



ASBESTOS VICTIMS ASSOCIATION
S.A. INC Est. 2000

Newsletter

APRIL-MAY 2013

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

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Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

ILLEAGL DUMPING (The Actions of GREED)

A truck driver has been caught on CCTV illegally dumping asbestos outside two pre-schools in inner Sydney. The driver dumped two tonnes of construction waste in Wattle Lane in Ultimo around 4pm on Friday, December 14.

Parents who arrived to collect their children after the spill inadvertently drove over the asbestos material. Today the council released CCTV footage of the "brazen and despicable" incident, appealing to the public to help find the truck and its driver.

The footage shows the truck with its tipping tray up and the rear tray gate swinging open, spilling asbestos into the roadway as it passes over two speed bumps installed to protect pre-school children.

The truck, a white Daihatsu Delta, had a cloth tied over its licence plate. It had prominent scratches on the tray and on the driver's-side door. It also has a non-standard bar welded across the top of the tip tray, while the frame of the tip tray has a large crack near the driver's door. The truck was earlier filmed driving around nearby streets with its number plate covered.

The council's director of city operations, Garry Harding, says the driver faces a \$1 million fine and up to seven years in jail. "The difficulty we have now is that the number is covered up, and it was deliberately covered up with a cloth," he said.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Terry Miller

"We have some distinguishing marks on the vehicle and that's why we're appealing to the public, if they have seen the vehicle, to please come forward with that information..

"This man showed a complete disregard for the children's safety and there is simply no excuse. To do it in broad daylight right near two childcare centres is an absolute disgrace."

Vice President

Kat Burge

The council spent \$13,000 cleaning up the area after the alarm was raised.

Office Manager

Pam Sandys

It says the investigation into the dumping began as soon as the clean-up was over, but it has taken three months to get clearance for all the CCTV footage from nearby buildings to be released.

Treasurer

Pam Sandys

"Our teams have been trying to locate this truck without tipping-off the owner and possibly compromising the case, But it's like trying to find a needle in a haystack. It's time to enlist the help of the people of Sydney in trying to find this vehicle."

Chairman

Tony Henstridge

(source SMH - Leesha McKenny)

Events Officers

Peter Baxter

AVA's views of cases like these are, that if caught the full weight of the law should apply and maximum penalties applied, and no leniency considered

Something to Ponder

How much deeper would the ocean be, if SPONGES didn't grow in it?

War does not determine who's right—only who is left

FROM AVA's LEGAL ADVISOR ANNIE HOFFMAN**Claims for Lung Cancer caused by Asbestos Exposure**

Lung cancer is a condition that can be caused not only by exposure to asbestos, but by other carcinogens, most notably cigarette smoke. Lung cancer is different from mesothelioma in this respect. Mesothelioma in Australia is only caused by exposure to asbestos.

It is possible to make a claim for lung cancer in certain circumstances even where the person suffering from lung cancer was also a smoker. What needs to be shown in order to be compensated for lung cancer is that the claimant's exposure to asbestos had either caused or made a material contribution to the lung cancer. The Court will weigh up the claimant's exposure to asbestos against the smoking history in order to come to a decision as to whether the exposure to asbestos is significant enough to have contributed to the development of the lung cancer.

The Courts will traditionally attribute a person's exposure to asbestos as having materially contributed to a lung cancer where the person also suffers from asbestosis or has had enough exposure to asbestos to cause asbestosis, even though the condition may not have developed. Asbestosis is a fibrosis which affects the lungs. Asbestosis is a dose related condition and generally occurs in those who have had a heavy and prolonged occupational exposure to asbestos for at least 5 to 10 years. Therefore, in cases where the plaintiff can establish that they suffer from asbestosis, or that they have suffered from a heavy and prolonged exposure to asbestos, it is possible to claim for lung cancer.

