

CICADA BUZZ

CONGRATULATIONS NORMAN CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

When Mortdale resident Norman Heldon turned 100 on August 1st there was more than one reason to celebrate.

As well as celebrating his centenary, Norman, who is profoundly deaf, marked his ninth anniversary of enjoying the gift of hearing from the bionic ear he received at 91 years of age. The Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre in Gladesville, whose audiologists visit Norman for a check-up of his cochlear implant every year, believe that he is most likely the oldest person in NSW, or even Australia, with a cochlear implant.

During World War II he spent two years with the army and then two years with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in England. Norman first noticed he was going deaf in 1944 when he was serving as a wireless operator on the Lancaster Bombers and seated on the plane next to one of the engine bays.

"During my first flight operation, I was admiring all the pretty flashes against the night sky when the pilot told me that they were exploding shells," he said. "One night after a military operation I was lying on the bunks in a blacked-out room with some other airmen who were telling jokes and laughing. After a while I realised that I could hear voices but not what they were saying. I think that it was the noise from those engines that started my deafness and the RAAF agreed. After having risen to the rank of Flight Lieutenant, I was demobbed in 1945."

After the war, Norman returned to carpet laying and married his sweetheart Ruth in 1947. They built a house in Beverly Hills and had three children, Owen, Murray and Sylvia. "As my hearing gradually became worse, I started to withdraw from conversations," Norman said. "Apart from the difficulties you feel, you don't want to embarrass the other person by not hearing what they have to say."

"My deafness was a real problem for my wife. There were so many things she missed out on that she would have enjoyed, such as social occasions we would have gone to together if I had not been deaf. I didn't want to go and she wouldn't go without me."

Norman was left a widower in 1995 when he was 78. He first learned about cochlear implants from a hearing centre in Hurstville. They noticed his hearing deteriorating and arranged the appointment with Professor Bill Gibson in 2007 when Norman was about 90 years old.

"Prof Gibson thought that my physical fitness and mental state would allow me to enjoy my cochlear implant for many years to come; although he said that I must be willing to socialise and use the implant. I am very grateful that Professor Gibson thought I was a suitable candidate as it brings me back into the community."

"My cochlear implant in September 2008 worked well right from the start, although it is still not as good as natural hearing. Men's voices are clearer than women's; but it depends on the person. I had the implant in my right ear and I still wear a hearing aid in my left ear. I can understand the television newsreaders on the ABC including Juanita Phillips."



Six months after Norman was switched-on, he recited the poetry of Browning and Hopkins as well as some of his own poems from his a self-published book called Literary Smorgasbord: a collection of short stories and poems. He has recited his own poems at the weddings of his grand-daughters.

For many years following his implant and prior to moving to the Aged Care facility in Mortdale, Norman travelled by train from Loftus in southern Sydney to Central Railway Station, then caught a bus to Gladesville to attend the monthly morning teas held by Cicada on the first Thursday of the month.

His 100th birthday celebration took place at the Loftus Community Hall and was attended by more than 100 people including his large family which includes three children, 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Norman with his granddaughter Michelle in April 2009 at a CICADA meeting where he recited some of his poems. Michelle painted the colourful backdrop, inspired by Norman's poems

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
85 Crotona Rd
Capalaba QLD 4157
Ph/Fax: (07) 3824 5003
Email: info@cicadaqld.com.au

South Australia

CICADA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PO Box 415
Angaston SA 5353
Email: mailadmin@cicadasa.org.au

Western Australia

CICADA CLUB W.A. INC.

Social Secretary: Edna Chapman
Email: ekit57@hotmail.com
Ph: (08) 9371 5650

Treasurer: Ted Ivey

Email: ted2laura@gmail.com
Ph: (08) 9371 5650

Northern Territory

CICADA DARWIN

Coordinator Chris Blackham-Davison
Email: Deafncrazy@gmail.com
SMS: 0427 897 170

ACT

CICADA ACT INC

Secretary: Pete Halsey
pete.halsey@actdrc.org.au
Mob: 0438 203 110 sms only

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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.

