



'NO WORRIES MATE' NEWSLETTER



VICTORIAN INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

www.ita.vic.edu.au



edition : FEBRUARY APRIL JUNE AUGUST OCTOBER DECEMBER 2016

WHAT'S ON:

DATE	ACTIVITIES	CONTACTS
• August t.b.c	Aussie Rules	Alice Bray 0402473900 alice.bray@gmail.com
• Oct 8 or 9	Canadian Thanksgiving	Chrissy Temple ctemp81@yahoo.com.au
• Nov 18	2014 Farewell Dinner	Anne Casey annegrancasey@gmail.com

Hi to all..... we are on FACEBOOK ... [become a friend and spread the news....](https://www.facebook.com/ITA1975)

<https://www.facebook.com/ITA1975>

- ★ We trust all members had a great break and Term II is running smoothly. We also hope that our visiting ITF enjoyed their adventure.....
- ★ **NOTIFICATION:** Committee Meeting - MAY 12th is the AGM - please read and respond to the motion to be addressed. A nomination form for the committee has been attached to the email for your consideration.
- ★ The committee also asks for any nominations for **Dr. Lawrie W. Shears - SERVICE AWARD.** Please refer to our February edition for most recent news on this most prestigious award.
- ★ We are saddened to say that 2 of our members **Dr Lawrie Shears** and **Anne Casey** are recovering from illnesses. We wish them both well and acknowledge that Anne is a committed member of our committee and during this time has resigned to aid her recovery.
- ★ **SPECIAL INTEREST...** blogs.. Check out the blog of **Jean and John Gingerich** - from **Ottawa** and working at **Carrum Downs Secondary College...** jjinoz.wordpress.com

Editor: *Stephen Schneider* schneider.stephen.gardening@gmail.com

This issue:

- AGM motion and nomination form.
- Aussie Rules - a day at the MCG
- 2 NEW HOMESTAYS
- Australia Day celebrations
- ITF comments on their first month..
- Something Interesting is beginning at Lescon Public Elementary School
- Ballarat and Yarra Valley weekends
- 2016 ITF details – correction
- Calendar of Events

AGM..... May meeting ... motion

Below... is the Membership criteria and description details which were approved at a committee meeting last year. The criteria need to be ratified as a special motion to include these documents in the ITA Rules of the Association as an amendment to be added into section 13 -Membership rights, which outlines membership. **Please contact me** if you wish to receive the ITA Rules of Association.

ITA Membership Categories and Criteria Descriptions

Current member : VITF within the last five years or Overseas exchange person within the last five years

Renewed Member : Current members beyond 5 years of membership

Patron : Founder

Committee : current member of the ITA committee

Past Committee Member : Retired committee member in the past 5 years.

Past member : Previously been a member, whose membership has expired

Non : VITF or overseas exchange person who participated in the VITF program and never joined the ITA.
Can be referred to as a non member.

Membership entitlements provided to

Current member

Renewed member

Committee member – person currently a member of the ITA committee

Past committee member – Criteria - a person who is entitled to ITA membership for a period of 5 years from year of retirement from the committee

Patron

Life member

Life membership Criteria applies to

Patron,

Past presidents of the ITA committee,

Recipients of the Lawrie Shears Award

10 Years or more service as a Committee member

See the Rules of the Association for the detailed description of Who is eligible to be a member?

There are two categories of members –

Category 1: Those fellows who have completed their exchange year and paid the initial entrance fee but are no longer active in the Association. They will continue to have access to the Association's services and benefits but will not have voting rights.

Category 2: Those fellows who have all the conditions of category 1 members but who pay an additional annual subscription of \$1.00 in order to maintain voting rights.

Any person who has participated in an International Teaching Fellowship and supports the purposes of the Association is eligible for membership.

An International Teaching Fellow who joins the Association is a member for life.

After the initial five years membership period an additional fee for each five year period will be payable to retain access to Association services and benefits. This fee is also to be reviewed annually.

Any person who supports the purposes of the Association is eligible for membership.

