

1 September 2015



OVER 35 YEARS OF CARE AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Members and Friends

1. 20 YEARS OF ECUMENICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE 2015

It gives me great pleasure to invite you this year to our very special Ecumenical Memorial Service 2015 in remembrance and celebration of our members and friends who have sadly passed from asbestos caused diseases. The service will be held at the Redemptorist Monastery Vincent Street, North Perth commencing on Friday 27 November 2015 at 9:30am.

A committee has been formed from families who have lost loved ones to assist to make this Twentieth Year of the Memorial Service very special and memorable.

Shortly some members will be contacted by the committee to discuss the Memorial Service programme. Should any member wish to contribute its view or suggestion don't hesitate to call our office during office hours on 1800 646 690 (ask for Rose Marie or Robert). Again we are grateful for any contribution of rosemary as in previous years. Further information on the Ecumenical Memorial Service will be provided in our Christmas Newsletter in early November this year.



2. THE EPIDEMIC OF ASBESTOS DISEASES IN AUSTRALIA

The catastrophic effects of asbestos fibres released into the air we breathe have made asbestos the number one cause of death among occupational diseases in Australia and in developed countries. Even today in some parts of Australia the public is hardly aware of the health risks caused by asbestos fibre inhalation. The manufacturing of asbestos products in Australia ceased in the late 1980s and from the 1st January 2004 a complete national ban on usage of asbestos, other than by permission with a special licence, was achieved. However, for the 60 years of the last century the various types of asbestos were in unlimited use in the commercial and domestic building industry by virtue of its outstanding insulation properties resisting high temperatures and corrosion, also exceptional flexibility to be woven into heat-resisting commodities e.g. pipe lagging, gaskets, building material etc. It could be said that for many years to come asbestos carcinogenic fibres will remain in the community, creating unacceptable risk during renovation or removal of such asbestos-containing products.

The unremoved asbestos still in the community creates a latent risk not only for the general population but also for the environment, in particular through erosion and weathering of asbestos cement containing building materials over time. All States and Territories in Australia are making some progress with the removal of asbestos products from the community, however it would seem that more energetic initiatives ought to be initiated by the Federal and State Governments themselves instead of relying on the general community. To eliminate the scourge of asbestos in the Australian community require a dedicated commitment from Governments, Local Authorities and seeking financial contribution from the original polluters i.e. James Hardie and CSR.

To achieve this aim we will be able for sure to systematically remove and safely dispose of the carcinogenic asbestos products which are now polluting the environment by releasing carcinogenic asbestos fibres thus posing a severe threat to the health of the Australian community.



When assessing the effects of asbestos on health, it must be borne in mind that both “benign” and malignant diseases occur with a considerable delay after the asbestos exposure. As a rule it is not until many years, mostly decades, after the initial exposure that complaints or diagnosable changes manifest themselves. The medical evaluation of the latency periods for asbestos caused lung cancer and asbestos caused tumours of the pleura and the peritoneum (mesothelioma) has confirmed an average time of approximately 30 to 60 years, or even longer. The asbestosis also exhibits a latency period of some 20 to 40 years. There are no medical studies which have verified a reduction of risk with increasing time after cessation of asbestos exposure. Once inhaled, asbestos fibres can hardly ever be removed from the body. Attacking the body’s immune defence cells, they begin their destructive work which cannot be stopped by therapeutic or prophylactic measures as there is no causal therapy for these diseases (reversing the causal factor of the disease) contracted from exposure to asbestos. The only therapy is a modest influencing of some of the symptoms. The suggested recommendation by our Organisation is a GPs referral to West Australian respiratory specialists. If any members requires assistance with a referral to a specialist please call our organisation on 1800 646 690. **It is patently clear that the asbestos still in the community will not be removed for years to come and the best and only option is the urgent support for asbestos diseases medical research to find cure.**

3. ASBESTOS DISEASES MEDICAL RESEARCH

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and NCARD researchers are tirelessly working to provide beneficial outcomes and an ultimate cure for asbestos caused malignant diseases (Mesothelioma). To better understand the variety of treatment benefits for Mesothelioma patients they have commenced Radiotherapy. Researchers from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and the National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases are conducting a clinical trial to better understand which people with mesothelioma will benefit most from radiotherapy. Radiotherapy treatment is often used to treat specific areas of mesothelioma which are causing symptoms, which may include pain or a visible lump under the skin. However, only some people will get complete relief of symptoms from a 2 ½ week radiotherapy course. 40 participants who would be recommended radiotherapy for mesothelioma will be needed to further study the benefits of radiotherapy and how to predict who will get a good response. Participants will have radiotherapy as planned, but will also be asked to complete questionnaires about their pain levels and quality of life on several occasions, and to have two additional PET scans before radiotherapy, additional blood tests, and one further PET scan after radiotherapy. Alongside this study of radiotherapy in people with mesothelioma, researchers will also be looking at how radiotherapy can be combined with other treatments, including immunotherapies, in mice with mesothelioma. This will be made possible by a new research machine which will be the first of its kind in Australia. The X-RAD machine is due to arrive in WA within the next few weeks, and is capable of delivering very precise targeted radiotherapy to cancer in mice. NCARD researchers hope to use the X-RAD machine to develop new combinations with radiotherapy that may be able to improve treatments for patients with mesothelioma.

