

3 November 2017



Dear Members and Friends

## 1. ADSA CHRISTMAS PICNIC SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2017

We are cordially inviting members, their families, and friends, to the annual Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Christmas Picnic 2017. The picnic will be held again at our usual spot in **Whiteman Park on Sunday, 3rd December commencing from 9:30am until about 4:30pm.** Please refer to the back page of this Newsletter and you will find a detailed map of Whiteman Park clearly showing the location of the ADSA annual Christmas Picnic at the Mussel Pool Complex between the Shelters Q and W.

Gourmet Chef Randall and his team will again prepare a delicious lunch of roast beef and roast pork, cooked fresh on site and served with gourmet salad. Also beef barbecue sausages will be available. Non-alcoholic refreshments coke, lemonade, water, etc will be available, one can/bottle per person. We would respectfully suggest that everyone bring additional drinks. **COFFEE AND TEA WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A SELF-SERVE BASIS AT THE FOOD SERVICE SHELTER W.** This year a delectable dessert will be served, however you may also wish to bring your own Christmas desserts to share with family and friends. **Entertainment will be provided by Rhythm n Groove with music for all ages including well known Christmas carols for everyone. The band would be pleased to accommodate any requests of a song or melody if so requested by members. FATHER CHRISTMAS (SANTA)** will make his long awaited yearly appearance to charm the junior brigade and parents. There will be plenty of sweets for the children. Parents can bring a present for their child or children to be presented by Santa. Parents please print in large letters the full name of the child on their present so they can be easily identified and drop the present(s) off to Santa's Helpers at Santa's Tent under the marquee. The entertainment for the junior brigade will be managed by Kidz 'n Sport which will provide fun activities and entertainment for the children. Bendigo Bank will also provide activities for children to assist parents taking a deserved rest. **To assist our organisation with the catering arrangements please advise our office of the exact number of adults and children attending the picnic.** The vouchers will be issued for the picnic lunch and cool drinks. **Would you please collect your food and cool drink vouchers from 'Table A' as soon as you arrive at the picnic.** 'TABLE A' is marked on the map of the park (see back page). We would strongly recommend that you should not forget to bring  your own blankets, chairs, tables, sunscreen, hats, caps or any other items that may provide you with comfort to enjoy the day in beautiful Whiteman Park. This year again a marquee is being hired for the comfort of members and friends but it may be useful to bring your chairs or small table to sit in comfort under the marquee. **Our Christmas Stocking raffle is very popular. Please let us know if you can donate items to be included in the Christmas Stocking.** All proceeds raised from the Christmas stocking will go towards funding asbestos diseases medical research.

**The 'Giant' Cheque presentation for the funds raised by the ADSA Walk for Research and Awareness 2017 will be held at the Picnic and everyone will be invited to join in the big group photo.**

## 2. 22<sup>ND</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 22nd Ecumenical Memorial Service and it is an honour to continue celebrating the lives of passed members and friends with the Memorial Photograph Presentation. Any members and friends wishing to send their photographs of their passed loved ones to be included can send the pictures to our office by mail, email or deliver in person. All photographs will be returned upon request. During the past twenty-one years since the first Ecumenical Service in 1996 more than 4,585 of our dear members and friends have passed away as a consequence of being exposed to carcinogenic asbestos fibres. We greatly appreciate the special effort made by all members and friends to attend this important Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service in remembrance of our passed members and friends and light a candle in their memory. **The Ecumenical Service will be held at the Redemptorist Monastery 190 Vincent Street, North Perth on Friday 24th November 2017, commencing at 9:30am. See map on page 3 for directions to the Monastery. The Monastery has a large capacity for parking.**



### 3. 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 v Gordon Damages (Plaintiff no longer able to provide assistance to Disabled Relative) in Common Law matters. In May 2014 the Honourable Attorney General Michael Mischin was unable to support the Honourable Kate Doust Bill, but decided to refer the matter to the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia. 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.* **Notwithstanding, waiting more than three years since the legislation was introduced into Parliament and the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission that the Liberal Government should accept the proposed legislation in the matter of provisional damages and damages for gratuitous services. Our members, in particular sufferers from diseases, were enormously disappointed that the Liberal Government failed to legislate the amendments. However we are hopeful that the newly elected Labor Government will be more sympathetic and do the right thing for asbestos diseases victims and their families by legislating the amendments.**

