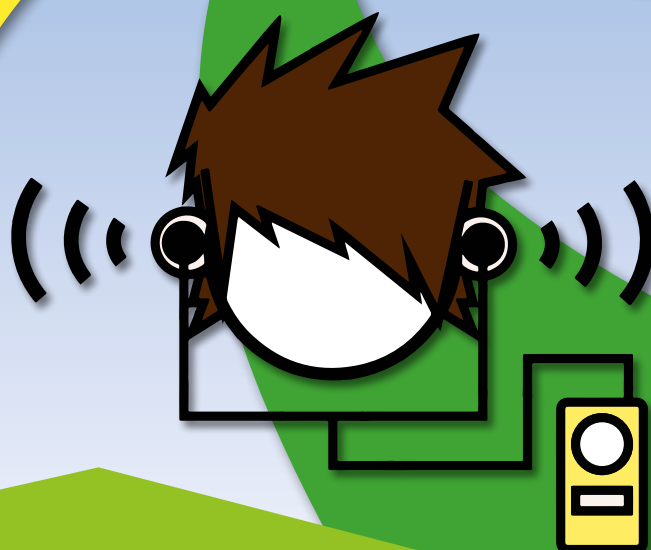
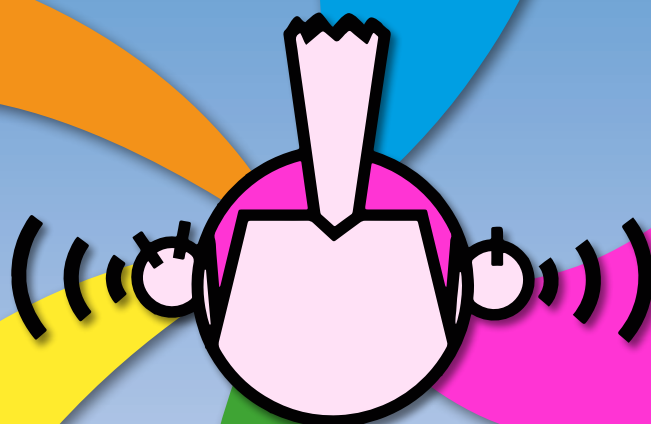




Deafness  
Foundation  
(Victoria)

Annual Report  
2015



HOW LOUD IS  
TOO LOUD?



# Deafness Foundation (Victoria)

A Company Limited by Guarantee ACN 005 053 510

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## Governors:

Prof. Geoffrey Blainey, AC

Prof. Field Rickards, BSc(Hons), Med.PhD

## Past Presidents:

1973 –1986 The Hon. Peter Howson, CMG, MA, FAIM

1986 –1989 Dr R.G. Barden, BSc, BE, PhD, FIEAust, FIMec, FAAS

1989 –1992 Mr W.K. Scholten, FCPA, FAMI

1992 –1998 Mr J.H. Marshall, AM, KCStJ

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:

### President:

Mr P Ickeringill, LL B (Hons), B.Comm (Hons), FCA, FCPA, ASIA

### Vice Presidents:

Assoc Prof. G. Rance, PhD, MSc, DipAud, BEd, MAudSA (CC)

Ms K. Gillies, BA, DipAud, MEd, MAudSA(CCP), Cert.11 (Auslan),  
GradDip Deaf Studies

### Honorary Treasurer:

Mr S. Wood, BBehSc (Hons), GradDipAppFin

### Other Directors:

Mrs N. Bieske, TPTC, T TCID, BEd, MEd

Mr L. Clewer

Ms M. Fram, DipTch(Prim)GradDipSpecEd(HI), BEd, Grad Dip Curric,  
MEd, Dip Interpreting, NAATI Auslan Level 2, Grad Dip Deaf Studies  
(Auslan) LOTE (Auslan) accreditation

Mrs L. Moody, MA (Hons), DipAud.,MAudSA(CCP)

Mr P. O'Halloran, BSc, GradDipAud, GradDipEd, GradDipErg, Cert  
Aural Rehab

Assoc Prof. B. Pyman, MB BS, FRACS, DLO

Dr M. Riddell, BAppSc (MLS), GradDip Epidemiol & Biostats, PhD

Dr L. Walker, PhD, COTWA, FAATD, BA Med(HI)

### Executive Officer:

Mrs Wendy Maher

### Administration:

Mrs Helen Dunlop

Ms Jennifer Portelli

Mrs Karen Son

### Rubella Education Program:

Mrs Monica Haverkamp RN - Retired 11/02/15

## COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD: CHAIRPERSONS

### Auslan: Vacant

**Conductive Deafness/Otitis Media:** Mrs L. Moody

**Education:** Ms M. Fram

**Finance:** Mr S. Wood

**Fundraising: Vacant**

**Grants:** Dr L. Walker - Retired 3/09/14

Mrs K. Gillies - Appointed 3/09/14

**Hearing Awareness Week:** Mrs N. Bieske

**Medical/Audiological:** Assoc Prof. B. Pyman

**Noise Induced Hearing Loss:** Mr. P. O'Halloran

**Rubella:** Dr M. Riddell

**Technology:** Mr L. Clewer

**Auditor:** Saward Dawson

Front Cover: Adapted from original artwork designed for Hearing Awareness Week by  
Charles Ickeringill.

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## Statement of Purpose

Deafness Foundation aims to **improve well-being and promote equality** for people who are deaf and hard of hearing by focusing on:

- Access
- Awareness
- Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention

Programs and aims are built around three important domains – **knowledge, respect and communication**, and its pursuit of access, awareness, diagnosis, treatment and prevention is always undertaken in light of or by reference to each of these three domains.

# President's Report



I am delighted to deliver my annual report as President of the Foundation.

The Foundation completed a strategic review of its purpose and operations at the start of the year. I would like to thank all of our directors

for their enthusiastic participation in this undertaking. The review reconfirmed our commitment to the principles of awareness and access, respect and inclusion, and prevention and treatment. It is through the pursuit of these principles that we are best able to serve the interests of those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Moreover, it is also through the pursuit of these principles that we can serve those who seek to understand the issues that confront the deaf and hard of hearing. Finally, again through the pursuit of these principles, we can assist those who wish to be better informed about cause and alleviation. Our objective is to provide support and encouragement in areas that are consistent with these principles.

We have given our support to a number of projects since completion of the strategic review. One of the most significant is the ASPREE Project being conducted out of Monash University and with the substantial backing of the ASPREE Organisation of the US. The ASPREE Project looks at whether there are benefits to be obtained by those of advanced years through the regular taking of aspirin. It has been postulated that one potential impact might be a slowing of the rate of hearing loss. A conclusion to that effect would indeed be a major breakthrough. We are proud to be able to be involved in this project.

We continue to partner with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in the Peter Howson Clinical Research Fellowship. Dr Jessica Vitkovic, the second recipient of the Fellowship, is now well advanced with her research into the impact that deafness, hearing loss or ear disorders may have on a

person's balance (and thereupon on his or her performance in balance related activities). Preliminary indications are that a correlation does exist between deafness, hearing loss and ear disorders, and balance. Dr Vitkovic hopes to have more clarity around these findings over the next year or so. This is exciting research and, if the relationship between deafness, hearing loss and ear disorders, and balance, can be demonstrated, then opportunities will emerge in the development of programs aimed to assist both children and adults to deal with balance issues.

