

WHISPERS



Newsletter of Better Hearing Australia (Sydney) Incorporated

October, 2013



the joy of
HEARING



Dear Members and Friends of BHA,

The National Conference is now only a few weeks away and the number of attendees who have registered, although encouraging, has not yet reached the level we would like to achieve.

My sincere thanks to the members of our Conference Committee, who have been working non-stop for over 12 months, to deliver a fantastic program. The lineup of speakers is truly world class and their presentations absolutely outstanding. Of course, we're biased! There is a draft program on our website, which is being continually updated and I do hope those of you who haven't registered yet will attend at least one of the sessions. Your support is essential to ensure this is the most successful National Conference to date. *Why not come along and share the experience with us? It really is an opportunity of a lifetime.*

Accompanying this Whispers publication is a special "Conference" edition of the BHA magazine with the cover designed by one of our members, Louise Kelly. Aren't we fortunate to have such talented members?

Since our last issue, I attended a BHA State Council meeting in Newcastle with representatives from National Disability Services, to determine what impact the new legislation is likely to have on our branch's funding after 30 June 2015. At this stage, it is unclear which government department will administer our future funding although this appears likely to fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability & Home Care. We will be meeting with their local Service Planning and Development Officer in the near future to discuss our situation.

One of our members recently showed me an amazing product that has been developed by GN Resound Belgium. It's called the Lynx MiniVib and looks like an ordinary wristwatch but is really a wireless alert system for people with reduced hearing. It is a small receiver which sends out an alert via various vibrations and different coloured LEDs when one of the transmitters in the system is activated. This alerts the wearer to noises such as the phone, the doorbell or smoke alarm. Details: <http://www.gnresound-ald.com>

Our annual Volunteers luncheon was held on Friday, 19 July and enjoyed by all who attended. This year, we decided not to have a guest speaker and, instead, enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie with our volunteers.

By the time you receive this edition of Whispers, our Annual Street Stall will have been held on Saturday, 28th September at the Uniting Church in Burwood. A BIG thank you to all our members and friends who have donated items and particularly to Malcolm Minter for coordinating and organizing the event and to all our volunteers who helped out on the day.

My thanks to Frances Wonsack and Patricia O'Connor for organizing our monthly Coffee@Concord meetings, which continue to be enjoyed by all attendees.

A warm welcome to our latest new members (*see Page 7*). We hope you have a long and enjoyable association with Better Hearing Sydney.

VALE - we have been saddened by the passing of Dot Taylor and Hazel Evans. They will be missed and fondly remembered by all their friends at Better Hearing Sydney.

My thanks to all our volunteers for their continued wonderful assistance. Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

As always, please remember to:

Spare a day for BHA !

John

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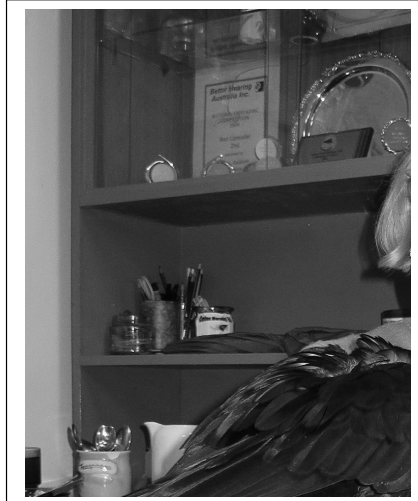
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SOCIAL CLUB AND COFFEE@CONCORD



August Social Club Outing to Yum Cha at Parramatta. What a scrumptious lunch!

Frances Wonsack and Catherine Lukic with a fine feathered friend at July Coffee@Concord



Patricia Skehan, the Guest Speaker at August Coffee@Concord with our own Patricia O'Connor





BHA Annual Christmas Raffle

Let's make this our most
successful raffle ever!
We are depending on you!

Our Christmas raffle is our major fund-raising
event and helps us to buy equipment and
stationery for various BHA activities.



You can contribute in 4 ways:

- ❖ By donating new items to go in the
5 prize - bags
- ❖ By donating money to help
purchase prize items
- ❖ By buying tickets in the raffle
- ❖ By donating directly to the
Christmas Raffle fund if you do not
wish to buy tickets.

Remember!

All money raised goes towards
improving the services that we
provide to our hearing impaired
members in Sydney.



All members are winners when you contribute
to this event.

Good donations mean the prizes we
can offer will be "Highly Desirable"
providing an added incentive for
people to purchase the raffle tickets.
The raffle will be held at the Sydney
BHA Christmas Party (14th
December).

Ideas for Donations

- Items such as Christmas food treats (no
tins please), small gifts
- Gift Vouchers from Coles, Target,
Bunnings etc **NB:**

All prize winners are responsible for picking-up
their prize from the Concord Club Rooms.
Prizes that are not collected will become prizes
at other events.



Melbourne Cup Day

Tuesday 5th November
At the Concord Clubrooms

Members and friends – we hope you will join us for a
great time at our annual Melbourne Cup Day event. It's a
load of fun, and you just might win the sweepstake!

