



May 2014

# News

## ***A Message from the President***



### **ABBOTT GOVERNMENT SET TO AXE ASBESTOS AGENCY**

“WINDOW DRESSING” is what the Government thinks of the **ASBESTOS SAFETY AND ERADICATION AGENCY**, this quote is buried deep within the budget papers. Finance Minister, Senator Mathias Cormann in a Ministerial Paper claims that “The agency was intended to maintain a profile in the news media and perform a public reassurance role, but lacked meaningful powers fit for that purpose.”

Well I can tell you members that the agency has been held up for nearly nine months by the mandarins of the public service by not being able to hire staff, have office space and money to run the agency effectively, they have even written a briefing note to the Minister bagging the Agency. They have done everything to delay the agency from hitting the deck running and operating effectively and do not like the idea of the Agency being taken out of their hands and run as an independent body.

As for the Finance Minister he is quoted “It is a misuse of separate bodies for public relations purposes.

While it was part of DEEWR (Department of Employment, Education Workplace Relations) what did it do? I cannot think of anything. I don’t recall any help during the **HARDIES CAMPAIGN** or any other asbestos issue that I have been involved with over the last twenty odd years.

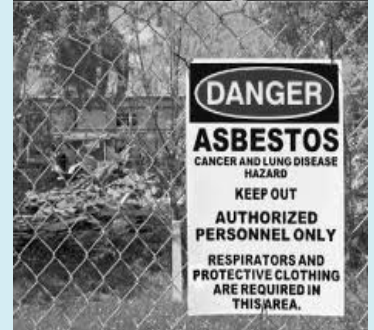
Asbestos groups, Unions, and community leaders fought to set the Agency up to stop future Australians being exposed to asbestos and to start cleaning up the country from all asbestos contamination.

So it looks like we will have to save the Agency from this **ABBOTT GOVERNMENT**.

*It is with a very sad heart that we been informed that Raymond Colbert Secretary of Asbestos Related Disease Support Society QLD Inc has passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Colbert Family and his extended family at ARDSSQ.*

**Barry Robson**

**President, Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.**



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The President of adfa, Barry Robson , was awarded the great honour of being a speaker at the 10th Annual International Conference of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization in Washington D.C. 4th to 6th April, this year.

Barry reported on the total ban of asbestos in Australia and the vigilance of authorities in assuring this killer product is not imported in any form into the country. Barry also spoke on the research done by Southern Cross University, with the assistance of adfa, in developing a virtual community for people in remote areas with asbestos related diseases . This virtual community allows sufferers of these diseases to log on and get support and assistance in managing their disease.

Barry's report also included the research done by Professor Nico van Zandwijk and his team at the Asbestos Disease Research Institute (ADRI) in Sydney and the important clinical trials that will be taking place this year. Also he reported on the privilege of being on the board of the Australian Government Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency. Barry spoke of asbestos being a worldwide problem and gave Norfolk Island as an example, as the people there have stock piled it and are unable to get rid of it in a safe manner.

Other international speakers gave interesting reports on the problem of asbestos in their countries and what they have so far achieved and their accomplishments.

Keynote Speaker was Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak MD, MPH the acting United States Surgeon General. Presentations were given from many ADAO volunteers including Richard Lemen, PhD the former Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, who has testified on behalf of asbestos victims and is well know author, speaker and lecturer on this topic.

It was a privilege to be at this conference to see Lou Williams of Australia awarded the ADAO 2014 Alan Reinstein Award for commitment to education, advocacy and support of patients and families throughout the world.

A sincere thank you must go to Linda Reinstein, President/CEO and Doug Larkin both Co-Founders of ADAO and the ADAO Board of Directors for the invitation to our President, Barry Robson, to speak at their 10th Annual International Conference.

Kate Robson



LtoR: Linda Reinstein, President/CEO Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, Celeste Monforton, Dr PH, MPH, Sinem Kankotan ADAO volunteer from Turkey, Yvonne Waterman Ph.D.LL.M. of Holland and Barry Robson, President adfa.

