



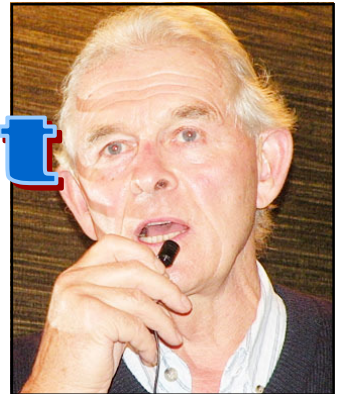
Adelaide Bulletin

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BETTER HEARING AUSTRALIA ADELAIDE INC.

www.betterhearingadelaide.com

September 2010

From the President



Hello Adelaide members, it has been a busy and exciting time for our Better Hearing branch since our last Adelaide Bulletin was published in June.

We participated once again in the Disability Expo held at the Wayville Showgrounds, distributed more than 200 "DO YOU HAVE A HEARING LOSS" and "HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE HEARING IMPAIRED" posters, our Tutor Liaison Rowena presented several highly successful Coffee Mornings, and participated in yet another Hearing Awareness Week (HAW).

Our main events in HAW were the Clear Speech Awards for Television that included the presentation to our Adelaide team in the 2009 National Lipreading Team. Once again I thank Ian Mawby from Telex Hearing Centre for his generous sponsorship of these awards, that have continued for so many years.

Prior to the awards I wrote to The Advertiser columnist Rex Jory and invited him to write something about the awards and our Australian Champion Lipreader and Adelaide Secretary Sue Callinan. He responded with the news that he was about to be fitted with his first hearing aid and was pleased to write something about hearing loss. The article appeared on the Monday morning prior to the awards presentation with the eye-catching heading: "After years of denial, frustration and bluff – not to mention vanity and pride – I walked into a hearing loss clinic".

It is, of course a story all too familiar to Better Hearing members but hopefully it will encourage people in Adelaide to join our classes and learn about the help we can provide as a community support organisation.

Once again the Lord Mayor was a charming and generous host to our members and hearing community guests and praised Better Hearing Adelaide for our work in assisting hearing impaired people. I also thank Lord Mayor Michael Harbison for his support as our Patron over the past few years. Many celebrities from television stations attended the awards including Channel 10 Newsreader George Donikian who flew over from Melbourne as a special guest at this year's presentation. Members who watched the TV news services that evening would have noticed that awards were covered on Channel 10 and Channel 9, with the ABC-Channel 2 the big winner this year with 3 trophies (see separate story on prize winners). During many entertaining off-the-cuff speeches by TV award recipients Neil Cross of the ABC announced that Jessica Schacht had just been appointed as the main TV newsreader for the ABC in Adelaide. In a very witty speech by George Donikian the popular newsreader reminded his audience that he arrived in Australia unable to speak English but fluent in other languages.

YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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BETTER HEARING AUSTRALIA Inc.

He said he was honoured to accept the award and congratulated Better Hearing Adelaide on its work that supported the hearing impaired.

The following day we again celebrated HAW with a very special Coffee Morning and guest speaker, Ian Mawby from Telex Hearing Centre. It was an impressive presentation of the future in hearing aids and Ian was able to advise us of the impressive hearing aids now being released on the Australian market. At the conclusion of his talk, Ian was presented with a trophy to mark the sponsorship by Telex Hearing Centre of the 2010 Clear Speech Awards and Adelaide Team lipreading trophies.

This Bulletin contains details of our AGM on Saturday October 16, commencing at 11am and followed by a convivial picnic lunch provided free of charge to members and at a nominal cost of \$5 for partners and friends. Bookings to Derik Ward email gward@sa.chariot.net.au and Rowena Vnuk at classes or via Email: ravnuk@bigpond.com or to any Committee member. Members attending may wish to contribute a salad or a sweets dish. Some wine will be supplied but otherwise byo drinks please and perhaps bring a folding chair if arriving by car.