4. PERIODIC EXAMINATIONS OF PERSONS EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS

The most important part of the periodical examinations is to detect early onset of malignant asbestos diseases, lung cancer and malignant mesothelioma. Early detection of lung cancer can lead to successful outcomes and remission. Malignant mesothelioma still remains a lethal disease, which however when detected at an early stage, can be treated with a multidisciplinary approach leading to a reasonable longevity of survival. Regrettably, a large number of our members and friends with occupational or domestic exposure to asbestos appear to be complacent and are not taking the opportunity of periodic examinations made available by our organisation. Dr Deleuil is available at our Osborne Park office for medical check-ups and referrals on every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am. To make an appointment to consult Dr Deleuil, please call our office number on 9344 4077 or country members and friends can call our toll free number 1800 646 690.

5. ADSA WALK FOR RESEARCH AND AWARENESS 2015 - ALBANY TO PERTH

This year our walk for research and awareness will start in Albany on 13th September 2015. As you well know, our organisation’s Walk for Research and Awareness is an annual event to raise vital funds for medical research into treatment and cures for asbestos caused diseases. For country members and friends can join us in our walk from Albany to Perth on **Monday 14th September at 12:30pm** at Bluff Knoll Café, **Tuesday 15th September at 12:30pm** at Broome Hill Holland Memorial Park, **Wednesday 16th September at 12:30pm** in Wagin at the Big Ram, **Thursday 17th September at 12:30pm** at Brookton Old Railway Station. **Friday 18th September at 10:00am** members family and friends are welcome to join us at the Wellington Street Train Station to walk up to Parliament

or to join us for the end of the ADSA Walk 2015 at **11:00am at Solidarity Park** on cnr of Harvest Terrace and Parliament Place opposite Parliament House. **Any members family and friends wishing to join us for the start of the ADSA Walk in Albany on Sunday 13th September the details are available on the back page of this newsletter.**

5. ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK - 24th NOVEMBER TO 26th NOVEMBER 2015

This year as a part of Asbestos Awareness Week, our organisation will again join Royal Perth Hospital nursing staff on the main concourse, to make an information display regarding risks of asbestos exposure and its consequences. Also at the request of the Indigenous corporations in the Pilbara the Asbestos Awareness will be held either at Roebourne or Karratha. The special purpose of the awareness programmes is to bring to the attention of the community that asbestos is still capable of causing deadly diseases and how to minimise the risk by avoiding the exposure to asbestos.

6. ADSA AMBROSE 4 FUNDRAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT 2016

Our fundraising gold tournament will be held on St. Valentine's Day **Sunday February 14 2016** at the Meadow Springs Golf Course Mandurah. The Four Ball Ambrose Tournament will feature a special prize of a Gold Hornet Nissan Navara, pictured on the right. To win this magnificent Navara all one has to do is to achieve a **HOLE IN ONE** (details provided on the day). At the conclusion of the 2016 tournament presentations will be made to winners and second, third and fourth placed teams. Since the 2016 golf tournament will be held on St. Valentine's Day and it may be appropriate to take your partner or sweetheart and enjoy a special lunch to celebrate love and devotion. **Also there is an opportunity for a lucky golfer to**



score a hole in one and drive home the Gold Hornet Navara. For more information on the Golf Tournament or registration please ring our office on 1800 646 690.

7. ADSA FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our Christmas Fundraising Raffle tickets are now available by ringing our office on 1800 646 690 or you can email your request for raffle tickets. This particular fundraising raffle is very important because its proceeds will be also allocated towards funding of asbestos diseases medical research and other beneficial programs specifically for the benefit of our members and friends. Therefore it would be greatly appreciated that members and friends participate by taking a book of ten raffle tickets to share with friends.

7. ADSA CHRISTMAS PICNIC

Mark off Sunday 6th of December this year for the ADSA Christmas Picnic at Whiteman Park commencing at the usual time of 10:30am to 4:00pm. The designated ADSA Picnic area is in the Mussel Pool complex between Shelters Q & W both of these shelters are specifically booked for our picnic. Chef Randall will be roasting pork and beef for lunch and preparing fresh salads. As in previous years the popular band Rhythm & Groove will be providing entertainment and the KidznSport coaches will be there to run games for the children. Please call our office for more details and more information will be provided in the next newsletter scheduled for 1st November 2015.



With best wishes and kindest regards

A handwritten signature in red ink, which appears to read 'Robert Vojakovic', is written in a cursive style.

