



Deafness
Foundation

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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Message from the President

– Karin Gillies



Welcome to the 2019 Annual Report. It is my pleasure to share with you the achievements of Deafness Foundation over the past 12 months and the changes that have taken place within the organisation.

This year Deafness Foundation offered two new research scholarships to contribute to our work in achieving our strategic priorities. This support was made possible through the receipt of a generous bequest in 2017/2018. One of these is a PhD research project looking at early identification of hearing loss in infants due to maternal cytomegalovirus during pregnancy. The second is a research project looking at improving the literacy skills of primary school students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

In addition, we continued our valued partnership with the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital for the co-funding of the Peter Howson Fellowship. I would like

to thank the Research Committee for their work in establishing and supporting all of these research scholarships.

Our Grants program and Education Encouragement Awards have continued to be an integral part of the work of the organisation. This year Deafness Foundation were pleased to have proudly supported programs to develop leadership skills and promote well-being for school students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Also, projects to provide Auslan training for adults and Auslan resources, to identify and remediate conductive hearing loss in indigenous children and to provide second hand hearing aids for adults who cannot afford to purchase hearing aids.

Deafness Foundation was very pleased to have the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee (ANHSC) become a committee of Deafness Foundation and for Professor Greg Leigh AO, the Chair of the ANHSC to join as a director on the

Board of Deafness Foundation. The focus of the ANHSC on early detection of permanent childhood hearing loss aligns closely with the purpose of the Foundation. Greg is an educator and academic involved in research on the implementation and standards for delivery in newborn hearing screening and the impact of early identification of hearing loss on the development of infants.

This year four directors stepped down from the Board – Professor Gary Rance, Mr Simon Wood, Mr Lyall Clewer and Mr Noel Henderson. I would like to acknowledge their expertise and skills and thank them for their contribution to the organisation during their tenure on the Board.

We also said goodbye to our Executive Officer Jenny Coburn. I would like to acknowledge Jenny's hard work and thank her for the passion she brought to the organisation.

We welcomed Sylvia Rosemond into this role in June and we look forward to working with her.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Board directors, to our staff and to our many volunteers, for all their work through the last year and look forward to working with them through the next year. Deafness Foundation would not be able to continue without you!

Executive Officer Update

- Sylvia Rosemond

Only recently taking on the role as Executive Officer at the Deafness Foundation in June 2019, I am excited and enthusiastic to be part of a dedicated team, including the Board, Staff, volunteers and supporters, who are passionate about the services that the Deafness Foundation delivers to the community, individuals and partners and to continue a legacy created over 4 decades ago in 1974.

The Foundation has had a very strong year, outlined in the outcomes of Grants awarded as you will notice, as you read through the Annual Report.

The organisation is led by a dynamic Board who share their skills and expertise to guide the Deafness Foundation. In addition to being a Board director, many directors have specialised roles chairing or sitting on numerous committees.

I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of the Deafness Foundations Board of Directors for their dedication and enthusiasm in ensuring the continued success of the Foundation.

I would also like to recognise and thank the outgoing Directors: Professor Gary Rance (Director/Chair of the Research Committee) Simon Wood (Director/Treasurer) and Lyall Clewer (Director/Chair of the Grants committee) who have contributed to the Deafness Foundations Board and committees for a significant amount of time.

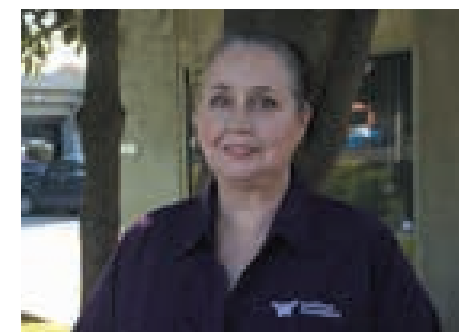
I also would like to welcome our incoming Director, Professor Greg Leigh AO (Director/Chair of the AHNSC).

Our former executive officer, Jenny Coburn has moved to beautiful Regional Victoria leaving Deafness Foundation in May 2019. Jenny's contributions to Deafness Foundation included the introduction of a number of new initiatives including Denim for Deafness and Dining for Deafness and she worked tirelessly to continue the success of the Foundation.

I would also like to thank our staff and volunteers for their valuable contribution who often work out of hours to support events and fundraising opportunities.



I am looking forward to my role at the Deafness Foundation and continue to focus on growth locally and nationally, and ensuring that the Foundation meets objectives, builds partnerships and delivers innovative services.



Jenny Portelli - Administration



Helen Dunlop - Finance



Karen Son - Fundraising

Research Committee

- Professor Colette McKay

In 2018/19 the Inaugural Deafness Foundation PhD Scholarship was awarded to Emma Webb, who will be focusing on the early detection and treatment of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) under the supervision of Dr. Valerie Sung at the Royal Children's Hospital and Professor Cheryl Jones at the University of Sydney.

CMV is a member of the Herpes family. If a mother contracts CMV while pregnant it can infect the baby with devastating and lasting effects including deafness, poor eyesight, and intellectual disability. If CMV is detected at birth, deafness can be prevented or ameliorated. This important project therefore has the potential to prevent hearing loss in future babies.

The committee was also pleased to announce the establishment of the Deafness Foundation Education Research Fellowship to undertake formative research or a pilot study in an area of education

research to benefit children and young people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Fellowship, providing \$30,000 over one year, was awarded to Ms Kaye Scott of Deakin University. Her topic is "The relationship between theory of mind development, metacognitive reading skills and reading comprehension skills in children and young people who are deaf or hard of hearing".

The Peter Howson Clinical Research Fellowship, founded by a partnership between Deafness Foundation and the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital, is a 2-year fellowship providing \$50,000 per annum to conduct research relevant to the vision of both organisations. The current Peter Howson Fellow, Dr. Caitlin Barr (2018 and 2019), is completing her project "*Optimising hearing help-seeking pathways starting in the General Practitioner's office*".

