



Newsletter

May-June 2015

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

Welcome to this edition, 2015

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IMPORTS CONTAINING ASBESTOS CONTINUE TO HAPPEN

Below is part of a OH&S Bulletin Produced by the CFMEU in Victoria.

This has become a concern as we have in the recent past had Gaskets, Tiles, Motor Vehicles, and now these Wall Panels imported into Australia even though asbestos is banned. These companies are simply stating that the product does not contain asbestos.

Greater scrutiny must be applied on these imports

In early March, six workers fitting out an entertainment venue in Glen Waverley suburban Melbourne spent a week cutting up and installing internal wall panelling, recently imported from China.

The manufacturer's website clearly states that the product is 100% asbestos free, so it was imported in good faith. But concerns were raised that the panels might contain asbestos. Two panels were subsequently sent for testing and the results showed they contained Chrysotile (white asbestos).

Work stopped immediately on the job and the CFMEU issued a nationwide alert over the alarming discovery. WorkSafe Victoria and the Australian Customs Services have been informed, also the Department of Human Services Victoria. "Six families now have reason to be concerned about their future health." "The walls panels are currently being removed and disposed as contaminated waste by a Class A Asbestos Removalist at significant expense to the developer."

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Peter Baxter

For 20 years building workers have been eradicating asbestos from our buildings under strict safety guidelines and specifications. "For years, we've struggled with the shameful effects of exposure to this deadly fibre, but from this incident, it's clear we have to exercise even more diligence to ensure that imported products are genuinely asbestos free.

After some research, it was discovered that the manufacturer is a Canadian and Chinese Joint Venture.

We congratulate the CFMEU for having concerns and getting a couple of sheets tested, BUT the company producing the product stating that it is 100% asbestos free appears to have difficulty in deciding what is fact or deception.

Australia banned the use or import of blue and brown asbestos or asbestos products in the mid-1980s, and banned all manufacture or import of white asbestos products in December 2003. From 31 December 2003, the total ban on manufacture, use, reuse, import, transport, storage or sale of all forms of asbestos came into force.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is just about that time of the year where we need your continued support. Membership is still capped at **\$10.00 a year**. Enclosed is a membership renewal form

THANK YOU for YOUR SUPPORT



PAM's CORNER

Come and have a coffee and a chat with the AVA Friendship Group

AVA's Friendship Group welcomes anyone who has lost a loved one to an asbestos related disease.

Come in and join us at the AVA office on Level 3, 60 Waymouth Street Adelaide on the fourth Wednesday of each month between 10 am and 12 noon for an understanding reception and a chat.

This is an additional group to AVA's social mornings, held every second Wednesday of each month at the office. You are welcome to attend either or both groups.

The Friendship Group will meet up for lunch after the social morning on Wednesday July 8th. We will be going to *83 on Currie* for 12.30 pm – meet at the office first, or join us at 83 Currie Street, Adelaide. The following Friendship Group lunch, after this one will be announced in the next AVA Newsletter.

To contact AVA's Friendship Group, or for a personal response, please phone the office on 8212 6008 or email info@avasa.asn.au

Recently, Peter Baxter, Maxine Williams, and myself drove down to the southern suburbs where we were welcomed to Noarlunga Day Weight Watchers. We ran an information session and there were many questions from the group. We really enjoyed the experience as the members of the group were very friendly and hospitable.

AVA is happy to provide information about asbestos to any group in the community.

WHYALLA SUB BRANCH

John Arthur reports

Hi All

Well things are rather quiet here at the moment. Our get together we hold every third Thursday of each month is down. We are only getting between 14 & 20 members at them. I would like to see more members & partners come along.

We have lunch on the day.

The group received two very generous donations, one from the Whyalla Trades & Labour Council & one from the British & American Motor Cycle club. We thank each of you for your donations.

This will allow us to connect to the net at our office at 87-89 Essington Lewis

John

Meeting Dates:

Venue:

Third Thursday of each month

87 Essington Lewis Ave, Whyalla. Phone: 8645 0555

PORT AUGUSTA SUB BRANCH

Geoff Maul reports

Hi Folks

The year has begun quite slowly and that is a good thing, but we all need to keep our eye on the ball and if we see or hear of any thing that maybe out of place regarding asbestos then it needs to be followed up. Call me and I will follow it up.