Meet at 11.30am for drinks, followed at 12 noon by a
delicious BBQ lunch and tippie

An hour of



"Best Ladies"
and

"Best Gentleman's Hats



will begin

will be judged by secret ballot
at 2.30pm

All for \$10

At 1.30pm
Will be served at
2.30pm

The Great Race begins
at 3.00pm
and then the Sweepstakes
Winners will be announced.



February Friday 22nd

Our 1st Social Club outing for 2014

Banyan Brasserie
Canterbury Leagues Club

Meet up with friends and
members in the Banyan Cafe
at 11.45am, then proceed to
the Banyan Brasserie for a
tasty meal at prices which are
great value
(from \$10 - \$25).



The Club is located at 26 Bridge Rd, Belmore, just
across the bridge from Belmore Station.



Back in Time

HOW U.S.A. HELPS ITS DEAFENED SOLDIERS **Reprinted from "The Alert" – October 1944**

There are three Army Hospitals in the U.S.A. which rehabilitate deafened soldiers, Borden, Hoff and Deshon. Together they hold the largest number of deafened persons ever to come under three roofs. After the last war treatment for the hard of hearing veteran was optional and few wanted to bother with the cumbersome help then available. Now the US Army is ready to do all it can to alleviate the loss of hearing that will arise from explosives, swift changes of altitude and acute diseases.

At Deshon all is ready to receive the sufferer. Psychiatrists deal with the depression that so often accompanies the onset of deafness, doctors examine the man to discover any physical shortcomings, especially in relation to the eyesight that is to be of so great use to the deafened man. Acoustical tests are made to determine the hearing loss and the appropriate type of aid indicated. Was molds are made of the inside of the outer ears to insure proper fitting of the earpiece for the aid.

Meanwhile his family has been notified of his ailment and practical suggestions are offered on how to make him feel at ease, how best to help him. The soldier is then sent home for a furlough before returning to the hospital for an intensive course of lipreading.

At Deshon there are now 263 deaf cases and 30 teachers of lipreading. Each deafened soldier has two half-hour sessions daily with a teacher of lipreading for two months or more. Motion pictures are also used to teach the men to lipread in various real life situations from dinner with the family to shopping. The most suitable hearing device is scientifically determined and the soldier helped in its use. The cost of instrument and batteries is borne by the Government.

Attention is also paid to voice control and defects that have developed in speech through hearing loss. Finally, the deafened man is made to fully realise the truth of the edict, "if you do your lipreading and wear your instrument you can do almost anything anyone else can do."

With acknowledgements to "Newsweek", May 1944

WHAT IS BEING DONE HERE

Mr O D Oberg, President of the Australian Council of Employers' Federations, said in a talk over 2FC on 23rd October, 1944, "No means should be neglected fully to equip the disabled to take appropriate places in industry."

The Repatriation Department, in some cases provides a hearing aid and keeps it supplied with batteries, but that is all. Our Association has offered to help in the rehabilitation of deafened service personnel, but so far no organized use has been made of its clubroom and other facilities.

Mr Grimston, Welfare Officer of R.S.S.A.I.L.A. (*can anyone enlighten us as to what these initials stand for? Ed.*) visited the clubroom and met many of our members. He is very interested in our doings and will endeavour to make us known to deafened ex-servicemen.

DID YOU KNOW.....

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL: Everyone knows about Bell's invention of the telephone but what is not well known is his ties to the deaf community.

Bell's invention of the telephone and the microphone were developed in part to assist people with hearing loss.

Bell taught deaf students at a school in London, the Boston School for Deaf Mutes and the Clarke School for the Deaf. He also opened a school for deaf and hearing students together but the school had to be closed after just two years.

Although he married a deaf woman, a former speech pupil Mabel Hubbard, Bell strongly opposed intermarriage among deaf people. He feared "contamination" of the human race by the propagation of deaf people even though most deaf people statistically are born to hearing parents. In addition, Bell's mother was hard of hearing/deaf.

In 1880 Bell won the Volta Prize from France for his invention of the telephone and used the winnings to set up the Volta Bureau, a library holding information on deafness. Ten years later in 1890 he set up the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf with the objectives of promoting oral communication.

Bell befriended Helen Keller, a deaf-blind woman famous in that era. Another major accomplishment was to conduct the first national census of the deaf in 1890.



ON OLD AGE

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?" "Well," he said, "I fill up a bath tub, then I offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub.

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the cup." "No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

THE TRUE STORY BEHIND THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



This song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith. From 1558 to 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly so they had to find other ways to learn their beliefs. The song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” is an allegory. Each of the items in the song represents something of religious significance. The hidden meaning of each gift was designed to help young Christians learn their faith.

The song goes “On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me” – the true love represents God and the “me” who receives these presents is the Christian.

