

Message from the ADSSA President Peter M Photakis

Welcome to my first message for 2018. It's been an eventful start to the year and we have a great deal on the agenda to deliver on our operational plans. We had our first formal Board meeting this month and I wanted to provide you with some insights as to the matters before the Board.

The focus of this Board meeting was to address the Association's governance, with the objective of continuing our work, bringing it into line with best practice for a not-for-profit organisation. The main change for this Committee is that Directors now comprise of myself as the new President, Shane Wright as new Vice President, Tim Molineux as new Treasurer, Tina Photakis as new Secretary with John Carter returning as a Director, along with Adrian Meegan and Russell Ford continuing in their roles.

We are currently reviewing ADSSA's operations with the aim to renew and refresh our association and we are excited by this. Of course, we will keep you all updated and share our progress with you.

This year's Cabaret will be held on the 26th May and it is dedicated to the late and great, past President Ian Sheppard who devoted his life to make a success of ADDSA. We invite you all to attend the Cabaret so we can celebrate Ian's life and passion for ADSSA.

I very much believe in this Association and the work we do with the victims of asbestos, and that's why I became a member. As our mission says,

“The Victim is our Priority”

We also have the responsibility to train and educate building to construction students, as well as people working in the Building Industry. We need your financial support and welcome your moral support.

As I mentioned, we have a busy agenda for 2018 and we are making solid headway in addressing and prioritising the issues. We are always on the lookout for ways of advancing the aims of Association, and so we welcome your comments and feedback at any time.

Many thanks,

Peter Photakis

Social Worker Penny Jacomos

I attended ADSSA's latest Board Meeting and suggested that we issue a newsletter, before it is Christmas again!!

I had my first, ever, 6 week break over the summer. It was heaven, defined by spending time with my grandchildren, ploughing through books, lots of beach time, keeping up the watering of the garden dread my water bill and just conviviality with family and friends.

Memorial Day went well on the 24th of November. Anastasia's (61 year old lady who has mesothelioma) story was a potent reminder of how life changing the disease is, with its domino effect on their quality of life at almost every level. Anastasia continues to be with us defying the odds 2.5 years into her diagnosis still shouting from the roof tops! She is a strong advocate for the use of medical marijuana oil for pain relief.

What is life without change? It has occupied philosophers throughout the ages. Heraclitus (a Greek philosopher 535 475BC) was famous for his insistence on ever present change as being the fundamental essence of the universe as stated in his famous saying: ' all entities move and nothing remains still OR one cannot step into the same river twice'.

My colleagues Kevin Purse and Lindy McAdam have now moved on from ADSSA- further change. I had a great year working with them, enjoying their intellect, skills and good humour. I wish them well, and as I always say, one never says goodbye in a small town like Adelaide. I view life as a series of challenges, rather than a series of obstacles because 'curved balls' will never stop being thrown at all of us!

Monday, 12 February, I attended a Palliative Care Forum at the Monastery at Myrtlebank. Palliative Care SA's campaign is asking for \$24.5 million of recurrent funding for the thousands of people who will need this in SA. They need everyone's support. You can go online at www.pallcare.asn.au and make your voice count. Alternatively, I have a flyer which I could post to you.

Just give me a call.

I look forward to catching up with current and past clients over the course of 2018.

Penny Jacomos

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