

# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER **adsa**

asbestos diseases society of australia inc.

4 November 2016



## OVER 35 YEARS OF CARE AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Members and Friends

### 1. ADSA CHRISTMAS PICNIC SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2016

The festive season is almost upon us and I would like to invite Members and Friends to the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Inc. (ADSA) 2016 Christmas Picnic on Sunday, December 4, 10:00am until 4:00pm. Our Christmas Picnic will be held in Whiteman Park in the usual spot - Mussel Pool Complex between Shelters Q and W. The main entrance to Whiteman Park is off Lord Street, Caversham. Lord Street can be accessed from Reid Highway, Marshall Road or Harrow Street. The other entrance to Whiteman Park is from Beechboro Road on the north side of Marshall Road. If you are not familiar with the Whiteman Park grounds or the Mussel Pool location, you can ask the Park Ranger at the gate for directions to the Asbestos Diseases Society picnic area location by mentioning **Shelters "Q" and "W"**. **FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE REFER TO THE BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR A DETAILED MAP OF THE ADSA PICNIC LOCATION.**

Our Staff, Committee and Volunteers have planned a great day and menu. Chef Randall is roasting pork and beef on site and serving barbecue sausages, a gourmet salad and fruit. Our dessert this year is pavlova with fresh cream for the adults and icy poles for the kids. Non-alcoholic refreshments i.e. coke, lemonade, water, etc will be available, (one can/bottle per person only). So we would respectfully suggest that everyone bring additional drinks. **COFFEE AND TEA WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A SELF-SERVE BASIS AT SHELTER "W" WHERE LUNCH IS SERVED.** Entertainment will be provided by local band Rhythm and Groove, specialising in popular music and Christmas melodies. Please ensure that you have been nice as Father Christmas (Santa) will make an appearance to charm us all and he will have plenty of sweets for the children. Parents please feel free to bring a present for your child or children to be placed under the Christmas tree to be presented by Father Christmas. However, it is respectfully recommended that all presents have the child's full name written on them and be around \$20 in value to achieve approximate uniformity of the gifts.

Our friends Kidz 'n Sport will entertain the kids with sports activities and games. Parents can join in these activities or enjoy an opportunity to spend quality time catching up with other members and friends.

**Please RSVP by calling our office and informing us of the exact number of adults and children attending the picnic to assist us with catering arrangements and managing the Christmas picnic day.** Remember on arrival at the Picnic, please go to **TABLE A** to collect the vouchers for food, drink and collect your fruit. **FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS A MARQUEE 30M X 10M** will be erected. Everyone is welcome to take a place in the marquee however it may be necessary to bring along a small table and chairs for the family.



**We would also suggest that you bring your own blankets, chairs, tables, sunscreen, hats, caps or any other items that may provide you with comfort to enjoy a pleasant day in Whiteman Park.**

### 2. 21<sup>st</sup> ECUMENICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

With the gracious consent of Reverend Father John Hodson C.Ss.R it gives me great pleasure to invite all members and friends to a very special day dedicated in memory of all men and women who have tragically lost their lives to asbestos diseases. This year is the 21st Ecumenical Memorial Service and it will be an honour to continue celebrating the lives of passed members and friends by displaying their photographs during the Church Service. All members and friends are welcome to send their photographs of their passed loved ones to our office by mail, email or deliver in person. All photographs will be returned upon request. During the past twenty years since the first Ecumenical Service in 1996 more than 4,300 of our dear members and friends have passed away as a consequence of being exposed to carcinogenic asbestos fibres. We would greatly appreciate a special effort by all members and friends to attend this **21st Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service in remembrance our members and friends.**

**The Ecumenical Service will be held at the Redemptorist Monastery 190 Vincent Street, North Perth on Friday 25th November 2016, commencing at 9:30am. See map on page 3 for directions to the Monastery. The Monastery has a large capacity for parking.**



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### 3. PERIODIC EXAMINATIONS OF PERSONS EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS

Asbestos caused malignant diseases are on the increase and early detection of such diseases is of absolute necessity to commence suitable treatment. Lung Cancer, in particular, has excellent treatment options if detected early and in many instances lives will be saved. Mesothelioma appears to be a more complex disease and in this regard early detection is crucial for consideration of the limited treatment options available at this time.

Therefore we strongly recommend regular check-ups which are provided by Dr Deleuil at our premises every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 1pm. Please phone 9344 4077 or email [adsinc@iinet.net.au](mailto:adsinc@iinet.net.au) to arrange an appointment.

### 4. ADSA WALK FOR RESEARCH AND AWARENESS 2016 - GERALDTON TO PERTH

The ADSA Walk 2016 was well supported by the city of Geraldton and the many towns and generous communities along the road to Perth. A number of local members and friends joined us for the start of the ADSA Walk in Geraldton. Also this year we were joined by Walkers from the Master Plumbers and Gas Fitters Association (MPA) and the Master Decorators Association (MDA) and we are grateful for their support. The Walk fundraising will close on 30 November 2016 and the cheque will be presented to the eminent Dr Willem (Joost) Lesterhuis, Mesothelioma Medical Researcher representing Professor Anna Nowak, at our Annual Christmas Picnic on 4th December 2016 at Whiteman Park.