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

First Friday of each month. 10:00 am from February 2015 onwards

Please Note there will be no meeting held during May 2015 as Colleen and myself will be away that month

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

TURMERIC IN FIGHT AGAINST MESOTHELIOMA



Associate Professor Sonja Klebe with a sample of turmeric.

Article by BRAD CROUCH Medical Reporter ADVERTISER
Picture: CALUM ROBERTSON

A WORLD-FIRST study by researchers at Flinders Medical Centre has pinpointed the spice turmeric as a vital ingredient in the fight against deadly mesothelioma.

The Flinders' team has used the peppery spice to slow the growth of mesothelioma tumours in human patients' cells. Its active ingredient curcumin has anti-inflammatory properties and research has indicated some anti-carcinogenic properties. Researchers at Flinders have been checking whether this can be used alone or in conjunction with standard therapies to treat malignant mesothelioma, an aggressive cancer caused by the inhalation of asbestos.

Malignant mesothelioma is a tumour of the thin membranes that surround the lungs, heart and abdominal internal organs. Currently there is no effective treatment for the cancer. Lead researcher associate professor Sonja Klebe, from the Department of Anatomical Pathology at Flinders Medical Centre said average survival after diagnosis of malignant mesothelioma was less than a year, and current therapies to treat the cancer could make patients ill. "Standard chemotherapy shows only limited success, and radical surgery is only available to few patients, and success is not guaranteed," Professor Klebe said.

"Previous research has been successful in inhibiting the growth of mesothelioma tumour cells in animal model cells in a laboratory setting using curcumin, and recently we have been able to repeat that success — but with the use of patients' cells," she said. "Importantly, this breakthrough allows us to predict if a certain patient is likely to benefit from therapy. "In addition, we also found that curcumin may affect blood supply to the tumour, and we know that adequate blood supply is essential to maintain tumour growth."

The work was done on fluid drained from patients' chests which is normally discarded as medical waste. The work indicates curcumin could be taken orally in strong doses or applied directly to an open chest during surgery. "Curcumin has virtually no side effects, and could be used alone in patients too unwell to tolerate other therapies, or in conjunction with other drugs," Prof Klebe said.

"It may improve treatment response and allow reduction of standard drugs, improving quality of life. It's very exciting research."

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 2015 Social Mornings

June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, October 14th,

November 11th, December 9th, 2015



APPRECIATION

My husband became involved with the A.V.A after picking up a brochure from Modbury Hosp; he had been diagnosed with Mesothelioma. The support he received from Terry Miller (being the 1st source of contact) on the phone prompted him to want to become more actively involved.

We started going to the social mornings where he had opportunity to share with those who understood, and friendships were formed with others sufferers of Asbestos.

Trevor passed away 1st March 2013. That was not the end of the A.V.A involvement as they have given me the same support that they gave my husband, which is why I write this, because upon reflection "I could have not done it without them".

The social mornings became an important part of my life, being able to share and to have a laugh, and a cry along with forming friendships out of adverse situations. I am so thankful to all of them in the A.V.A (Asbestos Victims Association.) Adelaide office and those who share in the Wednesday social mornings, and also for the help and encouragement I have needed over the past 2 years.

A.V.A is a volunteer organisation supporting families and sufferers and making awareness of Asbestos dangers - I have seen the tireless efforts that is put into being available for others who need them, and this has made me appreciate them even more.

All I can say is "Keep up the good work"

Maxine Williams

Something to Ponder?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends

Please Put This IMPORTANT Date In Your Diary NOW

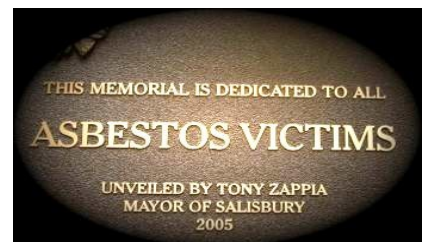
Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: Friday November 27th 2015

VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY

TIME: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Speakers TBA



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