

CICADA BUZZ

BRIEF SUMMARIES OF GUEST PRESENTATIONS AT 2017 AGM

The full transcript of these presentations is available on the CICADA website.



Ben Marosszky Commercial Operations Manager, Cochlear ANZ
Presenting on Nucleus 7

I will spend the majority of this presentation talking about some of the features of Nucleus 7. I hope to give you a sense of what it will deliver and how that might enhance your day-to-day use of living with a cochlear implant. I'm going to spend a few minutes talking about the various internal parts, particularly the **slim modiolar electrode**. Also coming soon to a clinic near you is **wireless programming**. Over the coming months you will start to see less cords, less being tethered to your audiologist's computer. This nice little gadget will talk to the audiologist's computer wirelessly. No more plugging in sitting at the other end of the table. So, what goes on inside?

From an implant point of view, Cochlear actually develops a whole range of electrodes and implants for our surgeons to choose from. It's really up to your surgeon to work out what is going to be the right electrode for your type of hearing loss but also what's important for them as a surgeon is: what's their preference? I have heard some surgeons think of it like a set of golf clubs where there are multiple implants in there and they will choose which one is most appropriate for you. They will also do that in conjunction with your audiologist, with a lot of discussion around your type of hearing loss, what's going to be the right type of implant and right type of electrode.

The newest electrode is known as the slim modiolar electrode. To summarise it, Cochlear essentially makes straight or curly electrodes. Again they have different design goals and different clinical goals that we hope to deliver. Ultimately as our technology improves we want to make them less traumatic, gentler, not disrupting the delicate structures inside the cochlea. The best way we can do that is to make them much thinner. Around three or four years ago we introduced the slim straight electrode. This is still the thinnest electrode available today. The idea is to position the electrode in such a way that it's stimulating that portion of hearing cells where all the hearing nerves sit, all of those nerves we are trying to stimulate with electrical stimulation.

To get a sense of the size of the cochlea, it's about the size of your little fingernail. It's an extremely tiny organ. The surgeons are really nothing short of magicians in terms of how they can access the cochlea and delicately place the electrode inside the cochlea.

These electrodes are all made by hand. There are 22 individual electrodes sitting on the array. They all have to be welded by hand and the wire that connects each of those electrodes is about a quarter of the thickness of a strand of human hair. In terms of how long it takes Cochlear to make an electrode, it's around about 20 hours of physical labour spread across the course of a week. It's spending time in ovens, curing all of those intricate processes that enable us to deliver that implant.

This particular electrode, the CI500 series, took around eight to ten years of design and development. It's actually our fifth generation of implant.



Joanne Hegazy and Christine Valle from Cochlear

As a company we know that choosing a cochlear implant is a really big decision and there is choice, which is fantastic. Ultimately we need to be confident that when you choose Cochlear we are going to support you throughout your hearing journey. That backwards compatibility of a sound processor is critical. Ideally we just want the one surgery and then you can access all of the external advancements. The fact we can have our technology talk to an implant that is about 30 years old is a great testament to Cochlear's innovation.

The key to why Nucleus 7 can deliver not only a smaller processor but also a much more powerful processor is the size of the microchip inside it. That has enabled all of the wireless connectivity but also significantly improved the battery life. We have made charging batteries much easier, with USB connection.

State CICADA Associations

New South Wales

CICADA AUSTRALIA INC.

Secretary: Judy Cassell
PO Box 5028
South Turramurra NSW 2074
Email: jcassell6@bigpond.com

Queensland

CICADA QUEENSLAND

Secretary: Shirley Edwards
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South Australia

CICADA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PO Box 415
Angaston SA 5353
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Western Australia

CICADA CLUB W.A. INC.

Social Secretary: Edna Chapman
Email: eknit57@hotmail.com
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Treasurer: Ted Ivey
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Northern Territory

CICADA DARWIN

Coordinator Chris Blackham-Davison
Email: Deafncrazy@gmail.com
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ACT

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Secretary: Pete Halsey
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Hook Up Online And Share Your News

Please visit us at www.cicada.org.au
Or our Facebook page Cicada Australia Inc.

