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



ASBESTOS

NEWS

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**MAJOR SPONSOR
OF ACV/GARDS**



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EDITION**



Welcome to Monash University 1st Year Medical Students



Dinushi De Alwis



Padmanabhan Ramanujam



Merryl Rodrigues



Brendan Creely

Meet our 1st year Medical students from Monash University who are training with us on placement, each is doing 40 hours. These students picked us to come and learn more about asbestos other than the disease itself.

The four students will be exposed to the everyday lives of asbestos sufferers along with their families. They will get an insight into how community support and advocacy groups work and how they support their clients.

We are hoping to arrange for all four to have a tour of Loy Yang Power Station and mine area. We are also going to be taking the four students on some of our asbestos awareness sessions to the TAFE colleges to see first hand our apprentice awareness sessions.

They will also get a chance to talk one on one with one of our mesothelioma sufferers and his wife who have graciously consented to talk with them about their journey.

We are pleased to have them with us. Please read their Bios on **page 2** to learn more about our 4 enthusiastic medicos.



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



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twitter.com/VickiHamilton@ACV_GARDS



BIOGRAPHY

My name is Dinushi and I am 21 years old. I am a first year medical student from Monash University. My family consists of five members; I have an older sister who is a teacher and a younger brother who is currently in his secondary schooling. I was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka and moved to Melbourne, Australia in 2008 at the age of 11 years. As a child I played the piano, although I no longer play, my interests in music continues. In addition, I played basketball during my early secondary schooling. During my free time, I enjoy watching television shows and movies. I have an interest in travelling, especially to explore new cultures and traditions.

Since I have always been raised within a catholic environment, attending a catholic school was of extreme importance to my family. I attended Trinity Catholic Primary school, Narre Warren South in 2008. I graduated from Sacred Heart Girls' College, Oakleigh in 2014. Following secondary schooling, I decided to do a Bachelor of Biomedical science at Monash University. In 2015, I received the opportunity to volunteer at the Emergency Department at Monash Medical Centre, Clayton. Not only did this provide me with the opportunity to give something back to the community, but it also provided me with insight into a career in medicine. First hand evidence of the ability of doctors to make a difference in the lives of their patients sparked an interest in me towards Medicine. At the conclusion of my second year at university, I was offered a place to study medicine at Monash University which led me to where I am today.

In addition to volunteering, I worked part time as an English and Maths tutor at Enhance Academics from 2015-2017, where I received the opportunity to teach primary and secondary children to help them achieve their best at school. I was also invited to be a mentor for year 12 students at my former school to guide the students with their learning and help them cope with the stress of year 12.

I am constantly challenged by people with the question of why I chose to study medicine at Monash, with an emphasis on rural medicine. When it comes to healthcare, I believe that there is a huge discrepancy in the medical resources that are available to people in rural regions compared to those in metropolitan regions. Studying medicine at Monash would allow me to further my understanding regarding these inequities and enable me to identify the factors that contribute to the perpetuation of this state, so that in the future, as a healthcare professional, I am able to make a small change in the lives of these people. Receiving the opportunity to conduct my Community Based Practice placement at Asbestos Council Victoria/ GARDS has enabled me to begin to address this issue; it has exposed me to an unrecognised factor of asbestos that significantly contributes to the elevated levels of respiratory illness especially within the Gippsland community where the rates of illness are significantly higher than those in metropolitan regions of Australia.



BIOGRAPHY

My name is Padmesh Ramanujam and I am a 22 years old first year medical student from Monash University. I completed my Honours Bachelors of Science degree at the University of Toronto, Canada with specialization in neurosciences. This is my second time coming to Australia after my splendid internship experience in Tasmania in 2016. In 2016, I did a 3-month summer internship as part of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship at the Launceston General Hospital, Tasmania. My interaction with medical students in Tasmania motivated me to apply for medicine in Australia.

Though I always had a passion for sciences since my young age, my desire to study medicine grew tremendously during my undergraduate career. Before beginning my undergraduate studies, my father was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and I was for the first time exposed to the range of hospital settings that I had never experienced before. The type of specialist doctors I met, the manner they interacted and communicated with my father/family, and their ability to make a significant difference in people's lives really inspired me to pursue medical science as a career. Besides, the reason I chose to study medicine, because opposed to being involved in research, medicine gives me the opportunity to communicate with patients directly and make a difference in their lives. Working as a research student at the Spinal Cord Injury Clinic at the Toronto Western Hospital (TWH), I was able to disentangle the mechanisms of Cervical Spondylolytic Myelopathy (CSM) disease process and decipher different treatment options available in this disease. Though I was unable to appreciate the impact of my research in medicine, I discovered that I was able to directly make a difference in people's lives and get to know about their health concerns. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to physician-shadow my research supervisor in Tasmania and in Toronto, and this made me realize that medicine is a multi-dimensional professional that involves working with variety of different professionals/experts with different skill sets which also supports my lifelong learning goal.

In addition to being exposed to medical setting as family member of a patient, I have also been exposed as a patient support volunteer at the TWH. As a hospital volunteer at the neurosurgery clinic, I had the privilege to witness the settings where patients become vulnerable and circumstances they are taken as granted by several health care professionals. Notably, I witnessed how unhurried compassionate conversation with patients can heal their mental and physical illnesses. Importantly, I realized how becoming a doctor gives me the privilege to advocate for my patients regarding their social inequalities that might be impacting their mental and physical health, as I am currently learning from my Community Based Placement (CBP) at the Asbestos Council of Victoria.

I have couple of interests to keep myself entertained during my leisure time. I am an avid cricket follower and I rarely fail to follow any international match that is happening elsewhere in the planet. Indeed, it is very easy to start a conversation with me if it involves anything with cricket and I am available anytime to play a game with anyone. If there's anyone out there looking for a cricket player in their team or going to the MCG for a game, I am up for it! Besides, I like cooking and travelling (alone). In other times, — I equip myself with reading latest research on neuroscience and mental health.



BIOGRAPHY

Hello everyone! I am a first-year medical student at Monash University. I'm from Edmonton which is a city in Canada. I'm a newbie with only 2 months of life experience in Australia, and I'm loving my time here. I am the oldest child in the family and I have a younger brother who is studying engineering in Canada. But I decided to study in Australia because I've always wanted to live here. I believe that studying aboard would broaden my horizon, life encounters and perspective.

While growing up, my dad would play music from the 60s and as a result, I've grown to love that kind of music. You can say I'm an oldie at heart. Aside from music and singing, I also love to dance. At my previous university, I was a member of the Swing-out Edmonton Dance club. We mainly learned Lindy Hop with a little bit of Charleston thrown into the mix.

My fun little confession is that as a little girl, the library is my favorite place to visit, and it still is! I like the smell of books and, there is something exciting about rows of books neatly shelved one after the other. I can keep going on about why I find the library so thrilling, but I'll save you from that speech. So in a nutshell, I am a 60s girl with glasses who loves to jitterbug!

Among the many reason I chose medicine- medicine has the potential to push the limits of our biology. I think that's what initially drew me to it. When I was considering medicine, I had to decide what I was willing to struggle for – long nights of studying, additional years of training of after medical school etc. But medicine meaningful; it works towards ensuring wellbeing for the people. I am not yet certain of which specialty I want to pursue because I haven't been on any rotations yet (i.e. experienced work at different specialties in a hospital setting). In Canada, I did a fair bit of research during my summer holidays. My research topics evolved around Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, which a genetic disorder that causes muscle weakness in little boys. I like research because it advances medicine and brings about change; and I like to be a part of change. Recently, I feel a pull towards research in public health and how aspects of the healthcare delivery impacts peoples' lives.

I feel honored to be placed at Asbestos Council of Victoria. Since asbestos is a topic that is often kept hidden from the frontlines, I am interested to learn about the social and health perspectives, not from a third party, but from the people whose lives are altered by asbestos. I look forward to learning from everyone about what makes a good doctor, and what are some frustrating aspects of medicine.



BIOGRAPHY

I was born and raised in Bendigo before moving to Melbourne for university. I studied Physiotherapy at Monash and decided to go on and study Medicine at Monash after finishing my first degree.

I work as a Physio in Melbourne on weekends and study throughout the week.

I have a strong interest in emergency medicine, public health and international medicine.

I enjoy meeting people and am always open to recommendations on food, music and places to see.

I grew up in Bendigo as the youngest of three. I played soccer, football and orienteering. I grew up with several dogs (golden retrievers and newfoundland's), a couple of rabbits and a goat. Most of my childhood friends lived on farms and before high school I always thought having lots of pets was quite normal. I moved through several public schools while in Bendigo before finishing at Bendigo Senior Secondary College. We spent most of our family holidays camping or hiking. I still love heading down to Wilson's Promontory. I follow Hawthorn like the rest of family and go along to the games that I can.

Like a lot of people I worked in fast food and waiting in cafes while at school. Following this I went on to become a radiology porter at our local hospital. I have most recently worked as physiotherapy tutor and currently work as a physiotherapist in Melbourne. My family all work in healthcare and I grew up surrounded in that environment. I took an interest in physiotherapy probably as a result of my interest in health and exercise. I also developed a passion for travelling. This lead to doing a voluntary rotation through Saigon as a physiotherapy student and prompted my interest in international and public health. I like the chance to push myself and get out of my comfort zone. I pick up hobbies that let me do this. I started backpacking overseas when I was 18, I got my solo skydiving license when I was 22 and I've started Medicine at 24 years old.

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



Federation Training Newborough 2018



It was a pleasure to attend the local TAFE College in late February and talk with apprentice Painter and Decorators.

It is all about making the Apprentices asbestos aware! They had some great questions to ask and we hope that they took in some or if not all of what sort of subjects we touched on around

the issues. The apprentices sometimes think that because Australia has banned asbestos in 2003 (importing, exporting and reuse) that we don't have a problem – unfortunately that is not the case – because Australia was one of the biggest users in the 80s we have a great deal of asbestos in situ and it is all getting past its use by date and needs to be removed. We also have a lot of imports from overseas that are managing to get through our

border checks, this makes it even more difficult trying to manage asbestos in Australia and one of the issues is once the asbestos building materials are in place our own laws don't allow us to take it out when we find out it is asbestos. It is most important that the apprentices are aware that asbestos is not a thing of the past – that it is a real and present danger and can be lurking in and around jobs they are taking on. We teach the students to speak up

and ask if they think there might be asbestos in the job they are about to undertake, and we make them aware that it is alright to ask to see if there is an up to date asbestos register for the site or has there been an asbestos audit done on the job they are about to commence work on. ACV/GARDS will be attending again to talk with 150+ apprentices from all trades in late June – looking forward to meeting them all.

