



Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2012

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A Message from ADFA's President Barry Robson

This being the last Newsletter for 2012 and with Christmas fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our members, friends and our Foundation and the many organisations sympathetic to our cause.

During the year you have given your support both physical and financial without reservation to help carry on our vital work in the community. A community where the ever present threat of an Asbestos Related Disease increases on a daily basis.

ADFA has been around for over 20 years and has managed to chalk up many remarkable achievements in respect of Asbestos control and future policy in that time. Committee members have made frequent visits to Canberra to take part in conferences to plot the future of total eradication of this menace. These and many more events relevant to our future planning have been included in next year's agenda.

ADFA have been granted the privilege of planting the first commemorative tree at the monument for those who have died in the workplace, now under construction in Canberra and scheduled to be completed prior to the celebrations of the Centenary of Canberra in March 2013.

We managed to lift our total contribution to the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) to over \$50,000 thanks to our supporters and various fundraising events.

It is with great pleasure that I announce our new Patron, Barbara Hall, wife of the late Australian mountaineer Lincoln Hall who passed away from mesothelioma in March this year. Barbara takes a great interest in ADFA's work and we look forward to introducing her to you at our forthcoming events. Thank you Barbara for agreeing to be a part of ADFA and for helping us deliver our important message to the community.

All those associated with ADFA should be proud of their affiliation with this organisation, when we receive no Government support and rely on volunteers to run the organisation.

Lots of things have happened during the past year that may have deterred other people, but we at ADFA have a strong resolve to succeed and thereby lay our strength.

However, we do need the continued support of our members to carry on into the coming year, and for this reason I again offer thanks on behalf of the Committee members.

I invite all our members and friends to our **Annual General Meeting to be held on 12 December** at 1pm at our Granville Office. The AGM will be followed by our Christmas Party.

May you all have a wonderful and happy Christmas and I hope that the New Year brings good health and prosperity throughout.



Editor:

Michael O'Donnell
Public Officer, ADFA

Asbestos Awareness Week



On Monday, 27 November a candlelight tribute to those who died because of an asbestos related disease was held at The Rocks in Sydney and the sails of the Opera House were illuminated blue in their honour. The vigil was accompanied by a Choir.

On Friday, 30 November over 200 people attended the Asbestos Diseases Foundation's Commemoration Day at the Maritime Museum in Sydney. Speakers on the day included Professor Nico Van Zandwijk from the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute at Concord Hospital and Barbara Hall, wife of the late Lincoln Hall.

Thank you to everyone who took part in Asbestos Awareness Week, we look forward to this important event to be held in 2013 from 24 to 29 November.

ADFA played a major part in this year's Asbestos Awareness Week Activities held from 26 to 30 November.

Asbestos Awareness Week is an annual event held throughout Australia in the last week of November every year and is a combined effort between government, unions and asbestos advocacy groups. This year, the focus of the week was on the potential asbestos risks of home renovation.

The week started with the Launch of "Betty the Asbestos House" on Sunday, 26 November at Customs House.



Photo by Honeydew Photography

The Ambassadors for ADRI and our Asbestos Awareness Week – Don't play renovation roulette! Campaign are L-R: Actor Lindsay Farris, DIY Guru Scott McGregor from Better Homes and Gardens and Room for Improvement, Australian actor and original Better Homes and Garden's DIYer John Jarratt, Australian garden and environment Guru Don Burke and Nico van Zandwijk – Director, Asbestos Diseases Research Institute.



Photo by Honeydew Photography

As part of Asbestos Awareness Week, "Betty the Asbestos House" was unveiled at Sydney's Customs House on Monday, 26 November.

The caravan-sized home will tour towns and cities in New South Wales over the next 12 months to help educate people about the high likelihood of there being asbestos in older homes. The house contains examples of the sorts of materials that people are likely to encounter in their houses, particularly if they are planning to do renovations.



On Wednesday, 21 November the ADFA Committee travelled to Canberra to be a part of "International Day for Asbestos Victims" held at Parliament House. Speakers included Senator Lisa Singh and Senator Bill Shorten.

Did you know...

That mining and manufacturing products containing asbestos became a huge and lucrative industry in the US prior to World War One? Soon many workers engaged in the industry began to present with painful and disabling illnesses and as a result became unemployable. Far too many in fact to go unnoticed. This trend was to continue and become worse as the years progressed.