Finally, it is with gratitude we acknowledge the efforts of Professor Gary Rance in instigation and development of these research awards. After 17 years of service on the Board including chairing the Research Committee, Gary has retired from the committee for 2019/20, and the committee is now chaired by Professor Colette McKay. We sincerely thank Gary for all his valuable contributions to the Committee and the Board.



Committee

Professor Colette McKay – Chair

Professor Gary Rance – Chair
Resigned 2019

Dr Kathryn Backholer,
Mr Peter Ickeringill,

Research Committee

Education Research Fellow

“The relationship between theory of mind development, metacognitive reading skills and reading comprehension in children who are deaf or hard of hearing.”

In 2018 the inaugural Deafness Foundation Education Research Fellow was awarded to Kaye Scott. Kaye’s project is titled ‘The relationship between theory of mind development, metacognitive reading skills and reading comprehension in children who are deaf or hard of hearing.’ The research project will be completed in December 2019.

Children and adolescents who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) who use spoken language often experience unique challenges when communicating with their hearing family and peers. In such context the social use of language, known as pragmatics, has been recognized as an

area of vulnerability and has become a focus for research and intervention.

Researchers often report on the challenges and strengths in pragmatic skill development as measured in contexts such as expository discourse and conversations with peers and familiar adults (Most et al, 2010; Paatsch & Toe, 2016; Toe & Paatsch, 2010).

There is limited research that considers the perspective of children, adolescents and adults who are DHH in regard to the strategies they use and challenges they may face when using language in social contexts. The aim of the study is to work with international researchers in Tel Aviv University to undertake a cross cultural pilot project that will explore these perspectives and support the development of pragmatic skills in individuals who are DHH. There are many parallels between Israel and Australian contexts.

In this study school aged children adolescents and young adults who are DHH, and parents of preschool DHH children are being interviewed. The findings will represent the voices of individuals interviewed and develop an understanding of the challenges of using language in social contexts (pragmatic skills), and will inform more effective ways that educators and parents can support children’s social use of language.

The project is due for completion in December 2019.

PHD Scholarship

What are the best ways to implement screening and treatment for infants with audiovestibular symptoms from congenital cytomegalovirus?

This research project commenced in June 2019 with preliminary feasibility, acceptability and cost-effectiveness of the targeted cCMV screening in Victoria

through the HearS-cCMV project commencing. In August 2019 Emma Webb (Audiologist, PhD Candidate) was appointed as the successful candidate for the project under the supervision team of Dr Valerie Sung, Professor Cheryl Jones and Professor Gary Rance,

The research project has two primary aims:

1. To determine the feasibility, acceptability and cost-effectiveness of targeted congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) screening in Victoria
2. To assess the audiovestibular, developmental and quality of life outcomes in cohorts of Australian children with cCMV

The project is due for completion in June 2020. HearS-cCMV study implemented through the Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program (VIHSP) is the first study to explore whether it is feasible, acceptable and cost-effective for parents in Victoria to complete salivary screening for cCMV within

21 days of life, taken at the time of their infants second 'refer' hearing screening result.

The HearS-cCMV project is being rolled out across four Victorian hospitals; The Royal Women's, Mercy Hospital for Women, Monash Medical Centre, and Sunshine Hospital.

Key statistics since commencement in June 2019 include;

- 57 eligible babies across the four hospitals;
- 75% participation rate (43 babies);
- One positive cCMV baby with severe/profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss identified.

Peter Howson Research Fellowship

Optimising hearing help seeking pathways starting in the GPs office.

In 2018 the Peter Howson Research Fellowship grant was awarded to Dr Caitlin Barr for the research project "Optimising hearing help seeking pathways starting in the GPs office."

The research project investigated how GPs manage and act on age-related hearing loss.

Participant recruitment included

- Adults (aged >18 years) who have voiced their concerns regarding their hearing with their GP
- General Practitioners (aged >18 years), currently working in Australia who see adult patients
- Professionals (aged >18 years) who provide training for or work with GPs in Australia, including

but not limited to - GP clinic Practice Managers, - Nursing Home staff that co-ordinate GP visits, - University medical student lecturers, - The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners staff involved with GP training and accreditation

The research method included:

32 participants contributed to brainstorming

76 brainstormed statements

19 participants completed the grouping task

16 participants completed the rating task

Preliminary interesting conclusions:

- Scoping review reveals a lack of literature on GP practices or approaches to hearing loss other than 'detection'.
- Results of the Concept Mapping study reveal that the GP should play a broader role in:
- Educating about hearing loss

and rehabilitation

- Supporting people with hearing loss
- Results of the Concept Mapping study reveal that the most pertinent GP approaches to hearing loss relate to supporting people with hearing loss and being able to provide individualised information about how people can manage their hearing.
- Therefore, a gap in what GPs currently do and what is needed may exist, indicating an area for tool development.



Dr Caitlin Barr

Noise Induced Hearing Loss

- Paul O'Halloran



Occupational Noise

Noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) continues to be the single most significant cause of preventable hearing loss in adults. SafeWork Australia (2019) estimates that between 28 and 32% of the Australian workforce is likely to work in hazardous noise. Occupation related NIHL led to 65,300 accepted deafness claims between 2001-2002 and 2014-2015 nationally. There is evidence that deafness claims are in decline in recent years with a 6% reduction between 2014/15 and 2015/16 indicated in NSW and a 5% decline in Victoria between 2009/10 and 2011/12. However, this recent decline is on the back of an overall rising longer national trend in both claim costs and numbers since the early 2000s.

