.hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au

This year, 2021, will see the completion of much of the major demolition works at the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project. If all goes according to plan, the demolition of the three remaining boiler houses will be followed by remediation of the former power station block.

Works undertaken in 2020

2020 was a significant year for the demolition program with several high-profile elements of the program successfully completed.

As well as demolition by explosive controlled collapse of the eight chimneys at the former Hazelwood Power Station in May 2020, demolition by explosive controlled collapse of two dredgers and the first of four Boiler Houses was undertaken in the second half of the year.

All of these works were enabled by several years of preparatory works, including asbestos removal, demolition of surrounding infrastructure and other site preparation works. The asbestos removal work program in particular has been managed by a specialist workforce, with the material disposed of safely in an EPA-licensed asbestos containment landfill cell on site and close to the former power station.

Significant community engagement took place to inform the community and stakeholders about the demolition works program. Local advertising, media coverage, letter box drops to near neighbours, community notice board information and direct contact with key groups were all characteristics of the information program.

ENGIE Hazelwood would like to recognise the local emergency services and agencies, including GARDS, whose input and support both during the planning and execution stages was vital to the safe delivery of the works. Their feedback and feedback from others involved in the project has also allowed continuous improvement to take place as each element is undertaken.

Boiler House 4 completes year

The last of the explosive demolition activities in 2020 was the successful controlled collapse of Boiler House 4, Unit 7 on Tuesday 15 December 2020.

Importantly, extensive monitoring confirmed no issues with asbestos contamination, anywhere on site. Overall, the structure and dust suppression measures behaved as modelled, ensuring the safety of all site personnel as well as the local community.

The results of monitoring for noise, dust and

asbestos indicated that the demolition complied with all applicable regulatory standards. Noise data confirmed levels did not exceed the OH&S and EPA noise standards. All asbestos monitoring confirmed no positive detections of asbestos fibres.

The monitoring results are available on the Project's website www.hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au

Dredgers (Large Mining Equipment)

In the second half of 2020, principal demolition contractor Delta Group, began works to undertake explosive controlled collapse of Large Mining Equipment (LME) within the mine void, namely bucketwheel dredgers, that were unable to be felled using mechanical demolition.

The three dredgers, 11, 10 and 9 are situated in the north-western corner of the mine void and are not visible from outside the mining licence area.

The first of the dredger demolition works, Dredger 11, was carried out on 15 October 2020 and proved a success.

The second of the dredger demolition works, Dredger 10, was carried out on 29 October 2020 and again proved successful.

The dredgers fell as planned onto sand and clay dampening pads, which were set up to reduce any potential vibration impact.

All dredgers, once demolished, will be processed and the material recycled. In 2020, across the site some 55,000 tonnes of metals were recycled.

Boiler House 3 demolition April 2021

On the 28th April successful controlled collapse of Boiler House 3 - Importantly, as with Boiler House 4 extensive monitoring confirmed no issues with asbestos contamination, anywhere on site. Overall, the structure and dust suppression measures behaved as modelled, ensuring the safety of all site personnel as well as the local community.