Noise induced hearing loss is another field of real importance to the Foundation. Both workplace noise and experiential noise (such as fireworks and loud music) are known to cause hearing loss. Moreover, minor reductions in noise levels now are known to help avoid major hearing loss in the future. We are determined to be involved in programs that are designed to bring this message to the population. A number of projects are being supported along these lines by the Foundation. One of the most significant is the Pilot Study - Introducing HEARsmart to Music Venues. The Foundation has made a very substantial contribution to this study in conjunction with the HEARING CRC. Initial work focusses on the development and trial of a hearing loss prevention package specifically designed for nightclubs and other music venues, with the aim of not reducing a patron's engagement and entertainment experience while, at the same time, reducing the risk of hearing loss. This is a critically important study. Paul O'Halloran, Chairman of the Noise Induced Hearing Loss Committee, has been instrumental in the development of this study.

Karin Gillies chaired the Grants Committee this year and we are indebted to her for the experience and advice that she brought to the role. Dr Lyn Walker stood down at the end of the year as Chairman of the Committee. Dr Walker provided many years of careful guidance and conscientious

recommendations to the Committee and we are most grateful for her wonderful service. I would also like to thank Associate Professor Gary Rance, who has been a tireless worker in the identification of projects and research. The Foundation owes its involvement in a number of projects and areas of research to the foresight and energy of Gary.

This year saw the conclusion of the Rubella Education Program carried on in conjunction with the Department of Health for the State of Victoria. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Victorian Government that contributed so generously to the program, on a continuous basis, for more than 30 years. Rubella was the leading cause of congenital deafness when the program was first commenced. The aim of the program was to eradicate sensorineural deafness brought on through maternal rubella infection. The success of the program was outstanding. Reported cases of sensorineural deafness brought on through maternal rubella infection have been eliminated entirely in recent years. When the program commenced, there were many hundreds and, sometimes, thousands, of cases, every year. We cannot be complacent and are dedicated to the ongoing education of our various communities in respect of the benefits of rubella immunisation. Dr Michaela Riddell ably led the Rubella Committee for a number of years and we look forward to the work that the members of that committee now intend to undertake in respect of congenital cytomegalovirus. CMV, as it is commonly known, represents the most significant infectious cause of birth conditions in most industrialised countries and, in particular, it is now the leading infectious cause of congenital deafness. The Foundation looks forward to being able to play a part in rigorous research and subsequent treatment and perhaps amelioration of congenital deafness through CMV.

Noeleen Bieske again most ably led the Hearing Awareness Week Committee. Noeleen's commitment to the week



(L-R) (L-R) Peter Ickeringill President of the Foundation with Vice-Presidents Associate Professor Gary Rance and Karin Gillies.

was extraordinary and we are most grateful for her determination to keep the week as relevant and informative as it continues to be. This year we participated in the opening of Hearing Awareness Week at Geelong West. The active participation of both the deaf and hard of hearing communities, and the inspiring performance of the young signing choir, was uplifting. Free hearing screening was available at many places during the week at both city and regional centres, and prominence was given to issues relevant to the deaf and hard of hearing by most media. The Foundation continues to be committed to its participation in Hearing Awareness Week.

Lyall Clewer has chaired the Technology Committee through the course of the year and he and his members have worked energetically towards the finalisation of a new website for the Foundation. We expect the new website to be up and running within a very short while and we are most enthusiastic about the new information and links that will be able to be found on the site. Lyall must be congratulated for his ongoing commitment in this regard.

Fundraising continues to be a difficult for all charities and not for profit organisations. The Foundation is no exception. There are many calls on the purse strings of our population and, with increases in the cost of living and the existence of subdued economic activity, it continues to be challenging to raise sufficient funds to support all of our desired programs. We are therefore most grateful for the ongoing support of IGA Supermarkets. We continue to be able to sell our butterfly badges through many of their stores and, without that support, we would not be in the position we are in today. Lynmarc Textiles also continues to provide us with royalties from its second hand clothing business and we are grateful for that support, which has been received now for almost two decades. Our other major source of revenue is through returns on our investments and, in that regard, we must give enormous thanks to our Honorary Treasurer, Simon Wood. Simon brings a wealth of expertise and hands on experience to the management of our portfolio and, without his guidance, we would not be able to invest as successfully. Notwithstanding IGA, Lynmarc Textiles

and ongoing investment returns, it is undeniable that additional sources of revenue must be found by the Foundation. A real focus on fundraising is now underway.

I would like to pay particular thanks to Wendy Maher and our other staff, Monica Haverkamp, Jenny Portelli, Karen Son and Helen Dunlop. Wendy continues to be a rock of strength for the Foundation and we would not be able to provide the support we do, to the deaf and hard of hearing, without her exceptional dedication. Wendy has also been tremendous in her support of and dedication to me and the board and, quite simply, we would not have been able to function without the devotion she provides. Thank you most earnestly for your years of commitment Wendy.

This will be my final annual report after joining the board of the Foundation in 1996 and having the privilege of being President since 1998. Together we have achieved a lot. The Foundation has been pivotal in advancements relevant to the cochlear implant, congenital rubella deafness, loop prevalence, captioning, deaf education, workplace hearing safety, interpretation services, conductive deafness within indigenous communities, early diagnosis and intervention, and AUSLAN. We have been involved in these great achievements while, at the same time, consolidating our financial position so that, moving forward, we are well placed to be able to continue to pursue our overriding principles and, in particular, to serve those who are deaf or hard of hearing. It has been wonderful to be given the opportunity to represent you as President of the Foundation. I have received, in so many ways, so much more than I have given and I will be grateful, always, not just to the Foundation as an organisation, but to the selfless and dedicated people who devote so much of their lives to such a tremendously worthwhile and uplifting pursuit. Thank you for allowing me to have had this experience.

Peter Ickeringill  
*President*



# Executive Officer's Report



It has been another very busy year at the Foundation with the successful completion of our Strategic Review. We now have a clearer focus for our future direction and can steer our work and our financial grants in line with this direction. A new website has been developed by the Technology committee, under the guidance of Lyall Clewer, and we look forward to its

launch in the near future.

The Rubella Education Program has been a victim of its own success with the Victorian Department of Health discontinuing funding as of 31 December 2014. This has necessitated the closure of the program and the end of the position of Rubella Education Officer. Whilst this is a great sadness, it is also a time for great celebrations as Congenital Rubella Syndrome in Australia has dramatically declined with no cases reported in 2014. The work of the committee, which began in 1976, has been very successful in achieving its aims. We thank the many individuals involved in this committee and past Chairpersons and particularly note the wonderful work done by Monica Haverkamp, Rubella Education Officer over the past fourteen years. Monica's presence and input at the Foundation will be missed. We wish her well with her future endeavours.

A major concern during the year has been the news that Government funding for the Deafness Forum and Deaf Australia has been withdrawn. These two peak bodies represent the interests of the Deaf and hard of hearing in Australia at a national level. Both organisations are considering their future options and alternate funding sources.

On a more positive note, the Foundation was very pleased to distribute almost \$85,000 as financial grants and provide a further \$4,800 for Hearing Awareness Week activities. We are very excited to be supporting several interesting projects including, *ASPREE Central Hearing: Hearing and Health in a large cohort of Elderly Adults* being conducted by Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. This is a three year randomised controlled trial of low dose aspirin versus placebo investigating whether low dose aspirin has potential as a cost-effective, simple, primary care intervention to slow the progress of central age-related hearing impairment. We look forward to the outcomes of this research.