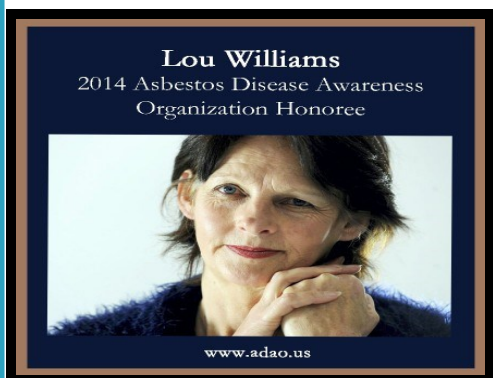




Lou Williams and Richard Lemen PhD former Assistant Surgeon General of the United States



Barry Robson President adfa giving his speech at the ADAO conference in Washington



Barry with Professor Marc Hindry (France), Yvette Oldham & Angela Sharp (Meso Widows), Natalie Woodward (UK Lawyer) Members of Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team

**adfa** would like to introduce to those that do not know her Mrs Louise (Lou) Williams.

Lou would like to become our Social Media voice.

Lou is a survivor of Mesothelioma by 10 years and is fighting the good fight to try & rid Australia and the world of Asbestos and to make people more aware of what asbestos is...a killer.

Lou is in the one per cent segment of mesothelioma sufferers who have warded off the disease for so long.

"I've had symptoms for 12 years, but I was first diagnosed 10 years ago when I was given two months to live," Lou said.

Lou now lives in the Macedon Ranges in Victoria with her husband Keith.

She moved to Mt. Macedon wanting somewhere beautiful to live...She has been a passionate advocate for sufferers, campaigning for many years. "Our big awareness push is making home renovators aware of the presence of asbestos in their homes and urging them to be wary and remove and dispose of it properly," Lou has said.

Lou was invited to the ADAO in Washington to accept an award for her campaigning in March 2014.

You can read Lou's story on her website: [www.fibreaware.org.nz/louise.htm](http://www.fibreaware.org.nz/louise.htm)

Twitter: *mesothelloma53*

Blog: *asbestosaustralia.blogspot.com.au*



Shitbox Rally is not a race, rather a challenge to achieve the unthinkable: to drive cars worth \$1,000 across Australia via some of its most arduous roads, all in the name of charity.

**MAY 31 - JUNE 6**  
**SHITBOX RALLY 2014**  
**PERTH → DARWIN**  
**VIA THE KIMBERLEY**

## ROUTE— PERTH TO DARWIN.

THE RALLY BEGINS IN PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND TRAVELS OVER 3,500 KM NORTH TO DARWIN ALONG SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST DESERTED AND CHALLENGING ROADS. THE RALLY WILL TRAVEL THROUGH THE PILBARA ALONG THE FAMOUS FORMER CATTLE ROUTE, THE GIBB RIVER ROAD, AND THROUGH THE BREATHTAKING KIMBERLEY AS PART OF THE SEVEN DAY TRIP OF A LIFE-TIME, SHOWING PEOPLE MORE OF OUR VAST AND VERY BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY.



## MISS BEHAVING

**From:** WESTMEAD, NSW

**Drivers:** Linda Bee & Susan Hudson

**Shitbox Type:** VT Commodore



# You're doing what?!

Think about it – this is going to be great fun. Sure it's not for everyone, those who don't like to get their hands dirty or spend any time away from civilization need not apply. For the rest of us, this may just be what you have been looking for.

This rally is for those that want to have an adventure, that crave something different, something memorable, but most importantly, it's for those who want to raise much needed money for charity.

Many of us have been affected by cancer in one way or another. Whether it be parents, family, close friends, people we know or ourselves that have battled or are battling cancer, this all too common and the horrid disease has touched us all. We not only want to raise awareness and money for the Cancer Council, but we want to be able to offer support and a friendly ear to those that have suffered or are suffering.

This event is officially endorsed and supported by the Cancer Council.



## Congratulations to Vicki Hamilton OAM—GARDS

The chief executive and secretary of Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Group was honoured at the Australia Day honours with an OAM.

Ms. Hamilton's involvement with GARDS began 14 years ago after her father died from an asbestos disease.

GARDS was established in 1991, and acted as a support network for people with asbestos related disease and provided practical services.

"Awareness and education have been the priority because so many people even today, don't understand how dangerous asbestos can be and there needs to be a real awareness campaign around the home", Ms Hamilton said.

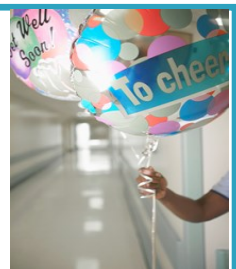
adfa would like to congratulate Vicki on her OAM.