Probus Club of Heathmont Asbestos Aware



On the 9th of April we were very privileged and honoured to be able to address 50 gentleman on the issues of asbestos.

We had a frank discussion about past exposures and what is now and current around asbestos imports and aging asbestos products in our community. The men said to us that they were surprised about some of the things we were talking about and that other issues we touched on they found it quite confronting. Their concerns for grandchildren was quite well founded – about the issues that will confront future generations with the mess from the past. It is a legacy I think we can all be ashamed that we are passing

onto future generations. We can only hope that if we act to try and mitigate some of what we have done that their job won't seem so mammoth into the future. We also hope that by taking the steps we are taking now that asbestos disease will become a thing of the past and we will not see thousands of unnecessary deaths that could have been prevented. We sincerely thank Allan McDermott for asking us to come along and try to make 50 men asbestos aware! And we thank you very much for your donation to our org. Thanks for making us feel very welcome guys, it was just wonderful to meet you all. Here are some of the enthusiastic members pictured left with the ACV/GARDS girls, Dot and Marie. Photo taken by Vicki

Epping TAFE – Melbourne Polytechnic Asbestos Aware

*Pictured below are; The group from our visit of the 16th April
Special thank you to Allan Laird and Ian Hartwick*



On the 16th & 30th of April Vicki and Dorothy travelled to Epping to talk with 60+ apprentice Painting and Decorating students.

It was great to meet such a varied group of apprentices ranging in age from 16 to mature age – men and women. The questions were many and varied – some of the apprentices were overwhelmed to find out how many products had and have asbestos in them. We hope that we have empowered them to ask the questions before they start any job - is there any asbestos on this job? and has there been an audit done? or is there an asbestos register?. We have talked about no high pressure hosing or sanding a wall or item that is asbestos before they paint. We had many scenarios that were talked about – some apprentices were concerned that they may have already been exposed – they were given the knowledge to register their exposures and to talk to their employers about those jobs. We also tackled the at home asbestos scene and the things they come across in their everyday lives that are not part of the working scene – such as crayons, black market cigarettes, gaskets for cars and brakes etc. It was certainly an eye opener and they now are very aware that asbestos is not a thing of the past – it is now a clear and present danger. It has been a privilege to meet and talk with so many and to try and make them think about the job they undertake so they are asbestos aware!

Pictured left are; are the group we visited on the 30th April

Leongatha Parkinson's Support Group Asbestos Aware

On the 19th January we were very pleased to go along to the Parkinson's support group to talk about asbestos past, present, and the future.

We talked to around 30 members at their first meeting of the year. It was great to get some very thought provoking questions and there was plenty of discussion around asbestos and farm areas and domestic homes. We would like to thank Palma Noblet

for asking us to come along and meet everyone. It was a great morning and we had some lovely chats with very interesting people who were more than happy to share their stories of asbestos experiences and what they have encountered with us. If there is anyone who would like to join the group we have the contact details and are more than happy to pass them onto anyone who is interested in joining – they are a great bunch of people.



1st Year Medical Students – Monash University – Gippsland Campus



On the 1st of May ACV/GARDS were asked to come out and speak with the 1st year medical students. ACV/GARDS has been doing this tutorial for over 10+ years. We have seen hundreds of students who have gone onto become doctors all around Australia.

As you can see the students have just celebrated Monash Universities 10 years in teaching medical students. It has grown in stature since ACV/GARDS first started to talk with students at Monash University Medical School, Churchill campus.

The students asked some very in depth questions of our panel of experts – sometimes these questions can be very confronting for our expert panel but they manage to convey the answers to the students with the hope that the students will carry these answers from the heart into their working careers.

We want the students to put themselves in the place of who they are speaking to, imagining that these very people could be their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, Aunties



and Uncles – we want the students to remember what they say and do affects those that they are treating, both the physical and the mental wellbeing. That everything they do and say has a lasting effect on all who they touch. That they have a very important role to play in the lives of nearly perfect strangers and what they do changes the course of these people for the rest of their lives.

The students were wonderful with our panel and very sensitive to their comments and inner most thoughts.

The 2018 medical students are very lucky to get some very special people who, so obligingly granted them some of their time.

We want to thank so very much Brian & Karen Healy, Sharyn Fenech, Rhonda Dunn, Marie Smith and Dorothy Roberts for making themselves available for this special morning with the students.

We hope that what has been shared will help the students to become more knowledgeable doctors around asbestos disease and the issues that



come with the disease for the families who take care of their loved ones.

Thank you so much to Margaret Simmons for organising this get together with her class of fantastic and very special medical students and we wish them all the best in their chosen career path.



Energy Australia Donation

In May ACV/GARDS was donated money to purchase an oxygen concentrator to add to our bank of medical equipment that we give out to asbestos sufferers who are members of our association. Members who live in the Gippsland area are able to access this equipment free of charge. We are very grateful to the OH&S unit at Yallourn Energy Australia for supporting our org in this manner. The money is raised through

OH&S credits when the station does an outage of some kind, and if all goes well and there have been no accidents while the outage has been undertaken then the money is then given out to community groups in the local area. We were lucky enough to be one of those groups to benefit by this scheme, along with 5 other groups.

Pictured: Some of the OH&S committee from EnergyAustralia Yallourn with Vicki, Marie and Dorothy



International Workers Memorial Day Event 2018



On the 27th of April in the Centenary Rose Garden in Morwell ACV/GARDS and GTLC staged their IWMD for 2018. ACV/GARDS has been conducting this event for the last 17 years.

The ceremony was well attended by workers and family alike. We were very privileged to have speaking on the day Paul Fowler, the Acting Executive of Health and Safety at WorkSafe Vic, we were also very honoured to have Nigel Browne, Manager of Business for AGL Loy Yang speaking and our perennial

speakers Steve Dodd Secretary of the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council & AMWU organiser as well as Vicki Hamilton OAM CEO/Secretary of Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS

The weather was kind to us – it was very mild in temp and the rose garden looked magnificent as usual. The crowd that gathered listened very intently to those who spoke about safety and going home to families at the end of the day. We got a real sense of the connectedness of those who gathered that the only way to make change in work places across Australia was to look out for each other and to fight for worker's rights to go home safely at the end

of the day.

Simon Fink was the pastor who delivered the ecumenical service on the day with some witty and thought provoking statements.

As usual we were very lucky to have Dick Henry piping for us – the bagpipes rang out all over the gardens and it sounded wonderful. We were entertained by Susan Parrish, Joe Omar and Phil Edwards with up lifting songs and ballads.

Our families were able to lay flowers/wreaths in memory of loved ones lost or those who were ill from their workplaces.

Everyone who attended could feel the genuine out pouring of emotional solidarity to make workplaces safe places and not to hear stories of the young and older workers having their lives cut short in preventable accidents.

We want to thank all those who came along on the day to make it a memorable gathering and we would like very much to thank all those who helped with the setting up and packing up of marquees and equipment. We could not do it without all the support we receive from our friends, members and supporters.



Bendigo TAFE Asbestos Awareness 2018

May the 7th saw Dorothy and Vicki delivering two asbestos awareness sessions one in the morning and one in the afternoon to apprentice electricians, painting and decorating, Plumbing, and Carpentry.

There were around 160+ apprentices that took part in the awareness sessions. Lots of questions were asked and many conversations around good OH&S and being able to see situations arise when you might want to say "is this asbestos here?" or to ask if there is a hazardous substance registered on the site, or has an asbestos audit been undertaken on these premises. We are trying to empower apprentices to ask these questions of their bosses and managers of sites where they might be put to work. The apprentices also learned about the domestic scene and home renos, imports and much more. The questions were thoughtful

and interactive. Both the boys and girls went away empowered and with more knowledge than they came in with. This was our goal and our question/assessment sheets we gave them at the end of the session told us loud and clear that they had learnt a lot more about the asbestos issues and that they would use the info to help keep themselves safer and their mates. They also commented on how useful what they had learnt will be in their home environments to keep their families safe. That is what it is all about and we were happy to walk away at the end of day knowing that everyone got something out of the sessions. Thank you to the trade teachers who support this program, it is great to work with enthusiastic teachers who also added their experience to the mix of knowledge presented. We wish the apprentices all the best in their chosen professions, we are sure they will be terrific Trades people with great teachers to guide them through their training years.



ACTU Visited ACV/GARDS

Early in June we were lucky enough to have the Assistant Secretary of the ACTU, Michael Borowick visit our office for a cuppa and chat about all things asbestos.

It was great to catch up with him. Michael had a look around our office and viewed our medical equipment. He was very interested to see what sort of equipment we give out to our sufferers and their families. We discussed lots of issues around asbestos and what is happening here in the Valley. Good to see him for a catch up.



A Big Thank you to the Gippsland Unions Picnic

On behalf of all of us at ACV/GARDS we want to thank all the union members who help to make a donation to us annually.

We just received a donation recently which we felt honoured and privileged to accept. The cheque they give us every year goes towards looking after and supporting families who are looking after someone sick from

asbestos disease, this sickness is a very preventable one and no one should be dying of this disease. We thank all the unions that come together for the picnic every year to have some fun with their work colleagues and their families, and they still have time to think of those who are ill or who have died of asbestos due to an unsafe workplace that made them sick. Thank you to you all – it is a very generous thing to do.

Littlest member of ACV/GARDS

On the 12th of June at our night meeting the ACV/GARDS organisation welcomed a new member into our midst.

We are very proud to announce the littlest member of ACV/GARDS ever. Two and a half week old Ethan Graeme Fairbairn has joined the ranks of the organisation as an official member and attended his first meeting on the 12th. Ethan was presented with his membership

badge and a trophy for recognition as being our youngest member to join. Ethan was born on the 26th May to our members Tanya and David Fairbairn. David as everyone will know is our Treasurer, so the new addition to his family has now been welcomed into the wider family of ACV/GARDS. We congratulate Tanya and David on the safe arrival of Ethan and are looking forward to seeing Ethan at some of our events in the future.



Pictured here are the proud couple with their new baby.