Another interesting project funded is for a *Pilot Study: Introducing HEARsmart to Music Venues* being conducted by the HEARING CRC. This project is aimed at determining how live music venues in Australia can be more "hearing friendly". The project aims to come up with practical solutions to reduce noise levels in music venues so that everyone involved can avoid noise induced hearing loss and tinnitus. There is much work to be done in the area of noise induced

hearing loss and we are very excited to be involved in funding this interesting project that could have such a successful outcome for the hearing preservation of future generations of young Australians.

## Acknowledgments

Our success as a charity is made possible only through the dedication of our many wonderful supporters. Our continuing partnerships are invaluable to us. We extend our thanks to Mark Glew at Lynmarc Textiles, who owns and operates the Deafness Foundation Clothing Bins and to IGA Victorian supermarkets, who conduct the May IGA Butterfly Badge Appeal. We continue to partner with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in the Peter Howson Clinical Research Fellowship. We look forward to the outcomes of the research *The Contribution of Hearing to Balance* being conducted by Dr Jessica Vitkovic, the second recipient of the Fellowship.

Thank you is extended to our President, Peter Ickeringill, and our Board of Directors for their support and governance and to staff members Jenny, Karen, Monica and Helen for their hard work and diligence. We thank our office volunteers Carol, Maggie, Radhika and Kylie, our committee members, members, partners and donors, especially the Urquhart Charitable Fund and others, too many to name.

## Challenges

Looking forward, our greatest challenge is our need to grow our income, both from fundraising and other sources, to be able to continue to do the work that we do and fund interesting and innovative projects that benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Wendy Maher  
Executive Officer



(L-R) Radhika, Helen, Carol, Monica with Katrina.

# Grants Committee



**Committee Members: Ms Karin Gillies – Chairperson (pictured), Dr Lyn Walker, Mrs Noeleen Bieske, Mr Peter Ickeringill, A/Professor Gary Rance, Mrs Janette Thorburn, Mrs Wendy Maher and Mr Simon Wood.**

**F**irstly, I would like to thank Dr Lyn Walker for her strong leadership as Chairperson of the Grants Committee for many years. Dr Walker has recently resigned from this position and will continue as a valued contributor of the committee.

This year Deafness Foundation granted a total of \$84,947. The committee received 22 applications of which 12 were successful. The committee recommended approval of grants to applicants from NSW, South Australia and Victoria. Grants will support research projects on Auslan interpreting for deaf students in the classroom, the promotion of healthy hearing habits in young people at nightclub venues, and reducing hearing loss in the elderly. Community projects that received support included Deaf community events, programs for hearing-impaired children and access to hearing aids for financially disadvantaged adults. Please see the full list of grantees.

The Annual Grants Presentation was held on Thursday 19th February at Baker and McKenzie. Many of the successful applicants attended in person to receive their grant. Two guest speakers presented on research that the Foundation is funding. Jessica Vitkovic, the Peter Howson Fellow, gave a very interesting presentation on her research into the contribution of hearing to balance control. Carlene Britt (the ASPREE project) presented on her research into whether low-dose aspirin will decrease the incidence of age-related hearing loss in the elderly.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers and others who contribute to the success of the grants program by selling butterfly badges and keyrings and promoting community awareness.

Karin Gillies  
*Chairperson*



Successful Grantees with Professor Field Rickards Governor of the Foundation and Mr Peter Ickeringill President.

(L-R) Dr Jessica Vitkovic (Peter Howson Fellow), Dr Carlene Britt (Monash School of Public Health), Martin Keuneman (Able Australia), Ryan Gook (Auslan Services), David Peters (Vicdeaf), Karen Kyriakou (Tempo Inc), Tom McCaul (Better Hearing Australia Vic), Therese Kelly (Taralye), Brett Dunlop (Sovereign Hill), Associate Professor Robert Cowan (HEARING CRC), Professor Field Rickards, Peter Hoban (Sovereign Hill) and Peter Ickeringill.



# Deafness Foundation Grants

The following grants were awarded in 2014/2015.

## New South Wales

### **RIDBC Renwick Centre for Research and Professional Education**

*Missing the question: Deaf students access to questions in the interpreted classroom - \$7,259*

### **The Shepherd Centre**

*Reach Out Loud Rural & Regional Workshop Program - \$6,400*

## South Australia

### **South Australian Deaf Expo Consortium (SADEC)**

*Deaf Expo South Australia - \$3,000*

## Victoria

### **Able Australia Services**

*Annual Deafblind Camp - \$2,300*

### **ASLIA Victoria Interpreter Distinction Awards**

*Gold Sponsorship - \$1,000*

### **Better Hearing Australia (Vic)**

*The Victorian Hearing Aid Bank - \$3,899*

### **Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine**

*ASPREE (Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly)  
CENTRAL HEARING: Hearing and Health in a Large Cohort of Elderly Adults - \$28,444*

### **The HEARing CRC**

*Introducing HEARsmart to Music Venues: A Pilot Study - \$22,050*

### **The Sovereign Hill Museums Association**

*Sovereign Hill Deaf Student Access Program - \$3,000*

### **Taralye**

*Early Intervention - Assessment Tools - \$1,495*

### **Tempo Inc**

*Hands On Music - \$3,000*

### **Victorian Deaf Society**

*Vicdeaf Gaslight Festival - \$1,100*

### **Education Encouragement Award Secondary**

*Harry Maggs, Forest Hill College - \$2,000*

**TOTAL: \$84,947**



Associate Professor Robert Cowan accepts a grant on behalf of the HEARing CRC from Professor Field Rickards, Governor of the Foundation.



Grant recipient, Dr Carlene Britt from the Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, with Mr Peter Ickeringill, President of the Foundation.



Mr Tom McCaul representing Better Hearing Australia (Vic) accepts a grant from Professor Field Rickards, Governor of the Foundation.

# Education Committee



**Committee Members: Ms Marie Fram – Chairperson (pictured), Mrs Sara Kenfield and Mrs Jan Walsh.**

**H**arry Maggs, the recipient of the Education

Encouragement Award for secondary students arrived at the Annual General Meeting of Deafness Foundation to receive his award a little late, not because he was tardy or disorganised, but because he was typically focussed on the needs of others. He was participating in his school's basketball marathon. Students played basketball for 24 hours to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. Harry was involved in planning the event and he also participated in the students versus staff match.

In 2014 Harry attended Forest Hill College Deaf Facility. Harry hails from South Australia but he lived with a host family while attending school in Victoria. He likes teaching sport to students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He is a role model, being involved with the Deaf basketball team on Mondays and Wednesdays and he helped with the Victorian College for the Deaf team on Fridays. He played in a Deaf social basketball team on Sundays. Harry also helped his little cousin and said "To see him progress and improve in his skills is one of the best feelings".

When Harry returns to Adelaide his intention is to run basketball clinics for students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and establish Deaf basketball teams. He intends studying Health Sciences and complete a Bachelor of Education in order to become a high school PE teacher. Harry has been extremely appreciative of the support

of his mother who has worked hard for his education. He is looking forward to taking the pressure off his mother and contribute to his education. He intends using the award to further his studies in Adelaide and to purchase books and a laptop.

I continue to be grateful to Sara Kenfield and Jan Walsh for their continued involvement in the Education Committee and for their support.

Marie Fram  
*Chairperson*



(L-R) Marie Fram, Chairperson of the Education Committee with Harry Maggs, winner of the Secondary Education Encouragement Award.



