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



ASBESTOS

NEWS

INCORPORATING SILICA

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twitter.com/VickiHamilton@ACV_GARDS

PROFILE ON Monash Med Students

April and May 2023 the Asbestos Council of Victoria hosted two first year medical students from Monash University at our office.

Our mission was to introduce them to what support groups do in the community and to enlighten them to asbestos and silica awareness through experiences including meeting sufferers and their families – see what sort of issues our organisation deals

with and how we go about making change happen and supporting people looking for our services. They were able to attend one of our support group meetings and meet some of our members – they sat in on a national meeting about asbestos awareness issues and campaigns and projects that we are involved in, they were treated to seeing how we interact with Mairin OHS&E Consulting firm & issues that they help our org with. They were also given the chance to make up slides and see real time how they

detect asbestos in material and shown samples of what asbestos was in and still in today. They had a face to face with one of our mesothelioma sufferers and his partner – Brian and Karen Healy who were generous with their time and spent many hours discussing and answering questions. Their days with us were full of new learnings for them to take away. We hope these will be lasting memories when they become doctors or specialist in their fields. Below is a pic of one of our students – the other one did not wish

to be identified – both have written summaries of their time with us. Taimur has also written a bio on himself so that you get an understanding of his background. I do hope you read what they have written – this is the first year of their medical journey to realising their dream of becoming doctors. We wish them all the best in their endeavours. We have two new students starting in second semester so they will be in the next edition of our newsletter.



Hi there,

I'm Taimur! I'm currently a first-year medicine student with a penchant for adventure and a bit of a wanderlust. Born and raised in Melbourne, I've discovered a newfound appreciation for the countryside as I've moved around Australia, thanks to my parents' jobs. From the beautiful landscapes to the lovely people I've met, I've come to truly enjoy exploring nature and immersing myself in the country's serene atmosphere.

When I'm not conquering my studies, you can find me kicking a soccer ball around with friends or pumping iron at the gym. I'm a firm believer that a healthy mind and body are the perfect recipe for world domination, or at least for becoming a really great doctor!

I have a deep-rooted love for travelling, having visited many countries across the globe. My passion for experiencing different cultures keeps me craving for more, with Turkey and Italy currently topping my bucket list.

My journey into medicine was inspired by personal experiences and the desire to make a positive impact on people's lives. As a volunteer at the Asbestos Council, I've gained valuable insights into the challenges faced by patients with asbestos-related conditions, as well as the importance of raising awareness about this overlooked health issue among workers.

Throughout my time at the council, I've been fortunate to learn from and connect with some incredibly kind individuals who have shared their wisdom and expertise on becoming a good doctor. These experiences have given me a sneak peek into the diverse world of doctor-patient dynamics, and I can't wait to use what I've learned to help heal and support others.

As I continue on this exciting journey, I'm eager to embrace every challenge, explore new horizons, and make a lasting impact in the world of medicine.

Regards,
Taimur Ali

Medical students Q & A

Taimur and our other Med student were asked a series of questions on their last day with us about their experiences - here are their answers.

Taimur - what you learnt

During my time volunteering at the Asbestos Council, I've been deeply moved to witness firsthand the profound impact asbestos-related conditions have on patients and their families. These diseases, such as mesothelioma and asbestosis, are often terminal, with no definitive

cure and a grim prognosis. It's heartbreaking to see patients grapple with these harsh realities, but the ripple effect on their families is equally devastating. Spouses, children, and other loved ones endure the distressing journey alongside the patient, experiencing a

tumult of emotions ranging from fear and helplessness to grief.

The psychological, emotional, and even financial burden these conditions place on families is significant, driving home the crucial need for comprehensive support

Continued on next page

Medical students Q & A continued...

services. My time at the council has underscored the importance of not only attending to the physical health needs of patients but also providing empathetic and sustained support for their mental and emotional wellbeing, as well as that of their families. This holistic perspective is one I will carry with me throughout my medical career, always remembering that each patient exists within a network of relationships that are also deeply affected by their illness. Moreover, I also learnt the history of Asbestos in Australia, particularly, the outer regional areas and the overall stigma present in the industries that deal with Asbestos, which was very disappointing.

Any preconceived ideas you had before you got here

I think I always thought of Asbestos a problem of the past, not truly grasping the abundance of Asbestos within our societies. I underestimated the effect Asbestos can have and the number of people it influences.

Did you understand what this org was really about before you got here

Before volunteering, I had a limited understanding of their operation. I knew they dealt with Asbestos (who could've known? ha-ha), but the specifics were not clear to me. I was unaware of how they deal with so many different organisations and so many people who are involved in the issue surrounding asbestos. I am grateful for volunteering here and I understand the invaluable

contribution of the volunteers at the Asbestos council.

Do you believe this org is a valuable asset to those it supports and the work it does

After gaining first-hand experience, I wholeheartedly believe this organisation is a valuable asset. It is not only crucially important to those affected individuals who do not know where to get help, but also their families, the public and the future workforce that will be dealing with Asbestos related issues.

Do you believe your time was well spent being with us

Absolutely. The experience has enhanced my medical knowledge and understanding of public health issues, and it's fulfilling to contribute to such an important cause. I have learnt a lot about how charity organisations work in Australia.

Now that you have spent time here do you believe you have a good understanding of what we do here

Having the opportunity to volunteer here has enhanced my knowledge and my awareness of the public health issue of Asbestos. I definitely have a better understanding of what the Asbestos council's mission is and I recognise the valuable effort the volunteers put it day in and day out.

Were there any surprises

I think I was quite surprised about the extent and complexity of asbestos issues, it's history and how people are dealing with it now. One

other thing was the stigma present around asbestos, during my visits to TAFE, I was surprised to hear about how senior tradesmen still do not view Asbestos as a serious issue and think that they are not vulnerable to the health problems caused by Asbestos. Moreover, it was also surprising to me how the apprentices were extremely aware of their health and were actively seeking more information about Asbestos and it's impacts on one's health.

Did you get a good understanding on how the org is run and how it is financed

Volunteering here has given me some insight into the operational aspects and financial challenges of a non-profit organization, including fundraising and grant applications. I am now aware of how difficult it is to get funding for an organisation like Asbestos and how strict you must be with allocating funds.

Have you any recommendations to the CEO going into the future

Given my medical background, I would like Vicki to organise more information and awareness events to medical universities. Hearing stories of bad bedside manners and also the limited number of specialists in this field, it would be nice to see future doctors have a talk given by Vicki and by a patient who suffers with asbestos related issues.

How will you use this experience in the future

It will inform me of how I will treat patients affected with Asbestos in

the future and the support services that are available to these patients. It has also highlighted the importance of public health for me and creating awareness for issues like Asbestos, not only in the workforce, but also the people who will be treating these patients like Doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and even the government.