Non-occupational Noise

Occupational hearing loss accounts for around 16% of adult hearing loss (Nelson et al. 2005) and up to 37% when all sources of noise (occupational plus non-occupational) are included (Access

2017). WHO (2015, 1) estimate nearly half of all teenagers and young adults (12-35) in middle and high income countries are exposed to unsafe levels of noise from personal listening devices. In addition, around 40% are exposed to hazardous levels of recreational music. A recent study by the Centre for Disease Control supports this pattern of early hazardous noise exposure. The CDC study of 4677 US adults aged 22-67 indicated 24% or one-in-five had a noise related notch in their audiograms. The incidence worsened with age but was high (19%) even in the youngest cohort (20-29). It is unclear whether this high incidence of NIHL is specific to the United States where civilian gun ownership is the highest in the western world or related to other sources more common in other countries e.g. recreational music.

NIHL projections

The ageing population in Australia is likely to lead to overall hearing loss and NIHL, in particular, 'maturing' at an increasing rate over time so that demands on both workers compensation funds and hearing services will increase substantially. HCIA/Access Economics (2017) estimate the number of people over 15 with a hearing loss in 2060 (7.8million) will be twice the current number.

It is against this ominous background that Deafness Foundation has set the first of its six strategic priorities to Expand the Foundation's role in minimizing the incidence of preventable hearing loss.

This priority includes initiatives to assist in identifying and raising awareness regarding the significant but sometimes poorly understood causes of NIHL. The initiatives commonly involve partnering with Government, private and not for profit sector organisations to facilitate the mitigation of NIHL causes.

Long Range Acoustic Device

The Committee has been in communication with VicPol regarding its use of the Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD). These devices are used for long range communications, crowd control and distant hailing. The devices are fitted with an amplified speaker and can emit a 145 dBA (sustained) signal. The sound levels produced in both the signal beaming mode and the speech amplification mode produce hazardous levels of noise for people within close proximity even when wearing hearing protection.

The speech mode at maximum level is particularly problematic for the equipment operators (police officers) since the sound generated to the side and behind the source is not very much less than the sound projected in the target direction (Chasin 2013). The maximum level use of the device is actually counter-productive because the intense levels produce extreme discomfort,

potential hearing damage and hamper useful communication with the listener. The Committee has recommended that if VicPol intend LRAD to operate as a crowd communication device and not as a non-lethal weapon, then the maximum output levels should be limited to a safe listening range.

New Initiatives

As part of the Deafness Foundation strategic planning, the NIHL Committee will be considering a number of options including the following:

- Encouraging State and Federal health and safety jurisdictions to update publicly available noise claim data (the most recently available SafeWork data is four years old.)
- Exploring partnerships on occupational noise with state and federal jurisdictions
- Exploring partnerships with universities and other research groups on music and non-occupational noise exposures.

References

Access Economics (2006). Listen Hear! The economic impact and cost of hearing loss in Australia: a report. Melbourne: Cooperative Research Centre for Cochlear Implant and Hearing Aid Innovation

Hearing Care Industry Association
Deloitte Access Economics - An update on the social and economic cost of hearing loss and hearing health conditions in Australia, June 2017.

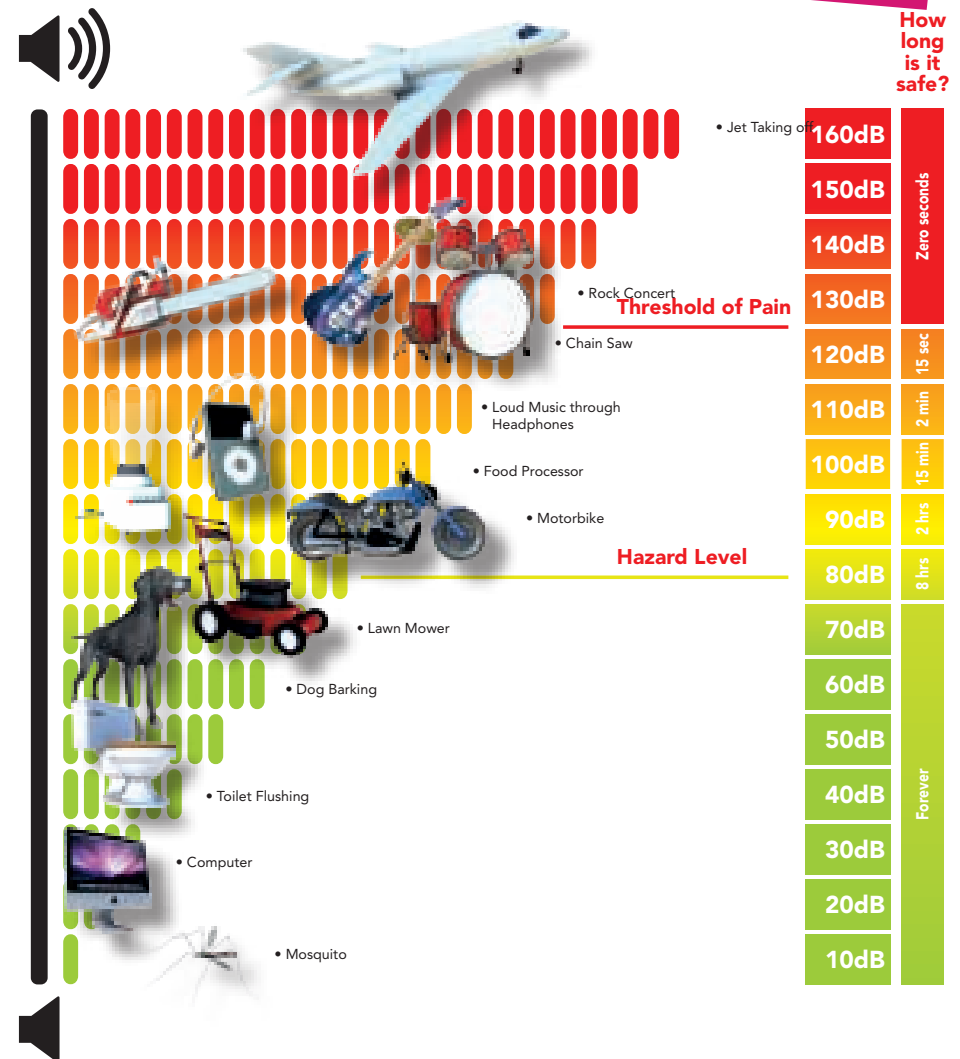
Chasin, Marshall. 2013. On LRADS, trumpets, and loudspeakers. 12.

