



ASBESTOS VICTIMS ASSOCIATION
S.A. INC Est. 2000

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2013

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

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Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

It is hard to believe it's February already—just don't know where the time goes.

This year has started off quite busy for us with a number of phone calls asking for information regarding asbestos in the home. Another concern was work being done on a property with asbestos being removed but no precautions being taken.

AVA has already run three awareness sessions in January and have been invited to run more throughout the year.

ASBESTOS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

AVA's 2012 ceremony held in Pitman Park Salisbury on the last Friday of November was quite a moving morning. There were over 200 named crosses placed there and well over two hundred people attended.

Many thanks must go to the City of Salisbury, also Nichola & Tabatha, who did a wonderful job with the organising, to Jack Buckskin, patron Tony Zappia and Mayor Gillian Aldridge along with other speakers. Thank you for helping make this day of respect and remembrance a success.

There were quite a few high profile people who attended but none more fitting than the families, friends, and relatives of the many many people who have lost the battle with asbestos.

One Speaker I would like to mention is Trevor Williams a Mesothelioma sufferer himself he spoke of his life and family and his hopes he did exceptionally well speaking in public for the first time. His story was an emotional one, and brought on many a teary eye.

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Pipers of the Royal Caledonian Society SA

Something to Ponder?

Experts know more and more about less and less till they know absolutely everything about nothing.

FROM AVA's LEGAL ADVISOR ANNIE HOFFMAN

Time Limitations in making a Compensation Claim

It is important that if a person is suffering from an asbestos related disease that they obtain legal advice in relation to their entitlements to claim as soon as possible. The reason for this is that there are time limits that often apply in which to claim.

For people exposed to asbestos in South Australia, the *Limitations of Actions Act* 1936 (SA) is the relevant legislation that sets out the time limits that apply in relation to claiming at common law. Generally, a person has 3 years in which to lodge a claim from the date that they first become aware that they are suffering from an asbestos related disease. Often investigations are required before a claim can be lodged and therefore it is important to seek legal advice well before the 3 year period expires.

The Court can extend the 3 year time limit in certain circumstances. The Court can grant an extension of time for a period of up to 12 months from the date that the person claiming becomes aware of a new material fact in relation to their claim. A material fact is defined to be a fact which forms an essential element of the cause of action or a fact which would have a major impact on the assessment of that person's loss by the Court. A material fact may be a significant impact on the person's ability to work or the requirement for significantly more medical care than previously expected.

Where a person is diagnosed with an asbestos related disease but is told at the time of diagnosis that the condition is not the cause of any present symptoms, it is still important to obtain legal advice as soon as possible. Some people put off making a claim until their condition deteriorates or they become seriously ill. This is not always the best approach and in fact can often make claiming more difficult. Sometimes the delay means that a claim is no longer available.

Therefore, if you are unsure about your entitlements or have not yet obtained legal advice, it is important to find out where you stand as soon as possible to make sure that you don't miss out.

WHYALLA SUB BRANCH

John Arthur reports

John reports that the memorial ceremony held on the 30th November was quite successful and with a bit of help from above the rain stopped, to allow proceedings to go ahead.

If you or a family member or friend have been exposed to asbestos or have been diagnosed with an asbestos related disease please drop in to 87 Essington Lewis Ave, and talk to John or call John on 86453322 after hours

Call in and try our home made jams and pickles. New product, Strawberry jam going quick

Meeting Dates:

Third Thursday of each month

Venue:

87 Essington Lewis Ave, Whyalla. Phone: 8645 0555

PORT AUGUSTA SUB BRANCH

Geoff Maul reports

People from Port Augusta travelled to Whyalla recently to attend a memorial for lives lost to asbestos-related illnesses. The group, some members of the asbestos victims support group, travel to Whyalla each year to take part in the ceremony.

For Glenys Jeromin-Matthews it is to pay tribute to her husband, who died of mesothelioma in 2005.

When diagnosed with the disease, he was given three to six months to live, but Glenys said it took two and a half years to defeat him.

She echoed the warning given by Asbestos Victims Support Group member Geoff Maul recently that people should not remove or illegally dump the substance. "I've heard of people going out and dumping, for goodness sake be more aware of what you're doing," she said.

In Whyalla at the memorial for asbestos victims, Mrs Jeromin-Matthews meets up with another out-of-town friend who also lost her husband. "Each year there's another cross and you hear of someone else with asbestos-related illness," she said.

Despite this yearly occurrence, she would like to see a memorial garden in Port Augusta for asbestos victims

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.



MEMORIAL. (From left) Colleen Maul, Geoffrey Maul, Dan Matthews, Glenys Jeromin-Matthews, Maria Jeffry (nee Beckman) and Jenny Custance.

People from Port Augusta travelled to Whyalla recently to attend a memorial for lives lost to asbestos-related illnesses.

THE FACE AT THE WINDOW

She's there at the window again,
Her eyes holding a hidden pain,
As she watches day after day,
Seldom does she go out and play.

Her mother sees her watching there,
Feels the pain that they both share,
Her heart is heavy - full of woe,
But the child doesn't really know.

That daddy's never coming home,
His spirit now is free to roam,
How do you tell a child of five,
Her daddy is no longer alive.

How do you tell a little child
So that she can be reconciled,
To that painful and awful truth,
About the asbestos in the roof.

Does it help her to understand,
To tell her dad's in heaven land,
Can she grasp the finality of death,
Now Daddy's taken his last breath.

Adults know that all life transcends,
But to a child it never ends,
To a child life is for living,
For loving, sharing and giving.

So she sits by the window to wait,
Hoping to see daddy at the gate,
Tears trickle down her little face,
Because of daddy there is no trace.



Mum remembers the day John said,
I'll put this asbestos in the shed,
He was fit, strong and was her man
To grow old together was the plan.

Now he was gone out of her life,
But she would always be his wife,
She'd raise their child and do the
right,
Show her love and try to be bright.

The child turns and looks at her mum,
Suddenly, she feels cold and numb,
As her daughter sobs a plaintive cry,
Daddy's not coming and I don't know
why.

Her mother knows not what to say,
In her heart she begins to pray,
For the words that will rightly say,
Why her daddy's been taken away.

No one told them of the deadly dust,
So John removed it full of trust,
And now her John was there no more,
For them asbestos shut the door.

Lee West © 2011

REMEMBER - "ASBESTOS IS DEADLY SERIOUS"

DATES TO REMEMBER

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 2013 Social Mornings

February 13th, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th,

August 14th September 11th, October 9th, November 13th, December 11th.



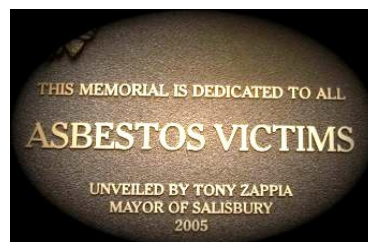


Please Put This IMPORTANT Date in Your Diary NOW

Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: Friday November 29th 2013

VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY



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