ITA Annual Dinner Invitees Criteria format for sending invitations

Patron and accompanying guest All life members	A personal invitation using printed mail Electronic mail if printed mail address is not available
All current members	Using the electronic mailing list (email) and newsletter
Previous members	Reunion years 5 year, 10 year 15 year cycles using the electronic mailing list - if communication details are available or by printed post if electronic mail contact is not available
Previous VITF participants, non members	using the electronic mailing list if communication details are available
Department representatives (DET, Independent, Catholic) Consulate representatives Politicians	using electronic mail

This special resolution needs to be circulated to members prior to the AGM with the notification of AGM meeting and the call for nominations.

This is a special motion to be approved at the AGM.

I have also attached the Rules of the the Association (the draft copy) which was approved previously at at AGM which the document needs to added to.



AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALL...



**Hawthorn vs Melbourne
Sat August 6 at the MCG at 2.10**

Please pencil date into you diary, as I have requested AFL tickets, and await confirmation
You will receive more information, closer to the date regarding tickets, meeting place and general plan for the day.

Alice Bray - alice.bray@gmail.com



2 NEW HOMESTAYS...

A Huge **THANKYOU** to Rosemary and Candice for their kind offer of accommodation:

Rosemary Chapple - **CAMBERWELL** - 8 ks from city, short walk to tram and train...
Please contact Rose rosemary.chapple@marcellin.vic.edu.au

Candice Huntly - **CRAIGIEBURN** - if you need somewhere to stay during a visit to the area or a place close to the airport to make an overnight stop before flying out. My mobile is also 0400328841.

AUSTRALIA DAY - 2016

Some snap shots of an ITF classroom from our Facebook page



& Phebe May from Courtenay, BC, Canada to Rochester.



.....OUR FIRST MONTH.....



My first month in Williams Lake at Marie Sharpe Elementary has been a wonderful experience.

I am teaching Kindergarten (Prep or Foundation in Australia). The school has a high First Nation population.

I find it an amazing, dynamic and energising place to work.

I am really enjoying working with the children and learning about their background, history and culture.

The staff at Marie Sharpe are dedicated and supportive.



This week I was privileged to attend the Enhancement Agreement signing between the Federal Government, BC School Board, First Nation Chiefs and Metis Community.

It is an initiative to boost the funding, academic performance and betterment of life for Aboriginal students.

It was quite an emotional experience listening to the different voices and perspectives about the political and personal challenges of the community as well as the common goal of supporting the children to have more opportunities to thrive and meet a higher standard of living and wellness.



My own two children have been enrolled in the local school, Chilcotin Road Elementary and are also thriving.

They are riding the school bus and taking ice skating lessons as part of the curriculum!

The heavy snow fall has made it a very memorable introduction to Canada - especially for my husband, Stephen, who has been spending his days shovelling the driveway!

Elly Kalenjuk - Williams Lake. BC. Canada
from **Fairfield Primary School**



Williams lake - view from our house at sunset

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My first month in Windsor, Ontario:

My first month has been both a blur and a blast.

We were welcomed to the southern most City of Canada on Dec 21 with open arms. Kim, our exchange, and her mum picked us up from Detroit airport, only 40 minutes away, and proceeded to help us get settled over the following few days.

We had loads of help and offers of help in our beginning weeks. The experience was the same at my school, Assumption High School, Windsor. Situated right next to the Ambassador Bridge, I can see Detroit's skyline from my classroom window.

I have been teaching English to years 9-12 so far and we are in the Exam period right now. Walking into unfamiliar classes in the middle of Semester was a challenge but a good challenge and I am already feeling the positive effects of this extraordinary Professional Development.

Bridget Goodyear – Windsor. Ontario.
from **Kilbreda College. Mentone**

.....

The first month in Osgoode, Ontario.... has sped by as we have settled back in to life in Osgoode and the routine at Osgoode Township High School



Doing a second exchange in the same place so soon after the last one has meant a very easy transition, and Osgoode really does feel like our second home.

It has been good to get the end of Semester One out of the way and to start with new classes and try some new things.



After a very mild start to our Winter here and rapidly diminishing snow, it looked like we were not going to see any of the extremes that we saw in 2013.

The trip to Quebec City for the Winter Carnival with the Canadian League for Educational Exchange was an early highlight, but the minimum temperature this time was a balmy -12 degrees, compared with the -52 last time it felt warm!



