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



ASBESTOS NEWS

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

VOLUME 16 November 2018 ISSUE 2

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**MAJOR SPONSOR
OF ACV/GARDS**



**SPONSOR FOR THIS
EDITION**



New home for ACV/GARDS



Due to unforeseen circumstances our org will be moving to new premises around the first few weeks of February 2019.

There is lots we must do before we move, life is very busy at the ACV/GARDS office now. But we hope that all our members will be patient with us while this transition takes place. We have started the procedure of packing up and sorting through ten years of accumulated bits and pieces which we need to go

through meticulously to make sure that all we take with us is secure. We have been at the office we are at now for 10 years and over that time we have accumulated a lot more equipment than the last time we moved. Many more files and much more office equipment to move. The new place that we are going to needs some work done to it to make it comfortable and inviting to our members, so we have applied for grants to help us with this part of the move and hope that we are successful in our bid. We are sure that those we serve, and support will find our new home "just right!" We look forward to showing all our members the new place when we are settled.



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

The Gordon Geelong TAFE



19.06.2018 -

The ACV/GARDS girls travelled to The Gordon TAFE in East Geelong to deliver an asbestos awareness session to Painting & Decorating apprentices.

Great interaction & involvement from all - thanks to Alf, one of the head trade teachers for arranging it-Terrific bunch of apprentice tradies now Asbestos Aware! - Look forward to meeting more apprentices at Geelong again soon - see you then.

Federation Training - Newborough

In July 2018 - ACV/GARDS crew did an asbestos awareness session to 160 apprentices at Federation Training Newborough Boiler makers, mechanics, civil

engineering, painting & decorating, carpentry etc. Great session - good questions - terrific bunch of apprentices & thanks goes to their trades teachers for also being a part of the session. Big thank you to Davin - a great Painting and Decorating Trade Teacher.



Chisholm TAFE - Frankston



ACV/GARDS attended and gave multiple sessions (7) of asbestos awareness at Chisholm TAFE Frankston campus - it was a pleasure and privilege to talk with so many apprentice plumbers.

The ACV/GARDS girls went to Frankston for 7 weeks talking to a whole lot of apprentice plumbers - great questions and conversation took place.

We talked to the apprentices and

listened to them explain and understand their work places and issues that they come up against. We want to thank all the trade teachers for their support and interaction in a lot of the sessions - the knowledge of decades of working in the trade was passed onto the apprentices and along with our detailed session on where to find asbestos both in the work place and home environment completed a very valuable session for all who took part. **Continued on next page...**

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



Chisholm TAFE - Frankston cont...



Chisholm TAFE - Berwick



ACV/GARDS attended and gave multiple sessions (4) with 2 classes per session of asbestos awareness at Chisholm TAFE Berwick campus.

It was terrific to meet so many apprentice plumbers who were so enthusiastic to learn where they may find asbestos in their work places and home environment.

It was also rewarding being able to empower the apprentices to ask questions of their employers and to find out if there is an asbestos register on site.

It was also important for the apprentices

to know that they can speak out and that they can make sure what they are about to work does not contain asbestos. If it does that they know what to do.

We heard about so many work place issues that we could use to demonstrate how to handle themselves and with the help of their trade teachers there were some terrific conversations that took place.

We think that the apprentice plumbers went away with some valuable life lessons that will empower them in the future to know what to do & make the right choices & decisions.

Continued on next page...

Chisholm TAFE - Berwick cont...



Leongatha Probus Club



ACV/GARDS team travelled to Leongatha to meet with the Probus club on the 16th July.

It was just wonderful to meet with over 100 Probus members who were all very enthusiastic to hear about asbestos and where it can be found in the domestic scene, and what is happening to imports that come into

our country with asbestos in them. The Probus members had many questions to ask and they were quite surprised to find out what products contained asbestos.

It was an honour to meet so many older citizens who found the subject so interesting and never knew just what contained asbestos in what products.

ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY EVENT 2018

DIARY DATE TO REMEMBER

FRIDAY 30th November 2018 – 11am – Centenary Rose Garden, Commercial Road Morwell.

Speakers:

Shane McArdle – Director – Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency

Michael Borowick – Assistant Secretary ACTU

Steve Dodd – Secretary & Treasurer of the GTLC & union organiser for the AMWU

Others TBA

Musician/Singer - Susan Parrish Joe Omar

Yallourn Madrigal Singers

Bag piper – Dick Henry

Ecumenical Service will be conducted by **Canon Jeff** from St James Church Traralgon

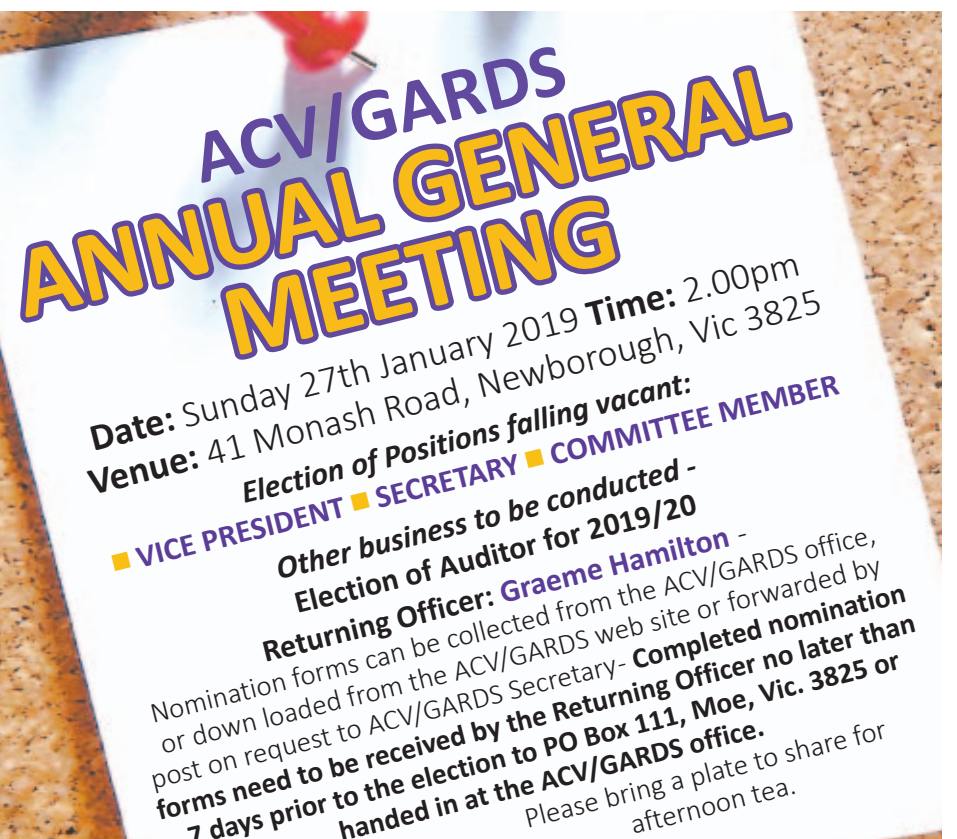
Free Community BBQ with the compliments of Gippsland Trades and Labour Council

ASBESTOS AWARENESS MORNING TEA 2018

DIARY DATE TO REMEMBER

Date: Wednesday 14th November 2018 **Time:** 10am
Venue: ACV/GARDS office **Entry fee:** Gold coin Donation

On the menu: Scones, Jam and Cream + tea and coffee sponsored by: **Slater+Gordon Lawyers** - Specialists that will be attending on the day to talk to the public with questions will comprise of Asbestos Litigation lawyers, Environmental Hygienists, Latrobe City Waste Education Officer and Latrobe City Environmental Health Officer – come and have a chat with all these specialists to get as much information that you have always wanted to know.



Warragul Probus Club

ACV/GARDS attended the Probus Club of Warragul on the 27.9.2018 -

Over 100 Probus members attended who are now more asbestos aware - thank you for making our organisation feel very welcome.

We enjoyed meeting everyone and having a chat with those who stayed behind to ask questions - special thank you to Jenny & Sharyn for helping on the day, these two ladies are special members of both ACV/GARDS and Probus.



Maurice Blackburn Sponsorship 2018/19



Pictured above: Sally and her team.

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 our medical equipment that we lend to our sufferers free of charge.

So, we would like to say thank you to Sally Weir, Principal in Asbestos Litigation at Maurice Blackburn along with Sally's Associates 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.



