

No regrets, says Jerry

COMEDIAN Jerry Seinfeld has opened up about turning down the most lucrative offer in TV history.

When his mega-hit sitcom Seinfeld ended in 1998 after nine seasons, it was the biggest show on TV and US broadcaster NBC was desperate to keep it going.

Former NBC executive Warren Littlefield previously revealed the network offered Seinfeld \$US5 million an episode to make another season. It meant the comedian would have pocketed more than \$US100 million.

But Seinfeld, turned down the offer and now 20 years later, doesn't regret it.

"It was the perfect moment (to finish)," he said. "And the proof that it was the right moment is the number of questions you're still asking me about it. The most important word in art is proportion. How long is this joke going to be? How many minutes? And getting that right is what makes it art or makes it mediocre."

Seinfeld admitted if he stumbles on a Seinfeld episode, he turns it off immediately. "There's a level of focus you need to get something to a certain point creatively, and you pay a price for that which you can't ever look at it again," he said.

Cops fear new drug

AUSTRALIA'S new top anti-organised crime cop has warned cartels will seek to import a drug 10 times more powerful than heroin because its tiny dose size makes it easier to smuggle.

Fentanyl deaths have skyrocketed in the US and Canada and authorities in Australia are on alert to stop widespread use of the drug.

Australian Federal Police Deputy Commissioner Karl Kent, pictured, said drug cartels targeted fentanyl because it could be smuggled in bulk far easier than ice or cocaine.

"We have seen in other jurisdictions that fentanyl ... has become a massive problem in terms of drug deaths because of its sheer potency ... and the high risk of overdose," Mr Kent said.

There was a transition from methamphetamine to fentanyl — so almost a shaping of the drug market by the organised crime cartels themselves.

"That is insidious. They have complete disregard for the harm and their only interest is in manipulating a market to generate more wealth."

Fentanyl is often diverted from the legitimate market. "It is produced synthetically for drug treatment, so it could be a pharmaceutical-type product or redirected pharmaceutical product from the grey market," Mr Kent said.

Tony Barrass

A N iconic image lingers in the consciousness of a generation of West Australians.

Two little boys, covered in mud, caught out by the camera. The one on the left has a naughty grin that only a three-year-old can muster, the other an unexpected glare of a tough nut that belies his tender age.

All these years later, Carol Farber, now 80, vividly remembers that photograph. She should. She took it.

It was at the bottom of her driveway at Wittenoom. The cheeky one was her nephew, Philip Noble, with another Wittenoom kid, Ross Munroe, who was a year or so younger.

Back then, in the early 1950s, Carol Farber was Carol Smith, and had just arrived in the remote mine town to begin what she remembered as "the happiest days of my life."

She had just been given a Box Brownie for her 13th birthday and she was snap-happy. She took pictures of everything that moved and remote Wittenoom, nestled at the foot of the stunning Hamersley Ranges, had plenty on offer.

She and her mother, Kathleen, and brother, Terry, had escaped a violent father and husband and ended up in the busy mining town with their eldest sibling Fay, whose husband Ray Noble worked for CSR's subsidiary Australian Blue Asbestos.

It was a "magical place" full of happy families, newly arrived migrants hoping to get ahead and lots of fun and adventure for kids like Carol.

"I remember climbing up one of the gorges with my brother, and finding an Aboriginal cave filled with these wonderful drawings on the wall," she recalled.

"It was so eerie, it scared the life out of us, but I took a photo anyway and then we ran out of there as fast as we could. Mum never let us see the photo, but I still remember how scared we were."

However, no one was scared of blue asbestos.

It was everywhere. Tailings covered every square inch of ground. The shard-like blue asbestos helped beat the extreme heat of the Pilbara.

"They (the workers) used to spread out all the tailings over the town because they reckoned it took the heat out of the red dirt of the Pilbara," Carol said.

"The blue asbestos fibres were used to absorb the heat, because it was pretty hot up there most of the time."

"Someone had dumped a big pile of the blue stuff at the bottom of our driveway," she said.

"The two boys were just jumping around in the stuff when I took that picture."

"I remember once when the



These two toddlers used to play in the asbestos of Wittenoom. But they couldn't make it to yesterday's memorial ... mesothelioma took them years ago

WHEN DUST ENDS IN DEATH

WITTENOOM

“The men spent hours raking the blue asbestos right across the schoolyard to make sure that we didn't burn our feet ...”

Taken too young: Philip Noble, left, and his mate, Ross Munroe, play in the Wittenoom asbestos in this picture taken by Philip's auntie, Carol Farber. Both boys would go on to die in their 30s. Above: Carol pictured this week. Left: Carol and her family in the 1950s. Below: Workers shovelling asbestos in Wittenoom.

governor, Sir Charles Gardiner, was coming to our school.