Asbestos Cell 17 March 096



Ash Plant



Ash Plant 17 March 2021



Ash Plant jpg



JAZ0479 Hazelwood B 3



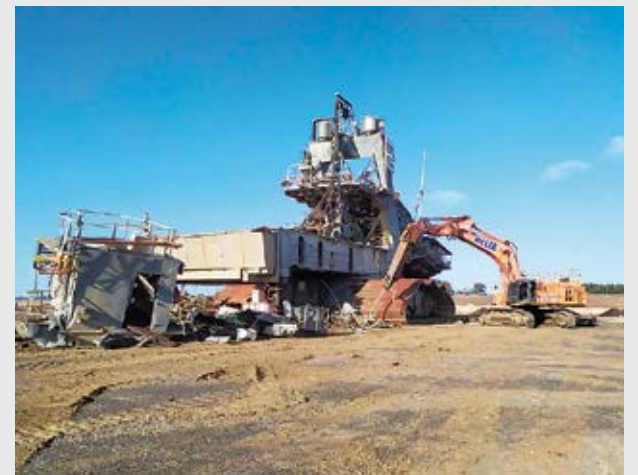
Boiler House Unit 7 Coming Down



Dredger D25 31 March



D25 April 2021



D25 PIX two April 2021



Dredger 9 Detonation 6 May



Dredger 9 on the Ground 6 May



Power Block & Slot bunker 17 March 2021



Slot Bunker and Power Block 17 March 2021



Unit 3, 2, 1 17 March



Slot Bunker 17 March 2021

Milé's Silica Story

For many stonemasons, the fear of the unknown can stop them signing up for—or even progressing with the free silica health assessment program offered by WorkSafe.

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/free-crystalline-silica-health-assessments-and-your-health-monitoring-duties>

Over the Month of April WorkSafe launched the 'Silica Persona' campaign, targeting stonemasons across Victoria who have either not yet signed up for, or have not completed their free health assessment.

The campaign was made up of four video case studies that aim to destigmatise the fear of the unknown and provide awareness about how WorkSafe can support stonemason's psychologically, financially and guide them into retraining in a new career if they are diagnosed with Silicosis.

The campaign began with the story of Milé, a real-life former stonemason who has been through the health assessment program and has been diagnosed with early stage silicosis.



Milé's story is of a young man starting out in the stonemason industry and recounts how the fear of being diagnosed and losing his job caused him to put off getting a health assessment. Through the trusting relationship he developed with Dianne, his silica health assessment advisor, along with her help and guidance he has taken steps to get help with his mental health and retrain in another industry – namely that of OHS. Following Milé's story, three additional case studies were developed based on de-identified information from calls taken by the silica health assessment team with each focussing on a different and common issue experienced by the stonemasons who called.

You can watch these visiting: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8jTfq7I4pEmL3d69RE4EftZ5CZuGbERE>

For more information please visit www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/crystalline-silica

Dust containing crystalline silica in construction work What is crystalline silica?

Crystalline silica is a natural mineral found in construction materials

The amount of crystalline silica in products can vary.

Examples include:

- **Material Amount of crystalline silica (quartz)**
- **Engineered stone Up to 95 per cent**
- **Sandstone 70–90 per cent**
- **Concrete, mortar 25–70 per cent**
- **Brick Up to 30 per cent**
- **Granite 20–45 per cent**
- **Fibre cement sheets 10–30 per cent**
- **Demolition dust 3–4 per cent**
- **Marble 2 per cent**

If you're not sure if a product contains crystalline silica, check the safety data sheet (SDS).

What are the risks?

Inhaling respirable crystalline silica can lead to the onset of silicosis, which is a serious and irreversible lung disease that can be fatal. Silicosis is generally found in people with high regular exposure to respirable crystalline silica over a long period of time however even high exposure over a short period has been known to lead to silicosis. For this reason, it's incredibly important that a worker's respiratory health is monitored among individuals who are exposed to silica through their work.

Trusted sites for information:

www.worksafe.vic.gov.au & www.gards.org
<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/silica>

Hazelwood Dredger 9 fell success

The final dredger demolition works carried out today (Thursday 6 May 2021) at the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project proved another success, with the demolition of Dredger 9 described as 'textbook.'

The Dredger was demolished by controlled explosive collapse on schedule at 11am, safely bringing to ground the piece of large mining equipment to enable processing and recycling.

The event followed months of demolition planning by the demolition contractor Delta Group, the ENGIE Hazelwood team and

international subject matter experts.

The dredger fell as planned onto a sand and clay dampening pad, which was set up to reduce any potential vibration impact.

All of the blast cutting charges were fully expended with no misfires and, with a cool and misty day, no issues are expected with hot spots. Monitoring of the site will continue for 24 hours as a safety precaution.

