



**ASBESTOS VICTIMS ASSOCIATION (SA) INC**  
Established 2000

# Newsletter

**July - August 2020**

**There for our members whenever and however they need us**

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



COVID-19 has had a major impact on AVA's activities as the majority of our planned events for 2020 were cancelled. We have been advised that the Adelaide Home Show will go ahead at Wayville at the end of October—more information to follow.

We have kept busy - more time behind the desk has given us the opportunity to promote awareness via social media and redesign our brochures. This brochure will be placed in medical centres around the state. Let us know what you think of it.

We have continued to work with the Asbestos Support Group Network.

We don't forget our members: Our newsletter is sent out quarterly to keep people up to date. We offer telephone support and home visits when appropriate. As restrictions ease, we will continue with members' lunches in regional areas.

## **Executive Committee:**

**President / Treasurer**  
Peter Baxter

**Vice President**  
Maxine Williams

**Office Manager**  
Lesley Shears

**Committee members**  
Gloria Hinks  
Doreen Ryan

## **Membership Renewal 2020/21**

Membership renewal is due for 2020/21 at a cost of \$10 a year. Thank you to all our members— your support gives us strength and unity in our efforts to influence government to take stronger action against asbestos and its effects. Payment can be made by direct debit—BSB 325-185 a/c 02252614. Please provide your name in the reference box for identification.

If you think that you may have been exposed to asbestos either through your employment, at home or in the community, it's important to add your details to the National Asbestos Exposure Register. If you should experience symptoms in the future there will be a record of your exposure. It is also a good idea to let your GP know if you have been exposed to asbestos and ask that it be noted on your medical records. The Register can be accessed at <https://www.asbestossafety.gov.au/national-asbestos-exposure-register>



## Scholarships awarded to PhD students at National Centre for Asbestos Related Disease to aid research into mesothelioma and other cancers

The Dust Diseases Board has been funding research since 1983. Since becoming part of icare in 2015, the focus has expanded to building the capacity of upcoming researchers in the ongoing pursuit of excellence in research. Joel Kidman, PhD candidate, University of Western Australia, is one of the successful recipients of the scholarship grant. Joel's aim is to understand the dynamics of the immune system that may lead to positive outcomes in cancer immunotherapy. His research also focuses on minimising harm for cancer patients receiving treatment.



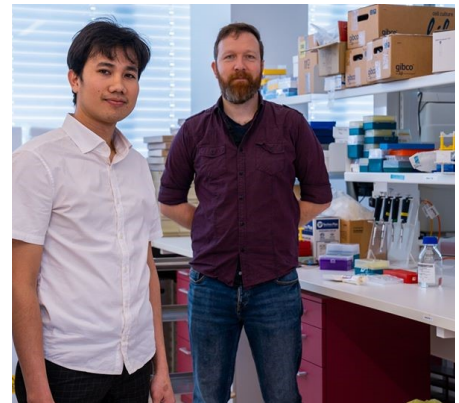
"There is so much yet to learn about what happens to patients when given cancer drugs. As soon as we figure out how to minimise harmful side effects caused by treatment, we can minimise the harm and improve the quality of life for patients whilst they receive treatment" said Joel.

Joel studied Laboratory Medicine at Perth's Curtin University. He then worked in immunology labs and as a research data manager at the Clinical Cancer Centre in Perth. He met many cancer patients at the centre where he began to understand the side effects of cancer treatments and their impact on patients' wellbeing. "Through my studies, I became aware that there is a lot that we don't know about the immune system, internal pathways and cells. We know the least about cancer and treatments. Driven by my annoyance that we don't know as much as we should, I wanted to pursue a career in research to add to the sphere of knowledge", he said.

Joel spends time in his lab studying mice who have mesothelioma (an invasive cancer typically found on the lining of the lungs) and testing the various ways their immune system responds to treatment. He looks for patterns in specific immune cells to determine the effects of the medication. This method has been used on various cancers but is a very new application for mesothelioma. The next steps for Joel's research involves more programming, reviewing research and managing big data sets on his super computer.