### 4. PROFESSOR ANNA NOWAK – LATEST UPDATE ON MEDICAL RESEARCH

The research update in this edition contains something a little bit different, which is an update from my trip to the World Conference on Lung Cancer (known at WCLC), held in Yokohama, Japan, in mid October. Unfortunately there was no time for any sightseeing, but as WCLC also covers mesothelioma research, it was a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues and collaborators and to hear mesothelioma clinical trials research from around the world presented. **On the first day**, I attended an all-day meeting about ‘staging’ of mesothelioma and lung cancer. ‘Staging’ refers to a very structured system of describing exactly where in the body any cancer has involved or spread to, and in many cancers – although less importantly in mesothelioma – can help us understand prognosis or make treatment decisions. Last year the staging committee was feeling the accomplishment of having completed a revision of the staging system, having newly published that information, which came into effect as the new staging system for mesothelioma on January 1 2017. However, the work on improving staging never stops. This year we were planning our assault on the next 7 year cycle of collecting and analysing information before the next update, planned for 2024. At the moment, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital is the only Australian hospital participating in this international staging project for mesothelioma. **On the second day**, a number of clinical trial results were presented, including some in which our patients at SCGH participated. One study compared a standard second chemotherapy treatment (Vinorelbine) with a new treatment (Anetumab Ravtansine) targeted towards mesothelin, a protein on some mesotheliomas. Unfortunately, the results showed that the new treatment was equally effective as Vinorelbine, which means that we will be sticking with the use of Vinorelbine. Another study, which was only done in The Netherlands, reported that a combination of two immunotherapies, Nivolumab and Ipilimumab, looked promising in a small number of people with mesothelioma who had previously had treatment with chemotherapy. However this was a preliminary clinical trial, the treatment has some substantial and at times serious side effects, and at the moment we are quite some time away from considering this a ‘standard’ treatment. In the same session, our very own Dr Fraser Brims presented the results of the RESPECT trial. In this study, which a large number of patients from SCGH participated in, people with newly diagnosed mesothelioma were randomly assigned to have early specialist palliative care consultations, or to only be referred to palliative care when their treating specialists felt it was necessary. This study showed that there were no added benefits for patients who saw a palliative care doctor earlier than usual, and that seeing palliative care doctors from early in the illness didn’t reduce people’s anxiety or other symptoms. The upshot of this is that we will be continuing to make referrals, in discussion with our patients and their families, when we all agree that this specialist symptom control help is needed. Also on the second day, I gave an overview talk on the use of immunotherapy in mesothelioma. **On the final day**, two more immunotherapy clinical trials were reported, further increasing the body of knowledge around this treatment. The MERIT clinical trial was run in Japan only, and showed that the immunotherapy Nivolumab alone could be used safely in Japanese people with mesothelioma, and gave tumour shrinkage in some people. The NIBIT-Meso clinical trial, on the other hand, was an Italian trial combining two immunotherapies, Durvalumab and Tremelimumab. Like the study from The Netherlands, it showed some improvement in tumour shrinkage with the double-immunotherapy combination, but the combination can have significant side effects. The overall message from the WCLC conference is that there is much work going on in the cancer immunotherapy field in both lung cancer and mesothelioma. However a lot of this information is

preliminary, and we don't know if it is better than existing treatments like chemotherapy, although it is likely to at least add an option that may benefit some people. Also, while possibly more effective, the double-immunotherapy treatments are not light on side effects. There are two critical bits of information needed before any of these become 'standard' treatment: firstly, we need to compare them with existing treatments to see if they live up to the hype; secondly, we need to use science to understand who is going to benefit from immunotherapy, so that we can best guide the right treatment to the right person. Note that none of the new treatments discussed above are available on the PBS for mesothelioma, and many are not available at all, outside of a clinical trial, as of now. In a final piece of news, the DREAM clinical trial, combining chemotherapy with immunotherapy, has now reached final participant numbers and has closed to new patients. We hope to have some preliminary results available by the middle of 2018.

