



# Poliomyelitis is a devastating viral disease

Until recently polio was a **global disease affecting millions of children**. It invades the nervous system causing paralysis and even death in a matter of hours. It affects mainly children under 5 but can also affect children at any age.

In 1985 Rotary International launched its Polio Plus programme to eradicate polio by immunising 2.5 billion children in 122 countries.

It was so successful that in 1988 the World Health Organisation Centre of Disease Management, UNICEF the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation joined Rotary to expand and continue the fight.

Polio has now been eradicated from 122 countries and is now only present in three - Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. As long as polio threatens **even ONE child anywhere in the world, children everywhere are at risk**.

It costs \$3 to vaccinate a child.

**We invite you to join us to eradicate polio by donating money, or swimming for donations in our Swim-a-thon on 16 May, 8.30am at the Rotorua Aquatic Centre's outside pool.**

Rotary



Club of Rotorua Sunrise

*Swim'a'thon*



**END  
POLIO  
NOW**