



**ASBESTOS VICTIMS ASSOCIATION**  
**(SA INC.)** Est. 2000

# Newsletter

February-March, 2019

*"There for our Members whenever or however they need us"*

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## Executive Committee:

### President

Kat Burge

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Peter Baxter

### Office Manager/

### Treasurer

Pam Sandys

## Events

Maxine Williams

Les West

Lesley Shears

Gloria Hinks

Doreen Ryan

The Asbestos Victims Association held its annual Memorial Service on Friday 30 November as part of National Asbestos Awareness Week. We thank those who attended to commemorate the lives lost to asbestos disease: South Australian politicians, both State and Federal, local council representatives, unions and of course the many people who have lost a loved one. Mayor Gillian Aldridge welcomed everyone to the service. A welcome to country was provided by Kira Bain and blessings given by The Rev. Stephen Bloor. Catherine Wegener told the story of her husband Rex, who went to work as a carpenter and died because of it. Stephen Patterson MP represented the Premier, Steven Marshall MP, and the Treasurer, the Hon Rob Lucas. Peter Malinauskas MP recalled his long association with Terry Miller.

Graeme Pridham spoke about the death of his wife and the help he received from Terry. Riding the Harley Davidson, bought from Terry, was Graeme's way of coping with his loss but for ever after Terry referred to it as 'my bike'.

We thank everyone who helped with this event: Salisbury Council for allocating an area in Pitman Park for the annual service; Tony Zappia MP for his work in initiating this and Mayor Gillian Aldridge for continuing the tradition. There is a rock bearing a plaque in memory of all asbestos victims - this year there was an additional plaque to commemorate the work of our past President Terry Miller OAM, who died on 31 May.

A big thank you to the Pipes & Drums of the Royal Caledonian Society of SA, who played Amazing Grace and Highland Cathedral. It adds so much to the occasion. Finally thank you to the AMWU who put on a BBQ so the sausages are ready at the end of the service.

### A Farewell to Terry

We mourn the loss of Terry Miller  
Whose hand was always on the tiller  
He guided so many through their storm  
And for him this was the norm

Our mate Terry was always there  
Showing his friendship, love & care  
For each of us he had the time of day  
To give support along the way

Terry's fight was long and hard  
But he didn't give an inch nor a yard  
And through it all he'd still take the mick  
With a humour that you couldn't lick

Year after year he graced this place  
With a smile on his friendly face  
He's left a hole that's hard to fill  
And Terry, mate, we love you still

Now friend rest in peace – your battle's done  
As a leader you were number one  
And you will always be in our heart  
So farewell old friend, you played your part.

©Lee West 2018



### AVA Bags

We have given away hundreds of our blue & orange bags over the years – we give them out at all the shows that we attend and take them to the various groups who ask us for a presentation—everyone attending gets a free bag. Each bag contains useful information about asbestos – brochures & fact sheets from AVA, SafeWork and the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency. You may have one of our bags at home.

It's time for us to order another batch of bags. AVA is grateful to SA Treasury for giving AVA a grant to cover the latest order and help us continue our work.



### Activities: ASEA National Conference

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) was established in July 2013 to provide a national focus on asbestos issues. It worked with state and territory governments to produce the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness to ensure that right around Australia, people can work together to reduce the risks posed by asbestos. The aim of the plan is to work towards the ultimate elimination of asbestos-related disease.

The annual conference in 2018 – **ASBESTOS: the next national plan** – was held in Sydney and focused on priorities for the next five years.

Attendance at these conferences enables AVA to keep up to date with the latest information and research and gives us the opportunity to learn from other people's experiences. It is also a good opportunity to meet up with other asbestos support groups from around Australia.

### Regional Activities:

**AVA's Whyalla branch** holds its Memorial Day service at Mount Laura Homestead on the last Friday of November every year as part of National Asbestos Week. The service is held in the garden and crosses are placed on the lawn to commemorate the lives lost to asbestos.



There is a permanent memorial to asbestos victims – a site where family or friends can sit & reflect whenever they please. Each leaf of the tree carries the name of someone who has passed away from asbestos disease.

Whyalla City Council assisted with funding for the steel tree and side wings. The AVA Whyalla branch raised funds for the installation.

If you have any concerns about asbestos please contact John Arthur at the Whyalla group.

Drop in to Shop 5, 87-89 Essington Lewis Avenue  
or phone 8645 0555  
(office hours) or 0416 482 673.

**The Port Augusta group** has regular meetings at Port Augusta Bowling Club, Cnr Marryatt & Jervois Streets. Contact Geoff Maul on 8642 2884.

### Asbestos in the home

The accepted wisdom has been that if asbestos in the home is in good condition, it can be left alone but this position has changed – the advice now is that it is better to remove asbestos while it's in reasonably good condition. There can be cost savings from early asbestos removal.

