

adfa News

Presidents Message

The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia recently contacted some forty municipal councils with an invitation to join our group. We did this for reasons which we feel could be of mutual benefit to all those involved, especially now when there is so much emphasis on Asbestos on building site closures, dumping by individuals in remote roadside areas and in particular the NBN roll out.

ADFA has been working closely with Telstra to advise them on safety procedures in respect to the more than one million "pits" that contain Asbestos and are being removed as progress continues. Many of these pits would be buried in areas controlled by municipal councils and with the findings of the Asbestos Review Committee, much more is soon to be said and councils will no doubt play a role in any matters relating to Asbestos.

The benefits of an alliance with ADFA are many and varied and we feel that combined, we speak with a stronger voice and having the experience of more than twenty years, we bring an authority and understanding with us. We can disseminate information quickly to our councils and we can be available for quick problem solving should problems arise. Free information packs are available to constituents who may feel they have a problem with Asbestos in their homes. One in every three homes and buildings built before 1988 contain Asbestos. We provide a free seminar for those interested in learning more about Asbestos, the deadly substance with which we live.

To those who have already taken up our offer we welcome you and to those who will do so in the future we look forward to meeting you. The only cost involved is a \$60.00 joining fee and more information is available by calling 1800 006 196.

To all our members, don't forget you are welcome to attend our monthly meeting held on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is on August 14th, we look forward to seeing you there.

Barry Robson
President, Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.



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Merry Happy Days Are Here Again!



On Wednesday some 40 members of ADFA and friends joined us in our *Christmas in July* sojourn to the Hunter Valley for a day out in the country, and what a pleasant day it was. Held in a huge barn constructed of great logs and fitted out with rustic furniture, there was more than ample room to circulate and enjoy the great entertainment provided. Bush-style music and some traditional carols were the order of the day until Santa arrived loudly ringing his bell accompanied by many “HO HO HOs” wishing each and all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS. Everyone left with a smile on their face and many with the intention to return. This event was so successful we will be holding another *Christmas in July* event in 2014.



Jump on Board & Shop 'til you drop

Attention all you crafty shoppers out there. Now is the time to save yourselves some money as well as having a great day out with your friends. The fabulous shopping bus is about to pull out again and it is your opportunity to grab those Christmas presents early. Don't be ripped off by those big stores who offer false sales and low prices. Be ferried from store to store in air-conditioned comfort and enjoy a leisurely lunch at Hotel Ramsgate as you seek out those bargains and enjoy a day out with friends. Two pickup sites. Adults \$60 Seniors \$55 - Call **Christine** on **0418-406-214** for bookings and further information.

Gala Race Day—Saturday, 2 November

Fast becoming one of the most attractive events on the racing calendar, ADFA's annual fund-raiser race meeting is on again.

Held in the beautifully appointed Grand Pavilion at Rosehill Gardens, this is the 5th occasion that ADFA has staged this meeting and more than 600 visitors attend. It is the one and only event given to fundraising each year and thankfully well supported as ADFA receives no Government financial support.

We urge those wishing to attend to hurry along and reserve their tickets early as tables sell quickly. Form a group of friends and be entertained as you enjoy a sumptuous three course lunch and drinks served by attentive waiting staff. You will be seated at tables overlooking the winning post and the beautifully manicured gardens of one of the finest venues of its kind in the country. There will be games and competitions to entertain you along with “Best dressed Sheila” and “Best dressed Bloke” prizes. Children are also welcome. Even if you are not a race follower, come along and give yourself a great day out.

As predicted our races sold like the proverbial “Hot Cakes”, such is the prestige our fund raiser attracts, however we still have one race available if any one out there would like to jump in quickly and snap it up.

Please call **Jean** on **1800-006-196** for bookings and further information.





