



ASBESTOS VICTIMS ASSOCIATION
S.A. INC Est. 2000

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2014

"There For Our Members Whenever and Wherever They Need Us"

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Welcome to this edition of our newsletter our first for 2014.

It is hard to believe it is February already

We at AVA hope that all had a safe Christmas & New Year. The 2013 year has been both difficult and rewarding.

Last year we reported the worrying issues of illegal dumping particularly, the case of a truck driver dumping 2 tonne of industrial waste containing asbestos in front of two pre schools in NSW.

Then we had the issues of asbestos lying around a large area in the township of Terowie. This was followed up by our Port Augusta rep Geoff Maul and ultimately cleaned up professionally. Geoff later found a heavily contaminated site in Port Augusta and was involved in talking, and working with, EPA and made sure the area was remediated.

There was also the NBN issue with asbestos pits being dug up and left around

AVA would encourage everyone who comes across areas that are contaminated with asbestos regardless where it may be, including illegally dumped asbestos, to notify their council and notify AVA so we can monitor any action or lack of action and deal with it.

There was also good news with the announcement of research by Associate Professor Sonja Klebe from Flinders University in trying to find a way to block two separate proteins that help stimulate the growth of Mesothelioma.

The good news from a legal point of view, achieving exemplary damages for some claims.

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Pam Sandys

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Peter Baxter

Another bit of good news was the SDA Union supplying AVA with a vehicle to carry on doing what we do well, and that is to get out all over the state to pass on asbestos awareness information and talk with community groups. We also visited some of our members either in hospital or home.

Also our Member support social mornings have been well attended and it gives all the opportunity chat with each other and even compare different management of their conditions.

An event that we do every year is the Asbestos Victims Memorial Ceremony held at Pitman Park Salisbury. It was quite an emotional day as usual and was attended by well over 200 people. Our thanks go to all who helped us put this event on - some photos of this event on inside pages.

AVA could not survive without the support of our wonderful Sponsors, members and supporters who make donations where they can. We thank you all and hope you can continue to support AVA.

Something to Ponder?

How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

Would a fly that loses its wings be called a walk?



KATZ_KORNER

Riverland and Paskerville Ag shows

Peter Terry and I attended both these venues and we were over whelmed by the number of people particularly younger people enquiring about renovations and where might asbestos be used in their house.

There are still some people that do not believe that asbestos is a killer. Also some believe, or have been told, that white asbestos is not harmful. We do our best to inform them of the possible danger of exposure of any type of asbestos.

Some of the venues we have planned for 2014

Lucindale Field days - 21-22 March and Kapunda Ag Fair 11-12th April

Broken Hill Show - 2-3rd May Eyre Peninsular (Cleve) 12-14th August

Gawler - 30-31st August; Riverland Field Days 19-20th September, and numerous other places.



Long time supporter Frances Bedford MP with Pam

WHYALLA SUB BRANCH

John Arthur reports

Hi All,

Our Memorial Service went off really well, there was around fifty people there.

The most un expected was receiving life membership to A.V.A. Adelaide, presented by the Whyalla Mayor. Mr Jim Pollock.

Geoff Maul from Port Augusta A.V.A. Gave a talk. Norma Matters from the Uniting Church conducted the service, That went really well as usual. Thank you Norma.

Health problems has hit a lot of our volunteers and members, I don't know if it is the weather or just age.

Our get together dates will still be held every third Thursday of each month as usual, they start at 12 noon. new & old members & families most welcome. I hope to see you there soon.

John

Meeting Dates:

Third Thursday of each month

Venue:

87 Essington Lewis Ave, Whyalla. Phone: 8645 0555

PORT AUGUSTA SUB BRANCH

Geoff Maul reports

Hi,

This past couple of months have been quiet, due to the holiday season. We wish you all the very best for the coming year.

But we are still getting enquiries regarding asbestos and the handling of it. If you know anyone who may need some advice please get them to contact us.

We invite anyone, who would like attend, to come along to our monthly meetings, held on the **First Friday of each month.**

Venue: Port Augusta Bowling Club, Corner Marryatt & Jervois Street. You can contact Geoff on 8642 2884.

ASBESTOS VICTIMS MEMORIAL CEREMONY - PITTMAN PARK, SALISBURY 2013



YOUR SOCIAL MORNINGS

These mornings are held in our rooms at Level 3 - 60 Waymouth Street Adelaide on the **SECOND** Wednesday of every month, starting at 10am, but early birds are welcome, and you can stay as long or as little as suits you.

They are not formal meetings, so that gives each of you an opportunity to meet with and talk to others who maybe in a similar situation.

Remember you are not alone.



Dates for 2014 Social Mornings

February 12th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th, July 9th, August 13th, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, December 10th 2014



Why are our friends all dying,
And why are widows crying,
Why do we all have to mourn,
Shedding tears until the dawn.

Why are children fatherless,
Why are children motherless,
Why do brothers and sisters grieve,
With a pain naught can relieve.

Why are our friends all leaving,
Leaving us with our grieving,
Why did our loved ones leave us
Were thirty years really a plus?

We all know the reason why,
That reason is what makes us cry,
And it creates our awful pain
Cos' things can't be the same again.

Yes, that dust breathed long ago,
Is the cause of all our woe,
The knowledge has left us stunned,
Despite the compensation fund.



WHY

Lee West © 2013

Dust breathed without a thought,
Was the death sentence that it brought,
Yet still they fought against this foe
For they were not ready to let go.

They had husbands and had wives,
And many children in their lives,
They had family and mates,
But for them asbestos shut the gates.

To leave us they had no choice,
Never again will we hear their voice,
No more that infectious laugh,
No more giving the kids a bath.

All that has now gone for ever,
Alone now, we face life's weather.
We have good days and we have bad,
Days when we are so very sad.

All we can do is soldier on,
Remembering those now gone,
Let's keep their memory alive,
Til' at those golden gates we all arrive.

Please Put This IMPORTANT Date in Your Diary NOW

Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: Friday November 28th 2014

VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY

TIME: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Speakers TBA



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