



June 2015

News

A Message from the President

Barry Robson President,

Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.



Great News, congratulations must go to Professor Nico van Zandwijk at ADRI for their ground breaking research into a cure for mesothelioma. This is a very significant step in the long journey to find a cure. For more information go to the ADRI website, or check all media outlets for June 15th press releases.

It has been a very busy couple of months for myself with a presentation in Washington DC, a follow up presentation in Amsterdam at the very first European Asbestos Forum plus participating with some unions (MUA, AMWU, ETU and CFMEU) at the Rotterdam Convention in Geneva. The Australian Government proposal at the Convention was unfortunately defeated by 7 countries led by the Russian Federation, against the wishes of 47 countries who supported the proposal.

So the proposal will be put forward again in 2 years time. Hopefully in the meantime there will be a compromise by all the opposition countries.

It was an honour to represent adfa at these very important worldwide events.



Barry Robson

President, Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.



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Rotterdam Convention Guest Blog: “A Pyrrhic victory for the Russian asbestos industry” by Marc Hindry

Posted on May 30, 2015 Guest blog by Marc Hindry

14 May 2015. Rotterdam Convention 2015 : chrysotile asbestos will not be included in the list of dangerous products
A Pyrrhic victory for the Russian asbestos industry



The theme chosen for the Convention was promising «*From Science to Action. For a better Future*». Let us use scientific knowledge to protect populations from toxic product hazards. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recalled that all forms of asbestos are carcinogenic and there is no safe threshold.

The International Labour Organisation (OIT) recalled that, contrary to a frequent lie by the asbestos industry, the OIT Convention 162 on asbestos (1986) does NOT recommend controlled use of asbestos, quite the contrary the ILO position is to eliminate asbestos.

Nevertheless, during the soft, polite discussions of the Conference of Parties (CoP), 7 countries raised objections to the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos: Russia, Kazakhstan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Cuba and Zimbabwe.

The announced sabotage did occur. During the final plenary session only 4 countries underlined their opposition:

Russia, Kazakhstan et Kyrgyzstan (in Russian), and Zimbabwe (in English)

The delegates of these countries probably felt awkward during Wednesday's 13th May, the presentation of ROCA (Rotterdam Convention Alliance, to which ANDEVA is taking part) by Alexandra Caterbrow, Sanjiv Pandita and Yeyong Choi, followed by the testimony of an asbestos victim from India, Sharad Vitthal Sawant, who worked for 40 years in a Hindustan Ferodo, using chrysotile asbestos. Shortbreathed, speaking with difficulties he delivered a simple and moving message: I suffer from asbestosis, so does my wife. More than 400 of my colleagues have received a diagnosis of asbestos disease. I have come to ask you to include chrysotile asbestos on the PIC list of the Rotterdam Convention.

The motives of each of the handful of sabotaging countries (Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Zimbabwe) are crystal clear and have nothing to do with the purpose and rules of the Rotterdam Convention.

Russia is the biggest global asbestos producer (1 million tonnes per year); of course the Russian government does not ignore the fact that asbestos is highly dangerous, but since there is no awareness of that danger within the Russian population, no register of cancers, and nobody to address those health problems in Russia, it chooses to protect the interest of two mining companies Uralasbest and Orenbourg Minerals. Those companies evaluate that the inclusion of chrysotile asbest on the list of hazardous substances would have a disastrous effect on their trade. **Kazakhstan** is one of the four asbestos producers and the third asbestos exporter. **Kyrgyzstan** aligns with Russia.

Zimbabwe has been in the past a big producer of asbestos, like South Africa. The asbestos mines are all closed in South Africa, because the country has banned asbestos. The mines are also closed down in Zimbabwe, but because of chaos and corruption. Dubious businessmen have convinced the government to oppose the listing of chrysotile, in case they would reopen the mines.

Canada remained silent ... This is quite remarkable when you remember that the government opposed listing of chrysotile four times (in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011) before the abstention in 2013 and this year. What happened in 2012? The answer is simple : the last Canadian asbestos mine was closed down in 2012.

United states, not a member of the Convention but present as observer, supported the inclusion of chrysotile.

Ukraine broke away this year from Russia and did not oppose the listing of chrysotile.

Except Zimbabwe the African states unanimously supported the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos. **Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Niger, Congo, democratic republic of Congo, Cameroon, Kenya, equatorial Guinea** all underlined their support to the inclusion of chrysotile. Several of these countries insisted on their need of information on the toxic products.