2018 is a significant year for the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency as we develop Australia's next five-year National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness.

During our 2017 Summit, we asked over 250 delegates for their input to inform the next national strategic plan, and at this year's event we will be looking in depth at the new strategies and goals

that have been developed because of this feedback. Join us in Sydney this November to find out what the future of asbestos management looks like in Australia and the proactive plans we need to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres and reduce asbestos-related diseases. Join over 300 industry professionals in 2018 to find out more on what Australia's new national plan could mean for you. For any further enquiries regarding the conference please contact events@asbestossafety.gov.au

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 14th of December 2018 at 4.00pm and we will resume full operations on Tuesday 15th of January 2019.

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 Christmas and a Happy New Year - thank you for supporting ACV/GARDS in 2018

We look forward to seeing you in 2019



ACV/GARDS Xmas Lunch Celebration 2018



Well, the end of year is fast approaching - so we turn our thoughts to a get together for a bit of merriment and mirth.

This year's Annual Xmas party and lunch will take place at Silks Restaurant, Moe (it is situated at the rear of Michaels Golden Hen).

The menu this year will be buffet/smorgasbord style lunch all you can eat - including and not limited to 2 roast meats & more - with all the trimmings

Dessert will be plum pudding and custard/cream or Carrot cake if you so desire. Tea and Coffee.

Santa will be in attendance to see who has been naughty or nice and we will have a Xmas raffle on the day.

Again, as we did last year:

Everyone is invited to bring a wrapped Chris Cringle present to the value of no more

than \$10 (**females please bring a present suitable for a female and males please bring a present suitable for a male**)

These need to be given to the person in charge of tickets so that you get a ticket to pick a Chris Cringle present after lunch.

We hope to see all our members on this special day so that we can share the joy of Xmas together.

If you would like to join us, here are all the details:

Venue: Silks Restaurant - rear of Michaels Golden Hen - George Street, Moe

Date: Saturday 1st December 2018

Time: 12 noon Free to Financial Members of ACV/GARDS Non-members \$25.00 per person - BYO drinks

For catering purposes please contact Vicki or the ACV/GARDS office RSVP by no later than the 26th November 2018.

Commemorative Sculpture

ACV/GARDS has been working with Sue Hodges Productions (SHP) to come up with a couple of concept drawings from talks we have had with our members.

The initial concept is drawing what we could envisage considering the workers, their wives and family. We have been very happy with the input so far and welcome comment from any of our members re: the sculpture.

We are hoping that the sculpture will be cast in bronze and will depict a family unit in a form that evokes conversation and that people can relate to it in such a manner as this could have been my family or that it was certainly many families fitting this scene.

If you would like to see the concept drawings and to make comment please contact the ACV/GARDS office, we welcome any input and thoughts from our members.

VCAL Student Jordi Making Students Asbestos Aware

ACV/GARDS CEO, Vicki, attended Lavalla College, Traralgon on the 16th October to support her VCAL student Jordan, who was doing a presentation of asbestos awareness to 60 of his class mates - Jordan intends to become a plumber.

He did a great job of his presentation - There were terrific questions from the students and I must say the students went away from Jordan's presentation knowing a lot more about asbestos and the issues - more young people who are now much more asbestos aware thanks to Jordan - well done mate - Good luck in your chosen profession - all the best for the future, Jordan we are sure you will be a great plumber. Thank you to the staff in the

VCAL unit for encouraging Jordan to "have a go", he really did make an impact on the students and impressed us all. We also want to thank Jordi and Lavalla Catholic College for their donation to us - it was a wonderful gesture and totally unexpected.



Girl, 14, is one of world's youngest to have asbestos-related cancer

by Tom Herbert 4th September 2018 – Metro News

A 14-year-old girl has become one of the youngest sufferers in the world to be diagnosed with an asbestos-related cancer.

Macie Greening, of Cullompton, Devon, is one of only nine children in the world to be suffer from mesothelioma after she was diagnosed in March.

But despite undergoing four rounds of chemotherapy, Macie has been told her treatment hasn't worked and is now pinning her hopes on fresh trials becoming available. Her friends have launched a JustGiving page to raise £15,000 to send her and her family on a dream holiday to Disney World, Florida. This includes parents Tracey

and Nellie, twin sister Madison and sister, Saskia, 17. Macie's aunt, Sonia Hurst, said: 'It was hoped she could have surgery, but we've since learnt that is not an option. 'Macie loves being a princess and is obsessed with unicorns, so she would love to go to Disney World. 'She's such an amazing girl and an inspiration to us all. 'Macie has been so strong through all of this and we are so incredibly proud of her.' Macie suffers from peritoneal mesothelioma, which starts in the tissue lining of the abdomen and is caused by inhaling or swallowing asbestos fibres. There are just 500 sufferers diagnosed each year, with just nine children currently fighting the disease. Sufferers can survive for several years after diagnosis with successful chemo, but prognosis

is generally poor. The JustGiving page says: 'The chemotherapy was not working so her consultant decided to stop the course. 'Macie's consultant was exploring other options that are available to her, surgery being the main one, but in August Macie had a laparoscopy to find out that surgery was not an option. 'We are not sure what will happen from here, but Macie is such a strong, beautiful young lady. 'She is continuing to make everyone laugh and smile like she usually would. 'She has already been through enough and is taking the whole situation in her stride, a true inspiration to all.'

<https://metro.co.uk/2018/09/04/girl-14-is-one-of-worlds-youngest-to-have-asbestos-related-cancer-7912703/?ito=cbshare>

Our Monash Uni 1st year Medical students visit AGL Loy Yang

On the 18th July - A great opportunity for our students to learn about the power industry that has been in the valley for nearly 100 years.

ACV/GARDS CEO - Vicki Hamilton took the last two 1st year medical students from Monash University Gippsland campus to AGL Loy Yang Power Station. Merryl Rodrigues & Brendan Creely, are the last 2 students who were with ACV/GARDS for 40 hours each to learn more about what we do in our org and how we support people who seek our help, and our community connections.

Today the students were with some terrific AGL employees who very obligingly gave the students a tour of their work place with a comprehensive look around the mine & a walk around the power station - just as well neither of them was scared of heights lol - thanks to all at Loy Yang who arranged this and made it happen - the students had a great day and learnt so much about the power industry - they have lots of info and a real concept of how big power stations are and the people who work in them.

Again, we thank management and staff for giving them an experience they won't forget.



ACV/GARDS on the move...

Get together at Old Gippsstown – Heritage Park

30th Oct saw the ACV/GARDS support group on a venture out to Old Gippsstown to enjoy a tour of the park.

Learning all about the pioneer past of Gippsland, to sit and watch a silent movie in the movie theatre – we watched a full-length movie of Charlie Chaplin, travel in the vintage car, and lunched in the restaurant on site. The weather was magnificent, the company was fantastic. There was plenty of laughs and banter on the day. Thank you to all staff at the park for making it such an enjoyable day.



Calls for greater silicosis screening for workers making kitchen benchtops

ABC 7.30 – Michael Atkin -
Thursday 11th Oct

The NSW Labor Opposition has joined calls by medical professionals and former stonemasons for urgent action to protect workers from the dust lung disease silicosis.

Doctors believe Australia is facing the worst occupational lung disease crisis since the peak of the asbestos disaster.

Stonemasons who cut engineered stone into a popular type of kitchen benchtop are contracting accelerated silicosis at alarming levels, after being exposed to unsafe levels of silica dust. Last month the Queensland Government issued an urgent warning after 22 silicosis claims were lodged with WorkCover, including for six people who were diagnosed as terminally ill. The number of silicosis claims in Queensland has now increased to 35, and doctors believe the numbers will reach into the hundreds by the end of the year as workers continue to be screened. An investigation by 7.30 has also discovered silicosis cases amongst stonemasons in New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT.

In the past three financial years in Victoria there have been 16 silicosis claims by stonemasons and in NSW there were 23 total silicosis claims, some by stonemasons.



Sydney man Cong Le, who worked as a stonemason for 16 years before contracting silicosis, is now awaiting a lung transplant.

The 45-year-old's lungs are only operating at 30 per cent capacity and he can only walk a maximum of 50 metres unassisted. He told 7.30 he feels angry and wants action to protect workers. "This is just history repeating itself," he said. "By that I mean the problem of asbestos. 'I didn't know this dust will give me silicosis.'"