– Derik Ward

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

Adelaide discussion meeting – Wednesday 29 September

All Better Hearing branches have received a discussion paper for a proposed National strategic plan and Adelaide members will have a chance to give their view in a discussion meeting planned for the Disability and Resource (DIRC), 195 Gilles Street, Adelaide, on Wednesday 29th September starting at 10am (suggest arriving at 9.45 so we can make an early start).

Morning tea provided. Copies of the strategic plan discussion paper available from Derik Ward on email: gward@sa.chariot.net.au or fax 8431 1397.

Do come along and have your say on this important topic. A loop will be provided.

2010 CLEAR SPEECH AWARDS

Weather



Jane Reilly, Ch. 10

News - Joint Winners



Jessica Schacht, ABC



Michael Smyth, Ch. 9

Current Affairs



Ian Henschke, ABC

Special Award News



George Donikian, Ch. 10

Sports



Mark Aiston, Ch. 10

Special Award News - SA Football



Neil Cross, ABC



Deafness Site

Felicity Bleckly
BellaOnline's Deafness Editor

Does anyone want to be deliberately deaf?

As a hearing person who became deaf by the time I was about 35 I can't imagine anyone choosing deafness over hearing. I mourned the loss of sound and I found it hard to live in a hearing world. I come across many people like me who, more than anything, want their hearing back.

I have read about members of the Deaf Community who are anti-hearing and indeed have chosen to try and have Deaf children. As a hearing person (even though I was deaf) I found this hard to understand and I wondered were there any people in the world who had hearing and would like to be deaf and if so why? (This article is not about people who are born Deaf and want to stay that way.)

Research on the internet shows there are some people who have hearing and want to be deaf. There is even a group called Deaf Wannabe which has 866 members. On a number of blog people ask is there surgery which is available or ways they can self-mutilate their hearing. Amazingly many answers on blogs give suggestions about how to make yourself deaf. None of the suggestions are sure to make you deaf of course and all are highly dangerous not to mention painful and definitely not recommended.

So why would someone with good hearing want to go deaf? The reasons given are varied but fall into a general category of not having to listen to the world. There might be times when being deaf is a plus (you don't hear your kids argue, you don't have to listen to people whining or the droll of heavy machinery at work), it is pretty drastic to actually want to mutilate a working auditory system. The majority of people commenting on the blogs, questions and articles recommend counselling to cope with the stresses of life rather than going deaf.

There is a lack of understanding of deafness by one person who suggested they would like to be deafened then wear hearing aids

when they want to hear. Obviously they have no idea about deafness and how hearing aids work because this is just so unlikely. If we really need to escape from noise then temporary deafness can be achieved by wearing ear plugs or ear muffs and when they are removed normal hearing is returned.

When I went deaf I coped - but always my lack of hearing made life difficult. I spent my days concentrating on listening rather than doing - a sentiment echoed by so many late deafened adults. When I found a Cochlear Implant could help me it was relatively easy to make the decision and the results have been fantastic. I can hear far better than I have for 30 years and participate much the same as any normal hearing person.

Deafness is usually permanent. Overwhelmingly the number of people who are deaf and want their hearing back far outweigh the few unusual people who find noise unbearable and want to be deaf.

BETTER HEARING AUSTRALIA ADELAIDE INC.
23 Grandview Grove, Toorak Gardens, SA 5065
Management Committee Election
16th October, 2010
NOMINATION FORM

I _____
(print name of nominee)

of _____

(print address here)

Nominate for the position of _____

I am a financial member

Signature of nominee _____

I support this nomination _____
(member's signature)

*Nominations must be on this form and close
5pm Friday 1st October 2010. Nominations must be submitted by
mail at the above address.
Emails and Fax will not be accepted.*

Branch News

WE welcome back Denise Wangel and husband Anders from their holiday in Finland, new member Stan Grey and partner Roz from their holiday in England where Stan had the bad luck to suffer ill-health and a fortnight in hospital but is fortunately now almost back to his usual hiking fitness and also to Committee member Lyn and husband Chris Gill back from touring in England, Europe and around Australia during long-service leave.