# Hearing Awareness Week Planning Committee



## Committee

**Members: Noeleen Bieske – Chairperson (pictured) - Deafness Foundation Board Member, Monica Haverkamp & Wendy Maher - Deafness Foundation, Andrea**

**Romas - Australian Hearing, Sara Duncan - Better Hearing Aust (Vic), Steve McKean, Kathleen Webster & Jason Ridgway - Hearservice.**

**H**earing Awareness Week, 24th to 30th August 2014, was an extremely busy week with numerous activities held throughout Melbourne and Geelong.

Federation Square was one of the main venues. Staff and volunteers manned a marquee display for two days. A Hearservice mannequin named Max, which tests listening levels of individual music devices, was a popular attraction. A total of fifty-eight people checked their devices and of these twenty people were listening to music

at unsafe levels. Interaction with the general public, local, out of town visitors and tourists, was dynamic and very informative for all involved.

Melbourne Museum and Science Works were two other venues where free hearing screenings were available over the five days. In all 170 people were screened at these venues. Carol Wilkinson from Better Hearing Aust. (Vic) presented a lunchtime talk on hearing loss to Museum staff. A member of the Museum staff, deaf himself, discussed his experience of coming to terms with his loss and the challenges he faces within the work place. Thank you to all screeners from Hearservice, Better Hearing Aust. (Vic) and students from Melbourne University for their dedication and professionalism during these days. Thank you also to Museum staff and in particular Georgie Meyer who organised this event.

An electronic display at 54 venues around the City advertising Hearing Awareness Week was colourful and

well received. A display was held in the foyer of 600 Bourke Street for two days, manned by volunteers. Deafness Foundation also held a display for three days at Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre.

Geelong Committee organised a Deaf Expo on 22nd August, which was extremely well attended. Many organisations working within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community were well represented.

With all these activities held during the month of August the committee achieved its goal of reaching out to as many of the general public as possible. My heartfelt thanks go to all members of the committee and to all volunteers who assisted.

Noeleen Bieske  
*Chairperson*



Activities at Federation Square during Hearing Awareness Week.



# Deafness Foundation Award 2014

## Mr Stan Batson

At the Annual General Meeting held in July 2014 Mr Peter Ickeringill, President of Deafness Foundation, was delighted to present the Deafness Foundation Award to Mr Stan Batson for his outstanding contributions as an Ambassador for the Deaf, promoting understanding and inclusion.

Stan Batson was a Board member of Deafness Foundation for twenty years until his retirement in July 2013. During his time as a Board Member, Stan served as Chairman of the Auslan Committee of the Board for over seventeen years and as Vice-President of the Board for fifteen years. For his outstanding commitment to the Deafness Foundation, he was awarded life time membership in 2009.

Stan was born Deaf and has never experienced any form of hearing. However, he has been a champion at all times of the need for interaction and understanding between the Deaf and hearing communities of Australia. He has given many presentations and lectures and has been instrumental in bringing about changes, not only in the awareness by those with hearing of the difficulties encountered by the Deaf, but also in the tolerance and understanding demonstrated by the Deaf towards those with hearing who have been responsible for the development of policy and the provision of services for the Deaf.

He has also been tireless in his pursuits for better training and conditions for Auslan interpreters. Stan appreciates



that the ability of the Deaf to lead full lives and participate fully in society is linked to their ability to communicate effectively. They must be able to communicate, not only with each other, but also with those with hearing. Often this can only be achieved with the support of an Auslan interpreter.

He is a remarkable man and a true ambassador of the Deaf and, at the same time, he is an active campaigner on matters relevant to their lives.

He is a very worthy recipient of the Deafness Foundation Medal.



## Deafness Foundation Award

The Deafness Foundation Award was established in 2011 by the Board of Deafness Foundation, to honour an individual whose contribution to the betterment of the lives of the deaf and/or hard of hearing communities in Australia has been outstanding.

# Noise Induced Hearing Loss Committee



**Committee Members:**  
**Mr Paul O'Halloran**  
– Chairperson  
(pictured), **Mr Norm Broner, Mr Graeme Harding, Ms Renata Musolino, Ms Amanda Robinson, Mr Gerald Stewart, Mrs Janette Thorburn and Mr Paul Tierney.**

Occupational exposure to noise remains as one of the major causes of preventable hearing loss. As well as the impacts of workplace noise, excessive noise from music and recreational sources such as motorbikes and firearms can also cause hearing loss.

The Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) Committee provides assistance in identifying key issues affecting noise induced hearing loss and linking stakeholders to information, legislative or otherwise, to ensure the public is not unnecessarily subjected to excessive noise. To this end, the Committee is in regular contact with bodies such as WorkSafe Victoria and Standards Australia to examine possible initiatives which might contribute to hearing loss prevention.

Currently the Committee is investigating strategies to prevent or mitigate noise induced hearing loss in:

- Victorian industry and
- issues associated with music and entertainment venues, vehicle noise and
- impacts of the long range acoustic devices.

## HEARsmart initiative and Music Venues

The HEARsmart™ initiative is a multi-faceted campaign involving HEARing CRC and NAL which is aimed at increasing the awareness of and reducing exposure to, dangerous noise levels in both recreational and occupational

environments. More broadly, the HEARing CRC intends to implement a variety of initiatives to influence and change the attitudes, behaviours, and policies to reduce the risks of acquiring a hearing loss. The HEARsmart music venue initiative received a supplementary grant from the Deafness Foundation in October 2014 to assist in employing a project officer to be jointly managed by Dr Liz Beach from NAL (technical oversight) and Dr Jane Sewell from Hearing CRC (day to day operations). A position description has been drafted.

Ms Meghan Stewart a Project Officer at Hearing CRC has been selected to coordinate the HEARsmart music venue project. The project officer will play a key role in building relationships between the project and music venue stakeholders so an effective way forward can be established for the pilot project.

## Noise Prevention in Victorian Industry

Noise induced hearing loss due to industrial noise exposure remains a significant source of preventable deafness in Victoria. An analysis of WorkCover claims indicated the number of noise induced hearing loss claims was increasing recently. The agriculture, manufacturing and construction sectors had the largest proportion of noise induced hearing loss claims of all reported industry sectors possibly reflecting the predominance of this sector amongst Victoria's secondary industries.

The NIHL Committee has held discussions with WorkSafe Victoria to set up a consultative working party with stakeholders (employer, union and specialist stakeholders) to consider strategies which might be deployed to raise employer and employee awareness of noise hazards and implement strategies to prevent and mitigate hazardous noise. Mr Ryan Green has been appointed to coordinate the Workplace Noise Prevention Project. Mr Green has sent an email asking to catch up to discuss the project and other NIHL Committee projects.

## Long Range Acoustic Devices

Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRAD) 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 at 2.5 kHz and are commonly used for bird control, communication over long distances at sea and at demonstrations. A superficial assessment indicates these devices may be harmful to bystanders and operators without appropriate controls.

The NIHL sub-committee became aware the Queensland Government were considering deploying a version of the LRAD for crowd control during the G20 Leaders Summit in 2014. Deafness Foundation Victoria alerted a number of hearing services operating in Queensland regarding the risks of hearing loss. The Government ultimately decided not to deploy the LRAD.

## Noise Induced Hearing Loss Web Page

Information on noise induced hearing loss, noise control and relevant occupational health and safety legislation was prepared as part of the plan to redesign the Deafness Foundation's web site. The page includes a decibel chart and useful links for people wanting to know more about hearing loss prevention.