### 5. ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK - 21ST TO 25TH NOVEMBER 2016

Asbestos Awareness Week 2016 will coincide with the 50th anniversary since the closure of the Wittenoom Mine and Milling Operation. To mark these 50 years we will remember the sad loss of thousands of men, women and children who resided at Wittenoom during the mining and milling of the deadly asbestos fibre. Our organisation will display archival information, photos and media reports encompassing the social history of Wittenoom and its deadly legacy. The exhibition will be open to visitors from Tuesday 22nd to Friday 25th November. Due to the success of the 2015 Nurses Morning Tea the event will be held again at our office on Tuesday 22nd November 2016 from 11am to 12pm. Dr Deleuil will be available to answer any questions and Rose Marie will introduce The Mesothelioma Hand Book. The nurses will also have an opportunity to look at the Wittenoom exhibition. Simone from our office will again set up asbestos information on the main concourse at Royal Perth Hospital from 10:30am to 1:30pm on Monday 21st, Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th November.

### 6. MESOTHELIOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH

In the last newsletter, we discussed selection for, and consent to participate in, clinical trials. Two trials mentioned in the last newsletter may be closing soon. As you may recall, clinical trials use statistical designs to decide in advance on the number of people needed to be able to confidently answer the study question. For a 'phase III' trial which compares a standard treatment (or placebo) with a new treatment, this number will usually be several hundred people, and the trial may be open in up to 100 hospitals around the world. This means that any single hospital will have only a fraction of the participants, and therefore won't have a full picture on whether the new treatment is working or not. As the number of participants gets close to the full number of people, sites are advised that the trial is near to closing. For the last few patients, we may need to 'reserve' a place to ensure that person can go onto the trial if they decide they are happy to participate.

Should any of our mesothelioma members and friends wish to participate in any of the trials mentioned in the last newsletter, please call Professor Anna Nowak at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, or if you are not a patient at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital ask your oncologist to contact Professor Anna Nowak or her research fellow Dr Wei-Sen Lam for more information about whether the trial might be suitable for you.

**Western Australian Medical Researchers and particularly those specialising in respiratory diseases associated with asbestos exposure are some of the best in the world and indeed extremely dedicated to finding a cure to treat the mesothelioma malignancy.**

### 7. COMMON LAW (PROVISIONAL DAMAGES) AND BENEFITS TO DISABLED RELATIVE

On 31st October 2013 the Honourable Kate Doust MLC introduced a Bill to the Upper House of the Western Australian Parliament to enact provisional damages and also to restore Sullivan vs Gordon Damages (Plaintiff no longer able to provide assistance to Disabled Relative) in Common Law matters. In May 2014 the Honourable Attorney General Michael Minchin was unable to support the Honourable Kate Doust Bill, but decided to refer the matter to the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia. **Believe it or not, miracles have happened.** The Law Reform Commission has recommended *(1) Provisional damages be permitted where there is a chance that a different injury or disease (a new condition) may arise after the initial judgement or settlement and from the same causal event or circumstance (not a deterioration of the injury or disease giving rise to the judgement or settlement).* *(2) Provisional damages be permitted in relation to all classes of personal injury or disease.* *(3) Plaintiffs only be entitled to seek further damages for a new injury or disease where the potential for the development of that injury or disease was expressly identified at the time of the initial judgement or settlement.* *(4) Plaintiffs not be restricted in the number of claims that can be made for further damages, provided that such claims relate to the development of a different injury or disease which was expressly identified at the time of the initial judgement or settlement.* *(5) When assessing further damages, courts be allowed to take into account the provisional damages initially awarded to the plaintiff.*

*(6) There be no additional time limit imposed on when the further injury or disease must arise after the initial judgement or settlement. (7) Estate claims be allowed where the deceased victim had commenced, but not completed, an action for further damages prior to his/her death.*

The Law Reform Commission considers that the introduction of a legislative scheme allowing Courts to award provisional damages in tightly prescribed circumstances will add substantial flexibility to the structuring of judgements or settlements and still provide an element of certainty for defendants, that is said to justify the “once and for all rule”.

**DAMAGES FOR GRATUITOUS SERVICES** (1) *Such damages be introduced for all personal injury claims. (2) Such damages only be available for gratuitous domestic services. (3) Such damages be restricted to the services provided to ‘relatives’, which should align with the definition used in the Fatal Accidents Act 1959 (WA) and include unborn children of the plaintiff. (4) The services must have been provided before the plaintiff’s injury for a defined number of hours per week and consecutive period of time, or there must be a reasonable expectation that, after the development of the injury, the services would have been provided for a defined number of hours per week and consecutive period of time. (5) There must be reasonable need for the services to be provided for those hours per week and that consecutive period of time after development of the injury. (6) The plaintiff will not need to prove expenditure incurred in consequence of his/her inability to continue providing the services. (7) The calculation of such damages should include the ‘lost years’ after the plaintiff’s death.*