Looking Back

With Mike O'Donnell

Wittenoom



To the parents of a newly born healthy baby, its arrival would be an occasion for unrestrained joy and great pleasure. Were that baby to be born in a small town in outback Western Australia well known for its infamous death toll caused by Asbestos, it may well have formed part of that toll in future years. Such a child was born in Wittenoom in 1959. Her father was employed in a senior position in the mine which was owned by CSR at the time. He was friendly with the mine manager until the manager was told he had Asbestosis and was advised to leave the mine and told, "to avoid further exposure to harmful dust like the plague". He left immediately taking with him the knowledge that he had contracted a disease that could literally choke him to death. Many years later this child, now a woman aged 34 with two children, has developed the fatal cancer known as Mesothelioma.

As a young person and during her childhood she, along with the other children in the town, played among the deadly mine tailings that were deposited by the company around the homes and buildings in Wittenoom. The tailings were used to cover the school ground and other areas surrounding the local hospital. She would inhale dust and fibres attached to her father's clothing when he arrived home from the mine site. It would cling to her hair and clothing and it was claimed that there was so much dust in the air that it stuck to washing hanging on the line and verandas had to be swept at least a dozen times a day. She sued CSR.

The presiding judge said during the trial that CSR knew of or should have known by 1960, that exposure to Asbestos caused Asbestosis and there was a link between Asbestos and lung cancer. The now deceased Justice O'Meally said that evidence given at the trial suggested CSR did know of this and even tried to disguise the fact by reducing the amount of fibre being crushed and damping it down whenever Mines Department inspectors visited the site. He said also that 12% of employees at the mine had industrial chest diseases and, "The dust in Wittenoom Township was in significant and dangerous concentrations and constituted a risk of future injury". Of the victim he said, "It was difficult to recollect a more tragic case. The rest of her life will be painful and of short duration. Mesothelioma is a terrible disease. The physical pain she has suffered and will continue to suffer until her death is great. Her emotional and physical conditions will deteriorate as her death comes closer". Always a sympathetic and caring person, Judge O'Meally awarded her \$823,594. A vast sum some may say, but what price does one place on a life mostly filled with pain and suffering. Sure CSR paid up, but money won't buy you class. Given a choice, that little baby would choose anywhere in this vast land to be born except a town called Wittenoom.

Wittenoom

Is a ghost town 1,106 kilometres north-north-east of Perth in the Hamersley Range in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. It is the site of Australia's greatest industrial disaster.

Did you know...

That the hazards of the exposure to Asbestos along with its ability to kill were well known as far back as the 1900's and even earlier than that. When it became known conclusively that Asbestos carried the risk of fatal cancer, among other debilitating diseases, much attention was given to concealing the fact. Those who profited handsomely from its many uses were quick to deny any association between Asbestos and the illness it brought with it. Denials came thick and fast whenever the subject was broached. False information was freely dispensed by so called experts who were invariably employed by Asbestos companies and lauded the many virtues of this insidious material, quite content to live in a state of denial. Among the many share-

holders who were kept in the dark and whose only interest in Asbestos extended as far as the two dividend cheques he received each year was a man whose knowledge was so limited that when he had cause to visit a mine site he was heard to remark to a colleague "but where are all the plantations?."



Asbestos Fibres Plantation

That the mining magnate Lang Hancock was among the first to discover Asbestos in huge quantities in this country. He soon constructed and operated a mine in outback Western Australia. He was aware of the damage Asbestos could cause to the health of those who worked in the mine but steadfastly refused to accept any derogatory remarks put forward by dissenters. So enamoured of his product was he, that to prove his point he often bragged it was so safe one could eat it - and he often did! In front of his friends he was known to sprinkle Asbestos on his cereal before consuming it, the more to press home his point. One can only gasp at the thought of Rose being asked to prepare it. She must have had grave fears in respect to his mental health. One would know of course that in a small quantity if eaten it may not cause any great discomfort to the stomach. If however, it was inhaled through the air passage and found a home in the wall of the lung the end result could be devastating. ENJOY.