Paul O'Halloran  
*Chairperson*

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# Rubella Committee



## **Committee**

### **Members:**

**Dr Michaela Riddell**  
– **Chairperson**  
(pictured),  
**Mr Michael**  
**Batchelor**  
(Department of  
Health), **Dr Barbara**

**Francis, Ms Jackie Gleeson, Mr Ric**  
**Hubbard, Ms Patricia Moore, Ms Tess**  
**Pardy, Ms Sarina Sanna and Mrs**  
**Monica Haverkamp (REO).**

**D**eafness Foundation's Rubella Committee was established in 1976 to address the serious problem of Congenital Rubella Syndrome which was a leading cause of congenital hearing loss in the pre-vaccination era. A rubella containing vaccine became available in 1970, however uptake of the vaccine was not well established and it was to help ensure widespread accessibility of the vaccine for adolescent girls and women of childbearing age that the committee was formed. In 1980 the Deafness Foundation received financial support from the Victorian Department of Health to employ a nurse educator. The initial work of Rubella Education Nurse was to assist schools to improve coverage rates for the Schoolgirl Rubella Vaccination program which was introduced in 1971. At that time uptake of the vaccine was sub-optimal and the rubella education nurse worked very successfully with individual schools to develop education, vaccination and follow-up strategies.

It was becoming evident during the late 1970s and early 1980s that migrant women from certain world regions were at higher risk of rubella susceptibility and a sub-committee was formed to look at this issue. The identification of particular cultural groups of women as having higher rates of susceptibility to rubella was confirmed through the research work of Dr Barbara Francis at the Mercy Hospital for Women. The findings of this study which was published in 2001 influenced the work of the Rubella

Committee and the Nurse Educator to target certain migrant communities, initially the Vietnamese, followed by Chinese and then communities from the Horn of Africa.

With the provision of direct information presentations and literature dissemination the Rubella Education Nurse has worked through a wide range of services and organisations to provide information on the risks of susceptibility to rubella during pregnancy and to promote effective vaccination strategies. The current policy of a two- dose regime of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination is supported and promoted. The importance of vaccination for the whole community throughout the lifespan is strongly emphasised in education sessions. Deafness Foundation has produced a wide range of multilingual education materials and Australian migration and refugee intake patterns require regular updating the range of languages available with the limited resources available to the Foundation.

Although congenital rubella syndrome remains a significant problem in many world regions, its reported incidence in Australia has dramatically declined with no cases reported in 2014. There is a continued need for vigilance however as rates of overseas travel increase and many of Australia's neighbouring countries have experienced outbreaks of both measles and rubella in recent years. The need to consider MMR as a travel vaccine, particularly for young adults is also promoted by the program.

In recent years the Rubella committee has been considering the serious issue of Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV). This is the most common cause of congenital viral infection and a leading cause of sensorineural hearing loss. In the absence of an effective vaccine there is much debate about prevention strategies. Early detection and intervention are critical to achieve optimal outcome for infants who develop sequelae. There is a growing interest in Australia for the adoption of

newborn screening for congenital CMV in conjunction with universal newborn hearing screening.

The committee is currently undertaking steps to determine ways in which the Deafness Foundation could make a positive contribution to the understanding of the issue in an Australian context.

It was with sadness that the Deafness Foundation received the news that the Victorian Department of Health will no longer provide financial support for the Rubella Education Program and for this reason the program has ended along with the position of Rubella Education Officer. There is an ongoing need for community education on the subject of immunisation and this is particularly the case for new arrivals to Australia from countries that do not have well developed immunisation programs. Multilingual resources can still be accessed from Deafness Foundation for a period of time. The committee will continue to meet and consider infectious disease related hearing loss.

I would like to acknowledge the longstanding support provided by the Victorian Health Department, particularly Dr Rosemary Lester, Mr Michael Batchelor and the Immunisation Program Team. I would also like to thank all committee members for their very valuable support throughout the year and in particular Mrs Jackie Gleeson who has participated on the Rubella Committee since it began. My report would not be complete without a formal thank you to Mrs Monica Haverkamp for all her hard work, dedication and commitment during her period of employment as the Foundation's Rubella Education Officer. We could not have achieved so much without her. We wish her well for her future endeavours.

Michaela Riddell  
*Chairperson*

# Peter Howson Award 2014

## Mr John Richards

Mr John Richards was presented with the Peter Howson Award for 2014 at the annual Grants Presentation held in February 2015 for his outstanding contributions in the field of Deaf Education.

John has had a long and distinguished career in the field of Deaf Education in Western Australia, and his influence has extended throughout Australia via his leadership of the National Association of Australian Teachers of the Deaf (NAATD).

As a Teacher of the Deaf in Western Australia for 30 years, and as Executive Principal of the WA Institute for Deaf Education (WAIDE) from 1993 until January 2008, John was responsible for overseeing and supporting the education of all deaf and hard of hearing children in Western Australia.

John has held positions as a Unit Teacher of the Deaf, a Visiting Teacher of the Deaf, Educational Audiologist and Principal of several Education Support schools including Principal of Cottesloe School for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children.

He was a Senior Fellow with the Deafness Studies Unit which was associated with the University of Melbourne when the University provided educational training for Teachers of the Deaf in Western Australia. Following the withdrawal of the University of Melbourne, John was instrumental in forming a partnership with the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children Renwick Centre so that the education and training of Teachers of the Deaf would be continued in WA.

From 1998 until 2010 John was President of the National Association of Australian Teachers of the Deaf (NAATD). Under John's leadership, the NAATD developed the Mandatory Standards for Teachers of the Deaf which has been widely used as a guide for Teacher of the Deaf employment throughout the country.

Although retired, John continues to be a Director of the Board of Management of the West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children (Inc) a position he has held since 1993. Over the years he has worked very hard to improve access and opportunities for people with hearing loss and to ensure that there are trained Teachers of the Deaf available in Western Australia.

In his acceptance speech, John thanked the Foundation for the honour and said that he has had a very exciting and rewarding time associated with the education of deaf and hearing impaired children. He has always advocated for research and continues to do so, saying that Australia has led the way in many aspects of Deafness and Deaf Education research. John also emphasised the importance of having an international focus, for the need to visit, observe and work with colleagues both interstate and overseas.

He is a very worthy recipient of the Peter Howson Award.



## Peter Howson Award

This Award, named after the founder of the Deafness Foundation, is an award of the Board of Deafness Foundation, for a person whose extraordinary contribution to the lives of the deaf or hard of hearing communities in Australia has been through sustained efforts over an extended period of time and where the contribution is of broad benefit and relevance to all or a very significant number of the deaf or hard of hearing communities in Australia.