**5. ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK - 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

2017 Awareness Program will conclude with the Ecumenical Memorial Service on Friday 24th November. A number of events are being contemplated including meeting with Nursing Staff of major Hospitals. More information and likely activities will be provided on our website prior to the 15th November this year.

**6. 4 BALL AMBROSE FUNDRAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The 4 Ball Ambrose Fundraising Golf Day to raise funds for mesothelioma medical research will be held at Meadow Springs Golf Club in Mandurah on 18th February 2018. 4 Ball Ambrose 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 can be enhanced. One of the sponsors, Mr Ryan Baran from Hitech Marine Centre situated in 12 Uppill Place, Wangara, is generously providing as a HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE a brand-new Reflex 485 Chianti powered by a new Mercury 75HP EFI 4-stroke, on a single axle braked trailer, licensed with an inshore safety kit to the value of \$39,990.00. There will be additional prizes for the tournament which will be provided in more detail in the next newsletter. However, since we are limited to 25 teams of 4, please call our office to acquire registration at your earliest as we do not want anyone to be disappointed.

**7. ADSA WALK FOR RESEARCH AND AWARENESS 2017 - MERREDIN TO PERTH**

The ADSA Walk 2017 has been a great success with the ADSA Walk Team enjoying a warm reception in all the towns on the long walk to Perth from Merredin. The ADSA Walk Around Town was held in Northam with teams coming up from Perth to join the ADSA Walk Team for a fun day. The fundraising for the ADSA Walk 2017 is still going and supporters have until 30 November 2017 to make a donation. The cheque presentation will be made at the Christmas Picnic on Sunday 3rd December 2017 at Whiteman Park. The ADSA Walk 2018 is in the planning stage more information in the next Newsletter or contact Simone on 9344 4077 or [simone@asbestosdiseases.org.au](mailto:simone@asbestosdiseases.org.au)

**8. 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. Dr Deleuil's clinic will cease on Tuesday, 19th December this year and will recommence on Tuesday, 16th January 2018 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Please phone our office or email to arrange your appointments. However, should there be any urgent need in the meantime for any assistance, please contact our office on 1800 646 690.

**9. CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING RAFFLE - Drawn on December 13th in our Office**

The Christmas raffle is now in progress and there are still some tickets left to be shared with members and friends. Therefore it would be greatly appreciated should anyone be able to assist us with our fund raising raffle. Please contact our office on 1800 646 690 to request a book of 10 tickets at \$2.00 a ticket.

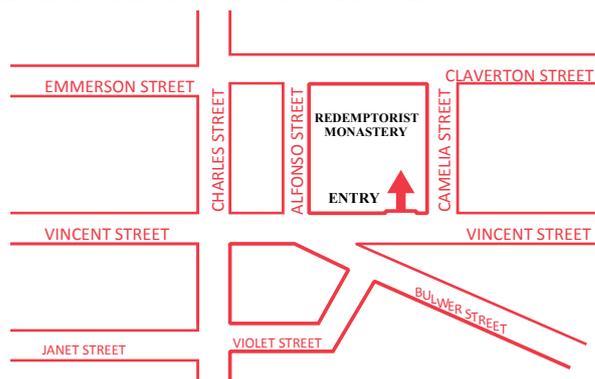
**10. FESTIVE SEASON OFFICE HOURS**

Our office will be closed from 5:00pm on Tuesday 19th December 2017 and will reopen on Monday, 8th January 2018 at 9:00am. However, for all urgent enquiries please ring the following numbers: 0400 922 542, 0409 883 594, 0417 175 244, and 0419 931 687.