Would you visit the org in the future if you were in the area to say hello

Yes definitely! I have really enjoyed my time here with the lovely people who work at the Asbestos council. I would love to say hi to Vicki and Tanya!

Above all did you enjoy your time with the org and meeting the people who come here seeking supportive care

I think that was the highlight of my time here, having the opportunity to meet people here who seek support services. I also highly appreciate the dedication of the team and the strength of the community to deal with such serious issues.

Did you find it interesting seeing some of the relationships ACV/GARDS has with gov, businesses & community areas dealing with Asbestos and Silica

It has been intriguing to see how the council works with various sectors to address the multifaceted issue of asbestos. This experience will be invaluable in understanding how public health measures are implemented at a community level.

ACV/GARDS experience – by 1st year med student – anonymous



Visiting the Asbestos Council of Victoria as part of our community placement has been an interesting experience.

Prior to visiting GARDS, I had general idea that the organisation was responsible for assisting people who either suffered from asbestos-related conditions or had faced issues related to asbestos but my overall understanding of the organisation improved over the course of the placement.

Over the four sessions that I have spent at GARDS, I have gained an insight into the sort of work that Vicki, Tanya, and her colleagues in other organisations do in order to help reduce the prevalence

of asbestos-related conditions. For instance Vicki provided us with the opportunity to talk one-on-one with an individual who has mesothelioma and seeing how Vicki worked with the individual and their family showed me the importance of having such organisations in our communities.

From this specific experience, I was able to learn more about how individuals develop asbestos-related conditions and the various impacts that it has on individuals and their families, which I did not have much idea of prior to the visit.

Moreover, we were able to visit a hygienist and see the work that he

does on a day-to-day basis, such as assessing samples with asbestos using microscopy. This provided me with a deeper understanding of the way asbestos is detected in our communities and how this is important for workers and individuals living in homes that contain asbestos.

In addition, attending an asbestos-related meeting with several stakeholders showed me how policies and campaigns are put into action with the overall goal of reducing the prevalence of asbestos as well as asbestos-related conditions. All of these experiences were supplemented with discussions with Vicki, whose knowledge, and years of experience

in the area helped further our understanding of the way asbestos affects communities. On the whole, the placement experience was a positive one which provided us with a greater understanding of the way the organisation works and why it is important for the community.

Going forward, I will use this experience as a guide in terms of understanding the way community organisations run and the impact they have on individuals and their families. The work that GARDS does has a significant impact on the community and is important for allowing individuals and their families to navigate various issues that relate to asbestos.

VALE Marie Smith

Born on
31st March 1930 –
16th December
2022

Marie was one of a set of twins.

Marie was a nurse and started her nursing training at the Alfred hospital in 1948 she finished her training in 1952. Marie married in 1952 to Bruce Smith and came to live in the Latrobe Valley in 1955 and in 1956 started working at the Latrobe Valley Community hospital Yallourn in 1956 to 1961.

The years went by, and Marie had two boys Peter and then Larry.

Bruce worked at the SECV – he started to have health problems in 2003 and was diagnosed with asbestosis and they joined ACV/GARDS at that time. They both came to meetings and gathering and social events. In 2004 Bruce passed away and Marie decided she was not going to sit by and feel sorry for herself, so she became involved with ACV/GARDS by joining the committee and then she became the Vice President in later years.

She was a stalwart of the org and anywhere she went she held the banner high for ACV/GARDS and asbestos sufferers. Marie put in 1000's of hours voluntary work with us and our org was that much richer for it.

Marie was never afraid to voice her opinion on practically any issue whether that be asbestos related or not and she was passionate about the work that ACV/GARDS was trying to achieve with awareness and education and supporting our families.

Marie travelled with the org to meetings on asbestos issues – she came with us to meetings all up the south coast of Australia from Victoria to NSW to Queensland and then over to SA on a number of occasions.

She enjoyed her time with us – she found it rewarding. In later years Marie had begun to slow down but kept up with the news and going ons of the org – she attended meetings both nighttime organisational ones and support group ones until she could no longer get around or did not have the strength to sit on the phone.

Our condolences go out to Marie's families -Marie achieved a lot in her lifetime – she was 93 years young when she passed away and we miss her very much.

RIP Marie.



Latrobe Valley Asbestos Task Force

21 Recommendations to Victorian State Government

ACV/GARDS has spent the last 4 years before and during COVID and year since the pandemic was declared done with other like-minded people and organisations in a group called the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Task Force.

We have achieved so much in recognising all that needs to happen not only in Gippsland but all of Victoria in managing and addressing asbestos to try and make change in how we deal with this very monumental problem we are facing, because if we don't the ramifications will go on for decades to come and so many lives will be affected and many

more will die from this silent killer. In Australia 4,500 a year to be exact.

What happened to the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Task Force – not funded anymore – came to the end of its life in March 2023 – but the asbestos issues have not and where is an entity to take the Recommendations to the next level and oversee the instigation of those recommendations?

What has happened to the 21 recommendations made to the -Victorian State

Government – I hope they are not sitting on a shelf somewhere? – so disappointing – why?

Minimising risks
of asbestos
exposure and
associated harm
in Victoria

2022

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LATROBE VALLEY ASBESTOS TASKFORCE

Asbestos is dangerous.

And it could be in your home.



It's important not to damage or disturb asbestos-containing materials.
Become asbestos aware.

THINK TWICE
ABOUT ASBESTOS



Australian Government

asbestossafety.gov.au

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Local stakeholder visits the Hazelwood site

Over the last couple of months, the Hazelwood team has been pleased to host several tours of the site by local groups and stakeholders with an interest in the rehabilitation plans and Environment Effects Statement (EES).

We've had media groups get onsite for a project update and capturing footage of our latest progress, Commonwealth and Victorian regulators, and site tours and in-depth discussions with the following organisations:

- Latrobe Valley Authority
- The Coal Face Podcast
- Environmental Justice Australia
- Environment Victoria
- Great Latrobe Park
- Voices of the Valley
- Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority

There was also an opportunity to talk with representatives from the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) to learn about their knowledge of the area and respond to questions and concerns. Earlier in April, Martin Cameron, Member for Morwell toured the site as the new local State MP.

Visits to the site will continue to be a feature of the engagement program to support the preparation of the EES.

ENGIE in the community – recent activities and feedback

In recent months, ENGIE Hazelwood has been out in the community talking about the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project and letting people know how they can participate in the preparation of the project's Environment Effects Statement (EES) process.





The sessions provided an opportunity to talk through the draft Scoping Requirements. The Scoping Requirements are prepared by the Victorian Government to set out the matters which will be considered in the EES.