Darwin friends now have their own Facebook page Cicada Northern Territory

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please send your details to suewalters@cicada.org.au

Donations over \$2 to CICADA are tax-deductible.

With Nucleus 7 we no longer need to connect to an audio device with a wireless phone clip. It's streaming directly from an iPhone through to the sound processor. However, Nucleus 7 is still compatible with all the wireless accessories such as Mini Mic and TV Streamer.

Our partnership with Apple is something that started around five years ago. Apple is committed to working in the disability space. They have a very strong vision to really make their technologies available for people with vision impairment, hearing impairment, and for that reason we are very aligned as two organisations.

The iPhone device also uses a new version of Bluetooth, which is a very efficient way of streaming data wirelessly. The fact that the iPhone hardware is compatible with the Cochlear hardware is really why we can make a very strong technology partnership work.

With Nucleus 7 there is an app for your iPhone that complements the device. You will be able to control your hearing using your smartphone.

It's a very easy to use interface but giving you full control of how you are connecting to your wireless accessories, how you are changing programs, adjusting volume and sensitivity, letting you know how you are going with battery life. The app will also help you find your lost processor!

Cochlear have also partnered with GNResound hearing aid manufacturers to develop compatible devices with Nucleus 7.

This means now that if you have a compatible GN Resound aid and Nucleus 7 sound processor, you can hear bimodally and use the same iPhone App to control both devices.

Colleen Psarros, SCIC Clinical Practice Manager, presenting on Binaural Hearing

In the very early days of cochlear implantation, people only got one cochlear implant. It was a very new thing, plus the cost factor as well. But we were born with two ears and two ears are better than one. When we have only one ear functioning, it can be quite challenging when there's a lot of noise in the background and being able to tell where a sound is coming from.



Alan Jones and Colleen Psarros

Currently, SCIC are looking at supporting people through the process of getting binaural hearing, be that through bilateral implants or through fitting a hearing aid in the ear that is not implanted.

Nucleus 7 sound processor and GN ReSound hearing aids can work together seamlessly to give you access to sound in both ears.

The main advantage of binaural hearing is being able to localise sounds. We have this thing called 'head shadow'. When sound is coming from one side it's blocking the other side from getting access to that. What we are hoping to do is minimise what we call the head shadow effect by having the two ears working. It helps us tune into sounds when there is a lot of background noise.

When you have a review assessment coming up, talk to your audiologist about it. They can give you some guidance as to whether you will benefit from a hearing aid or cochlear implant in that other ear. If you haven't been using a hearing aid, it is important to start getting some stimulation in that other ear if you possibly can.



Halcy Foster, Tom MacDonald and Ruby Foster, who led the Sing-a-Long at the AGM

Presidents Report

AGM 2017



I think we have had another successful year in 2017. It's been a pleasure to work together with the committee and I'm grateful for their dedication. I'd also like to thank our other helpers who assist with our mailout, setting up chairs and tables for events, John Boyce our BBQ Master, also to Nev and Judy Lockhart who design our flyers and gather new material for our CICADA website. Our thanks also to our webmistress Pat Mitchell in Geelong, who keeps our website updated and puts all the events on the calendar.

CICADA Committee have continued to hold the regular morning teas on the first Thursday of the month from February to October and we often have attendance of 20-30 people at these get-togethers. We try to find pertinent topics and interesting speakers or performers for our BBQ days and continue to get good attendance of 60-100 people.



The Cicada committee at 1st February 2018 Morning Tea

This year we had our Book Launch of Prof Gibson's book in March, The Hon. Peter Anderson as speaker in May, Esti Nel from Cochlear on Research and the KANSO processor and Sharon Lown from RIDBC with an informative update on the NDIS at our August BBQ day.

The Illawarra, Western Sydney and Lismore CICADA groups have also continued to hold regular social gatherings and I would like to thank them for their efforts.

This year saw a revival in the Newcastle support group, with SCIC Newcastle starting up morning tea every second month at the Newcastle clinic.