# Supporters 2014/2015

*Deafness Foundation would like to thank our many supporters, donors, partners, granting bodies and others for their generosity and continuing support. We also wish to acknowledge those who have kindly chosen to donate in memory of a loved one.*

## DONORS

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The Hon R Alston  
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Dr S & Mrs M Howes  
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Mr D Lacey  
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Aran Michael Management  
Boulder Primary School  
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- Deaf Facility  
Rossbourne School  
St Pauls Anglican Grammar School  
Tinonee Public School  
Warwick Central State School  
Yarra Hills Secondary College

### In memory of Arthur Peter Acton OAM

Mr J Acton  
Mrs J Mahoney  
Mrs N Rodd  
Mrs J Yeats  
Anonymous

### In memory of Joyce Conlin

M Richards

### In memory of Ron Cramer

Ms D Kinna

### In memory of Lorace Ada Harwood

Mrs M Condely  
Mrs J Mayberry

### In memory of Lorna Lewis

Ms L Griffin  
Mr D Lewis and family  
Mr K and Mrs C Mills  
Mr B Rapson  
Mr E Rapson  
Mr M and Mrs S Rapson  
Keith, Kim and Sarah Rapson  
Mr B and Mrs J Upham  
Heather and Robin, Creina and Cheryl

### In memory of Dr Mark Thompson

Mrs L Thompson  
Mrs E Thompson  
Mrs H Cogger  
Ms D Marley  
Mr S and Mrs D Morrison  
Ms R Smith  
Eltham Primary School  
Anonymous

**Ritchies Stores Pty Ltd** – Community Benefit Card Program

## GRANTS



Department of Health  
– Rubella Program

Urquhart Charitable Fund  
Whitehorse Community Chest

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

Baker & McKenzie  
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IGA Victorian Supermarkets  
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Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital

## OTHER

Better Hearing Australia (Vic)  
Taralye  
Oxford Studios - John Halford



# Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2015

Your directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 31 March 2015.

## **Directors**

The names of the director's in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

## **Names**

Mrs Noeleen Bieske  
Mr Lyall Clewer  
Ms Marie Fram  
Ms Karin Gillies  
Mr Peter Ickeringill  
Mrs Lisa-Jane Moody  
Mr Paul O'Halloran  
Assoc Professor Brian Pyman  
Assoc Professor Gary Rance  
Dr Michaela Riddell  
Dr Lynette Walker  
Mr Simon Wood

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

## **Principal Activities**

The principal activity of Deafness Foundation (Victoria) during the financial year were to raise awareness in the community of issues that affect the deaf and hard of hearing, and to implement and support developments relevant to matters such as medical and audiological issues for the deaf and hard of hearing, immunisation against rubella, the education of deaf and hard of hearing children and youth, noise induced hearing loss, conductive deafness and otitis media, interpretation services for the deaf, and the application of technology to assist the deaf and hard of hearing.

The short term objectives of Deafness Foundation (Victoria) include to raise funds that can be applied for purposes that will assist the deaf and hard of hearing, to consider applications for grants to be applied for such purposes and to distribute grants for such purposes.

The long term objectives of Deafness Foundation (Victoria) include all of the foregoing as well as to work with and support other organisations with objectives and purposes consistent with our own.

To achieve these objectives, the Foundation relies upon and uses its best endeavours to recruit, train and retain staff and volunteers who support and understand its objectives and who have the skills and experience required, in collaboration with each other and with other stakeholders, to be able to execute and achieve these objectives.

No significant changes in the nature of the Company's activity occurred during the financial year.

## Information on Directors

Mrs Noeleen Bieske	Board Member
Qualifications	TPTC, T TCID, B Ed, M Ed
Experience	Appointed to the Board in June 1999
Special Responsibilities	Chairperson - Hearing Awareness Week Planning Committee Member - Grants Committee
Mr Lyall Clewer	Board Member
Experience	Appointed to the Board November 2012
Special Responsibilities	Chairperson – Technology Committee
Ms Marie Fram	Board Member
Qualifications	Dip Tchg (Prim), Grad Dip spec Ed (HI) B Ed, Grad Dip Curric, M Ed, Dip Interpreting, NAATI Auslan level 2, Grad Dip Deaf Studies (Auslan), LOTE (Auslan)
Experience	Appointed to the Board in February 2002
Special Responsibilities	Chairperson – Education Committee
Ms Karin Gillies	Board Member
Qualifications	BA, DipAud, MEd, MAudSA(CCP), Cert 11 (Auslan), GradDip Deaf Studies
Experience	Appointed to the Board in February 2011
Special Responsibilities	Appointed Vice President in February 2014, Chairperson Grants Committee, Member - Finance Committee
Mr Peter Ickeringill	Board Member
Qualifications	LL.B (Hons), B.Comm (Hons), FCA, FCPA, ASIA
Experience	Appointed to the Board in October 1996
Special Responsibilities	President, Member - Grants Committee, Member - Finance Committee
Mrs Lisa-Jane Moody	Board Member
Qualifications	M A (Hons), DipAud, MAud/SA(CC)
Experience	Appointed to the Board in October 2002
Special Responsibilities	Chairperson – Conductive Hearing Loss / Otitis Media Committee

Mr Paul O'Halloran	Board Member
Qualifications	BSc, GradDipAud, GradDipEd, GradDipErg, Cert Aural Rehab
Experience	Appointed to the Board in February 2008
Special Responsibilities	Chairperson – Noise Induced Hearing Loss Committee
Assoc Prof Brian Pyman	Board Member
Qualifications	MB, BS, FRACS, DLO
Experience	Appointed to the Board in April 1996
Special Responsibilities	Chairperson – Medical / Audiological Committee
Assoc Prof Gary Rance	Board Member
Qualifications	PhD, MSc, DipAud, B Ed, MAud/ SA(CC)
Experience	Appointed to the Board November 2004
Special Responsibilities	Vice-President from 5 September 2012 Member – Grants Committee
Dr Michaela Riddell	Board Member
Qualifications	B.AppSc (MLS), GradDip Epidemiol & Biostats, PhD
Experience	Appointed to the Board in September 2011
Special Responsibilities	Chairperson – Rubella Committee
Dr Lynette Walker	Board Member
Qualifications	COTWA, FAATD, BA Med(HI), PhD
Experience	Appointed to the Board in September 2001
Special Responsibilities	Chairperson – Grants Committee
Mr Simon Wood	Board Member
Qualifications	BBehSc (Hons), GradDipAppFin
Experience	Appointed to the Board in September 2011
Special Responsibilities	Treasurer from 5 September 2012, Chairperson – Finance Committee, Member - Grants Committee

## Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, 5 meetings of directors (including committees of directors) were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:


## Directors' Meetings

	<i>Number eligible to attend</i>	<i>Number attended</i>
Mrs Noeleen Bieske	5	5
Mr Lyall Clewer	5	4
Ms Marie Fram	5	5
Ms Karin Gillies	5	3
Mr Peter Ickeringill	5	5
Mrs Lisa-Jane Moody	5	2
Mr Paul O'Halloran	5	4
Assoc Prof Brian Pyman	5	4
Assoc Prof Gary Rance	5	-
Dr Michaela Riddell	5	2
Dr Lynette Walker	5	3
Mr Simon Wood	5	5

## Auditor's Independence Declaration

The auditor's independence declaration in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, for the year ended 31 March 2015 has been received and can be found on page 5 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Chairperson:  
Mr Peter Ickeringill



Director:  
Mr Simon Wood

Dated this 3rd day of June 2015

Note	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Stationery	(4,597)	(4,894)
Hearing awareness week	(4,811)	(2,333)
Stock write off	(2,030)	(61)
Depreciation	(1,195)	(1,517)
Other expenses from ordinary activities	(29,066)	(42,532)
<b>Operating result before grants</b>	<b>64,218</b>	<b>71,299</b>
Deaf grant payments	(84,947)	(83,057)
<b>Operating results after grants</b>	<b>(20,729)</b>	<b>(11,758)</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(20,729)</b>	<b>(11,758)</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 March 2015

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 March 2014 there have been:

(i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and

(ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Seward Dawson Chartered Accountants