Dredger 9, built in 1964, is the last of the dredgers demolished at Hazelwood. Dredgers 11 and 10 were also demolished by controlled explosive collapse in 2020, with a further two dredgers, 24 and 25, mechanically dismantled.

An ENGIE spokesperson acknowledged that the final dredger demolition signals the end of an era.

Many people have been associated with the former Hazelwood Power Station and Mine and the bucket wheel excavators, which were symbolic of the industry. To this end the demolition today was not a cause for celebration but rather another step towards creating a landform available for future uses.

Inspectors from Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) personnel were on site as observers.



James Wallner story and Mr Fluffy

One of my best friends, James Wallner, 54 and married with two sons, grew up in one of the 1,000 Canberra homes had loose fill asbestos insulation installed by the 'Mr Fluffy' company between 1967 and 1978.

The insulation was installed in his home in 1970, when he was three. A tarpaulin full of loose asbestos was left in their garage and the four Wallner boys had snowball fights with it. James, being the youngest, got hit the most.

Last July, James was diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Most people get mesothelioma from a workplace asbestos exposure, and they can usually get compensation. 'Mr Fluffy' victims can't.

James, his brother Bruce Wallner and I have asked the ACT Government and the Commonwealth Government to together set up a fund to compensate people who get mesothelioma from living in those 'Mr Fluffy' houses. We say there are three reasons why they should do so.

In 1968, two years before asbestos insulation was installed in the Wallner home, a report commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health warned the practice was 'against the best public health practices' and suggested the government consider dissuading or banning its' use. The Commonwealth ignored that warning. We say that failure to act gives rise to a moral liability to compensate James and other victims.

'Mr Fluffy' residents are among the minority of mesothelioma victims unable to access compensation. Through no fault of their own they have 'fallen through the cracks,' and therefore it is appropriate for government to assist.

In 2014 the Commonwealth lent the ACT government \$1 billion to buy back all the

VALE TO JAMES WALLNER



It is with a heavy heart that we farewell James Wallner who passed away on the 7th May – the day after the fund was announced by both governments – he was a fighter and took this issue to the line. May James RIP knowing that he has helped others who may come into the future from this disaster to help them and their families – a truly inspirational person. Our deepest sympathy goes to James's family and his good friend James O'Lughlin

'Mr Fluffy' homes from residents. 'Mr Fluffy' property owners have, therefore, been compensated, but those who get mesothelioma from living in those same houses have not been. We say that is inconsistent and unfair.

A 2017 ANU study estimated there would be an average of 1.16 new 'Mr Fluffy' mesothelioma victims for the next 40 or so years, so we say such a scheme would not be unduly costly, especially if the cost was split between the ACT and Commonwealth governments.

The ACT government has agreed to meet the medical costs of James Wallner and future 'Mr Fluffy' mesothelioma victims, which is great, but neither government has yet agreed to pay compensation. However, the Health Minister Greg Hunt, and the ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr are considering our proposal and we are cautiously optimistic.

James is facing his illness with courage and dignity, and has always said that our efforts to obtain compensation are not

just about him. There will sadly, it seems, be more 'Mr Fluffy' mesothelioma victims in the future and James, Bruce and I feel a great responsibility to them. We want to do whatever we can get this scheme up and ensure it is as generous as possible, so they can benefit from it.

We have deliberately avoided saying we are 'fighting' for this cause. So far, I feel we have been working constructively with government, and to their credit, both the Liberal Federal government and the Labor ACT government seem to showing a willingness to work constructively together, and no one has politicised the issue.

We see this scheme as perhaps the final piece in the jigsaw of Canberra's response to the 'Mr Fluffy' matter. The houses have been done – bought back and destroyed – now it's time to help the people who get mesothelioma.