Another exciting event was the inaugural Taree/Port Macquarie gathering on 9th September at St Johns Hall, initiated by Robyn Herps from SCIC Port Macquarie. So I would like to thank Robyn for stepping up and organizing this.

Robyn was able to enlist the aid of the Taree QUOTA CLUB who provided a lovely afternoon tea. Our Sydney CICADA contingent travelled up for the weekend to support them and Prof and Alex Gibson kindly accommodated us at their beach house near Taree. This was a great team



AGM Sausage Sizzle. Alex Gibson, Maria Custer and Don Rouvay

effort and about 45 people attended the gathering and were keen to see this continue.

CICADA are supporting the Deafness Forum's "Break The Sound Barrier" campaign to make Hearing Health one of the top 10 national health priorities with many different organisations working with them towards this goal.

I would like to thank SCIC for allowing us the use of the Club Room, the courtyard and Conference Room here at Gladesville. It's a great benefit to CICADA to have a dedicated space to work from and I do think it adds value and complements the services of SCIC to have volunteer support groups helping in all sorts of ways. I also wish to thank SCIC management for partnering with us to publish the Bill Gibson biography this year, together with Cochlear Ltd our other publishing partner.

Cicada Australia Inc

Cicada's AGM was held on Sunday 12th November 2017. The committee for 2018 - see below - is unchanged, except for Laurie Custer, who stepped down due to other commitments. Thanks to Laurie and his wife Maria for their contribution to Cicada last year.

President: Sue Walters
Secretary: Judy Cassell
Treasurer: Chris Boyce

Karen Cooper – Public Officer
Anne Dernow
Max Houterman

Alan Jones
Cecilia Kramar

Committee members at their annual Xmas party.

Back Row Ann Dernow, Sue Walters, Cecilia Kramar, Karen Cooper and Chris Boyce

Front Row Max Houterman, Alan Jones and Judy Cassell



Our President, Sue, expressed her thanks to the newly elected committee. "A huge thank you to all of the committee for standing again. I know that your hearts are in it. I do admire your enthusiasm and desire to spread the word about cochlear implants. There are lots of valuable skills amongst you all that contribute to the success of our events and just makes people feel welcome. I am looking forward to another year working together"

Cicada have been raising money for a long time from our raffles, sausage sizzles etc. As a result of these efforts CICADA is making a donation of close to \$15,000 to purchase audiology equipment for the SCIC clinic in Wollongong. SCIC are now doing regular clinics in Nowra and soon to expand to Batemans Bay. Their intention is to cover the population from the south of Sydney to the Victorian border. This equipment will be a great opportunity for SCIC to have that gold standard setup in the Wollongong clinic. We are delighted to be able to help them with that goal. A cheque was presented to Bart Cavaletto, Director of Clinical Services at RIDBC, at the AGM.



Our President Sue, presenting the cheque to Bart Cavaletto

Following the meeting, Sue introduced Ben Marosszky with Christina Valle and Jo Hegazy from Cochlear Limited who spoke about the Nucleus 7, followed by Colleen Psarros from SCIC who spoke about the benefits of bilateral implants

At the conclusion of the meeting, Professor Gibson drew the 3 winning tickets of the annual raffle. Congratulations to the winners: -

Lyn Harvie – Berkeley Vale
First Prize \$500

Helen Wylie - Evatts
Second Prize \$250

Bronwyn Hayhoe - Bega
Third Prize \$100

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who supported Cicada through the purchase of raffle tickets and to the many people who generously gave donations in lieu of buying tickets.



The AGM

Sunday 25th February is International Cochlear Implant Day and is the beginning of **Hearing Awareness Week**. Cicada will be joining the SCIC celebrations at Gladesville, so join us there.

CICADA will continue to hold social functions at SCIC Punt Road Gladesville this year. The morning teas commence at 10.30, finishing around midday. These are especially valuable for those who have just had implants or those considering an implant, as there are always a number of implantees present to talk to. The BBQ's generally start with a guest speaker, followed by a BBQ and start at 11am. ALL ARE WELCOME, implantees, family, and friends.