WHYALLA SUB BRANCH**John Arthur reports**

John reports that the members from Whyalla are still dropping in regularly for a cuppa and a chat everyone is welcome as we all need to get the message out about the dangers of asbestos exposure

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****Terowie the town where asbestos just lies around**

Geoff Maul who runs AVA Support Group in Port Augusta talks with some Terowie residents and, Vassil Malandris from ABC 7:30 report

Asbestos has littered a town in South Australia for decades and the locals are frustrated in their campaign to get answers and action. There are few products as deadly as asbestos. Australia has one of the highest rates of asbestos-related deaths in the world. Nearly 5,000 people have died so far from exposure to the deadly dust and another 25,000 are expected to die in the next 25 years.

Normally the first glimpse of asbestos sets alarm bells ringing, but one town in South Australia has been littered with asbestos for decades, and apart from frustrated residents, no-one's doing anything about it.

Dave Perron from Terowie said "the ground is just covered with broken asbestos" "I have grandchildren who want to come here and explore the old train station and the old line, to do that they would have to walk over the asbestos".

Geoff Maul has asbestosis after 27 years of exposure to asbestos dust said residents were told in the past that the asbestos was non friable so it was safe, Geoff felt compelled to deliver a very different message. AVA has been informed that since the story went to air warning signs have been put up and an asbestos removal company has been engaged to clean the site.

The full story was telecast on ABC 7:30 report on the 26/02/2013.

We will be keeping our eye on Terowie

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.

In September last year Kat, Terry and I attended the National Summit on Asbestos in Sydney and promises were made, by the federal government, to begin the eradication of asbestos.

On Wednesday, 20th March this year, Minister Shorten introduced legislation into Parliament to establish the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, stating in part, "It's been almost a decade since asbestos was banned in this country and still, today, the dangers of this silent killer remain. Asbestos is the worst industrial menace that will go on killing for decades."

Prior to this announcement, the Australian Government had established the Office of Asbestos Safety to commence work with jurisdictions and stakeholders and start the development of the new national strategic plan. It is intended that the new Agency will be operational from 1 July 2013.

A Night of Powerful Theatre

Dust is terrific in both senses of the word. It is a highly entertaining, deeply stimulating night of multimedia theatre and is also a terrifying insight into corporate greed and the pain and injustice experienced by countless people.

This great play is coming to Adelaide in May 3, 4th and 5th.

It is an excellent production

Tickets are \$25, \$18 concession .

YOUR SOCIAL MORNINGS

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, August 14th September 11th,

October 9th, November 13th, December 11th.



Counselling.

Someone to talk to and talk with.

One of the best model of counselling I have read comes from J R R Tolkien –
The Lord of the Rings. The Mirror of Galadriel.

Do you advise me to look?" said Frodo.

"No" she said. "I do not counsel you one way or the other. I am not a counsellor.

You may learn something, and whether what you see is fair or evil, that may be profitable and yet it may not. Seeing is both good and perilous. Yet, I think Frodo that you have the courage and wisdom for the venture - or I would have not brought you here. The mirror will also show things unbidden and those are often stranger and more profitable than things we wish to behold. What you will see if you leave the mirror to work, I cannot tell - for it shows things that are and things that yet may be. But which it is that you see, even the wisest cannot tell. Do you wish to look? Do as you will."

Comment

For me, this means that one's life journey is their's alone - but it need not be a *lonely* journey.

We can seek advice from others and listen to them. This helps us to put jumbled thoughts and feelings into some sort of logical order - ultimately we *listen* to ourselves. We *all* need help to do this. Courage and wisdom is what we need to look into our lives and make the decisions that will be in our own best interest. No one else can make these decisions for us. "Do you wish to look?"

Contact; Peter Beinke Cert. IV Counselling. - living with Mesothelioma.

In the process of upgrading to Dip. Counselling. 0437 235 239 - Clovelly park.

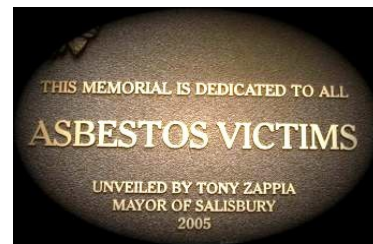
Peter is a member of AVA and has Mesothelioma

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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