That the James Hardie company knew Asbestos was dangerous in the 1960s a court was told when a former worker sued that company for compensation for a disease he contracted when he was a machinist cutting Asbestos pipe fittings in their factory in Melbourne. It was claimed that he had a year to live. A doctor working for the company advised them to only employ older workers because they would die before developing lung cancer. The allegation was made by the victims council in the Supreme Court in Melbourne who went on to say, "The company knew of the dangers of Asbestos and demonstrated scandalous negligence by suppressing information about the danger and ignoring the welfare of their employees. The company had clear knowledge that small exposure to Asbestos was dangerous". The victim was a fit and healthy nineteen year old migrant when he joined the company. He passed away soon after but not before he suffered the dreadful agony that accompanies Mesothelioma. Those responsible for his demise simply walked away.



Thelma Day, Life Member and supporter of ADFA.

Meet Thelma Day

Thelma is one of only five life members of ADFA. She is also a dedicated volunteer who gives of her time and efforts generously and willingly.

Thelma has been with us for over twenty years and has seen many victims of Mesothelioma pass away. She herself is the widow of Robert who first contracted ARD while working for an Asbestos company in his native Bristol prior coming to this country in 1965. Little did he realise then that as a gesture of kindness when he found jobs for three of his brothers in the same company, he was literally handing them a death sentence. Ron and Keith both died soon after. The other was among nineteen people left who contracted an ARD, all of whom died as a result.

Thelma was not to escape unaffected, she carries the lung disease known as Plural Plaques contracted when washing Robert's Asbestos soiled work clothes, as does her daughter Tracey who has been diagnosed with that disease also. Having a latency period of many years it was not until Robert took a job at Eraring Power Station and went back to lagging he was diagnosed with Mesothelioma and passed away two years later having to have been on oxygen full time.

None of these victims were to blame for this. They were the innocent ones. But there were the guilty ones who did know Asbestos killed and greed and profits will always take precedence regardless of the consequences. There must surely be blood on their hands.

In the UK

Each week approximately 8 Joiners, 6 Electricians' 4 Plumbers die of an Asbestos Related Disease. Each year more than 4,000 people die from Asbestos, that's more than are killed on the roads each year¹.

Australia and the UK have the highest rates of asbestos-related death in the world. This is understood to be because of the amount of asbestos used in these countries, and the relatively high proportion used of the most dangerous types, blue and brown. It is estimated there have already been at least 4,700 deaths from mesothelioma in Australia since records began in the early 1980s², and more than 25,000 Australians will die from it over the next 40 years.

Currently, each year 500 men and 100 women develop mesothelioma in Australia, and this is expected to rise to 900 new cases a year by 2020.

In the UK The annual number of deaths among women has increased more rapidly than the increase among men over the last ten years. Figures for women rose 68% in the last 10 years, compared to 35% for men. Women are often exposed to asbestos indirectly by living in areas near asbestos factories or coming into contact with people who worked with asbestos.

Source:

1. *The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) is the national independent watchdog in the UK for work-related health, safety and illness.*
2. *Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council.*

Letter to the Editor

I have received a letter from a Dr. Alan Purcell. Dr. Purcell lives in Perth and carries the letters PHD. M.A. MVB. behind his name. He is a caring man who obviously has the welfare of others in mind. This is his letter.



My name is Alan Purcell and in my retirement I worked as a part time gardener in a large Government secondary school in suburban Perth for about three years.

As a gardener at that school I commenced work at 6am and within the first week I became aware that powerful petrol air blowers, also known as leaf blowers, were used to clean the corridors inside the school buildings. I was amazed that these machines were used as cleaning tools inside the buildings because it was blatantly obvious that they work by generating a powerful jet of air and rather than cleaning they blow dust and dirt into the atmosphere and pollute the buildings. Partly open louvered windows allowed the suspended material to enter the classrooms.

You can imagine the variety of material which could be introduced into corridors from the feet and clothing of the hundreds of students which congregate in and walk through the corridors of schools. I had one particular dread and that is that students might carry Asbestos fibres on their feet or clothes into the corridors of the school. You might think that this would be a very remote possibility. However, Yasmine Phillips thought it worthwhile to write an article in the Sunday Times of 1 May 2011 entitled, "Asbestos A School Fear". She drew attention to the fact that 147 schools in Western Australia have problems with Asbestos "which require attention".