Our first BBQ of 2018 will be on the 11th March with two guest speakers planned. See the details on the flyer included with this mailout.

Morning Tea. Held on the first Thursday of the month

1st March	5th April
3rd May	7th June
5th July	2nd August
6th September	4th October

BBQ's.

11th March
20th May
19th August
11th November – AGM

A number of the CICADA committee and members attended a **HIGH TEA** at Cochlear Headquarters, Macquarie University on 30th November 2017. It was given as a Thank You to CI recipients who had been involved with the ongoing research undertaken at Cochlear during the year. Those employees involved in the various aspect of the research also attended it. A fine morning tea was provided, a prelude to the Christmas season of overeating!!



Sue Walters, Dig Howitt Cochlear CEO, Judy Cassell and Alan Jones



Janet Menzies Cochlear General Manager Australia and New Zealand with Robyn Jones



Nadine Kanaan, Fundraising Executive/Community Partnerships at RIDBC, presents Sue Walters with a Certificate of Appreciation at the Cicada morning tea on February 1st, following the funding by Cicada of equipment for the Wollongong clinic

Would you like to help with the development of a new speech test for cochlear implant candidacy evaluation?

Many people with hearing loss may understand speech better with cochlear implants than with hearing aids. However, there is currently no simple test to help identify them so that they can benefit from an implant. Researchers at the **National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL)** have developed a new test for this purpose.

If you

- Have been using a cochlear implant (or two) for at least ONE year
- Use speech communication everyday
- Do not have other known disabilities in addition to hearing loss: and
- Would be willing to spend an hour completing a simple test on laptop computer and a sentence test (in English)

Please make contact with Sanna Hou Phone (02) 9412 6869 or Email sanna.hou@nal.gov.au for more details.

Recruitment will continue until the end of June, 2018. Sanna is willing to travel to local hearing centres or CI centres to do the LIT assessment.

Australian Deaf Games

Anne Dernow

I travelled via train on Saturday 20th January 2018 for a "short" journey of approximately 9 hours to attend the 18th Australian Deaf Games in Albury-Wodonga on the NSW-VIC border. I made use of the time by toiling on TAFE assignments.

The Australian Deaf Games (ADG) ran from 20th January 2018 to 27th January 2018 and over 600 Deaf and hard of hearing athletes from all over Australia, Fiji and New Zealand competed. Some use cochlear implants, some use hearing aids, some use both and some use none. Interestingly, some sports allowed the use of cochlear implants or hearing aids during competitions and others did not.

Communication was easy. Albury-Wodonga locals spent months learning Auslan in the lead up to the Games, and for those who don't use sign language, voice and lip reading and/or pen and paper was used. Live captioning and interpreting were provided for the opening and closing ceremonies and interpreting was provided for medal presentations and social events.

The sports were: athletics, basketball, beach volleyball, darts, eight ball, futsal, golf, lawn bowls, mini Deaflympic Games, netball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, ten pin bowling, touch footy, aquathlon and sprint triathlon. Some competitors also currently or will participate in other major events such as the Commonwealth Games, Deaflympics, Paralympics and / or Olympics in their chosen sport(s).

ADG's opening ceremony took place at the Albury Entertainment Centre on Saturday 20 January. It was a fantastic affair, thankfully indoors with air conditioning while outdoor temperatures were still 40+ degrees Celsius at 7:30pm.

On Sunday 21st January 2018, some sports began their competitions and others had training or a free day. I spent the 42C morning training for table tennis at Albury Wodonga Table Tennis Association's table tennis venue in Albury and was very grateful for the air-conditioned building! I was also informed that cochlear implants and hearing aids were not to be used during table tennis matches. Monday 22th January delivered 41C and the table tennis mixed doubles, men's doubles and women's doubles matches between 9am and 4pm. There were teams from NSW and VIC. Tuesday was meant to be another training day, but due to extreme heat and Monday's experience, training was cancelled, so there was a free day for

the table tennis competitors, officials and volunteers. Wednesday provided another hot day and the men's singles and women's singles matches between 9am and 4pm. Since table tennis competition finished early, on Thursday some show matches were being played before the table tennis medal ceremony took place. My doubles partner and I were awarded silver medals for table tennis women's doubles. Overall, NSW received the majority of the table tennis medals.



