



Newsletter

June—July 2016

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

Welcome to this edition

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Asbestos illegally imported from China provokes questions and anger in SA

Well here we go again, products containing ASBESTOS being brought into Australia and again in the form of building products

A work safety authority will not reveal how many portable structures are under watch across South Australia due to imported asbestos.

It was revealed this week that SA-based company Australian Portable Camps was being investigated over imports from China which illegally contained the deadly substance. Asbestos imports have been banned for more than a decade.

It remains unclear when the material was imported, how many of the company's portable structures might be affected and where they are located across the state.

Australian Portable Camps said most of the tainted cement board had not been used for production and was now quarantined from use.

It said it was working with government agency SafeWork SA to get rid of the material.

It was revealed early this year that Adelaide contractor Robin Johnson Engineering unknowingly imported from China building products containing asbestos.

The company said the materials had been certified as asbestos-free at the time of purchase and were used in flooring of two electrical substations on the Seaford rail line in Adelaide's southern suburbs.

In March, the ABC asked Australian Border Force for a list of products sent to Australia by a Chinese company linked to the Seaford line contamination.

The ABC is yet to receive the manifest but it has become clear Australian Portable Camps received products from the same manufacturer.

Senator Nick Xenophon is on a federal parliamentary committee looking into non-conforming building products, and said the latest case highlighted a communications breakdown between authorities

Australian Border Force said it was unable to comment because of an ongoing investigation, but said it took seriously concerns about importation of asbestos-contaminated products.

Source ABC Angelique Donnellan

Something to Ponder

Why do people who know the least know it the loudest?

If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?

'It just crushes the breath out of you'

Members of the Asbestos Victims Association, who meet every month in Adelaide, say the importation issue has provoked anger. Mesothelioma sufferer Steve Kirwan feared a new generation of victims might emerge from the imports problem. He was exposed to asbestos when he was an apprentice fitter in England in the 1970s but was only diagnosed last year. "It should be banned, obviously, it's got to be banned all over the world. The tumour ... eventually crushes your lung and it's malignant so it spreads to your other one, so it just crushes the breath out of you, he said.

Mr Kirwan is getting an experimental treatment but said he faced significant out-of-pocket expenses because it was for a drug which was not listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for his condition. "It's going to cost me \$4,500 every three weeks," he said.

It upsets Lesley Shears, who lost her husband to an asbestos-related disease. The thought [upsets me] that the imports are still coming in. She said there had been few prosecutions despite powers existing.



WHYALLA SUB BRANCH

John Arthur reports

Hi all,

Something for every one to think about with people who worked in the plants and their families at Whyalla and Port Augusta did it have asbestos exposed? were you exposed? If you think you may have been come and talk with us we are here to be of any assistance we can. If You know someone who may have been exposed tell them about us and bring them to one of our meetings.

Things have been rather quiet so far. Even the meeting numbers have been down a bit, I would still like to see some of the older members turn up for our get together that is held every third Thursday of each month. Lunch is held it 12 noon on the day. Bring a friend and share some of your experiences with like minded people.

John

Meeting Dates:

Third Thursday of each month

Venue:

87 Essington Lewis Ave, Whyalla. Phone: 8645 0555

PORT AUGUSTA SUB BRANCH

Geoff Maul reports

Dear Members

G'day all

Something for every one to think about with people who worked in the plants and their families at Whyalla and Port Augusta did it have asbestos exposed? were you exposed? If you think you may have been come and talk with us we are here to be of any assistance we can. If You know someone who may have been exposed tell them about us and bring them to one of our meetings

We at AVA Port Augusta branch are still meeting on the first Friday of each month and we would like to see more people attend and also bring a Family member / friends meet with others, and enjoy a cuppa.

If you have been diagnosed that you may have an asbestos related issue talk to us we may be able to help you with some useful advice / suggestions

We invite anyone, who would like attend, to come along to our monthly meetings which are held on the

First Friday of each month. 10:00 am from February 2016 onwards

Venue: Port Augusta Bowling Club, Corner Marryatt & Jervois Street. You can contact Geoff on 8642 2884.