"The men spent hours raking the blue asbestos right across the schoolyard to make sure that we didn't burn our feet when we were performing for all the dignitaries who had flown into town."

With her best friend Hilary Francis, Carol loved the people of the Wittenoom township, but

eventually moved to the settlement about six kilometres away and a kilometre from the mine.

Lang Hancock had built it in 1939 after discovering that the Europeans were crying out for the stuff as they cranked up their war effort.

Asbestos was a key ingredient in gas masks and other military equipment.

He sold it in 1943. "In town we had a pub, a hospital, a school and a retail store that sold everything you ever needed," she said.

"But then I moved to the settlement because Mum and I both got jobs in the mess."

"Even though we were just working in the kitchen, we were never made to feel less important or worthy than anyone, you were always made to feel welcome by the bosses ... there was never any mention of anyone getting sick or



it being a dangerous work environment."

Unbeknown to the general Wittenoom workforce, by the 1950s the medical fraternity and senior management of CSR's subsidiary Australian Blue Asbestos were becoming aware of the dangers facing their employees.

A senior government medical officer, Eric Saint, then the area's flying doctor who would go on to be founding dean of the University

of WA's medical school, warned of the impending disaster. Voicing his frustrations over the lack of equipment to test the growing number of chest infections, he wrote to his Perth-based superiors warning that Australian Blue Asbestos Pty Ltd may well produce "the richest and most lethal crop of cases of asbestosis in the world's literature".

By the late 1950s, the demand for asbestos was on the wane. World War II was done and dusted, and the high cost of doing business in remote Wittenoom had taken its toll on the balance sheets.

The mine closed in 1966 but the real story of what Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia describes as the nation's greatest industrial disaster had only just begun.

About 13,000 people at some stage stayed or worked in Wittenoom, 7000 of them



children. The ADSA believes 2000 people have since died of asbestos-related diseases.

Yesterday survivors and victims of the Wittenoom mining disaster gathered at Solidarity Park in West Perth to unveil a plaque in memory of those who have yielded to mesothelioma and its associated diseases.

"It is significant that the first major decision on the management of this site by UnionsWA is the unveiling of this plaque on the Remembrance Wall which honours those killed through work," said UnionsWA secretary Meredith Hammat.



Daughter slams Jobs

APPLE founder Steve Jobs left a lot to be desired as a father, according to a new book by his daughter.

Lisa Brennan-Jobs, pictured, was just a toddler when her father visited her for just the second time in 1980.

Her mother, Chrsann Brennan, couldn't afford to pay the heating bills in their rented flat and Lisa had to sleep wearing a parka.

Ms Brennan worked as a cleaner and waitress, but survived by topping up her wages with welfare benefits as she struggled on \$US500 a month that Steve Jobs' her ex-boyfriend and Lisa's father — gave them.

Jobs, who was then worth \$US200 million, insisted that Lisa wasn't his child, falsely claiming he

was sterile and that his ex-partner slept around.

A court ordered DNA test

proved Jobs was the father — yet he insisted for years that Lisa wasn't his child.

In an extract of her book *Small Fry* published by Yinity Fair, Lisa piles damning accusations against the father of the iPhone.

She offers a partial explanation for her father's distance: "I was a blot on a spectacular ascent, as our story did not fit with the narrative of greatness."

Dad faces kill counts

A US man who made media pleas for the safe return of his missing pregnant wife and two daughters has been arrested on suspicion of killing them.

Colorado police say the body of a woman, believed to be Shanann Watts, 34, the wife of 33-year-old Christopher Watts, was discovered on a property where Mr Watts worked. A search for the bodies of the couple's two daughters, Celeste, three, and Bella, four, turned up human remains, police said.

The three bodies were found in the same area. Mr Watts, pictured, was taken into custody for the suspected murders.

"This is absolutely the worst possible outcome that any of us could imagine," John Camper, director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, said.

Mr Watts made a brief appearance in court dressed in an orange jail jumpsuit and was held without bail.

Prosecutors said in court they believed Mr Watts' wife and daughters were killed at home.

On Tuesday, Mr Watts told a Colorado TV station he was torn up inside about his family's going missing and pleaded for their return. "I just want them to come back," he said. "My kids are my life. Those smile," light up my life. I want everybody to just come home."

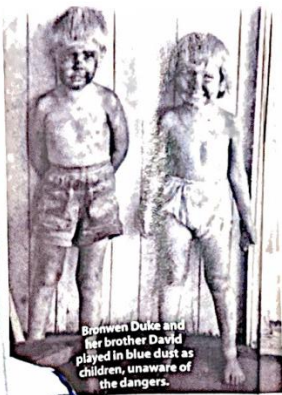
DANGER

ASBESTOS IN THIS AREA

CANCER AND LUNG DISEASE HAZARD

RESPIRATORS AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING ARE REQUIRED IN THIS AREA

TRAGEDY



Bronwen Duke and her brother David played in blue dust as children, unaware of the dangers.