Nelson, Deborah Imel, Robert Y Nelson, Marisol Concha-Barrientos, and Marilyn Fingerhut. 2005. "The Global Burden of Occupational Noise-Induced Hearing Loss." American Journal Of Industrial Medicine (6):446. doi: 10.1002/ajim.20223.

SafeWork Australia. 2019. Noise. Federal Government 2019[2019]. Available from <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/noise>.

WHO. 2015. Hearing loss due to recreational exposure to loud sounds: a review. Geneva: World Health Organization.

How loud is TOO loud?



Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee

Professor Greg Leigh AO



The Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee (ANHSC) has been in existence since 2001, having been formed as part of a national effort to advocate for the introduction of universal newborn hearing screening (UNHS) programs around Australia. Since 2018, the Committee has been a committee of Deafness Foundation.

It is well understood that early identification is critical to securing early intervention and better developmental outcomes for children born with hearing loss. At the time of the Committee's inception, less than 6% of children born in Australia were screened for hearing loss at birth. Now, more than 97% of all newborns in Australia are screened for hearing loss, most typically in hospitals in the first days/s following birth.

It is the mission of the Committee to promote the availability and quality of programs for the early

detection of permanent hearing loss, and associated intervention, for all children in Australia and New Zealand. That mission is delivered upon through a number of related aims. One important aim is to "facilitate discussion and sharing of experience among all those concerned with early detection and intervention for permanent childhood hearing loss in Australia through a variety of means, particularly through the staging of a biennial conference".

Importantly for the development of UNHS programs in Australia, the first conference staged by the ANHSC was a meeting in Adelaide to facilitate the development of a "National Consensus Statement on Neonatal Hearing Screening". That seminal statement became the foundation for national advocacy for the introduction of UNHS programs across Australia. Since that time, the Committee has overseen the staging of nine more conferences. This year, in March, the ANHSC (Deafness Foundation) staged the 10th

Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Conference at the Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland.

Without doubt, the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Conference is the most significant meeting for the multifaceted field of newborn hearing screening in Australasia. The Conference brings together a broad range of researchers, service providers, and those with lived experience, to discuss current evidence, clinical best practice, and what it means to have a newly identified child with hearing loss.

This year the two-day program was carefully curated by the Committee, following the overall theme of 'Strengthening Pathways and Securing Futures'. The keynote speaker for the Conference was Dr Anne-Marie Tharpe from the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in the United States. The concurrent sessions

covered a wide range of topics that relate to newborn hearing screening including hearing screening after the newborn period, aetiologies and risk factors for childhood hearing loss, and parental perspectives on newborn hearing screening. A total of 271 delegates attended the conference, comprising 254 conference attendees and 17 sponsor representatives.

The next Conference will be staged in 2021. In the meantime, the Committee will continue to pursue its various aims to promote the availability and quality of programs for the early detection of permanent childhood hearing loss, and associated interventions across Australasia.

Committee Chair: Prof. Greg Leigh, AO

Committee Secretary: Dr Zeffie Poulakis



Left: Members of the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee at the 10th ANHS Conference, Gold Coast, March 22nd.

Above: Professor Greg Leigh at the opening of the 10th Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Conference, Gold Coast, in March.

Deafness Foundation Trivia Night

On Saturday the 30th of March 2019 the Deafness Foundation hosted its annual Trivia Night at Aurora School Community Room.

We were proudly supported by sponsors and attendees with over 100 people joining us for a fun-filled night. Guests were allocated a color theme for their table for the night and dressed up in bright theme colors.

Our MC, Andrew Willis from Word of Mouth Technology, volunteered his time on the evening and entertained the guests with a breadth of trivia questions. We would also like to like to thank and acknowledge our many sponsors, staff, interpreters, volunteers – including Jerome Le and Joshua Semena, and supporters for the evening for making the night a success and raising close to \$5000 for the Deafness Foundation.

Trivia Night 2019 – Supporters & Donors

Food & Beverage

- Six Acres Winery – Silvan
- Heavenly Pies & Cakes – Bayswater
- Bakers Delight – Wantirna
- Okka Pies – Bayswater
- Marty's Meats – Ferntree Gully
- McDonald's – Boronia, Wantirna & Tecoma
- Woolworths–Bayswater
- Costco–Ringwood

Tourist Opportunities

- Phillip Island Nature Parks
- Ramada Resort – Phillip Island
- Searoad Ferries
- Luna Park
- MCG Tours & National Sports Museum
- Old Melbourne Gaol
- City Sightseeing Melbourne
- Puffing Billy
- Victorian Goldfields Railway
- Yarra Valley Railway
- Mornington Railway
- Bendigo Heritage Attractions

Retail Stores

- Miniso – Forest Hill
- Howards Storage World – Nunawading
- Priceline Pharmacy – Forest Hill
- Bunnings – Bayswater
- Officeworks – Vermont South
- Harvey Norman Nunawading – Electrical
- Woolworths Stores in Croydon, Blackburn South, Abbotsford, Carnegie, Dingley Village, Waverley Gardens, Vermont and Chirnside Park
- Dymocks–Knox City
- Tupperware Australia
- Crayola

Cinemas

- Waverley Cinemas – Mt Waverley
- Cameo Cinemas – Belgrave
- Lunar Drive-In – Dandenong
- Lido Cinemas – Hawthorn
- Sun Theatre – Yarraville
- Hoyts Cinemas