### Douglas Peter Swift Top Up Scholarship

PhD student Synat Keam was awarded the Douglas Peter Swift Top Up Scholarship. Doug Swift, who grew up in Wittenoom, died far too young, but left an extraordinary legacy, now supporting a second outstanding student (the first being Dr Shaokang Ma, who graduated last year) in their mesothelioma research. Synat, who has come from Cambodia to study at NCARD, is pictured here with one of his supervisors, Dr Alistair Cook.



### Closure of Bernie Banton Foundation

The Bernie Banton Foundation closed its doors on 30 June 2020. Karen Banton, asbestos-related disease campaigner and widow of Bernie Banton, retired from her role as chief executive of the Foundation. The decision came after Karen and husband Rod Smith, who served as the Foundation's awareness and support coordinator since 2012, decided to take a break and focus on their health after 20 years in their roles at the Foundation. Since its beginnings in 2009, the Bernie Banton Foundation supported over 1,100 asbestos-related disease sufferers and family members. Through its advocacy efforts, it reached over 14 million Australians and shared the important message of risks surrounding asbestos exposure as well as advocating for continued research into the issue. We wish Karen and Rod all the best for the future.

# ARE YOU A PLUMBER?

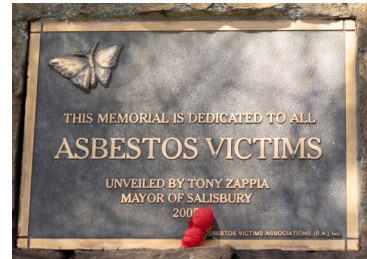


Pipe repair and connection to pipes insulated with asbestos are one of the biggest risks to plumbers when carrying out work.

- 1 STOP WORK - TREAT WITH CAUTION**  
If you are unsure if something contains asbestos, treat it as if it does and stop work in the area
- 2 KEEP OTHERS CLEAR OF THE AREA**
- 3  CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL**

## Diary dates

**Asbestos Victims Memorial Day**  
**DATE: Friday 27 November 2020**  
**VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY**



We will hold our Memorial Day in Salisbury on 27 November, the last Friday of National Asbestos Week.

The Whyalla AVA Group will also hold their memorial service on that date.

We are delighted to announce that this year there will also be a memorial service for people living in the Fleurieu Peninsula. This service will be held at Newland Uniting Church, 28 Victoria Street Victor Harbor on **5 November 2020 at 10.30 am**.

Further details to be provided about these events.

### Regional support groups

#### Whyalla support group

87 Essington Lewis Avenue, Whyalla SA  
Contact John Arthur:  
Office – (08) 8645 0555  
Mobile - 0416 482 673

The Whyalla Asbestos Victims Support Group is open again as COVID-19 restrictions are eased. Social distancing rules still apply and hand sanitiser is available as you walk in the door. John Arthur continues to follow up reports about broken asbestos sheets being dumped in the bush.

#### Port Augusta Support Group

Monthly meetings held on the first Friday of the month at Port Augusta Bowling Club, reopening in August.  
Cnr. Marryatt & Jervois Streets,  
Port Augusta SA  
Contact Geoff Maul:  
Home — (08) 8642 2884  
Mobile — 0419 822 296.

#### Fleurieu Peninsula Support Group

Contact Catherine Wegener—mobile 0437 805 510

### Social mornings in Adelaide

Our monthly social mornings in the Adelaide office will recommence from Wednesday August 12 2020. We look forward to welcoming you .



#### AVA THANKS THE FOLLOWING MAJOR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

TURNER FREEMAN    ADCO PRINT    TOTAL ASBESTOS SERVICES  
RETURN TO WORK SA    SAFEWORK SA

City of Salisbury Council  
Shop Distributive & Allied Employees' Association (SDA)  
Communications, Electrical & Plumbing Union (CEPU)  
Construction, Forestry, Mining, & Energy Union (CFMEU)

#### PATRONS

The Hon. Steven Marshall, Premier of SA  
Frances Bedford, Member for Florey    Tony Zappia, Federal Member for Makin  
Nick Xenophon Lawyer and Advocate    Peter Bauer, State Secretary AMWU