



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

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

“There For Our Members Whenever and Wherever They Need Us”

Dear Members

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Pam Sandys

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Tony Henstridge

Publicity Officer

Tony Henstridge
(Big “T”)

During this past seven months we have been involved in a number of interesting issues—one in particular was the AMWU Summit in Sydney. Day One was a gathering of all groups from around Australia for a sharing ideas of what we do and if we can do it better. All groups agreed to band together in our concerns with issues that affect victims and potential victims from across the country.

AMWU SUMMIT Held in SYDNEY 28th 29th June 2010

Issues that were discussed at the Summit are still in draft form documents at this stage therefore this is my summary of discussions.

Many people attended some (60 people) from all over Australia. There were speakers from a number of Unions, SafeWork Australia, Cancer Council of Aust. ACTU, plus Asbestos Support Groups from all over Australia.

Main topics of Summit were:

Harmonisation of OH&S Asbestos Regulations

It was resolved that the Regulations MUST be of (at least) the higher that exists currently in any State and in some case even increase them (Unions will continue to campaign against lower standards as will Asbestos Groups).

Corporate Law Reform

This subject was addressed by Tanya Segelov from Turner Freeman Lawyers Sydney, and is of significant importance as James Hardie showed when it relocated off shore. It was resolved that letters would again be sent to the Federal Govt. and the Federal Attorney General. It appears there are relatively simple changes that can be made to the Corporations Act that would allow victims of personal injury or death to pursue the holding company or related companies where the company has been dissolved or fled the country.

Safe Asbestos Free Environment (SAFE) in Australia

DRAFT National Strategies

This is an ambitious declaration that if achieved would see much of asbestos containing material (ACM) in commercial and industrial sectors being prioritised for removal by 2030. It also seeks that landlords or their agents notify buyers and tenants of ACM, i.e. Asbestos Disclosure Certificates, something AVA and AMWU here have tried to get in recent years.

There is much work still to be done for SAFE to work and may not be achievable by 2030 but it is a good starting point.

National Asbestos Authority

There is also a proposal to establish a National Asbestos Authority to coordinate and enforce all aspects of the draft National Strategies.

Again there is much more work and discussions to take place but it is a must if we are going to reduce asbestos in industrial, commercial environments.

MEMBERSHIP

It is that time of the year again—membership is due 1st of JULY each year. The dues are still \$10.00 per year so PLEASE continue to help us so that we can continue to help you We realise that in a busy world it is easy to forget, but we need your support

SOMETHING TO PONDER

If at first you don't succeed destroy all evidence that you ever tried

CSR Demerger

CSR had previously announced its plan to demerge part of the company (Sucrogen) with an overseas company called Bright Foods China. CSR had been stopped from this by a Federal Court Judge in January 2010 after concerns by ASIC, NSW Govt. & Support groups. CSR appealed and won approval for a shareholders meeting. We, along with the AMWU and other Support Groups from around Australia, met with CSR and expressed our concerns in relation to the demerger. Our main concern is that the CSR was losing its sugar business for no return and that this reduced the assets available to pay future asbestos claims. CSR said its estimate of its future asbestos liabilities is \$450 million. Given the problems with James Hardie and its estimate we queried this figure and asked to see the data behind it. CSR have since announced it will not proceed with the de-merger but sell its sugar business to Wilmar International, a Singaporean company, for A\$1.75 billion. We believe a sale is preferable to a de-merger as CSR will receive the sum of \$1.75 billion while no money would have been paid in a de-merger. We have however called on CSR to put aside part of this money for future asbestos claims. The sale needs Federal Govt. approval and we have, along with unions and other support groups, written to the Treasurer asking for conditions to be placed on approval of the sale to protect future asbestos victims.

WHYALLA SUB BRANCH

John Arthur reports

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month.

The address of **our new office** is Shop 5, 87 - 89 Essington Lewis Ave., Whyalla Playford SA.5600. and the Phone Number is 8645 0555

AVA (Terry and Kat) visited the new Whyalla premises in June and found it quite spacious compared to the previous office space. Also they did an asbestos Information session for LHMU & ASU OH&S reps while they were here.

As a fund raiser (at our premises) we sell home made jams and pickles, and the latest is lemon butter (They must be good Marlene and I make them).