We have received support for our proposal from The Law Council of Australia, the ACT Law Society, the St James Ethics Centre, 2020 Australian of the Year Dr James Muecke, The Rev Bill Crews, various medical groups, The Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, The Asbestos Disease Support Society, The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia and of course from The Asbestos Council of Victoria – GARDS. Vicki has given us great support.

One of the strange things is knowing that when I first became friends with James, when we were 18, he already had this asbestos time bomb inside him. James's character isn't really relevant to whether the ACT and Commonwealth governments should set up this scheme, but just so you know, he's one of the best people I've met.

We desperately want to get this proposal approved while James is still alive, and we will continue to do everything we can to achieve that.

Written by James O'Lughlin

Foot note to this story – we were advised that the compensation fund was being announced May 6th

SUPPORT FOR CANBERRANS WITH ASBESTOS RELATED ILLNESS

The Australian Government recognises the suffering of Canberrans who have developed an asbestos related illness after living in a Mr Fluffy home.

The Government will contribute up to \$8 million towards the establishment an Australian Capital Territory Asbestos Disease Assistance Scheme, to

provide support for these Canberrans. Minister Hunt and Senator Seselja voiced their appreciation for the tireless advocacy by Canberran Mr James Wallner, his family and friends, on behalf of those suffering illness after living in a Mr Fluffy home.

"The Commonwealth's contribution of up to \$8 million will help establish the Scheme, providing support to Canberrans who have been impacted

by debilitating and deadly asbestos related illness," Minister Hunt said.

"I have been deeply moved by the suffering of those who have developed mesothelioma and other asbestos related illnesses, through the simple act of living in their home," Minister Hunt concluded.



Asbestos

**lurks in more places
than you'd think.**

Its estimated asbestos was used in more than 3000 common building materials. That means approximately 1 in 3 Australian homes contain asbestos.

It could be lurking in your walls, hot water services, roof sheeting and even meter boxes.

We know exposure to asbestos fibres may cause diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis.

Sadly, Australia has one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world. This cancer has no cure, with almost 700-800 Australians diagnosed every year and predictions we'll reach 18 000 cases by 2021.

As a tradesperson you are among the most at risk for asbestos exposure. We are raising vital awareness and educating Victorian tradespeople about the prevalence of asbestos and how to identify and remove it safely.

Are you a tradesperson or performing DIY?

You always need to check for asbestos before starting a job. Review the asbestos register and use the Find and identify tool on asbestos.vic.gov.au to help you.

Have you created an Asbestos register?

Anyone managing or controlling a Victorian workplace where asbestos material is present must identify it, create an asbestos register, and keep and distribute an asbestos register.

Are you an employer?

You need to ensure you provide instruction, training and supervision so your employees can perform work in a way that's safe and without risk to health.

Where necessary, arrange for safe removal of asbestos. Check out asbestos.vic.gov.au to find a licensed removalist in your area.

Think you know?

Find out at asbestos.vic.gov.au



Gordon Legal sponsorship

Our sponsorship from Gordon Legal has been very much appreciated by our organisation.

Gordon Legal was another of our 3 sponsors who helped to get our support group in Melbourne set up. It is going very well and supports families and sufferers with asbestos and silicosis.

Now more than ever it is so important for companies to have a social conscience to help with sponsorships like this so that charities can continue to help families and sufferers wherever they are in Victoria and whatever that affliction may be. The work ACV/GARDS does in the community of Victoria is far reaching and crosses many issues around both asbestos and silica as well as health. Without this sort of support from socially

mindful companies like Gordon Legal some of the most vulnerable would not have a voice nor get the support they so desperately need. Thank you to Peter Gordon and Victoria Keays for making this happen. There is so much work to do in eradicating asbestos out of our community and the same issues will come from silica exposure – this is proving to be a big problem amongst our community and needs some serious attention around whether we should be even using this man made stone at all and making sure that concrete cutters, ceramic tile cutters, quarry workers etc. all these workers need to be very aware of what they are working with and how to protect themselves. No one should be cutting these products without the correct protection and tools and in the appropriate places in most instances.