The asbestos trade in Latin America is slowly but surely declining towards its end.

Neither the big and only producer is **Brazil**, which extracts 300 000 tonnes from the Cana Brava mine, exploited by Eternit Brasil of which half is exported nor the two other main consumers in this region, **Colombia** and **Mexico** opposed. **Argentina** and **Uruguay**, which have banned asbestos, supported the inclusion.

New Zealand backed the inclusion and **Australia** and the **European Community** made strong statements.

Jointly with chrysotile asbestos, four highly toxic pesticides were proposed for inclusion on the PIC list : Fenthion, Paraquat, Methamidophos and Trichlorfon.

For each of them the delegate of the Russian Federation declared in essence that :

«Russia does not use, does not produce and does not import this product [therefore] we support its inclusion».

Nevertheless each product had a defender and only Methamidophos will be listed. For example India opposed to the inclusion of Paraquat and Trichlorfon, Soudan to the inclusion of Fenthion. Mexico initially opposed the inclusion of Methamidophos, but then withdrew its objections.

CONCLUSION

The failure of the Rotterdam Convention, in spite of the commendable effort from the overwhelming majority of technicians and delegates, is plainly obvious.

The conclusion is clear.

An overwhelming majority of countries wanted both paraquat and chrysotile asbestos to be listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention. However, a small number of countries have denied these countries of the right to participate to the prior informed consent procedure (PIC). Due to this failure, these countries must redouble efforts to pass national bans on both substances. The countries blocking these listings may think that they preserved their export business but they have actually motivated other countries towards national ban decisions.

The inscrupulous industry has won a Pyrrhic victory and is, in fact, only accelerating the decline of this deadly trade.

From the Desk of Our Lawyers

Historic victory for asbestos victims as BHP Billiton refused leave to appeal compensation case to High Court

Thousands of current and future asbestos victims have received a major legal win today after BHP Billiton was refused leave to appeal a precedent-setting compensation case to the High Court.

Chief Justice Robert French and Justice Stephen Gageler rejected BHP's application for special leave, ending a three-and-a-half year legal battle that has significant legal implications for thousands of workers exposed to asbestos during their employment at BHP, or with other major industrial users of the product.

Perth man Willem van Soest brought a claim against BHP in 2012 after being diagnosed with mesothelioma, a deadly lung cancer caused solely by exposure to asbestos. He died of the cancer in 2013, aged 74.

Mr van Soest's lawyer, Turner Freeman Lawyers partner Annie Hoffman, argued that his cancer was caused by his exposure to loose asbestos fibres when he spent 11 weeks working as a painter and docker at BHP's Whyalla Shipyard in 1962. During the time he worked in close proximity to ladders as they installed asbestos insulation around pipes and boilers.

"Sadly Willem didn't live to see this final victory, but the decision has provided a great relief for his widow and son," Ms Hoffman said.

"The significant test case is the culmination of a series of hard-fought legal battles with BHP, who have spent more than 15 years aggressively fighting victims of asbestos disease exposed while working for the company.

"BHP's central argument was that although Mr van Soest was exposed to asbestos while working for them, the company was not responsible for failing to provide safety equipment or other protection from the dangers of asbestos, as his exposure was below the standards considered safe at the time.

"This argument was rejected by the Full Court of the South Australian Supreme Court, and it was rejected again today by the High Court.

"BHP have spent millions in legal fees fighting asbestos victims, but this appeal to the High Court was their last roll of the dice.

"This decision will have a profound impact on the claims of current and future victims of asbestos related diseases, not only the thousands of workers from the BHP shipyards at Whyalla, but also those employed by other major industrial users of asbestos.

"We hope today's decision will see an end to this aggressive litigation, and a more compassionate approach to providing compensation to former workers suffering from asbestos related diseases."

BHP were seeking leave to appeal the decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court of South Australia on December 19 last year, which upheld a decision of the District Court of South Australia to award Mr van Soest \$358,151.30 in damages for the incurable mesothelioma lung cancer he suffered as a result of his employment with the company.

Media comment: Annie Hoffman — 0402 301 272

Further information: Tim Vollmer — 0404 273 313

You can contact Turner
Freeman on their Toll Free
Number : 1800 800 088

**Turner
Freeman**
Lawyers

International Day of Mourning Service

Remembering those who lost their life through a workplace incident or occupational disease.

Unions NSW Secretary Mark Lennon said that while the International Day of Mourning is a time to pause & reflect on the impact workplace deaths and injuries have on families and the community, it is also a time to shift the focus on to what more can be done to prevent it.



