

1 February 2019

Dear Members and Friends



OVER 35 YEARS OF CARE AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

1. ADSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2019

Our organisation, the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Incorporated (ADSA) will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday 24th February 2019 at 2:00pm at 11 Royal Street, Osborne Park – City of Stirling Library – Osborne Park Community Centre. The Centre is located almost diagonally across from our office behind the BP service station on the corner of Main and Royal Street and opposite the Osborne Park Hotel car park. Limited parking is available under the Community Centre building off Royal Street. However, adequate parking can be accessed at the car park of the Osborne Park Hotel and the adjacent IGA supermarket opposite our office in Main Street. All members and friends are cordially invited to attend the 2019 AGM. As always, afternoon tea and light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the AGM. In addition, there will be an opportunity for members and friends to meet with others in a similar predicament to exchange information or valuable experience gained. **To assist us with catering arrangements would you please call our office on 9344 4077 by Thursday 14th February to confirm your attendance at the AGM.**

A Special General Meeting of ADSA Members will be held first to pass a resolution confirming the updating of the ADSA Constitution in accordance with the new Associations Incorporation Act 2015. (please refer to the enclosed notice for more details about the Special General Meeting).

The formal part of the Agenda, as in previous years, will include receiving reports of the Society activities during the preceding financial year, then following with the election of the Office Bearers and the Ordinary Committee members of the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Inc. for the calendar year 2019. The current members of the Management Committee of the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Inc have consented to accept re-nomination for the 2019 calendar year. However, additional nominations will be accepted provided they are in writing and signed by two financial members of the ADSA, accompanied by the written acceptance of the nominee who is a financial member of the ADSA. All nominations should be addressed to the Electoral Officer of the ADSA, PO Box 1394, Osborne Park 6916 and must be received by 5:00pm on 21st February 2019.

Upon conclusion of the formal part of the Agenda we will hear from several eminent speakers. Professor Anna Nowak, David Michael MLA Member for Stirling, Dr Greg Deleuil, and Tricia Wong from Slater & Gordon have graciously accepted our invitation to the AGM to speak with members and friends. We are waiting for confirmation from other invited special guests.

2. 2018 CALENDAR YEAR

Regrettably, the preceding calendar year showed an alarming increase of asbestos caused diseases, and in particular a staggering number of mesotheliomas (the world record when in considering our population), lung carcinomas and non-malignant diseases i.e. asbestosis, diffuse pleural fibrosis, and pleural plaques. Sadly, more than 317 of our members and friends have sadly succumbed to the asbestos-causes diseases during the 2018 Calendar Year.

Wittenoom Remembrance Plaque Unveiling at Solidarity Park 18 August 2018

The remembrance plaque was mounted at Solidarity Park at the rear of Parliament House in West Perth as a lasting remembrance of the asbestos miners and their wives and children, who have passed away from asbestos caused diseases i.e. mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis, pleural diseases as a consequence of negligence by the operating company (CSR Ltd) and indeed lack of mining inspections by Local and State Governments.

Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Walk for Research and Awareness 2018

Wave Rock, Hyden to Perth 9th September to 14th September 2018. The walkers were greatly received by appreciating country folks, in particular the Walk Around Town in Harvey was a successful event with a number of Harvey residents participating to fund raise for the Mesothelioma medical research. The Walk raised \$80,000 which will be placed to sponsor eminent researcher Dr Wee Loong (Melvin) Chin who is being funded by our scholarship program.



Asbestos Awareness Week 2018

ADSA's Asbestos Awareness Week was opened at a media conference by Brendan O'Connor MP Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations at the ADSA Office on 19 November 2018. The ADSA also ran an awareness information inclusion in the West Australian newspaper. In addition we were again invited to Royal Perth Hospital to provide information on asbestos risk and its consequences on the public concourse of the Hospital.

Ecumenical Memorial Service 23rd November 2018

The Ecumenical Memorial Service 2018 was greatly appreciated by a large number of people and the Church was filled to capacity. The memorial photo presentation on the screen was also well received and more families have provided a photograph of their passed loved one. We will definitely continue with the screen presentation at the next service, which will be on Friday 22nd November 2019.

ADSA Christmas Picnic at Whiteman Park

Over 300 members and friends attended the ADSA Annual Christmas Picnic at Whiteman Park on 2nd December 2018. It was a great day and amenities were very conducive to meet the demand of the members and friends. Father Christmas provided at least 100+ gifts which were provided by parents prior to Santa attending his throne. The announcement of funds raised through the annual Walk for Medical Research was presented to the tune of \$80,000. This was a tremendous effort and many thanks to participants in the Walk, and particular Simone for organising. Stay tuned for the 2019 Walk for Medical Research to save lives and anyone wishing to spend 5 days in the beautiful countryside of Western Australia please refer to the next page for details.

3. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES (NCARD) - MEDICAL RESEARCH

Medical Research update by Prof Jenette Creaney, The National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases:

The National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NCARD) would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteered to donate their samples to the NCARD Biobank. The samples you have kindly provided have been used in various research projects, and we have highlighted below two of nearly 15 on-going projects that are using biobank samples. This is a crucial resource that we are grateful to have received as it has helped us to gain knowledge and insight into asbestos related diseases. We are hoping this information will form the basis of new strategies not only to treat asbestos-related tumours, but to prevent them.

Molecular Characterization of Mesothelioma: Samples from the NCARD Biobank have been incorporated into an international project to map the genomic landscape in mesothelioma. This project involved researchers from around the world, including from America, Britain, France, Japan, Brazil and other nations and was co-led by NCARD's own Professor Bruce Robinson. The scientific results have recently been published in the American Association for Cancer Research's journal "Cancer Discovery" and show that mesothelioma can be classified into quite distinct sub-types. Ongoing studies are exploring these sub-types in the hope of revealing new avenues for treatment that are tailored to the underlying tumour.