Submissions to the Department of Transport and Planning are now closed, but you can view the draft by visiting Engage Victoria at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/hazelwood-mine-rehabilitation-ees-project-draft-scopingrequirements>

There were several in-depth and constructive conversations about the project and the proposed lake solution. We heard how connected people feel to the Hazelwood site and how important it is for the

project to leave a positive legacy for the Latrobe Valley community and the Gippsland region.

While we encouraged everyone to provide feedback in submissions to the Victorian Government, here is a snapshot of discussion themes.

-  Seeking more information about how the water impacts of the project will be assessed by the EES
-  Why the proposed solution of a lake is preferred and whether alternatives have been considered.
-  Wanting to know more general information about the project and the EES process, and the expected timeline
-  Questions about how any contamination issues and water quality will be managed and assessed in the EES

How you can get involved in the Environment Effects Statement (EES)

The preparation of the EES is a critical step in planning the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project. It will make comprehensive assessments of the project's potential effects publicly available for community information and submissions.

To make sure the Hazelwood team keeping people up to date and seeking people's ideas and feedback, over the next couple of months there will be a EES Technical Conversations Series. The Hazelwood EES Technical Conversations Series will kick off in July and be held several times over the next year, both online and in person.

This program of technical events and sessions will help explain the science and technical modelling that informs the rehabilitation project and lake proposal and ensure your questions are being considered in the project's Environment Effects Statement.

Together with technical specialists, the ENGIE Hazelwood project team will share the work underway as part of the EES process to review and assess the potential environmental impacts of the project.

Each session in the Technical Conversations Series will cover the areas of the project being assessed, including:

- Ground movement, stability and safety
- Management of contamination and risks
- Water sources, quality and waterways
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Alternative options considered
- Climate change scenarios and impacts



ERC Members inspect the site from the Fires Services Lookout

Hazelwood demolition program officially complete!

Three years after the iconic Hazelwood chimneys were demolished, a certificate of final inspection was issued in May 2023.

The Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project included one of the largest demolition programs in the world at

the time. The explosive engineered collapse of the eight chimneys on 25 May 2020, demolition of bucket-wheel dredgers and similar explosive collapses of the eight boiler house units that formed the Hazelwood Power Station were the high-profile activities in the program.

However, there were other extensive

works that needed to be completed, including demolition of kilometres of conveyor belts, demolition of massive buildings such as the concrete coal bunker and clearing of other structures around the site. The site of the former power station has also been cleared.

Most importantly the entire

demolition program was completed without a Lost Time Injury, meaning all works were completed safely.

The official certificate of final inspections formally completes the demolition program, while extensive earthworks, rehabilitation and remediation activities and continuing at the site.

More information about these sessions will be published on the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project website in the coming weeks. To stay up-to-date, please visit www.hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au to subscribe to our e-news.

Meeting with the Environment Review Committee

Members of the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project's Environmental Review Committee (ERC) toured the Hazelwood site in May, as part of the ongoing involvement of community members and government regulators in oversight of ENGIE Hazelwood's mine licence.

The ERC typically meets three times a year to review onsite activities and provide feedback on any issues of concern.

The group includes a number of community members, one of which is Vicki Hamilton and representatives of local government and state government departments.

After a tour of the site, the ERC received an in-depth briefing on current key elements of the project including the EES process.

Feedback from the committee members included recommendations about further community outreach, and recognition of how far on-site works have progressed since the last meeting.

The upcoming Technical Conversation Sessions will present a great opportunity for broader community discussions with the project team and with the technical specialists preparing assessments for the Environment Effects Statement.

Ongoing water quality monitoring

ENGIE Hazelwood carries out regular water quality monitoring across the Hazelwood site, in line with rehabilitation and regulatory requirements including EPA licence conditions and our General Environmental Duties.

Regular water monitoring has been underway at the site since the 1980s, and the current monitoring program is helping understand current and potential future water quality in the mine lake.

Water is tested and analysed at several locations around the site, including in the mine void and upstream and downstream in the Morwell River. Depending on the things being tested, like water flows, temperature, metals, minerals, oxygen and solids in the water, samples are taken weekly, monthly or quarterly.

In 2022, ENGIE Hazelwood launched a water monitoring pontoon in the mine pit to improve water monitoring capabilities. The pontoon provides a more accurate picture of water quality because it continuously gathers data about the water depth, temperature, cloudiness, any algae or organic materials present, and how saline or salty the water is.

Water quality is analysed to nationwide accredited standards which are governed by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA). The results of water monitoring will feed into the technical assessments being prepared for the project's Environment Effects Statement.

Rehabilitation works well underway

Rehabilitation works at the Hazelwood site have been underway for many years, well before closure of the mine and power station. Works to remediate asbestos and other materials and to rehabilitate the mine walls have been progressing for several years under existing approvals.



Remediation of the HAP4

One of the largest programs of work undertaken so far at Hazelwood has been the remediation of the Hazelwood Ash Pond (HAP4).

The HAP4 is a 30-hectare area on the north-eastern corner of the Hazelwood site which was used to store and contain coal ash created when coal is burned to generate power.

Coal ash was transported to this site during the operation of the coal mine and power station.

The HAP4 is an EPA-approved landfill and all remediation and capping works at the HAP4 have been approved by the EPA / by an independent EPA-accredited auditor.

The HAP4 remediation works are expected to be completed soon, and pasture grasses will then be planted over the area.

Earthworks on Eastern mine batters

One of the most visible areas of the Hazelwood site will have a new look in the next few months.

The Eastern batters, the wide area of clay-covered embankment visible from the Princes Freeway, particularly for people travelling east, will soon have grasses planted on it.

Topsoil is now being placed on a lengthy section of the batter following a program of drainage and batter stability works around the mine area.

The soil works are scheduled for completion by the end of May, which will allow grass sowing in June and July. The top two levels of the batter will be sown first with the lower level of the batter planned for Spring 2023.

It's hoped the grass will begin to shoot very soon, changing the appearance of the eastern end of the mine.

Pictured below: This aerial photograph shows the eastern batters with topsoil laid, ready for grass seeding.





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Reducing workplace harm.



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Protect the lives of your employees and yourself.



Use tools with water suppression



Wear a fit for purpose respirator



Use on tool extraction



Carry out air monitoring



Ensure annual health checks

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



Reducing workplace harm.



Hazelwood Battery Energy Storage System commissioned on the old Hazelwood Power Station site

Hazelwood is Australia's first retired coal-fired power station to host a utility-scale battery

ENGIE and project partners Eku Energy and Fluence have delivered another milestone at the site of the former Hazelwood Power Station in the Latrobe Valley in Victoria, with the commissioning of the Hazelwood Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) today. Marking a new era in Australia's energy transition, Hazelwood is the first retired coal-fired power station to host a battery storage system in Australia and represents a key moment in repurposing former thermal assets for renewable energy technologies.