APHEDA REPS VISIT ACV/GARDS

Australian People For Health, Education & Development Abroad



2/5/2018 we had @apheda at our ACV/GARDS office with the Indonesian ban asbestos campaigners for 2018 tour - Darisman & Subono along with Sam, Mary-Beth & Tom.

It was an honour and pleasure to meet and talk with them about asbestos issues and advocacy- We had a great talk about the issues in their country and some of the issues we have had in Australia over the years. It was wonderful having them with us for a few hours and to get to know them. We also were privileged to have Dinushi & Padmesh our 1st year



medical students from Monash University who are volunteering their time at the office and learning so much. All our visitors were treated to a great Aussie morning tea - the unionists all set off to meet up with the #gippstlc and head for a snag on the BBQ at Longford

Lions Club Leongatha Asbestos Aware



23rd May the ACV/GARD girls made a trip to Leongatha to meet the Lions Club members and make them asbestos aware.

It was wonderful meeting a great bunch of committed country people who support their communities in every way they can. It was our privilege and honour to meet them and give them an insight into a carcinogen that lurks in their community in many things that they had no idea it was in and things that still contain asbestos in their community. The questions were thoughtful – I am sure there will be much talk in the coming weeks about asbestos in their community and we hope that we have been of service to them. The Lions club now know where they can get factual information and be able to act on their concerns into the future. The group were left with info bags containing contact details of places that they may need into the future. Again, thank you for your hospitality it was greatly appreciated.

Vale Terry Miller OAM

31/5/2018 - It is with deep regret that we say goodbye to one of the good guys - Terry Miller OAM former President of the Asbestos Victims Association of SA passed away surrounded by his family.

Terry had severe Asbestosis that he contracted working at the James Hardie pipe factory in Elizabeth West South Australia - conditions at the factory were awful according to Terry and he described coming home covered in asbestos dust, which stuck to his clothes, skin and hair.

We first met Terry with the start of the James Hardie campaign back in 2004 - by then Terry had been a part of a small group that formed AVA in 2000.

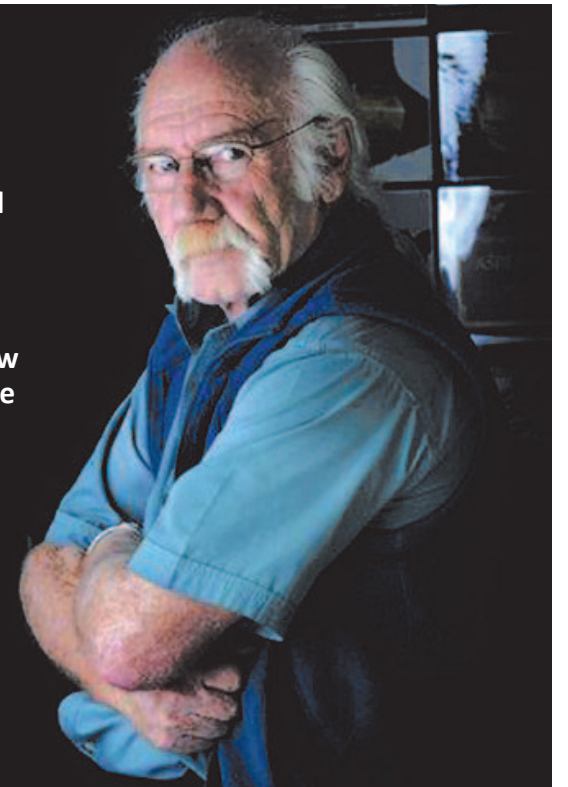
Our friendship grew over that time and we formed a strong bond that lasted the test of time. Many

phone calls - many meetings and a lot of good will from our friendship with Terry and the AVA gang saw us united in changing the face of asbestos in Australia.

Terry devoted himself to helping others as he knew only too well what this disease could do to you. He was a true blue Aussie and we will miss him very much.

Our sincerest condolences go to his family, his children, Karen and Scott, two grand-children and two great grandchildren.

Terry may you RIP, your struggle is over mate and you did a mighty effort. It was an honour and privilege to have known you and call you friend.



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

On the 16th May What 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 two of our International 1st year medical students from Monash University Gippsland campus. These are 2 of the 4 four students who are 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 from the top to the bottom - 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. Our next two are due to visit in July.



Our Hopes for the Future of Morwell



Monday 21 May, saw the ACV/GARDS girls hop on a bus that had been hired to take a group from Latrobe Valley down to the Photographic Exhibition "Our Hopes for the future of Morwell" on display in Queen's Hall Parliament House Melbourne.

This is the 2nd of a few exhibitions of this photographic exhibition that will travel around to other areas of Victoria

and other states. The exhibition was born out of the people's hopes for the future of Morwell which had its roots in two unexpected places: the Hazelwood Mine Fire in 2014 and an academic study into community recovery from that fire. The Hazelwood mine fire burned for 45 days in February and March 2014, shrouding the surrounding communities – especially Morwell – in smoke and ash. The exhibition displays the hopes of the communities to see growth and renewal against all odds.



Have you paid your ACV/GARDS Membership Fees?

Please check 2017/18 fees are now overdue

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

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



ACV/GARDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Was held on Saturday 27th January 2018 at 2.00pm Election of Positions were taken up by:
President – Dorothy Roberts,
Treasurer – David Fairbairn
Committee Member – Sharyn Fenech.

We want to congratulate all our new committee who were elected unopposed and wish them all the best for the next two years.

Other business that was conducted on the day was the election of our **Auditor for 2018/19 – Jamie Coltman** was elected to that position – Jamie has been our auditor for a number of years and does a great job.

Thank you to all of you for volunteering to make ACV/GARDS a fantastic organisation.

Asbestos Snippets

Australia

Interview with Peter Tighe, Chief Executive, Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency – ABC Radio Melbourne, Statewide Breakfast, Jacinta Parsons & Sami Shah, 2nd April 2018

Interview with Peter Tighe, Chief Executive, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, about concerns on Brighton Bathing Boxes having dangerous asbestos roofing. Tighe says he has not seen the roofing directly, but says it is pretty easy to identify if there is really asbestos on the roofing. He explains that the roofing is now right at the end of its usefulness, noting that most of it would be about 40 to 50 years of age. He explains that the original roofs do not have protection making them prone to asbestos. He says someone needs to have a look at it before it becomes more problematic in the future. He says it also is important to put out a warning because it is a public issue. He says the Dromana Foreshore Bathing Boxes also experience the same issue. He says it is not really a big job, saying it will only cost less than a couple thousand of dollars.

Banning Asbestos Only One Step on a Long Road – Asbestos.com – Tim Povtak, 2nd April 2018

Banning all forms of asbestos won't end the problem of asbestos-related diseases.

It is merely a good starting point. As more countries around the world move closer to an outright ban, Australia has become a reminder to guard against false hope. The Australian experience proves how unrelenting this problem is and how much more work must be done. Fifteen years after its much-celebrated ban of the toxic mineral, Australia has just reached its peak of asbestos-related diseases such as malignant mesothelioma cancer. "It took many years, and efforts from many organizations, for a complete ban to be put in place," epidemiologist Dr. Matthew Soeberg of the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) told Asbestos.com. "But Australia's asbestos legacy will continue for many decades to come, posing an ongoing public health risk."

<https://www.asbestos.com/news/2018/04/02/banning-asbestos-one-step-long-road/>

High Court Urged to make Amaca pay lost Super & Age Pension – Lawyerly – Christine Caulfield, 4th April 2018

There is nothing novel about a dying mesothelioma sufferer seeking damages for the loss of 17 years' of superannuation and the age pension, the High Court has been told ahead of an expedited hearing on the question of whether the benefits count as compensable loss of earnings in tort cases.

<http://lawyerly.com.au/high-court-urged-make-amaca-pay-lost-super-age-pension/>

North Fremantle: signs warn swimmers to move on at Sandtracks & Port beaches – Fremantle Gazette – Jon Bassett, 4 April 2018

Swimmers are being told to dip elsewhere because of dangerous debris including asbestos at Sandtracks and Port beaches next to Fremantle Port in North Fremantle. Daily beach users still want the beaches and dunes cleaned, despite being told by council staff a meeting of managers had concluded the work would be uneconomic.

<https://www.communitynews.com.au/fremantle-gazette/news/north-fremantlessigns-warn-swimmers-to-move-on-at-sandtracks-and-port-beaches/>

Asbestos in half of Tathra's fire homes – Canberra Times – Blake Foden, 5th April 2018

RISK VERDICT Residents declared safe – Almost half the homes destroyed by last month's Tathra bushfires contained asbestos, but authorities say the town is safe and there is no risk to residents. Bega Valley Shire Council waste services manager Toby Browne said 30 of the 68 homes razed by the fires, which began on March 18, contained asbestos. Mr Browne said he expected up to 6000 tonnes of fire-damaged asbestos waste would be removed from the New South Wales seaside town in the coming weeks.

<https://readnow.isentia.com/Temp/84456/935691236.pdf>

EPA cleans up Victorian hotel asbestos – 7NEWS – Christine McGinn, 5th April 2018

Asbestos has been found in the ruins of a hotel destroyed by fire in northwest Victoria, prompting the state's environment watchdog to step in. The Sea Lake Hotel in the Mallee district burnt down in April last year and the property owner failed to clean up asbestos found after its demolition, the Environment Protection Authority says. The EPA fenced off the site and issued a clean-up notice but will now step in to remove the asbestos after the property owner failed to comply

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/epa-cleans-up-victorian-hotel-asbestos-39738692.html>

Queensland's safety regulator steps up its safety audit of licenced asbestos removalists – SafetyCulture.com – Haydee, 3rd April 2018

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is stepping up its inspection of licenced asbestos removalists, and will target those with poor records when it comes to compliance. Asbestos removalists who have a history of repeated poor practices are being completely assessed by a team of specialist inspectors to check whether its licence will be kept, suspended or cancelled.

<http://content.safetyculture.com.au/news/index.php/04/queenslands-safety-regulator-steps-safety-audit-licenced-asbestos-removalists/#.WwPgkfZuKUK>

Lance Holt Primary School given all clear after closure for fears of asbestos from nearby work site – The West Australian – Joey Catanzaro, 3rd April 2018

A Fremantle primary school was forced to cancel classes today after parents complained about possible asbestos on a nearby building site.