Wednesday 21st of July was a memorable day for the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI). Professor Niko van Zandwijk, Director of ADRI, announced a world first Clinical trial of a drug with the possible capacity to cure Mesothelioma cancer. Whilst in the early stages, this is a breakthrough of monumental proportions and the Professor and his team of scientists are to be congratulated. It will cause great interest and much discussion among those involved in research who will no doubt be as excited as those who developed it. Giant steps have been made by ADRI during the few years it has been in existence. From humble beginnings it has advanced to become the foremost leader in research into Mesothelioma in this country. Establishing a tissue bank is also one of many achievements it can lay claim to and the team of scientists employed there are being recognised by their peers, both here and abroad.

Research is expensive, very expensive. That brings us to another reason for making the day so memorable. In the presence of the Minister for Health and Medical Research The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, and other interested parties, including ADFA, were invited to a ceremony to witness a donation of \$1,200,000 to ADRI to help support further research into Mesothelioma. This generous donation came from the Lloyd family who tragically lost a family member to Mesothelioma and wished to offer something to support the work being done by Prof. Niko Van Zandwijk. This was truly a magnificent and significant donation, one which will go a long way to solving the problem that Asbestos presents on a daily basis. See page 7 for more information on the important work ADRI are doing.

Asbestos Diseases Research Institute Mesothelioma Publications

In June two researchers at the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) had important papers investigating malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) accepted for publication in scientific journals. Dr Yuen Yee Cheng, molecular biologist, is going to be published in the Journal of Thoracic Oncology and Ms Casey Wright, Research Fellow, in the journal PLoS ONE. Following is a summary of the research which is the focus of the articles.



Dr Cheng's publication is titled "**ZIC1 is silenced and has tumour suppressor function in malignant pleural mesothelioma**". Most of Dr Cheng's work is on epigenetic gene regulation in MPM. A process known as DNA hypermethylation can inactivate (or silence) genes which would usually stop or reduce tumour growth (tumour suppressor genes), and this process therefore plays an important role in the progression of MPM. Dr Cheng has been investigating a tumour suppressor gene called ZIC1, which we know about through research into other cancers. ZIC1 was found to be present at high levels in normal mesothelial cells, which are cells found in the lining of the chest or abdomen and from which MPM develops when the cells become cancerous. However, ZIC1 was not present in MPM cell lines (cells which are used for biological research in a laboratory). The aim of Dr Cheng's current study was to investigate the molecular biology as well as the functional role of ZIC1 in MPM. The results from the study showed that ZIC1 acts as a functional tumour suppressor in MPM, that is it can stop the growth of cancerous cells in a lab setting. ZIC1 also interacts with other molecules which are linked to shorter survival in patients with MPM, and it was shown to stop or reduce production of these other molecules. These findings help will us to better understand the molecular background of MPM, which hopefully will lead to new treatment approaches in the future.

Ms Wright's publication is titled "**Long non coding RNAs (lncRNAs) are dysregulated in malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM)**". Currently accurate diagnosis of MPM is difficult due to the lack of sensitive biomarkers (a biological molecule found in body fluids or tissues that is a sign of a condition or disease) and despite minor improvements in treatment, average survival times are poor. Biomarkers can be important as they may indicate how aggressive a person's disease is and also whether they will respond to certain treatments. By knowing this in advance clinicians are able to offer the most effective treatment for a person's disease, or not proceed with treatments which won't work. Ms Wright has been investigating recently discovered genetic material called long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs). There is growing evidence that lncRNAs play an important functional role in cancer biology. The research she has undertaken has looked at a number of different types of this material and testing was done to see if their presence in MPM tissue or cells helped with diagnosis of MPM and also whether it indicated how the disease may progress in a patient. Two of the types of lncRNAs Ms Wright studied showed potential in these areas, and further research is being conducted to confirm whether they may be able to be used as biomarkers in MPM.

ADRI would also like to announce that the Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma, which it guided the development of, have been approved by the National Health & Medical Research Council and will shortly appear in book format.

SCIENTISTS AT LARGE

The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia has always been an avid supporter of the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute since its inception and especially the work they do.