The Hazelwood BESS was officially opened on 14 June 2023 by The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Victorian Minister for Energy & Resources, together with Rik De Buyserie, CEO, ENGIE Australia & New Zealand, Daniel Burrows, Chief Investment Officer and Head of Asia Pacific, Eku Energy, and Achal Sondhi, Vice President for Market Growth, APAC & General Manager for Australia, Fluence.

Jointly funded and developed by ENGIE and Eku Energy, the 150 MW/150 MWh Hazelwood BESS is Australia's largest privately funded utility-scale battery. Fluence supplies, operates, and maintains the facility for the partnership and it is the first project in Australia to use Fluence's Gridstack product to provide secure and reliable energy in Victoria and support the energy transition.



The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy & Resources, Government of Victoria said, "Victoria is leading the nation in delivering battery and energy storage projects, with our ambitious energy storage targets ensuring that Victoria continues to attract industry investment and collaboration opportunities like this. The Latrobe Valley has been the home of Victoria's energy generation for decades and new investment in technologies like energy storage will help solidify its role in our renewable energy future."

Rik De Buyserie, CEO, ENGIE ANZ said, "ENGIE's delivery of the Hazelwood battery is part of our commitment to building long-term, reliable assets that play a key role in the future of

Australia's energy transition. With its access to transmission and available space at site, Hazelwood is the perfect location for an asset that can grow in depth and duration, increasing the hosting capacity for renewables."

Daniel Burrows, Chief Investment Officer and Head of Asia Pacific, Eku Energy said, "The Hazelwood battery is an example of how strong partnerships can support the deployment of battery storage systems at strategic grid locations as Australia's existing generation fleet transitions towards higher penetrations of renewable energy resources. Storage solutions remain key to the pace at which we can transition to renewable energy and today's event marks another proud

milestone in Eku Energy's global energy storage portfolio, as we celebrate the commissioning of 150 MW of safe, secure and reliable battery capacity to accelerate the energy transition."

Achal Sondhi, Vice President for Market Growth, APAC & General Manager for Australia at Fluence said, "As the first project in Australia to deploy Fluence Gridstack, an energy storage product which is designed for the most demanding market applications, the Hazelwood battery is a major milestone for us. By partnering with ENGIE and Eku Energy, we are bringing Fluence's proven advanced technology combined with over 15 years of global energy storage experience to deliver industry-leading reliability, scalability, and safety to Australia.

"Fluence Mosaic™ bidding software allows the Hazelwood battery to react quickly and efficiently to grid needs and maximise the revenue while allowing integration of more clean energy. Our rapidly growing Fluence team in Australia is committed to the country's energy transition."

The Hazelwood battery has the capacity to store the equivalent of an hour of energy generated from the rooftop solar systems of 30,000 homes. It will play a critical role in increasing renewable energy capacity in Victoria while delivering essential system services to the grid.

Our own Vicki Hamilton was invited to the opening of this facility



Gippsland TAFE Newborough Campus



February 2023 saw the ACV/GARDS team take conduct an Asbestos and Silica awareness session to apprentice Painting and Deco group.

The group of apprentices had many questions and we discussed some of

the issues that the apprentices come up against in their workplaces.

It was great to see them so engaged and swapping ideas and experiences in the classroom. Their teacher Davin Nicholas certainly added to the conversation, and I think we all learnt a lot in the session. We have conducted 100's of these

sessions but there is always something for us to learn from the apprentices and some of the situations that come up for them when on a job. The apprentices loved the samples and got a good idea of what they are looking out for when they go to a site. We hope this gives them the confidence to ask questions. We hope

the apprentices are now asbestos and silica aware!! We look forward to coming back to this campus in September of this year to talk with many more apprentices from all trades – the room has been booked in their auditorium to speak to as many as we can.

PROFILE ON

Julia Collins

Julia Collins joined the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency in 2020 as the Director of Policy, Research and Data and recently took over leading the Awareness and International team at ASEA.

Julia has over 20 years' experience in work health and safety (WHS) policy and regulation, having held senior leadership positions in both the public and private sector. Julia's WHS career

commenced as an inspector with WorkSafe ACT (then known as ACT WorkCover).

This regulatory experience became valuable in her subsequent policy roles. She worked at Safe Work Australia for 7 years where she was involved in developing the model WHS laws and Codes of Practice. Julia then spent three years in the private sector dealing with heavy vehicle safety, which included developing guidance

on new chain of responsibility duties.

She also worked as a consultant and conducted the review of ASEA's role and functions in 2019.

Julia's qualifications include a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Graduate Diploma in Safety Science.



Thank you so much for your generous donation

Julie and Allan Faith, we would like to thank you so much for your donation to our org.

This donation will help to fund our computers which has been a much-needed item in our office – all our work goes through our computers they are a much-needed lifeline to conducting business. Our computers are getting to the end of their life and need to

be much more efficient and quicker at what they do to keep up with the workload that we have. So, as you can well imagine these will be a cherished new edition when we finally get them.

Our org will place a plaque on the computers to say this equipment was funded with the generosity of Julie and Alan Faith 2023.

Again, it is an honour to have you fund us in this manner.

Master Plumbers Narre Warren



ACV/GARDS were very happy to meet a great bunch of apprentice plumbers who were keen to learn as much as they could about asbestos, and silica

and we had many questions asked of us.

The conversations were varied and very well thought about. It was really great to see the interaction with the apprentices

when someone was recalling a work situation they had been in, and we hope with all the sharing of knowledge they will go out and use it to make good choices in their workplaces. Would love to thank the two trade teachers who

joined in the conversations as well. We think the apprentices certainly got a lot out of the session and were most interested in our samples that we took along. We are hoping they are now asbestos and silica aware!!!

Kevin's Nightmare with Silica

How carting, cutting, and installing stone benchtop left Kevin living a nightmare

Stone benchtops are a common feature in kitchens across Australia. But few people know about the risks involved to the tradespeople preparing these benchtops.

Kevin Badenoch, 50, has worked as a stonemason for over 18 years. He now suffers from two progressive silica related conditions - silica-related scleroderma, which primarily affects his fingers, and silica-related lymphadenopathy, which is enlarged lymph nodes caused by exposure to silica dust.

"My fingers get ulcerated, and over the years, they don't get better sort of thing, so everything's a deadset nightmare," he said.

"Life is horrible when you try to do anything. I can't use my fingers. Sometimes it's a struggle to make a coffee, and even just running my fingers under water can bring tears to my eyes."

"There's a lot of things that are a real struggle."

What are silica related conditions?