CICADA Australia Inc. thanks Cochlear Ltd. for supporting the design, printing and distribution of this newsletter.

Norman Celebrates his 100th Birthday cont.



Norman and the youngest Heldon at his party

The family read out the cards from dignitaries including Queen Elizabeth II, The Governor General and the Prime Minister. To mark his birthday, he chose two poems to recite on the day. He was also celebrating nine years of being brought back into the community and his family through his ability to communicate.

Presidents Report



account of the lovely **PIA Jeffries** in this edition of BUZZ. Pia has just celebrated 30 years of hearing and some of you may remember that momentous day when the first "born deaf" child heard for the first time. Her smiling face appeared on the Telecom White Pages phone directory in recognition of this important event in Australian history!

These milestones hold so many memories for us and GRATITUDE seems to be the theme! Pia's brave step of having a bilateral implant 29 years later, in her other ear that had never heard, shows that she is determined to work with it to keep improving her hearing.

About 80 guests enjoyed our August BBQ Day and we thank our guest speakers for coming along to share such interesting presentations with us. See the report in this issue and if you were not able to attend and want to catch up on the presentations, the transcripts will be posted on the CICADA Website for you to read.

We NEED ADVOCATES to speak to people who are interested in CI's. IF you do not have a local support group, you can still be a "local advocate" to speak to others who might want to know about cochlear implants. As recipients, we understand what it is like and it is important to share this and encourage others to do something about their hearing loss.



Guest Speakers Esti Nel and Sharon Lown with Sue Walters (centre)

PLEASE email me or Judy Cassell, our Secretary, if you would like to put your name down to be a community advocate. You will find it can be very rewarding and you will meet a whole lot of new people!

It is exciting to see a local Taree/Port Macquarie support group starting up with the first gathering held on 9th September (SEE THE REPORT IN THIS ISSUE)

On 18th September I celebrated 33 years of hearing since my switch on in 1984, and I still think it is a miracle. What a turning point, connecting back to the world around me. In our last newsletter we reported on **Holly McDonell**, the first child to receive a CI and now it is heart-warming to read the



Sue Walters, Sue Young, Jeanette Holland, Prof and Alex Gibson, Robyn Herps at Taree

Presidents Report cont.

I was privileged to receive an invitation to the 100th birthday of Norman Heldon, who I believe is our oldest implant recipient. What a lovely celebration with family and friends. At the party, Norm's son Owen, as Master of Ceremonies, was telling us about the number of GRANDchildren and great-GRANDchildren and Norman piped up "I haven't heard you mention my GRAND WIFE yet!!" He is a character and still loves to recite a poem or two from memory. See the story from the local news *The Leader*, in this issue. Norm's birthday is 1st August and he used to come along to CICADA Morning Teas where we celebrated his 97th birthday with a cake! Congratulations to Norm on a life well-lived.

At our AGM on 12th November, we have the new General Manager, Aust/NZ from Cochlear Ltd, Janet Menzies and her team, who will present the Nucleus 7 system, the new sound processor due to be released in Australia in November. We are also hosting a Singing workshop as part of the proceedings, so please, release ANY uncertainty about your abilities!!!..., you will NOT be put on the spot!. The joy of singing with others is not to be underestimated and it is just a bit of fun and something we can participate in together...there will be captions!

Pia Jeffries

30 Years on.

One night, when I was five, I climbed out of my bed and saw that my parents were watching a video of a person's switch on with an older version implant (a single channel). Without their knowledge that I was hiding behind their couch, I saw the person's face lighting up at the result of the switch on. I knew what was happening and that it involved an operation in a hospital. Captivated by the process, I jumped out, scaring my parents and pointed at the video, then pointed at my chest indicating that I wanted to have an implant to be able to hear. My parents knew I understood what having an implant meant. Every day I packed my little hard suitcase with my favourite koala bear and a colouring book, I went to my mum and told her that I was ready to go to the hospital, eager to be able to hear. My mum eventually put up a calendar to show when I am due for an operation. I remember feeling quite impatient and anticipated the feel of the implant and the sounds I would hear in my head.