Under of the watchful eye of its talented director, Professor Niko Van Zandwijk and his dedicated staff, the institute now appears to be attracting the recognition they rightly deserve.

The Senior Scientist Dr. Glen Reid, was recently asked to attend a conference in Chicago to present a paper concerning his experimental results to a gathering of scientists from around the world.

Dr. Yuen Yee Cheng, a Molecular Biologist investigating Mesothelioma cancer, is about to have research papers published in the Journal of Thoracic Oncology and Ms Casey Wright, Research Fellow, is to be published in the PLoS ONE Journal.

Dr.Cheng and Ms. Wright have gratefully supplied us with descriptions of their work. Congratulations to them all.

From the Desk of Our Lawyer

Telstra, the NBN and Asbestos

Over the last few weeks asbestos has once again made the headlines. The roll out of the National Broadband Network (NBN) has shown that despite Australia having the highest per capita use of asbestos in the world we have no national strategy for dealing with the large amount of asbestos containing materials that remain in our community.

Telstra housed its cables in asbestos cement pipes and pits which were manufactured by James Hardie and Wunderlich. It is estimated that there are millions of asbestos pits still in the ground. During the NBN rollout contractors were required to cut through and handle the asbestos cement pits, some of whom were not provided with adequate training or protection. There was also concern in the community that in some areas precautions were not being taken to prevent contamination of nearby hoses.

disease mesothelioma. There is no excuse for such exposures in 2013.

The Telstra incident has highlighted the importance of a national strategic asbestos plan to deal with asbestos containing materials in the built environment. It is only with a national approach spear headed by a national Asbestos Authority that we can avoid the continuing "asbestos

crisis" and start to deal with the systematic staged removal of asbestos from our community. Given that asbestos materials are now 30 plus years old and has undergone significant weathering and wear and tear the issue is becoming urgent.

Turner Freeman Lawyers



Tanya Segelov
Partner

“Telstra housed its cables in asbestos cement pipes and pits which were manufactured by James Hardie and Wunderlich”

Telstra is well aware of the problem with asbestos pits. For decades it has faced claims from its former workers who installed the pits and later contracted asbestos diseases. It has been responsible for the maintenance of the pits since they were installed. It thus has an intimate knowledge of the location and condition of the asbestos pits throughout the country.

What is heart breaking it that the asbestos pits were not the main concern of Telstra when the roll out was first discussed. There is no controversy today that small exposures can cause the deadly

It is therefore timely that in May 2013 the Federal Parliament passed legislation to establish the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency to operate from 1 July 2013. The establishment of the Agency is in line with the current Federal Government's commitment to implement the recommendations of the Asbestos Management Review and will hopefully see a comprehensive long term solution to this very real problem. .

A HOLOCAUST CALLED ASBESTOS

The last photo I saw of Gina Reinhart was a shot of her holding up a piece of coal and accentuated by a beckoning smile, she appeared to be about to take a large bite from it. Along with her father, the late Lang Hancock, they became the self-styled patron saints of mining in the west.

Estimated to be worth some \$29 billion dollars, she is claimed by some to be the richest woman in the world. In the late 1930s her father discovered Asbestos in a remote area of Western Australia, known as Wittenoorn, and soon developed a mine there which he later sold to CSR. He did however, retain 49% ownership. It is said that this was the catalyst that kick-started the money stream that allowed him to venture into more profitable mining ventures, the profits from which would ultimately flow to his one and only child Gina.

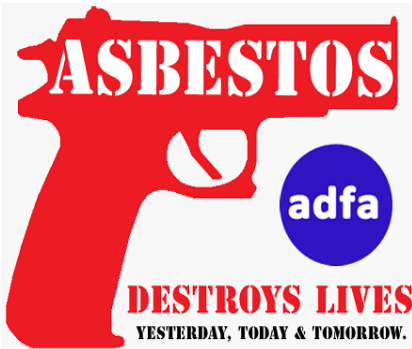
Meanwhile as the mine developed so did the flow of evidence that Asbestos was fast becoming a product with a dirty reputation and a ground swell of opinion bore this out. Calls were made for the abolition of Asbestos and the closure of mines. It had by now been well and truly established that Asbestos killed people, and not only those associated with its production. Almost anyone was a candidate. Thousands of people were dying in overseas countries, particularly England and on the continent. This was of little consequence to people like Hancock and others who simply ploughed on with an air of complacency and total disregard for the wellbeing of others. In fact, he lived in state of denial and, when asked to comment on the “black problem”, the issue of the intrusion of miners onto traditional lands, his response was to dope the water holes so they would become infertile and breed themselves out. A kind of genocide.