The Lance Holt Primary School decided to close its doors for the day after parents raised concerns about debris coming from an apartment development on Henry Street. The old Social Club site is currently being redeveloped into boutique apartments by Australian Development Capital. But construction was suspended by Fremantle Council and the school sent away samples to be independently tested. The council wanted to eliminate any chance it could be asbestos and it too conducted tests. The tests came back clear late this evening. Fremantle parent Julie Morgan said construction had taken its toll on her children though. "The dust has been coming across the school, I've had my kids suffering from breathing difficulties," she said. The company has provided documentation showing it had asbestos removed from the site in January and say they are not aware of any other "tangible" quantities of it on site.

Worksafe found no issues with dust pollution, during an inspection last Thursday, but the council pledged to keep works suspended until the results had come back

<https://thewest.com.au/news/fremantle/lance-holt-primary-school-closes-for-the-day-after-fears-of-asbestos-from-nearby-work-site-ng-b88794251z/>

Urgent beach box audit by Mornington Peninsula Shire amid fears of deadly asbestos – Herald Sun – Christian Tatman, 9th April 2018

Concerns about deadly asbestos have sparked an urgent council audit of the Peninsula's beach boxes amid fears beachgoers could be at risk. Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency chief executive Peter Tighe said it was critical the potential threat was addressed. Mr Tighe said asbestos deteriorated over time, leading to the deadly fibres becoming airborne. "Asbestos roof sheeting is common – you (council) should have a management plan in place to address the issue," he said. Mr Tighe said a concerned individual had contacted the agency and sent photographs of beach boxes at Dromana showing asbestos in the roofing. Dromana Foreshore Committee chair Julie Allan said her organisation had been concerned about asbestos in beach boxes for more than a decade. Ms Allan said the committee had directed beach box owners in its area to remove asbestos by 2022. Mornington Peninsula Beach Box Association vice president Rick Gallienne said he estimated that 10 to 15 per cent of the structures in the municipality contained asbestos. But the amount of asbestos in beach boxes was being reduced due to ongoing maintenance, particularly the replacement of older rooves, he said. Mornington Peninsula Shire property and strategy manager, Yasmin Woods, said there were 1300 bathing boxes on the Mornington Peninsula coastline, but the shire only managed 830 of them. "Many of these boatsheds and bathing boxes may contain asbestos due to the era in which they were constructed," she said in a statement. "Asbestos-containing material is an important issue on the Mornington Peninsula, both on shire owned or managed land and on private land. "The most appropriate methods to assess and mitigate the risks posed by asbestos-containing material on boatsheds is to undertake an audit." Ms Woods said the audit was expected to be completed by the end of the financial year. "In the past when there has been asbestos apparent at beach boxes the owners have been responsible for asbestos removal and associated costs," she said.

<http://online.isentialink.com/heraldsun.com.au/2018/04/08/05101185-4980-4bd3-b306-3d762dc7b13d.html>

Dying man waiting for asbestos compo ruling – The Australian – Luke Griffiths, 18th April 2018

Lawyers for an Adelaide man who last year was awarded the largest ever asbestos compensation payout in South Australia are hoping for a hasty judgment following an appeal to the High Court yesterday. The court must decide whether 70-year-old Anthony Latz, who was too ill to attend the hearing, should be awarded income from superannuation and the age pension he would have received if he were not destined to die prematurely because of exposure to asbestos while using a James Hardie product in the mid-1970s. Amaca Pty Ltd, formerly James Hardie, appealed against last year's Supreme Court decision to award Mr Latz the pensions he otherwise would have received for the rest of his life. Mr Latz is also challenging a Supreme Court decision to deduct from the awarded damages the benefit his partner will receive upon his death. The District Court

awarded Mr Latz \$1.06 million compensation in May last year, an amount the Supreme Court later reduced by almost \$200,000. Annie Hoffman from Turner Freeman Lawyers told The Australian after yesterday's High Court hearing that Mr Latz was "very unwell" and everything was being done "to get an outcome in his lifetime". "The court is aware of his current condition ... we don't know how long it (a judgment) will be, but we're hoping it will be fairly quick," she said. The outcome of the case is not only significant for Mr Latz and other asbestos victims, but it could substantially affect how compensation is calculated for anyone whose life is shortened due to the negligence of others. Mr Latz, a retired surveyor and public servant who now lives in the Adelaide suburb of Stonyfell, developed mesothelioma after being exposed to a James Hardie product in the mid-1970s while constructing a fence. The District Court said James Hardie failed to give Mr Latz any warnings or advice and "its failure to do so was motivated by its thirst for profit, which it valued ahead of his safety". "James Hardie was fully informed about the dangers of asbestos. It knew it could kill end users," said judge Brian Gilchrist, awarding the compensation. "It failed to warn Mr Latz of the potential harm he might suffer by using its product."

<https://readnow.isentia.com/Temp/84456/941377433.pdf>

The \$8 million Mr Fluffy street – The Sydney Morning Herald – Megan Doherty, 20 April 2018

Hawker Street in Torrens already has the dubious distinction of having the largest number of Mr Fluffy blocks of any street in Canberra. Now, it may also prove to be the most lucrative for the ACT government. The nine cleared, remediated blocks are selling, or have sold for, a combined \$7.67 million in the sought-after street, which sits below Mount Taylor. Two of the blocks have price tags of at least \$1 million, each backing on to the reserve. No. 62 Hawker Street, which has a lot size of almost 1500 square metres, has a sale price of \$1.025 million. No. 50 Hawker Street, which sits high on the street and is almost 1300 square metres, sold for \$1 million.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/act/the-8-million-mr-fluffy-street-20180420-p4zapa.html>

Wonder product's sinister side – Adeliade Advertiser – Ron Blum, 23rd April 2018

ASBESTOS-cement sheeting used for roofing and cladding of housing rose to necessity during World War II for military buildings and, postwar, it evolved as a great product in the Boomer period. It was affordable, fireproof and easy to work. In the factory, it could be moulded into corrugated sheets or simply supplied in flat sheets. It was deemed to be a wonder product until decades later it was found to be more sinister. Asbestos fibres within became airborne when cutting and breathed into the lungs, caused asbestosis and other diseases. In the 1980s, fibro sheeting containing asbestos was banned in Australia. The fibro material (asbestos) within the cement was replaced by cellulose material. In this photograph from my collection, above, taken during the post-war building period, we see a model of a home that could be won as first prize. It extols the virtues of "tomorrow's asbestos-cement home!"

<https://readnow.isentia.com/Temp/84456/943592220.pdf>

Truck dumps rubbish potentially contaminated with asbestos in driveway – Nine News – Sarah Stewart, 21 April 2018

Police are hunting for the driver of a truck that dumped suspicious material, believed to contain asbestos, in the driveway of a family home in Sydney's northwest. The tip truck was caught on CCTV at 9.17pm yesterday passing the house in Oatlands before turning around. It drove past the house a second time before stopping. The driver can then be seen getting out and opening the tailgate, making several attempts to reverse the vehicle into a driveway. The driver eventually succeeds in tipping several bags of rubbish onto the driveway. Some of the bags split on impact, spreading material all over the driveway. Two young girls – convinced a car has crashed into their house – emerge running from the house to see what happened. Armanii Haddad was looking after the four children inside the home at the time and told 9NEWS she thought a "car had crashed into the house". "We heard a loud bang, it was so scary," Ms Haddad said. Fire crews and police were called to the scene. Officers were uncertain whether the rubbish contained asbestos but took precautionary measures in any case, sealing and covering it in plastic. "We're not too sure if it's asbestos, but have treated it as asbestos to contain it and render it safe," Adam Dewberry from NSW Fire and Rescue said. The home owner will now have to pay for the rubbish to be removed; if the waste had been dumped just a metre further forward, Paramatta City Council would have had to deal with the removal. Neighbour, Ronnie, told 9NEWS he has no idea why the house was targeted. The occupants have told 9NEWS they have no idea why it was dumped in their driveway in the first place. "I think the street might have been chosen because of its secluded nature," Ronnie said. Investigators continue to search for

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the person behind the wheel of the truck. They could face fines of up to \$1 million.

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/2018/04/21/08/18/oatlands-sydney-asbestos-rubbish-truck-dumping-family-home>

Asbestos remains two years on – *Starweekly* – *Tate Papworth*, 24 April 2018

Despite a public push to have the hazardous material removed, a section of the park remains fenced off. Parks Victoria western district manager Melbourne Craig Bray said the park was safe. "Asbestos material has been removed from main visitor access points, allowing for safe access to the key sections of park," he said. "Parks Victoria, in conjunction with the EPA, VicRoads and the City of Brimbank, is now working on a plan to treat the remainder of the affected area, to which public access has been closed. "Until then, fencing will remain in place and air monitoring at the site will continue." The asbestos was discovered in April 2016 and despite Parks Victoria saying it would work to have the clean-up occur as safely and as quickly as possible, the material remains. The section of park between Green Gully Road and Kulin Wetlands was closed after the discovery of asbestos on both sides of the pedestrian trail near Taylors Creek. It is believed the asbestos is located in an area with indigenous artefacts which is making its removal difficult. Taylors Lakes resident Neil Hunichen, who regularly cycles through the park, said the time taken to remove the hazardous material was unacceptable. "This has been going on for years now. Why are we spending money maintaining temporary fencing and not just removing or covering the asbestos?"

He said having parts of the park fenced off had also created huge accessibility issues.

<http://www.starweekly.com.au/news/asbestos-remains-two-years-on/>

Company Sodomaco Investments accused of unlawfully removing asbestos from Sovereign Hill – *Erin Williams* – *The Courier* – 7.6.2018

A company is contesting charges it starting to remove asbestos at Sovereign Hill without monitoring conditions as required by law. Sodomaco Investments claims the Victorian Workcover Authority cannot prove friable asbestos was removed from the outdoor museum's Taylor's Cottage in Magpie Street on March 24, 2016. A contested mention at the Ballarat Magistrates Court on Thursday was told Sodomaco Investments workers attended Sovereign Hill with a hygienist and removed vinyl floor tiles. Defence barrister Jim Stavris said WorkSafe could not prove the work involved asbestos because there was no sample. He said Sovereign Hill was not charged over the incident but received an official warning. The VWA prosecutor said it was relying on an environmental report and a police record of interview where the company admitted it was asbestos. Magistrate Ross Maxted said the prosecution case was strong and a fine would be issued if the company pleaded guilty. But Mr Stavris requested an adjournment for a further contested mention, which will be held in July. Sodomaco Investments faces two charges under the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007, including failing to monitor conditions and failing to ensure people were not exposed to health risks.