Silica related conditions are diseases are caused by exposure to silica dust. Silica is found in stone, sand, concrete and mortar. It is used to make composite stone for benchtops, bricks, tiles and some plastics.

Silicosis is the most common silica related condition and is a debilitating

and incurable lung disease. Silicosis causes scarring of the lungs and, in some cases, develops into severe respiratory diseases, such as progressive massive fibrosis. In the end stages of the disease, people with silicosis are unable to breathe and gradually suffocate to death.

It is a preventable disease, but there has been a dramatic spike in cases, with a particularly high number of young men in their 20s and 30s.

Silicosis was common in Australia in the 1940s to 1960s, particularly in men working in construction and demolition. However, growing awareness of the disease and how to prevent it by wearing face masks and monitoring air quality reduced the number of cases.

The resurgence of cases is blamed on the recent popularity of stone and engineered stone benchtops.

Who does it impact?

Stonemasons are overrepresented in the number of people diagnosed with silica related conditions, but they aren't the only ones.

"There are increasing rates in other industries in which silica dust is a problem," explained Jonathan Walsh, a Principal Lawyer in the Dust Diseases team at Maurice Blackburn.

"Anywhere where rock dust is created, and that dust has some content of silica in it, silicosis is definitely a risk to that particular worker."

This could include anyone exposed to silica dust working in excavation, mining, quarrying, tunnelling,

abrasive blasting and brick, concrete or stone cutting.

Symptoms of silica related conditions

Symptoms of silica related lung conditions, such as silicosis, include coughing, shortness of breath and tiredness. But, in the early stages of the disease, there may be no symptoms, and it may go undetected for months or even years.

For Kevin, the diagnosis of his silica related conditions came as a shock.

"I was getting really cold fingers and toes, and I eventually went for a blood test, and I was told I had scleroderma," he said.

"When they told me, I was shocked because I'd never heard about it before.

It was a big wake-up call when I went to see the specialist.

What should you do if you suspect you have been exposed to silica dust?

The first place to start is with a GP check-up, said Jonathan.

"If you've got concerns, go to your GP," he said.

"Inform them of your occupational exposure and then get referred for a chest X-ray or CT scan at the very least. That should start the process to determine

whether you have a problem with lung disease."

Kevin advises getting out of the industry immediately.

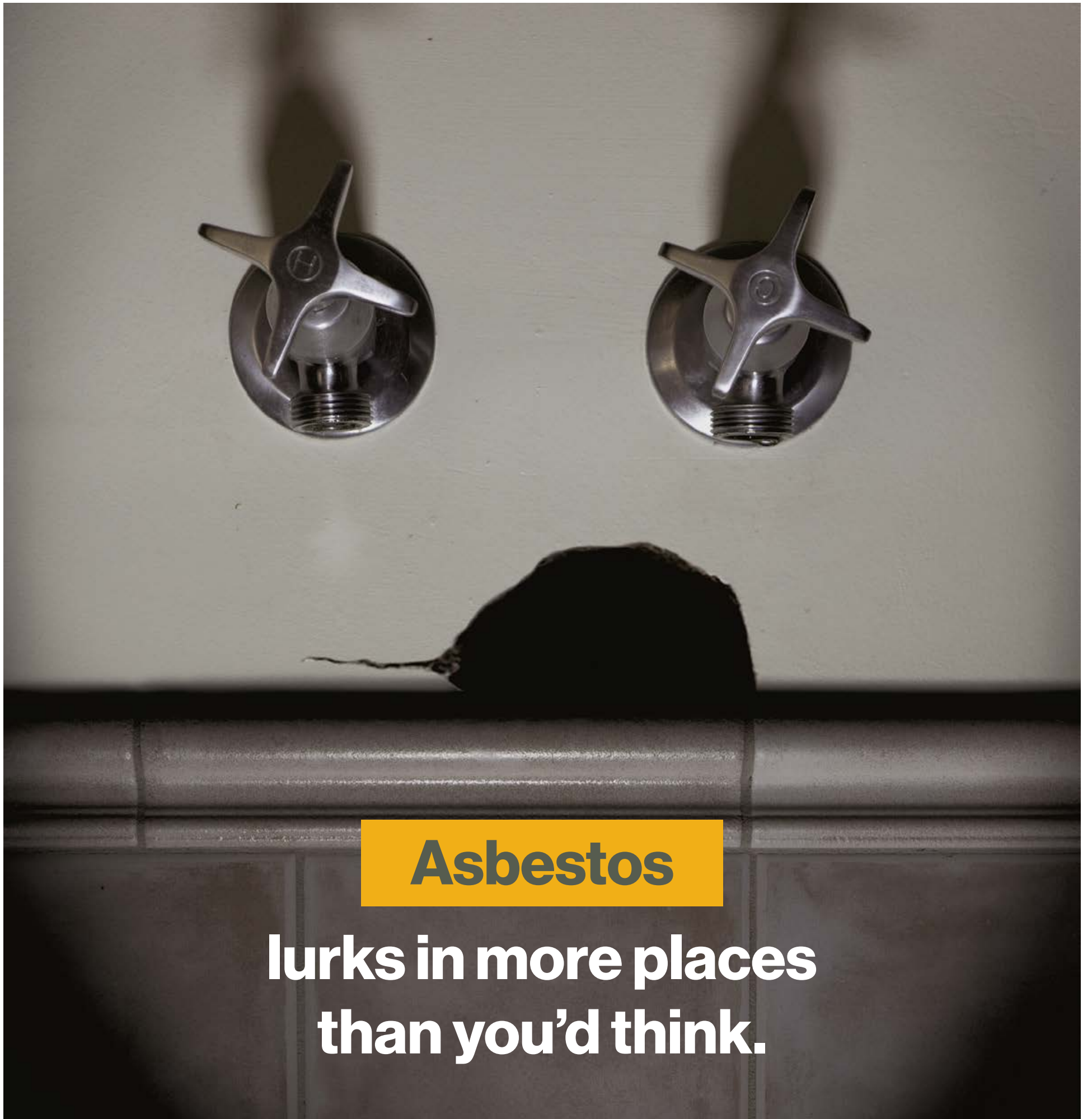
"I'd say get out of it as quick as you can, but unfortunately, once you get a diagnosis, whether you get out or not, it's too late," he said.

If you have been diagnosed with a silica related condition, you may be entitled to financial compensation.

Please note: the article first appeared in the New Daily".

This man is a Maurice Blackburn Lawyers client.





Asbestos

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

Did you know asbestos was used in more than 3000 common building materials before it was banned? It's still found in 1 in 3 Australian homes, lurking in things like walls, eaves and flooring. Knowing what to look for might not be as easy as you think.