So where does all this lead us? Simply back to the killing fields of Wittenoorn where all this wealth originated with no accountability nor responsibility taken by the Hancocks or Rineharts for the mounting death toll that some claim will exceed 4,000 plus victims now and in



future years. One would think that given the means to precipitate such wealth, those involved would hasten to share a portion of it, although they may do so anonymously. We may never know. An education foundation could be started to give the children and grandchildren of those disadvantaged by the passing of a close relative due to Mesothelioma, an opportunity to study and move on to higher goals. Maybe toss in one of those billions to lift the claim settlement of those who feel they will struggle to make ends meet. Mesothelioma claims have risen for the first time since 2009. The average claims settlement for death in the fiscal year 2013 was \$230,000. Certainly not “wealth beyond the dreams of avarice”.

There was a time it is alleged that Gina supported the move to have a statue erected to commemorate the contribution her father made to the mining industry. Not a very clever idea one would think when considering the contribution he made to the death toll at Wittenoorn. It wouldn't make that piece of coal taste sweeter either.



RUSSIAN ROULETTE ASBESTOS STYLE

Welcome to this new and exciting form of Russian Roulette now sweeping the country. Anyone can play, male or female, young or old. Although it appeals primarily to the adolescent generation some adults are known to have taken part also. School holidays appear to be an ideal time to play, the rules are simple - there aren't any. No guns are involved as in the original format. There are however, some items that you will need if you want to take part. These items need not be brought to the game site, they can usually be found just lying around.

Firstly, you will need a building that contains Asbestos and probably abandoned and derelict. This should not be a problem as it is well known that more than one in every three buildings erected prior to 1988 contains deadly Asbestos. Then you may look around and find nearby such items as rocks, stones, a heavy piece of piping and a lump of

stout timber capable of demolishing a wall. The building need not necessarily be in a secluded area nor the game played at night. In fact, the real satisfaction comes if you happen to be member of a gang, as you probably are, and you play the game in broad daylight. So enough said. "Game on".

We see a youthful person armed with a paling stripped from a nearby fence walk through the building and systematically smash every window in every room. The total destruction of another person's property begins. Internal walls made from Asbestos fall easily as they shatter and slide across the floor and break up into tiny pieces and expose millions of potentially lethal shards of death dealing Asbestos to the air. Bragging rights apply. "S**t! Did you see that ceiling come down". More shattered Asbestos covers the floor and self-gratification abounds until their destructive urges are satisfied and they move on. On the way out, one spies a half empty can of paint. He proceeds to throw the paint about and then lights it. They scatter. One takes out a mobile phone and rings the fire brigade. From a safe distance they watch and enjoy the excitement. It's too late to save anything. What the players left the fire consumed anyway, except for the broken pieces of Asbestos scattered everywhere. Asbestos in fact is indestructible and not

affected by heat or fire. A few laughs and handshakes all round. Great way to spend Sunday 'arvo. So what is the association between the real Russian Roulette and the Asbestos roulette? In the case of Russian Roulette it is a bullet. It is quick, it is painless and it is fatal. In the case of Asbestos Roulette it is like a walk through hell. Those people responsible for the destruction of the building as shown in the accompanying photos submitted by Ms Maree Stokes, Vice President of the Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia, are the most frightening photos I have seen in respect to Asbestos vandalism.

The cost of the damage to the building is absolutely nothing compared to the cost that may be exacted in the years that lie ahead, were any of those involved unfortunate enough to have had a tiny shard of Asbestos lodge in his or her lung. We are not talking monetary costs either.