Finally, the day came. After the operation, I woke up and was confused by seeing so many doctors coming to see me and having deep conversations then leave. After I healed up, it was time for my switch on. It was 16th September 1987. I was confused by seeing 10+ people in one tiny room at Chatswood Public School, with news cameras and mics propped up. The unforgettable moment started when the audiologist turned on the microphone of my speech processor. Wow, it wasn't anything I had imagined, the sounds were so weird and odd but I could hear. It was an important moment to finally have the ability to hear.



Months later, my vocabulary had skyrocketed through intense speech rehabilitation with my mum. I was beginning to understand speech and became familiar with everyday sounds e.g. someone running, cars zooming past or a bouncing ball. Eventually, after seeing my face in so many papers, I realised why I was one of the important figures in the Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre (SCIC) Program; I was living proof that a congenitally deaf child could have an implant and live a life with more opportunities such as hearing and understanding music, and talking with friends over the phone.

At present, I am happily married to John and have two children, Casey (10) and Larissa (12). Casey is also congenitally deaf and was fitted with bilateral cochlear implants since he was 6 months old. Casey's listening ability is going amazingly well, at a rate better than me! There are times that Casey forgets that he is deaf – at bedtime, he would walk out of his room without his cochlears and have a conversation with us. Casey loves to have long catch up talks with his sister, Larissa when they come home from school. Casey has benefitted greatly from this wonderful technology.



Pia with Larissa and Casey

Last year, I underwent surgery to receive a second cochlear implant. On 16th September 2016, I was switched on with my second implant and heard unusual sounds; they were very different to what I first heard in 1987. It was a coincidence that the dates of my switch ons were the same. After few months with bilateral cochlears, I realised I cannot go by with my old cochlear alone because the sound decreased dramatically and I struggled with my listening skill. I was glad with my decision to become a bilateral cochlear implantee and gained patience with the rehabilitation of my second one; it was easy to lose perception of things with something new but everything just takes time. Right now, I will be finishing my 6 year long Science degree at Macquarie University at the end of this year, it is one of my proudest achievements in my life; soon, I will aim to pursue a Master of Research at the same university.

Tina Allen released a book recently, a biography of Professor Gibson. In it, there are interesting stories of the first implantees, portraying how we have evolved over 30 years and how SCIC came to be today, through Professor Gibson.

I would like to praise my mother for her endless love, inspiration and motivation throughout my childhood and to ensure my life would continually be filled with more opportunities; I also would like to personally thank the following people: my husband John, for his amazing ongoing support and patience with me and my university studies and my second cochlear implant; my children for their help with my rehabilitation process with my second cochlear implant and their remarkable patience with having a deaf mother; Professor Gibson for his belief in me when I was a child; Professor Birman for her support in my second cochlear implant; long time SCIC audiologist Jane Brew and her deep knowledge of cochlear implant program; Melinda Johnson for Casey's and my rehabilitation; and SCIC for their wonderful support towards us. With every visit at SCIC, we leave feeling happy and supported.

AUGUST BBQ DAY At Gladesville

Our August BBQ day went very well with attendance of about 80 people.

I want to thank our guest speakers for their informative presentations.

Esti Nel, Research Audiologist at Cochlear Ltd introduced some new members of the Cochlear team who also attended to meet recipients.

Jim May is the Senior Product Manager for Rehabilitation & Outcomes, working on digital rehabilitation tools to help recipients achieve their best outcomes.

Joanna Hegazy is the Concierge – Consumer Engagement Advisor, nurturing candidates in their hearing journey or their queries.