It was good to meet a lot of the other families on exchange and compare notes.



After returning from Quebec the temperatures started to fall significantly, and when we headed on our first road trip West for Family Day Weekend it was getting down close to negative 30.

Following a very worthwhile PD Day in Ottawa Robyn and I drove West to Waterloo through some very wintry conditions with the usual hold ups on Highway 401, deep snow drifts and poor visibility.

On Saturday we continued West with the plan of crossing in to Michigan State and going up to the small German settlement of Frankenmuth.

What should have been a couple of hours drive turned into the most difficult driving conditions we have encountered in all our time in Canada. Heavy wind driven snow, very limited visibility, and many vehicles in ditches beside the road (including a semi trailer) made for very slow progress.

On the minor roads it was almost impossible to see where the road went, so we crawled along the highway until things cleared a bit.



After a bit of an explore in Frankenmuth and a late lunch of their World Famous Chicken Dinner we headed South to Detroit, arriving in this once thriving city soon after dark.

Detroit has obviously had it's problems in recent years, but there are some great Museums and Galleries and some of the best Art Deco architecture we have seen anywhere.

Many buildings are still boarded up but it feels like a city about to make a come back, and we are keen to return with more time if we get the chance.



On the way home we went to the Southernmost point of Canada at Point Pelee, and had a night at a strangely deserted and very chilly Niagara Falls. On the Monday we drove back across New York State to Syracuse for an early dinner at the famous Dinosaur BBQ- the ribs are still amazing- shame about the US dollar.

Next weekend is another CLEE event at Wanakita, with a focus on Winter activities. It is snowing heavily as I write this with about 40cm expected today, so there will be some digging required to get cars out of the car park.

We feel very fortunate to be having a second chance at a 'once in a lifetime' experience and are embracing the opportunity.

Peter Weathelake - Osgoode. Ontario
from **St Josephs College, Ferntree Gully**

My first month in Toronto... has been both challenging and rewarding, it has been exciting and nerve racking, it's been hard work and fun play. I am teaching grade 4 at Manhattan Park Primary School in Scarborough and it's been good fun and a huge learning curve. But most importantly for my first month in Toronto, it's been a great experience and we are looking forward to big year in 2016. Oh Canada!

Greg Thomas & Rebecca Kenshole - Scarborough. Ontario
from **Lyndhurst Primary School**

My first month in Ontario. ..

What a postcard perfect place Toronto is this time of year.

Walking to school this morning with the pure white blanket covering the sidewalk (OMG already talking Canadian), and the houses and the schools. Bright sunlight reflecting off the white. Although I am thanking my lucky stars that I don't have to drive and scrape windshields or driveways! This week is not cold at all. Mind you the last weekend it was minus 40. Thank goodness there was no school.

I had planned to go into Toronto to just walk around exploring, so got all dressed in gear. The day was sunny , which fooled me, and 5 minutes later I walked out of the front door and walked 5 minutes down the road, immediately turned back and spent the whole weekend on the couch. Very restful I must say. Upon reflection that was the first day where I stayed at home all day. One tends to be much more active when you are in another country.

Well for those who have done an exchange and are thinking of doing it again. Go for it. But don't be fooled, those first few weeks settling in are just as hectic, scary, problematic as the first time. Many moments of what the 'heck ' am I doing here!!!!!! thoughts. But now, wow it is fantastic. The school is welcoming and accommodates my many differences. My kids are the same all over the world. My boys will do anything for a game of floor hockey and my girls still put love hearts as the dot of the I.

What has amazed me are the personalities of all of the ITF's participating in this program. We have had the pleasure of sharing a weekend conference, visits to places of interests, sleepovers, bus trips and swimming in minus temps. All in good fun. And to think we hardly know each other.

Of course anyone who has been here with CLEE will be familiar with the Quebec weekend conference. What a great experience that was. People living outside of the Toronto area drove in and parked at my place and then we all took the subway to Union station to meet the bus. Several pickups along the way and we drove all night arriving for a breakfast in Quebec. Boy were we hungry. It was delicious. This gave

us the opportunity to meet more Aussies. Well we visited the church, St Anne's, and that began the penguin waddle because there were many falls on the ice. Lots of bruises and bumps. The winner would have to be Nina who was helped up by this gorgeous French/Canadian photographer. The rest of us had to manage on our own. Then about 5 hours later he sees her again and asks about her health. There were many jealousies then.