In 1918 an inquiry into industrial accidents and hygiene was set up by the US Bureau of Labour Statistics. The findings as a result of that inquiry were astonishing and caused a furore in industrial circles.

One statistician of the time named Frederick L. Hoffman noted that, "asbestos workers labouring in poorly ventilated sheds filled with clouds of fine greyish dust had an assortment of respiratory disorders were in fact considered such poor risks that they were refused life insurance".

In 1930 the first published report of fatal asbestos disease appeared detailing how the fibres were collecting inside the workers until they literally choked to death.

That most Mesothelioma victims and their families and indeed those people afflicted by an Asbestos Related Disease (ADR) would like to see a Commission of Enquiry set up to probe the reasons behind the many deaths attributed to asbestos of which there have been thousands in this country. One could safely ask the question why were the mining and manufacturing industries allowed to operate for so long when it was a well-known fact for many years that Asbestos killed people?

Companies like James Hardie and CSR found raging profits were to be made in the manufacturing of asbestos products and soon the entire country was saturated and we now have to live with this dreadful legacy.

The only reason left to offer is deceit and greed. Yet no reason has ever been offered as to why not one person involved with these companies has ever had to face the full force of the criminal law system nor has there ever been a single prosecution brought against anyone knowingly responsible for the deaths of so many innocent people in this country. Why?

That Johns Manville was one of the first companies to manufacture asbestos-containing products. In fact, it was founded for the purpose of creating asbestos products primarily for insulation and construction material. The company's own founder, Henry Ward Johns, died of "dust phthisis pneumonitis" - disease believed to be asbestosis.

Because of the large number of products manufactured by Johns Manville, a number of different people were put at risk of asbestosis exposure. In addition to the products produced, the company also owned a number of mines and exported raw asbestos to other countries. The Jeffrey mine in Canada, one of the largest pit mines in the world, was owned by Johns Manville.

Johns Manville was the first asbestos producing company to file bankruptcy and establish a trust to settle all asbestos injury claims. At the time, it was considered a novel use of the bankruptcy law.

The Manville Personal Injury Settlement Trust was created in 1988 to settle all asbestos related claims against Johns Manville. It started with an initial amount of US\$2.5 billion. Since it was created hundreds of thousands of victims have been compensated. As of the first quarter of 2012 the trust had paid 773,990 claims of approximately US\$4.3 billion and the trust expects to receive more claims.

James Hardie Directors have Penalties Reduced

November 2012 saw the former James Hardie directors, who were disqualified from managing companies for releasing misleading information about their “fully funded” compensation fund for asbestos claims, have their penalties reduced.

Meredith Hellicar has had her disqualification reduced from five years to two years and three months. She will be eligible to be a company director or manager from May 2013.