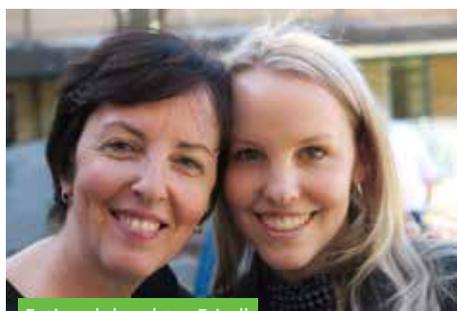
Christina Valle – Community Engagement Manager, looking after volunteers who want to share their story to help candidates & working on community events to raise awareness about hearing loss in Australia.



Christina Vale, Jim May and Joanna Hegazy

ESTI NEL joined Cochlear in 2000, just after the Sydney Olympics. Esti loves her work and gave us a very interesting outline of CI Research and the journey from an idea to a product. The cochlear implant is a class 3 medical device and as such has very stringent rules and regulations and processes to go through, which can take many years. Basic research studies, sometimes even animal studies take place to prove safety and effectiveness. A typical product development study is the part where Esti's team work in terms of supporting the engineers in the new product development studies - test new sound processors, new accessories, new software or new algorithms, which mean it could be a new program you want to use, say a program that helps you to hear better in wind or a program that helps you to hear better in noise.

The design and development team want to understand the needs of recipients across all age groups and capabilities and also incorporate other technologies into the product, such as the Bluetooth wireless devices. Then clinical studies, usability studies, focus groups, market surveys are conducted- all of which require input and feedback from volunteers.



Esti and daughter Friedl

Esti also presented on the new KANSO off-the-ear processor that Cochlear launched in February 2017. Feedback from some recipients is that they found it to be more comfortable and discreet.

SHARON LOWN presented on National Disability Insurance Scheme. NDIS is new. It is a lifetime approach of investing in people under the age of 65. It supports people with a disability to build skills and capability so they can participate in the community and employment. But it is not for supports that are more appropriately delivered by other mainstream organisations such as education or health. A lot of the things relating to your hearing impairment such as your mapping and your assessments are all delivered through health. So the NDIS doesn't replace that, and none of that changes. You need to have a permanent disability or an impairment that impacts on how you manage your everyday activities.



Sharon Lown

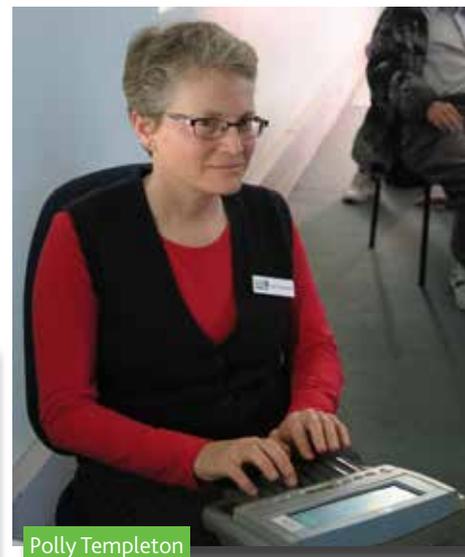
Some questions to consider as to whether you think this applies to you: If you have difficulty understanding and being understood by others; if you have difficulty making and keeping friends or coping with feelings and emotions; if you have trouble with your physical needs and self-care; if you need help in doing daily jobs and handling money and making decisions. It's a very broad scheme.

To start you need to contact the NDIS to determine if you meet the access requirements, then arrange a meeting with an NDIS Planner who will discuss your needs and help you to formulate a plan. This plan is about your goals, it is not a shopping list. They will look at reasonable and necessary supports that are not provided by any other agency, however the NDIS is continually evolving as they are quite inundated with requests for funding from all disability groups.

If you are 65 or over, NDIS are looking at the Commonwealth Continuity of Support Program which is run through the Department of Health.

The full transcript of these talks is posted on our website www.cicada.org.au

Thanks to **Polly Templeton** who travelled all the way from Canberra and did a wonderful job captioning the various presentations, thus making the proceedings easily followed/available for all.



Polly Templeton

SECOND-HAND PROCESSORS

If you have second-hand processors and parts that you no longer need, these can be donated to your local SCIC clinic.