Remember the ice festival, sugar shack, maple straps on the ice, dog sled rides, beaver tails (one group were determinedly working their way through to number 9 on the menu), ice hotel, tour of the city, lunch at Montreal. I am sure I have forgotten some.

This weekend some are going to Wanikita weekend for snow shoeing, cross country skiing, ice fishing and a bonfire in the middle of a frozen lake. so will be waiting to hear how that went.

A big highlight for me was New Year's Eve. Transit was free all night and so rather than sit at home a few of us travelled into the city centre. Ice skating at Night at Nathan Phillips Place and people everywhere. No rowdy behaviour, very little smoking and such a festive atmosphere. No pushing or shoving, everyone was just happy to wait their turn. Spectacular fireworks at Midnight and then the transit home. The officers of TTC had us all queueing to get into the subway and as a result the trains were not jam packed. Trains came every 4 minutes, so I guess the crowds were moved on quickly. Fantastic that so many workers were happy to give up their time on NYE to help all of us. It was certainly a fun way to spend Nye.

So all in all a fun time has been had by all and now look how fast the year is moving, who would believe that I have been here two months already. I just bet the rest of the year will skyrocket.

Maurene Bodie – Toronto. Canada
from **Caulfield Junior College**

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Maurene Bodie ... continued...

Something Interesting is beginning at Lescon Public Elementary School.

We are currently hosting a group of Syrian refugee children into our school, introducing them into school life. What makes this program so different is the fact that these students are not enrolled in this school or any other school. They are registered with the Toronto District School Board however.

How this situation arose is this. Canada has opened its immigration to the refugees from Syria. The quota was 25,000 and this was finally reached one week ago. This influx of people has meant the settling process has gone into overdrive with clothing and furniture donations flooding in to many holding centres. However while these people have collected the many items that they require for their existence here, especially the winter time, housing is difficult to access. As a result many families have been placed in hotels around Toronto. Children from these families, sometimes with nine in a family, have not had school to attend as it is uncertain where to enrol them, not knowing where they will finally settle.

The Toronto School District Board had decided at very short notice to house these students in schools that could accommodate them. They remain as a group of students divided into 2 sections, Kindergarten- 5 to 7 years and Junior 8 to 12 years. They have been allotted 2 English teachers from Toronto and each class has an Arabic translator, with the main aim of the program being- an assimilation into school life and the learning of English. These kids have never attended a school before so the environment is very foreign to them.

They are bused into school at 9.30am and remain at school until 12.30 pm. They do not go outside to play as this was felt would be too overwhelming. Even attending the washroom was a new experience and boy was there excitement! I am lucky enough to have these two classes opposite me in the long school

corridor. It was inspiring to watch them come silently along the corridor, absolutely mesmerized by the experience. So different to my students who do not rush into class in the morning at 9am!!!!!!!

The program has been ongoing now for three weeks and they still look intrigued by this new environment. The class is always changing with students leaving when a residence has been found for them, and they will then begin their new educational school. Let's hope they enjoy their education. New ones are then arriving after just landing in Toronto.

Makes you just remember the marvel of education and the need to fill students with knowledge and understanding of the world. How easy it is to forget this reason why we come to school.

Maurene Bodie

SNAPS FROM THE BALLARAT WEEKEND...



A huge THANKYOU to **Gaye Carrigan** and the Ballarat crew for organising another successful weekend..

YARRA-VALLEY WEEKEND... 2016

YARRA VALLEY AND HEALESVILLE IN APRIL

Beautiful weather was on display for this April weekend held on 16 -17 April 2016 and the vines and trees have just started turning to full colour. The Yarra valley provided beautiful weather.