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/5455240/you-cant-prove-it-was-asbestos-company-says-over-sovereign-hill-workplace-incident/>

Council told to trust EPA judgement – *LV Express* - *Heidi Kraak* 7 Jun 2018

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS chief executive Vicki Hamilton said councillors should be able to trust the Environment Protection Authority's judgment regarding the proposed asbestos cell to be established at the old Morwell Power Station. The EPA approved the proposed asbestos cell for the storage of 15,000 cubic meters of asbestos from the power station in a deep, sealed ash pit. Latrobe City councillors were unable to reach a decision regarding the asbestos cell at the Monday meeting, with some councillors citing concerns nearby residents would suffer if the process was not performed correctly. Cr Graeme Middlemiss suggested moving the location of the asbestos to a spot behind the briquette factories further away from the Morwell township. "At no point have I said that the burying [of the asbestos] will be unsafe," he said. "What is suggested was that we doubled the distance from Morwell. Instead of in front of the briquette factory, we bury it behind the briquette factory." However Cr Alan McFarlane said he was satisfied with the plans considering they had been approved by the EPA. "I am not an expert, but I would expect the EPA are," he said. Ms Hamilton said she was disappointed no decision had been reached and said she was satisfied with the asbestos cell proposal. "I look after people all day, every day who have asbestos diseases. I would not agree to something that would put community at risk," Ms Hamilton said. "I certainly don't want to see 400-odd trucks going to the other side of Melbourne." Energy Brix Australia remediation project manager Barry Dungey said the asbestos removal process would be done under strict, controlled conditions and as per regulations. "Those conditions dictate, particularly for friable asbestos, that air monitoring has to be conducted outside tented enclosures," he said. "With friable asbestos you have to tent the areas, they are all sealed and [workers] work in appropriate respirators that

contain all the asbestos fibres within the tented area."When you talk about disposal, all the asbestos taken out of those enclosures will be double bagged, will then be sealed in a 44-gallon drum or into specially designed high-density polyurethane bags. "Asbestos is only dangerous if it is airborne, [so] everything is about making sure the fibre is fully contained before it is disposed of ... so when you come to disposal of asbestos into a cell, there is no risk because it is already sealed and bagged." The matter remains in limbo after two motions were put forward at council and subsequently lost, the first an alternate motion to refuse the asbestos cell a permit and the second to grant the permit. Councillors were not the only ones to express concerns regarding the proposed asbestos cell, however, with multiple community members speaking against the proposal at the council meeting. The matter will go before Latrobe City councillors again in July.

<http://www.latrobevalleyexpress.com.au/story/5454689/council-told-to-trust-epa-judgement/>

Community survey of attitudes to council – *Blue Mountains Gazette* - *by Jennie Curtin* – 8th June 2018

It probably couldn't have come at a worse time: The latest community survey for council was conducted in March this year, just as headlines screamed "failure" over asbestos. As a result, the community's satisfaction with councillors is at its lowest point in six years. Satisfaction with their performance was 3.16 (out of five). In 2016, it was 3.41, in 2014 3.45 and in 2013, it was 3.23. Six years ago, in 2012, it was lower than today, at 3.09. The research report noted: "Seventy six per cent of residents were at least 'somewhat satisfied' with the overall performance of councillors. This result is significantly lower than in 2014 and 2016. This decline is not unexpected, considering external factors in the media at the time of surveying." But satisfaction with council generally was positive. A mean satisfaction score of 3.44 was achieved, significantly higher than the regional benchmark of 3.22, on a par with the metropolitan benchmark of 3.45 and higher than the state average of 3.31. The community research survey is carried out regularly to determine how council rates among residents, what people think it is doing well and what it could improve on, and what residents see as the most important areas council should be doing something about. The survey found that 87 per cent of people were at least "somewhat satisfied" with council, with 11 per cent giving the top "very satisfied" response and a further 40 per cent "satisfied". Just nine per cent were "not very" and four per cent "not at all" satisfied. Just under half (49%) thought council was good value for money, with 18 per cent finding it poor or very poor (and the rest neither good nor bad). The main complaints were about the rates (too high), council wasting money and the need to provide better services and perform better. The issue of greatest concern was traffic congestion and road maintenance (13%), followed by bushfire protection and prevention (12%) and overdevelopment and/or managing development (8%). The Western Sydney Airport and associated flight paths and noise pollution was raised by just 6 per cent of people as the issue of most concern. The top important issues for residents were: bushfire management/prevention; emergency management; clear, safe and healthy living environment; clean creeks and waterways; recycling bin services; and traffic safety for both vehicles and pedestrians. The mayor, Mark Greenhill, said the results were "very positive and indicate a level of community satisfaction, overall, with council's performance". "In fact, the overall satisfaction rating for council's performance was higher than the average satisfaction score for all NSW councils. This is a great result."

<https://www.bluemountainsgazette.com.au/story/5452841/bad-timing-leaves-councillors-with-lower-ratings/>

Asbestos riddled Morwell Power Station to be demolished despite heritage listing – *ABC Gippsland* - *By Nicole Asher* – 6.6.2018

Heritage Victoria has granted permission for the derelict Morwell Power Station in the Latrobe Valley to be demolished, despite it being listed on the Victorian heritage register. The demolition permit applies to the coal-fired power station, but not the associated briquette factory, which is expected to be returned to use as an industrial site in the future. The Morwell Power Station opened in the 1950s but has fallen into disrepair since it closed in 2014. Lobbying by Latrobe Valley history groups led to its heritage listing in February. Heritage Victoria's executive director Steven Avery said a conditional demolition approval was granted for the power station only. "After a thorough assessment process we have elected to grant a heritage permit subject to conditions, allowing for the demolition of buildings associated with the use of the place as a power station. "There's quite a lot of conditions associated with this permit," Mr Avery said. "The conditions include that there must be detailed archival recording of the buildings and elements that will be demolished. "As part of this decision, Heritage Victoria considered a range of factors, including the impacts on cultural significance, reasonable and economic use of the place, and risks to public safety relating to asbestos contamination." Demolition decision angers heritage lobby Moe resident, Cheryl Wragg, was behind the power station's heritage nomination and said the decision to allow its demolition showed contempt for the region. Ms Wragg said archival recordings of the power station would not provide the same insights into the energy industry as being able to walk through the historic buildings. "It's not good enough. There's no replacement for the real

thing," she said. "When we lose this high-cultural value and industrial heritage fabric, we lose it forever. We don't get it back." Ms Wragg said she wanted the power plant to be preserved for its historic significance.

"It's the oldest coal-fired power station in the state.

"It's the rarest in terms of engineering and it's the only remnant of Victoria's briquetting industry. "It demonstrates the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, which changed the course of Victoria's history," Ms Wragg said. Concern about asbestos removal The Morwell site contains between 10,000 and 15,000 cubic metres of class A and B asbestos, mainly in the power station. Energy Brix wants to bury the old asbestos onsite, about 600 metres from homes. The Latrobe City Council denied Energy Brix's asbestos dump application, despite approval by the Environment Protection Authority. Latrobe City Councillor Graeme Middlemiss said the proposed dump site was too risky and too close to houses. "The people making these decisions no longer live in Morwell, but they are putting the people of Morwell at risk, mainly when its being put into the ground," Cr Middlemiss said. The company has warned the rejection of its asbestos dump proposal could result in greater risks to the community as the alternative is for asbestos waste to be driven through Melbourne. Energy Brix remediation general manager, Barry Dungey, said other local waste sites were unable to take the volume of asbestos waste that the power plant will produce. "We have proven by all the regulators that we meet all the requirements of the council planning laws," Mr Dungey said. "Our only choice if we cannot get council approval on this proposal is to basically send it via truck past Tullamarine airport."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-06/morwell-power-station-demolition-approved/9840046>

Illegal dumping a constant problem for land managers, councils in central Victoria – *Bendigo Advertiser* - *by William Valley* – 6.6.2018

State forests, reservoirs, nature strips – the locale of illegal dumping in central Victoria seemingly has no bounds. And land managers across the region are reporting a constant stream of incidents each year, with Parks Victoria detecting more than 100 over the past 12 months, while the City of Greater Bendigo had 352 litter collection requests in the current financial year. The latest in a series of dumps occurred at the Upper Coliban reservoir, near Kyneton, where engine parts, oil cans and mattresses were discarded close to the body of water. Coliban Water's manager of community operations Mick Dunne said over the past year there has been an increase in people leaving rubbish at Lauriston, Upper Coliban and Malmsbury reservoirs. "The oil leaking from engine parts is a pollution risk to reservoirs and waterways. On this occasion we were able to contain the spill and clean up the oil, but these incidents can have an affect on the quality of the raw water supplied to our Kyneton, Castlemaine and Bendigo water treatment plants," he said. The latest discovery follows a series of incidents at the Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant in Epsom, which has been perennially targeted by vandals, some of were using it a "skid pan", while also dumping rubbish. There have been around 10 incidents of illegal dumping of engine parts and household waste at Upper Coliban Reservoir in the past 12 months, according to Coliban Water. Prior to this, there has only been isolated incidents rubbish being left on Coliban Water sites. The company was increasing surveillance across all of its sites, but was also reliant on the community to report any sightings of illegal dumping. Mr Dunne said, urging the community to report any incidents to the Environment Protection Authority. "We have recreation areas at our reservoirs with toilets and electric barbecues. We ask visitors to keep in mind that when they leave, they take their rubbish with them or use the bins provided," Mr Dunne said. Coliban Water's catchment storages on the Coliban River provide raw water for around 130,000 people and a wide range of businesses. Steady stream of illegal dumping. Land managers across the region say dumping is an ongoing, time-consuming issue. More than 100 incidents of rubbish dumping in parks and reserves around Bendigo have been detected by rangers or reported to Parks Victoria in the past 12 months, varying in size from bags of rubbish to dumps of industrial waste. Ms Doyle said waste can contaminate local water supplies; garden clippings can spread invasive weeds into the bush and household waste can poison animals and birds. "We ask that people take their rubbish to the nearest transfer station and their litter home with them to both protect the environment and to ensure that other visitors can enjoy these special places," she said. Litter collection requests lodged with the City of Greater Bendigo have remained relatively stable over the past two financial years, in 2016-2017 there were 343 requests, while 2017-2018 was slightly higher, at 352. A spokesperson for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning said illegal dumping of rubbish in state forests and on Crown land was an ongoing issue for the department. "The dumping of rubbish anywhere except at an authorised landfill is illegal.