The same applies to hearing aids, which can be sent to organisations who provide help to countries that have minimal hearing services.

CICADA Australia Inc

Don't forget the Cicada AGM coming up on the 12th November. See the enclosed flyer for details. Our current committee is a small but dedicated bunch, with many years service between them. It would be great to have some younger "blood" to help out at functions, particularly with the setting up and putting away of table and chairs. Nominations can be made from the floor on the day.



Committee member Cecilia Kramer and stalwart helper Dianne Lee (left)

A number of the CICADA committee members travelled to Taree on the weekend of the 9th September to support the inaugural meeting of a new Support Group in Taree - see details of the visit in the article in the Support Group section. It was good to meet those Taree people keen to get a Support Group off the ground and was a great excuse for us Sydney folk to get out into the countryside.



Ladies from the Taree Quota Club, who provided the afternoon tea

Morning Tea. Held on the first Thursday of the month

1st Feb	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

All Cicada functions are held at SCIC, Punt Road Gladsville.
Morning Teas from 10.30 to 12 midday and BBQ's 11am to 3pm..

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 group goes from strength to strength. Group coordinator David Romanowski has recently moved to Sydney to take up a job at Macquarie University, but will continue with his commitments to the group.



Gatherings planned for the balance of the year: -

22nd October, Illawarra Live Steamers 10.30 – 2.00
10th December, Windang Public Parks 10.30 – 2.00

For details contact David or check the CICADA website – see above.

David Romanowski:

Mobile: 0432 715 691

Email: dr930@uowmail.edu.au

Newcastle

Our Newcastle CICADA group is going along nicely. We have had two meetings with average of about 15 people come to join in and have a 3rd planned for October.

Our first June meeting - wow what a turnout! We had 4 people who are going through the qualifying process or seriously considering and another 6 who are recipients of cochlear implants as well as their partners. An amazing response. A big thank you to Maree McTaggart from SCIC Newcastle for providing a wealth of information to all who attended.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11 October and we have a guest speaker from Access Communications attending to give us all some information on the Captel phone. There has been a lot of interest from members wanting to find out how it all works, so Wayne from Access is coming to talk to us. (Sorry, the Buzz will not be out before this meeting)

Our last morning tea of the year will be held on Wednesday 13th December - our meeting dates are the 2nd Wednesday of the EVEN months.

Moira Havard - moirak@bigpond.com

Alison Gron - 4926 8100

Northern Rivers

12 people attended our June meeting. The longest activated member in the group was implanted 12 years ago; and the shortest was just 4 days activated. Also, four of the members were implanted just this year.

It was an interesting and diverse group. There was lots of sharing, discussion and funny stories. I'm sure I speak for all who attended, when I say it's great to be a part of the hearing journey of those who are just beginning their very exciting new life. The newbies, in turn, appreciate the testimonials and support provided by those a little further down the track.

Our CICADA Christmas party is booked in for Thursday November 23. 6:30pm at Seacoast Church Ballina. A flyer will be available closer to the event.

For further information or to be added to the email list, contact

Sheliya Van Buggenum

Email: sheliyavan@yahoo.com OR

Phone **Lismore Office** on 1300 658 98

Taree-Port Macquarie

Saturday 9th September, dawned bright and sunny, though the locals would have preferred good steady rain, due to the very dry conditions in the area. This was the first meeting of the Taree-Port Macquarie Support Group, co-hosted by Taree Quota Club ladies and Robyn Herps from SCIC Port Macquarie.



Sisters Sue Young (who established the Illawarra group) and Robyn Herps



Jeanette Holland Taree Quota President

Robyn gave a warm welcome to all those attending. Speakers included Jeanette Holland the Quota President who co-hosted the event, Sue Walters CICADA President who outlined the history of Cicada, followed by Prof Gibson's summary of his involvement with the Cochlear implant program. Finally Sue Young told of her experiences with her implant and how it changed her life.