Identification of new mesothelioma biomarkers: Samples from the NCARD Biobank are central to our on-going Biomarker Discovery and Validation program. Currently, with funding from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital we are working towards developing a new assay platform for a biomarker that we showed in laboratory studies to be elevated in the blood of a handful of mesothelioma patients several years before diagnosis. Of crucial importance to this work, are what are known as the "control" samples, that is the blood from healthy people and people with non-cancerous diseases like asbestosis, pleural plaques and even runny noses that can be compared to samples from people suffering from mesothelioma or lung cancer. Such samples are necessary to ensure the specificity and sensitivity of new assays. We really appreciate the continued support of the Asbestos Disease Society Association members and of the wider community for donations of all samples for such studies. Your continued support, faith and generosity has been invaluable.

4. 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 more complex disease and in this regard early detection is crucial for treatment options available at this time. Therefore we strongly recommend regular check-ups with Dr Deleuil at our premises in Osborne Park a service which has saved hundreds of lives so far through early intervention. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 1pm Dr Deleuil will be available for consultation. Please phone our office on (08) 9344 4077 or email reception@asbestosdiseases.org.au to arrange your appointments.

5. AUTUMN FUNDRAISING RAFFLE Drawn on May 22rd in our Office at 2pm

The Autumn raffle tickets go on sale soon with the draw on 22nd May 2019. Raffle tickets are \$2.50 and we would greatly appreciate assistance from members and friends to disseminate a book of ten tickets amongst their friends and acquaintances. All funds raised by our raffles are used to maintain the support services for ADSA members and for the purchase of equipment to enhance Dr Deleuil's ability to provide assistance to our members.

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

Regrettably, the State Government appears to be dragging its feet to consider amending the Legislation to assist families which have lost the bread-winner and carer of the disabled wife or other very close family member i.e. children. Also, access to provisional damages which will allow persons disabled from asbestos diseases to have the opportunity of a better outcome to compensation for their diseases associated with asbestos exposure.

7. AMBROSE 4 FUNDRAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT SUNDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2019

The Ambrose 4 Fundraising Golf Day to raise funds for mesothelioma medical research has been arranged by our Vice President Dave Hall and will be held at Meadow Springs Golf and Country Club in Mandurah on Sunday 17th February 2019. Ambrose 4 rules will apply, that means we need teams of 4 players and the closest ball to the flag of the team will be considered. Our Vice President Dave Hall is working hard to acquire as many sponsors as possible so that asbestos diseases medical research fundraising can be enhanced. There is a special HOLE IN ONE prize for a lucky golfer – a new La Vista BELLA 18'6" Caravan (or similar) ideal for those who love to explore our great country, while still enjoying style and a host of impressive features with its modern spacious interior, courtesy of Jim Groves Rockingham RV. There will be a host of items which can be obtained by buying raffle tickets and an auction which will have eight Mighty Dockers ticket passes to be auctioned and some will also be available through purchase of the raffle tickets. There is a limit of 25 teams of 4 and we have included the registration form on the back page of the newsletter to make registering your team easier. We would greatly appreciate to see as many of our members and friends either participating in the popular fundraising tournament or coming to Meadow Springs Golf Club for about 11:45am to sample our delicious beef sausages and take the opportunity to take part in the auctions and raffles for the magnificent prizes.

8. ASBESTOS DISEASES SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA WALK FOR RESEARCH AND AWARENESS 2019

The ADSA Walk 2019 is from **10 November 2019 to 15 November 2019** - the date change to November is in anticipation of the lovely weather to be found in the Augusta, Margaret River, and Dunsborough regions at that time of year! The 2019 Walk is 'joining the dots' by doing the distance from **Augusta to Dunsborough & Perth** via Cape Leeuwin, Margaret River, Cowaramup, Wild Wood, Cape Naturaliste, Dunsborough, Busselton and Perth. The **ADSA Walk Around Town 2019 Busselton is on Thursday 14 November 2019 and the Walk from the Wellington Street Train Station to Solidarity Park / Parliament House ends the ADSA Walk 2019 on Friday 15 November 2019.** We are 'joining the dots' as the ADSA Walk Team walked from Dunsborough to Perth in 2013 and we taking the opportunity in 2019 to build on that awesome effort. Call 1800 646 690 or email simone@asbestosdiseases.org.au to register now and get your holidays locked in for what will be a wonderful Walk!

For now, my very best wishes and kindest regards,



Robert Vojakovic AM JP
PRESIDENT



asbestos diseases society of australia inc.

4 BALL AMBROSE FUNDRAISING GOLF DAY



Meadow Springs Golf Course - Sun 17th Feb 2019

NEW HOLE IN 1 PRIZE

Courtesy of **Jim Groves Rockingham RV**

GOLF DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Team Name _____

Player 1 _____ Email _____ Official Handicap _____

Player 2 _____ Email _____ Official Handicap _____

Player 3 _____ Email _____ Official Handicap _____

Player 4 _____ Email _____ Official Handicap _____

To book your team please send your payment of \$100.00 per person to:

- Phone: (61 8) 9581 6002 • Email: functions@msgcc.com.au
- Post: Meadow Springs Golf & Country Club PO Box 657 Mandurah WA 6210



Asbestos Diseases are at epidemic numbers in Australia today and there is an urgent need for Medical Research to save lives! Please help save lives by sponsoring a team in the fundraising Golf Tournament or make a donation.

Proud Sponsors



MEADOW SPRINGS
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB



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