<https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/5452415/steady-stream-of-illegal-dumping-in-central-victoria/>

Asbestos Snippets

International

Patient story - Liam Bradley – Mesothelioma UK - Mesothelioma is rarely seen in people under the age of fifty and virtually unheard of under the age of forty. Liam Bradley was just 30 years old when he was diagnosed with pleural mesothelioma in February 2017. Liam is currently having regular scans but no treatment. He is symptom-free and his scans are showing no new growth of the cancer. Here, he shares his experiences of living with mesothelioma and 'cracking on with life.' Liam was working as a roofer when he suffered a serious fall in September 2015. His injuries were severe and included a broken neck, hip, ribs, dislocated elbow and punctured lung. Six months later, Liam returned to work in an office-based role and felt physically almost back to normal. Then, in November 2016, he banged his head playing in a soft play area with his young daughter. Liam felt nauseous and dizzy and, because of his previous neck injury, went to A&E to get checked. Liam had an x-ray which showed no problems with his neck but the doctors noticed that his right lung was 50% collapsed. This was a shock to Liam as he felt fine and had no symptoms. The lung was inflated and Liam was discharged with an appointment to come back in February for a talc pleurodesis – a procedure to reduce the chances of it collapsing again. It was during this procedure that the camera showed tiny specs (like grains of sand) around the lung. Doctors continued with the talc pleurodesis and then performed a biopsy on the unusual cells the camera had picked up. The test came back positive for mesothelioma. However, Liam wasn't told that it was cancer but was referred to specialists at Glenfield Hospital. It was there he met Mesothelioma UK's Head of Services and Clinical Nurse Specialist, Liz Darlison. Liz informed Liam that mesothelioma is a form of cancer. The diagnosis was a huge shock to Liam who cannot think of where he might have been exposed to asbestos. He had, however, heard of mesothelioma as his great grandfather, grandmother, great uncle and aunt had all died of it. His grandfather was a miner, his great uncle was a mechanic and the female family members had washed their clothes. The other reason the diagnosis was such a shock was because Liam had not experienced any symptoms – and is still symptom-free today. He plays football and is fit and active. Liam commented: "The first few months were a blur, always wondering if this would be my last Christmas or my last birthday but as time went on I learnt to basically stick two fingers up at the cancer. After the first six months or so, I became mentally much stronger. The main reason for that is my three-year-old daughter – I'm determined that nothing is going to stop me seeing her grow up." Liam and his family have learnt that time is precious and to take opportunities when they arise. They have been on holidays and even brought forward getting married, which they did in New York. In Liam's words, he's "just cracking on with life." Because Liam has no symptoms and is generally feeling well, he is a good candidate for several clinical trials. He was on the LUME-Meso and is open to trying new treatments as and when necessary. For now, Liam has frequent scans and so far, they are showing no new growth in the cancer.

<http://www.mesothelioma.uk.com/information-and-support/patient-family-experiences-of-mesothelioma/liam-bradley/>

Member of the public alerts Ara Institute of Canterbury to asbestos contamination – *The Press* – by Adel Redmond 10.6.2018

An Ara Institute of Canterbury studio has been closed after a member of the public informed the polytechnic it was contaminated with asbestos. The man, who was authorised to use the broadcasting space, tested three samples of dust from the rafters. Two of the samples returned positive for white and the more dangerous brown asbestos. The building, known as ST Block, is used as a storeroom and studio primarily by New Zealand Broadcasting School staff and students. Upon receiving the test results on May 18, Ara immediately closed the Allen St building, cleaned and re-tested it. Results returned on Wednesday were negative, a spokeswoman advised.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/104535828/member-of-the-public-alerts-ara-institute-of-canterbury-to-asbestos-contamination>

The EPA Will No Longer Evaluate the Health Risks of Asbestos Because Trump Believes it's 100-Percent Safe – *By Allison Bolt* – June 7, 2018

The Environmental Protection Agency will no longer evaluate asbestos in homes and businesses as a danger or health risk, as Newsweek reports. Scott Pruitt announced the decision last Friday under President Trump, who believes asbestos is "100 percent safe, once applied." According to the Asbestos Nation Campaign, asbestos kills 12,000 to 15,000 Americans every year. Fifty-five countries have completely banned the use of asbestos in any case, including the United Kingdom, South Africa, Japan and so on, in spite of which the EPA decided it was no longer necessary to evaluate the health risks of this chemical. The EPA will continue to evaluate and require approval for any new introduction or use of asbestos in the environment, but let the already-present chemical remain in schools, houses and public buildings. This decision comes shortly after the 2016 amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act.

These amendments made it mandatory for the EPA to do safety reviews of dangerous chemicals, such as asbestos, and create public notices of the safety information for those chemicals. The amendments also allowed the EPA to ban the use of asbestos in particular cases. The EPA's decision didn't draw any backlash from the current administration because it aligns with Trump's opinions on asbestos—Trump wrote about the chemical in his 1997 book, *The Art of the Comeback*. He wrote, "I believe that the movement against asbestos was led by the mob, because it was often mob-related companies that would do the asbestos removal. Great pressure was put on politicians, and as usual, the politicians relented."

<https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2018/06/the-epa-will-no-longer-evaluate-the-health-risks-o.html>

State officials inspect Squires Road asbestos site slated for housing development *BY BETH MUSGRAVE - Lexington Herald Leader*

Kentucky environmental officials inspected possible asbestos contamination on a nearly 90-acre site off Squires Road in Lexington Thursday, one day after being unable to enter the property, state officials confirmed. Susan Lancho, a spokeswoman for Kentucky American Water, said Kentucky Cabinet for Energy and Environmental Protection officials were on the site Thursday, after a miscommunication the day before left them standing at a locked gate. "Once we learned through yesterday's phone call of the cabinet wanting to visit the property, we contacted various folks (including the new property owners) to coordinate," Lancho said. John Mura, a spokesman for the cabinet, said officials collected samples and were having them tested. Kentucky American Water is the former owner of the property. Ball Homes plans to build more than 420 homes and hundreds of apartments and townhouses on the property. Water company officials have said the asbestos is from older water pipes that were stored on the property, bordered on three sides by a reservoir. Those older pipes pose no threat unless they are moved, officials have said. Ball Homes has said they plan to hire environmental consultants to remove the asbestos pipes prior to development. The cabinet's Superfund Program has sent Kentucky American Water a letter inquiring about media reports about possible contamination of the site. Lancho said Thursday they had not received the letter.

<http://www.kentucky.com/latest-news/article212603854.html#storylink=cpy>

Firefighter group says city purposely burned asbestos site – VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – *Associated Press* 7.6.2018

A Virginia Beach firefighters group says the city knowingly burned a home filled with asbestos for a training exercise. The Virginia Beach Professional Firefighters group, which represents about 90 percent of the city's 500 firefighters, recently filed complaints with several state and federal agencies. The Virginian-Pilot reports the group says fire officials endangered its members and the public. The city and the firefighters group agree the house had asbestos. But city officials say it wasn't discovered until weeks later. Records obtained by the newspaper through a Freedom of Information Act Request show the burn was scheduled and then cancelled when pending asbestos concerns. It was rescheduled days later with new participants for April 15. Fire Chief David Hutcheson says it was an oversight.

<http://www.whsv.com/content/news/Firefighter-group-says-city-purposely-burned-asbestos-site-484899981.html>

Court Corrects Insurer Who Tries to Avoid Paying Mesothelioma Claim – *Mesothelioma.Net, Hope Faith Action* – June 7, 2018

A recent workers' compensation case heard by the Supreme Court of Missouri illuminates the many challenges of filing a mesothelioma claim, as well as the inherent value of demanding justice and fair treatment. The case involved the family of Robert Casey, a floor tile installer who had worked for several different companies throughout his career. Mr. Casey was diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma in 2014, and his disease was attributed to having worked with vinyl asbestos tiles. Though his employers stopped using asbestos-based products in the mid-1980s, Mr. Casey was still responsible for removing old tiles before installing new ones, and therefore was frequently breathing in asbestos fibers. In 2015 Mr. Casey filed a workers' compensation claim seeking special mesothelioma benefits offered under his company's insurance company, and he died while it was still pending. His widow submitted a notice changing the claim to a death benefit for herself and her 8 adult children, and the insurance company and his former employer attempted to deny those benefits for a variety of reasons. Among the excuses that the insurer offered were an attempt to say that the coverage did not apply to illnesses where the last date of exposure was prior to January of 2014, and that Mrs. Casey and her children were not entitled to benefits because they had not properly provided notice of their claim. The Supreme Court of Missouri took a strong stance on behalf of mesothelioma victims in their response to the insurance company's argument. They were dismissive of the notion that the mesothelioma benefit offered in the policy was only applicable to exposures that occurred after January of 2014, stating, that "the last exposure rule is immaterial here," and saying, "If recovery ... were limited to individuals who were last exposed to asbestos

during the policy period, this policy's mesothelioma endorsement – and similar provisions in countless other insurance policies – would be rendered essentially worthless. It would allow insurance companies to provide illusory, hollow policies. Because individuals are no longer regularly exposed to asbestos in the workplace, the pool of individuals who were last exposed to asbestos in 2015 is minuscule, if any." The court went on to detail the condition's long latency period to further support its position. It also denied the insurer's argument against accepting the third page of an amended claim, which detailed the widow and her children as beneficiaries.

<https://mesothelioma.net/mesothelioma-news/court-corrects-insurer-who-tries-to-avoid-paying-mesothelioma-claim/>

Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) Facing Another Huge Cancer-Related Trial – *by Stock News.com Staff* – 7.6.2018

Johnson & Johnson (NYSE:JNJ) is back in the court room to face another case over claims that its products led to cancer. The case got underway on Wednesday, and it comes on the heels of the pharmaceutical giant losing a pair of talc mesothelioma jury trials. CNBC has the details on the latest legal challenge facing J&J. A lawsuit by 22 ovarian cancer patients against Johnson & Johnson went to trial on Wednesday in Missouri state court, marking the largest case the company has faced over allegations its talc-based products contain cancer-causing asbestos.