Active Lifestyle

- Big Swing Golf – Simulator Indoor Golf
- Bounce – Blackburn North
- Rebel Sports – Forest Hill

Our Local Politicians

- Hon Alan Tudge MP
- Hon Michael Sukkar MP
- Mr Jackson Taylor MP
- Ms Heidi Victoria MP (Former)

Healthy Lifestyle

- Direct Chemist Outlet – Bayswater
- Melrose Health
- Jarred's Remedial Massage
- Entelechy Institute

Other

- Entertainment Books



The Butterfly Mascot

This year we were very pleased to introduce our new Deafness Foundation gorgeous Butterfly mascot. The Deafness Foundation commissioned the mascot from a grant received from Stronger Communities Program – Round 4 2018 from the office of The Hon. Alan Tudge MP.

The Mascot will be used to promote the Deafness foundation in schools, at local community events, seniors events, and sporting events. The Butterfly Mascot will improve awareness and understanding of preventable hearing loss and strategies and will continue to promote awareness of the effects of being hearing impaired and the importance of taking care of hearing.

Alan Tudge MP visited the Deafness Foundation and had a morning tea with staff, Board members and of course the Deafness Foundations Butterfly.



A lovely morning was enjoyed by everyone who attended and gave us an opportunity to discuss many different aspects of the Foundation, the history of the Foundation and the Minister's Office and projects.

From left to right: Sylvia Rosemond, Karin Gillies, The Hon. Alan Tudge MP, Professor Collette McKay, Professor Greg Leigh (AO), Marie Fram.

John Marshall AM KStJ

The Deafness Foundation would like to take the opportunity to recognize the outstanding contribution of John Marshall AM KStJ.

John died on the 8th of September 2018, a remarkable life of 97 years. He was awarded the inaugural Deafness Foundation award in 2011 in recognition of his extraordinary contribution over more than two decades to the Foundation. John was at the forefront of many fundraising activities and special projects. Upon receiving the award, the Board of Deafness Foundation was unanimous in its view that the Foundation would have ceased to exist if it were not for the exceptional focus and dedication John Marshall gave to its structure and activities over that period. The Foundation would also like to recognize the support of his family who were also very active in their support for the Foundation.



Presentation of Deafness Foundation Award to Peter Ickeringill

In 2018 the Deafness Foundation Award was presented to Peter Ickeringill in recognition of his contribution to Deafness Foundation and the Deaf or Hard of Hearing community, and outstanding leadership and contribution to the Foundation.

Peter Ickeringill joined the Board of Deafness Foundation on 24 October, 1996. Having served for over 18 years, Peter made the decision to step down from this role at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. Subsequent to his retirement from the Board, Peter has continued to be a valuable contributor through not only his legal expertise, but as a valued member of the recently formed Research Committee.

Peter's contributions to Deafness Foundation were many and varied and longstanding and still continue.



Grants Presentation Event



Bayley House - Trish Ennis with Paul O'Halloran



Paul O'Halloran and Lyall Clewer



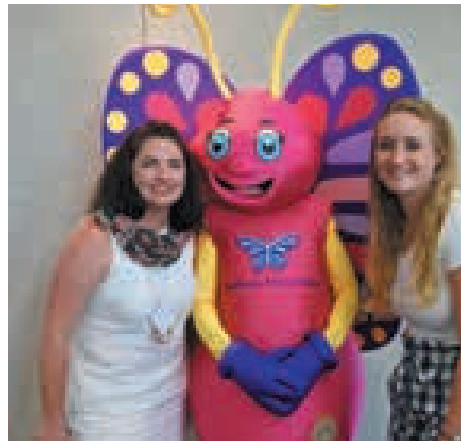
Bayley House - Trish Ennis with Zoe William



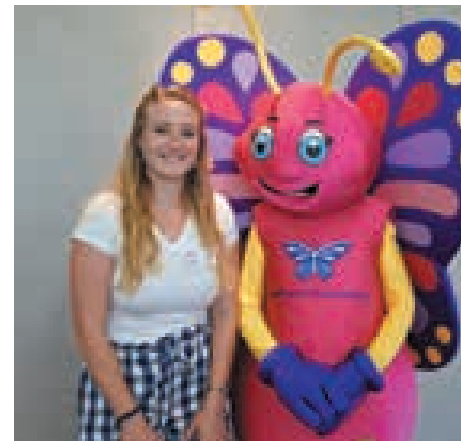
Yarra Valley Grammar - Rachel Wilson with Paul O'Halloran



RC Toorak - Gail Wallman & Jan Sigley with Paul O'Halloran



Zoe Williams and Emma Webb



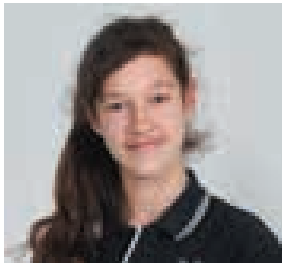
Emma Webb



Emma Keeler

Grants – Impacting Lives

Caroline Firus



The grant was very useful for me. It supported me with my education especially

VCE Auslan subject run by Victorian College for the Deaf. The cost of VCE Auslan 4 units is \$2000. Until now I have spent \$1000 for Unit 1&2 VCE Auslan.

Next year I would continue doing Unit 3 and 4 VCE Auslan. That will cost another \$1000. Learning Auslan is very important for me, as a Deaf person, it helps to improve my first language Auslan. This award encouraged me to work hard in my all VCE subjects. So far I am getting good marks for my assessment for Unit 1&2. In the future I would like to study as a Teacher Of Deaf (TOD).

Litsa Kyriakou

My name is Litsa Kyriakou and I was one of the recipients of the 2019 Education Achievement Award. I am currently in my first year studying a Bachelor of Paramedicine at Victoria University. The funds I received were extremely beneficial in purchasing a specialised stethoscope for the hearing impaired, uniforms, medical and physical assessments, immunisations and textbooks.

