

POLIO PLUS PIONEERS AWARD

DISTRICT GOVERNOR PETER AND ANNE

INCOMING GOVERNOR BRONWYN AND MARK

ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

THANK YOU FOR THIS POLIO PLUS PIONEER AWARD RECOGNITION.

IN RECEIVING THIS, I WOULD FIRSTLY LIKE TO THANK OUR DISTRICT 9800, WHO SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY EMBRACED THE POLIO PLUS PROGRAM.

WE CONDUCTED A MULTI DISTRICT LAUNCH AT THE ARTS CENTRE WITH SIR GUS NOSSAL, INTERNATIONAL IMMUNISATION LEADER, AND R.I. PRESIDENT ELECT ROYCE ABBEY IN AUGUST 1987 WITH PUBLIC AND MEDIA ATTENDING.

WE HAD AN OUTSTANDING CHAIRMAN FOR OUR COMMITTEE, THE LATE PDG FRANK NEWMAN, FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF MELBOURNE. I WORKED CLOSELY WITH FRANK AND HIS COMMITTEE ALL THE YEAR.

FRANK HAD A QUIET SENSE OF HUMOUR, AND ONCE HE SAID, AND TO QUOTE “ I HAVE THIS YOUNG DISTRICT GOVERNOR AND I HAVE WHIP MARKS ON MY BACK”. I WAS ONLY 50 AT THE TIME.

OUR DISTRICT GAVE SO GENEROUSLY, THE AMOUNT GIVEN BY THE END OF THE YEAR WAS \$670,000. AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY 30 YEARS AGO.

THE TASK AT THAT TIME WAS TO CHALLENGE AND INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE PROGRAM AS AUSTRALIA WAS POLIO FREE.

WORLD WIDE THERE WERE 1000 DEATHS A DAY 365,000 A YEAR – AND MANY MORE MAIMED.

FOR THOSE UNAWARE, PAST R.I. PRESIDENT, SIR CLEM RENOUF, FROM NAMBOUR QUEENSLAND, ORIGINATED THE POLIO PLUS PROGRAM IN CONSULTATION WITH Dr. JOHN SEVER, AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR OF PAEDIATRICS.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME ROTARY INTERNATIONAL HAD INITIATED A WORLD WIDE SERVICE PROGRAM FOR ALL ROTARY CLUBS.

ROTARY’S CHALLENGE TO THE WORLD IN 1987/88 WAS TO RAISE 120 MILLION.

THE CAMPAIGN WAS SO SUCCESSFUL WE RAISED \$247 MILLION TO START THE PROGRAM.

2 EXAMPLES OF OUR DISTRICTS CLUBS, FUNDRAISING PROGRAM, TO EDUCATE AND RAISE MONEY.

BRUNSWICK – WHO WALKED FROM R. I. PARRAMATTA, WITH BANNERS AND OTHER PUBLICITY, AROUND THE COAST TO MELBOURNE, RAISING \$60,000

THE ROTARY CLUB OF RICHMOND, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SALVATION ARMY, WITH THOUSANDS ATTENDING A CONCERT AT THE MYER MUSIC BOWL, WITH A HUNDRED PIECE BRASS BAND, RAISED HUGE AWARENESS.

WE ALSO HAD T.V. PUBLICITY.

WITH OUR PUBLICITY, WE KEPT IT SIMPLE BY SAYING 20 CENTS (AT THAT TIME), COST OF A DOSE OF VACCINE, SAVES A LIFE.

OUR OUTSTANDING DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN ALBURY, HOSTED BY MY ROTARY CLUB OF WERRIBEE, WITH NEARLY 1300 ATTENDING, PROMOTED THE POLIO PLUS CAMPAIGN, GIVING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL AND CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS, WITH A THERMOMETER ON STAGE SHOWING THE GROWING CONTRIBUTIONS.

AT THIS CONFERENCE WE HAD INCOMING R. I. PRESIDENT ROYCE ABBEY ATTEND, AND R.I. DIRECTOR, BENNY SANTOS FROM THE PHILLIPINES, WHO WAS R.I. ZONE DIRECTOR FOR POLIO PLUS SPEAKING.

IN CONCLUSION, I QUOTE FROM MY FINAL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER “ WHAT AN INCREDIBLE YEAR IT HAS BEEN. - THE YEAR OF POLIO PLUS – THROUGH YOUR MANY EFFORTS SO MANY CHILDREN WILL HAVE BEEN SAVED IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. OUR DISTRICT ALONE, BY 30TH JUNE, HAS GIVEN CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$670,000- A FANTASTIC EFFORT -- EQUIVELENT TO 3 MILLION DOSES OF VACCINES”.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL –A GREAT EFFORT BY EVERY ONE.

WHAT IS NOW SO EXCITING, 30 YEARS ON, WE ARE SO CLOSE TO THE GOAL OF ELIMINATING POLIO WITH ONLY 8 REGISTERED CASES IN AFGHANISTAN THIS YEAR.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THIS PRESENTATION.