A delicious afternoon tea was provided by the Taree Quota ladies allowing time for exchanging of information, socialising and making new friends.



Jan and Garry O'Brien

The next meeting of the group will be held on Saturday 21st October at North Haven Foreshore, Ocean Street, North Haven from 11am. It's a BYO with some picnic tables and BBQ's available but probably best to bring your own chair. For further details contact

Robyn Herps @ Robyn.Herps@scic.org.au
Phone: 1300 658 981 or
SMS: 0428 688 612

Western Sydney

Our last BBQ was well attended comprising a number of new people, newly implanted. Tuesdays at RIDBC Glenmore Park for our monthly Morning Teas continue with a few folk travelling some distance. Many friendships have been formed and the social interaction is enjoyed by all. Our next BBQ will be held in November.

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

HearForYou

A Mentoring Program for Teenagers

HearForYou (HFY) is an incredible organisation that provides mentoring for deaf and hard of hearing teenagers where the mentors are young adults who themselves are also deaf or hard of hearing.

How I wish this mentoring program was around when I was a teenager, as I know I would have benefited tremendously.

HearForYou gives you the opportunity to meet other kids in similar situations, a chance to create new friends and see mentors who are succeeding in life after school.

So what has HearForYou been up to this year? Specifically just in NSW? A lot!

They've recently introduced Rock My World Workshops earlier in the year, where the teenagers had the chance to do the following: An adventure day in one of Sydney's 'Escape Rooms', where they had to work together to solve a number of puzzles and problems to escape the room they were locked in before the time runs out. Not only did they escape the room with plenty of time, but also completed all bonus objectives!



Escape Room

A behind the scenes tour at the ABC Ultimo Studio. Watched live radio in action, explored the big studio sets and the teenagers got up close and personal with the crew of 'Good Games' spin off show 'Spawn Point'. We even got cool shirts!



What a daring day it was at Tree Tops Adventure Park, a high ropes obstacles course! We had to put on brave faces to navigate all the challenges and obstacles high up in the trees, at least 5 metres off the ground! It was just awesome to see the teenagers encourage and motivate one another to complete each course as they only got progressively harder as the day went on. Dare I say it? Even some of the Mentors needed encouragement and suggestions from the teens to overcome the harder obstacles.



Film-making and Red Carpet Premiere - a 2-day event run by Pauline Findlay who is an independent film-maker. She took the kids through the whole process of brainstorming ideas and all the way through to putting the final films together. To top this off, HearForYou for the first time hosted a "Red Carpet Premiere Film Night" later in August to showcase all films made by the teens. The film night concluded with judges giving out awards for the 'Best film', 'Best story' and 'Best director'. These videos can be found on HearForYou Facebook page. Thank you to Golden Age Cinemas for allowing us to have this incredible night.



Awards night

We ran a Life Goals & Skills Blast over the weekend of the 5th & 6th of August up in Newcastle. New friendships were formed and everyone was smiling at the end! Two of the mentors that joined us were Deaflympian Gold medalists - Melinda Vernon and Amy-Lea Mills! That's not all for August, some of the teens, Mentors and parents participated in the City2Surf, a gruelling 14km course. Thank you to all those who donated and supported us on the day.

And right now? We are currently doing the Life Goals & Skills Program at the Australian Hearing Hub, Macquarie University. The dates for the next 2 sessions are: - October 22nd - November 26th.

Want to know more? Check out HearForYou on Facebook or alternatively check out the website at www.hearforyou.com.au Are you a young adult interested in becoming a mentor? HearForYou will provide you with all the necessary training, so get in touch with John Lui via email at john.lui@hearforyou.com.au to find out more!