This course is extremely rewarding and has lead me to volunteer in Thailand's healthcare system and with St John Ambulance here in Victoria. I am honoured that the Deafness Foundation believed in me to grant me this award. Thank you very much.



Hearing screening for indigenous students of the Newcastle region and delivery of an Educational program specific to minimising Conductive Hearing Loss.

The aim of this program is to deliver screening education to indigenous families targeting preschool students. The program facilitated educating families and parents regarding hearing loss and the implications for the student and is delivered to the school community. This Program delivered hearing screening for Indigenous kindergarten students, a number of schools. An added bonus is the program is also delivered to pre - Kindergarten parents and introducing them to the Sound Scouts app which has been supported by the Federal Government. The Deafness Foundation grant funding enabled the program accessibility to ipads to allow parents to practice on the

app to be able to use in their own time on their own device.

Education and training was provided to SLSOs (School Learning Support Officer) regarding the screening. Results are collated, and students and families are directed according to their hearing loss to hearing services. These services include Awabakal medical service for conductive hearing loss and Australian Hearing for sensorineural hearing loss. Follow up education has been delivered to SLSOs, students and teaching staff, which includes nose blowing, hand hygiene, eating fruits and vegetables, Ling seven sounds and self-help strategies to reduce hearing loss.

Grants – Impacting Lives

RIDBC Auslan Tutor Upgrade Project

The Australian Sign Language (Auslan) Tutor was developed to assist individuals in communicating with people who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) through Auslan.

The RIDBC Auslan Tutor is a video-based Auslan teaching application developed specifically for the Apple iPhone and iPod touch. The RIDBC Auslan Tutor was developed by Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) staff in consultation with expert Auslan users and was designed to assist families of young deaf children learn Auslan.

The app was developed 9 years ago and required redevelopment to add features to assist the user understand and tailor the App to suit their own learning needs, increase the number of signs available, and take advantage of new iOS attributes to make the app accessible on the Apple



Watch to utilise the latest technology for people who are DHH.

Key users include:

Access to education for children who are DHH, in particular children that are not able to attend a preschool or school that provides face to face lessons due to their location or other factors.

Families of young deaf children who have no family history of deafness or knowledge of Auslan to promote early communication.

Outcomes

The grant allowed the implementation of additional useful and ambitious features into the app. These features include a self-testing section, in-app purchases of more Auslan sign categories, 3D signing view and many more.

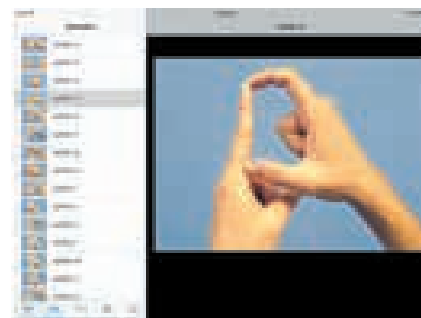
Fast-track the project by hiring an external app developer with specific iOS skills to assist us with the project. Enhancing the overall

backend build and future proofing the app which will facilitate easier updates when required.

Almost 2000 users of the current Auslan Tutor have participated in our survey to determine what features are desired for the next iteration of the app.

The project is being developed internally at RIDBC.

Survey results of current Auslan Tutor indicate over 50% of users are based in NSW and Victoria. Almost 25% of current users use the app to assist either with their communication or education needs at work and over 60% of users looking up a sign to understand how it can be signed.



SCIC Cochlear Implant Program – An RIDBC Service

The Choral Training for Children who use Cochlear Implants aims to provide a starting point for future development of the relationship between SCIC and Gondwana Choirs and to provide new habilitation opportunities for children using cochlear implants.

Through the Deafness Foundation Grant, we have been able to run two choral workshops for six young cochlear implant recipients (six girls aged 8-10yrs). These workshops were run by SCIC Cochlear Implant Program and by Sydney Children's Choir (SCC) staff. The workshops consisted of one run at SCIC's Gladesville clinic which was exclusively for the six girls. The second workshop involved the group integrating into a regular rehearsal with one of Sydney Children's Choir's training choirs (Stanhope Choir) the following weekend. Staffing these workshops were two SCIC

staff members and two SCC staff members working on Sunday 11th August 2019 and one SCIC staff member with two SCC staff working on Saturday 17th August 2019.

Test results allowed the project to establish how the children using cochlear implants performed on the singing and music skills tasks compared to peers with typical hearing. The results of the surveys captured the benefits and challenges experienced by the children themselves as they participated in the workshops.

The project was very successful in that all the participating children fed back that the experience was positive for them and that it increased their confidence in singing in a group. They all indicated that they would be inclined to join a choir in future – therefore achieving our aim of increasing their likelihood of social participation in such an activity.

They all reported that it was a positive social experience with

regards to making new friends and in learning more about music. This showed that choral participation could be an effective addition to habilitation programs for children with cochlear implants.

Children who use cochlear implants face particular challenges with regards to participation in choral programs. However, we have learnt that these challenges can be ameliorated by modifications to choral instruction techniques. The benefits for the children themselves go beyond musical education and include social and personal benefits with regards to making new friends, increasing confidence and learning to work as part of a group for fun and enjoyment despite their hearing difficulties.



