

EYE HEAR

BETTER
HEARING
AUSTRALIA



(Victoria) Inc.

MID-JANUARY 2010

WELCOME TO 2010

Happy New Year and welcome to 2010.

I celebrate my 1 year anniversary working at Better Hearing on the 21st January. The past year has been a wonderful journey for me. I've come from an IT infrastructure background so working in a community services organisation, an organisation with such passion and caring for the community, has been fantastic.

This year will be really busy. We have planned lots of activities during the year including round table discussions, Easter activities and our mid-year Christmas lunch plus a few bus trips. Our first activity will be Morning Tea on **Thursday 1st February at 10.30** to welcome everyone to a new year. If you can come, we would love to see you—it will be a great catch-up.

We also have the Adelaide visit which was scheduled for mid February to tour of the Hearing Dogs at Hahndorf, visit some wineries and catch up with the Adelaide Branch. However when I flew into Melbourne from my holiday last week, to experience 44 degree temperatures, I thought it may not be wise to visit Adelaide when the temperature in Adelaide could reach the very high 40s (this is what is predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology).

From the President - Ted Drowley

A big welcome to you all for 2010. This is the year that the Victorian Branch will be hosting the National Conference at Rydges Bell City Preston between the 7th and 10th October 2010.



Conference details will be published in the March Better Hearing journal as well as in the March Eye Hear Newsletter. Get in early to take advantage of the Early Bird rate which will include a cocktail function at the BHA Vic Prahran building, plus bus transfers to and from Rydges, the Welcome Cocktail function at the conference venue plus the Gala Conference Dinner. Stay tuned for **★ TED ★** more information to come soon....

So we have decided to reschedule our **Adelaide visit to 7th to 9th May**. If you're interested in attending, and have not yet registered your interest, please complete the form on page 5 and return to us. We can then send you further information as soon as possible.

We also have the 2010 National Conference planned for October. This will be the biggest event for us this year in which we are really excited. We have a team working hard to bring you a fantastic conference full of new technology, best practice techniques and lots and lots of innovation. We hope you can attend.

Our first event for the year will be the BHA Vic Welcome to 2010 Morning Tea at 10.30 on Thursday 18th February. Come and enjoy a chat, a cup of tea and a good catch up.

2010 will be a great year for us and we look forward to you being part of 2010 with us.

Susan ☺

Susan Fiori
Executive Officer
Susan@betterhearing.org.au



(left) Valarie, Slavka and I at the Christmas Dinner.

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We're on the web!

www.betterhearing.org.au



Better Hearing Australia is now on facebook (group):

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Better-Hearing-Australia-Inc/126530779035>

Captioned Theatre

From Liz Evans, Buderim, QLD
(a member of BHA Sunshine Coast)



The Melbourne Theatre company has five captioned sessions per year.
The 2010 dates are :



- Sat Feb 13
- Sat May 8
- Sat July 5
- Sat Aug 28 (this is during Hearing Awareness Week and a great opportunity to promote 'Captioning')
- Sat Nov 13.

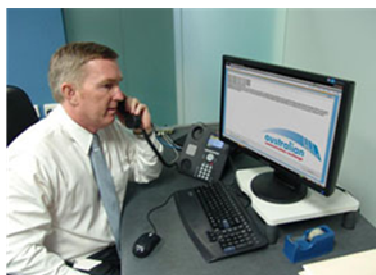
Refer to the calendar on the Melbourne theatre Company website for further information: <http://www.mtc.com.au/calendar/index.aspx?monthDropDown=2010:2&week=on&day=8>, or call 8688 0800

Captioned Telephony Update

Susan Fiori met with the new Director of Strategy and Planning last week to obtain an update on the Captioned Telephony trial. As you may be aware there are two trials for captioned telephone—one using handsets and one using the web. Currently there were 300 people on the 2 year web trial scheduled to finish in October 2011. 110 handsets had been ordered from America due to arrive soon for the handset trial. The first phase of the handset trial would commence once the handsets had arrived. It was planned to have one of these handsets based at the BHA Vic Prahran building enabling demonstrations.

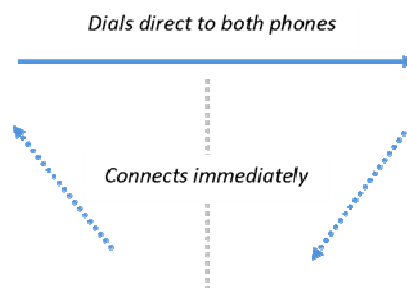
How to participate: If you want to participate in the web trial, there are still plenty of places available. Please go to www.aceinfo.net.au and register your interest. Alternatively, please email info@aceinfo.net.au or phone (07) 3815 7607.