Anne (on the right) together with her doubles partner and the referee

Several other sports were having their daytime competitions and some social events were held at the same time as the table tennis events so I didn't get to see those, and temperatures in Albury-Wodonga were between 38C and 43C for the entire week so it was better to stay in air conditioned buildings in the daytime. However, I did get to see some of the darts competition and the eight ball competition, both of which were held in the evenings. I also attended the Australia Day celebrations where some Deaf and hearing impaired athletes from each state, territory and from Fiji and New Zealand were flag bearers.

At the closing ceremony at The Cube in Wodonga on 27th January, the Australian Deaf Sports Federation's John Michael Lovett Cup, which is awarded to the state or territory with the most points at the end of the Games, went to the very proud NSW Deaf Sports team.



Medalists

During the week, the Games managed to get into the local papers and the local evening news bulletins.

The 19th Australian Deaf Games was announced to be held in 2022, and it will be held somewhere in regional NSW, but the exact location has not been revealed yet. Will you compete in your sport at the Games in 2022?

Support Groups

See details for each of the groups below. Also see the CICADA website for up to date details of these events www.cicada.org.au

Illawarra

The Illawarra CICADA group enjoyed their own Xmas party earlier in December. It was great to see many laughs and smiles as friends caught up with one another and this is why I believe the Illawarra Cicada group retains strong numbers at each event. I am really grateful and appreciative to ALL who provided the delicious food, the shelter, tables and chairs. It made for an enjoyable day.

The first event for 2018 will be back at **Windang on Sunday 18th February** Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you in February! **David**



Xmas Party Gathering

Below is the revised list of dates for 2018.

Sunday 18th February
Windang Picnic Parks

Sunday 22nd April
Illawarra Live Steamers

Sunday 24th June
Shellharbour Pool

Sunday 9th September
Windang Picnic Parks

Sunday 28th October
Illawarra Live Steamers

Sunday 9th December
Windang Picnic Parks Xmas Party

For further details contact **David Romanowski**. Mobile: 0432 715 691
Email: dr930@uowmail.edu.au

Newcastle

The Newcastle Support group has arranged for Wayne Hughes from AccessComm to do a presentation on the CapTel phone at their meeting on Wednesday 14 February 2018. This group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of EVEN months at SCIC Newcastle

Moira Havard - moirak@bigpond.com
Alison Gron - 4926 8100

Northern Rivers

Our annual end of year dinner was well attended. It was a lovely social evening, with lots of conversation and delicious food.

A big thank you to everyone for the support and encouragement you have provided to others, and one another throughout 2017. Without you, our little group would not be so successful.

A special thank you to Pastors Jim and Venese White for freely providing us with such great facilities.



End of Year Dinner

The Northern Rivers next gathering is to be held at the SEACOAST CHURCH, at the corner of North Road and Piper Drive Ballina on Thursday 22nd February at 10 am. All are Welcome. There will be a gold coin donation. See contacts below for added information.

For further information or to be added to the email list, contact **Sheliya Van Buggenum** - sheliyavan@yahoo.com or Phone or Text 0422524284 OR Phone **Lismore SCIC Office** on 1300 658 981

Taree-Port Macquarie

Taree-Port Macquarie will hold their first gathering of the year on Saturday 3rd March, from 11am. To be held at North Haven Foreshore, Ocean Street, North Haven. BBQ/ Picnic Lunch – it's a BYO. Some picnic tables and BBQs available, but best to bring your own chair. This is a great opportunity for everyone to catch up. All are welcome.

For details please contact:
Robyn Herps
robynerps@westnet.com.au
Phone SMS 0428 688 612

Western Sydney

The Western Sydney Support Group has been active for many years, holding regular BBQ's at Nurranginy Reserve. The Blacktown City Council is introducing a charge of site fees, starting this January. As a result, the group has decided to concentrate on the Morning teas held on the First Tuesday of the month at the Royal Institute for the Deaf and Blind Centre at 5-7 Floribunda Avenue, Glenmore Park, from 10.30 to 12 noon. All are Welcome.