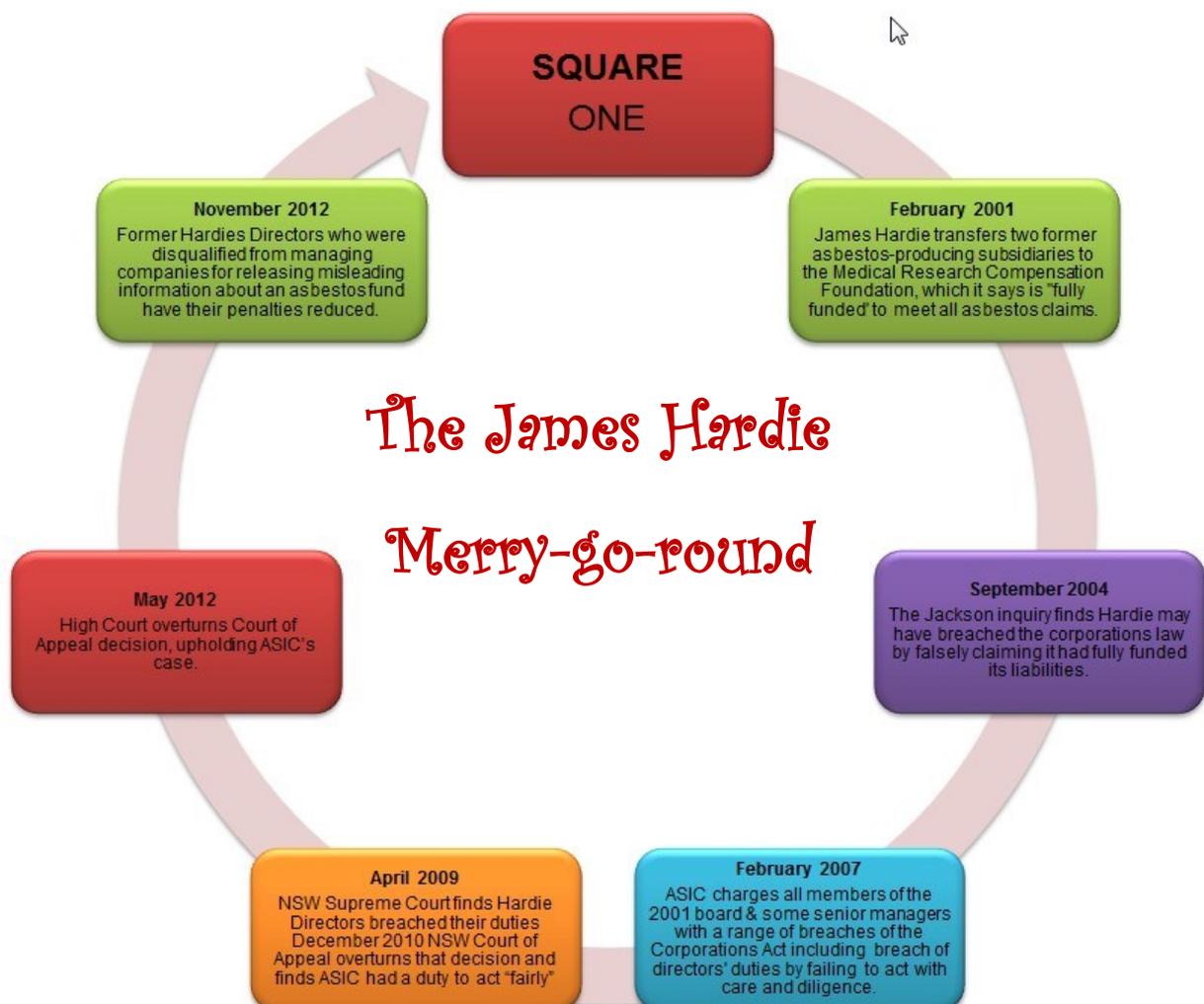
Three of the other Australian-based former non-executive directors of James Hardie, Michael Brown, Gregory Terry and Geoffrey O'Brien were given the same disqualification period. Peter Wilcox, the other Australian-based former director, has been disqualified until March 31. The Australian-based former directors will pay fines to ASIC of \$25,000 each, down from an original \$30,000 penalty.

Two US-based directors Martin Koffell and Michael Gillfillan were given a shorter disqualification period of one year and 11 months and will be eligible to manage a corporation at the start of the new year. Both directors will pay \$20,000 each in fines.

The original seven-year ban and \$75,000 fine against Peter Shafron was upheld by the Court of Appeal.

The appeal court judges have accepted that the initial five-year ban was appropriate, but they've applied mitigating circumstances, including the public disapproval that the directors have suffered, their exemplary records (prior to the breaches at James Hardie) and their contributions to the community.

They'll be free to run companies again before the middle of next year and to serve as directors, and take up their careers again—Penalties too lenient and an insult to the victims of James Hardie and their families.



Race Day Thank You



Rosehill Gardens  Saturday 3rd November

Following our highly successful fund raising Race Day at Rosehill Gardens on 3 November, the Asbestos Diseases Foundation would like to take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who took part and helped make the day such an enjoyable one.

Thank you to the organisations who bought races:

- AMWU
- Blacktown Workers Club
- Bright Publishing
- CSR
- Lideron Group
- SSMEU Mining Division
- Turner-Freeman Lawyers
- Vincent's Accountants

And to those who gave donations and items for raffles and auctions.

Thank you to Guardian Funerals who have joined our group; Furzer Crestani Chartered Accountants who take such good care of our books at no cost to ADFA and Walkin Promotions who supplied the promotional items for the tables and provide numerous promotional products to ADFA all at no charge to us.