Cheers For Now, John Arthur

PORT AUGUSTA SUB BRANCH

Geoff Maul

Our meetings are held the first Friday of each month from February thru to December inclusive. and start at 10am.

Venue: Port Augusta Bowling Club, Corner Marryatt & Jervois Street.

Geoff attended an asbestos information session run by AVA at the Men's Shed in Port Augusta.

Things have been fairly quiet this past month although we have had a number of enquiries. At our last monthly meeting we had reasonable attendances. But we would like to see more people attend and raise any concerns or issues that you may have. These meetings are held for you to express any concerns about any asbestos topics.

Contacts Geoff Maul 8642 2884 Peter Benbow on 8642 2138



KATZ KORNER

The past few months have been really busy for us. We have been doing quite a few regional areas spreading the awareness information. We have been able to set up really well-appointed sites in country areas thanks to the generous support from the CFMEU. Their generosity has enabled AVA to obtain a lockable trailer and allows us to take a much greater visual display wherever we go.

We have had a great response to our visits with many and varied range of people requesting information. They have ranged from home renovators, current workers, apprentices, parents of young people, to high school kids and this is great because the message needs to be out there.

Thanks must go to our volunteers like Peter and Jean Baxter and Pam Sandys who travel to many of the areas with us and help with communicating the message. For those of you who may notice Big 'T' Tony Henstridge contribution to this newsletter is missing the reason is he is missing. Tony and his wife Kay have been touring around the Northern Territory and Western Australia. We expect him back mid October.

I realize it is very easy to forget small things in this hectic life, but if you have forgotten to renew your membership this year it would help us if you can continue to support us, and help us to support you and many others. From a membership point of view we have almost 400 who have continued to help and your membership goes a long way to offset the cost of postage etc.

Asbestos Victims Association gratefully acknowledges the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union for their generous support of AVA and our endeavour to reduce the exposure to asbestos. The CFMEU is also quite passionate in this area as well. This support has allowed us to get our mobile show on the road.

Thank You CFMEU



Regardless of conditions, we get there



Part of one of our displays in a regional area

DATES TO REMEMBER

PLEASE remember to renew your MEMBERSHIP with us due 1st July each year.

YOUR SOCIAL MORNINGS



These mornings are held in our rooms at Level 3 60 Waymouth Street Adelaide on the **SECOND** Wednesday of every month.

They are not a formal meeting and it 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: October 13th, November 10th, December 8th.



While we usually start by 10am, early-birds are welcome, as are late-starters.

Please Put This IMPORTANT Date in Your Diary NOW

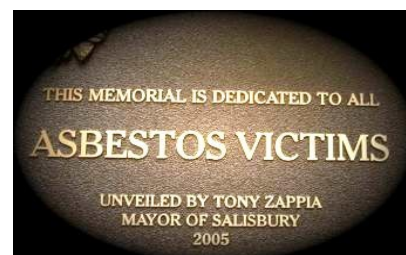
Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: Friday November 26th 2010

VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY

TIME: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Speakers TBA





PAM's SPACE Last month AVA participated in the Disability and Ageing Expo (DIRC) in the Wayville Showground's Jubilee Pavilion.

We were lucky enough to have a corner site allowing us to display large pictures on the two walls. Many people took the opportunity to walk in and look at them. We also gave out lots of awareness information booklets and displayed some samples of asbestos-containing products, which were good talking points.

It was the first time we had used our newly acquired display screen which shows pictures one after the other and attracts the attention of passers-by. Displays can be altered to suit the particular event, so this will get lots of use.

All-in-all we were very happy about the interest shown and the number of enquiries received during the day.



NANNA Shirley's "SOUP" KITCHEN



Shirley and many others bring lovely "eats" for our Social Mornings, so there's another reason to come along and enjoy.

INGREDIENTS

1 Red Capsicum Boil for 5 minutes Cool Peel then Chop
 750g Pumpkin Chopped
 2 oz Butter
 1 Grated Potato
 1 Small packet of Chicken Stock.
 1 Cup Full Cream Milk
 1 Onion Chopped
 1 Cup Cooked Rice

METHOD

1 Put Butter and Onion in saucepan and Sauté
 2 Then Add Pumpkin and stir
 3 Gradually add All the other ingredients and simmer until cooked
 4 Stir occasionally
 5 Then Blend All together
 6 Salt & Pepper to taste.

24 serves

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