Mr Le was introduced to the industry by a friend and said he was rushed through without proper training before working for himself. He rented facilities where he worked with other tradesmen and claims, "it was like a dust storm when everyone has (sic) jobs to do on the same day". 'NSW lagging' on tackling silicosis



Two powerful medical professional bodies, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand, are calling for other states and territories to urgently follow Queensland and conduct health screening of all past and present workers. The NSW Labor Opposition has joined calls by medical professionals and former stonemasons for urgent action to protect workers from the dust lung disease silicosis. Doctors believe Australia is facing the worst occupational lung disease crisis since the peak of the asbestos disaster. Stonemasons who cut engineered stone into a popular type of kitchen benchtop are contracting accelerated silicosis at alarming levels, after being exposed to unsafe levels of silica dust. Last month the Queensland Government issued an urgent warning after 22 silicosis claims were lodged with WorkCover, including for six people who were diagnosed as terminally ill. The number of silicosis claims in Queensland has now increased to 35, and doctors believe the numbers will reach into the hundreds by the end of the year as workers continue to be screened. An investigation by 7.30 has also discovered silicosis cases amongst stonemasons in New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT.

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Sydney man Cong Le, who worked as a stonemason for 16 years before contracting silicosis, is now awaiting a lung transplant. The 45-year-old's lungs are only operating at 30 per cent capacity and he can only walk a maximum of 50 metres unassisted. He told 7.30 he feels angry and wants action to protect workers. "This is just history repeating itself," he said. "By that I mean the problem of asbestos. 'I didn't know this dust will give me silicosis.'" Mr Le was introduced to the industry by a friend and said he was rushed through without proper training before working for himself. He rented facilities where he worked with other tradesmen and claims, "it was like a dust storm when everyone has (sic) jobs to do on the same day". 'NSW lagging' on tackling silicosis

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NSW Labor Opposition Health spokesman, Walt Secord, said he was worried NSW didn't understand the gravity of the silicosis challenge because it hadn't done

widespread health screening. "I've been tracking silicosis for the last couple of years and I'm very disappointed NSW lags behind Queensland," he told 7.30.

"Queensland is leading the nation on this illness. "We don't know the extent, but we know that young men, particularly young men from non-English speaking backgrounds, are contracting this illness because they are not wearing masks and they do not know the dangers of manufactured stone-cutting." There are four major engineered stone suppliers in NSW and 350 worksites that cut and polish the product for installation. Last year there were 73 site inspections by workplace inspectors, resulting in 63 improvement and two prohibition notices. The NSW Government has also established a taskforce which began to examine safety and regulation in the industry in July and includes union representatives, the Australian Industry Group and the Lung Foundation. National register could track workers for life, But Mr Secord believes the NSW Government has not done enough. "If the State Government does not act properly, a Labor government after the March election will put this on the COAG (Council of Australian Governments) agenda," he said. "We will work towards setting up a national register — young men's lives are at risk.

"I would like to see a national register, so we could actually track young men, particularly young men who work in this industry, the manufactured stone section where they do renovations (and) cut stone, where we can actually track them throughout their lives." Mr Secord also said he would consider a ban on the practice known as dry-cutting, something that is already in place in Queensland. The NSW Government has strongly rejected Mr Secord's claim it has not done enough.

Its industry taskforce is preparing an interim report on safety standards and will provide that report to the Minister for Better Regulation, Matt Kean, next month.

"I want to make sure we get the right response, and, at this stage, I'm not ruling anything in or out," Mr Kean said in a statement.

"Silicosis is a terrible disease and is entirely preventable if the correct safety measures are in place. "Our five-year strategy to protect workers against dangerous workplace chemicals makes crystalline silica a top priority." In Queensland, stonemasons must use water to suppress the dust while they cut engineered stone.

"I would investigate legislating a ban on dry-cutting of manufactured stone. I think Queensland is on the right track and I think there are merits in that," Mr Secord said.

One of the major players is engineered stone supplier Caesarstone. It is part of the NSW taskforce. The company has faced legal action internationally in relation to silicosis conditions. It declined to be interviewed, but in a statement said it "has never admitted legal liability in any claim related to exposure or illness anywhere in the world". "We provide every trade customer with comprehensive instructions and warnings for safe handling and fabrication of our products," the statement read.

Loy Yang Carbon Capture

26.10.2018

ACV/GARDS rep Vicki was at AGL Loy Yang Traralgon at the carbon capture pilot plant site to celebrate 10 years of research into carbon capture and storage - just another new technology being developed in Latrobe Valley - well done AGL, IHI & CSIRO -

it was very interesting listening to how this technology works and to hear about other initiatives into carbon capture which are emerging along with technology like Hydrogen for energy use. Others who were in attendance

and spoke were those who have been attending the 14th International conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies, known as GHGT-14. The event, held every two years in a different country, is the main global forum to discuss the latest developments in CCS. The Melbourne Convention Centre has hosted the event from Monday the 22nd - to 25 October 2018.- some of those from the conference came up by bus today to attend the 10-year celebrations at Loy Yang. It was wonderful to meet so many people from other countries who are looking at ways to control greenhouse gases and take those ideas & projects into the future.



ACV/GARDS on the move...

Darnum Lunch for Support Group

In July our support group took a trip to the Darnum Hotel for a get together lunch. Our members all had a great time and enjoyed the comradery of the day.

It is always wonderful to be with good friends enjoying good food and having a laugh together. After our lunch, one of our members Jenny invited everyone back to her place for afternoon tea.

Some in the group took the opportunity to continue their good time back at Jenny's place. We want thank Jenny for organising the afternoon tea get together at her place.

Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and this finished off a perfectly wonderful day for those who attended. Jenny your hospitality was greatly appreciated by all and the scones, jam & cream were delicious .



Parliamentary Group - Asbestos Related Disease

14th August saw the ACV/ GARDS girls Dorothy and Vicki going to Parliament House in Canberra to a working lunch with Parliamentarians about the next 5-year National Strategic Plan.

Our own local Federal member Chairs the Parliamentary group, Russell Broadbent, and co- chair is Senator Lisa Singh – most of the support and advocacy groups from around Australia attended the working lunch. This was also one of the last times we would be working with the CEO Peter Tighe of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency. Peter Tighe is retiring after 5 years as the inaugural CEO of ASEA. Peter has done a terrific job of setting up and initiating

many projects to set the organisation up for future works and tackle the problem of in situ asbestos in this country. We wish him all the best in whatever he does in the future and we hope he will keep

in touch with us. We would also like to welcome Justine Ross as the new CEO of ASEA and we wish her every success going into the future with the Agency. Look forward to working with you.



Have you paid your ACV/GARDS Membership Fees?



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.

Asbestos Snippets

Australia



When dust ends in death: How asbestos devastated Wittenoom - Tony Barrass PerthNow - August 20, 2018

AN iconic image lingers in the consciousness of a generation of West Australians.

Two little boys, covered in muck, caught out by the camera. The one on the left has a naughty grin that only a three-year-old can muster, the other an unexpected glare of a tough nut that belies his tender age.

All these years later, Carol Farber, now 80, vividly remembers that photograph. She should. She took it.

It was at the bottom of her driveway at Wittenoom. The cheeky one was her nephew, Philip Noble, with another Wittenoom kid, Ross Munro, who was a year or so younger. Back then, in the early 1950s, Carol Farber was Carol Smith, and had just arrived in the remote mine town to begin what she remembered as “the happiest days of my life”. She had just been given a Box Brownie for her 13th birthday and she was snap-happy. She took pictures of everything that moved and remote Wittenoom, nestled at the foot of the stunning Hamersley Ranges, had plenty on offer. She and her mother, Kathleen, and brother, Terry, had escaped a violent father and husband and ended up in the busy mining town with their eldest sibling Fay, whose husband Ray Noble worked for CSR’s subsidiary Australian Blue Asbestos.

<https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/wa/when-dust-ends-in-death-how-asbestos-devastated-wittenoom-ng-b88930946z>

Source of asbestos contamination identified – The Chronical - 30th August 2018

SOUTHERN Downs Regional Council has confirmed asbestos found on two sporting fields in Warwick came from a council waste facility. In a media statement, the council said recent enquiries by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland “into low-level contaminated soils” located at Collegian Junior Rugby League field and Warwick Central State School had confirmed the Allora Waste Transfer Facility was the source of asbestos contaminated material, which had been purchased by an external contractor to make top soil.

