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INTRODUCING OUR NEW CARE COORDINATOR

We welcome **Tracy Dietrich** to our team in the brand-new role of Care Coordinator.



"I am privileged to provide support and care to victims and their families. To lend a hand to hold, an ear to listen and a heart to totally understand."

Tracy has 15 years' experience in community nursing and has personally experienced the loss of her husband from mesothelioma. Since his passing have a passion for helping others who have been affected by asbestos related diseases.

This is a new role with the aim of providing personal individual nonclinical support to those diagnosed with an asbestos related disease.

A diagnosis of mesothelioma can be overwhelming. It is hard to know who to turn to and what best to do.

Tracy is able provide a personal point-of-contact for those affected with asbestos related diseases and their loved ones. Assisting with understanding the medical information, linking with and navigating appropriate medical and allied health services. Support can be provided via face to face, phone or virtually. Tracy is sympathetic and supportive and will enable AVA to provide more practical help.

If you would like assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us on 08 8212 6008 or 0455 120 588 for further information.



SPECIAL MEMORIAL

From the Whyalla News 25 November 2023, story written by RACHEL HAGAN

WHYALLA'S Asbestos Victim Association (AVA) had the heartbreaking task of adding their founder and president John Arthur to the list of victims at this year's memorial, which was held on the 24th November 2023.

Every year in Whyalla another name is added to the memorial at the Mount Laura Homestead, but this year it was John Arthur, the man who had supported so many other victims over the past 20 years.

John Arthur's story began many years ago when he was exposed to asbestos while he worked at a manufacturing company in Elizabeth for just over a six-month period, and then he was exposed again while working for the state's engineering and water supply.

He was not alone, as it is estimated asbestos exposure causes about 4000 Australians to die every year.

Member for Giles Eddie Hughes opened the service and said the memorial was especially poignant due to the passing of John Arthur.

"John had been a stalwart of the Whyalla Asbestos Victims support group for 20 years, and before that he played an instrumental role in the state with the Asbestos Victims Association," he said.



Marlene Arthur and Eddie Hughes MP
(from Eddie Hughes facebook page)



By Photo taken and supplied by
Brian Voon Yee Yap :HAMS Whyalla

ASBESTOS DISEASES HIGHER IN THE NAVY THAN IN OTHER DEFENCE FORCES

A study by Adelaide and Oxford Universities has found asbestos exposure led to a higher incidence of asbestos related diseases in British and Australian naval personnel than in other armed forces.

Read the article by Johnny von Einem and Dr Richard Gun

<http://tinyurl.com/naval-asbestos>

COST OF MEMBERSHIP

From 1 July 2024 the cost of membership will be raised to \$15 a year. This is the first price increase since AVA's beginnings, twenty years ago. The moneys raised will assist us in the work we do in supporting people affected by asbestos disease and making people aware of the dangers of asbestos.

SAVE THE DATE — INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY



The International Workers Memorial Day falls on 28 April of every year. This year the annual service at Pilgrim Church will be held on **Monday 29th April** as the church is holding its regular Sunday Services on 28 April.

Voices of Industrial Death will once again be organising the service. Anyone who has lost a loved one at work or to an industrial disease is very welcome to attend.

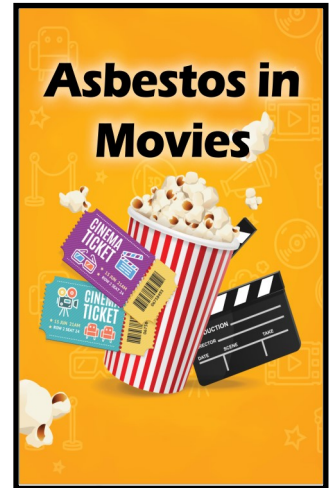
ASBESTOS IN MOVIES

We all know how extensive asbestos use was, but did you know it was also used in some of the most classic movies of all time.

Some of the notable movies include

The Wizard of Oz (1939), Citizen Kane (1941), Holiday Inn (1942), It's a Wonderful Life (1946), White Christmas (1954), Goldfinger (1964), Le Mans (1971), Full Metal Jacket (1987).

Asbestos could be found in the set & scenery pieces, fake snow, racing suits and helmets lined with asbestos. A condemned gasworks scheduled for demolition because of asbestos was used as a location.



Marchese, Sean. "8 Movies You Didn't Know Used Asbestos, Endangering Cast and Crew." Asbestos.com. Last modified September 28, 2023. <https://www.asbestos.com/blog/2023/04/03/movies-used-toxic-asbestos/>



PERSISTENT COUGH?

Have you been coughing for more than three weeks? Do you suffer from breathlessness or chest pain? Exposure to asbestos or silica can be harmful to your health. It may even be life-threatening.

The Lung Foundation of Australia has a 2 minute lung health check on its website, a simple question and answer which you can forward to your doctor if you wish.

Do the check if you have any concerns.

For more information go to <https://lunghealth.lungfoundation.com.au/>

ASBESTOS AND SILICA SAFETY AND ERADICATION AGENCY

As of 7 December 2023, the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency changed both its name and its role to include silica. The agency's role is to support and monitor the implementation of the Asbestos and Silica National Strategic Plans by the Commonwealth and State, Territory and local governments.

ASSEA provide resources and assistance to support groups all around Australia. AVA will be in attendance at the FAMANZ conference to be held in Melbourne in March 2024. It is a valuable learning experience for our volunteers.

We will be making changes in 2024 – we will be coming to you! Rather than inviting you to our office in the city, we will meet at different venues outside the city. Tracy Dietrich, our new Care Coordinator, will be hosting and hopes to talk to some of our members about the new services AVA is now able to offer. Please contact us if you would like Tracy to visit your area.

Social Mornings
2024

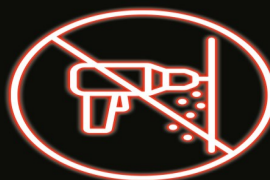
2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

ASBESTOS 2024 Conference - Melbourne	4-6 March 2024
Whyalla Victims Support Group—The Dangers of Asbestos	11 April 2024
International Workers Memorial Day (VOID)	29 April 2024
Master Builders Home Show - Adelaide Showgrounds	5-7 July 2024



Asbestos is dangerous.

**Don't know?
Don't touch it.**



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