

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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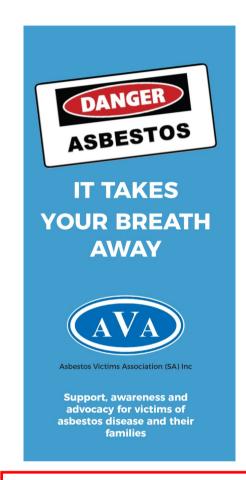
Office Manager

Lesley Shears

Committee members

Gloria Hinks

Doreen Ryan



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.

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.

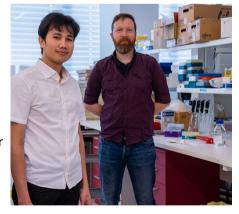
Joel studied Laboratory Medicine at Perth's Curtin University. He then worked in immunology labs and as a research data manager at the Clinical Cancer Centre in Perth. He met many cancer patients at the centre where he began to understand the side effects of cancer treatments and their impact on patients' 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.

Asbestos-cement water pipes



Across Australia there are approximately 40,000 km of water main pipes and 5000 km of sewer pipes containing bonded, non-friable asbestos cement. That figure includes around 42% of the pipes in South Australia. SA Water staff who work with pipes containing asbestos are trained to ensure their own safety and public safety.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and National Health & Medical Research Council have advised that the presence of asbestos within water networks does not pose a public health risk.

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) has developed guidelines to provide information about asbestos cement water and sewer pipe removal and remediation methods. The guidelines will address the issues water agencies should consider when deciding how to manage asbestos containing water and sewer pipes. Their aim is to ensure that the guidelines clarify confusion around managing these pipes and reflect

the law in a way that is practical and easy to understand. For further information visit SA Water at sawater.com.au.

Are you a plumber?

Plumbers need to be very aware of asbestos – their work involves contact with water pipes and they could also encounter pipes insulated with asbestos lagging. We can provide a fact sheet for plumbers identifying some of the areas to look out for.

We also have fact sheets specific to carpenters, demolition, electricians, floor covering, landscape gardeners, solar and telecommunications as well as around the home and regional & farming. PLEASE CONTACT US for copies.

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. 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 KEEP OTHERS CLEAR OF THE AREA CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL

Homeowners' Legal Responsibility

We all have a duty not to harm those around us. AVA frequently receives calls from people concerned about asbestos exposure when a nearby property is demolished or neighbours are renovating and

removing what appears to be asbestos.



When something like this occurs, the first thing to do is to talk to the person carrying out the work (if you are comfortable doing so). If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may need to report the situation.

If the work is being carried out by a neighbour, your local council should be the first point of call as they are a relevant authority under the SA Public Health Act. The Act provides for a General Duty of care requiring a person to take all reasonable steps to prevent or minimise any harm to public health caused by, or likely to be caused by anything done or omitted to be done by the person (section 56).

If the work is being carried out by a tradesperson or you suspect asbestos is being mishandled by removalists, you should contact SafeWorkSA.

SafeWork SA is required to keep a publicly available register of each person holding an asbestos removal licence. The Register of asbestos removal licence holders is available online and can be accessed at https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/licensing/licensing-authorisation/apply-licence/asbestos-licences#register-of-asbestos-removal-licence-holders

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. THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO ALL
ASBESTOS VICTIMS
UNVEILED BY TONY ZAPPIA
MAYOR OF SALISBURY
2007

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
Nick Xenophon Lawyer and Advocate

Tony Zappia, Federal Member for Makin Peter Bauer, State Secretary AMWU