



PO Box 6, Clifton Hill 3068

**President**  
Liz Telford 03 9489-8328  
**Vice President**  
Martin Grillo 0430-345-679  
**Secretary**  
Jill Pickering 03 9428-4709  
**Treasurer**  
Geoff Dean 5662-2643  
**Communications Officer**  
Ron Bell 03 9725-8943  
[postpoliovictoria@gmail.com](mailto:postpoliovictoria@gmail.com)

## **PPViews** Post Polio Victoria Newsletter No 1 May 2011

Welcome to our first newsletter! Most of you will have heard by now that we have established this new association. Post Polio Victoria Inc (PPV) has the primary aim of advocating on behalf of polio survivors. We plan to use this newsletter to keep you informed of our progress and activities. If you have suggestions, concerns, want to include an item, or would like to help, please contact us at [postpoliovictoria@gmail.com](mailto:postpoliovictoria@gmail.com) or phone any of the committee.

### **PPV COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

PPV meets at 10.00 am on the second Monday of the month at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Collingwood. We will keep you informed of what we are discussing in these meetings via the newsletter and other update notes.

We have begun by focusing on informing the polio community and related services and groups that we are here. Setting up a new group has involved much thinking and discussion to establish our aims, develop a mission statement and draft up our constitution. Then there is seeking funding, establishing a website, logo, newsletter and email account. All these important tasks take time but we are enjoying the new challenge.

### **THANKS FOR THE HOSPITALITY**



Ron has been having a wonderful time contacting all the PSG coordinators and meeting with quite a few of the groups, chatting with them about why PPV has been formed and finding out what people see as the issues. Ron has been warmly received and we thank the groups for their hospitality.

### **PPV LOGO**

Many thanks to Peter Willcocks of the Bayside Polio Group for designing our logo. We think it is really smart.

### **WE HAVE AN E-HOME!**

Please note our e-mail address [postpoliovictoria@gmail.com](mailto:postpoliovictoria@gmail.com).

A website is on its way.

### **POLIO AUSTRALIA RETREAT AT MT ELIZA**



What a wonderful weekend of information, enrichment and connection! Liz, Jill and Ron had a fantastic time and we each came away feeling full and replete in Mind, Body and Spirit, which was the theme of the weekend.

There were many interesting and informative sessions. Some of us needed a few days to recover! What is that you say about pacing?

Mary-ann and the PA committee must be congratulated on the seamless organization, excellent venue and quality sessions. Next year the retreat will be held in Brisbane, so start planning a holiday around it! It is well worth it.

### **DEVELOPING PLANS**

To help us develop our strategic plan, we will be inviting you to an open meeting to discuss what you would like PPV's priorities to be.

This meeting will be in the middle of the year. We have been able to secure the assistance of a Project Worker to help us and will let you know more over the next few weeks.

## PPV CONSTITUTION

As previously mentioned, our Constitution is a 'work in progress', to be finalised as a part of the strategic plan. The Constitution will then be formally endorsed at the November AGM.

It was agreed that the current draft version of the constitution will be put on the PPV website when it is established around May 2011.

## MEMBERSHIP

We have been considering different membership structures and fees to best encourage wide participation. Administration issues were taken into account when we agreed, at the last meeting, to invite people to join PPV as Full member (Victorian individuals who has had polio) and Associate member (those who have not had polio, such as family / friend / carer / interested professionals and any group, including Polio Support Groups).

Full members will have voting rights at general meetings. Our decision to include Polio Support Groups in Associate Membership was arrived at after some considerable discussion about equality of voting and the need to strengthen our membership base in order to have a strong voice.

Although we do need funds, membership at this stage will be free but we will be encouraging a donation in lieu of fees. A membership form is included in this newsletter.

Membership will not need to be renewed until 30 June 2013, when the need for fees will be reconsidered.

## FUNDING

The Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU) has funds available to help new advocacy groups in the disability sector with establishment costs. We have made an application for this grant and will hear the outcome in the next few weeks.

## DEVELOPING A WEBSITE

PPV has taken the domain name [www.postpoliovictoria.com](http://www.postpoliovictoria.com) and will be developing a website in the coming weeks. We do have someone to set up the site but assistance with maintaining it would be appreciated. If anyone who has skills in this area and would like offer any help, please let us know.

## NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

We have made a submission to the Productivity Commission supporting the scheme and stating that post polio is a condition now affecting thousands of people who contracted the disease between 1930 and 1988 in Australia. When the scheme is piloted only certain disabilities will be covered We are promoting the inclusion of Post Polio in this initial group.

## LEGAL HELP

### FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Did you know **Pilchconnect** provides legal help for community groups. It has an advice line and a website with great facts sheets. Liz attended a seminar *Navigating the Maze* which gave an introduction to legal issues for community groups. It covered rights and responsibilities of incorporated and non-incorporated groups and explained some key tax terms such as Tax Concession Charity (TCC) and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). It gave information on risk management such as insurance. It also explained the legal responsibilities of committee members.

**Pilchconnect can be contacted by visiting [www.pilchconnect.org.au](http://www.pilchconnect.org.au) or 03 8636 4444**

## WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Ron Bell has been asked by some of the groups he visited, just what does 'advocacy' mean? The Department of Planning and Community Development gives the following definition on its website:

### *Disability advocacy*

- *Disability advocacy provides assistance and support to ensure that:*
- *The rights of people with a disability are upheld as valued members of the community*
- *People with a disability actively participate in decision making processes, particularly those where the outcomes impact on their lives*
- *The needs and views of people with a disability are presented to government, service providers and the broader community.*

## WISHING YOU GOOD HEALTH

### FROM THE TEAM AT PPV

**Jill, Martin, Ron, Liz & Geoff**