2019 Grants Round

Itinerant Support Teacher Hearing DET NSW

Hearing Screening for Indigenous Students of Newcastle region and delivery of Program specific to minimising Conductive Hearing Loss

\$2,551.80

Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children

RIDBC Auslan Tutor Upgrade Project

\$10,000.00

SCIC Cochlear Implant Program (an RIDBC Service)

Choral Training for children who use Cochlear Implants

\$3,618.00

The Deaf Society, NSW

Auslan in the Home Resource Development Project

\$7,000.00

Wuchopperen Health Service Ltd

Increasing awareness and use of Auslan within the community and to utilise Auslan effectively within their clinics

\$1,480.00

Bayley House

Key Words Sign Training for Staff

\$5,000.00

Deakin University

The use of pragmatic skills by people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Perspectives of children, adolescents, young adults and parents

\$9,173.25

Mount View Primary School Deaf Facility

Mount View Primary School Deaf Facility Camp

\$2,600.72

Rotary Club of Toorak

Recycled Sound

\$10,000.00

University of Melbourne

Remediation of Long Term Hearing Deficits in Indigenous Children

\$10,000.00

University of Melbourne - Dept of Audiology & Speech Pathology

Obtaining Consumer & Clinician input into the development of a mobile device app to document the real life listening experiences of hearing aid candidates and users.

\$9,706.40

Yarra Valley Grammar

Using yoga, meditation and mindfulness to improve the emotional wellbeing of Deaf or hard of hearing secondary students

\$3,840.00

Telethon Speech & Hearing

The Deafness Foundation Leadership Summit

\$2,500.00

Education Encouragement Awards

Secondary

Bilee Paul

QLD
\$2,000.00

Lara Strachan

NT
\$2,000.00

Caroline Firus

VIC
\$2,000.00



Andrew Fu



Caroline Firus and family

Post Secondary

Lachlan Meeson

NSW
\$3,000.00

Andrew Fu

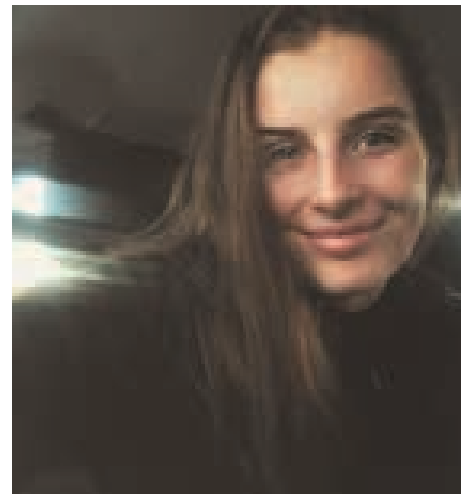
VIC
\$3,000.00

Litsa Kyriakou

VIC
\$3,000.00



Lachlan Meeson



Lara Strachan

Butterflies – A continuing legacy

The butterfly is an important symbol to the Deafness foundation. Judy Chancellor and the Board at the time in 1994 developed the symbol and began the fundraising initiative to raise funds and awareness. Twenty-five years later with many collectors and design changes the butterfly merchandise remains a strong part of the Deafness Foundation.

We would like to recognise the ongoing support of IGA stores and IGA Ritchies Group for their continued amazing support in May each year supporting the Deafness Foundation by promoting sales in their stores. Our supporters continue to grow nationally with the support of audiologists, schools, supermarkets, retailers, dental surgeries and medical centres.





Denim for Deafness continues to grow and raise awareness of deafness and hearing loss.

This year 40 schools participated across Australia with representation in every state, I would also like to extend our warmest thank you to all schools that participated for their continued support of the Deafness Foundation in many different areas. Additionally for the first time we were supported by Aged care residences.

We would like to recognize and thank our supporters of Denim for Deafness and look forward to the program growing over the next year.



Denim for Deafness Supporters

NSW

- Clovelly Public School
- Collaroy Plateau Public School
- Glendale East Public School
- Hunter River Community School
- Kogarah High School
- Parkes East Public School

VIC

- Aurora School
- Bayswater Secondary College
- Emmanuel College, Warrnambool
- Firkbank Grammar Junior School
- Korumburra Primary School
- Mandama Primary School, Grovedale
- Merrivale Primary School, Warrnambool
- Oberon South Primary School, Belmont
- St Patrick's School Gordon
- Strathcona
- Streeton Primary School
- Yarra Valley Grammar
- St Kevin's Primary School, Lower Templestowe
- Regis Aged Care Blackburn

QLD

- Dalby South State School
- Gaven State School
- Western Cape College

SA

- East Murray Area School
- Moorook Primary School



WA

- Beachlands Primary School
- Boyare Primary School
- Cunderdin District High School
- Jolimont Primary School
- Kalgoorlie Primary School
- Miling Primary School
- North Balga Primary School
- North Tom Price Primary School
- Nyabing Primary School
- Ravensthorpe District High School

TAS

- Yolla District High School



Our Members

Deafness Foundation acknowledges and thanks our members for their ongoing support and membership of the Foundation.

Deafness Foundation Governors

Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC
Mr Peter Ickeringill
Professor Field Rickards

Honorary Life Members

Mrs Jenny Adcock
Mrs Judy Chancellor
Mr E Ray Forrest
Dr Eddie Keir OAM
Mrs Joan Tannahill
Dr Adrian Thomas

Organisational Members

Able Australia
Audiology Australia
Aurora School
Better Hearing Australia (Vic) Inc
Deaf Children Australia
Expression Australia
Furlong Park School for Deaf Children
HEARing CRC
John Pierce Centre
Melbourne Graduate School of Education
Methodist Ladies' College
Mpower Inc
RIDBC - Taralye
Rosanna Golf Links Primary School
St Mary's College for the deaf
Wimmera Hearing Society
Word of Mouth Technology
Yarra Valley Grammar

Individual Members

We have this year elected not to list individual members due to not having specific approval to do so.

Our Supporters

The support of both individuals and organisations are integral to the success of Deafness Foundation in delivering our programs to the broader Australian community.