“Upon becoming aware of the presence of asbestos, SDRC took immediate measures with initial remediation works taking place at the site,” the statement said. “Other parts of the site have been sectioned off and are awaiting further remediation works. “Until works are completed at the Allora site, only general waste, green waste and cleaned containers eligible under the Drum Muster Program will be accepted. Operating hours remain unchanged.” The council said initial investigations into the presence of the asbestos at Allora indicated some users had unlawfully disposed of asbestos material at the facility. Asbestos is prohibited at all SDRC waste facilities, except for Warwick and Stanthorpe. “SDRC is currently reviewing its waste management procedures and practices and is working closely with WHSQ to undertake a number of measures and to ensure all workplace health and safety obligations are fully met in the future,” the statement said. “SDRC has engaged Building and Asset Services (BAS) to assist in managing the site remediation at the Allora facility. “The site will undergo a range of remediation activities to ensure it is compliant under the Workplace Health & Safety Act 2011. “Should the community have questions or concerns about receiving contaminated soils, they should contact their local supplier in the first instance to confirm the source of material used in the soil.”

<https://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/source-oval-asbestos-contamination-identified/3507909/>

Wamberal beach asbestos removed by Central Coast Council - Cathy Stubbs, Central Coast Gosford Express Advocate - April 14, 2018

Wamberal Beach has been declared safe for the public after asbestos was found along the beach up to Terrigal lagoon. Central Coast council issued a statement this morning (Saturday) saying trained staff had examined the site and removed “a small amount” of asbestos. The contamination scare comes on the first day of the school holidays and when continuing hot weather has seen large crowds continue to head to the beach. Council was prompted to act after intervention by Terrigal State Liberal MP Adam Crouch and NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton who called in the Environmental Protection Authority. The EPA then contacted council staff late on Friday evening.

Council’s statement said it was informed that material potentially containing asbestos was located on parts of Wamberal Beach and up to the lagoon. “Council staff inspected the beach early this morning and removed a small amount of asbestos,” the statement said. “Recent weather events have uncovered a small amount of asbestos which has been safely removed,” it said. “Council will reactivate weekly inspections of the beach and continue to manage this historical issue constructively with the Environment Protection Authority. “The beach is open to the public and Lifeguards are patrolling the flagged area of the beach.”

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/central-coast/wamberal-beach-asbestos-removed-by-central-coast-council/news-story/760c88c8caae2353aec42f5ed5a82a93b>

Beating the odds that asbestos victims face - NATASHA EMECK – NT News - AUGUST 19, 2018

A RETIRED Darwin carpenter carrying a death sentence from asbestos-related cancer has defied the odds and survived one of medicine’s most invasive cancer surgeries. A RETIRED Darwin carpenter carrying a death sentence from asbestos-related cancer has defied the odds and survived one of medicine’s most invasive cancer surgeries. When he was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2016, Ken Selwood and his wife Di did not think he would get to see his 70th birthday together last September. Mr Selwood said his cancer manifested after working with asbestos containing materials as a carpenter for 35 years. “I was working with asbestos from the time I was a 16-year-old apprentice until the eighties,” he said. “No one ever told us to wear a mask. All I ever did was go to work and to find out all these years later that I have a cluster of tumours, sitting there like a bunch of grapes on my left lung, was a shock.” Five rounds of chemotherapy at the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre at RDH across four months shrunk the cancer by 30 per cent. “Then we were given the option to continue chemo and drugs or a controversial surgery and I opted for the latter,” Mr Selwood said. “What happens is they open up your back, ribs and take out the lung, the tumour, the lining of the heart, the lining between the chest wall and the chest and part of the diaphragm and then put a piece of Gore-Tex in there to seal it.” He said they went to Sydney in May 2017 to do the surgery with Professor Brian McCaughan at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. “He’s one of only two doctors in Australia who will do this operation because 90 per cent of people die from it. It’s one of the most invasive procedures you can have. “Out of the 120 people Prof McCaughan’s operated on over the years, there’s only 20 alive and I’m one of them. It’s not great odds but it was my choice and I’m alive. I probably wouldn’t be here anyway if I didn’t do it.” After surgery he underwent radiotherapy for six weeks in Sydney.

“It was brutal, like spending 20 minutes in a jumbo microwave that cooks your insides every day,” he said.

<https://www.news.com.au/national/northern-territory/ beating-the-odds-that-asbestos-victims-face/news-story/910bd724ade229dc2925b3f30a1c5cc0>

Developers accused of demolishing Corkman Irish Pub sentenced for dumping asbestos - James Oaten – ABC News - 12 Sep 2018

A magistrate says he would have jailed two Melbourne developers if he had the power to, after they pleaded guilty to dumping asbestos from an illegally demolished historic pub near homes and a childcare centre.

Developers Raman Shaqiri and Stefce Kutlesovski were each fined \$120,000 for failing to securely contain asbestos-riddled debris at the site of the demolished Corkman Irish Hotel in inner-city Carlton, and for then dumping it in Cairnlea, in Melbourne’s north-west. The developer’s company, 160 Leicester Pty Ltd, was fined a further \$300,000. In sentencing, magistrate Richard Pithouse told the Sunshine Magistrate Court the men’s “cavalier disregard for the law” meant they should go to jail, but the legislation did not allow it. “You don’t know how close you came to jail,” Magistrate Pithouse said. “If jail were available, I would impose

imprisonment for such a blatant breach.” He said the exposed asbestos in Carlton and Cairnlea put the community at substantial risk. “It doesn’t matter if it’s a shopping bag full or a spec,” he said. The magistrate also slammed Mr Kutlesovski for his behaviour in the court, telling him: “I wouldn’t be sitting rubbing your chin so smugly as you are today.” “I hope everyone knows your name,” he continued. “You think you’re above the law, but you are not.” The EPA welcomed the fine. “The directors and the company in this case have shown blatant disregard for the environment, for public health, for community safety,” CEO Cathy Wilkinson said.

“It’s unacceptable [and] EPA Victoria puts on notice illegal dumpers. “Victorians want polluters, want people who do the wrong thing, held to account. “We don’t want asbestos uncontrolled in the environment, it needs to be dealt with appropriately.” She would not say if the men should have been jailed.

Historic pub illegally demolished and never rebuilt The pub, formerly known as the Carlton Inn Hotel, stood on the corner of Pelham and Leicester streets in Carlton for 159 years, but was demolished in October of 2016. Three days later, the Environmental Protection Authority noted that the debris on site could contain asbestos. A sample was tested and confirmed the authority’s suspicion. The developers were ordered to cover the debris, but five days later a pile of rubble was found at Cairnlea, opposite residential homes and only 350 metres from a childcare centre.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-12/corkman-irish-pub-accused-demolishers-sentenced-over-asbestos/10235722>

Central Coast Council plans to demolish sports buildings containing asbestos - Leah McBey – The Advocate – Oct 24th 2018

The Central Coast Council has applied for a permit to demolish seven structures at the Penguin Recreation Ground, which contain asbestos. The asbestos report includes the time keepers’ box, the kiosk, the Ted Howe training room, the grandstand clubrooms, the toilets and changing areas and the score board. At least 12 areas were marked as ‘high risk’ for asbestos. The report said inspectors had not been able to get into the Salon Bar, so that and other areas may also contain asbestos. The council will tender for removing the material, which may be taken to Dulverton Waste Management. The project would have to minimise air-borne dust, which may contain asbestos.

<https://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/5720927/asbestos-at-penguin-sports-ground-to-be-removed/>

Melbourne industrial fire brought under control, but warning remains in place for city’s west – by Danny Tran – 31st Aug 2018 - ABC News

The plume of thick, black smoke that streaked across Melbourne’s skyline after starting in the gentrified suburb of West Footscray could be seen from Victoria’s biggest regional city almost an hour away.

Asbestos Snippets

About 100 firefighters worked throughout the night to bring the massive industrial fire under control.