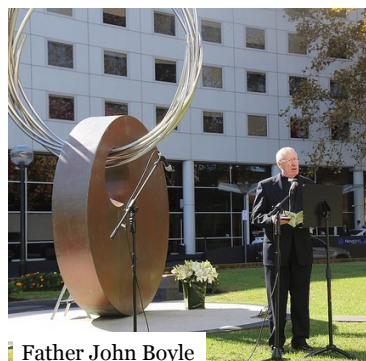
Jeanette Cunningham & Agnes Raper



Eileen Day



Kate Robson



Father John Boyle

Memorial Day at Ourimbah—Central Coast



Thelma Day

At the Ourimbah service it was reported that four Central Coast workers have died from Mesothelioma in the past year.

Ian Tuit from WorkCover at Gosford met with one of the speakers afterwards to learn that her husband and several of his brothers died from Mesothelioma.

Thelma Day spoke on the day and added that this was her 1st time speaking in public and that she was 80 years old. Memorial Day was 50 years to the day that she and her late husband arrived in Australia from England.



David Mehan MP, David Harris MP, Thelma Day, Shamas O'Reilly, Kathy Smith MP, Bob Graham Wyong Councillor



ADAO Conference

Group Photo of all delegates at the conference. Linda Reinstein (in white shirt), Barry Robson & Maree Stokes..

Photo taken in front of Martin Luther King statue



Central Coast Asbestos Diseases Support Group

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

Maree Stokes, Vice President ADFA

Co-ordinator Central Coast Asbestos Diseases
Support Group



President Barry and I were invited to Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) 11th annual conference in Washington DC. This year's conference "where knowledge and action unite brings together distinguished domestic and international experts and asbestos victims to drive awareness, prevent exposure to asbestos related diseases and advocate for a ban on asbestos in USA", thirty six speakers from many countries address the Conference from Finland, Netherlands, Mexico, Pakistan, United Kingdom & Brazil, Geoff Fary from ASEA, President Barry Robson, Mesothelioma Widows and victims. Lou Williams spoke via video as she was not well enough to travel. The tragedy of asbestos is felt all over the world and this meeting for me was a wonderful way to meet and speak with others who have felt the sadness and despair that asbestos brings. We hope that this dedicated organization can win the battle to ban asbestos in America.

During my time in Washington the Workers Memorial day on 28th April was held at Ourimbah memorial wall attended by newly elected state members Kathy Smith MP, David Mehan MP and David Harris MP. Thank you to our life member Thelma Day who spoke on behalf of our support group. Four new plaques were on the wall for those that we have lost from our Central Coast Support Group.

Our social day Christmas in July as Aunty Molly's at Morisset on Wednesday 29th July the bus leaving from Sydney will pickup at Karing information centre it will be a great fun day please contact me or Jean on 1800 006 196, we would enjoy your company.

The support group meeting will be Wednesday 22nd

Cheers for now, *Maree Stokes*

Don't forget, be involved with www.dustedcommunity.com

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

adfa Booklet Launch—10 June 2015

Anita Anderson General Manager of the Dust Diseases Board was happy to help adfa launch our new information booklet on Wednesday 10 June.

The aim of the booklet is to help deliver information in a much needed easier medium than the previous pages that were sent out in our information packs.

With the launch of this booklet adfa hopes that the format will be handier to have and carry. adfa also aims to send the booklet to as many places in NSW that lack information and awareness of asbestos.

adfa was very pleased with the attendance at the launch, including Julie Owen MP for Parramatta, Paul Lunch MP for Liverpool, John Robertson MP for Blacktown, Peter Tighe CEO of ASEA, Paul Bastian AMWU, Mayor Greg Cummings of Holroyd, Tanya Segelov of Turner Freeman and many other distinguished guest and members of adfa.

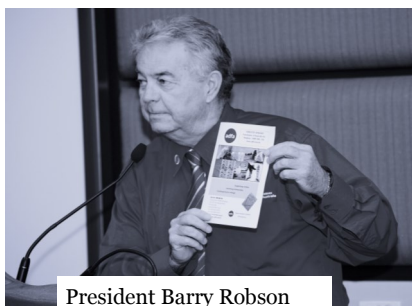
President Barry Robson gave a very informative speech on his trip overseas to both the ADAO Conference in America with Vice President Maree Stokes and to his visit at the Rotterdam Convention.

A light lunch was served after the Booklet launch.