Victoria Keays



Tess Dickie

**NOW MORE THAN EVER
WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT!**

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ACV/GARDS MEMBERSHIP FEES

All fees are due and payable 30th September of each year

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 – You can make payment in many different ways – you can go to our GiveNow link on our web site or you can pay it through our PayPal link – you can visit the office or you can send us cheque or Direct Debit. Please take the time to support us as without you we cannot support others in need.

Renovating a property built before 1990?

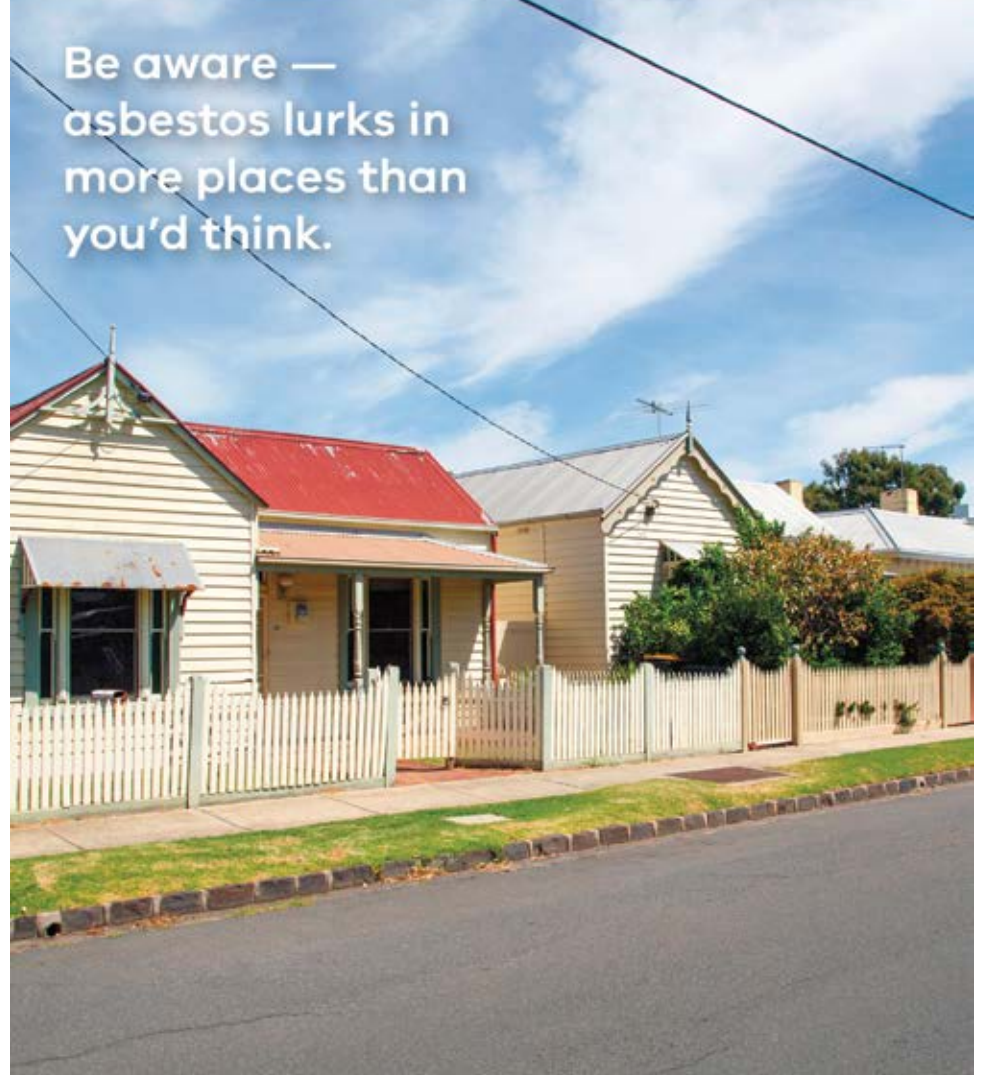
Be aware —
asbestos lurks in
more places than
you'd think.



Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

Around 74% of homes in the Shire of Wellington contain asbestos

Be aware —
asbestos lurks in
more places than
you'd think.



Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

MEETING DATES

INCORPORATING OUR NEW ASBESTOS/SILICA SUPPORT GROUPS IN GIPPSLAND & METRO

Due to COVID restrictions – we are constantly monitoring advice from the CMO of the Victorian State Government as to what we can and can't do

ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETING – OPERATIONAL/BUSINESS FOR 2021

GIPPSLAND - MOE

Third Tuesday of the month - 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Meetings are held at ACV/GARDS Premises
211 Lloyd Street, Moe

During COVID restriction these meetings are a combination of teleconference and face to face each month until further notice from the CMO of Victoria – they will be continually reviewed for changes to rules - if you wish to join our night meeting please contact the office for the dial in details and if you intend to join us in the office – space is limited due to COVID social distancing please advise us in advance you are intending to attend so that we can make a chair available to you

- Tuesday 15th June
- Tuesday 20th July
- Tuesday 17th August
- Tuesday 21st September
- Tuesday 19th October
- Tuesday 16th November
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP TBA

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR 2021

GIPPSLAND - MOE

Last Tuesday of the month - 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Meetings will be held until further notice in the function room at Gippsland Heritage Park
211 Lloyd Street, Moe

During COVID restrictions we must abide by the rules so social distancing is adhered to and a register is provided along with QR code - hand sanitizer & masks are also provided – please ring for further details – Vicki - 0407274173 there is a speaker of interest provided for each meeting

- Tuesday 29th June
- Tuesday 27th July
- Tuesday 31st August
- Tuesday 28th September
- Tuesday 26th October
- FRI 26th November - Asbestos Awareness Day, TBA
- Tuesday 30th November
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP TBA

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR 2020

METRO - CHADSTONE

2nd Monday of the month - 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Meetings are held at Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre – 34 Amaroo Street, Chadstone

During COVID social distancing is adhered to with all rules in place for meeting face to face at Amaroo House – if you wish to attend our support meetings at the centre contact Maitea Lovric – Convenor - # 0481987953

- Monday 21st June – the date was altered because of the Public holiday on the second Monday
- Monday 12th July
- Monday 9th August
- Monday 13th September
- Monday 11th October
- Monday 8th November
- TBA NOV – Asbestos Awareness Day, TBA
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP TBA



Don't drill, sand, saw, hammer, screw, or nail — unless you know for certain it does not contain asbestos.

Asbestos lurks in more places than you'd think.

Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

Maree

our newest member on the committee

I am Maree Phillips. I Moved to Trafalgar 3 years ago to live closer to my Daughter Jenna. Jenna married a local boy and settled in Trafalgar 10 years ago.

I am on the Committee of Moe Probus Group - I am a member of Moe View Club - I volunteer at St Vincent DePaul soup Kitchen weekly - I am a member of Moe/Newborough Take-off Weight Naturally Group

I have been training my Mini Cavoodle at Warragul Obedience Dog Club every Sunday for the last 18 months, we have completed Grade 3. Currently training Utility which is jumps and thru tunnels off lead.