Mesothelioma cancer caused by contact with Asbestos unlike the bullet, is not quick. It is far from painless and it is fatal. ADFA constantly warns and continues to warn of the dangers of Asbestos. But you can't put brains into monuments. Were I the parent or guardian of one of those involved, my worries would start -----
NOW!

A message from a resident and the Vice President of the Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia to those vandals who broke down the colorbond fence and smashed the fibro walls of the abandoned garage on Ocean Beach Road, Umina...

YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO DEADLY ASBESTOS FIBRES

And in thirty years or so when you are in the prime of your life you could be diagnosed with the deadly incurable cancer MESOTHELIOMA. This is a warning to educate those who do not know the dangers of asbestos in fibro.

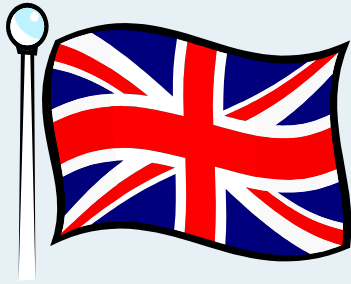
This vandalism of fibro is the worst case I have seen.

These photos were taken by a licenced asbestos removalist and he would be pleased to speak to any reporter about this matter. He is most upset to think that these vandals would no doubt be young people who have no idea the danger they may have caused to themselves.

Maree Stokes
Vice President and Central Coast Support Co-ordinator



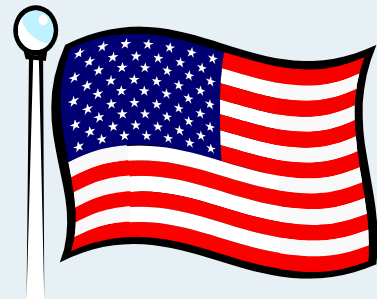
NEWS FROM OVERSEAS



United Kingdom

In the UK each week approximately eight joiners, six electricians and four plumbers die of an Asbestos Related Disease. Each year more than 4,000 people die from Asbestos. That's more than are killed on the roads each year. Australia and the UK have the highest rates of Asbestos Related death in the world and this is because of the amount of Asbestos used in these countries. It is estimated there have been at least 4,800 from Mesothelioma in Australia since records began in the early 1980's and more than 25,000 will die from it over the next 40 years. Over 500 men and 100 women develop Mesothelioma annually and this is expected to rise to 900 by the year 2020. Figures for women rose by 68% in the last ten years. Women are often exposed to Asbestos indirectly by living in areas near Asbestos factories or coming in contact with people who worked with Asbestos.

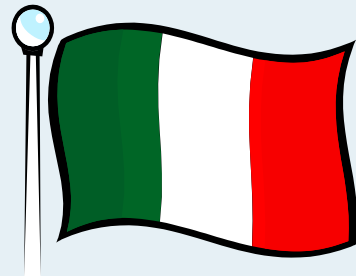
**Source: Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Independent National Watch-dog in the UK*



United States

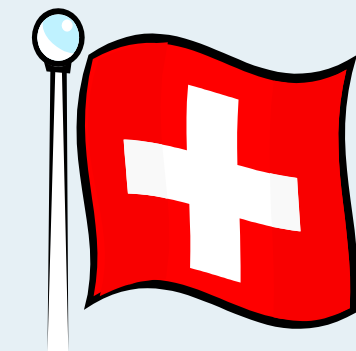
The Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994

Known sometimes as the Manville Amendments this amendment to the bankruptcy code was invoked to protect companies in the US with significant Asbestos liabilities to seek protection from future claims. It gave options to companies like the Johns Manville Corporation who faced thousands of claims for compensation to protect their assets and helped establish a way for companies to settle claims through the creation of Asbestos Bankruptcy Trusts. It is still in operation to this day and the list of claimants continues to grow. One survey suggests that as many as ten million people in the US may have been exposed to Asbestos fibres at one time or another and in some states it is not even banned.