However, the fire is still burning and sending acrid smoke across Melbourne's western suburbs, and a watch and act notice remains in place for 19 suburbs. What's going on? - Schools and child care centres in the area have reopened today, after closing on Thursday due to health and safety concerns. Authorities have advised nearby residents and workers to limit their time outdoors. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has warned people to avoid Stony Creek, and waters in Hobsons Bay around Spotswood and Williamstown, after toxic water from the site flowed into waterways. The fire is the biggest Melbourne has seen in years and is being compared to the 1992 Coode Island fire, when a chemical storage tank in a nearby suburb exploded and sent out clouds of toxic smoke. **Suburbs covered by Watch and Act:**

Altona, Altona East, Altona Gate, Altona North, Brooklyn, Footscray, Kingsville, Newport, Port Melbourne, Seaholme, Seddon, South Kingsville, Spotswood, Sunshine, Tottenham, West Footscray, Williamstown, Williamstown North, Yarraville

The cause of Thursday's inferno is still unclear, and firefighters now are more concerned about dousing the blaze than figuring out what started it. **The fire will take days to be completely smothered**, according to the authorities, and so smoke will steadily billow into the sky and waft towards nearby homes. "Unfortunately, it is still a significant fire that we are having trouble getting access to," Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) incident controller Trent Curtin said. "We'll be bringing in lots of machinery today ... like excavators and bulldozers, get some heavy machinery to pull apart parts of the building. **There's lots of different materials in the middle there that we are having trouble getting access to.**" "We had fire investigators here yesterday, Victoria Police have been on scene, and as soon as we can get proper access we'll see if we make a determination as to what the cause of the fire was." He said around 60 firefighters and 25 trucks remained at the scene. **What's in the smoke?**

The storage factory that caught fire contained a chemical called acetone, which is a colourless, flammable liquid used as a nail polish remover and a solvent in paint. The factory also contained acetylene, which is a gas used for welding and can be highly explosive. The composition of both chemicals mean they are good at producing smoke, which explains the giant plume — and it is not the usual smoke that would emanate from a typical house fire. "I think the way that this appears to be different is that it's more concentrated than you might otherwise expect," said Gabriel Da Silva, an expert in atmospheric chemistry and air quality from the University of Melbourne. "You have these very good fuel sources that are very good at making soot particles."

Are there health concerns? Daniel Steinfort, a respiratory physician at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, said exposure

to the fumes was "not particularly hazardous". **"Given the clearance zone around the fire, I don't think there's any clear risk to people in the area," Dr Steinfort said.** "As long as inhalation is managed, there's no long-term safety concerns even for first responders." Dr Steinfort said most of the risk was now from the fine, invisible dust released during the burn. But he said even people with lung diseases like asthma or emphysema had little to worry about, with monitoring from the area suggesting there was no significant increase on the ground. "If you do have any concerns about exposure you should try and stay indoors or remove yourself from the area," he said. "You should continue taking your regular medications and if there's any issue, seek medical help." The factory's roof also contained asbestos sheeting, according to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade's acting chief fire officer Greg Leach. "But because of the intensity of the fire, much of that asbestos is going to have been consumed by the fire in the early stages," he said. When asked whether any asbestos drifted into the air and over the suburbs, Mr Leach said there was a chance. "But we think the heat of the combustion has been such that most of that risk has been ameliorated," he said. **What about the environment?** - Much closer to the ground, the Environment Protection Authority has warned people not to touch run-off from the fire. The discoloured water has flowed into Stony Creek, which snakes its way through the western suburbs, as well as into Hobsons Bay near Spotswood and Williamstown. The authority's chief scientist pleaded with the public not to touch the water or go wading in. Melbourne Water also confirmed run-off from the fire had entered the creek. "Melbourne Water has deployed two pumps at Stony Creek to manage the inflow and remove as much runoff from the site as possible," a spokeswoman said. "Our main priority is protecting the health and wellbeing of the community, waterways and local wildlife. "When will it clear up? Dr Da Silva said Melbourne's air quality returning to normal now depended heavily on the weather and when firefighters were able to get the blaze under control. "If there's very still air that just hangs around, it can last for a long time," he said. "But if you get good movement of air and if you get some rain coming through, it can pick up very quickly." He said he was hoping Melbourne's volatile weather would wash out pollutants affecting the atmosphere. "Hopefully we'll see them largely drop out of the air over the next day or two." "Things will return to normal. "I think at the moment people should try and minimise their exposure to it, so don't go outdoors in that area unless you have to ... hopefully it dissipates." Community meetings were held in the area last night, where concerned residents demanded answers on the cause of the fire. "We've been fighting poor air quality in the west for the last eight years, this has been the last straw," said one. "If there's any investigation we certainly need to know what the result of that investigation is."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-31/melbourne-factory-fire-smoke-carcinogenic-warn-residents/10184864>

Asbestos health advocates question 'safe' declaration at Melbourne warehouse fire – by Farrah Plummer – New Daily

Public health advocates have warned against official advice that asbestos sheeting had "burned up" safely after a West Footscray factory fire sent thick black smoke across Melbourne's skyline.

About 100 fire fighters worked through the night on Thursday to bring the industrial fire under control, but the site continued to smoulder on Saturday afternoon. While the cause of the blaze remains unknown, the Melbourne Fire Brigade said it had made the decision to **hand the investigation to Victoria Police** after determining the cause of the fire may be suspicious. The Environment Protection Authority has warned residents to steer clear of Stony Creek after toxic water flowed into the waterways. But the EPA and Melbourne Fire Brigade's advice that the factory's asbestos sheeting construction posed a "low risk" and the material had been consumed by the fire has been called "misleading" by some experts.

Melbourne Fire Brigade acting chief fire officer Greg Leach told the ABC on Friday that "much of that asbestos is going to have been consumed by the fire in the early stage" because of the intensity of the fire.

Mr Leach acknowledged there was a chance asbestos had drifted into the air "but we think the heat of the combustion had been such that most of that risk had been ameliorated".

Asbestos Council of Victoria chief executive Vicky Hamilton told The New Daily she had sought to contact the Melbourne Fire Brigade and the EPA following the assessment. The New Daily has also sought comment from the MFB regarding the asbestos advice. "I've never heard that myself ... asbestos doesn't burn up in fire, that's why it was considered a good product [in the past]," Ms Hamilton said.

CFMEU occupational health and hygiene specialist Jerry Ayers told The New Daily there was no medical or scientifically acceptable level of asbestos exposure based on international research. Dr Ayers said while a 1200 degrees Celsius blaze would change the characteristics of asbestos, asbestos sheets could often explode in a fire, blow up into the atmosphere and land 50-100 metres away from the site. "There needs to be a good clean-up procedure implemented and a thorough inspection in the vicinity around the fire," he said.

University of Western Australia professor of medicine and public health and respiratory physician Bill Musk told The New Daily he didn't think asbestos was consumed in fires. Professor Musk said asbestos was used for many years precisely because it was heat resistant, and its name is

Continued next page

Senate Economics References Committee Inquiry into non-conforming building products – Australian Government response to the interim report

The Government acknowledges the significant impact on the community from exposure to asbestos, but it has not acted on most of the recommendations.

The Senate Inquiry made 26 recommendations and they have only supported 7. We want to see the Government act on many of the other recommendations such as Tougher Penalties for importers – Compulsory Recalls of products found containing asbestos – Mandatory Government

funded asbestos awareness training in the construction industry we want to see this for all those likely to encounter asbestos in their workplaces. The government seems to have missed the point - the reason we had the senate inquiry was because products containing asbestos were finding their way into Australia even though the importation and sale of asbestos products has been banned since Dec 2003 – People who import these products have broken our laws – note that these products have been coming in all the time unchecked since we banned asbestos. Continuing to expose Australians.

Asbestos Snippets



derived from the Greek word for “unquenchable”. “In a fire or earthquake, asbestos fibres are liberated into the atmosphere and that’s why they’re so dangerous to us if breathed into the lungs,” he said. “There are different sorts of asbestos, but there’s no safe level of asbestos and that’s why it’s been banned.” An EPA spokesperson told The New Daily asbestos burned in the West Footscray factory fire had been deemed a “low risk” because of the “nature of the fire”. “The EPA, as a matter of due diligence, will test for contaminants in the area,” they said.

“It’s considered a low risk, but tests will include asbestos.”

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2018/09/01/melbourne-factory-fire-asbestos/>

Asbestos concerns raised as Alcoa demolishes Anglesea power station on second attempt By Joanna Crothers 3 Oct 2018, ABC News

Alcoa has successfully demolished an old power station on Victoria’s Surf Coast, after a failed attempt earlier this year, and despite a whistle blower’s concern that asbestos was still inside the building.