Fourteen people replied that they would be participating in some part of the planned weekend and three visiting VITF people met at the Sanctuary to start the weekend. They were treated to the opportunity of a special showing of the platypus with a keeper handling session. Meanwhile a BBQ lunch was prepared to enjoy at Badger Weir park, which is inside the Yarra Ranges National Park. This beautiful picnic area at Badger Weir was patiently reserved by Mary and Adam, as this is a popular area when the weather is great. They experienced a variety of birds surveying the area as well as fending off other picnickers. It was a delightful setting to enjoy a BBQ of hamburgers, sausages and coleslaw, with apples, lamingtons and fruit cake for dessert. Most people had arrived by the time the BBQ was cooked (with some difficulty by Ron, as the BBQ's were not all functioning) and the kookaburras had learnt to strategically steal the sausages off the hotplates. Thanks for the help with the campfire and the BBQ cooking. This lunch was followed by a walk along the Badger Creek trail. Here we were treated to the special display of a lyrebird on the trail.



There were no takers for the wine tour on Sunday, although an enthusiastic group sampled the gin taster platter at Four Pillars on Saturday afternoon when they had completed the Badger Creek walk.

On Sunday four participants chose to ride the bike trail, accompanied by Deb. All participants provided their own bikes, started in Launching Place and cycled to Warburton for lunch at the new cafe BJ. We missed Rod who was unable to attend for the bike ride this year.



The Saturday campfire is always a winner and weather was perfect, although a little cool with the breeze. The fire was a delightful warmth. Pizza was back again this year with watermelon and ice cream for dessert which was a huge success. After everyone enjoyed the meal, we all moved outside to appreciate sitting around a campfire on a lovely evening. Scott and Nancy, experienced in Australian campfires, provided the marshmallows for the children to toast. This small group of VITF's are so social and supportive of each other. They enjoyed getting together, organising many events themselves this year and sharing their amazing experiences of the recent school holidays around the campfire. While overlooking Healesville and the city lights, stories were told – teaching, school experiences and travelling. Travel tales which were retold included visits to New Zealand and Tasmania, along with some planned visits from overseas or to overseas to connect with family members. Di, our long serving member of the committee also joined us for the dinner and campfire.

Mary, Jo and Sheryl hosted a family each, joined in the evening activities, displaying their classic Canadian hats, as well as providing a fabulous breakfast for their guests. Fresh farm eggs were provided by Deb for some to enjoy.

At the end of the afternoon on Sunday, after the bike ride, we all celebrated with a glass of champagne at Domaine Chandon, where Chrissie and her mother joined us. The bike riders and Chrissie met us at Domaine Chandon. They enjoyed the superb views of the Yarra valley, finishing with a visit to Domaine Chandon including a viewing of the riddling room.

It was a very successful weekend! Thanks to ALL who contributed and participated! Everyone enjoyed the weekend and the weather was superb.



The Yarra Valley ITA group successfully showed the highlights of the area to the visitors.

With Deb and Sheryl retiring as organisers, next year we look forward to Mary and Jo taking the lead to keep this chapter event going.

A huge THANKYOU to Sheryl Allen, Deb Armstrong and Mary Moore

2016 ITF CONTACT DETAILS...

Please note correction below ... re details distributed in our February newsletter...

VITF 2016	VIC School	Phone	Exchange School
Janice Carrel	Ashwood School Montpellier Rd Ashwood	9808 7444	Skyview Elementary (CITEL) Thornton, CO USA
Emma Jones	Trinity Grammar School 40 Charles St. Kew	98543600	Tonbridge School High Street, Tonbridge Kent

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016



The ITA organises a series of events to give you a taste of **Victoria** and the diversity found within it. These events are a great time to get together with other Fellows past and present at a reasonable price. Details of each event will be advertised in the ITA newsletter by the coordinators.