Peter Shields  
Blackburn

Dated: 3rd June 2015

**SAWARD / DAWSON**  
chartered accountants

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Note	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	3 54,565	81,432
Trade and other receivables	8,497	6,772
Financial assets	4 936,426	976,412
Inventories	5 42,351	41,425
Other current assets	2,963	2,235
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,044,802</b>	<b>1,108,276</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	6 4,067	4,154
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>4,067</b>	<b>4,154</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,048,869</b>	<b>1,112,430</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	7 33,250	61,059
Short-term provisions	8 26,258	41,281
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>59,508</b>	<b>102,340</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>59,508</b>	<b>102,340</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>989,361</b>	<b>1,010,090</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	452,668	452,668
Accumulated surpluses	536,693	557,422
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>989,361</b>	<b>1,010,090</b>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 31 March 2015

	Note	2015	2014
		\$	\$
Revenue	2	288,862	297,155
Other income	2	30,983	53,423
Employee benefits expense		(148,672)	(157,077)
Fundraising expenses		(16,320)	(21,119)
Purchases		(23,278)	(24,370)
Occupancy expenses		(25,658)	(25,376)



## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 31 March 2015

2015	Retained Earnings	Capital Guaranteed Fund Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 April 2014	557,422	452,668	1,010,090
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(20,729)	-	(20,729)
<b>Balance at 31 March 2014</b>	<b>536,693</b>	<b>452,668</b>	<b>989,361</b>

2014	Retained Earnings	Capital Guaranteed Fund Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 April 2013	569,180	452,668	1,021,848
Surplus/(Deficit)	(11,758)	-	(11,758)
<b>Balance at 31 March 2014</b>	<b>557,422</b>	<b>452,668</b>	<b>1,010,090</b>

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 March 2014

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Cash from operating activities:</b>			
Receipts from supporters		154,246	172,060
Operating grant receipts		42,316	55,299
Interest Received		57,718	35,868
Donations		41,455	41,365
Other revenue		3,790	3,938
Payments to suppliers and employees		(311,306)	(271,403)
Grants disbursed		(84,947)	(91,393)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	12	<b>(96,728)</b>	<b>(54,266)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(1,108)	-
Redemption/(placement) of term deposits		70,969	(12,307)
<b>Net cash used by investing activities</b>		<b>69,861</b>	<b>(12,307)</b>
<b>Net cash increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(26,867)</b>	<b>(66,573)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		81,432	148,005
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	3	<b>54,565</b>	<b>81,432</b>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements

### Note 1 – Accounting policies

#### 1a Basis of Preparation

Deafness Foundation (Victoria) is a Company limited by guarantee incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian

Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

#### 1b Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

#### 1c Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

#### 1d Financial Instruments

##### Initial Recognition and Measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entities becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the company commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (ie trade date accounting is adopted). Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except where the instrument is classified 'at fair value through profit or loss' in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Financial instruments are classified and measured as set out below.

##### Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss

Financial assets are classified at 'fair value through profit and loss' when they are held for trading for the purpose of short-term profit taking, or where they are derivatives not held for hedging purposes, or when they are designated as such to avoid an accounting mismatch or to enable performance evaluation where a group of financial assets is managed by key management personnel on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy. Such assets are subsequently measured at fair value with changes in carrying value being included in profit or loss.

##### Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

##### Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed

or determinable payments, and it is the company's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

### **Impairment**

At each reporting date, the company assess whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

### **1e Property, plant and equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or deemed cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

### **Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the directors to ensure it is not in excess of the depreciated replacement cost.

### **Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets based on useful lives are:

<b>Class of Fixed Asset</b>	<b>Depreciation Rate</b>
Office Equipment	10%
Computer Equipment	33.3%

### **1f Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

### **1g Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

### **1h Income taxes**

No current or deferred income tax assets or liabilities have been raised by the Company as it is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act. The company is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

### **1i Revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Sales income consists of sale of butterfly badges, butterfly keyrings and wristbands. These sales are made for fundraising purposes and are recognised as income when cash is received.

Donation income is recognised when it is received.

Government grants are recognised as income as they are earned. Where grants relate to activities not yet undertaken, and there is an obligation to repay those funds if they are not spent for the approved purpose then such funds are recognised as an "income received in advance" liability until such time as the funded activities are undertaken.

The organisation has implemented controls over the receipting, banking and recording of fundraising and donation revenue. There remains an inherent risk associated with cash revenue received by the organisation. The Board believe that they have implemented sufficient controls to ensure that no material value of fundraising and donation revenue is missed from the financial statements.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

### **1j Impairment of Assets**

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of comprehensive income.

### **1k Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flow on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

### **1l Critical accounting estimates and judgments**

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Foundation.

### **Key estimates - Impairment**

The Foundation assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the entity that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Fair value less costs to sell or current replacement cost calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

## Note 2 – Revenue and other income

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
- Fundraising income		143,583	157,440
- Interest income		57,718	39,112
- Donations		41,455	41,365
- Rubella grant income	(a)	42,316	55,299
- Other revenue		3,790	3,939
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>288,862</b>	<b>297,155</b>

(a) The Department of Health has supported the Foundation over many years. However, funding for community education was no longer sustainable due to the epidemiology of congenital rubella syndrome in Victoria. Therefore, the agreement was terminated at the end of December 2014.

### Other Income

- Unrealised gain on revaluation of financial assets		30,983	53,423
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>30,983</b>	<b>53,423</b>

## Note 3 – Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash at bank		54,565	81,432
		<b>54,565</b>	<b>81,432</b>

## Note 4 – Other financial assets

### CURRENT

Financial assets at fair value through Profit and Loss		666,750	695,767
Financial assets held to maturity		269,676	280,645
		<b>936,426</b>	<b>976,412</b>

## Note 5 – Inventories

### CURRENT

Inventories for sale - at cost		47,941	44,985
Provision for old stock		(5,590)	(3,560)
		<b>42,351</b>	<b>41,425</b>

## Note 6 – Property plant and equipment

### PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant and equipment			
At cost		28,535	27,723
Less accumulated depreciation		(24,468)	(23,569)
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>		<b>4,067</b>	<b>4,154</b>

## Movements in Carrying Amounts

	Plant and Equipment \$	Total \$
2015		
Balance at the beginning of year	4,154	4,154
Additions	1,108	1,108
Depreciation expense	(1,195)	(1,195)
<b>Carrying amount at the end of year</b>	<b>4,067</b>	<b>4,067</b>

## Note 7 – Trade and Other Payables

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>			
Unsecured liabilities			
Trade payables		-	2,809
Accrued expense		8,250	8,250
Provision for Peter Howson Clinical Research		25,000	50,000
		<b>33,250</b>	<b>61,059</b>

## Note 8 – Provisions

Current		26,258	41,281
		<b>26,258</b>	<b>41,281</b>

## 8a – Movement in carrying amounts

	Employee entitlements \$	Total \$
Opening balance at 1 April 2014	41,281	41,281
Additional provisions	14,941	14,941
Amounts used	(29,964)	(29,964)
Balance at 31 March 2015	<b>26,258</b>	<b>26,258</b>

### Employee leave entitlements

A provision has been recognised for employee entitlements relating to annual and long service leave for employees. In calculating the present value of future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based on historical data. The measurement and recognition criteria relating to employee benefits have been included in Note 1 to this report.

## Note 9 – 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 funds will be used to fund the future operations of Deafness Foundation Victoria.

## Note 10 – 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 139 as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3, (i)	54,565	81,432
Trade and other receivable	(i)	8,497	6,772
Financial assets	4, (ii)	936,426	976,412
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<b>999,488</b>	<b>1,064,616</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	7, (i)	33,250	62,943
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>		<b>33,250</b>	<b>62,943</b>



## 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.

## Note 11 – Fair Value Measurement

The company has the following assets, as set out in the table below, that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis after their initial recognition. The company does not subsequently measure any liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis and has no assets or liabilities that are measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis.

