



Polio NZ Inc

# POLIO NEWS



## Special Bulletin August 2015



This special bulletin comes to you courtesy of the letters R, SGM and AGM.

Readers all know what those last two stand for, and the information essential to good orderly running of an incorporated society under the law is on following pages.

The governance of Polio NZ is at an exciting point, and anyone interested in helping the Board step up progress on the strategic initiatives shouldn't be shy about making their willingness known. More talents and energy in the mix will be appreciated.

R stands for Retreat, a magnificent success and we'd like to share some of the good vibe with readers while it's all still fresh in mind.

Sue Griffin and helpers delivered a pampering package nicely mixing soothing and stimulating, with plenty of opportunity for conviviality. The venue provided budget-level accommodation, while the caterers (special thank you here to Sue's friends and family crew) were most hospitable.

Feedback from the 35 attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and Sue herself has been so exhilarated by the experience she's prepared to lead another next year (as team leader note, not as sole coordinator). She says:

"It was the attendees that made it so successful. I feel everyone enjoyed themselves, and I think it has made a step toward encouraging the smaller support groups represented. Personally, I now know more people after the retreat than I have managed to meet at the last three conferences.

"Some good suggestions were made for next time. Later in the year, I will be asking for suggestions for another retreat, no matter how audacious they may seem." \*

Just what a promising time this is in Polio NZ's history is reflected in the success of the Retreat held in Hamilton earlier this month.

Here's the happy band (left), with coordinator Sue's faithful shadow Tusker in prime position.

We were treated to an inspirational talk by the feisty Barry de Geest, whose 'brave little thalidomide boy' media coverage matched the interest taken in little polio battlers of our childhood.



Barry has never taken life lying down, and makes customised wheelchairs: his own heavily engineered hoist ensures he can look the world in the eye. And give it a poke or two.

Community pharmacist Helen Morton's presentation contained information essential

### Parliamentary Initiatives

**Two events mark an early celebration of World Polio Day and Polio NZ AGM.**

#### **1. Nibbles and drinkies at Parliament 6pm Tuesday 20 October.**

*Details of the dinner previously discussed hosted by CCS and Rotary are not available at deadline. This less elaborate early evening event will involve little or no cost to Polio NZ members and is more likely to be an opportunity to chat with MPs.*

*Note: Names must be registered with Parliamentary Security at least 24 hours in advance so those interested need to let the Secretary know by 14 October.*

*secretary@polio.org.nz or 06 758 0507*

#### **2. 'We're Still Here' noon 21 October on the Parliamentary steps.**

To be confirmed.

**Watch Polio NZ's Facebook page.**

# **Polio NZ Incorporated Notice of Special General Meeting**

## **To all Current Financial Members**

Notice is hereby given of a Special General Meeting (SGM) of Polio NZ Incorporated being held at 1.30, Houchen House, 83 Houchens Rd, Hamilton on Monday 21 September 2015.

The SGM is being called by the Board for the purpose of considering a Special Resolution. No other business may be transacted at such an SGM.

The preliminary SGM agenda is: THAT the time period for holding the Annual General Meeting of Polio NZ Inc. be extended by one month by amending Clause 22.2 of the Constitution to omit the words “**30 September**” and inserting the words “**31 October**”.

## **Reasons for the Proposed Motion**

Polio NZ Inc. financial year ends on 30 June. The Society’s accounts are required to be formally audited as a condition of being in receipt of Lottery funding. Other sources of funding that may be sought for the operating of the Society also require the auditing of the financial situation.

Under new provisions applying to charitable entities, Polio NZ Inc.’s annual financial reporting must also include all Support Group accounts. The Treasurer has to receive those accounts before the complete set can be submitted to the Auditor.

The end of year for Support Groups is also 30 June so it is not possible to expect them to complete their annual accounts, Annual General Meeting requirements and submit them to the Polio NZ Inc. Treasurer for audit purposes before 30 September.

**Board Recommendation:** The Board support the motion as put.

For clarification, Clause 24.1 of the Constitution: Altering the Constitution states: ‘The Society may alter or replace this Constitution by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those Current Financial Members present and voting’.

**Jeannette Aldridge**  
Secretary

**NOTE:** If financial members wish to propose a motion(s) at the AGM relating to amending a rule or rules of the Constitution, the motion(s) must be received by the Secretary by 8th September. The Constitution sets out the required process to be followed. For further assistance please ring Board member Penny Humphreys 06 8775136 \*

for any pharmaceutical user (more of this in a future Polio News) and was voted the most interesting, followed by Jill Illingworth on pain relief and ‘tapping’ (EFT).

Helen Skedgwell from the Public Trust established that we were well above average when it comes to having wills and powers of attorney sorted, but also had much of interest to impart.

Grant Pearse made some fine points in his discussion of acupuncture.

At dinner one night we were serenaded by the Hamilton Male Voice Choir and the next by Cushla McCreesh, who inspired her audience to vocally enthusiastic participation. Especially by the irrepressible Fred.

Polio Australia reps Dr John Tierney and Mary-Ann Liethof spoke persuasively of events over the ditch, especially the 2016 International Conference.

Life Unlimited brought along the latest in folding electric wheelchairs and other gadgetry. There was bonsai gardening for people with mobility restrictions and an introduction to the mysteries of Facebook. Early risers could attend tai chi, or slope off to mediate at the Houchen labyrinth. (More might have taken that option had the weather been less chilly.)

Julie Hancox talked about Assistance Dogs (more of them another time). Shoe repairer and retailer Merv and Toni Arnesen



attracted attention with their demonstration of Korkers sandals, made using a Birkenstock sole with uppers and build ups customised to the user.

NZ First MP Barbara Stewart gave a sympathetic presentation, suggesting a petition to the Health Select Committee (she is a member). She will be involved in hosting (along with Green MP Catherine Delahunty) the 6pm Polio Day reception at Parliament on 20 October.

And there was MUCH MUCH more. All good and promising that this pilot programme