David Romanowski
(Current NSW HearForYou Mentor)

MED-EL Tips and Tricks

Bluetooth Wireless Connectivity With Your Cochlear Implant

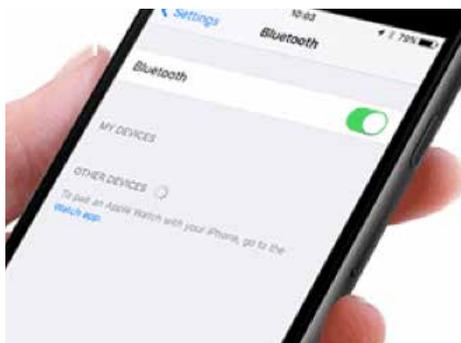
Enjoy connecting to the media you love—wirelessly. MED-EL cochlear implant audio processors are designed to connect to Bluetooth devices via light, easy-to-use neckloops. Whether it's listening to the music you love, watching your favourite TV show or chatting to friends on the phone, a Bluetooth neckloop can make your listening experience even better.

Connecting to a Bluetooth Neckloop
There are many Bluetooth neckloops to choose from. Below we show you how easy it is to connect to your phone with the Artone 3 Max.

Step 1: Press and hold the center button until the blue and red LED indicators start flashing.



Step 2: Go to your Bluetooth settings on your smartphone, activate the search function and select the Artone 3 Max.



Step 3: Select a telecoil option on your FineTuner remote control and enjoy wireless freedom with your MED-EL cochlear implant.

Port Macquarie Base Hospital cochlear implant service caters for young adults to elderly

Aug 2017 Port Macquarie News

Twenty four patients had cochlear implants at Port Macquarie Base Hospital in the first year of the service. The surgery and follow-up care are available in Port Macquarie. Patients previously had to travel at least to Newcastle, if not Sydney, to access the service. Ear and cochlear implant surgeon Dr Jonathan Kong said cochlear implants allowed people to connect with their community and families. "Cochlear implantation is an option when some people have given up hope on having hearing," he said. "It can provide a solution when non-surgical solutions, such as a hearing aid, are unable to."

Dr Kong said people should ask about cochlear implants if they are unsure. "Not all will be candidates but they should at least be asking the question," he said. Dr Kong said he was proud to be part of a team that provided a local cochlear implant service. He said the surgery was relatively routine, but still major surgery, and it was tolerated very well even by the elderly. Patients usually experience an overnight stay in hospital and a follow-up visit one week later with a GP to have a wound check. The device is switched on at the Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre Port Macquarie about two weeks later. Multiple visits will be required to program the device processor as each individual will require different support. Port Macquarie Base Hospital cochlear implant service caters for young adults to the elderly. Patients come from the Mid-North Coast to the Queensland border. Children and adolescents are still catered for in Sydney.



Miracle baby: Melbourne toddler Austin given the gift of sound

July 2017 Herald Sun

Austin Archer came into the world weighing little more than a tub of butter. Born at 23 weeks gestation and 540g, he was one of Australia's smallest and most premature babies. While his start to life was early, in many developmental milestones it left him behind. But now, thanks to a Melbourne invention, he is finally discovering the joy of sound. Austin is the 1000th child at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital to receive a cochlear implant. It's only been a few months since he got the bionic ear and already he knows new sounds: the moo of a cow, the quack of a duck and the oink of a pig. Premature birth can be one of the many risk factors for audio neuropathy; Austin's rare type of hearing loss that's caused by a malfunction in the way nerve impulses travel from the inner ear to the brain. "When I went into labour, I was advised not to go ahead because the reality was that he wasn't going to survive the first 24 hours, but he did," said his mum, Thobeka Archer. "He's a miracle baby."

While his hearing and speech still lags behind his peers, it's hoped the gains Austin has already made will continue to grow with intensive therapy and time. "Since we had it fitted, we have noticed a big improvement. He has already learned animal sounds and a few words," Ms Archer said.

HEARING AWARENESS WEEK 2018

World Hearing Day, presented by the World Health Organisation, is scheduled for Saturday 3 March 2018.

THE DEAFNESS FORUM of Australia advise that Hearing Awareness Week in Australia will be brought forward next year to the week running up to the international day (assuming 25 Feb – 3 March). The international theme in 2018 will be Hear the Future. It will focus on the expected increase in hearing loss prevalence in coming years.

