



## Polio Australia Incorporated

Representing polio survivors throughout Australia



### e-Bulletin October 2010

#### **Welcome**

Welcome to the first of Polio Australia's monthly e-Bulletins where we will keep you up to date with our latest news. **Please forward** to friends and colleagues who have an interest in the late effects of polio.

#### ***In this e-bulletin***

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#### **Polio Australia's new website**

In 2009 we were fortunate to secure a small amount of philanthropic funding which enabled us to open our national office in Melbourne in January 2010 and employ a part-time National Program Manager for two days a week for one year. Since doing so, the (admittedly so far limited) programs we have been able to put in place are starting to reap rewards. Please browse our new site for more details about our achievements to date and the actions we are taking to consolidate and expand our activities to provide long-overdue services to Australia's polio survivors.

#### **Wear orange for World Polio Day – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

World Polio Day aims to increase awareness about the polio virus and to encourage further actions to reduce it from spreading. The commemoration of the day also highlights the success of global strategies in reducing the spread of the disease.

However, it is also a time for us to reflect on those people who contracted polio during the epidemics and are now living with the late effects of polio.

Polio Australia would also like to mark World Polio Day as significant for those people who were not able to avoid polio. So why not **'Wear Orange on World Polio Day'** and show your true colours! Tell your family and friends to wear something **Orange**, take photos and help us commemorate the polio 'survivor' by uploading your own **Orange** photos [here](#).

#### **Polio Awareness Month Campaign**

What do you know about poliomyelitis? If you think it's 'gone', then think again!

What do you know about life after polio? If you think everyone who had polio during Australia's epidemics is 'gone', the fact is **We're Still Here!**

GlaxoSmithKline, producers of the polio vaccine, have come on board to support Polio Australia in promoting awareness for the late effects of polio. So keep an eye on the national newspapers to see what's being reported. Or be proactive and contact your own local newspapers with your story about when you contracted polio and how the late effects of polio might be impacting on you now. We need to be telling the Australian community that **We're Still Here!** It's only when we stand up to be counted that we can expect to see a change in services for polio survivors.

### **National Polio Register**

Polio Australia encourages every Australian polio survivor to join the National Polio Register. Our strength lies in our numbers – please help us to get you the services you need by completing the form [here](#).

**Note:** Because of the Privacy laws that exist today, Polio Australia has created a new Register because it is not able to use pre-existing data from other registers you may have completed in the past.

### **Send us your photos**

Earlier this year “Polio World” requested that each country send in their entry telling the story of the early, middle and later life of a polio survivor. The winning entry can be seen [here](#). Polio Australia is now asking for photos from any polio survivors who would like to upload their scanned/digital ‘picture stories’ onto the website for posterity.

### **Polio Health and Wellness Retreat – April/May 2011**

Following its highly successful NSW Retreat in April 2010, Polio Australia will be facilitating a 3 day Victorian Polio Health and Wellness Retreat for polio survivors and their partners in April/May next year at the charming Melbourne Business School in the beautiful seaside setting of Mt Eliza.

See the Advance Notice [here](#) for further details and to register an expression of interest.

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- ◆ If you do not wish to receive any further communication from Polio Australia, please email us [here](#).

**Polio Australia Incorporated**  
PO Box 500 Kew East Vic 3102  
Suite 119C, Level 1, 89 High Street Kew Vic 3101  
P: (03) 9016 7678 | M: 0466 718 222  
E: [office@polioaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@polioaustralia.org.au) | URL: [www.polioaustralia.org.au](http://www.polioaustralia.org.au)