**Don't forget that the adfa meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm here at Granville. We would love you to come & join us for a chat, cuppa and to meet the Executives & members...**



The Executives of adfa would like to send Anne White a Get Well Soon. We have heard that your still laid up in hospital and wish you a speedy recovery and that your home soon.





# IN THE NEWS

## Deadly asbestos dumped at Carramar playing field

CHILDREN'S play areas were at risk of being contaminated with asbestos after fibro sheets and hazardous material were carelessly dumped in Carramar and Smithfield.

Fire and Rescue NSW were called to Carramar at 10pm on Tuesday, May 6 after a local resident reported the mess on the side of Quest Rd near the entrance to Currawood Reserve — less than 100m from a children's play area and metres from nearby houses.

Fire and Rescue NSW acting superintendent Wayne Phillips was first on the scene, where his crew found a dozen black bags of hazardous material and fibro sheets.

"One of the bags we found was split open. When we arrived we put this fog of water all over the area so if there is dust ... it drops back onto the pile," he said.

"After that we put the material in special bags."

Less than 12 hours later and only 6km away there was another load of building materials was reported dumped at 8.20am May 7, this time on Rosford Rd in Smithfield.

A spokeswoman from NSW Fire and Rescue said the Smithfield pile of fibro sheeting was even bigger than the Carramar load, forcing crews to shut the road for 30 minutes.

Fairfield police are investigating the incidents. NSW Fire and Rescue were unable to say whether the incidents were connected.

Fairfield Mayor Frank Carbone said high taxes for dumping hazardous waste is encouraging more and more people to dump illegally.



## Homes with Mr Fluffy asbestos insulation should be demolished

The head of Australia's federal Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, Peter Tighe, said he would not allow his family to live in a home affected by Mr Fluffy asbestos insulation and that Canberra's 1050 Mr Fluffy homes should be "demolished".

Mr Tighe also warned state and territory legislation was failing to protect people in their own homes as maximum asbestos exposure levels were enforceable only in a workplace through Work Health and Safety laws.

Workplaces could not contain more than 0.1 fibres per millilitre of air before authorities had to close them down, while homes had no maximum level, he said.

Advertisement

"These Mr Fluffy homes are a ticking time bomb as far as I am concerned. There is no amount of cleaning that can be done to make them safe and I certainly would not allow my family to live in one of them."

The ACT government has refused to release a list of affected homes because of privacy issues and because of widespread home owner concern it could affect their property prices. But Mr Tighe said incurable cancer was a more pressing issue.

"In my view, equity in relation to property is nonsense. Someone has to make some decisions and we need a clear understanding of how to resolve this problem."

The national agency Mr Tighe heads was established last year to address Australia's historic and growing problem of asbestos exposure. Currently, 700 people die each year as a direct consequence of asbestos exposure, with numbers set to peak in 2022.



Mr Fluffy was an insulation contractor who filled the roof cavity of Canberra houses within the ACT full of loose amosite asbestos. This asbestos had undergone a removal program through the ACT Canberra government which was termed the "Loose Asbestos Insulation Removal Program" which ran from 1988 to 1993. Asbestos testing Canberra houses for residual amounts of loose asbestos is required to confirm whether the amosite still remains.

The fear amongst people is of potential loose asbestos fibres within the home that may be inhaled. This may not actually occur on a daily or regular basis; it should be remembered that there is no scientific evidence that "one fibre can kill".

The main concern however is that the loose asbestos that once was there and has been removed through the Loose Asbestos Insulation Removal Program, that there still may be residual asbestos within the wall cavities. Only asbestos testing can confirm the presence of Mr Fluffy still residing in the house. Once there is significant disturbance through partial demolition through refurbishment, it is likely that loose asbestos may be spread through the house.

# Central Coast Asbestos Diseases Support Group

Support, information & advocacy for people living with asbestos diseases.

**Maree Stokes, Vice President AFDA**

**Co-ordinator Central Coast Asbestos Diseases Support Group**



It is with great sadness that I say that we have lost two more men from the Central Coast Support Group with mesothelioma, this rotten asbestos has struck again. George Grant passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> April our deepest sympathy to Bev and family. Trevor Starr passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> May our condolences to Robyn his son Brad and family. We have lost three wonderful guys this year. Our struggle to help those afflicted with asbestos disease is difficult but must continue.