Italy

In a high profile court case heard in Italy in early 2012 two billionaires were both found guilty of manslaughter by wilfully causing the deaths of up 4000 citizens who died as a result of working in their Asbestos factories or living nearby. They were each sentenced to sixteen years in prison. Both were at the time aware of the danger Asbestos presented to human life. Both have appealed their sentences. Neither of them will ever see the inside of a prison. The Belgian is approaching 94 years of age and no prison would be willing to take in an ailing geriatric who would no doubt spend the rest of his life in a prison hospital and requiring constant attention. The Swiss criminal owns and lives on an island in the Bahamas. I believe there is no extradition arrangement with Italy.



Switzerland

Civil society groups attending the Rotterdam Convention held in Geneva recently again tried to have the Asbestos known as Chrysotile a known cause of Mesothelioma placed on the banned list and again unsuccessfully. For the fourth time Asbestos producing countries such as Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, India, Zimbabwe and Vietnam have hijacked the Convention to protect the profits and showed contempt for the rest of the world regardless of all leading medical organisations and even the World Health Organisation who has condemned the idea of Chrysotile as being a safe product. Dr. Barry Castleman a world authority on Asbestos and a former consultant to the World Bank says, "This is a crime against humanity and the whole world should be scandalised. By not listing Chrysotile the convention is enabling the industry to carry on the same criminal cover up of the hazards of Chrysotile Asbestos which will result in hundreds of thousands more tragic deaths which could and be should be prevented".

Dear Readers,

As you will know Southern Cross University has been working closely with ADFA and its members over recent months in order to undertake the Asbestos Narratives Research Project. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many ADFA members who have taken the time to share their experiences with us. We have learnt and continue to learn so much as a result of our partnership with ADFA.

We are now in the final stage of developing a safe on-line social community especially for people with asbestos-related diagnoses and their families. www.DustedCommunity.com is due to open to members in August, and this on-line space has been developed in close consultation with ADFA and with future members. It will be a place to go on-line to share thoughts, ideas and companionship. If you are interested in joining the community or would just like to know more about www.DustedCommunity.com please contact Desirée Kozlowski on 02 6659 3655 or email her at desiree.kozlowski@scu.edu.au.

Also, if you have not already done so, head to www.adfa.org.au and click on the link to participate in the Southern Cross University survey designed to help understand the impact of asbestos disease on individuals and families.

With many thanks

The Asbestos Narratives Research Team.

The Asbestos Narratives Project: a collaboration between Southern Cross University and ADFA

Hi to all you Golfers out there!



Tony Khoury, Executive Director of the Waste Recyclers Association of NSW, is hosting a Golf Day on 16 August at Cabramatta and you are welcome to come along and enjoy the day out with him and the boys.

WCRA will donate \$5 from each ticket sold to the Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia. For tickets call Tony on 9604-7206 or 0414-937-046 or email tony@WCRA.com.au.



Thank you to our Supporters



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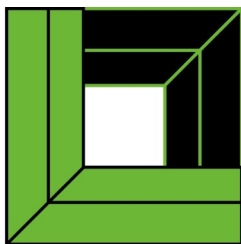


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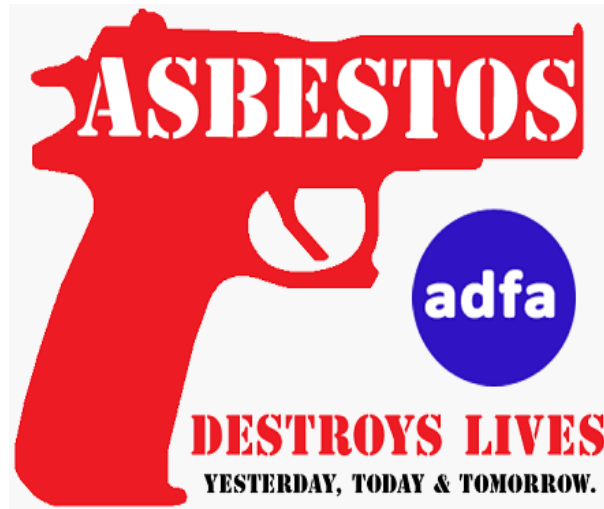
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Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.

Suite 3, Ground Floor
133-137 Parramatta Road
Granville NSW 2124
Phone: (02) 9637 8759