How the web captioned telephone works:



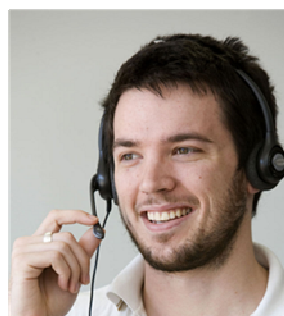
Web CapTel User:

The Web CapTel User can use any phone and a computer with an internet connection. They log on to the internet and type the number they want to call.



Hearing person:

The hearing person takes the call and communicates as they normally would. The call is simultaneously connected to the ACE Captioning Service.



ACE Captioning Service:

The ACE Relay Officer transcribes everything the hearing person says into captions for the Web CapTel User.

Members Forum Update

Did you make any New Year's Resolutions at the start of 2010? And did your hearing loss management feature in any of these? Remember that Better Hearing exists to help you to work through any hearing issue you may have so do get in touch if we can help. In the meantime, we are planning lots of events and activities for 2010 to bring people together, provide learning opportunities and help strengthen our organisation.

The Members' Forum will meet about every 6 weeks through the year to plan events and newsletter content and any members are welcome to attend. If you are unable to come to the meetings but would like to have your say about our activities, or contribute to the newsletters, we would love to hear from you.

The first meeting of the Members' Forum is to be on Friday, 29th January, 11am – 12 noon, at 5 High Street Prahran. Then at 1pm there will be a captioned movie showing, so anyone attending the Members' Forum meeting is welcome to bring a sandwich for lunch and stay on for the movie.

Technology connects hearing-impaired

HANDS up if you have noticed hearing aids in former PM John Howard's ears.

Mr Howard, who has had impaired hearing since the age of 10, is an ambassador for the Deafness Forum of Australia.

Mr Howard launched a new hearing product in Sydney last Friday which is set to revolutionise telephone communication for an estimated three million Australians.

A three-month trial involves 100 hearing-impaired people Australia-wide.

Buderim resident Liz Evans is one of the excited ones chosen to participate. Liz was born hearing impaired and four years ago was fitted with a cochlear implant.

The hearing-impaired have always "hated" telephones, according to Liz, but now, thanks to new technology, calling a friend or paying a bill over the phone is possible. You log into the site, WebCap-Tel, enter your own phone number and the number you want to call.

The service connects the number, calls you back and, as the person you are connected to speaks, the words appear on your computer screen.

The service is simple and there is no installation required. All you need is a normal phone and a computer with a web browser and internet connection.

Liz fears phone calls no longer



(left) Carole with Ray & Bev Verity

At this meeting we will be finalizing the BHA Victoria trip to Adelaide (advertised in the December newsletter). Some of our members are

looking forward to meeting in Adelaide for the weekend of **7-9 May** and taking in a tour of the Hearing Dogs Centre at Hahndorf, as well as socializing with fellow members from BHA Adelaide.

We finished off 2009 with our annual Christmas Dinner in December. In spite of the rain we had a record crowd and everyone was in party mode so of course the noise level was off the decibel scale. The dinner was splendid, Santa was in fine form at the auction, and everything went smoothly, thanks to the many enthusiastic people involved in preparing and putting on this great evening. If you didn't come, you might want to keep this in mind for this year!

Carole McCarthy

Sunshine Coast Daily

20 October 2009

The call can even be saved. "Last week (with the use of WebCapTel) I paid bills over the phone for the first time using this method," Liz said. "It was a great day!" Liz said the old system was particularly slow and involved voice and manual typing in reply using the relay service – about 60 words a minute. The new service has advanced along with technology and utilises voice recognition software. Best of all, it costs no more than a normal call for the user.

"Australian Communication Exchange is providing some funding for the trial," Liz said. The service has been available in the United States for six years and Australia is the only country currently taking it to trial. The service should be available to the public in 12 months. For more information, contact the Australian Communication Exchange on 38157600 or visit www.aceinfo.net.au



(above) GREAT DAY: Liz Evans, a BHA Member, uses the new phone system for people with hearing problems.

Celebrating 2009



(above and left): Volunteers Lunch on 3rd December

(below): Christmas Dinner on 17 December



Donations Please for our Hearing Aid Bank

The BHA **Community Assistance Scheme** enables some people with hearing loss who are on lower incomes to be fitted with a reconditioned hearing aid. Usually one aid is provided due to a shortage of aids and demand for the Scheme. Getting a hearing aid through this scheme depends on eligibility in terms of circumstances and a suitable hearing aid being available in the **Hearing Aid Bank**.

