



Bulletin 22 – 30 November 2023

Dr Emery Kertesz: History of Asbestos Mining



Speaker this week was Dr. Emery Kertesz. Emery is a hobby geologist and fossicker. His camping and outback travels always involves locations to pursue his interests.

During one of his trips in Western Australia/Pilbara region he passed through Wittenoom where the last Asbestos mining was carried out. This mining town had a very chequered history, from its beginning in 1943 until its closure and abandoning in 1966.

- 1915 Blue asbestos was discovered there and by 1923 could fetch up to £80 p/ton.
- 1939 Lang Hancock constructed an Asbestos Crushing plant that was sold to CSR in 1943 that continued mining and milling ops 'till 1966 when it closed due to profitability and drop in asbestos prices. CSR knew that asbestosis & cancer were the likely result of the conditions and despite many warnings from doctors & inspectors continued.
- 7000 was the workforce working in mining & milling operations from a population of 20,000.
- More than 2000 of workers and residents have since died from Asbestos related diseases.

[Mesothelioma](#) & other asbestos caused diseases were spreading rapidly amongst the former Wittenoom workers, a tragic development of the young fit and healthy workforce.

Just one breath of dust laced with the invisible fibres into someone's lungs triggers an aggressive incurable cancer.

That being the reason the government is about to wipe Wittenoom from the face of the earth.

One relocated former resident, Mario Hartman, still returns for a few months



COMING EVENTS:

7 Dec: AGM followed by Board meeting.

7 Dec: Bunnings Family night. Chris, Doug & Lesley

14 Dec: Christmas Party at The Buoys.

21 Dec to 18 Jan: Club in recess for dinner meetings.

1 Jan: Bunnings barbeque.

6 Jan: Bunnings barbeque

BIRTHDAYS:

22 Dec: John Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES:
none

WINNERS:

H/T: Geoff Diemar

RAFFLE: Jim Booth.

MEMBER DUTIES

Door: Lesley Freeman

Grace: Peter McBean

Toast: Geoff Robinson

Bulletin: John Cropley

Photos: John Cropley

Binoculars: Geoff Diemar

CLUB SERVICE EVENTS.

Our members recently gave Clive’s Cooker a good workout providing cooked food at the CWA Christmas Fete last Saturday week when Chris, Lesley and Doug cooked bacon & egg rolls and sausage sandwiches for the many local community members in attendance. Next day John & Yvonne, Geoff & Denise, Don & Fiona towed Clive’s Cooker to the Tomaree Aquatic Centre to cater for the Camp Quality Christmas Party. Food was cooked and drinks served to the 200 young cancer patients, parents, and caregivers. This was a wonderful day enjoyed by all. A visit by Santa who arrived by fire engine with gifts gave the young people a very enjoyable day.



CLUB DUES.

Half yearly dues are payable now for those members who pay half yearly instalments.

BUNNINGS BARBEQUE

We had a very successful Bunnings Barbeque last Saturday cooking 19 trays of sausages. Co-ordinator John led a great crew of Lesley, Judi, Peter Page, Peter McBean, Ian and Geoff with purchasing completed by Chris and Doug.



Thursday 14 December 6 pm

Cost \$65.00 for 3 courses.

Drinks extra.

Partners and guests are welcome.

Please advise Lesley of your attendance (*if not already done*)
Please pay the dinner fee by EFT to our Club Acct.:
BSB: 637-000 Acc.: 78-101-7418



The Buoys Restaurant, Donald St. Nelson Bay with Modern European cuisine showcases the produce of Port Stephens, with seafood being the dominant feature on the menu.

Chef Navin Poon, born from humble beginnings in Nepal has become an internationally renowned Chef.

He spent part of his life working at various hotels internationally, including the world’s most luxurious, the 7-star rating Burj Al Arab in Dubai. During his time in Dubai Navin won several competitions, including Young Chef of the Year Award in 2013 where he was a memorable 1st Runner Up. Throughout his career he has produced impeccable quality food for thousands of delighted guests and has now opened his own restaurant, bringing all his expertise and talent to Port Stephens.



Thursday 7th Dec.

Club AGM

The President and all board positions are still open.
Please volunteer your service.