Robert Vojakovic AM JP
PRESIDENT

ASBESTOS DISEASES SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

**WALK FOR RESEARCH & AWARENESS
ALBANY WALK AROUND TOWN
SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2015 - 10AM TO 2PM**

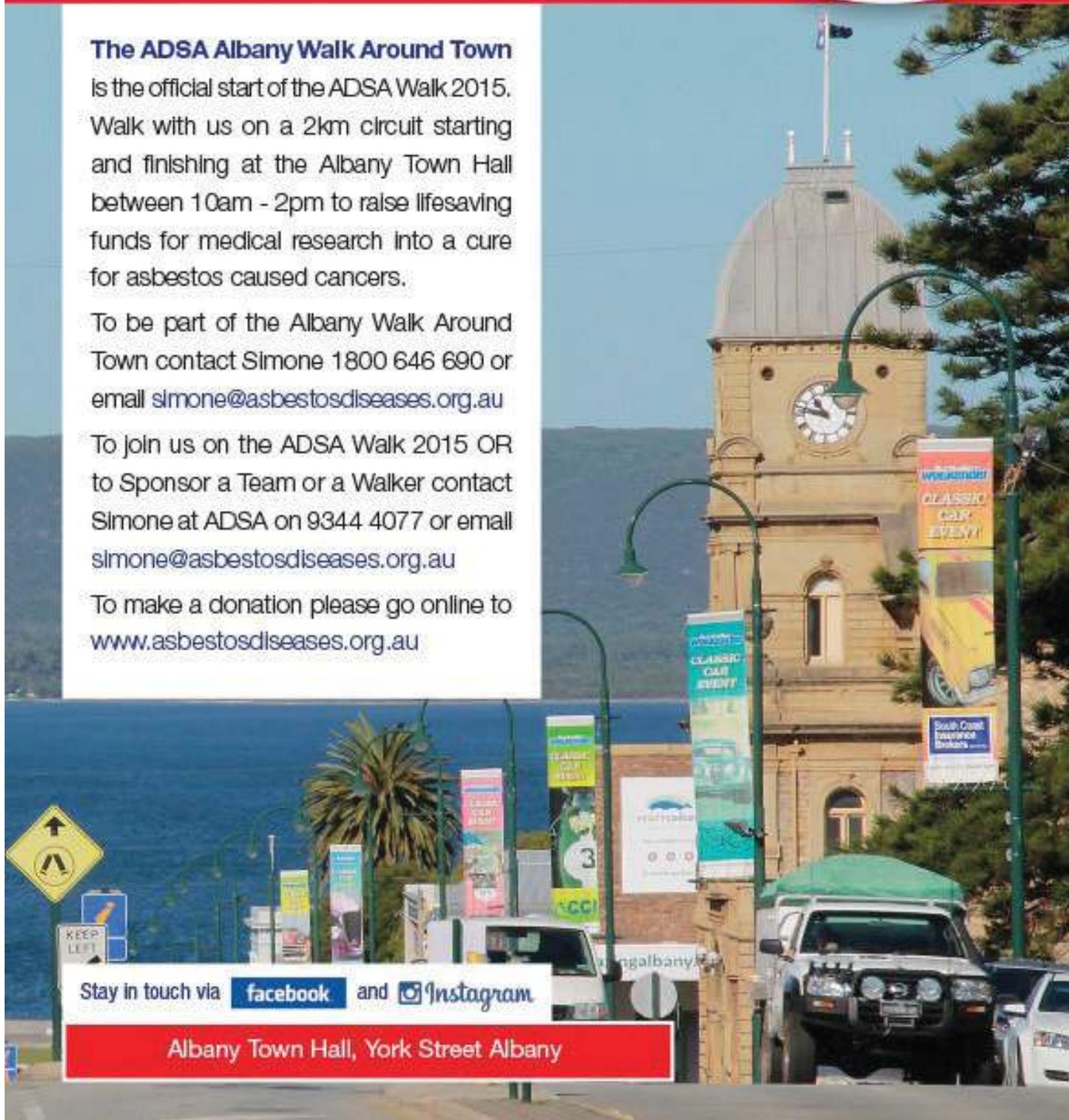


The ADSA Albany Walk Around Town is the official start of the ADSA Walk 2015. Walk with us on a 2km circuit starting and finishing at the Albany Town Hall between 10am - 2pm to raise lifesaving funds for medical research into a cure for asbestos caused cancers.

To be part of the Albany Walk Around Town contact Simone 1800 646 690 or email simone@asbestosdiseases.org.au

To join us on the ADSA Walk 2015 OR to Sponsor a Team or a Walker contact Simone at ADSA on 9344 4077 or email simone@asbestosdiseases.org.au

To make a donation please go online to www.asbestosdiseases.org.au



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Albany Town Hall, York Street Albany

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