

# ASBESTOS VICTIMS ASSOCIATION (SA) INC

Est. 2000



## Newsletter

### From The President's Desk

Office Location:

Level 3

60 Waymouth Street

Adelaide SA 5000

Postal Address

P O Box 4066

Elizabeth South SA 5112

Tel: (08) 8212 6008

Mobile 0418 894 657

Country Callers: 1800 665 395

E: [ava-sa@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ava-sa@bigpond.net.au)

W: <http://www.avasa.asn.au>

F: <https://https://www.facebook.com/asbestosvictimsassocsa/>

### Executive Committee:

#### President

Kat Burge

#### Vice President

Peter Baxter

### Office Manager/Treasurer

Pam Sandys

### Committee

Maxine Williams

Les West

Lesley Shears

Gloria Hinks

Doreen Ryan

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter. The year is rapidly passing and issues continue to surface. AVA, along with others, is concerned with renovator programs on television these days. Some of the work practices leave us wondering at times, but our main concern is the lack of warnings of the potential to discover asbestos during renovations. While they may very well convey the message to the participants, they do not give much (if any) warnings to the viewing public.

We would like the television stations to have an asbestos warning at the start of each episode, warning of the dangers of asbestos exposure that may occur in home renovations.

On October 19th-21st we attended the Home Show at Wayville. We were overwhelmed by the interest from the public. With help from SafeWorkSA and Total Asbestos Services we were able to answer all enquiries. We took extra boxes of information down to give out and even ran out of those. I would like to give a big thanks to all who helped out.

#### **We have a new website ~ at the old address ~ [ava.sa.asn.au](http://ava.sa.asn.au)**

AVA's brand-new website has a much cleaner look and is more functional.

#### **Take a look at the new site and let us have your feedback.**

You can find out what services we provide, information about our support groups. There is a video about AVA on the Support Groups page, made for AVA by the Community Voices program, an initiative of the Office for Volunteers.

We introduce our team and our sponsors. **Check out the News tab** – this has been set up so that members can see just how active AVA has been on their behalf. The Events tab has a list of upcoming activities.

There are testimonials and tributes, poems and photos from previous Asbestos Memorial Day Services. If you would like to add a testimonial or tribute to a loved one, please contact us so we can assist you.

#### **You can even pay your membership on-line or fill in a form to request an Asbestos Awareness Workshop.**

The new look website was designed and developed by Integrinet, a local company providing a wide range of services in web & graphic design. They made the process easy for us and we are very happy with the result.

Integrinet can be contacted through their website - [www.integrinet.com.au](http://www.integrinet.com.au)

### **Professor Doug Henderson**



South Australian asbestos victims have praised the tireless efforts of Flinders University Professor Doug Henderson to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of asbestos related diseases following his recent passing, aged 76.

Professor Henderson's long and distinguished career, including inter-nationally recognised research into asbestos related diseases that led to his expertise being called upon by the World Health and World Trade Organisations, saw him awarded an Order of Australia in 2005.

He made a profound difference to lives of hundreds of local asbestos victims, particularly those with the aggressive and currently-incurable lung cancer, mesothelioma. But Doug was passionate about so much more than just diagnosis and treatment, focusing a huge amount of time and effort on ground-breaking research into how to better treat and eventually cure these terrible diseases.

His expertise was recognised around the world, with global bodies calling on his knowledge, yet he remained committed to the people of South Australia throughout his distinguished career.

Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time. In particular, his partner Flinders Uni Associate Professor Sonja Klebe, who remains committed to building on Doug's work to find effective treatments for asbestos-related diseases.

## So what do we actually do?

Sometimes friends and family ask us, “other than supporting victims, what do you actually do at AVA?” We have been taking stock of our achievements this year and it’s quite an impressive list.

Apart from all the regular activities (social mornings, committee meetings, telephone support, producing and circulating the newsletter) our volunteers have:

Had a stand at the Lucindale Field Days and Riverland Field Days – 3 days for each event

Participated in -

Radio interviews: ABC 891, ABC South East, ABC Riverland, Riverland Life *FM* and 5AA.

Trade shows: Bunnings Victor Harbor, Home Show at the Wayville Showgrounds (3 days).

Presented :-

Training sessions to Australian Manufacturing Workers Union and the Shop,

Distributive and Allied Employees Association

Information sessions: Fulham U3A, Kapunda SES and Tea Tree Gully U3A

Distributed information about asbestos at all public events attended and also to city and regional hospitals/medical centres/specialists

Spoken at International Workers Memorial Day and supported VOID (Voices of Industrial Death)

Developed the new website & blog

Visited members at Goolwa & supported the Goolwa Friendship Group

Organised and planned the Annual Asbestos Memorial Day Service in conjunction with Salisbury Council & Unions

Booked to attend the ASEA national conference in Sydney in November 2018 (4 volunteers)

Attended bi-monthly meetings of the SA Asbestos Coalition

Participated in the Asbestos Support Group Network (ASGN) via monthly teleconferences.

Attended the Parliamentary friendship group meeting in Canberra in August, where Kate Lee from APHEDA reported on asbestos activity in Mekong countries and Peter Tighe, outgoing

CEO of Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency (ASEA) reported on the agency’s achievements.

Participated in the Survivors as Teachers program (a joint initiative of Cancer Voices & Uni SA) - talking to 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students about the impact of cancer, in particular mesothelioma.