For those travelling by public transport, there is a bus – 797 – from Penrith station at 9.56 that stops out the front of RIDBC.

For further details contact
Sean and Margaret Sewell on
Mobile +614 2521 5654 or 041 5205 877
Judy Tutty – Co-coordinator 043 704 9452

Exhibitions of Angie Goto

Deaf Artist

Angie Goto is an Australian deaf artist who loves to express herself through vivid painting of images that live in her mind.

Her love of reading and painting have joined to create endless "stories" on canvas that strive to recreate the scenery she has silently witnessed and participated in her life. Being deaf has allowed her to experience a different take on life that has both ups and downs.

This year Angie has two exhibitions that are booked and one to be confirmed once the gallery in Melbourne completes their re-location to a bigger space. The first exhibition is in Sydney for Saatchi Art's The Other Art Fair **Sydney on 22 - 25 March 2018** at Sydney's Australian Technology Park.

The second exhibition is a solo show at 19 Karen Contemporary Artspace, Mermaid Beach **Queensland on 25 - 06 October 2018**

Web: www.gotoangie.com
Instagram: @turbly



"Everyone loves Sydney"

Honorary Member of CICADA

Cicada Member and Bilateral Cochlear Recipient **Faye Yarroll** has been attending Cicada events for many years now. Faye is a not only a Cicada and Cochlear Ambassador but she often hears a familiar sound in her ears of "Hello Beautiful".

Well, upon turning when hearing those magic words, someone will be talking to Faye's beautiful Australian Lions Hearing Dog named "**Sydney**".

Sydney came into Faye's life just over 3 years ago, and is guaranteed to greet you with a tail wag and look at you with her big beautiful eyes. Sydney is a Beagle X Cavalier and is now 6 years old.

Since Hearing Dog Sydney has been a regular attendee at Cicada events, the CICADA committee voted to make Sydney an "**Honorary Member of Cicada**" and at the February Morning Tea, Sydney was presented with her Honorary Membership.



Sydney helps Faye 24x7 but in particular at night when she does not have her Processors on and when she reverts back to NO HEARING AT ALL. Lions Hearing Dogs are trained to physical alert their owners to a range of everyday sounds such as a knock at the door, telephone, alarm clock, baby cry, oven timer, smoke alarm and to Go Get another person if you have an emergency. Hearing Dogs have full public access rights and can accompany their owner to shops, restaurants, on buses, trains, planes and in taxis. Fully trained Hearing dogs are provided free of charge to approved applicants and it costs around \$35,000 and takes 6-8 months to train each dog, but the best part of the Lions Hearing Dog Program is that most Hearing Dogs are rescue dogs from an animal shelter. So it is a win win situation for the dog and the owner.

Cicada wishes Sydney and Faye many happy years working together and if you see Faye around, then you will definitely see Sydney by her side!

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Marriage is like a deck of cards.

In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond.

By the end, you wish you had a club and a spade.

Update on Break The Sound Barrier (BTSB) Campaign

BTST campaign, initiated by the Deafness Forum to advise government, is gaining some momentum. The recent report from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's hearing health and wellbeing, **"Still Waiting To Be Heard"** recommends that hearing health should be Australia's 10th National Health Priority Area.

Letters are being drafted, in consultation with interested parties who represent leading advocacy, not-for-profit, public and private sector organisations in the field of hearing throughout Australia, including CICADA, to send to Ministers to urge them to take action on this matter.

With 1 in 5 Australians affected by hearing loss, it is hoped that this campaign will lead to a coordinated national plan to help alleviate the financial and social costs incurred by hearing loss.

If you have concerns related to your hearing loss, you can help by discussing these with your own local MP's. There is always more we can do to bring awareness to issues about hearing loss and to assist this campaign.

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Facebook for the Senior Generation

For those of my generation who do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later, and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook.