The women and their families suing in the Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis say decades-long use of J&J's Baby Powder and other cosmetic talc products caused their disease. They allege the company knew its talc was contaminated with asbestos since at least the 1970s but failed to warn consumers about the risks. Roughly 9,000 cases have been brought against J&J in total by users of its Baby Powder and Shower to Shower talc products, the latter of which was sold by the company in 2012. Johnson & Johnson has consistently denied that its talc products cause cancer or that they ever contained asbestos. Several juries have disagreed thus far, but some cases are under appeal while others have been tossed out. Johnson & Johnson shares were trading at \$123.33 per share on Thursday afternoon, up \$0.54 (+0.44%). Year-to-date, JNJ has declined -10.51%, versus a 4.35% rise in the benchmark S&P 500 index during the same period.

<https://stocknews.com/news/jnj-johnson-johnson-jnj-facing-another-huge-cancer-related-trial/>

New test: 10.7 million asbestos fibers on floor at Philadelphia elementary school – *by Wendy Ruderman, Barbara Laker & Dylan Purcell - Staff Writers* – *The Inquirer Daily News* – JUNE 6, 2018

Shortly after the School District of Philadelphia learned of alarming levels of asbestos fibers on the floor of a highly traveled hallway inside Olney Elementary School, officials said, they sent an environmental team to fix the problem. But four months later, the hazard is not gone. In fact, it's worse. Tests there revealed 10.7 million asbestos fibers per square centimeter, up from 8.5 million. That latest result is more than 100 times higher than the level that health experts say is cause for alarm. This recent finding is part of an Inquirer and Daily News investigation, "Toxic City: Sick Schools," in which reporters enlisted staffers at 19 of the district's more run-down elementary schools to collect samples of suspected asbestos fibers, lead dust, mold spores, and water from drinking fountains. An accredited laboratory, International Asbestos Testing Laboratories in South Jersey, analyzed the materials. When reporters learned of the sky-high asbestos result at Olney on June 1, they quickly alerted district officials. A district spokesman, Lee Whack, would not reply to questions about what steps, if any, the district took or will take in response to the high test result. In an email to reporters Tuesday night, Whack said that the district would look "at the areas at Olney Elementary that have been mentioned." "The health and safety of students and staff will always be our top priority," Whack said. "No single test can ever fully reflect the needs of our school communities." Arthur Steinberg, head of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers Health and Welfare Fund, said he was highly disturbed that Olney's asbestos problem persists. "They say it's safe. No one knows whether that's true or not," Steinberg said. "They need to have effective oversight so we can feel secure sending kids into these buildings." Crumbling fibers Asbestos, which can cause cancer and other lung diseases when inhaled over time, can be found wrapped around steam pipes, sprayed on walls and ceilings, and woven into floor tiles in schools across the country. Asbestos is not dangerous if kept in good condition, but years of wear and tear can cause it to crumble and release microscopic fibers that can be sent airborne and stay aloft for hours and days.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/olney-elementary-school-philadelphia-asbestos-fibers-increase-toxic-city-20180606.html>

Asbestos Snippets

Why this Newcastle family is fighting justice from the grave in memory of their dad - *The Chronicle Live* - Lisa Hutchinson, 31st March 2018

Tommy Baldwin, of Newcastle, died aged 87 not knowing he was suffering from an asbestos related disease and now his family are claiming compensation. Denise Thompson of St Ann's Close, Newcastle who is making a compensation case after her father Tommy Baldwin died not knowing if he suffered from an asbestos related disease Former labourer Tommy Baldwin is fighting justice from the grave after he died not knowing he was suffering from an asbestos-related disease. Now his family are appealing to his former colleagues for help in discovering where their father was exposed to asbestos after a coroner found that industrial disease had contributed towards his death.

<https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/newcastle-family-fighting-justice-grave-14468104>

Port Arthur residents set up fundraiser to help preserve historic train K.C.S. Engine #503 - *KFDM.com* - Chris Mullooly, 1st April 2018

PORT ARTHUR — Efforts to preserve the Kansas City Southern Engine 503 locomotive has led to Port Arthur residents raising the money themselves. "It'll help bring community awareness and hopefully generate some funds," says John Beard Jr. Beard was one of the first people to realize what was going to become of the train; the city of Port Arthur deciding to scrap the train after asbestos and lead-based paint was confirmed by TEQ officials. Complaints from residents led to city council moving to move the train so the ground can be remediated, while proposals to save the train are offered. "The owner of Kansas City railway is the founder of Port Arthur, Arthur Edward Stillwell, so that's a direct tie to our heritage," says Beard.

A report by KFDM/Fox 4's Angel San Juan previously reported on some community members' reluctance to move the train.

<http://kfdm.com/news/local/port-arthur-residents-set-up-fundraiser-to-help-preserve-historic-train-kcs-engine-503>

Asbestos Found in School PS 23 - *Hamlet Hub* - Ardina Seward, 1st April 2018

On March 3, 2018, local news service, Yonkers Voice, received a call from a Mr Alberto Velazquez expressing a concern for the possibility of asbestos presence at School #23 where Velazquez is a custodian. He claimed that the school was notified on or around June/July 2016 but nothing was investigated. Yonkers Voice subsequently called the Yonkers Public School Public Relations' Office for clarification. According to Yonkers Voice, the information was registered but there was no follow up from the school. Yonkers Voice then went to the school where they found a City Employee and a school staffer. They attempted to speak with a Mr. John Carr but he had no comment. Also present was a vehicle, driven by a person who appeared to be an inspector. That person said that he was there to check on the "asbestos situation." He was allegedly overheard to say, "asbestos is everywhere." As of 4/1/2018, there is an official notice which states that asbestos has been found in pipe insulation at the school. Clean up will commence on 4/5/2018-4/7/2018. According to the school calendar, it will be closed during that period.

<https://news.hamlethub.com/swyonkers/life/2266-asbestos-found-in-school-p-s-23>

Why we need to remember York's 100 years of carriage building - *The Press* - Stephen Lewis, 2nd April 2018

A major exhibition at the NRM is giving a glimpse of how the huge York Central site behind the railway station could be developed. Over the next few weeks, the people of York are being asked to contribute their own thoughts as part of the ongoing My York Central consultation. But it is worth remembering why that huge site is there in the first place. For well over 100 years, carriage building was a major industry in York. The first small repair shop opened on Queen Street in 1839, according to the History of York website. Engine repair was carried on there until about 1905.

More important to the city's economy, however, was the actual building of wagons and carriages. By 1864 a wagon and carriageworks also based at Queen Street could produce a 100 wagons a week. In the 1880s, the North Eastern Railway decided to concentrate more on carriage building. A new works was in Holgate constructed in 1880-1. This rapidly expanded until by 1910 it covered an area of 45 acres. By the end of the 19th century, York had about 5,500 railway employees, half of whom were employed in the wagon and carriage works. Notoriously, the carriageworks are associated with what has come to be known as the York 'asbestos timebomb'. Scores of people are known to have died of mesothelioma and other lung conditions such as asbestosis caused by breathing in asbestos dust.

http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/16117018.Why_we_need_to_remember_York_s_100_years_of_carriage_building/

U.S. Rep. Introduces Bill to Ban or Label Asbestos in Children's Cosmetics - *JDSUPRA* - 2nd April 2018

U.S. Rep. Introduces Bill to Ban or Label Asbestos in Children's Cosmetics. Responding to news reports alleging Claire's Stores Inc. sold cosmetics contaminated with asbestos, U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) has introduced the Children's Product Warning Label Act of 2018, which would require that that "all cosmetics marketed to children are demonstrated to be free of asbestos or otherwise carry a warning label."

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/dietary-supplement-cosmetics-legal-77491/>

Man prosecuted for fly tipping toxic asbestos - *Eastern Daily Press* - Harriet Orrell, 3rd April 2018

Just days after new recycling charges have come into force a man has been fined a thousand pounds for fly tipping toxic asbestos. The incident, which took place before the waste fee was introduced, happened at Starling Court in Queens Hill, Costessey. A man witnessed a van pull into the area and fill two communal bins which was later identified as asbestos insulation board.

Jordan Huggins, of Glenda Road, Norwich, pleaded guilty at Norwich Magistrates' Court and was fined £1,000 while South Norfolk Council was awarded full costs of £2,417. Huggins also had to pay a victim surcharge of £100. Last year there were over 700 reported incidents of fly tipping on public land around South Norfolk's district. This cost the council more than £50,000 to clear up while private landowners also faced considerable bills to remove dumped waste.

<http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/man-fined-fly-tipping-toxic-asbestos-costessey-communal-bin-1-5461622>

Owner asked to demolish abandoned asbestos building - *The Daily Telegraph* - 3rd April 2018

The words asbestos have been smeared across an abandoned building in Five Dock that residents believe poses a health risk to the community. Canada Bay Council has ordered the owners of the Henry St building to repair or replace the damaged fibro at the centre.

https://myaccount.news.com.au/sites/dailytelegraph/subscribe.html?sourceCode=DTWEB_WRE170_a_GGL&mo de=premium&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailytelegraph.com.au%2Fnewslocal%2Finner-west%2Fowner-asked-to-demolish-abandoned-asbestos-building%2Fnews-story%2Fdeab8b20cc1e9d9f6c8409579bf54348%3Fmk%3D820c7abe033f002f89f4a5e92943f329-1526980935&memtype=anonymouse&v21=cta-jt&v21suffix=cta-jt

Asbestos removal set for Verner Elementary - *Tuscaloosa News* - Drew Taylor, 4th April 2018

During the summer, Tuscaloosa City Schools will remove nonthreatening asbestos from the tiling at Verner Elementary School. On Tuesday, the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education approved a contract with Tri-State Abatement, a Tuscaloosa-based asbestos removal firm, to remove tile and carpet from the 40,000-square-foot building. Jeff Johnson, executive director of facilities for the school system, said the work to remove the tile is part of a larger plan to conduct large-scale renovations at the school. However, before such work can begin, the school system always inspects the building for things that need to be removed, such as asbestos.

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/news/20180404/asbestos-removal-set-for-verner-elementary>

J&J Jury Set to Weigh Banker's Claims Baby Powder Caused Cancer - *Bloomberg* - Jef Feeley, 4th April 2018

Jurors are set to weigh an investment banker's claims that using Johnson & Johnson's baby powder for more than 30 years caused him to develop a deadly cancer linked to asbestos.