We are hoping for a good attendance to Buttai Barn on 16<sup>th</sup> July for Christmas in July, a great day was enjoyed last year I will ask my friends, the more the merrier so come along as we need numbers by the end of May.

The International Day of Mourning for workers was a very moving and touching service in Sydney. Each year a service is held at Ourimbah where there is a memorial wall containing plaques of men who died in accidents at work or from workplace disease. The wall contains a number of men from our support group who died of mesothelioma. The service this year was attended by local dignitaries including Senator Deb O'Neill who insisted that our life member Thelma Day be photographed. I was pleased to know that the flowers and cards that are distributed at the Sydney service were presented this year at Ourimbah.

Don't forget to be involved with [www.dustedcommunity.com](http://www.dustedcommunity.com)

Cheers for now Maree Stokes Vice President adfa

## **Support Group Meetings**

**4th Wednesday of every month**

**1pm—3pm**

**Ourimbah Bowling Club**

**6— 22 Pacific Highway,**

**Ourimbah NSW**

**Contact:**

**Maree Stokes**

**0419 418 190**



## Former James Hardie boss thought asbestos health concern was 'a beat-up'

The man credited with deciding in 1978 to eliminate asbestos from James Hardie products said he thought at the time that widespread health concern about its use in building materials was a "media beat-up".

David MacFarlane was the managing director of James Hardie Industries between 1978 and 1989 and has never before given evidence about his role in the company, which manufactured and distributed building and other products containing asbestos.

He told the Dust Diseases Tribunal in Sydney on Tuesday that on taking the top job he received a brief from the Hardie board.

"My job was to get rid of asbestos ... just to do it as quickly as possible," he said.

The directive was issued because "asbestos was getting very expensive" and "asbestos was a bad taste around the world".

In extraordinary evidence to the tribunal, Mr MacFarlane said that at the time he thought "the risk side of it was overdone" and "there was a lot of talk about it but I didn't think it was as dangerous as people said, if it was properly controlled".

Under cross-examination by Peter Semmler, QC, he said he was so comfortable with the product that "I went on using it myself ... A common thought at the time was that dust inhaled in small degrees over a long period of time didn't do much damage".

"Who held that view?" Mr Semmler asked, to which Mr MacFarlane replied: "The world did."

Stephen Wickham, 52, a freelance lighting designer from Thornleigh, is suing Amaca Pty Ltd, formerly known as James Hardie & Coy Pty Ltd, for damages.

Mr Wickham was diagnosed last year with mesothelioma, caused by exposure to asbestos. The father of two is part of the so-called "third wave" of asbestos victims exposed to the lethal dust and fibres during renovations and do-it-yourself odd jobs of homes built between the 1940s and the late 1980s.

Mr Wickham demolished an old fibro shed and fence at a home he had purchased in Perth in 1994. He moved to Australia from England in 1987 and, while he was aware asbestos was dangerous, he was unaware that "fibro" contained asbestos, he said.

He is suing for damages, claiming James Hardie should have funded a widespread public awareness campaign targeted at home renovators about the dangers of handling, drilling and demolishing building material containing asbestos.

His solicitor, Tanya Segelov, from Turner Freeman lawyers, said Amaca appeared to be using Mr Wickham's claim as a test case.

The hearing continues.





## From the Desk of Our Lawyers Turner Freeman

### Ground breaking evidence against James Hardie

In 1994, Mr Wickham performed some home improvements on his house in Perth, which he had recently purchased. He removed corrugated fibro sheets from his garage and replaced part of a fence made from corrugated fibro sheets. Mr Wickham emigrated from England in 1987. Although he knew of the dangers of asbestos, he did was unaware that all fibro sheets manufactured in Australia before the mid 1980s contained asbestos. Nineteen years later Mr Wickham was diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Mr Wickham, represented by Turner Freeman Lawyers, commenced proceedings against the manufacturer of the asbestos cement building products he removed, Amaca Pty Limited (formerly James Hardie & Coy Pty Limited). James Hardie chose to run the claim distinguishing Mr Wickham from other asbestos victims on the basis that he did not purchase the fibro sheets but dismantled existing fibro sheets.