THEY SHALL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

adsa asbestos diseases society of australia inc.

While the devastation of the lives of Wittenoom workers and their families continues unabated, WE VOW never to forget and keep fighting for justice and to save lives. Rest in Peace dear friends.

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Asbestos deaths

DEADLY BLUE DUST

Bronwen Duke's earliest childhood memories are of happily playing with her brother David in the dirt outside their Wittenoom home, in Western Australia's remote north. Back in the 1960s her parents, Ron and Val Jones, had no idea the dust the kids played in, tinged blue by asbestos fibres, was deadly. "We never dreamed the tiny asbestos filings were dangerous," Duke, 59, now living in Canberra, reflects sadly. "They were soft and blue, fun to play in, and they were everywhere."

Tragically, fibres from asbestos mined in the town would lodge in the lungs of, and kill, both Duke's parents, her brother David, and 10 other family members.

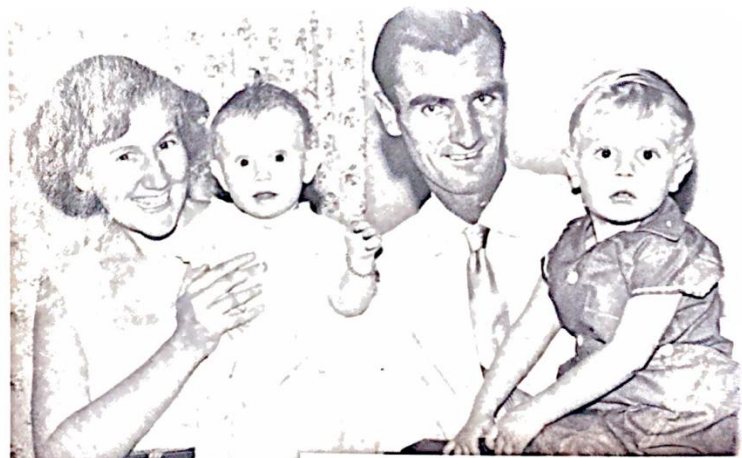
"My younger brother Shane [who is 57] and I are the only ones left, out of two generations of families who lived in Wittenoom," Duke says. "I have one photo with 13 members of my family in it and every single person is dead."

According to the Perth-based Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia - which has been helping victims of asbestos-related illness since 1979 - that's the largest number of asbestos-related deaths in one Wittenoom family. To date, more than 4000 Australians have died of asbestos-related diseases, and more than 2000 were former residents of Wittenoom, says, Melita Markey, the society's chief operating officer.

With its picturesque gorges and employment prospects, Wittenoom was a drawcard for European migrant workers who flocked there to work at the tiny town's asbestos mill, built by late mining mogul Lang Hancock in 1939. In 1943, CSR Ltd bought the mill and expanded the operation; it ran until 1966, employing 7000 people.

"Mum was a teenager when her dad moved the family there in the '50s, so he could take a job as foreman at the mill," Duke says. "So, that's where my mum met my dad, and her three sisters met their husbands."

Duke says her father would drive the



Ron and Val Jones with their daughter Bronwen (left) and son David.

workers to the mine each day. "He certainly didn't dream he or anyone else was at risk," Duke recalls. In 1963, when Bronwen was 5 and David was 6, her father became ill with lung problems and the family moved down to Perth so that he could receive proper medical treatment.

At first, Duke says, the doctors thought he had tuberculosis. "He kept fighting to catch his breath," she says. "But though he was ill, Dad was determined to keep working and support the

family. Then, in the mid-'70s, he learned he had asbestosis. It's an extremely harrowing disease, in which you feel like you're choking. He died in 1979."

In 1989, 10 years after her father had died, Duke's mother Val was diagnosed with mesothelioma. "It's extremely difficult to watch someone you love unable to walk three paces because they can't breathe. She was dead within months."

Then in 2006 her beloved brother David, just a year her senior, was also diagnosed with mesothelioma. He too, was dead within months of his diagnosis. "He was 48, a married father of two, and certainly wasn't



Duke says 13 members of her extended family have died from asbestos-related illnesses.

expecting to get sick," Duke sighs. "He'd left Wittenoom when he was just 6 years old. But when you look at old photos of us playing in the dirt, we were literally black, covered in asbestos fibres. Shane was only 2 when we left Wittenoom, and I don't think he was exposed to asbestos. But unfortunately he, too, has a health battle on his hands, with melanoma cancer."

Now a divorced mother of two, Duke has no idea why she has been spared from contracting an asbestos-related disease. "I have tests every year, but so far, I'm fine," she says. But having lost so many family members this way, she admits it is, at times, almost too much to bear."

By Jacqui Lang

For years, Bronwen Duke and her family were exposed to asbestos fibres. Then she lost almost her entire family to asbestos-related illnesses