Key points: Alcoa will today make a second attempt to demolish the old Anglesea power station - The ABC has obtained documents which appear to show asbestos still inside the building - Alcoa said it is “very confident” that the demolition does not pose a risk to the public - The ABC obtained documents from a former worker which appeared to show gaskets and flanges which contained asbestos still inside the building before it came down. The ex-worker noted that most asbestos had been removed from the building, but said the gaskets and flanges, or connecting valves, were in positions which made them difficult to remove. “My concern is the flanges being torn apart during the explosive collapse, creating friable fibres,” the former worker said. It is possible some cable trays still inside the structure also contained asbestos, the source said. Alcoa didn’t respond directly to questions about whether asbestos still remained in the building. The company first attempted to fell the building in May, and before that, undertook a year-long asbestos removal program, which was regulated by WorkSafe. Former workers gathered near the exclusion zone to watch the decommissioned station come down. ‘Done and dusted’

Despite the possible threat of asbestos fibres being released into the atmosphere, a handful of former workers gathered at a viewing area this afternoon to watch the decommissioned station being reduced to rubble. “It’s closure for all of us,” said Peter Gange, who first started working at the plant as a teenager many decades ago. “Done and dusted.” “It’s a bit sad to see it go, but it’s time was up,” said Wayne Pavletich, who started at the plant as an apprentice fitter and turner. “It’s a bang and then it’s all over.” Mr Pavletich said asbestos was “probably not” a threat, as “they’ve done a lot of work” on removal. “They say that they’ve done their due diligence, so you’d have to believe that that’s pretty much right,” he said. All that remains standing on the site is the plant’s smokestack. Safety a ‘priority’ Alcoa has been ordered by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to release air monitoring results from seven sites surrounding the station. It is one of several conditions required of the company before the demolition could be given permission to go ahead. After the botched demolition in May, the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), and environmental and community groups, called for a judicial inquiry, demanding that air monitoring results be publicly released. In a statement, Alcoa said air monitoring after the first attempted demolition did not detect asbestos fibres above health and safety exposure standards. “The safety of all site personnel and the community is Alcoa’s priority,” it said. “We remain very confident that [the] demolition and subsequent clean-up activities do not pose a risk to employees, contractors, the community or the environment.” Tim Eaton, executive director of assessments at the EPA, said that compared with the last attempt, there had been meticulous planning in the lead-up to today’s demolition. “We’re not just relying on what we see, we can actually validate that through technical instrumentation,” he said. “What you should see is no change to those levels when the dust cloud passes over, so we expect to see that. “When

the previous explosion took place, we saw exactly that. There was no elevation.” Prior to the demolition, federal member for Corangamite Sarah Henderson said she was deeply concerned about the risk of asbestos fibres being released into the community. “While Alcoa has promoted the proposed timeframe being the first week of October, there has been, in effect, only one day’s notice,” she said. “Given the proximity of the Anglesea Primary School and the local kindergarten, I am pleased that this is occurring during the school holidays.” Military-style explosives used: CFMEU The CFMEU said an overseas company which used military-style explosives, and which was experienced with demolishing older structures had been brought in for the operation. Asbestos continues to kill more people than car accidents every year in Australia. (ABC News: Kirsty Sadler) “Using explosives to pull down a building is never a preferred choice, but these are exceptional circumstances, and in the context is probably the only way they can do it,” the union’s manager of occupational health and safety, Gerard Ayers, said. Dr Ayers said the union wished Alcoa had consulted with them before the first attempt, and that it was lucky no-one was hurt the first-time around. “Lessons have been learned,” he said. “We wish that had happened earlier.”

coal-fired station at Anglesea was decommissioned in 2015 after 46 years of operation.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-03/second-attempt-to-blow-up-former-alcoa-power-station/10328912>

Katoomba tip is almost asbestos-free after a \$4m clean-up – by Jennie Curtin – Blue Mountains Gazette – 17th September 2018

After more than 10 months’ work and a bill topping \$4.25 million, Katoomba tip is almost asbestos-free.

The final work is being done now and it is expected to be fully back in business by the end of the month.

But it has come at a cost. More than \$3.6 million was spent removing contaminated material from the site and carting it to Kemps Creek – partly to avoid filling the Blaxland tip and partly because Blaxland’s new landfill cell wasn’t ready. Then a further \$590,000 has been spent capping the remaining soil and concrete on site.

The unexpected, unbudgeted and expensive asbestos removal will have an immediate impact with several projects likely to be canned or deferred because of a lack of funds (see story p6).

The latest monthly progress report on safety improvement in the wake of the asbestos investigations warned: “The significant level of funding directed to asbestos management reduces the availability of revenue available for other projects.” This follows a similar alert issued the previous month that cash reserves had fallen by almost \$8 million in a year – from \$29.3m in July 2017 to \$21.6m in July this year. “This is partly due to the use of reserves to fund asbestos costs in 2017-2018. It is critical that reserves are rebuilt to ensure there are funds available to manage any future shocks,” the financial report noted. It also revealed that smaller investments (depleted because of the asbestos work) will severely reduce the income that generates for council over the next year. “Total investments have been reduced due to expenditure on asbestos remediation and this has impacted the interest income expected to be earned in 2018-2019 with a budget income of \$400K compared to the prior year budget interest income of \$890K.” After months of trucking the waste to Kemps Creek, council sought to cap the rest on site to cut costs and to avoid the risks involved in transporting the asbestos through the Mountains. SafeWork agreed and council allocated another \$437,000 to encapsulate the remaining concrete and soil in a bund built at the tip. This has increased to \$591,000. A spokeswoman for council said in addition to the remediation, revised procedures and practices have been put in place “to ensure the facility remains safe for residents, customers and staff”

<https://www.bluemountainsgazette.com.au/story/5642390/katoomba-tip-asbestos-free-at-a-cost-425m/>

International

Grenfell Tower fire: NHS announces £50m health-screening programme in wake of asbestos fears – by Harriet Agerholm – 9th October 2018 – Independent

The NHS has said it will fund a £50m screening programme for survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire, following warnings they could have suffered asbestos poisoning. Senior coroner Dr Fiona Wilcox, who is examining the deaths caused by the fire, wrote to the head of NHS England Simon Stevens in September urging him to take action to stop any more people dying as a result of the inferno. Citing the long-term health problems suffered by firefighters who attended the 9/11 attack, Dr Wilcox said she was concerned no formal health programme was in place for Grenfell Tower residents and the first responders to the scene. Grenfell Tower was built in 1974, when asbestos was regularly used as a fire retardant. If inhaled, asbestos can cause a fatal lung disease called mesothelioma. Trapped woman ‘threatened to jump from 18th floor of Grenfell Tower’ Most of the 72 people who died because of the blaze on 14 June last year are thought to have died from inhaling poisonous smoke. Announcing the new screening programme, Mr Stevens said the NHS and local health groups would invest up to £10m a year in the service for the next five years. Former Grenfell Tower residents would be invited to regular “health MOTs” that would monitor their physical and psychological health, he said. A mental health service for the fire’s survivors has already screened about 4,000 residents, according to NHS figures. Longer GP appointments have also been available for former residents of the high-rise. Speaking at NHS Providers conference in Manchester on Tuesday, Mr Stevens said: “Since (the Grenfell Tower fire), the NHS has been one of the public services that has most fulfilled the contract between those working in public services and communities reliant on us in their time of need. “We’ve knocked on more than 4,000 doors, helped 3,800 residents (with) their GP and mental health needs and more than a third of those have gone on to be referred to specialist mental health services. “Which is why it’s important that when a local community, such as those in North Kensington says, ‘you need to raise your game over how the community is supported’, we respond.” In a separate statement, Mr Stevens said: “For those people who were affected by this horrendous tragedy, their pain is not over, and many continue to face real difficulty. “NHS staff and the local community have been working hard from day one to support the Grenfell community. The NHS was there when people needed us, and we’re determined to stay the course. That’s why we are now introducing a new dedicated service to ensure those affected continue to have their health needs fully met.”