Mr Wickham argued that James Hardie knew that home handymen such as Mr Wickham would be exposed to their deadly products as from the 1970s it advertising was directed at this market. He further argued that James Hardie were a sophisticated marketing company, running national TV, radio and print advertising campaigns. Mr Wickham argued that James Hardie had the expertise and resources to run a large and effective public awareness campaign. Such a campaign could have saved his life. Although James Hardie had ceased producing asbestos in the late 1980s, it never ran such a campaign.

More outrageously, was evidence given by a former James Hardie employee that James Hardie could have made fibro products asbestos free from the mid 1960s had it decided to. Mr Wickham also called evidence including from a former managing-director of James Hardie, David MacFarlane, who declared that the dangers of asbestos were a media beat up. Following Mr MacFarlane's evidence the case settled.

Tanya Segelov

### IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALL THOSE WORKERS IN RHODES TRAGICALLY KILLED AND INJURED AT WORK FROM ACCIDENTS AND EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS AND ASBESTOS.

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas and Brian Parker from CFMEU gave honour in those that have lost their lives in work related incidents in Rhodes with a ceremonial plaque dedicated to them on 28 April.

On behalf of: City of Canada Bay, CFMEU, Work Place Tragedy Family Support Group, **adfa** & the Rhodes community.



Mayor Angelo Tsirekas & Brian Parker CFMEU



Plaque designed by Carolyn Tancred

Photos taken by Mike O'Donnell



### **The International Day of Mourning 28 April, 2014 Memorial Service in Reflection Park Sydney NSW**

The International Day of Mourning is recognised as a day to remember workers who have died at work or from a workplace disease. This day marks the occasion for safety and health at work and promotes work safety to help reduce the number of work-related deaths.

This year the service at Reflection Park sponsored by Unions NSW and NSW WorkCover was well attended by a cross section of the community. Masters of Ceremonies were Marilyn Issanchon, President Unions NSW and Mark Lennon, Secretary Unions NSW. Honoured guests were The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, Minister for Finance and Services and John Robertson MP, NSW Leader of the Opposition.

adfa was well represented as always and was given reserved seating at the front of the gazebo. It was a very moving ceremony and families and friends were invited to place dedication cards onto the Memory Lines and flowers within the void or at the base of the memorial.



Eileen & Helen



Jeanette, Joan & Frances



Eileen, Helen & Maree



Anges & Jeanette



## LOSING BREATH - THE ADAM SAGER STORY

Losing breath tells the tragic story of Adam Sager who died from mesothelioma (an asbestos related disease) at the age of 25.

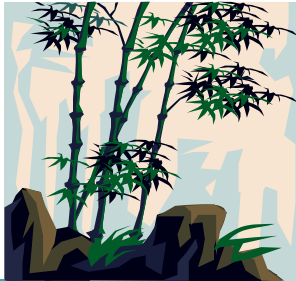
Adam's family have now shared the heartbreaking story about how they unknowingly exposed their son to asbestos when he was only 20 months old. They hope that Adam's story will help to raise awareness about the dangers of asbestos.

Adam's mum, Julie Sager, urges home renovators and tradies to play it safe with asbestos and be aware of the risks of exposing themselves and other to it.

"Just do what you need to do to keep your family safe" Julie said.

Find this compelling story on ARDSSQ website:

<http://www.asbestos-disease.com.au>



adfa thanks Julie Sager and her family for allowing us to share in their story and memories of Adam.

## Mesothelioma Claims Life of British Teen — Sophie Ellis



Britain's youngest ever victim of malignant mesothelioma has died of the disease at the age of 18. Sophie Ellis was just 13 years old when she was diagnosed with mesothelioma. Sophie was told she had only 3 months to live, but with radiation, chemotherapy and radical surgery, she survived another five years. Her mother Lynn, said "She fought so hard and we are grateful to have spent that extra time with her." Sophie father Andy, described her as a "determined, single-minded, generous and cheeky teenager who never expected any pity."

Sophie's death proves that mesothelioma can strike anyone, at any age..

adfa thoughts are with the Ellis family at this sad time....