I already have four people following me:

Inclusion in the Toy Box

October 13th 2017

Diversity and inclusion are hugely important for children growing up. Kids want to see themselves reflected in the toys they play with - childhood should be an inclusive place, where every child belongs regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.



Wildlife Photographer Mia, one of the new stars of the Lottie Dolls line-up, is the first ever fashion doll that wears a cochlear implant. The doll is the first time a doll manufacturer has mass produced a doll wearing a cochlear implant, with the introduction of Wildlife Photographer Mia, Arklu the maker of Lottie Dolls hope to provide options to the general public to normalise the representation of people with different abilities in the toys that they play with.

Although Mia wears a cochlear implant, this is simply a small part of her story, rather than a focal point. A keen photographer, the Mia character also has a mission to encourage children to take an interest in nature and wildlife.



Mia was created following consultation with 'Toy Like Me', a UK non-profit who campaign for diversity in the toy-box and for better representation of disabilities so that differently-abled children can see themselves reflected in the toys they play with. ToyLikeMe was set up in 2015 by former BBC journalist and children's writer, Rebecca Atkinson, who wears hearing aids herself.

"When I was growing up in the 80s," says Rebecca Atkinson, of 'Toy Like Me', who wears hearing aids herself, "I never saw any deaf characters in toys, books or on TV. When I became a mum myself, I decided it was time things changed. I wanted the global toy industry to act, to better represent the 150 million children worldwide with disability and difference."

"This Mia doll is my childhood dream come true," says Rebecca, "I'm so happy, I'm like a kid at Christmas! I hope it will help many deaf children grow positive self-esteem to see their experiences included by the mainstream toy industry."

Psychologist Dr Sian Jones from Goldsmiths, University of London has studied the effects of playing with toys with disabilities on the attitudes of non-disabled children. Interviewing hundreds of children, she found that after playing with toys like the Mia doll, children were more open to forming friendships with peers with disability and difference.

Mia the Wildlife Photographer has been acknowledged in the International Design Awards, receiving both an Honourable Mention and a Silver."



<https://www.lottie.com/blogs/blog/inclusion-in-the-toy-box-why-does-it-matter>



HEARING awareness WEEK

From Sunday 25 February 2018

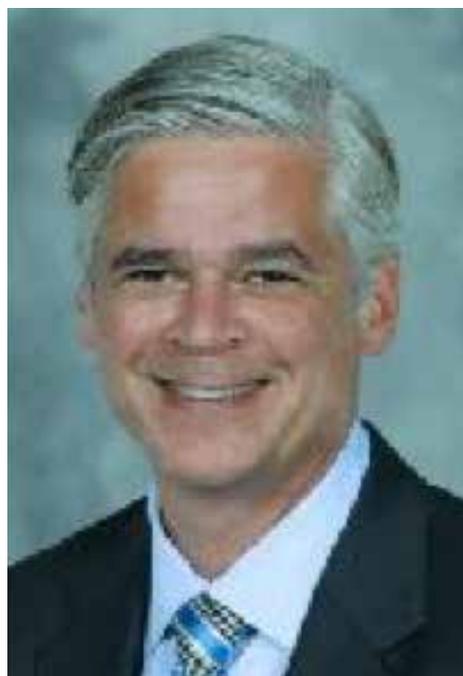
World Hearing Day

Saturday 3 March 2018

Welcome Dr Brent Edwards, Director, NAL

Dec 2017 Australian Hearing Hub

National Acoustic Laboratories recently welcomed their new Director, Dr Brent Edwards. Brent has a distinguished international reputation in the hearing industry, having spent 22 years in Silicon Valley heading research and innovation development at major hearing aid companies and hearing device startups. He has made presentations at over 100 conferences, is an inventor on over 25 patents, and has published extensively in professional and trade publications on technology and market trends. He founded the Starkey Hearing Research Centre, which is currently a leading site for research in hearing impairment, and his research into the effect of hearing technology on cognition created an international growth of research in this area. He is an elected Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and his graduate education is in electrical engineering and psychology. Brent is bringing a strong innovation focus to NAL, with a particular emphasis on developing practical solutions for real-world technology gaps, whilst still maintaining NAL's core role of providing scientific research for the public good.