And it looks like International Cochlear Implant day is 25 February 2018.

Dig Howitt to replace Chris Smith as Cochlear CEO

July 2017 The Australian Business Review and SBS



Outgoing Cochlear chief executive Chris Smith will retire from his position on January 2, 2018

Hearing implant maker Cochlear has announced its chief executive officer Chris Smith will retire from his position on January 2, 2018. Dig Howitt, Cochlear's chief operating officer, will replace Mr Smith as president of the company with immediate effect and will takeover as CEO when Mr Smith retires in January. The company says the appointment of Mr Howitt, who joined Cochlear (COH) in 2000, has been part of a succession process. Dig Howitt will take the seat as President now and transition to CEO responsibilities over the coming months. Mr Howitt joined Cochlear in 2000 and has held various roles, including chief operating officer; president, Asia Pacific; and senior vice- president, manufacturing and logistics.

Cochlear says over Chris Smith's 13 years with the company, he made a substantial contribution and positively impacted many peoples lives. Chairman Rick Holliday-Smith said Mr Smith will leave the company in a strong position. "Chris has overseen a period of substantial growth for Cochlear, with the company exceeding a billion dollars in annual sales revenue during his time as CEO,"

Cochlear 'committed' to Australia despite China plant

July 2017 Sydney Morning Herald

Cochlear insists it is committed to Australian manufacturing after it unveiled a plan to spend \$50 million in China developing the first offshore facility for its signature product as its local plants reach capacity. Cochlear will build the plant

Concert to mark 25 years of cochlear implants in Poland

July 2017 Business Mirror and the news.pl

People with cochlear implants gave a concert at the World Hearing Center near Warsaw as Poland marks 25 years since the first such device was implanted in the country.



MUSICIANS from all over the world recently converged for the "Beats of Cochlea" festival, where they showcased their talents, shared their love for music and received mentoring from world-class peers and professionals. What made the music festival extra special is the fact that it was especially created for people with hearing loss to fulfill their musical dreams. The performers represented a wide range of age groups, backgrounds and playing experiences, but all of them had one thing in common: They all use a hearing-implant in order to hear, appreciate music and experience the sense of sound as a normal hearing person should.



in the western Chinese city of Chengdu and hopes to have the first units rolling off the assembly line in four years once it has gained the necessary regulatory approvals. At full production, the plant will boost Cochlear's implant production capacity by 50 per cent. Cochlear has previously manufactured the implants only in Australia, although it has plants for other products in the United States, Sweden and Belgium it owns following acquisitions.

"We see that we could reach capacity in Australia in six, seven, eight years, so it's the right time," chief operating officer Dig Howitt said.

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Blonde Joke (sorry blondes)

Returning home from work, a blonde was shocked to find her house ransacked and burglarized. She telephoned the police at once and reported the crime.

The police dispatcher broadcast the call on the radio and a K-9 unit, patrolling nearby, was the first to respond.

As the K-9 officer approached the house with his dog on a leash, the blonde ran out on the porch, shuddered at the sight of the cop and his dog, and then sat down on the steps.

Putting her face in her hands, she moaned, 'I come home to find all my possessions stolen. I call the police for help and what do they do?

They send me a **BLIND** policeman!

Shampoo Warning

So glad I read this. It's very informative. DO NOT wash your hair in the shower!!

It's so good to finally get a health warning that is...useful!!!

IT INVOLVES THE SHAMPOO WHEN IT RUNS DOWN YOUR BODY WHEN YOU SHOWER WITH IT. THIS IS A WARNING TO US ALL!!!

I don't know WHY I didn't figure this out sooner! I use shampoo in the shower! When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning,

"FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME." No wonder I have been gaining weight!

Well! I got rid of that shampoo and I am going to start showering with Dawn Dishwashing Soap. Its label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."

Problem solved! If I don't answer the phone, I'll be in the shower!



Chengdu