## Michael Bradley— The Valor Award—ADAO

Diagnosis at the age of 27, Michael has made a commitment to finding a cure for asbestos diseases and to banning asbestos. When Michael was diagnosis he began sharing his story and never looked back. He is an inspiration to mesothelioma warriors and their families in the U.S and around the world. Michael's words are very thought provoking "Asbestos is deadly. It does not think, it just kills. Asbestos has changed my life both mentally and physically. I live in pain. I go through treatments that make me feel incredibly bad. I have to watch what I eat or I'll get sick. I've lost weight and I have to wear a colostomy bag. I have one more medically option left and that is clinical trials. "

Sadly Michael lost his battle—24 April 2014







**ADFA IS AGAIN CELEBRATING  
CHRISTMAS IN JULY & WOULD LOVE  
YOU TO COME JOIN US ON 16 JULY FOR  
A TRIP TO BUTTAI BARN**



**Great Music, Great Fun!**



**Come Join Us.....**

**As we Travel north to Buttai Barn for a Christmas in July celebration.**

**Celebrate Christmas with the gang at Buttai Barn and their cosy log fires, thousands of fairy lights, Santa and his bell with carols by candlelight.**

**On arrival you will enjoy homemade scones, than a traditional baked Christmas lunch followed by delicious plum pudding with brandy sauce plus chocolates from Santa....**

Cost per person: \$ 40.00...includes Bus, Meal & Entertainment....Drinks to be purchased by yourself.

To Book you place, please contact Jean on 1800 006 196 or (02) 9637 8759

RSVP: 29 May 2014 – Payments to be made by 19 June 2014



LADIES & GENTLEMAN, place your bets for.....

## The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc. Gala Race Day 2014 Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Derby Day

**This Year's  
event is one  
that you do  
not want to  
miss!!!**



The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc. (**adfa**) is a not-for-profit organisation working to provide support to people living with asbestos related diseases, family members, carers and friends. **adfa** is a community based group founded by the union & concerned citizens to meet the needs of people affected by asbestos related diseases and has a long history of being engaged in advocacy work within the Australian community.

**adfa** works to provide information to the community as to the dangers of asbestos. Our aim is to reduce the number of people exposed to asbestos and future incidence of asbestos related disease in the Australian community.

We support members living in metropolitan and regional NSW. We are actively engaged in health promotion initiatives in the provision of education to the wider community.

**Help us support ADFA's vital funding for asbestos sufferers and their families by purchasing a Race Sponsorship Package.**

Watch each race in comfort in **The Grand Pavilion** while enjoying a three course meal, fine wines, beer and soft drink, with the added convenience of betting facilities within the room.

Fantastic items will be available in the silent and live auctions and raffle prizes and games.

Rosehill Gardens is easily accessible for all visitors. There is ample free parking and the venue is services by public transport, including a train station at the front door at Rosehill Gardens.

### • RACE SPONSORSHIP PACAGE

- ❖ Entry into Racecourse
- ❖ One Table of 10 includes lunch & beverages
- ❖ Naming rights to one race
- ❖ One full page mono advertisement in RACE Book
- ❖ One on course sign on day 10m x 1m in strategic position
- ❖ Signage at Winning Post for sponsored race
- ❖ Sashing of Winning horse in race & framed sashing photo with winning horse
- ❖ Associated media coverage – All races shown live via TVN in over 2,000 pubs and clubs Australia wide plus NZ, Fiji, Hong Kong, Foxtel Digital via homes and on Broadband. All races are broadcast live via 2KY Radio.

**Full Sponsorship:** \$12,000 (GST inclusive) – includes 10 tickets to the event for you & your guests.

**Alternatively** Single Tickets - \$200 (GST inclusive) or a Table of 10 - \$2,000 (GST inclusive)

**AS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER IS DERBY DAY** we will be celebrating our event in a **BLACK & WHITE** Theme.

Prizes awarded for: **BEST BLACK & WHITE HAT**  
**MOST UNUSUAL HEADWEAR**  
**BEST BLACK & WHITE OUTFIT FOR**  
**MALE & FEMALE**

**Dress Code:** Smart Casual



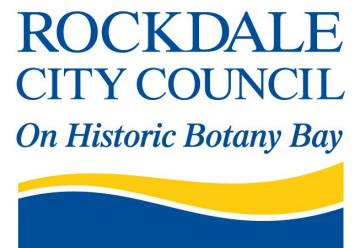
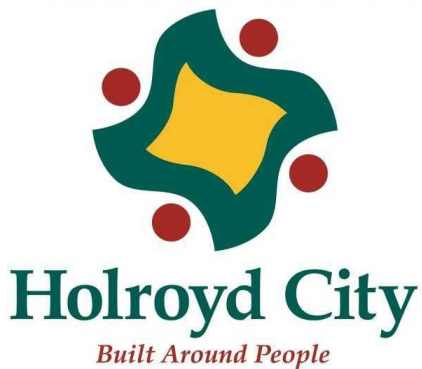
**Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc**