I am a member at Newborough Pool Gymnasium I attend water aerobics classes 3 times a week. I also do Life fit exercise classes

My main hobby is French Polishing furniture which I have been doing for 20 years. Antiques are not fashionable now so I just polish pieces for family

I belong to Gateways Club at the RSL Tuesday Morning Group - I have 6 Grand Children. I travel to Ferntree Gully every Thursday afternoon to pick up 3 of them from school babysit until my son comes home from work

My grandsons in Trafalgar play local sport - I attend their Wednesday night basketball games and football games in the winter I travel down most Saturdays to the State Basketball Centre to watch my sons 3 children play basketball

I have travelled with my son and his family on holidays overseas until COVID hit and to yearly holidays within Australia

My working history: I have worked with Hearing Impaired Children and Children with Challenging Behaviour in the school environment. I worked for the Spastic Society for 25 years in various roles. My last years I worked with Paraplegic and Quadraplegic clients accessing the Community Swimming program and anything else that is needed.

I enjoy and love gardening and I have 18 citrus trees and various other fruit trees. I visit a family every Monday to care for an elderly person- so that the partner can have some respite care time and not have to worry about them.

I go to the movies most Sundays as long as COVID restrictions allow with my girlfriend from Drouin and we have dinner together, this gives me some social time.



Marie retires from ACV/GARDS committee **THANK YOU MARIE SMITH**

In 2003 Marie and her husband Bruce joined ACV/GARDS after he was diagnosed with asbestos related disease – Bruce was with the organisation for a few years before his passing on Boxing Day 2004.

Marie wanted to come along and help with our work after Bruce passed so she started helping out wherever she could. After a short while Marie became a committee member and then a few years later she became Vice President and was helping to support asbestos sufferers and their families and making a difference wherever she could.

So, from when Marie joined all those years ago she has been there with us through some very tough campaigns like the James Hardie issues and all that this highlighted. We have had some laughs in our endeavours and have shed some tears together – we

have met many good people along the way, and we are quite sure that she has fulfilled some of her desires to see the asbestos and now silica issues getting the focus that these so rightly deserve. Marie was made a Life Member in 2016 and she is still attending our organisational night meetings by phone hook-up and attends our afternoon support group meetings too. She is a regular visitor to the office and likes to keep up with what is happening.

It is always nice to catch up with her and we are always happy to see her.

We hope that she will find time for things that she likes to do by reading novels and watching good movies. Thank you so much for your dedication to our organisation Marie and for your enthusiasm you have shown in everything you have done. You are always welcome anytime ☺ Marie is pictured here with President Dorothy Roberts and CEO/Secretary Vicki Hamilton OAM.

Annual General Meeting

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS Inc conducted its AGM Saturday the 30th January 2021.

Members were offered on-line telephone conference and we were able to manage a dozen members with social distancing in our training room – which was great

THOSE ELECTED TO POSITIONS WERE:

Maree Phillips – Vice President, Vicki Hamilton OAM – Secretary and Sharyn Fenech – Committee member

We congratulate all who were elected unopposed – pictured here is our newest recruit to the committee of management – Maree Phillips and a bit of back ground on our newest member – and our oldest member Marie Smith who retired from the committee and a bit of history on her place in our organisation

Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by this generous company we would like to thank

Sam Erbs and all the team at Mairin OHS&E Consulting – Moe - Thank you for your continued support

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

■ Thea Robinson

Thank you so much for your donation to ACV/GARDS
Dr Philip Danby
It was very much appreciated

Donations made in Memory of - Garry Dunn

■ Rhonda Dunn x 3 donations

Donations made in Memory of - Ray Rowley

■ Glenda Rowley

Donations made in Memory of - Elsie Reilly

■ Bill Reilly

Donations made in Memory of - John Phillips

■ Maree Phillips x2 donations

Don't forget the Donation Dollar



THANK

YOU!