Think you know? Find out at asbestos.vic.gov.au



Reducing workplace harm.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA)

Asbestos 2023

ASEA were pleased to participate as a Platinum Partner in the FAMANZ 2023 Asbestos Conference “Collaboration is key” held in Auckland from 21-22 March.

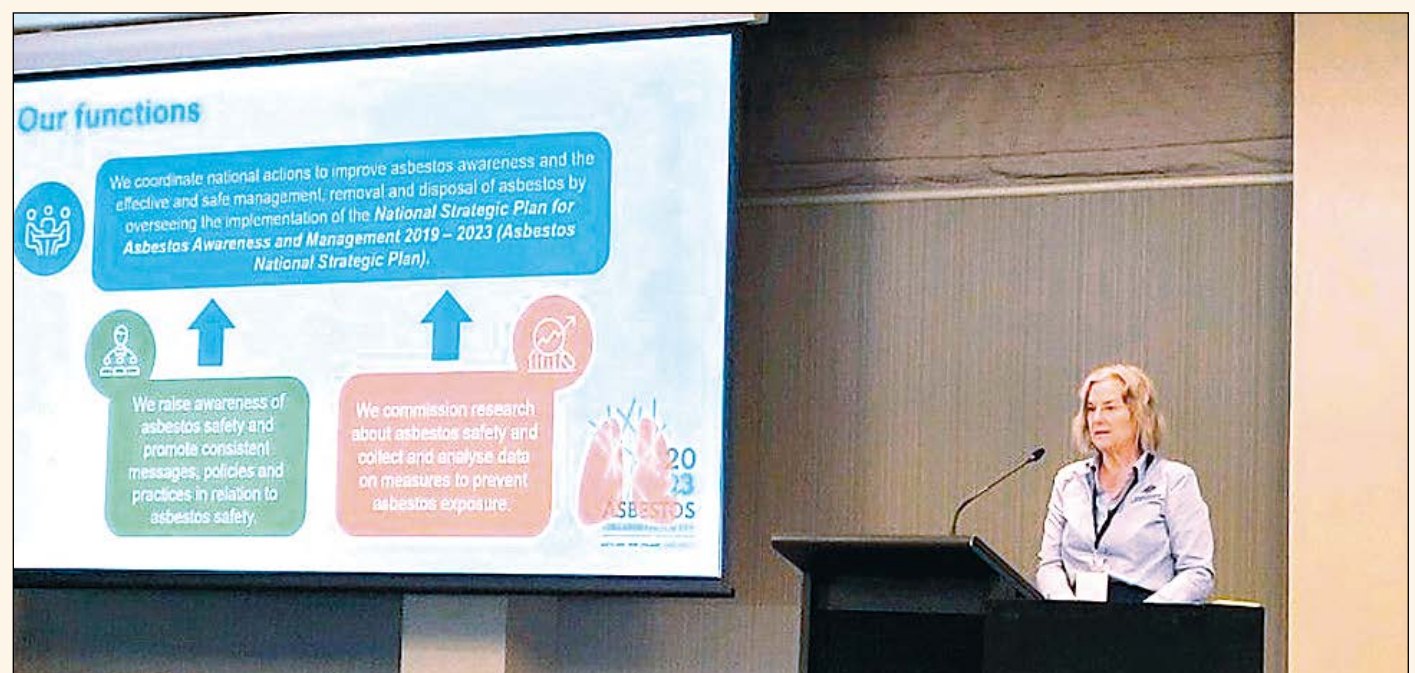
The common theme at the event and in each of the sessions was the importance of collaboration in the asbestos industry, and that together, we can make positive changes to prevent asbestos exposure.

The event brought together delegates from across government and industry organisations, and an international speaker line-up with speakers from UK, Italy, America, Australia, and New Zealand, offering different perspectives and learnings.

ASEA CEO, Justine Ross provided a keynote presentation on ASEA’s role in coordinating the Asbestos National Strategic Plan and on day two, ASEA Director, Julia Collins presented on achieving consistency in asbestos identification and assessment, which generated a high level of interest and discussion with delegates. ASEA also had an exhibition booth at the event, which provided a space to network and reconnect with stakeholders.

Bunnings trade shows

The annual Bunnings trade shows have officially launched for 2023, with ASEA participating in both the Melbourne and Sydney events. The Bunnings trade shows provide ASEA



with a unique opportunity to directly connect with householders and home renovators, and tradespeople in the community.

ASEA’s exhibition booth saw high levels of interest from attendees and up-take of our guidance materials, with many also stopping by for some asbestos safety merchandise.

Some of the common questions included, where asbestos may be present in the home, how to know whether something is asbestos, contacting professionals and general information on how to keep safe and prevent exposure.

The Bunnings trade shows will be coming to Hobart, Adelaide, and Perth

towards the end of the year, with some of our colleagues in the asbestos support group network attending these to continue raising awareness within the community.

National General Assembly Conference 2023

ASEA also recently participated in the 2023 National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government held by the Australian Local Government Association from 13 – 16 June.

ASEA’s exhibition booth saw a hive of activity engaging with local government stakeholders, who are often at the front line when it comes to dealing with asbestos issues.

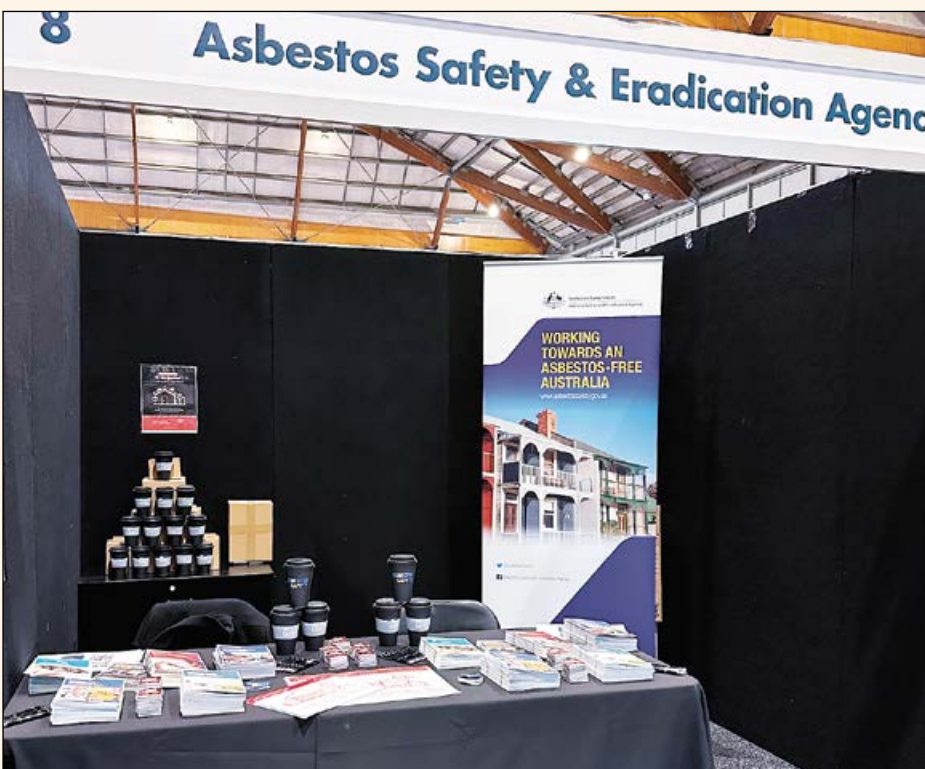
Throughout the week, ASEA heard

about the asbestos challenges facing local councils, especially problems associated with illegal dumping, and discussed how their practical guidance materials can help.