The Law Reform Commission considers that the introduction of a legislative scheme allowing the award of damages for gratuitous services, which a plaintiff can no longer provide to others, is a desirable reform to ensure that plaintiffs are more justly compensated for losses arising from their injury or disease. **Notwithstanding waiting more than three years since the legislation was introduced into Parliament, we are disappointed with the Law Reform Commission’s recommendation that the proposed beneficial amendments be subject to the Government’s review of the likely increase in costs that may affect some members of the community and private insurers. In my considered view, I believe in the past insurers, the Government and some sections of the community were absolutely aloof to the hardships, anxiety and tragedy experienced by asbestos diseases victims and their families. Therefore, the West Australian Government should ignore the Commission’s recommendation as to the likely cost to the insurance industry and some affluent members of the community ie. mining and industry moguls, and finally provide a long overdue fair and just legislative avenue to properly compensate asbestos diseases victims and their families. Without any doubt the asbestos disease tragedy was caused through the neglect of the mining and construction industries which were sheltered and supported by successive Governments and regrettably by some members of the community and the insurance industry.**

### 8. CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

The Christmas raffle is now in progress and will be drawn on 14th December 2016. Tickets are still available to be disseminated and it would be greatly appreciated if our members and friends could assist with the sharing of a few raffle tickets to assist our organisation to continue providing services and assistance to members and indeed the many men and women who regrettably were exposed to carcinogenic asbestos fibres and are in need of assistance and advice. Please call our office on 1800 646 690 if you can help us.

### 9. FESTIVE SEASON OFFICE HOURS

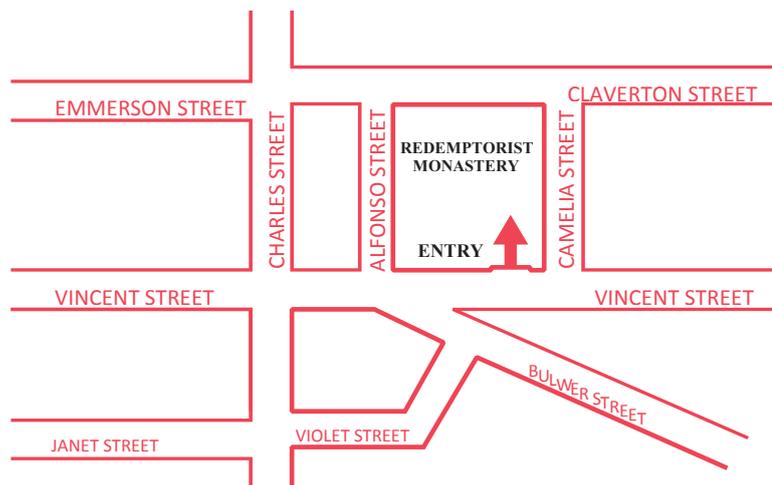
Our office will be closed from Tuesday 20th December 2016 and will reopen on Monday 9th January 2016. For any urgent enquiries you may be assisted by please ringing the following numbers; (08) 9344 4077, 0400 922 542, 0409 883 594, 0417 175 244 & 0419 931 687 or email [adsinc@iinet.net.au](mailto:adsinc@iinet.net.au).

## REDEMPTORIST MONASTERY LOCATION MAP:

For now, my very best wishes and kindest regards,



Robert Vojakovic AM JP  
PRESIDENT



**Whiteman Park Map Follow the arrows to the ADSA Christmas Picnic at Mussel Pool**

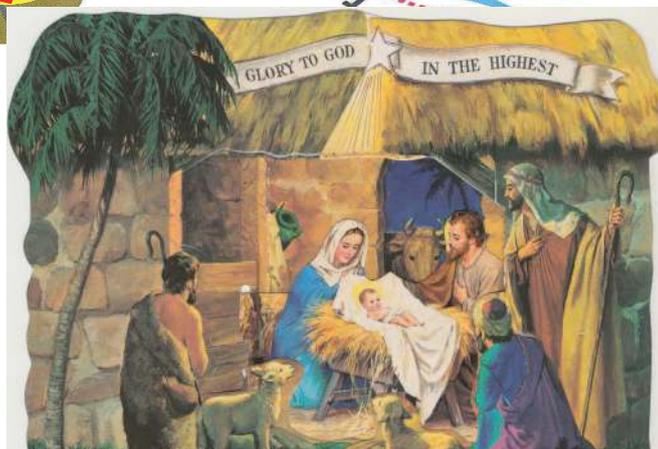
Whiteman Park has two entries one on Lord Street and one on Beechboro Road. Mussel Pool can be accessed from either entry.

Follow the red arrows on the map from the Lord Street entry or the Beechboro Road entry to Mussel Pool Road.

Follow the red arrows on the map along Mussel Pool Road to the ADSA Picnic area and park in the Overflow Carpark.



**Very Best Wishes to all members, friends and their families for a Joyous and Peaceful Christmas President, Committee and Staff**



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