



**WALK BECAUSE YOU CAN  
HELP END POLIO NOW**



# COME JOIN US WALK BECAUSE YOU CAN

**18 FEBRUARY**  
**CANOPY BRIDGE 8PM**  
GOLD COIN DONATION GLOW STICK \$1



Rotary  Club of  
Whangarei South

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Dear Eddy,

A long time ago when your grandad was your age, a terrible disease threatened the children of New Zealand. It was called poliomyelitis. It made many children very sick. Some died, and some were left paralysed. Polio is a virus so that means it is easily transferred from one person to another but it was mainly children who were affected.

When grandad was at school the polio epidemic raced through the country and it meant that many schools in New Zealand were closed to stop the virus from spreading. You might think that having an extra holiday from school would be a good idea but no one went out to play. All of the children were kept inside to try to keep them safe.

This was all a long time ago now and New Zealand has been a "polio free" country since the late 1970s because of the polio vaccine. But polio spread across the world and in countries where there is no clean water and the people live in poverty, the polio virus spread like fire across the lands. At one time there were 1000 children a week who caught the disease. Can you imagine that? It is more than all of the children at your school and that was not just one week, but every week.

The thing is that if we don't all work together to make sure that one day really soon, there are no children getting the disease, then we are all at risk.

Someone much cleverer than me has worked out that if we stopped immunising the children of the world then it would not take long for ten million children to be affected. That would be terrible. We are so close to stopping polio altogether but the last bit is the most difficult. That is because in some ways it is like fighting a ghost. It is so many years since

New Zealand children died or became paralysed with polio that it is easy to forget it even exists.

I know you will want to know what you can do to help. Well Eddy, you have had your polio immunisation so that it is going to help keep you safe. I would like you to do more Eddy. I would like you to come and walk to the loop on the 18th February at night time - at eight o'clock. I would like you to put a gold coin in the bucket, buy a glow stick and walk around the loop because you can Eddy. You can because you have not caught polio.

You have fine strong legs and you can run and jump and kick a ball. Let us together, remind people of the days when grandad was at school and he was frightened. Let us remind people that there are still children in the world who will never walk again because of the polio virus. Let us all walk together because we can!!!

Your Nana xx







# TOP 5 REASONS TO ERADICATE POLIO

**1** THE HUMAN COST: If we choose to control polio rather than eradicate it, the virus could rebound and cause 200,000 cases annually in the next 10 years.

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**2** IT'S ACHIEVABLE: We have effective vaccines to end polio and the means to reach all children.

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**3** IT'S A GOOD INVESTMENT: An independent study published in the medical journal Vaccine estimates that the return on the global investment in a polio-free world will reach \$40 to \$50 billion within the next 20 years.

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**4** IT STRENGTHENS THE SYSTEM: Our polio eradication efforts have established an active global disease surveillance network that is being used for other health interventions, such as measles vaccinations, deworming tablets, and mosquito bed nets.

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**5** IT SETS THE STAGE: The ability to reach all children with the polio vaccine is proof that we can succeed in our next major global health initiative.

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[WWW.ENDPOLIO.ORG](http://WWW.ENDPOLIO.ORG)

# WE'RE THIS CLOSE



THE REMAINING  
**1%**

of polio cases are  
the **most difficult** to  
prevent because the  
virus persists in the  
hardest-to-reach  
areas.

YOU CAN HELP NOW ➞

Rotary  Club of  
Whangarei South

# WALK BECAUSE YOU CAN!

DATE: 18 February 2017

TIME: 8:00 pm

VENUE: Canopy Bridge Whangarei

Come and walk  
because you can  
and help us  
get rid of **POLIO**  
once and for all.

Glow **STICKS** \$1  
Gold coin donation!

Contact: Maxine  
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