A public inquiry into the fire at Grenfell Tower is hearing evidence from survivors of the blaze at Holborn Bars in central London. A number of those who have given evidence have said they have suffered breathing problems in the immediate aftermath and in the months after the fire.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/grenfell-tower-inquiry-nhs-asbestos-health-screening-fire-public-housing-safety-a8575821.html>

Terrorism has a hidden health legacy – as 9/11 shows - September 14, 2018 – The Conversation

On September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda hijackers took control of four commercial airliners and launched a series of coordinated attacks. As two of the commandeered planes hurtled into the World Trade Centre that morning, they devastated the urban landscape of Manhattan and killed 2,996 people, including 400 emergency responders. Fires

Asbestos Snippets



smouldered among the remains of the Twin Towers for 99 days after the attack. It took eight months and 19 days for responders and volunteers to clear away the wreckage of rubble, gnarled concrete and twisted girders. Architects and developers began to design a new centre of commerce in 2004 and One World Trade Centre was completed a decade later, taking its place alongside the other new skyscrapers that decorate the Manhattan skyline. The architectural scars of the attack are now almost erased, and this urban space has been reinvented. But recent studies have shown that there are long-term physical and mental health challenges arising for the people who survived 9/11. Acts of terrorism and warfare can have unforeseen long-term public health consequences. The collapse of the Twin Towers released plumes of toxic substances into the air. Inhalable contaminants included powdered cement, pulverised glass, asbestos, jet fuel, silica and splinters of metal. This dust and chemical “peasouper” lingered across Lower Manhattan, corralled and canyoned by the surrounding high-rise architecture. The fire released carcinogens across the city. While emergency responders and local people worked together to recover from the attack, they were unknowingly exposing themselves to contaminated dust and debris. Responders received a greater airborne exposure to contaminants. They are more likely to develop respiratory illnesses and certain cancers, and have an increased all-cause mortality and suicide rate, compared to other exposed groups. Rescue and recovery workers are also at greater risk of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), alongside those who work and live near Ground Zero. This is an ongoing issue, and more people have now died due to pollution from 9/11 than from the attack itself.

It is difficult to ascertain the full scale of future health challenges that could arise. Responders have already been affected by decreased cognitive function, increased risk of strokes, and there is evidence that cancer likelihood and incidence has increased – especially lung, throat, stomach, myeloma, leukemia and lymphoma type cancers. Standardised incidence ratios for these conditions are already moderately elevated among New York emergency services and humanitarian aid responders who worked on 9/11. Approximately 10,000 people have been diagnosed with cancer linked to 9/11, to date. The statistics suggest that many more will be killed by toxic exposure than by the original act of terrorism. The average age of a 9/11 first responder is now about 55. Many people face a cancer diagnosis as they age, but this community are much more likely to become unwell.

<https://theconversation.com/terrorism-has-a-hidden-health-legacy-as-9-11-shows-103176>

Missouri judge affirms \$4.69 billion talc verdict, J&J vows to appeal - Tina Bellon – Aug 23rd 2018

(Reuters) - A Missouri trial court judge has affirmed the massive \$4.69 billion verdict against Johnson & Johnson (JNJ.N) in a case involving 22 women and their families who alleged the company’s talc-based products, including its baby powder, contain asbestos and caused them to develop ovarian cancer. J&J in a statement on Wednesday said it would continue to pursue all available appellate remedies. The company, which denies the allegations and says its talc is safe, previously said it was confident the verdict would be overturned on appeal. In a series of orders on Tuesday evening, Judge Rex Burlison of the Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis affirmed the jury’s July 12 decision in favor of the women, six of whom have died. “The Court finds there is no just reason for delay and hereby certifies this judgment as final for purposes of appeal,” Burlison wrote in the judgments. Defendants in civil cases can generally file so-called post-trial motions, asking the trial court judge to reduce a verdict or set it aside entirely, but J&J did not file such motions. It can now take up the cases with a Missouri appeals court. The jury found the company’s talc-based

products had caused the women’s cancer, awarding \$550 million in compensatory damages and \$4.14 billion in punitive damages to all plaintiffs. Mark Lanier, a lawyer for the women, in a statement on Wednesday said he was confident the judgment would be upheld on appeal.

“We hope this judgment will compel Johnson & Johnson to take responsible, effective action in acknowledging the inherent dangers of the use of talc, and specifically the use of Johnson’s Baby Powder and similar products,” Lanier said. The verdict was the largest to date arising from lawsuits alleging products like J&J’s Baby Powder cause cancer. The company faces some 10,600 cases nationwide over talc, according to an August regulatory filing. J&J has called the five-week St. Louis trial “fundamentally unfair” and its Chief Executive Alex Gorsky has expressed confidence the jury decision will be overturned on appeal.

J&J has been successful at having other talc verdicts in Missouri thrown out on appeal. A lawyer for the company told Reuters J&J would focus on jurisdictional arguments and put forth its case that scientific studies overwhelmingly show talc itself is safe and the company’s talc-based products never contained asbestos.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-johnson-johnson-cancer-lawsuit/missouri-judge-affirms-4-69-billion-talc-verdict-jj-vows-to-appeal-idUSKCN1L721E>

Asbestos Case Among First for Kavanaugh in Supreme Court – by Matt Mauney 10th October 2018 – *Asbestos.com*

The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday will hear a product liability case filed by widows of Navy sailors seeking to recover damages for injuries related to asbestos exposure.

It will be the third case on the docket for Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was sworn in Saturday by Chief Justice John Roberts and retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

The asbestos case, Air and Liquid Systems Corp. v. DeVries, involves a group of Navy sailors who developed mesothelioma from asbestos exposure. Defendants include Air & Liquid Systems and other large companies that manufactured equipment used by the Navy. Key facts about the case:

Equipment sold by the companies typically had asbestos insulation added by third-party companies (now bankrupt) after the Navy purchased the machinery. The companies designed the equipment for use with asbestos insulation, a common building material in Navy ships for much of the 20th century. The machinery would not have functioned safely without the asbestos insulation. Injuries that occur at sea are typically outside of the territorial boundaries of any state. These cases fall under general maritime law where the ultimate authority is the Supreme Court. Maritime cases are unique to the Supreme Court because there are no statutory or constitutional texts to interpret. Rulings in these cases are guided by past decisions on maritime questions. Kavanaugh and the rest of the Supreme Court must decide whether the companies can be held liable under maritime law for injuries caused by asbestos they did not make, sell or distribute.

“Maritime law is one of the last subject areas where the U.S. Supreme Court applies ‘federal common law,’” Richard Myers, the attorney for the widows, told Bloomberg Law. “Although the resolution of manufacturers’ responsibilities for wear parts is an important issue in maritime law, the vast majority of asbestos lawsuits involve state law claims which are not directly affected by the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision under maritime law.” **Navy Is Immune from Liability**

The U.S. Navy and other branches of the U.S. armed forces are not liable for the conditions of military vessels.

Veterans and their loved ones who develop asbestos-related diseases linked to military service generally file lawsuits against the companies that supplied the asbestos materials.

In 2014, a Philadelphia judge sided with Air & Liquid Systems and the other companies at summary judgement. However, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit remanded the case in 2017, ruling that manufacturers may face liability for third-party component parts if the injury was “reasonably foreseeable.” Four companies are petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court on that ruling: Air & Liquid Systems (a subsidiary of Ampco-Pittsburgh Corp.) CBS Corp. (as the parent of National Amusements Inc.) Foster Wheeler LLC Ingersoll Rand PLC

Attorneys for the widows argue that while asbestos insulation was added after the sale to the Navy, the manufacturers knew asbestos was required for the machinery to safely function. “A pervasive theme running through the briefs of petitioners is that the tragedy of asbestos disease and death among sailors was really all the Navy’s fault; the petitioners did nothing more than sell the Navy the products it wanted,” reads the amicus brief of the plaintiffs. “The Court should disregard this argument entirely, both for threshold reasons of relevance and because it is utterly meritless. This is an ancient contention in asbestos litigation that has been repeatedly rejected.” **Kavanaugh Appointment Worries Environmental Groups**

Advocacy groups, such as the Environmental Working Group and the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, have expressed concern over the appointment of Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

In an August op-ed, EWG questioned if Kavanaugh would protect workers and consumers from dangerous health hazards such as asbestos. The group cited past rulings by Kavanaugh as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit where he voted or argued against environmental issues such as mercury pollution, air pollution and water pollution. In June, the Environmental Protection Agency announced a Significant New Use Rule that may open the door to new uses of asbestos after review from the agency.

“Ultimately, the EPA’s decision to ban asbestos or keep it legal, will almost certainly be challenged in the courts,” an EWG official said. “That’s why the critical swing vote on the Supreme Court — and Kavanaugh’s record on public health and safety — are so important.” U.S. Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., spoke on the Senate floor October 5 in opposition to Kavanaugh’s nomination. In his speech, he highlighted the greatest threat Kavanaugh may pose is with respect to the environment, based on the judge’s 12-year record on the bench.