P.O. Box 484, Granville NSW 2142 Ph: 1800 006 196 Email: [info@adfa.org.au](mailto:info@adfa.org.au)

ROSEHILL  
GARDENS



## Thank you to our Supporters





## Thank you to our many Supporters

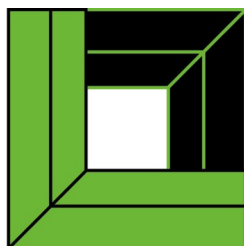


**Maritime  
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you first. always.



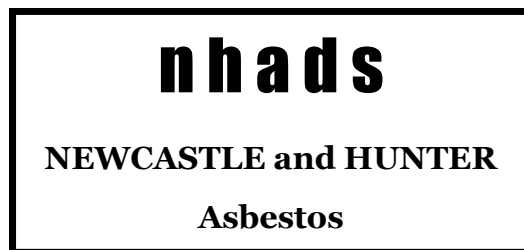
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GROUP



**CFMEU**  
**CONSTRUCTION  
AND GENERAL**  
**NSW BRANCH**



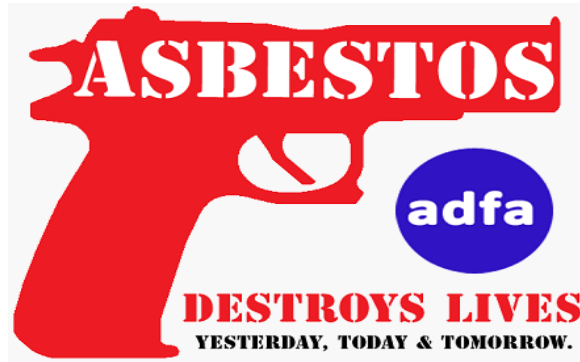
**Mountain Media Pty Ltd**

**CIVILEX**  
AUSTRALIA



**Action Demolition & Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd**





**Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.**

Suite 3, Ground Floor

133-137 Parramatta Road

P.O. Box 484

Granville NSW 2142

Toll Free: 1800 006 196

Phone: (02) 9637 8759

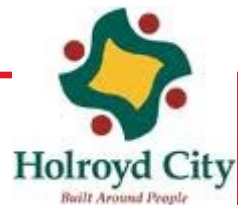
Fax: (02) 9897 3259

[www.adfa.org.au](http://www.adfa.org.au)

[info@adfa.org.au](mailto:info@adfa.org.au)

## **Just One More Article:**

### **Holroyd helps residents solve asbestos disposal**



Getting rid of old asbestos building materials is so expensive that many renovators and builders resort to illegal dumping of the highly toxic material. Apart from the cost of employing specialist demolition trades, the local tip charges hundreds, often thousands, of dollars to take it.

Holroyd Council, in the heart of Sydney's western "fibro belt" and with some of the strictest rules on renovating fibro houses, has taken the initiative to all alleviate both the financial and environmental pain of removing asbestos. It has picked up tow awards in the process.

Last year the council trialled a free collection of up to 10 square metres of non-friable, or bonded, asbestos waste at residential properties to minimise its disposal in garbage bins and public places—possible the first such service in Australia.

According to Brooke Littman, the council's environmental health and waste education officer, demand for the service has been overwhelming, with 8.92 tonnes of asbestos collected from 136 households over nine collection days since last June. Three more collection days will be held by the end of next month and there is a waiting list.

"The council would like to continue the service beyond its trail phase as our community both wants and needs it. However, continuation in its current form will be dependent on further fundings," Ms Littman said.

By "carpooling" asbestos on each collection day, the council was able to reduce costs significantly compared with the costs if each resident opted to transport the material individually to Eastern Creek, where the minimum charge is \$250.

The 136 households saved \$34,000 in disposal charges. The tip costs to council were \$3,177 excluding transport.

The initiative has won an asbestos management award from Local Government NSW and an award from Local Government Professionals Australia NSW..

This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/holroyd-helps-residents-solve-asbestos-disposal-20140513-387cd.html>