Thank you to our 'MC' - Brian "Sparkles" Parker whose bubbly personality always guarantees a stellar performance. He should turn Pro!

Thank you to the many organisations and people who helped out—your help does not go unrecognised.

Last but not least of all, a big thank you to our band of wonderful volunteers who never fail to answer the call when required.

All funds raised from the Race Day will be applied towards support, help and advice for people affected by an asbestos related disease and towards research into early detection and treatment of asbestos disease in the future.



[L-R] Armando Gardiman, Turner Freeman Lawyers & Brian "Sparkles" Parker

thank
you!

LOOKING BACK

With Mike O'Donnell

We are not alone



Australia can lay claim to having the greatest incidence of mesothelioma per capita in the world, caused by Asbestos fibres entering the lung, once established, it is impossible to remove them. So in this issue of *Looking Back* we refer to New Jersey (N.J.) in the United States with an equally disastrous record as our own.

Once known as the "Garden of America", in later years it was known for another bumper crop - Cancer and Mesothelioma, cancer in particular. Senator John M. Sherwin, Chairman of a fact finding committee noted, "We're tired of being called Cancer Alley". In the town of Paterson to the north of that State, former employees of asbestos manufactures Union Asbestos, who skipped town some twenty years ago, have developed lung cancer six times the national average. New Jersey death rates amongst white males are the highest in the nation - amongst white females they are the second highest.

Asbestos has been the backbone of the New Jersey industry since the Johns Manville company built a company town called Manville in 1912. Johns Manville then became the nation's largest producer of home insulation. When it was divulged five years ago that one third of the 689 workers had died of an Asbestos related disease, one medical expert was quoted as saying, "The next ten years are gong to be tough in Manville" (referring to the long latency period for Mesothelioma to manifest itself). A lot of people are going to die and nobody knows what to do about it. This is a man made disease. It was preventable".

A NEW TOWN

Building Around 7 Large Factories
Costing Five Million Dollars
Benefited by 3 Large Railroads

AT HILLSBORO N. J.
MANVILLE

The H. W. Johns-Manville new five million dollar factories and plant are now building at Hillsboro, Manville, N. J., where over 3,500 skilled laborers will be employed, and who with wives and children will make an increased population of over twelve thousand people requiring food, clothing, homes, raiment and entertainment. Great chance for bakers, grocers, butchers, plumbers and general dealers. Big business ahead for all when factories open. Get in on the ground floor. Be one of the pioneers.

\$75 per Lot
and Up

\$4 per
Month

NO INTEREST. NO TAXES FOR ONE YEAR.
NO ASSESSMENTS.

This subdivision of absolutely high and dry lots is right at the Lehigh Valley R. R. Station, and near the seven new factories and plant of the Manville Co., and benefited by the two other railways of the Philadelphia and Reading and the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

FREE GUEST TRAIN NEXT SUNDAY, AND EVERY DAY DURING THE WEEK. WRITE, CALL OR PHONE FOR TICKETS

Represented By

L. E. VAN DOREN, 2 Grant Avenue, Highland Park.
T. J. MURPHY, 53 Paterson Street, City.
C. A. SEELE, 1 Lincoln Avenue, Highland Park.

Enter Irving J. Selikoff, the co-discoverer of a treatment for tuberculosis who went on to prove the hazards of asbestos and lead a campaign against its use. In 1952 he and Dr. Edward H. Robitzek demonstrated the effectiveness of isoniazid as a new tuberculosis medicine, especially for patients not helped by other treatments. It proved a major advance in controlling the disease and is still widely used.

Dr. Selikoff then opened a lung clinic in Paterson, N.J., where he was alarmed to find unusual illnesses in 17 patients who worked at an asbestos plant. Of his first seventeen patients from Union Asbestos, only two would be alive twenty years later. Seven were victims of lung cancer, two from stomach cancer from asbestos (literally asbestos poisoning) and one from Mesothelioma, a new and incurable cancer found only among Asbestos workers and their families.

