

# POST POLIO VICTORIA AGM 2014

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First of all I'd like to give full recognition to the committee's achievements over the past year, in particular the Vice-President for her wise advice and the secretary for contributing substantially to the many jobs that came under the 'secretary' banner. All that PPV has achieved this year is due to the combined committee efforts which has enabled me to give sufficient focus on my Brumby Wild Horse commitments. The committee, along with Margaret Cooper and the Advocacy Working Group members, have been the inspiration, creators and workers for the following PPV 2014 achievements.

We began the year aiming to, and managing to achieve most of the following:

- a) Advocating for Polio survivors,
- b) Increasing committee membership, media and marketing,
- c) Further developing hospital protocol and education on PPV issues, and
- d) Facilitating administrative processes.

### **Achievements for 2014 are:**

- Completed Role Statement for Volunteers with marketing/fundraising skills.
- Completed Statement describing PPV's role for use with media.
- Received Peckoff seed purchase donations thanks to Margaret Cooper.
- Met twice with Russell Anbiah, Physiotherapist and Coordinator for Polio Services Victoria with very worthwhile discussions on assessments, non-English speaking clients, hydro-therapy options and the waiting period for equipment.
- PPV is represented on the Disabled Persons Taxi Advisory Committee.
- Received very positive feedback on the professional quarterly newsletter produced by Rod Hysted.
- Introduced membership fee this year as supported by member survey replies.
- Updated PPV Brochures.
- Produced our PPV Banner.
- Produced a PPV State services directory/entitlements based on the Knox -Yarra Ranges Polio Support Group model to inform members on benefits, including heating/cooling discounts, equipment funding, enhanced care packages, TADVIC, health services etc.
- Produced a brochure based on the NSW model, which informs hospitals and treating medical professions about the additional needs and issues for patients who have had polio.
- PPV website is still a 'work in progress' however gains have been made recently thanks to Rod Hysted.

### **Post Polio Victoria Advocacy Working Group 2014**

- Fleur and Liz have worked with medical practitioners to develop respiratory care protocols in hospitals.

- Worked to improve medical practitioner's awareness of the special requirements of post-polio patients undergoing surgery, such as different ways Polios can respond to anaesthetics and how anaesthetics and drugs may affect respiratory function.
  - Peter Wilcox is working on and reporting aids and technology issues.
  - Working on the implications of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and in particular the consequences of any re-allocation of funding for disability services.
  - Letters have been sent to Ministers Fifield and Andrews. Lorraine Wreford MP wrote to Minister Wooldridge on our behalf.
  - PPV Committee members participated in a forum with Minister Fifield.
  - PPV provided a Social Inclusion Submission to the Government.
  - St Vincent's hospital now has an alert system for patients who have had polio and are now aware of the need to provide professional development to medical staff on this.
  - Contacted the Respiratory Unit at the Austin Hospital and they are in the process of developing best practice protocols for neuromuscular disorders.
  - Russell, physiotherapist and coordinator of Polio Services Victoria:
    - Will visit polio in-patients at St Vincent's when requested,
    - Will liaise as needed with locally based GP's and allied health service providers so that they understand the needs of polio patients.
    - Reported that PSV has increased rehabilitation physician hours, employed a part time social worker, and has access to Independence Australia's psychologist.
    - Orthotic work can be outsourced to reduce waiting times.
- WALK-WITH-ME FUNDRAISER** – On Sunday 7 September 2014 Jill, Joan & Graeme joined Mary-ann Liethof from Polio Australia and Peter Willcocks in the Polio Australia/Post-Polio Victoria teams. With the need for PPV to operate within the ever-narrowing funding criteria, any help is welcomed. Together we raised **\$895** for PPV.

## **CANBERRA CAMPAIGN**

About 8 PPV members travelled to Canberra to support Polio Australia's October **Canberra Campaign 'We're Still Here'**. As always a great time for social catch-ups and to support the three key 'Polio Australia' campaigners in their efforts to gain government funding for Polio Australia's vital role. Close to thirty of us assembled in the foyer for a group photograph before being escorted to the Sir Richard Baker Room for the morning activity. The new PA publication 'The Late Effects of Polio – Managing Muscles and Mobility', (privately funded for \$30,000) was launched, and highlighted how much more could be achieved with adequate government funding. About twelve politicians attended to support and encourage our campaign for funding – very supportive, but no funding promises ... yet.

Finally, I thank the four departing committee members, Maree, Joan, Graeme and Rod for their contribution to a productive year. I also thank PPV members for their ongoing

support of our role and look forward with enthusiasm to the coming year.

Jill Pickering, President, Post Polio Victoria  
15 November 2014

## **PPV Advocacy Working Group Report November 2014**

2013-4 has been committed to discovering the future. Fleur and Liz have worked with medical colleagues to develop respiratory care protocols. Peter Willcocks is involved with aids and technology issues. We are all working on the implications of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). We have had some successes.

### **RESPIRATORY HEALTH**

- St Vincent's hospital now has an alert system for patients who have had polio.
- there has been some professional development of medical staff (St. Vincent's), and they plan to do more of this
- we have contacted the Respiratory Unit at the Austin Hospital and they are in the process of developing best practice protocols for neuromuscular disorder.
- There is greater awareness of respiratory health issues for polio patients in hospitals

### **POLIO SERVICES VICTORIA (PSV)**

Since it's inception, PPV has liaised with the PSV Coordinator, presenting and discussing PPV members' needs. Some of the positive changes at PSV this year include

- Russell, the physiotherapist/coordinator will visit a polio in-patient at St V's when requested.
- Russell will liaise with locally based GP's and allied health service providers so that they understand the needs of polio patients.
- PSV has increased staffing. The rehabilitation physician's hours have increased. A social worker is now available. PSV is linking in with Independence Australia's psychologist.
- The medical/information brochures will be gradually updated

### **NDIS AND FUNDING**

We are very concerned about the consequences of the planned massive re-allocation of funding for disability services.

NDIS funds are limited. People who need assistance have to meet eligibility criteria. Those over the age of 64 will be transferred 1/7/2015 to aged care funding streamed through the Commonwealth Home Support Program. Aged care funding is limited and, at present, appears unable to meet the costs of people described as needing high care.

We have continually researched the situation and prepared letters for PPV. Letters have been sent to Ministers Fifield and Andrews. Lorraine Wreford MP wrote to Minister Wooldridge on our behalf. PPV Committee members also participated in a forum with Minister Fifield. Peter Willcocks remains wired in to the Aids & Equipment Action Alliance and constantly requests consideration of technology needs for those people ineligible for NDIS.

PPV is interested in hearing of any issues you may have experienced regarding polio, including those regarding respiratory, anaesthetic and post-operative treatments. The more information we have, the better we will be able to advocate for improved treatment.

**Margaret Cooper (Convenor), Fleur Rubens and Liz Telford November 2014**