“A review of Judge Kavanaugh’s nearly 300 opinions over the last 12 years — both concurrences and dissents — shows that Judge Kavanaugh has voted to weaken or block environmental protections a staggering 89 percent of the time,” Carper said. “I fear that, if confirmed, Judge Kavanaugh could well turn out to be the next Scott Pruitt; however, unlike former EPA Administrator Pruitt, whose tenure ended after 18 months, Brett Kavanaugh could damage our environment for a quarter century or more on the Supreme Court.”

In addition to the Navy asbestos exposure case, Kavanaugh will be a part of Supreme Court deliberations this week about immigration and the Armed Career Criminal Act.

<https://www.asbestos.com/news/2018/10/10/kavanaugh-asbestos-liability-navy/>

Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous companies

Latrobe Plumbing & Asbestos Specialists Pty Ltd – John Delost, Mark Day & Gary Carolan & we would also like to thank Paul Erbs, Sam Erbs & Darren Carman and all the team at Mairin OHS&E Consulting

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

- Ray, Ann & Craig Watson,
- Robert Rawlings,
- Jean & Ron Harwood,
- Emil Swiety,
- Marian & Bert Carrigy,
- Cyril Hibbert,
- Margaret Johnson & Roderick Davidson,
- Lavalla Catholic College,
- Peter Clark & Lee Archer,
- Michael Sargeant,
- Maree Phillips – equipment donation,
- Leanne Moore – equipment donation,
- Thady Blundell,
- Robert Rawlings donated a watch for Xmas raffle,
- Lynne Mansfield for hand knitted items for our raffles,
- Petra Webster for hand knitted items for our raffle,
- Marian Carrigy for donations to our Xmas raffle,
- Elaine Quirk

Sponsorship from Mairin OHS&E Consulting & Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency ASEA conference 2018

The ACV/GARDS org would like to thank very much, Mairin OHS&E Consulting & the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency for helping us to get to the ASEA conference this year in Sydney. We really appreciate their support. Without this help & understanding the community would be that much poorer for it. It is invaluable to our work to attend this conference and it certainly adds to our knowledge bank on what we know about asbestos. It also gives us the opportunity to contribute to the conference all our learnt experiences. The network that we build up at events such as this is also invaluable to us.

Gippsland Water Social Club

We want to thank all the terrific staff at GWS club for thinking of us. Every year they donate to us and we really appreciate their donations. It is fantastic to have a work place raise funds for charities and we are so pleased that we are on their list of people to donate to – every year we thank you so much for thinking of us.

Lions Club of Morwell

It was great to receive a donation from a great bunch of people, who do great work in the community. We thank all the lions club members for thinking of us and helping us to support asbestos sufferers and their families. The money you donated will be put to good use. From all at ACV/GARDS to all at the Lions Club of Morwell thank you so much for your generosity.

THANK

YOU!

Donations made in Memory of - John Jackson

- Doreen Jackson

Donations made in Memory of - Karl Mohr

- Susan Mohr

Donations made in Memory of - Trevor Burgess

- Vicki Burgess

Donations made in Memory of - Ray Rowley

- Glenda Rowley

Donations made in Memory of - Hank Devries

- Bert and Tina Devries

Donations made in Memory of - Barney Evans

- Jean Evans

Thank you

We would like to thank so much all those at the thrift shop in Newborough and the Parish of Yallourn for making a donation of \$1,000. It is greatly appreciated.

Sponsorship grant from Latrobe City

ACV/GARDS was very pleased to be notified that they had been successful in a small community grant from Latrobe City. The money that we have gained goes into one edition of our newsletter and as you can see we have put it into this one by the logo on the front page as our major sponsor for this edition. We thank those very much who granted us this small community grant as this helps us to deliver our message and news to the community and keep the very people we support connected to each other, so they know what is happening in the asbestos area.

Latrobe Valley Quilters Inc.

ACV/GARDS organisation was very honoured and privileged to accept a donation cheque from a wonderful bunch of quilters. It was a beautiful surprise to receive money raised from some very talented people who create what we believe are great works of art. They are special people with special talents. Again, from all of us at ACV/GARDS thank you so much for thinking of our organisation. The money will be put to good use in supporting asbestos sufferers and their families.

Thank you to those who made on line donations & Bank Transfers

- Peter Clark & Lee Archer, ■ Diane Wood,
- Lyn Young, ■ Michael Sargeant,
- Bree Knoester, ■ Elaine Quirk

George Davis thank you

The ACV/GARDS org would like to thank George very much for being able to find us a book that we were dearly searching for that had been out of print for a few years - Yallourn Power Station - The History by Colin Harvey – thanks George

Donations made in Memory of - Annette Thomas

- Stacey Podmore, ■ Svetlana Payne, ■ Janine McKelre,
- Maree Scanlan, ■ Jeremy Wong & Thi Nguyen,
- Rosemary Wong, ■ Anonymous \$50,
- Anonymous \$50, ■ Kathy & Wayne Colbert,
- Ray Thomas, ■ Doorty Kids, ■ Catherine Greenwood,
- Nat Genardini, ■ UHL, ■ Amelia Wong,
- Susan Carson, ■ Diane Wood, ■ Lyn Young

Vicki Burgess thank you

The ACV/GARDS org would like to thank Vicki very much for being able to find us a book that we were dearly searching for that had been out of print for a few years - Yallourn Power Station - The History by Colin Harvey – thanks Vicki

AGL LOY YANG DONATION

ACV/GARDS would like to thank AGL for the community donation made to our organisation – it is very much appreciated, and the money will be put to good use within the org. It is always great to have donations that support what we do in the community

We would like to thank Adviceline Injury Lawyers for donating to us recently. This helps us to support our sufferers and their families. It is great to have firms such as Adviceline supporting the work we do in the community – every bit helps us to delivery information, support and education.



Rossmore Hotel Yallourn North Bowling Club

We would like to thank the Rossmore Hotel publicans, 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 so far in 2018 and we look forward to talking to everyone and catching up on all the news. See you at the pub!



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

**CALL IN FOR A CHAT
AND CUPPA**

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2018

1.30PM – 3.30PM

■ Friday 30th November – Asbestos Awareness Day, Rose Garden, Morwell - 11am

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2019

1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at –
ACV/GARDS Premises 41 Monash Road, Newborough
■ Tuesday 26th February
■ Tuesday 26th March
■ Friday 26th April - International Workers Memorial Day Rose Garden, Morwell
■ Tuesday 28th May
■ Tuesday 25th June
■ Tuesday 30th July
■ Tuesday 27th August
■ Tuesday 24th September
■ Tuesday 29th October
■ Friday 29th Nov – Asbestos Awareness Day, Rose Garden, Morwell - 11am
■ Christmas Break-up -TBA

ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2018

7.30PM – 9.30PM

■ Tuesday 20 November

ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2019

7.30PM – 9.30PM

Meetings are held at –
ACV/GARDS Premises 41 Monash Road, Newborough
■ Tuesday 19th February
■ Tuesday 19th March
■ Tuesday 16th April
■ Tuesday 21st May
■ Tuesday 18th June
■ Tuesday 16th July
■ Tuesday 20th August
■ Tuesday 17th September
■ Tuesday 15th October
■ Tuesday 19th November
■ Christmas Break-up TBA

UP AND COMING EVENTS 2018/19

- **Wednesday 14 November 2018** - Asbestos Awareness Morning Tea, 10am- Noon- Our office
- **Friday 30 November 2018** - Centenary Rose Garden, Morwell – Commercial Road – 11am – 2pm
- **Saturday 1 December 2018** – Christmas Lunch – Silks Restaurant – Moe – 12 noon – 3pm
- **Sunday 27 January 2019 – AGM** – Our office - 2pm
- **Tuesday 26 February – Support Group Meeting – Speaker TBA** – this meeting will be at our new premises 211 Lloyd Street, Moe

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.



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>

Find out how you can donate
through work to us with
Good2Give

<https://good2give.ngo/contact/>

Phone: 03 5127 7744 24/7

Mobile: 0407 274 173

Website: www.gards.org

SKYPE: VickiGARDS



Find us on Facebook
facebook.com/gardsinc



Follow us on Twitter
twitter.com/VickiHamilton@ACV_GARDS

ACV/GARDS INC. SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

If preferred telephone counselling can be arranged.

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



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