This was a great opportunity for ASEA to speak directly with local government representatives from all around Australia and continue their work together to prevent asbestos exposure in the community.

ASEA’s role in silica dust disease prevention

The Australian Government is providing the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) with \$4.2 million over four years to expand their functions to include silica dust. Drawing on ASEA’s





extensive experience in coordinating national actions to eliminate asbestos-related diseases in Australia, ASEA are looking forward to applying this expertise to address silica-related diseases once legislative amendments to their functions have been made.

A stakeholder consultation process will take place to help shape the new functions of ASEA.

Indonesian Asbestos Training conference 2023

In June 2023 Justine Ross (ASEA CEO) and Julia Collins (Director, International and Awareness) visited Jakarta in Indonesia to participate in a pilot training program on the diagnosis and treatment of asbestos-related diseases (ARDs). The program was organised by the Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute (ADDRI) and Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA with support from ASEA.

The 3-day workshop with the theme “Translating knowledge to action” was held at Binawan University and was attended by doctors, nurses and specialists in pathology, radiology, and oncology as well as students from the University. Everyone was

eager to learn more about the unique aspects of diagnosing ARDs, especially mesothelioma.

Justine presented on Australia’s asbestos experience and Julia shared the results of research that ASEA conducted to quantify asbestos-related diseases in Indonesia.

Given that Indonesia still imports large quantities of asbestos, ASEA’s key message was that immediate action is needed to stop using asbestos so that the country does not experience the

same trajectory in ARDs as Australia has.

Participants also heard from asbestos factory workers who have been diagnosed with asbestosis and silicosis. The workers suffering from asbestosis are amongst the first to receive workers’ compensation for an ARD in Indonesia.

A key outcome of the workshop is the development of guidelines for clinical management of ARDs for Indonesian practitioners. Ongoing guidance is

also being offered by ADDRI where medical practitioners will be able to discuss specific cases with specialists in Australia.

Justine and Julia also met with officers at the Australian Embassy and discussed opportunities for awareness raising and capacity building to address asbestos exposure risks in Indonesia.

Given the success of this pilot training program, providing similar training in other countries in South-East Asia will be considered.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS Inc conducted its AGM Saturday the 4th of February 2023

Results of Election for Positions are as follows:

Vice President – Maree Phillips

Secretary – Vicki Hamilton OAM

Committee Member – Sharyn Fenech

As there were no other nominations for positions those who stood were duly elected - Congratulations to you all and thank you for your past work and we look forward to the next 12 months being a very busy time ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS!

EAVERS NEED A LICK OF PAINT?

THEY COULD BE ASBESTOS

Asbestos was used in over 3,000 building products

Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au



Asbestos

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

Did you know asbestos was used in more than 3000 common building materials before it was banned? It's still found in 1 in 3 Australian homes, lurking in things like hot water service flues, cowls and gaskets. Knowing what to look for might not be as easy as you think.

Think you know? Find out at asbestos.vic.gov.au



Reducing workplace harm.



MEETING DATES

INCORPORATING OUR ASBESTOS/SILICA SUPPORT GROUPS IN GIPPSLAND & METRO

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR 2023

GIPPSLAND - MOE

Last Tuesday of the month -
1.30pm to 3.30pm

Meetings are held at
ACV/GARDS Premises
211 Lloyd Street, Moe

- Tuesday 1st August - Moved from date in July
- Tuesday 23rd August for our Monash students to attend
- Tuesday 26th September
- Tuesday 31st October
- FRI 24th NOV - Asbestos Awareness Day, Gippsland Heritage Park - Moe 11am
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP TBA

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR 2023

METRO - CHADSTONE

Second Monday of the month -
1.30pm to 3.30pm

Meetings are held at Amaroo
Neighbourhood Centre
34 Amaroo Street, Chadstone

- Monday 14th August
- Monday 11th September
- Monday 9th October
- Monday 13th November - Asbestos Awareness Day event -Melbourne Bowls Club, Flagstaff Gardens 11am
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP TBA

ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETING – OPERATIONAL/BUSINESS FOR 2023

GIPPSLAND - MOE

Third Tuesday of the month -
7.30pm to 9.30pm

Meetings are held at
ACV/GARDS Premises
211 Lloyd Street, Moe

- Tuesday 18th July
- Tuesday 15th August
- Tuesday 19th September
- Tuesday 17th October
- Tuesday 21st November
- CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP TBA

New website coming for ACV/GARDS

Thank you to Alinta Loy Yang B Community Partnership Program

We are very thrilled to receive the news that we had been successful in getting the majority of funding for our new web site from Alinta Loy Yang B. It was the best news we had received.

So, in the next few months we will commence the process of planning in stages our new web site with our web designer Italicherry Design. We are very much looking forward to getting this underway so that people will be able to find info quicker and easier and this will give us the capability of being able to put more informative messaging on the site.

Again, we want to thank Alinta Loy Yang B Community Partnership Program in supporting our efforts to help those seeking information on Asbestos and Silica.

Loy Yang B Power Station

Powering  alintaenergy

Terry Magnuson Thank you so much

ACV/GARDS were overwhelmed with the donation we received from Terry – this donation will go a long way to helping our org to support other asbestos and silica sufferers. The info and support that we are able to give families with donations such as Terry's is vital and so gratefully received.

Pictured is Terry and her fur baby Darah



CFMEU

VICTORIA

General & Construction Vic/Tas

ACV/GARDS were very excited to have the CFMEU support ACV/GARDS with a contribution to get our web site under way – this has helped us immensely. By the end of the year, we will hopefully have a new - user friendly web site up and running. Thanks all at the CFMEU for supporting us.

Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous companies – thank you to Sam Erbs and all the team at Mairin OHS&E Consulting – Moe – We thank you for your continued support – Steve Day and all the team at Latrobe Plumbing and Asbestos thank you for your support

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

- Carolyn Davis regular donations each month, ■ Ian McEwan, ■ Robert Rawlings, ■ Nell Ruiter, ■ Ian Hamilton, ■ Sharron Wolski, ■ Alan & Julie Faith, ■ Ray Watson, ■ Pay Pal Giving fund anonymous donations x 2, ■ Anne Callahan, ■ Jack Pearce x 2, ■ Marilyn Reid, ■ Anderson Roofing and Plumbing, ■ Doreen Jackson, ■ Maree Hall, ■ Edmund Marut, ■ Mark Waltham, ■ Malcolm Fabiny, ■ Chris Badger, ■ Chris Healy

Donations made in Memory of - Peter Gunn

■ Vivien Gunn - Vivien made comment in her online donation by saying: To Vicki and her brilliant, caring team & their wonderful community organisation - thank you.

Donations made in Memory of - Anne Callahan

- Emma Roccasalva, ■ Terry Foster, ■ Rupert Christie, ■ Joan Stewart, ■ Rosalee Harper, ■ Bec Norman

Donations made in Memory of - David Magnuson

- Terry and Darah Magnuson

THANK YOU!

SP Cleaners P/L Solar Cleaning Panel Experts

Thank you for donating towards the cleaning of our solar panels at the office. It was very much appreciated.

Thank you so much Latrobe Valley Funeral Services

Your donation is very much appreciated and will be put to good use. Big thanks to all.

Donations made in Memory of - Jim Sargeant

- Mary and Liam Rossney

Donations made in Memory of - Peter Fenech

- Sharyn, Jason and Michelle Fenech

Donations made in Memory of - Ken Edebohls

- Glenda Edebohls

Donations made in Memory of - John van Rosmalen

- Adele, ■ Linda, ■ Mark, ■ Derek

Big thank you to S & S Equipment Hire

We would like to thank Sean and Sammy we were very excited to receive a donation from Sean and Sammy it means a great deal to us to have people such as yourselves deem us worthy of your support – this enables us to help asbestos & silica sufferers and their families.

Thank you so much Ian Lee

We want to thank Ian Lee for the generous donation he made to us – he is helping us to obtain a much-needed cabinet for the office.

ACV/GARDS was pleased to accept a donation from Michael Hutchinson

You can be assured it will go a long way to supporting Asbestos and Silica sufferers. Thank you so much.

Uniting Church of Australia – Yallourn Parish Thrift Shop

Thank you for your generous donation to our organisation it was very much appreciated. The money will be put to effective use in supporting sufferers and their families with asbestos and silica.

Wonderful Donation

ACV/GARDS were so pleased to receive a generous donation from Sharyn Fenech, Michelle Fenech and Jason Fenech. The money they have donated will help us to support families into the future who need our help. It is wonderful when members such as this family help others and care enough to make a donation. It is donated in memory of Peter – husband and father.

Pictured here is Sharyn – she is also a valued committee member.



Perfect weather to give that dirty roof a good clean?

IT COULD BE ASBESTOS



Asbestos was used in over 3,000 building products
Find out more at asbestos.vic.gov.au

Thank you Brian & Karen For Portable Concentrator

ACV/GARDS organisation was thrilled to accept a great donation to purchase an Imogen G5 portable oxygen concentrator.

Brian and Karen Healy surprised us by informing us that they wanted to help out with purchasing equipment for members to use. It was a very generous thing to do. We are so proud to accept the donation

from them. Karen would not have her photo taken but we did get Brian lined up.

Thank you so much.





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:

Committee of Management

President:

Dorothy Roberts
Mobile 0407 274 174

Vice President:

Maree Phillips
Mobile 0458 565 726

CEO/Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton OAM
Mobile 0407 274 173

Treasurer:

David Fairbairn
Mobile 0403 319 520

Member:

Sharyn Fenech
Mobile 0423 587 363

Vicki Burgess
Mobile 0409 008 168

ACV/GARDS Fees

Joining Fee: \$5.00

Annual Fees:

Pensioner/Concession

Unemployed \$5.00

Employed persons \$15.00

Meetings

Operations at this present time

GIPPSLAND - MOE

SUPPORT:

Last Tuesday of month,
1.30pm - 3.30pm

211 Lloyd St, Moe

All meetings are face to face at our office

METRO - CHADSTONE

SUPPORT:

2nd Monday of month,
1.30pm - 3.30pm

**Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre -
34 Amaroo St, Chadstone**

Contact Maitea Lovric or
Vicki Hamilton – all meetings are
face to face

ORGANISATIONAL/OPERATIONAL

EVENING:

3rd Tuesday of month,
7.30pm - 9.30pm

211 Lloyd St, Moe

By telephone conferencing and
face to face

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday
10am - 4pm

Friday - By appointment

ACV/GARDS NEW MEMBERS Joining Fee Initial Fee of: **\$5.00**

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

ACV/GARDS Annual Subscription 20 _____

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

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

All membership prices include GST

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

Signature: Date: ____/____/____

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

Office Use Only

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

Signature of Proposer: Date: ____/____/____

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

Signature of Seconder: Date: ____/____/____

**Our support group
Facilitator Maitea Lovric, who
conducts our ACV/GARDS
Metro support group can be
contacted by mobile #
0481987953**

Up and coming events 2023

Asbestos Awareness Day events Gippsland

Venue: Gippsland Heritage Park Moe at 11am on the 24th November and our Melbourne event will be held at the Melbourne Bowls Club, Flagstaff Gardens, Monday 13th November at 11am.

Have you paid your ACV/GARDS Membership Fees



All fees are due and payable

30th September of each year

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



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

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


Phone:
03 5127 7744 24/7

Mobile:
0407 274 173

Website:
www.gards.org

SKYPE:
VickiGARDS

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

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

ACV/GARDS INC. SUPPORT

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

ACV/GARDS INC. Support also conducts a 2x monthly meeting (1.30pm – 3.30pm) one on the last Tuesday of the month in Gippsland at 211 Lloyd Street, Moe & one on the 2nd Monday of the month at Chadstone – Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre – 34 Amaroo St, Chadstone) where guest presenters are invited to provide information about support services of all kinds and any other topics of interest that the members might find of relevance. The meetings also provide a gathering place for experiences; ACV/GARDS

Support is open to anyone whose lives have been affected by asbestos or silica, their families, and the public.

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

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

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

ACV/GARDS INC. ORGANISATIONAL/ OPERATIONAL EVENING MEETING



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

These meetings provide a focal point for information sharing and problem identification. The aim of this group is to focus on improving health and support services and any other issues deemed relevant to improving overall outcomes to asbestos & silica sufferers, their families, and the public. Thus, ensuring asbestos & silica related issues are kept in the public eye and trying to rid our built environment of these carcinogens



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



Major Sponsor