As an example, an aging asbestos roof needs ongoing maintenance. Cleaning the roof requires fungicide, algicide, a manual wet clean & collection of debris before applying a professional coating. There could be problems with roof plumbing, such as run off or solar panel installation. It would be cheaper in the long run to remove the asbestos & re-roof. This would increase the value of the property. It also removes the risk of asbestos contamination in the event of fire or flood.

Natural disasters such as the recent floods in North Queensland can spread asbestos material far and wide. As an aid to home owners, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) has established the North Queensland Supplier Flood Register, which will be made available online for homeowners affected by the flood to search for licensed contractors who can help do repairs and make homes safe, secure and habitable again. It is encouraging to see that they are calling for licensed asbestos removalists.



### Cheers! Or maybe not ...

You may be surprised to know that the World Health Organisation has ranked alcohol as a class one carcinogen – the highest level of risk – alongside asbestos and tobacco.

Most of us will have an occasional drink but not many know that there is a link between alcohol and cancers of the mouth and throat, oesophagus, bowel and liver as well as breast cancer. The message here is all things in moderation. Keep within the recommended guidelines of two standard drinks a day.

### CANADA HAS BANNED ASBESTOS

Canada has joined the more than 50 countries around the world to have banned asbestos. The Prohibition of Asbestos and Products Containing Asbestos Regulations came into effect on 30 December 2018.

Alec Farquhar, from the Canadian Office of the Worker Adviser, gave an update on the progress of the ban at the ASEA conference in Sydney (ASBESTOS: the next national plan). Alex is a lawyer with a long career in the area of asbestos disease compensation and prevention. He coordinates Asbestos Free Canada and helped develop Canada's national strategy. The strategy now includes a registry of exposure and location, protection for the public and workers, screening for those exposed (100,000 affected per year), a mesothelioma health network and research, support for transition for communities and businesses and the encouragement of innovative alternatives research.

We were startled to learn that ¾ of the asbestos mined in the world came from Quebec. There is a town in Canada named Asbestos - the site of the Jeffrey mine, until recently the world's largest asbestos mine. The discarded serpentine tailings from decades of asbestos mining have created a "lunar landscape" that stretches for eight miles and is estimated to comprise 800 million tonnes of residue.

The asbestos ban will not prevent companies in Quebec from sifting through the waste left over from decades of mining asbestos. The federal government exempted the use of mining residues from the new regulations. In so doing, the government ignored objections from non-governmental and labour organizations, as well as a formal notice of objection signed by the regional directors of all 18 public health regions of Quebec.

One Quebec company hopes to transform asbestos mining residues into magnesium. It claims to have developed a ground-breaking technology to transform those mountains into two valuable materials: magnesium, a lightweight metal, and amorphous silica, which can be used to strengthen concrete. The process is also said to destroy the deadly asbestos fibres contained in the waste.



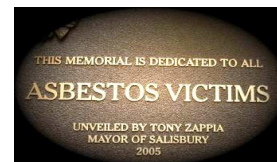
## Diary dates

### Important dates for your diary:

#### **Asbestos Victims Memorial Day**

**Date: Friday 29 November 2019**

**Venue: Pitman Park SALISBURY**



#### **Worker's Memorial Day - Sunday 28 April 2019**

AVA volunteers will be at the following events. Please contact the office for further details.

South East Field Days, Lucindale	15 & 16 March 2019
Copper Triangle get together	17 April 2019
Modbury National Seniors	17 June 2019
Home Building & Improvements Show	5-7 July 2019
Kadina Show	17 & 18 August 2019
Men's Shed National Conference	10-12 September 2019

#### **Your social mornings - remember you are not alone.**

Join us in the office for a cuppa and a chat on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.30 am onwards—everyone is welcome.

**2019 Dates:** 13 March, 10 April, 8 May, 12 June, 10 July, 14 August, 11 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December



#### **Probus Club of Wynn Vale – Asbestos Awareness**

On 8 January 2019 we were invited to join members of the Probus Club of Wynn Vale to talk about the dangers of asbestos. This is a very active club of more than 60 people. Many were surprised to learn how prevalent asbestos still is. Members shared some stories that surprised even us – this exchange of information is very valuable. There were many questions afterwards. Thank you for welcoming us to your meeting.



### **A V A THANKS THE FOLLOWING MAJOR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**

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### **PATRONS**

**The Hon. Steven Marshall, Premier of SA**  
**Frances Bedford, Member for Florey**  
**Nick Xenophon Lawyer and Advocate**

**Tony Zappia, Federal Member for Makin**  
**John Camillo, State Secretary AMWU**