



ASBESTOS VICTIMS ASSOCIATION
S.A. INC Est. 2000

Newsletter

JUNE 2012

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

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

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It is hard to believe that we are half way thru 2012—just don't know where the time goes. In this edition we inform you of a disturbing event that should never have been allowed to happen and we highlight the new National Workers Memorial. AVA has also been very busy travelling to, and manning information booths and speaking with community groups about Asbestos Awareness. In addition to this, we have had meetings with The Asbestos Coalition and the AMWU Asbestos & Industrial Disease Committee all making for a very busy office.

TOXIC WASTELAND DISGRACE

In the past few months it has come to light that a company, which was fully licensed for demolition and asbestos removal, had not been doing the right thing. They had been dumping the waste on their site and, mixed with other materials, is large amounts of asbestos.

It has been found that these mounds of material, some of which are 4 metres high, have a great deal of asbestos sheets and broken pieces mixed with other waste. Also there appear to be unsecured containers of asbestos insulation both in drums and deteriorating plastic bags. This has been going on for a year and credit must go to the CFMEU for bringing it to the attention of SafeWork SA and the public in general.

This issue is unbelievable in this day and age, particularly as this company held an unlimited licence to handle asbestos. The mind boggles at the number of people who would have been exposed to asbestos fibres, both workers and anyone who may have been in the vicinity of this place.

The company is now in administration and the question now is **"who pays to have this site cleaned up?"** The taxpayer is certainly NOT responsible.

The EPA and SafeWork SA are both involved with this issue with prohibition and enforcement notices being issued.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Terry Miller

Vice President

Kat Burge

Office Manager

Pam Sandys

Treasurer

Pam Sandys

Chairman

Tony Henstridge

Events Officers

Jean & Peter Baxter



We will keep an eye on the issue.

Something to Ponder?

A conscience is something that hurts when all your other parts feel so good

NATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL

The Australian Government has committed \$3.6 million to the establishment of a National Workers' Memorial in Canberra. The memorial will pay tribute to those who have lost their lives as a result of workplace incidents, accidents and disease.

The memorial will be located in Kings Park on the North shore of Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin and will provide an important focal point for the national commemoration of Workers' Memorial Day, recognised internationally on 28 April each year.

Workplace Relations Minister Bill Shorten unveiled the winning design for the National Workers' Memorial on 14 March 2012 saying it was important to recognise the contribution Australian workers have had in building the nation.

WHYALLA SUB BRANCH

John Arthur reports

Meetings, which are held every third Thursday of the month, are going well and very well attended. We are going to hold a get together every third Thursday of each month and have our meetings every third month from now on.

Anyone who has worked with or around asbestos, or has experienced passive exposure, is welcome to drop into our office any day and have a chat and a cup of coffee or tea; bring family or friend.

We are preparing to set up our Asbestos Awareness Booth for the upcoming Whyalla Show on the 18th & 19th of August 2012

Meeting Dates:

Third Thursday of each month

Venue:

87 Essington Lewis Ave, Whyalla. Phone: 8645 0555

PORT AUGUSTA SUB BRANCH

Geoff Maul reports

Here we are half way thru' 2012 and again we will be continuing the asbestos message, hopefully getting it across to the young generation and the home renovators. Peter Benbow will be the contact for May and June filling in for Geoff. Peter's contact number is **8642 2138** 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.

PORT LINCOLN

AVA travelled to Port Lincoln to run an Asbestos Awareness Information session early June at the invitation of SA Pensioners Association, Joy Thorpe who's husband suffered mesothelioma arranged for this and thanks must go to both her, and Heather Nettle for organising the Day.

The day was attended by a fairly large group and many questions were asked and most were surprised that asbestos was such dangerous material and could cause such diseases.

Whilst we were there we caught up with a few of AVA's Members

MEMBERSHIP DUES

It is again that time of the year when your membership is due, as you know we rely on our members for us to continue to exist and again we have not increased the fee of \$10 per year. For those new members who joined us after March 31st 2012 your membership continues until next financial year. AVA appreciates your continued support with membership and donations



Nanna Shirley's Kitchen



Sadly since our last Newsletter, Nana Shirley passed away.

Like us I'm sure you enjoyed her contributions to her Kitchen Corner over the years.

We invite you to join us in thanking Shirley for sharing so many of her favourite recipes.



KATZ_KORNER

(Article from the Port Pirie Recorder - June 2012)

Speaker outlines asbestos risks

For some it was personal, for some it was an eye-opener, and for others it was a reminder that asbestos is everywhere. The Probus Club on Tuesday was treated to a visit by the Asbestos Victims Association.

The speech was heard by about 60 people including women from the Flinders Ladies Probus Club.

Vice-president of the association Kat Burge opened by telling a story of how president Terry Miller's wife had washed his clothes while he was working for James Hardie. "She is no longer with us, she died from lung cancer," she said.

Mr Miller himself, spoke about how there is no cure for his own asbestos-related problems, but only manage it. Bob Saler, is a member of the association, told of how he had been motivated to find out more about asbestos after his brother lost his life to an asbestos-related disease 12 months ago.

Mr Miller gave motivational presentation that included visual photos of different types of asbestos, where you can find it and how to safely remove it. He spoke about how asbestos can break into invisible fibres that can be breathed in when it is fractured or disturbed.

"Bonded asbestos if in good condition is safe," he said. "It is when you start disturbing the stuff, you also release fibre.

"By doing that you start exposing yourself and others to airborne fibres that can become a problem."

For Pat Footner of the ladies Probus club, the presentation brought back emotions. Her husband had contact with asbestos during his days as a boilermaker at the BHAS smelter. He was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 1982 and died after a painful illness in 1984.

"I wish there had been an organisation like the Asbestos Victims Association to support us in our time of need," she said.



L to R Probus Club secretary Jack Trenerry,
Life member Garry Hoffman
Probus member Bob Saler,
Kat Burge, Terry Miller, of the Asbestos Victims Association

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 2012 Social Mornings

July 11th, August 8th, September 12th, October 10th, November 14th, December 12th.





PAM's CORNER

Life Quilt SA



This year's International Workers Memorial Day Service was held at the Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide on Saturday 28th April.

We were privileged to have the recently launched Life Quilt SA on display during the ceremony.

Life Quilt SA is a community art project, commemorating the lives of people who have tragically died or been seriously injured as a result of a workplace accident.



The quilt will be displayed at various events and forums. When it is not travelling, the quilt will be displayed in the SafeWork SA library as a constant reminder of these lives tragically taken in the workplace. If you would like more information re Life Quilt SA, email - meeган.brotherton@sa.gov.au or - phone 08 8303 0480.

Please Put This IMPORTANT Date in Your Diary NOW

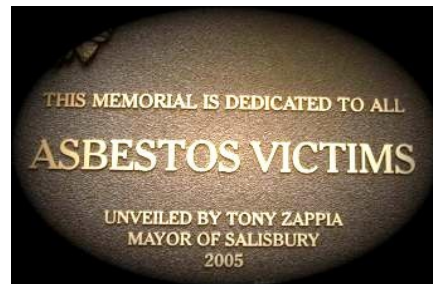
Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: Friday November 30th 2012

VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY

TIME: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Speakers TBA



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