AUGUST	<p>EARLY WINTER (date TBA) Aussie Rules Football</p> <p>Enjoy a game of Aussie Rules at the world famous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), the site of the 1956 Olympics and 2006 Commonwealth Games.</p> <p>This game takes a degree of courage to play, but not to watch, so come along and experience the atmosphere!</p> <p>Free entry. Purchase or bring your own lunch</p> <p>Contact: Alice Bray, alice.bray@gmail.com or text her on 0402 473 900</p>
<p>*TERM TWO holidays 25th June to 10th July</p> <p>*TERM THREE holidays 17th September to 2nd October</p>	
OCTOBER	<p>CANADIAN THANKSGIVING : October 8th or 9th</p> <p>Celebrate Thanksgiving "Downunder" in a Melbourne venue. Enjoy a catch up with your new ITF mates, discuss your amazing holidays and be thankful for living in beautiful Victoria for a year!</p> <p>Contact: Chrissy Temple, ctemp81@yahoo.com.au 0411 665 687</p>
NOVEMBER	<p>NOVEMBER: Friday 18th Melbourne Farewell Dinner (immediately after the DET Reception, the date TBC)</p> <p>This is an opportunity to celebrate the year that was! It is a night to say your last goodbyes and plan your reunions back home. It is a night without the kids where you can celebrate your year with other overseas ITFs, out-going ITF's, ex-Aussie ITFs and the committee. An event NOT to be missed! Homestays can be arranged.</p> <p>Contact: annegrancasey@gmail.com</p>
<p>TERM FOUR ends 20th December</p>	

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE (Homestays) AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO VISIT:



South Gippsland

ITF teachers from previous years offer to billet Fellows and their families while you travel around the South Gippsland area. Check out Wilson's Promontory for bushwalking, rail trail and cycling. Visit a wildlife park, enjoy beach activities, camping and indulge in a surf lesson.

Contact: Gary & Sue McGrath on

56624233 (Home)

Korumburra SC 5655 1635 (Work)

mcgrath.gary.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

mcgrath.susan.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

Geelong

A satellite city with a country feel. It's the Gateway to the Great Ocean Road. Enjoy fish n chips by the sea, taste local wines, visit the Aboriginal co-operative, walk along the waterfront and see the artistic bollards. Adults and children all welcome. You will be hosted in local homes.

Contact: Sue Strong : 5222 1460

susanannestrong@hotmail.com

Bendigo

Whilst there is no specifically organised weekend in 2016 the Bendigo Chapter are happy to assist with information and accommodation if you decide to visit this beautiful and historic area. Visit Central Victoria, Bendigo with its wonderful architecture- a city founded on gold in the 1850s. A ride on the Talking Tram will help you get to see the sights. A journey down the Central Deborah Gold Mine is a must. The area is surrounded by many award winning wineries.

Doug Jamieson 5441 5873 jamo@netcon.net.au

Wodonga

No weekend is planned for this area in 2016, but plenty of homestay is available when you choose to explore the area or stop off on the way to Sydney or Canberra. Activities can include a visit to historic Beechworth, Ned Kelly sites and the Rutherglen Wineries. See Aboriginal art, canoe along the Murray and/or bicycle along the rail trail across Lake Hume.

Jan Bedson (02) 6027 1664

0419 561 070 yackqueen@gmail.com

Phillip Island

Explore the beaches and wildlife of this popular island. Visit the fairy penguins, koala park and Churchill Island which has early history of white man to Victoria.

Email 1. Carlson.kylie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au 2. nrkjcarlson@bigpond.com

Kylie Carlson: 0423 166 311 Nick Carlson: 0423 166 277

ITA (International Teachers Association). The ITA is an alumni, supporting teachers and their families who have been awarded a **VITF (Victorian International Teaching Fellowship)**. The ITA has links with similar groups *interstate and overseas*. Members can network, make new friends, enjoy reduced prices at some events and *make links to other Fellows while* travelling in Australia and overseas. Membership is \$60.00 for 5 years.
www.ita.vic.edu.au

ITA - COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE

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ITA COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 2016

Fairfield RSL at 5.15pm. Railway Place. Fairfield

www.fairfielddalphington.rslvic.com.au

2nd Thursday of the month:

12 May 9 June. 13 July 11 August 15 September. 13 October. 10 November. 8 December

OPALS

OPALS

OPALS

OPALS

LIGHTNING RIDGE OPAL MINES

Thinking opals....see [Nick Le Souef](#) at ...

Ground Floor

175 Flinders Lane

MELBOURNE 3000

between Swanston & Russell Streets

(03) 9654 4444 (W) (03) 9654 4870 (F) 0419 383 315 (AH)

Alice Springs Address:

75 Todd Mall

ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870

[Nick is a keen supporter of the ITA so if it's opals you want give NICK a call](#)

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