IT IS sad news indeed to report the passing of popular Doreen

Fielke, wife of our past Treasurer John Fielke on August 26.



The funeral at Salisbury was attended by President Derik and Gill, Tutor Shona, Classes members Toni and Mary and also family members Bill Fielke and Kaye Halliday. Doreen will be remembered for her outstanding courage during a lengthy battle with cancer and for her skilful quilting and production of fabric butterflies that were an appealing contribution to the Better Hearing National Conference in Adelaide 3 years ago. A BHA floral display contributed to the colourful presentation of flowers at the funeral.



Lipreading classes now at DIRC

By ROWENA VNUK

ON 1 September, the first day of spring, BHAA moved its Lipreading and Hearing Loss Management Classes to the Disability Information Resources Centre (DIRC). What a move! Not only was lighting better at DIRC than at DeafCanDo (in South Terrace) for lipreading everybody, but a whiteboard is there to write on, lovely chairs, and no stairs! Best of all, there is a loop system already installed, and so this will be a real benefit to those who use the T Loop system in their hearing aids!

At DIRC, there is room (in theatre style) for about 20 people. Should we need more, there is an adjoining room which can be included when needed. For example, monthly BHAA coffee mornings are organised to hear a guest speaker speak about hearing loss issues and related information for current members of BHAA. On particular coffee mornings, however, anyone else who is interested can also come if the event is made public; these events may attract more than 20 people, and thus more room would be needed.

Nine people came, including Denise Wangel, who has returning from her yearly travels to the cold north end of the British Isles. It is good to have her back! Toni Vaughan brought her portable urn allowing us to have morning tea; this was appreciated by everyone present. Thank you, Toni! And thank you too, Mary (Spark) and Barbara(Munn), for helping to clean up afterwards!

Classes are being run from now on at DIRC on Wednesday mornings during school terms from 10am to 12 pm, with morning tea included. Should new members want to register, let Rowena know by emailing her (her preferred communication medium) on ravnuk@bigpond.com, or by phoning her on 08 8333 0406.



September coffee morning

Before moving to DIRC, BHAA has been holding its coffee mornings (members only), at the Grote Street Library every month in 2010. These members only coffee mornings will continue to meet there until the end of this year, as bookings have already been made, and the facilities are free to not-for-profit organisations.

On 22nd September, BHAA will hold its coffee morning again at the Grote Street Library from 10 am to 11am. Members can also come to morning tea afterwards at the Pitt Stop Café (where great coffee can be had) just around the corner in Pitt Street from the library.

September's guest speaker will be Elise Okell (from Flinders University). Elise is an expert on speech therapy and, in particular, she will talk about some general problems (such as voice disorders) that may hinder a person's ability to speak clearly and well, such as those deriving from deafness. Speech therapy can help alleviate some of these communication difficulties, and Elise will describe some of these methods as well. Register with Rowena if you are interested in coming by emailing her on ravnuk@bigpond.com, or by phoning her on 08 8333 0406. Alternatively, meet her at the Grote Street Library entrance at 10 am on the day.



Pictured at the Clear Speech Awards recently with our sponsor, Ian Mawby from Telex Hearing Centre are, from left: Barbara Munn, Rowena Vnuk, Australian Champion Lipreader and Adelaide Secretary Sue Callinan, Evelyn Staples and Dr. Mary Allen.

BETTER HEARING AUSTRALIA ADELAIDE INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday October 16, 11am

The Annual General Meeting of Better Hearing Australia Adelaide Inc. will be held at 23 Grandview Grove, Toorak Gardens, SA, commencing at 11am on Saturday October 16, 2010.

Notice of Motions and Nominations for the Committee must be received no later than Friday October 1, either by mail or direct delivery. Motions and Nominations by Email or Fax will not be accepted.

A Nomination Form for the office of Committee member is on page 3.