

15th February 2021

Presidents Report

To AHCA Members,

Our very first AGM for AHCA. On behalf of the executive committee, I can honestly say it has been a very enjoyable learning curve, and one I personally have been extremely proud to be part of. When I think back to where we started and where we are now, I can honestly say 'wow'!

The AHCA Journey started in 2018 with John Batty, Jason North and myself discussing the differences each of us and other LAAs/consultancies have with issues such as asbestos in soil and lead paint/dust. We decided we should start an industry group to create a voice for LAAs/Hazmat Consultants and to try and reach a consistent approach. We took a vote there and then, laughing over a few beers. I took the role of president, Jason vice president and John took the secretary role.

The following week we got together at the Sydney Tattersalls Club and discussed how to make this group happen.



Initial meeting of the AHCA 29 August 2018
Jason North, John Batty & Nigel Johnson (clockwise from left)

Shortly thereafter Fraser Elder joined, followed by Leroy Brown, Simon Butterfield and Peggy Trompf. At this point an official vote was taken and the AHCA executive committee was started.

The first order of business was to create a constitution and have the industry group registered with NSW Fair Trading. AHCA was registered on the 13th of February 2019, just over 2 years today, so happy Birthday AHCA. The executive committee have been meeting every two weeks or so ever since.

So where are we now? AHCA is official! *The Asbestos and Hazardous Materials Consultants Association (AHCA) is an association for industry professionals within the asbestos and hazardous materials community. Our aim is to drive and encourage best practice through consultation and knowledge sharing.*

On the 16th of July 2019 we officially launched the AHCA with an industry function on asbestos in soil at the IBM building in Pennant Hills with just over 100 attendees with Guest Speakers Jason Wall from SafeWork.

Shortly after we hosted our second public industry function surrounding the asbestos in soil topic again with Jill Gallagher, Allan Ly and Hamish Campbell from NSW EPA, Our third industry function included Kim Femia, Kris Thomas, Richard Wilkinson all consultants and discussing asbestos in soil from a range of a different viewpoints.

A result of these 3 industry functions, AHCA hosting a wider industry forum with the EPA, SafeWork, ALGA, ARCA and AHCA members. This was the start of our work groups on asbestos in soil or ASBINS.

In December 2019 and January 2020 NSW was affected by bushfires and many communities suffered. The AHCA hosted an industry information session with Steve Nikolovski from SafeWork, Rhian Tough from NSW EPA and Mark Reggers from 3M. The topic 'LAAs role with the bushfire affected properties', was held at the Dooleys Catholic Club in Lidcombe.

Early in 2020 Covid-19 impacted and we had to change the way AHCA delivered industry functions.

Our first industry function via Zoom was on the topic 'Lead' with NSW Abe Lau and AIOH President Andrew Orfanos.

So not only has AHCA been hosting some very interesting industry events but some of the other really exciting things namely:

Being part of the Demolition and Asbestos consultative committee DACC members, which includes Unions, Councils, SafeWork, EPA, ARCA, Master builders to name a few.

- We are currently represented on a 'Lead Working Group' With SafeWork, EPA, Councils NSW, ARCA;
- We are currently represented on a 'Vac Truck Working Group' with SafeWork, EPA, Councils NSW, ARCA.

We have also been invited to many consultation sessions with NSW and the federal government regarding digital trade licensing for LAAs and interstate mutual recognition.

- We have MOU with AIOH and Respfit.
- In discussion with the AIS and ALGA around MOUs
- Reviewed and technical advice on documents such as:
 - SafeWork NSW on '*managing in Asbestos in or on Soil*'
 - *WA Guidelines*.
- AHCA Asbestos in Soil ASBINS chaired by Leroy Brown – asbestos safety eradication agency (ASEA), ALGA, SafeWork NSW and 6 AHCA members.
- AHCA Lead paint and Dust Working group chaired by myself.

Our memberships since the 16th of July 2019 are currently:

- Full Members – 73 in total;
- Consultants business – 14 in total;
- Non-Consultant business – 6 in total; and
- Non-Corporate business – 6 in total.

In just 18 months, I think this is a massive achievement and would like to thank everyone who has become members (business or individuals). We have a role to play within the industry and your membership, support and input is appreciated.



As the outgoing president and founding member, I have very much enjoyed my time with the very professional executive committee, John Batty, Fraser Elder, Simon Butterfield, Peggy Trompf, Leroy Brown and also Cassandra Fernandez helping with social media.

Special Resolution – The special Resolution

Has passed unmanfully. Which means the constitution will be updated to reflect the following changes.

Section 15 - Election of executive committee members

(8) Only one person for any one company, organisation, Government Department, Not-for-Profit, Association and or Charity can be appointed to a office-bearer of the AHCA executive committee.

Section 34 – Voting (Proposed Change to Constitution)

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting of the association a member has one vote. Including:
 - a. Each Corporate / Business Membership (Consultancy) is entitled to one vote only;
 - b. Each individual business Membership is entitled to one vote only;
 - c. Each Business Membership (Non-Consultancy) is entitled to one vote only;
 - d. Each Government Department and Not-for-Profit Organisation, Association and Charity (Non-Consultancy) is entitled to one vote only;
- (2) One person can only ever have one vote representing individual memberships or business memberships listed in 34-1a, b, c and d.

These changes will come into effect on the 15th of February 2021, and apply to our new committee members, with business members and individual members each allowed to have a vote. I'm sure there will be a transitional period as these changes will impact the current committee and new committee members.

Lastly, I would like to thank the outgoing committee members Jason North, Peggy Trompf and Simon Butterfield.

Thank you and all the best to the new committee in 2021/2022.



Nigel Johnson
AHCA President