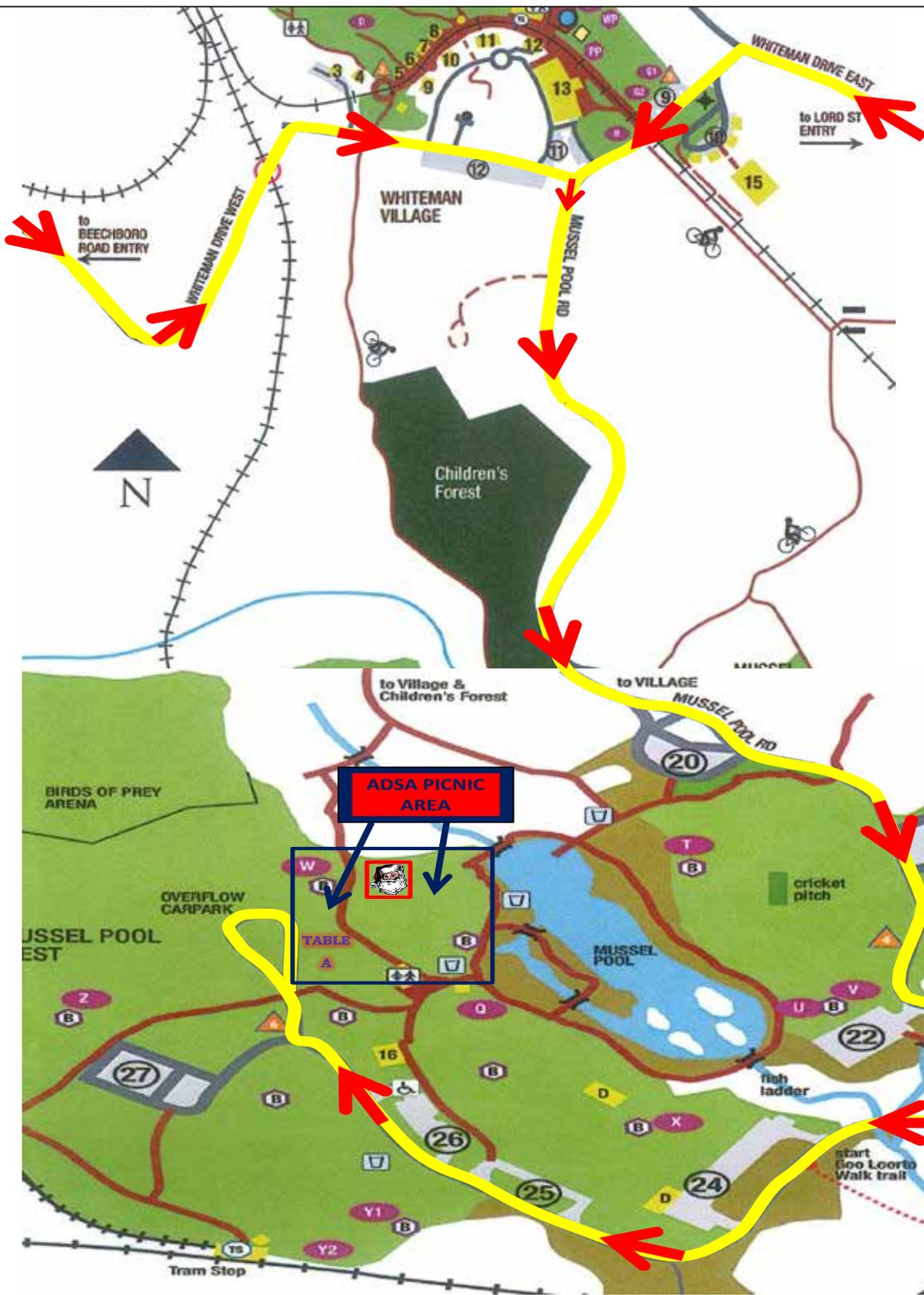
For now, my very best wishes and kindest regards,

Robert Vojakovic AM JP  
PRESIDENT

**REDEMPTORIST MONASTERY LOCATION MAP:**



**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  
Peaceful Christmas  
President, Committee and Staff**



asbestos diseases society of australia inc.