Lucindale Show 18th 19th March 2016

A well attended show with a lot of interest, even though the weather was not exactly the best, hot setting up, cold and rainy days the rest.

Lots of questions on Asbestos products that are sneaking into Australia from China, and other countries

Questions on how, and the best way to identify, handle, dispose of Asbestos particularly from a renovator's point of view. These questions were good and most if not all were covered in our print information bags.

It is good to see the message of the dangers of Asbestos is getting out there, and it is encouraging to see the number of younger people asking questions

Builders said it was very hard when quoting jobs using quality products against the builder who is using the cheaper, inferior imports from overseas. The more we can make people aware of this happening the more they will stipulate to their builder the building material **MUST be ASBESTOS FREE** regardless of what the documentation may say, as has been happening until now.

Whilst we understand the difficulties The Federal Government must find more and stronger resources checking products that are coming into Australia, and if asbestos is detected in any product the entire shipment should be returned and the company involved FINED heavily and banned from sending any of their products to Australia for at least 5 years

GOOLWA

In May I felt privileged to be invited to the Goolwa Probus Club meeting to do a presentation about Asbestos Awareness. There was a good crowd of 50-60 people and many questions were asked.

Every time we do a presentation I always learn something new by talking to people and slight disagreements from those who think they know what is best. But after the show we always have a good chat and smooth things over by giving out information so they have it in writing and will hopefully pass it on to others.

It was a lovely drive down there and we met with a bloke that has recently been diagnosed with Mesothelioma. We had a superb meal at the Goolwa Hotel and can highly recommend it to anyone

Kapunda Farm Fair April 2016

AVA had a stand at the Kapunda Farm Fair in April, staffed by our enthusiastic volunteers. The fair (an agricultural show) was held over two days – a Friday and Saturday – and there was a good turn out on both days. Country people are friendly and welcoming – many stopped at the stand to ask questions. It is encouraging to see high school students with an awareness of asbestos. Most enquiries related to home renovations – there are numerous older homes in the area being ‘done up’ by younger people. We also had queries from people concerned about a neighbour’s deteriorating roof, and a farming couple facing the dilemma of either replacing their roof or their fences (both of which contained asbestos)- their finances wouldn’t stretch to doing both. There were also queries about how to dispose of as-

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 2016 Social Mornings

July 13th,— August 10th, —September 14th,

—October 12th, — November 9th, —December 14th



FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We have had some nice coffee times together and chatting in the A.V.A. Office (love to have you join us) 2nd Wednesday of each month is Members Social Morning and 4th Wednesday of each month we hold the friendship group meetings

Recently went to the Union Hotel for lunch, also Morning Tea at the Pancake Kitchen YUM!

New Luncheon date 29th June—28th Sept - 7th Dec 2016

Phone Kat for more details.

If you have any ideas of things you would like to do please let Kat know.

Terry, Kat, Pam, Peter like to know how you are going and catching up with those they have had contact with over the years ALSO if you have been affected by Asbestos or know somebody who has, please phone 24-7 and have a chat with them or go in and have a cuppa between 9 am – 1:00 pm.

A comment from the President

Well members it is that time of year again, membership dues are upon us again they have NOT increased unlike electricity prices. It is still \$10.00 per year and we really need it to help us out with things like postage, and getting the awareness message out there. Please help us help you by continuing to keep your membership.

I It looks like and feels like it is going to be a cold winter so I say to all our members see your Doctor and ask about your “Flu” injection.

And stay warm and dry keep as well as you possibly can.

Please Put This IMPORTANT Date In Your Diary NOW

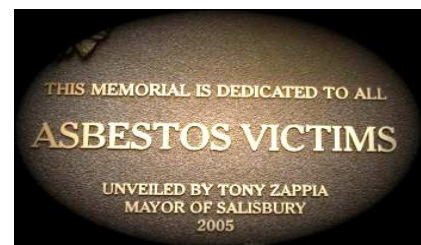
Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: Friday November 25th 2016

VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY

TIME: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Speakers TBA

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