Recurring fair value measurements	2015	2014
Financial assets	\$	\$
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss - managed funds	726,750	695,767

For managed funds, the fair values have been determined based on quoted market prices at reporting date.

## Note 12 – Cash Flow Information

### Reconciliation of cashflow from operations with result for the year

Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(20,729)	(11,768)
<b>Non-cash flows in surplus</b>		
Increase/(decrease) in provision for slow moving stock	2,030	61
Depreciation	1,195	1,517
Unrealised loss/(gain) on investments	(30,983)	(53,424)
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and term receivables	(1,725)	(2,121)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(2,957)	(793)
(Increase)/decrease in other current assets	(728)	764
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(27,808)	5,772
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(15,023)	5,726
<b>Cashflow from operations</b>	<b>(96,728)</b>	<b>(54,266)</b>

## Note 13 – Grants & Projects

### (a) Education grants

Able Australia	2,300	-
ASLIA Victoria Interpreting Distinction Awards	1,000	1,000
Auslan Services	-	7,450
Auslan Stage Left	-	2,500
Australian Association of Teachers of the Deaf (QLD)	-	-
Better Hearing Australia (Vic)	3,899	4,071
Better Hearing Australia (Adelaide) Inc	-	1,000
Daylesford Community Theatre Inc	-	4,600
Education Encouragement Awards	2,000	5,000
Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine	28,444	-

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Mpower Inc	-	3,000
Peter Howson Clinical Research Fellowship	-	50,000
RIDBC Renwick Centre for Research and Professional Education	7,259	-
South Australian Deaf Expo Consortium (SADEC)	3,000	-
Taralye	1,495	2,424
Telethon Speech and Hearing Centre for Children	-	2,012
Tempo Inc	3,000	-
The HEARing CRC	22,050	-
The Shepherd Centre	6,400	-
The Sovereign Hill Museums Association	3,000	-
Victorian Deaf Society	1,100	-
	<b>84,947</b>	<b>83,057</b>

### (b) Foundation Administration Project

Hearing awareness week	4,811	2,333
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### (c) Special Grants - Income

Rubella grant income	42,316	55,299
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## Note 14 – Capital and Leasing Commitments

### Operating Lease Commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:

Payable - minimum lease payments		
- not later than 12 months	12,240	12,240
	<b>12,240</b>	<b>12,240</b>

The operating lease relates to the rental of the Company's Bayswater premises. The term is for 1 year and commenced 7 December 2014. The lease expires on 7 December 2015.

An option to renew the lease for a further term of 1 year is available until 7 September 2015. Rental payments of \$1,530 per month are paid monthly in advance.

## Note 15 – Company Details

*The registered office of the company is:*  
Deafness Foundation (Victoria)  
20 Albert Street  
Blackburn VIC 3130

*The principal place of business is:*  
Suite 3, 653 Mountain Highway  
Bayswater VIC 3153

## Directors' Declaration

The directors of the company declare that:

- The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 6 to 20, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
  - comply with Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements; and
  - give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 March 2015 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the Company.

2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Director  
Mr Peter Ickeringill  
Dated: 3rd June 2015



Director  
Mr Simon Wood

## Report on the financial report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Deafness Foundation (Victoria) (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2015, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the responsible entities' declaration.

### Directors' responsibility for the financial report

The responsible entities of the Company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 and for such internal controls as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Auditor's opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Deafness Foundation (Victoria) has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 March 2015 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.



### Saward Dawson Chartered Accountants



Peter Shields  
Partner

**SAWARD / DAWSON**

chartered accountants

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Dated: 3rd June 2015  
Blackburn VIC 3130

# Members 2014 / 2015

## Governors

Prof G Blainey  
Prof F Rickards

## Honorary Life Members

Mr A P Acton – deceased July 2014  
Ms J Adcock  
Mr S Batson  
Mrs J Chancellor  
Mr R Forrest  
Mr E Keir  
Mr J Marshall  
Mrs J Tannahill  
Dr A Thomas

## Board

Mrs N Bieske  
Mr L Clewer  
Ms M Fram  
Ms K Gillies  
Mr P Ickeringill  
Mrs L Moody

Mr P O'Halloran  
A/Prof B Pyman  
A/Prof G Rance  
Dr M Riddell  
Dr L Walker  
Mr S Wood

## Individual Members

Mrs G Alder  
Mrs S Atkinson  
Mrs J Bruce  
Mr J Burnside  
Mrs D Christie  
Mr R Clark  
Mr A Cooper  
Mrs J Cooper  
Mrs R Corbett  
Mrs W Devlin  
Mrs J Evans  
Dr B Francis  
Ms J Gleeson  
Mrs J Gullan

Mr W Gurry  
Mr J Halford  
Mr S Hester  
Dr C Holt  
Mrs M Howes  
Dr S Howes  
Ms S Kenfield  
Mr P Lewis  
Mr E Miller  
Ms S Pizi  
Mrs P Rivers  
Ms G Rosengren  
Dr J Sarant  
Prof R Shepherd  
Dr R Sutcliffe  
Mrs L Swan  
Dr M Thompson  
– deceased Dec 2014  
Mrs J Thorburn  
Dr J Vitkovic  
Mrs S Ward

## Unincorporated and Incorporated Members

Able Australia Services  
Advisory Council for Children with Impaired Hearing  
Audiology Australia  
Aurora School  
Better Hearing Australia (Victoria) Inc  
Deaf Children Australia  
Deaf Victoria  
Forest Hill College  
John Pierce Centre  
Melbourne Graduate School of Education  
Meniere's Australia  
Rosanna Golf Links Primary School  
St Mary's College for Hearing Impaired Students  
Victorian Deaf Society  
Word of Mouth Technology  
Yarra Valley Grammar

# Supporting Deafness Foundation

Support from the Community is vital to enable Deafness Foundation to continue its valuable work with the Deaf and hard of hearing. Financial and/or volunteer support is always very much appreciated and essential to our existence. Financial assistance can be through donations, regular giving, memorial gifts or bequests. Volunteering roles are varied and interesting.

## Volunteers

We value the generosity of our volunteers and welcome new volunteers to join our small, but welcoming team. Volunteers may like to be involved in helping in our office, supporting fundraising or sharing their professional expertise on one of our committees.

## Donations

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donations can be made by cheque, money order, credit card or direct deposit into our bank account. Regular giving each month can be established through monthly direct deposits or credit card payments.

## Memorial Gifts

A memorial gift is a wonderful way to honour the memory of someone you care about. Deafness Foundation can provide personalised giving envelopes for distribution at a funeral or memorial service.

## Leaving a Bequest

By leaving a bequest to the Deafness Foundation in your will, you are making a gift for the future.

For further information on any of the above, please phone Wendy on (03) 9738 2909 or email: [admin@deafness.org.au](mailto:admin@deafness.org.au)



## **Deafness Foundation (Victoria)**

ACN 005 053 510

**Registered Office:** Saward Dawson 20 Albert Street, Blackburn 3130

**Administration Office:** PO Box 42 Nunawading 3131

**Telephone:** 9738 2909 (Voice & TTY) **Fax:** 9729 6583

**Website:** [www.deafness.org.au](http://www.deafness.org.au) **Email:** [admin@deafness.org.au](mailto:admin@deafness.org.au)