

Special Thanks

Staff and students at the [National Centre for Prosthetics and Orthotics](#), La Trobe University for plaster cast materials and creation.

[Bunnings Hawthorn](#) for packaging and other materials.

[Sophia Exiner](#) for exhibition music
(daughter of a Polio Survivor).

[Josh Frydenberg](#) MP, Federal Member for Kooyong for assistance with photocopying and promotion.

[Ross Hedditch](#), Pro Bono Auctioneer.

[Rotary Club of Kew](#) for catering and promotion.

[Green B](#) for transportation of the art works.

And all the wonderful volunteers who have assisted with the "*Touched by Polio*" exhibition.

"Touched by Polio" Art Exhibition Online

The "*Touched by Polio ~ from casts to catharsis*" art exhibition can be viewed online at www.polio.org.au

Full surround photos and videos of the art works are displayed, and bids can be made for any of the art works not sold at the launch.

Read more about the artists, how they have been touched by polio, and follow the links to their other art works.

Photos and videos can also be viewed of the wonderful orthotic and prosthetic staff and students at La Trobe University who donated the material and volunteered their time to create the casts: Stephanie Barnard and Anthony Francis (Lecturers); Angela Buller; Kamini Balachandran; Kristaal Grant; Michael Heskes; Hannah Owsianka; and Lucy Viola.

And watch their delightful children: James and Tommy Barnard; Noah Francis; and Amy and Adam Viola; who offered up their limbs as moulds for the leg casts.



Polio Australia

"You could say that Polio is an equal opportunity virus. It doesn't discriminate between generation or gender . . ."

~ Roslyn Dux, Artist ~



presents

Touched by Polio
~ from casts to catharsis

art exhibition and auction



Invitation to attend

Touched by Polio ~ from casts to catharsis

Art Exhibition and Fundraising Auction

Launched by [Senator Mitch Fifield](#)
Shadow Minister for Disabilities, Carers
and the Voluntary Sector

Auctioneer [Ross Hedditch](#)

Wednesday 27 March / 6:00 pm to 08:00 pm
[Kew Court House](#) 188 High Street Kew Victoria
RSVP for catering by COB Monday 25 March
office@polioaustralia.org.au / 03 9016 7678

“Once-upon-a-time tens of thousands of Australian children contracted polio, recovered, got on with their lives (some even became artists!), and they all lived happily ever after.”

~ The End ~

Or not . . . This exhibition tells a myriad stories through thirty-five ‘artified’ leg and torso plaster casts.

Many polio survivors have vivid memories of wearing plaster casts to keep their limbs from becoming deformed during recovery and rehabilitation.

Twenty-four artists who have been ‘touched by polio’ in some way - survivors, family, friends - have contributed to the exhibition.

This was quite a ‘cathartic’ experience for some as they relived the pain of polio infection and a broken childhood.

Following decades of striving to be normal, these ‘polio children’ are now in their 50’s or older, and experiencing the often debilitating Late Effects of Polio, plunging them back into a life filled with daily pain and increasing muscle weakness. A key problem is that there are very few health professionals who know about the Late Effects, leaving Australia’s polio survivors without appropriate diagnosis or management strategies. Rectifying this situation is the focus of Polio Australia.

As Polio Australia receives no government or any other recurrent funding, the “Touched by Polio” exhibition art works have been generously donated by the artists for auction/sale, with all proceeds going to assist Polio Australia in continuing our work.



The Artists

Elizabeth Brand—Touched by Polio 1942 aged 2

Maureyn Brees—Touched by Polio 1945 aged 16

Angela Casabene—Friend of Polio Survivors

Wendy Davies—Touched by Polio 1951 aged 2

Pauline Derrick—Friend of Polio Survivors

Merilyn Dixon—Friend of Polio Survivors

Glenys Donnelly—Sister of a Polio Survivor

Roslyn Dux—Touched by Polio 1955 aged 7

Bridgett Froehlich—Friend of Polio Survivors

Margaret Greig—Touched by Polio 1950 aged 3

Fran Henke—Touched by Polio 1946 aged 3

Dianne Kennedy—Friend of Polio Survivors

David Ladley—Friend of Polio Survivors

John Marsh—Touched by Polio 1951 aged 10

Judith Maxwell—Sister of a Polio Survivor

Heather O’Flaherty—Daughter of a Polio Survivor

Ekaterina Panourgias—Friend of Polio Survivors

Trish Sidway—Friend of Polio Survivors

Joan Smith—Touched by Polio 1952 aged 3

Nola Stewart—Touched by Polio 1945 aged 6 months

Florence Stone—Friend of Polio Survivors

Marguerite Tierney—Daughter of a Polio Survivor

Margaret Watson—Friend of Polio Survivors

Marlene Wookey—Touched by Polio 1953 aged 1

**Art works can be found on the
“Touched by Polio” Exhibition website
www.polio.org.au**