Dr. Selikoff devoted most of his time to studying the effects of asbestos and estimates that more than 5 million people have worked with asbestos over the past thirty years and more than ten million are exposed to its fine and often invisible fall out at home and on the job each year. The total impact on "New Jerseyans" living and working with asbestos may not be know for decades and we will see deaths from asbestosis and mesothelioma from the year 2000 and later. Dr. Selikoff died in 1992.

We are not alone.

Central Coast Support Group



2012 has been a busy year for the executive committee with visits to Canberra to meet with the Parliamentary Group on Asbestos Related Diseases chaired by Senator Lisa Singh, meetings with NSW Government with respect to the NSW Law Commission's recommendations to change the Strikwerda principle which will enable widows to access their full rights to compensation. The NSW Attorney General Greg Smith has denied these recommendations but ADFA will continue to make every effort to continue working for the rights of victims to the best of the committee's abilities.

Thank you to the sponsors and supporters of the charity race day may they continue their support next year. A big thank you to Walkin-Promotions for their wonderful ideas and sponsorship.

CENTRAL COAST ASBESTOS DISEASES SUPPORT (CCADS)

Another year has passed with new members. We miss Laurie Evans, a long time member unable to attend due to deteriorating health but the members keep in touch by phone.

Our deepest sympathy to Fay Deseaux and family with the passing of Adrian, a foundation member of the group. Adrian suffered with asbestosis for many years, our thoughts are with you Fay.

The Support Group will meet for a Christmas lunch on Wednesday 19th December at Ourimbah RSL Club bistro at 12.30 pm. Our first meeting for 2013 will be held February 27th.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and many good times in 2013.

Cheers and best wishes,

Maree Stokes

Vice President and CCADS Co-ordinator

WA SCRAPS LANDFILL LEVY TO MINIMISE THE ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ASBESTOS

The WA government has announced that an exemption from paying the landfill levy will apply as of January 2013 to asbestos sheeting bound in black plastic. However soil contaminated with asbestos will still be subject to this levy.

The WA Environment Minister Bill Marmion said "the measure was intended to deter illegal dumping. Despite increased fines, people had continued to dump asbestos sheeting in bushland and other sites out of the public eye", he said.

The WA Waste Authority had advised the Minister that the landfill levy could be acting as a disincentive for people to dispose of asbestos waste properly.

"This is good news for small business and families, reducing costs and protecting the health of communities and the environment," Marmion said.

In the view of the Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW ("WCRA") this is also the path that NSW regulators should follow.

Executive Director of WCRA, Mr Tony Khoury said, "The intention of the landfill waste levy in NSW is to promote better recycling outcomes and as asbestos is not a product that can ever be recycled, why is there a levy on the disposal of asbestos at landfill?"

In terms of achieving the best health and environmental outcomes for the community, the proper disposal of asbestos should be kept as cheap as possible and a waste levy of \$95.20 per tonne (in the Sydney area) is a major cost disincentive to proper disposal.

Come on NSW Regulators - follow the lead of the West Australians!

**Tony Khoury, Executive Director
Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of
NSW**

In Memory of...

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we would like to express our condolences to all members who have lost a loved one during the year.

As the Festive season approaches and the year draws to an end, the reality of losing a loved one, is felt much more. It's natural to reflect on times when our loved ones were with us.

Events throughout year, such as birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas, build great family memories but naturally, we reflect on the passing of those we have lost.

My husband Reg passed away on 30 April 2001, he would have been 66 on 31 December 2012. For me, taking one day at a time works.

I hope for those who have lost a loved one, it will be a time to remember the many good times they shared with their husbands, wives, sons or daughters.

Wishing all our members a happy and safe Christmas.

Eileen Day

Secretary-Asbestos Diseases Foundation Inc.



Anne Duffy-Lindsay—Born in Ballyduffy in the town of Granand, County Longford Ireland. On the 31st December 1922

In Ireland Anne endured the grim times of the great depression and made the comment that this was the back ground where I got my early education about "the have and have nots".

Her family and neighbours hid IRA men on the run and later Anne helped Vietnam War resisters evade arrest. "I never put personal security before struggling for justice".

An uncle had sent her poems by Lawson and Patterson and stories of the 1890 shearers strike and so sowed the seeds of Anne's desire to settle in Australia.