Donations made in Memory of - John Jackson

■ Doreen Jackson x 2 donations

Donations made in Memory of - John Thomson

■ June Thomson

Donations made in Memory of - Richard Alan Roberts

■ Vicki Hamilton

Donations made in Memory of - Dorothy Thistlethwaite

■ Noel Thistlethwaite

Donations made in Memory of - Peter Fenech

■ Sharon Fenech & Family

Donations made in Memory of - Jim Sargeant

■ Mary and Liam Rossney

Donations made in Memory of - John Simpson

■ Kath Simpson

A BIG BIG THANK YOU TO THE WORKERS FROM HAZELWOOD DEMOLITION HAZELWOOD POWER STATION CREW & HAZELWOOD POWER MINE CREW

It was a wonderful surprise to receive a monetary donation to help with our work. To all of you we cannot thank you enough

Susan Mohr and Family thank you for your donation in Memory of Karl

Thank you so much Marie Smith for your donation made in Memory of Bruce Smith

Thank you for your Donation made in Memory of Wally Reid –Marilyn Reid

Thank you to Ray and Ann Watson for the wonderful donation made in memory of Craig Watson

Online donations – GiveNow platform - A big thank you to – Maree Hall, Chris Badger – Liam & Mary Rossney

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.



Committee of Management

President:
Dorothy Roberts
Mobile 0407 274 174

Vice President:
Maree Phillips
Mobile 0458

CEO/Secretary:
Vicki Hamilton OAM
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

GIPPSLAND - MOE

SUPPORT:

Last Tuesday of month,
1.30pm - 3.30pm

211 Lloyd St, Moe

Venue is Old Gippsland Function room
until further notice

METRO - CHADSTONE

SUPPORT:

2nd Monday of month,
1.30pm - 3.30pm

Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre -
34 Amaroo St, Chadstone

Contact Maitea Lovric on
0481 987 953

ORGANISATIONAL/OPERATIONAL

EVENING:

3rd Tuesday of month,
7.30pm - 9.30pm

211 Lloyd St, Moe

By telephone conferencing & Face to
Face – if you are intending to come
to our meeting please advise prior to
attendance as space is limited due to
COVID restrictions

Office Hours

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

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 Initial Fee of: **\$5.00**

PLUS Concession or Full Rate below in first year – each year after only annual fee

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: ____/____/____

Meetings operations at this present time

We adhere to COVID restrictions and have in place QR codes and paper registers – with hand sanitizer and masks if required – We are keeping an eye on all news coming out from the CMO of the Health Dept of Victoria and situations can change according to advice from DHHS – please feel free to check before you attend

Up and coming events 2021

More details on these as the events approach. We will be guided by the State Government in what we can and can't do around social distancing and how to manage COVID regulations at the time of our events - or if we can stage them at all.



Have you paid your ACV/GARDS Membership Fees

All fees are due and payable 30th September of each year

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



We are situated at:
211 Lloyd Street, Moe
Victoria Australia
PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825

Online donations
<http://www.givenow.com.au/gards>


Phone:
03 5127 7744 24/7

Mobile:
0407 274 173

Website:
www.gards.org

SKYPE:
VickiGARDS

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

 Follow us on Twitter
[twitter.com/@ACV_GARDS](https://twitter.com/ACV_GARDS)

ACV/GARDS INC. SUPPORT

ACV/GARDS provides support and information to asbestos & silica sufferers, their families and carers. This includes 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 2x monthly meeting (1.30pm – 3.30pm) one on the last Tuesday of the month in Gippsland at 211 Lloyd Street, Moe & one on the 2nd Monday of the month at Chadstone – Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre – 34 Amaroo St, Chadstone) 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 or silica, their families and the public.

ACV/GARDS loans out free of charge to asbestos & silica sufferer's members – (Gippsland only) - oxygen bottle regulators, conserving devices, oxygen home concentrators wheelchairs, oxygen bottle carriers, nebuliser, walking frames & walking sticks, shower & toilet chairs

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

ACV/GARDS INC. ORGANISATIONAL/ OPERATIONAL 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 at our office.

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 & silica sufferers, their families and the public. Thus, ensuring asbestos & silica related issues are kept in the public eye and trying to rid our built environment of these carcinogens



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



Major Sponsor



Mairin OHS&E Consulting



Queensland Asbestos Audits