## Would you like to join us?

If you are interested in joining our support network, please contact us and come along to a social morning. You could help by distributing AVA brochures to your local medical centre, hospital, council etc, or handing out information brochures at a community event. AVA participates in a number of community events every year. These events are an important way to raise community awareness about asbestos. You don’t need training – we all learned on the job, and we have had some fun along the way.

## Keeping in touch

**Have you moved? Changed your phone number or email address?** Please let us know about any changes so we can update our records and continue to send you our informative newsletter.

You may have had a phone call from one of our volunteers recently. We have been working through the membership list to make sure it is up to date.

We have been asking members whether they would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter via email – a number of members are in favour, but we are hearing loud & clear from others that they prefer a printed version. Let us know what you think. Contact us on 8212 6008 or [ava-sa@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ava-sa@bigpond.net.au)

## Office Improvements

Our enthusiastic volunteers now have their own dedicated workspace. A room which was being used for storage has been turned into an office with a desk and chairs, pin board and all the basics as well as a brand-new computer.

It is a much more comfortable environment for working on slideshows and other presentations – our volunteers are delighted with their new space. And as a bonus, our storage areas have been reorganised and are much more efficient. Thanks go to Pete for all his hard work and initiative.

## Cancer Voices SA– <https://www.cancervoicesa.org.au/>



One important part of their work is the 'survivors as teachers' program held in conjunction with UniSA. Through this program, medical and nursing students can meet and talk to real people who have had cancer, or have cared for someone who has. It gives them an insight into the human side of medicine.



In February AVA volunteers were invited to speak to palliative care & nursing students at UniSA.

It is a privilege to be able to share our stories in this way, and helps to give the students a better understanding of how cancer affects not just the patient, but also family & friends supporting them.

Dr Kevin O'Shaughnessy (UniSA) and Julie Marker (Cancer VoicesSA) co-ordinate the talks.

As Julie says, 'we all learn from each other at these sessions'.

## Riverland Field Days - Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd Sept 2018

The weather was beautiful, with big crowds attending each day, giving us plenty of chances to answer questions in relation to asbestos. Our stand was set up with display boards containing pictures of various asbestos products which may (or may not), be recognised, drawing a lot of attention.



Many were surprised that asbestos is still a problem in this country and were interested to know where it could be found, particularly in the home, and how to have it identified, removed and disposed of. Over 200 genuine questions were answered and numerous information bags given out, as well as colouring-in sheets for children to add to their Safari collections.

Two radio interviews in two days enabled us to promote AVA and explain our aim, as a volunteer organisation, to provide awareness, support and advocacy for all asbestos related issues, while also encouraging a visit to our display at the Field Day.

## PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP ON ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE (PGARD) - 14/8/2018

AVA's Lesley and Gloria attended this meeting at Parliament House Canberra, convened by Senator Lisa Singh and Russell Broadbent MP. PGARD enables the parliamentarians to meet with community groups in Parliament House. It was very informative - attended also by individuals and members of other asbestos victim groups and Peter Tighe – outgoing CEO of the Government's **Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency** - along with Tony Zappia, Member for Makin (SA).

The work of **ASEA** during the last five years in establishing a National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness (2014-18) was acknowledged. The next phase of the plan is the focus of the National Conference in Sydney in November. It will address the **legacy of asbestos**, requiring leadership in awareness and priority removal of the asbestos which still remains - from the years prior to its use being banned in Australia.



A speaker from **Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA**, the global justice organisation of the Australian Union movement talked about their work in the Asia Pacific Region (in particular Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Bangladesh). It is part of the process to implement one of the Strategies of the National Strategic Plan, encouraging Australia to play a leading role in the global campaign for a worldwide ban on asbestos.

We were pleased to participate, and to hear of some informed and positive support by the politicians who attended. We are always encouraged too, by maintaining our links with other groups who, like AVA, support victims of asbestos related diseases.

## Diary dates

### Our most important Date

**Asbestos Victims Memorial Day**

**DATE: Friday November 30th 2018**

**VENUE: Pitman Park SALIBURY**



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

You are welcome to share a cuppa with us and other members on the second Wednesday of each month from 10am onwards. Stay as little or as long as suits you.

**Dates:** 14th November, 17th December, 9th January,  
13th February, 13th March..



Thank you to all those members who have renewed their membership of AVA, especially many who included a donation as well.

Please remember that membership renewals are due at the end of the financial year, each July.

**Whyalla Group** — If we can assist in any with asbestos matters::

Phone our office on 86450555, or drop into: Shop 5, 87-89 Essington Lewis Ave.

After hours - 0416482673, or 86453322.

#### **Port Augusta Group**

Everybody is welcome, do come along and join in our discussions.

Meetings: Port Augusta Bowling Club, Corner Marryatt & Jervois Streets.

Contact Geoff on 8642 2884.

#### **AVA THANKS THE FOLLOWING MAJOR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**

TURNER FREEMAN

RETURN TO WORK SA

CEPU

ADCO PRINT

SAFEWORK SA

Shop Distributive & Allied Employees' Association

Construction, Forestry, Mining, & Energy Union (Con & Gen Division)

#### **PATRONS**

Steven Marshall, Premier of SA

Frances Bedford, Member for Florey

Tony Zappia, Federal Member for Makin

John Camillo, State Secretary AMWU

Nick Xenophon, Lawyer