Thank you to all those that attended and made the launch a success.



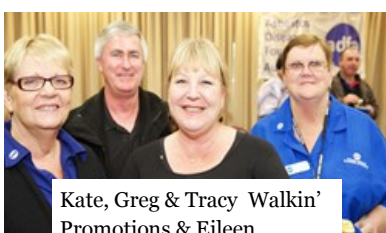
Anita Anderson



President Barry Robson



Eileen Day, Jean & Barry



Kate, Greg & Tracy Walkin' Promotions & Eileen



Rebel Hanlon



Jocelyn McLean, Karen McCarroll, Eileen & Barry



Eileen, Helen, Barry, Julie Owens MP, John Robertson MP, Maree



Barry & Peter Tighe CEO ASEA



Anita Anderson DDB & Dave Henry DDB



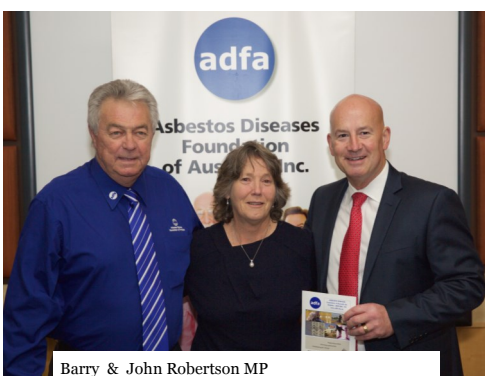
Kate, Helen, Jocelyn McLean ADRI



Paul Lynch MP & Jan Primrose AMWU



Brendan Govers, Cllr Peter Monaghan, Michael Middleton
Holroyd Council & Greg Cummins Mayor Holroyd Council



Barry & John Robertson MP



Barry & Paul Bastian AMWU



Jennifer, & Mary Rodda & Tanya Segelov Turner Freeman



Maree & Julie Owens MP

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Asbestos-related cancer treatment breakthrough leaves Australian researchers optimistic

By The National Reporting Team Sophie Scott & Alison Branley
Taken from ABC NEWS Mon 15 Jun 2015

Australian researchers are cautiously optimistic after using nanocells to achieve what could be one of the most significant breakthroughs in asbestos-related cancer treatment in a decade. Scientists from the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Centre have published a case report of a patient whose mesothelioma has almost entirely disappeared.

Bradley Selmon was one of ten patients in a phase-one clinical trial of a new treatment that used very small genes known as microRNA to inhibit tumour growth.

The genes were transported to the [mesothelioma in his right lung using Australian-designed nanocells](#).

There haven't been many breakthroughs in the last 10 years so we hope we've got something here to give hope to patients. ADRI Associate Professor Glen Reid

Associate Professor Glen Reid from the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) put the microRNA inside nanocells and said it was like using a Trojan horse.

"A nanocell is a delivery vehicle," he said.

"You can package basically anything in there that you like, so a chemotherapy drug — or in our case a mini-gene — and then it's injected into the body."

Once in the lung, the nanocells delivered the microRNA to the affected lung to inhibit tumour growth.

Researchers emphasised Mr Selmon was the only patient to respond so well.

The other nine patients in the trial have either remained stable or continued to decline.

They do not know how long the treatment will work or if it will work in others.

"It's early days," Dr Kao said.

About Mesothelioma

- 600 people are diagnosed each year with mesothelioma
- Mostly men get it
- It is often diagnosed late
- The median survival after diagnosis is 12 months

It can take at least 20 years after exposure to asbestos for mesothelioma to develop

"Hopefully this case will provide some hope to mesothelioma patients that research is being done and we are hopefully advancing therapy options for future patients."

Mesothelioma is one of the hardest cancers to treat and patients typically do not live long after diagnosis.

There is only one main type of chemotherapy and when it stops working patients have few options.

"There haven't been many breakthroughs in the last 10 years so we hope we've got something here to give hope to patients," Professor Reid said.

The research is published today in the American journal Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

The ground-breaking research was conducted at the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute at the Bernie Banton Centre.



Call Jocelyn on

02 97679854

If you would like to chat confidentially please call Jocelyn.

Tuesday-Thursday

9am-3pm



Jocelyn brings many years of nursing experience to ADRI to support patients with malignant mesothelioma and their carers.

Jocelyn can provide up-to-date clinical information and offer support. She works in collaboration with other health care professionals to ensure a multidisciplinary approach is provided.

As part of the ADRI team she is informed of the latest research studies and clinical trials.