And so Anne arrived in Australia in 1949, and to many she felt immediate affinity with the first Australians, saying that aborigines and the Irish had both been robbed, oppressed and denigrated, she was active in the union movement, the Peace movement and the struggle for equality for aborigines.

Anne's first employment was as a nurse at Parramatta and many remote areas. She commented that

nursing was not her first choice, she really wanted to be anthropologist.

In Australia that great commitment and association with the working class continued and Anne developed a great affinity with the Seaman's Union of Australia where she met and made a loving relationship with Jock Lindsay that was to last many years. And it also gave Anne a love of the waterfront unions.

Her involvement in all political issues during this period allowed Anne to most probably remind her of Ireland where the main political issue was the unification of Ireland, Anne was a true republican all her life.

It was this struggle many thousands of miles away that was never away from Anne's heart. When the Easter Accord was finally achieved, Anne saw that peace could be achieved after many decades of war in Northern Ireland.

Anne was a member of the Maritime Union for many decades and participated in the all branch matters and struggles.

We say farewell, Anne has left a wonderful legacy for other people to look up to. Rest in peace.

Derek Richard Graham—A donation was made to ADFA in memory of "Derek Richard Graham" who passed away from Mesothelioma on 16 October 2012.



Reasons For Joining ADFA

1. ADFA gives support to members and their families. This support is provided by our counsellor and by ADFA members who are either asbestos victims or relatives of victims. We have been through the same painful experiences and can empathise with what you are going through.
2. ADFA can point you in the right direction so you can get the best medical and legal advice.
3. We are among the first to know about current medical treatment and what is happening with research for a cure for asbestos related diseases. We provide the latest information to members.
4. ADFA can help you find a counsellor who can help you with many of your problems.
5. ADFA can introduce you to the Dust Diseases Board which may be able to help you.
6. ADFA has an excellent monthly Newsletter which is sent to all members to keep them in touch with what is happening in the Foundation and with upcoming events.
7. ADFA holds monthly meetings in Granville on the second Wednesday of each month where a lot of information is available. All members and friends are welcome at these meetings which are a time for talking, laughing and sharing.
8. ADFA holds special events each year. Our National Asbestos Awareness Week in November raises awareness and funds. Our events are really enjoyable times for making friends and doing something worthwhile.
9. ADFA members who are victims of asbestos related diseases are added to the Foundation's database. All information is kept in the **strictest confidence**. ADFA only uses this information to lobby for a better deal for asbestos victims.
10. ADFA played a major role in 1998 in winning changes to NSW laws regarding dust diseases which benefited our members. The laws were a first for Australia. ADFA continues advocacy work for our members.



Things you may not know about ADFA

ADFA:

1. Is a not-for-profit community based organisation.
2. Receives no formal government funding.
3. Is volunteer based (Executive Committee & Members).
4. Provides support for people living with asbestos related diseases.
5. Members comprise patients, families, exposed persons.
6. Provides information to home renovators, builders, concerned public (general asbestos information, medical, legal referrals and telephone counselling).
7. Undertakes community education : Asbestos Public Information Sessions.
8. Is actively involved in Asbestos Awareness Week Activities (last week in November).

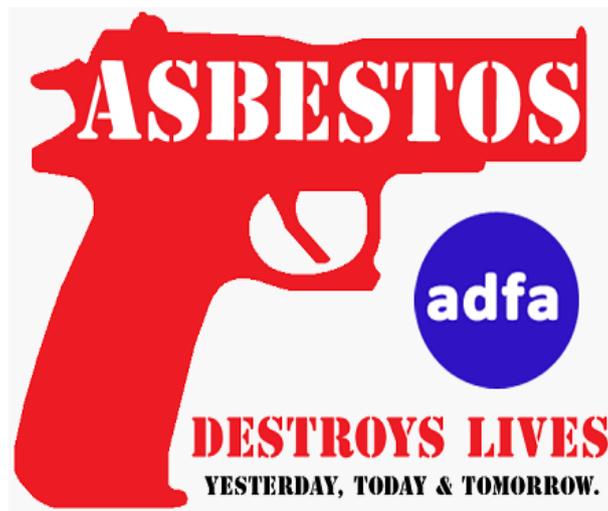
New Years Resolution-Join ADFA

Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc.



The Committee and Staff of ADFA would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe New Year and Thank You for your Support in 2012





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