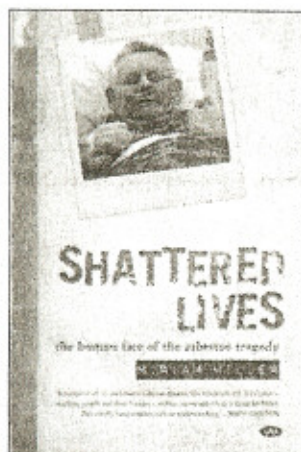


books|



Exploring the asbestos tragedies

Shattered Lives by Miriam Miller. Wakefield Press, rrp \$29.95

This excellent book lovingly details the “shattered lives” of ordinary people, apparently deceived, maimed and killed by immoral corporations and incompetent, slow-to-react governments.

Again and again the reader hears of wharfies, home handymen and car-brake repairers who are struck with a mystery illness then told they have an asbestos-related disease. Miller details the actions of corporate pariah James Hardie, which tried to flee Australia to dodge paying out victims.

The book’s main focus is not the story of Bernie Banton — the public face of victims who features on the cover — but the West Australian experience and the notorious asbestos town of Wittenoom.

Miller reveals the full horror of just how many Australians have been poisoned by asbestos.

In so many cases the sick victims struggle with the betrayal by their bosses and are forced to fight to the bitter end for money for the families that will survive them.

Miller’s dense descriptions of the industrial and everyday uses of asbestos across the years and the corporate histories of its purveyors are particularly well wrought. -

The book promises to show “the human face of the asbestos tragedy” but delivers much more as well.

— Liam Houlihan

We have five copies to give away. See right for details.