We acknowledge and thank the following organisations and individuals for their support during 2018-2019:

- All Ears Hearing
- Apolonia Dental
- Aurora School
- Australian Government – Stronger Communities Program – Round 4
- Baker McKenzie
- Bread Street Bakery
- Brighton Primary School
- Bunnings - Bayswater
- Burwood Heights Primary School
- Coles Financial Services Team
- Department of Social Services - Families and Communities Program - Volunteer Grants 2018
- Diamond Village Hot Bread & Cakes
- Earhealth Hearing Specialists
- Edinburgh Medical Centre
- Emerald Village Pharmacy
- EPIC Assist
- Gerard Bourke – Tax Agent services
- Glenferrie Road Medical Centre
- Grant Gittus Graphics
- Grassroots Gathering
- Hearing Australia
- Heidelberg Chiropractic Clinic
- Huntingdale IGA X-press
- IGA Supermarkets
- King & Wood Mallesons
- LinkFire – Bayswater
- Lynmarc Textiles
- Momentum Muscle Therapy
- Ritchies Stores – Community Benefit Card Program
- Rotary Club of Mont Albert & Surrey Hills
- Rotary Club of Mordialloc
- Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
- The University of Melbourne – Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology
- Urquhart Charitable Fund
- Victorian Deaf Education Institute
- Vital Chi Wellness
- Wholefood Merchants
- Widex Australia

We appreciate those who have donated in memory of their loved ones:

- In memory of Mrs Helen Genovezos
- In memory of Mrs Margaret Howes
- In memory of Mr John Marshall
- In memory of Mrs Maureen Amy Turner
- In memory of Mr Neville Albert West

Our Board Of Management



Ms Karin Gillies
President



Professor Greg Leigh AO



Dr Lisa-Jane Moody



Mr Paul O'Halloran
Vice President



Ms Marie Fram



Dr Kerry Saunders



Mr Andrew White
Finance Committee
Chair and Treasurer



Professor Colette McKay



Ms Zoe Williams

Our Staff At Deafness Foundation

Executive Officer
Sylvia Rosemond

Office Administration
Jennifer Portelli

Butterflies Coordinator
Karen Son

Bookkeeper
Helen Dunlop

Office Support
Annie O'Loughlin (Volunteer)

Financial Overview

Deafness Foundation

ABN: 56 005 053 510

Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

The comparative period is 3 months from 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018 due to a change in financial year end.

2 Revenue and other income

	Year ended 30 June 2019	Period ended 30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Revenue		
- Fundraising income	150,834	32,597
- Interest income	10,882	3,473
- Donations, grants and bequests	58,325	16,465
- Dividend income and franking credits	61,877	18,970
- Net gain on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	34,988	61,095
- Other revenue	4,836	2,835
- Contribution from the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee (a)	-	125,383
Total Revenue	321,742	260,818

(a) \$125,383 was contributed by the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee, which is now a committee of the Foundation.

3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash on hand	280	300
Bank balances	132,968	258,801
	133,248	259,101

4 Trade and Other Receivables

CURRENT		
Dividend and franking credits receivable	29,266	22,806
GST receivable	20,100	8,740
Interest receivable	2,732	15,046
Total current trade and other receivables	52,098	46,592

5 Financial assets

	Year ended 30 June 2019	Period ended 30 June 2018
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	963,026	1,129,418
Financial assets held at amortised cost	135,000	161,955
	<u>1,098,026</u>	<u>1,291,373</u>

6 Inventories

CURRENT		
At cost	165,097	99,053
Less provision for obsolescence	(5,324)	-
	<u>159,773</u>	<u>99,053</u>

7 Property plant and equipment

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment		
At cost	51,931	40,939
Less accumulated depreciation	(35,212)	(30,631)
Total plant and equipment	<u>16,719</u>	<u>10,308</u>

Movements in Carrying Amounts

	Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$	\$
30 June 2019		
Balance at the beginning of year	10,308	10,308
Additions	10,991	10,991
Depreciation expense	(4,580)	(4,580)
Carrying amount at the end of year	<u>16,719</u>	<u>16,719</u>

8 Trade and Other Payables

	Year ended 30 June 2019	Period ended 30 June 2018
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Unsecured liabilities		
Accrued expenses	46,282	26,585
Grants held on trust - Peter Howson Clinical Research	5	12,505
Trade payables	8,320	226
	<u>54,607</u>	<u>39,316</u>

9 Provisions

Current employee entitlements	21,685	28,364
	<u>21,685</u>	<u>28,364</u>

10 Reserves

Capital Guaranteed Fund Reserve

The Capital Guaranteed Fund reserve records funds received from the closure of the Deafness Foundation Trust. The capital base has been preserved and invested in a managed fund, and income generated from the fund will be used to fund the future operations of Deafness Foundation.

11 Financial instruments

Financial Risk Management

The company's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short-term investments and accounts receivable and payable.

The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 9 as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

		Year ended 30 June 2019	Period ended 30 June 2018
	Note	\$	\$
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3, (i)	133,248	259,101
Trade and other receivables	4, (i)	52,098	46,592
Financial assets	5, (ii)	1,098,026	1,291,373
Total Financial Assets		1,283,372	1,597,066
Financial Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8, (i)	54,607	39,316
Total Financial Liabilities		54,607	39,316

Net Fair Values

(i) Cash and cash equivalents, trade and other receivables and trade and other payables are short-term instruments in nature whose carrying value is equivalent to fair value. Trade and other payables exclude amounts provided for relating to annual leave which is not considered a financial instrument.

(ii) Quoted market prices at reporting dates are used.



Deafness
Foundation

Deafness Foundation

ABN 56 005 053 510

ACN 005 053 510

Mail

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Registered Office

Saward Dawson, 20 Albert Street Blackburn 3130

Telephone

03 9738 2909

Web

www.deafness.org.au

Email

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Dining for Deafness:	dining@deafness.org.au
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Grant Applications:	grants@deafness.org.au
Education Encouragement Award Nominations	educationawards@deafness.org.au
All Other Enquiries	admin@deafness.org.au