Barry & Peter Tighe ASEA



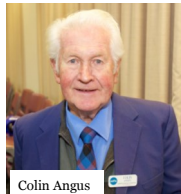
Eileen, Barry & Robert Moerman Cape Cod Aust



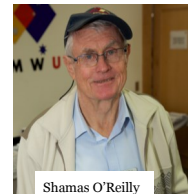
Mick Rattigan, Bruce Campbell & Ray Harrison



Greg Cummins & Fergal Eiffe



Colin Angus



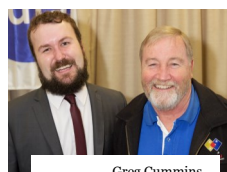
Shamas O'Reilly



Eileen, Kate, Helen & Ray Harrison



Bruce Campbell & Dave Henry



Greg Cummins



ADFA Members



Jean



Continued from Page 9

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 & a cuppa and to meet the Executives and members...



Remember ADFA is always looking for Volunteers. If you would like to join us or find out ways in which you can help, please give Jean a call on 9637-8759



"He's Been Everywhere Man"

ADFA Members your Invited



This year's **Christmas in July** we are off to

AUNTY MOLLY'S WINTERFEST SHOW

Where you will have the pleasure of joining in with international recording artist **LUCKY STARR**



Join us in a festive two course lunch of Turkey,
Ham & Cranberry Sauce with Plum Pudding and
all the trimmings plus entertainment at
THE OLDE BACKHOUSE



When are we going: **Wednesday 29 July 2015**

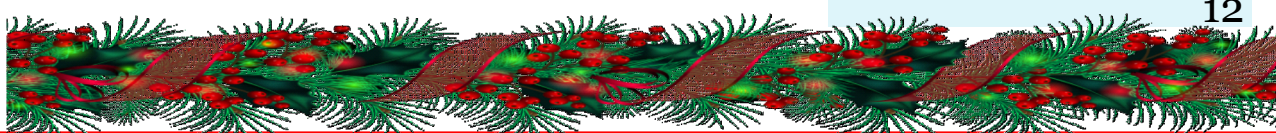
for a bus trip to Morisset to join Toni at the helm to help make your luncheon a very Christmas experience.

Cost per person: \$40...includes Bus, Meal & Entertainment

Drinks to be purchased by yourself.

To Book your place, please contact Jean on 1800 006 196

RSVP: 3 June 2015 – Payments to be made by 8 July 2015





LADIES & GENTLEMAN, Join Us For Our Main Event
The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.
Gala Race Day 2015
Saturday 31st October – Derby Day

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 serviced by public transport, including a train station at the front door at Rosehill Gardens.

ADFA are proud to support the
Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI)

ONE NOT TO BE MISSED—PLACE YOUR BETS - HERE THEY COME

RACE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

- ◆ 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 NX, 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).

Thank you to our Members



**Turner
Freeman**
Lawyers



**Dust Diseases
Board**



Furzer Crestani
Chartered Accountants



**ROCKDALE
CITY COUNCIL**
On Historic Botany Bay



nhads

NEWCASTLE and



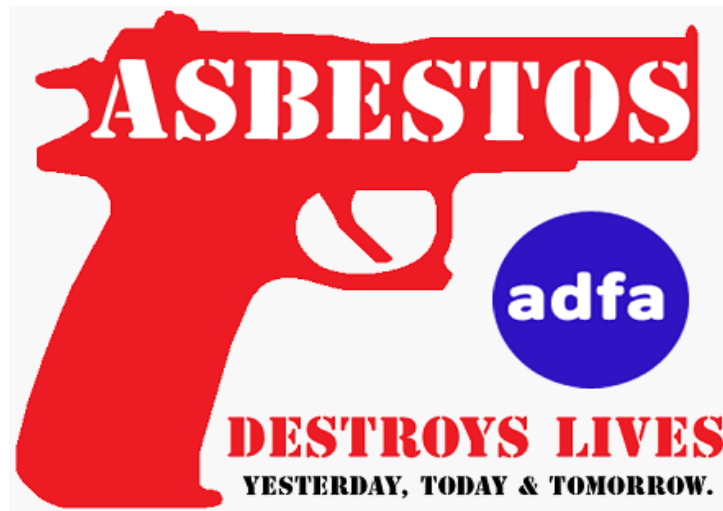
you first. always.

Thank you to our Members



Action Demolition & Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd





Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.

Suite 3, Ground Floor

133-137 Parramatta Road

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Granville NSW 2142

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