A New Jersey jury will begin deciding Wednesday whether Stephen Lanzo III can legitimately blame J&J's iconic product for his mesothelioma, an often-fatal cancer tied to asbestos exposure. Lanzo, a 46-year-old banker with U.S. Trust Corp., accuses the world's largest health-care company of hiding that its talc-based products have contained asbestos for nearly a half century.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-04/j-j-jury-set-to-weigh-banker-s-claims-baby-powder-caused-cancer>

Insurance policy limits upheld for certain asbestos claims - *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly* - Rebecca Lightle, 4th April 2018

General-liability insurers could enforce their policy limits as to completed-operations and products hazard claims against the insured stemming from decades-old asbestos exposure. Background This insurance-coverage dispute involves the applicability of two insurers' policies to past, pending, and future asbestos-related bodily injury claims against the insured.

<https://nclawyersweekly.com/2018/04/04/insurance-policy-limits-upheld-for-certain-asbestos-claims/>

Mesothelioma Clinical Trial Opens with Optimism in South Florida - *Asbestos.com* - Tim Povtak, 4th April 2018

Dr. Chukwuemeka Ikpeazu at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center has brought hope — where once there was none — to patients in South Florida with unresectable pleural mesothelioma. Ikpeazu is the principal investigator in the multicenter phase II clinical trial involving the much-anticipated immunotherapy drug durvalumab. Pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca manufactures the drug under the brand name Imfinzi. "I am optimistic, very, very optimistic that this drug will be effective for these patients," Ikpeazu told Asbestos.com. "All the data, all the earlier studies, are encouraging." He recently enrolled his first mesothelioma patient in the trial and expects others to follow shortly.

<https://www.asbestos.com/news/2018/04/04/mesothelioma-clinical-trial-south-florida/>

Why Asbestos is Still Taking Lives - *Blue & Green Tomorrow* - Rachel Lynch, 5th April 2018

As parents, it's important for all of us to keep an eye out for our children and ensure the safety of the next generation. One way to easily do that is by limiting childhood exposure to toxins. In many cases, it's as simple as safely storing household cleaners or putting child-proof locks on cabinet doors, but actions like these can have a lasting impact on overall health.

With that said, toxins like asbestos are harder to protect our children from and require us to be more aware of what's going on inside our homes.

Asbestos use peaked in the United States between 1930 and 1980, and the mineral could be found in many products, including ceiling and floor tiles, insulation, piping, cement, roofing, and brake pads. Although the mineral is considered safe when contained inside building materials and other items, it becomes harmful when disturbed or damaged, releasing microscopic fibers into the air. While asbestos use is now strictly regulated in the United States, there still isn't a complete ban, and the material is imported into the country by the tons. More than 8.2 million pounds of asbestos were imported to the United States between 2006 and 2014.

<https://blueandgreentomorrow.com/news/why-asbestos-still-taking-lives/>

J&J loses trial over claims linking cancer to asbestos in talc - *Reuters* - Nate Raymond, 6th April 2018

Johnson & Johnson (JNJ.N) suffered its first trial loss in a lawsuit claiming its talc-based products including Johnson's Baby Powder contain cancer-causing asbestos, with a New Jersey jury on Thursday ordering J&J and another company to pay \$37 million in damages.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-johnson-johnson-cancer-lawsuit/jj-imerys-must-pay-37-million-in-case-over-talc-cancer-risks-jury-idUSKCN1HC2PL>

Construction workers fear having been exposed to asbestos fibres, says study - *Rhyl Journal* - 9th April 2018

Almost one in four construction workers fear they may have been exposed to asbestos fibres and many would not know what to do about it anyway, a new study reveals. Research among 500

workers found that one in three did not check the asbestos register, which has details of any asbestos on a site, before any demolition work begins. Almost one in five of those surveyed by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) said they would not be clear about what to do if they discovered asbestos. Craig Foyle, IOSH president, said: "It is unacceptable for anyone in any workplace to be exposed to asbestos. Clearly, though, people are being exposed to it. "In the decades to come, it is likely that these people and their families will still be suffering unless we all do something about it." Dr Lesley Rushton, who chairs the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council, said: "What these new survey results confirm is that, while people have heard of asbestos and know what the effects of being exposed to it are, they're not sure how to check if it's present and they may not know what to do if they find asbestos. "Uncertainty and ignorance surrounding how to prevent workers from breathing in the fibres is deeply worrying."

http://www.rhyljournal.co.uk/news/national/16145492.Construction_workers_fear_having_been_exposed_to_asbestos_fibres_says_study/

Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous companies

All the team at
Latrobe Plumbing & Asbestos Specialists Pty Ltd
& we would also like to thank
Paul 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:

- Alan (dec.) & Marlene Cameron,
- Ray, Ann & Craig Watson,
- Rose Nechwatal – CFMEU,
- Jan Walters,
- Margaret Cook,
- David Tracy,
- Probus Club of Heathmont,
- Ian Lee,
- Maree Hall,
- Chris Healy,
- Jack & Pat Fawcett,
- Chris Badger,
- Annette Budnik,
- Arthur Buller
- Anonymous 3018 - \$25,

Donations made in Memory of - Peter Slegers

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

Donations made in Memory of - Harold Rowe

- multiple donations given to Clay Rowe – Harold's son, June, Greg & Bruce Frost,
- Anonymous 100

Donations made in Memory of - Mark Forte

- Jim & Lean Elck,
- Anonymous \$20,
- RTL Mining & Earthworks

Brian Healy Party Bash & Fundraising for ACV/GARDS

Brian & Karen decided to have a party bash to celebrate Brian and his achievements in his life. Brian has mesothelioma and he wanted to party with his friends – highlight asbestos and the dangers and raise funds for our org. We feel very privileged and honoured to receive donations in this manner. Brian and Karen enjoyed the party along with their family and friends and we want to thank all those who donated to Brian's cause –

- Karen Healy, ■ Drew Ramselaar,
- Barry & Julie Thompson, ■ Gary Widdowson,
- Kaye & Patricia Saultry, ■ Anonymous \$50,
- Anonymous \$5, ■ Laraine & Jo Ramselaar,
- Brett, Mark & Lisa Paxton, ■ Courtney Bush,
- Graham & Liz Sibson, ■ Anonymous \$50,
- Maureen Talbot, ■ Steve Hall,
- Leonie Fyfe & Julie Healy, ■ Anonymous \$72.80.

Thank you to all who attended Brian's party and made it such a success & to all those who generously donated to our org you will help many people who suffer from what Brian has been diagnosed with along with many others with varying asbestos diseases. What a great way to fundraise and make a difference in people's lives while you do it.

THANK YOU!

Donations made in Memory of - Joseph Cassar

- Mary & Charlie Farrugia,
- John & Donna Horrock,
- Anonymous \$20, ■ Anonymous \$25,
- Anonymous \$20, ■ Anonymous \$20,
- Anonymous \$10, ■ Anonymous \$5

Donations made in Memory of - Ray Rowley

- Glenda Rowley

Donations made in Memory of - Jim Sargeant

- Mary and Liam Rossney

Air Liquide & East Gippsland Agent for Air Liquide

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

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!

In Memory of Peter Fenech

ACV/GARDS org would like to thank Sharyn, Michelle and Jason Fenech for making a generous donation to us in memory of Peter a much loved husband and father. Thank you so much for wanting to help us make a difference in the lives of sufferers & their families. Also helping us to tackle the issues of asbestos in communities.

Donations made in Memory of - Les Prince

- Ann Mcauley, ■ Anonymous \$20,
- Anonymous \$10, ■ Anonymous \$20,
- Mandy Boyles, ■ D Hanlon,
- R & C Payne, ■ Nadine Missen,
- Anonymous \$10, ■ Anonymous \$10,
- Philip & Eileen Wood, ■ Chris Emmings,
- Peter Emmings & Rita Emmings

Donations made in Memory of - Kevin Lord

- Glynn Lord

Donations made in Memory of - Graeme Carney

- Lynette & Barry Kennedy, ■ Peter Kelly,
- Paul Baker, ■ Michael Wilson

Donations made in Memory of - Kenneth Edebohls

- Glenda Edebohls

Donations made in Memory of - Katherine Brotherton & Support of the Sweeney Family

- Geoff Daniel

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

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lawyers

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

- Maree Hall, ■ Chris Emmings,
- Peter Kelly, ■ Paul Baker,
- Michael Wilson, ■ Peter & Rita Emmings,
- Adviceline Injury Lawyers,
- Mary Rossney, ■ Chris Healy,
- Chris Badger, ■ Geoff Daniel

Thank You For Donation ENGIE

ACV/GARDS was very pleased to accept a donation from Engie for the work we do in the community. It is always nice to get donations from the community and we really appreciate it when the money we are donated can go towards what we deem important in the support of the community and the people we support. We would like to thank Lauren Carey, Tony Innocenzi, Shane Cane, James Faithful and Wayne Buckley and the work force still working at Hazelwood for supporting the work we do in the community it means a great deal to us.



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

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

- Tuesday 26th June
- Tuesday 31st July
- Tuesday 28th August
- Tuesday 25th September
- Tuesday 30th October
- Friday 30th November – Asbestos Awareness Day, Rose Garden, Morwell - 11am
- Christmas Break-Up TBA

ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2018

7.30PM – 9.30PM

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

- Tuesday 17th July
- Tuesday 21st August
- Tuesday 18th September
- Tuesday 16th October
- Tuesday 20th November
- Christmas Break-Up TBA

UP AND COMING EVENTS 2018

- **26th June - Lunch at the Darnum Hotel**, Princes Hwy – 12 noon – car pooling
- **Other speakers for 2018 meetings TBA**
We would like to thank the following guest speakers who have spoken this year at our afternoon support group meetings & special get togethers
- **27th February 2018 - Ellen-Jane Browne** – Principal Advisor – Latrobe Health Innovation Zone – Dept. of Human Services
- **27th March – Dale Yeates** – Program Manager – Coal Mine Regulation- EPA Community Relations
- **29th May – Prof Matthew Carroll** – Senior Research Fellow – Monash Uni – Hazelwood Health Study
- **14th June – SHP – Sue Hodges Productions** – Heritage Interpretation Plan for Morwell Power Station – ACV/GARDS members who were employees of Morwell Station and other community members have helped to put together a history of the MPS.

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>

Phone: 03 5127 7744 24/7

Mobile: 0407 274 173

Website: www.gards.org

SKYPE: VickiGARDS



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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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