Hear For You

Calendar of Events for the 2018

We are very excited to show you what we have in store for 2018!

Listed below are the programs, dates, required NDIS hours and the online registration link.

If you have any questions, please contact John at john.lui@hearforyou.com.au

Year 7 Sessions

A special Year 7 session for all those deaf/hard of hearing students who have begun their journey into the big bad world of high school in 2018!! Get advice on how to ensure the first year of high school is as smooth as possible **When: Saturday 3rd March, 2018 Time: 9am-4pm**

ROCK MY WORLD WORKSHOPS Ever wanted to make your own short film? Or wondered what life's like behind the scenes in TV studios? Well, through Rock My World workshops, you might just get the chance to find out. These workshops are run as one-off sessions, and each has a specific theme.

Workshop 1: Escape Room - March 24th
Workshop 2: TV Studio Tour - April 17th
Workshop 3: Treetops Adventure - June 9th
Workshop 4: Film-Making - April 28th & 29th + June 23rd & 24th

Life Goals & Skills Metro Program (Years 7-12) This is our flagship mentoring program, which focuses on bringing together deaf and hard of hearing teenagers with inspiring mentors who have 'been there, done that'. Together we explore different aspects of life, giving you then chance to exchange ideas and experiences with people who will actually understand.

Program duration: Four full days (one Sunday per month for four months)

Location: Australian Hearing Hub, Macquarie University

Perfect for: High school students who are deaf or hard of hearing, with oral communication.

Upcoming dates: Session 1: Sun 26th August
Session 2: Sun 23rd September
Session 3: Sun 21st Oct
Session 4: Sun 25th Nov

How it works: Every teenager gets placed into a year group (7&8, 9&10 and 11&12), and assigned two mentors (one male, one female). This means at most, there's one mentor per 4 students. There's plenty of discussion and practical activities, which are done as a group, in pairs and one-on-one with a mentor.

Life Goals & Skills Blast: for those living in rural and regional area. For details

Queensland's Senior of the Year Dr Dimity Dornan of Hear and Say helps improve deaf children's lives

Dec 2017 Our Mail

Dr Dimity Dornan, has dedicated decades of her life to bringing sound to the lives of deaf children. If the senior years of life are supposed to be about doing nothing much except ticking off everything on your bucket list, Dr Dimity Dornan did not get the memo. There'll be no lying back with a margarita on some exotic faraway beach for her. Instead, it's business as usual for Queensland Senior of the Year 2018, the state's entrant in Australian Senior of the Year, to be announced on January 25. Recognised worldwide for her groundbreaking work changing the lives of thousands of deaf children by helping them learn to listen and speak, Dornan was Queenslander of the Year in 2010, but admits to being slightly taken aback when approached to be Queensland's Senior.

contact John Lui – email address above. Below are the areas we have lined up so far in 2018:

Canberra – 17th & 18th March
Newcastle – April 7th & 8th
Tamworth – 19th & 20th May
Wollongong – 16th & 17th June

Grace's gaze opens up world

Dec 2017 Bundaberg News Mai



Grace Lukan and her mum Liz thank Queensland's Hear and Say Centre for improving her life immeasurably

Little Grace Lukan will one day be able to advocate for herself thanks to Queensland's Hear and Say Centre. Through Grace's parents, Dan and Lucy Lukan's words, this heart-warming story shares just how important even the most limited communication can make to a child and a family. Dan Lukan said when Grace was born, she was like any other child; her cerebral palsy came later. "Grace lost her hearing, her sight and her teeth and she's got no head or body control," Mr Lukan said. "Her type of cerebral palsy means she can't communicate with the outside world. She wants to, and she can understand, but up to now she hasn't been able to communicate back." The years of early intervention and hard work has paid off. Grace, 6, is now able to interact, express herself, and over time, will learn to advocate for herself. For her parents, it was a dream come true when Grace learnt to communicate through eye gaze software and her cochlear implant, thanks to the work from the Hear and Say Centre. They are just one of many families who rely on the support and advocacy for a child born with hearing loss.