If you have a spare 'behind the ear' hearing aid that is no longer used, we would very much appreciate it being donated to our Hearing Aid Bank
- Please send all spare Hearing Aids to BHA Vic—5 High St, Prahran, 3181.

Have you ever thought about becoming a BLOOD DONOR?

Donating blood is easy, painless, takes very little time and helps to save lives.

If you, or someone you know, has thought about donating blood but are unsure about what is required, or whether you are able to donate, answer the following questions.

- Are you under 16 years of age?
- Are you over 70 years of age?
- Have you recently had a tattoo?
- Pregnant, or just given birth?
- Have you got a serious heart condition?
- Are you low on iron?
- Have you lived in the UK for 6 months or more between 1980 and 1996?
- Have you engaged in "at risk" sexual activity in the past twelve months?
- Have you used intravenous recreational drugs?



If you answered NO to all questions you may be eligible to donate blood. Having a hearing loss does not stop you giving blood. For more information check out the web site: www.donateblood.com.au

We're Going to Adelaide

We originally scheduled our visit to Adelaide for mid February. Due to the potentially hot weather during this time, it has been decided to reschedule our trip. Therefore our visit to the Better Hearing Australia Adelaide Branch is now scheduled for

7th to 9th May 2010

If you haven't already expressed your interest, please complete the form below and return to **BHA, 5 High Street, Prahran, 3181**, or just **email us (bhavic@betterhearing.org.au)** or **phone us (03) 9510 1577**. Further details will be posted to you. A full agenda is planned for this weekend:

| | | |
|----------------|-----|---|
| Friday 7th May | 2pm | Visit to Hearing Dogs Association, Hahndorf |
| Sat 8th May | | McLaren Vale Wine Tour, Lunch at Woodstock Winery Coterie |
| | | Dinner with Adelaide Better Hearing Australia |

Better Hearing Adelaide Trip

Yes, I am interested in coming on the Better Hearing Adelaide Trip. Please send me more information.

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The Health Report - ABC Radio National

Approximately 3% of Australians over the age of 50 and about 74% of the population aged over 71 suffer from hearing impairment. Hearing loss or a hearing disability affects a number of aspects of health and can severely impact on the quality of life. Norman Swan, on 30th November 2009, interviewed Anthony Hogan, Research Fellow at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University.

The audio version and full transcript is available off the ABC Radio National website:

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/healthreport/stories/2009/2755437.htm>



Captioned Movie Afternoons: Friday 29 January

Everyone Welcome - Last Friday of each month - Free

1pm Start at BHA Prahran, 5 High Street Prahran

Scheduled Movie: Sleepless in Seattle or My Big Fat Greek Wedding

BHA VIC Art Gallery

We are now scheduling our 2010 Art Exhibitions. If you, or anyone you know loves to draw, paint or create (even for just enjoyment), we would love to display your work. Do you / they have artwork but no place for people to appreciate it. Well - we've got the space at our Prahran office / Art Gallery space.

We'd love to hear from you - give us a call to discuss.

And the winners are....

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and supported our Annual Fundraising Raffle. The winners are:

- **House Hamper:** Mrs D Blackie
- **House Hamper:** Mr G Brenan
- **Bean Alliance Pack:** Mr R Ritchie
- **Beauty Hamper:** Mr C Oberin
- **\$500 Photography:** Ms K Adams

Congratulations to the winners and we are currently in the process of distributing these hampers to our lucky winners.



JANUARY:

- 26: Australia Day Public Holiday (office closed)
- 29: Awards Sub-Committee (9.30am)
- 29: National Conference Working Group (10am)
- 29: Members Forum - all welcome (11am)
- 29: Captioned Movie - all welcome (1pm)

FEBRUARY:

- 9: Finance Sub Committee (10.30am)
- 16: Committee of Management Meeting (5pm)
- 18: Welcome Morning Tea - all welcome (10.30am)
- 19: March Eye Hear Newsletter deadline
- 23: Policy Sub-Committee (10.30am)
- 26: National Conference Working Group (10am)
- 26: Members Forum - all welcome (11am)
- 26: Captioned Movie - all welcome (1pm)

MARCH:

- 4: Mag Wrap - all welcome (11am)
- 8: Labour Day Public Holiday (office closed)

THE DIARY

Be part of our next newsletter: Seen or heard something of interest? Have an idea or article you would like to submit - then we want to hear from you. You, our members, are our strength. The next newsletter is March 2009. Please send your contribution or idea to Susan (susan@betterhearing.org.au) or phone / post (to Prahran office - details below) by 19 Feb.

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