- The “partridge in a pear tree” was Jesus Christ who died on the tree as a gift from God.
- The “two turtle doves” were the Old and New Testaments, another gift from God.
- The “three French hens” were faith, hope and love, the gifts of the Spirit that abide. (1 Cor. 13:13)
- The “four calling birds” were the four Gospels, which were a song of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- The “five golden rings” were the first five books of the Old Testament, which are also called the books of Moses or the Pentateuch.
- The “six geese a-laying” were the six days of creation.
- The “seven swans a-swimming” were seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:8-11) Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- The eight maids a-milking” were the eight beatitudes.
- The “nine ladies dancing” were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- The “ten lords a-leaping” were the Ten Commandments.
- The “eleven piper piping” were the eleven faithful disciples.
- The “twelve drummers drumming” were the twelve points of the Apostles’ Creed.

(by courtesy of Len Thompson of the Wesley Mission, Sydney)



Craft Circle consists of an enthusiastic group of keen Craft members and friends. They gather at the Concord Club Rooms on the **second Saturday of every month**

Meet great people and enjoy yourself.

Craft Circle usually starts at 10.30am.
BYO lunch, \$5 entry fee, plus materials

November Saturday 9th – Christmas break-up
Everyone bring a plate and Kris Kringle gift

No December Craft Circle meeting

January Saturday 12th – Card making with Barbara
Host: Ruth

February Saturday 9th - Bonsai maintenance with John
Bring your existing bonsai for a trim plus your own craft.
Host: Joan

March Saturday 9th – Special guest Beryl – a papercraft expert
Host: Barbara C



Coffee@Concord

4th Tuesday of the month.
10am till 12 noon

October Tuesday 22nd – Speaker: Sr Judith Barwick
Subject: Visiting an HIV village in South Africa.

The talk will focus on "Sister Ethel's Tree" which was where Sr Ethel taught basic hygiene and life skills to the children at the Missionvale Care Centre in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Many of these children were suffering from HIV AIDS. Sr Ethel has gathered an amazing group of lay people who help her to run Missionvale under a Trust Board.

November Tuesday 26th – Christmas break-up
Join in the fun of the last C@C for the year! Games, trivia, nibbles and drinks. Please bring a small plate.

No Coffee@Concord in December or January

See January 2014 Wojjsay for details of February and March 2014 Coffee@Concord

**A Warm Welcome
to our
New Members**



Jessica Biddlecombe, Mariella Prangell, Elizabeth Cahill,
Phillip Newall, David Norman and Anne Woods

VALE

Elsie Evans

Dot Taylor

Notice of Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 28th Annual General Meeting of members of Better Hearing Australia (Sydney) Inc. will be held at:

Burwood RSL Club
96 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood
on **Saturday 16 November, 2013 at 12.30pm**

Nominations are called for appointment to the Committee of Management

The following positions available are:
President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and
Board Members (3)

Nominations are open to all financial members of BHA and nomination forms are available at the office. **Nominations close** 4.00pm on Friday 18 October, 2013.

Friday 22nd November
Christmas Social Club Outing to



The Bowlers Club

at **99 ON**
YORK

We hope you will join us for the final Social Club Outing for 2013 at 95-99 York Street (close to both Town Hall and Wynyard St Stations).

This special pre-Christmas outing is always popular and lots of fun. We will meet in the **Red Room** at 11.45am, for a great "all you can eat" lunch at 12 Noon.



You will be spoilt with a selection of more than 20 hot and cold dishes, including prawns and mouth-watering desserts.

BUFFET PRICES:



Only
\$15

Saturday 14th December

Concord Clubrooms
 29 Burwood Road, Concord

Starts 11.30am drinks
 Lunch at 12 noon

Come along to our Party and share the spirit of the Season with us. Bring your friends, too!

Enjoy a great BBQ, salads, nibbles, drinks, fruit and Christmas Cake!

FUN, GAMES and PRIZES!

Our **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** will be drawn.

RSVP: Friday 29th November

Phone: 9744 0167, TTY: 9744 0124



Diary Dates:

Spring / Summer 2013

OCTOBER 2013

Friday 18th Nominations for 2014 positions to COM must be received.

Tuesday 22nd **Coffee @ Concord**

Speaker: Judith Barwick **Subject:** Visiting a HIV village in South Africa

24th-27th **BHA National Conference**

NOVEMBER 2013

Tuesday 5th **Melbourne Cup Day.** Special Event at the BHA Club-rooms

Saturday 9th **Craft Circle** – Christmas break-up

Tuesday 12th **Social Club Meeting** at 11am to arrange Christmas Party and activities for summer quarter

Saturday 16th **AGM** at Burwood RSL at 12.30pm

Friday 22nd **Social Club** - Pre-Christmas

outing to **Club 99 on York**

Tuesday 26th **Coffee@Concord** – Christmas break-up

DECEMBER 2013

Saturday 14th BHA Sydney **Xmas Party**

Thursday 19th Term 4 ends

Concord Office Closed

20 December 2013 to 6 January 2014

JANUARY 2014

Monday 6th Concord office reopens

Saturday 12th **Craft Circle** – Card making

Tuesday 28th Term 1 begins

FEBRUARY 2014

Tuesday 4th **Social Club Meeting** at 11am to Discuss outings for Autumn & 2014 Christmas cards

Saturday 9th Craft Circle -Bonsai Maintenance

Friday 22nd **Social Club Outing** – Canterbury Leagues Club

MARCH 2014

Saturday 9th **Special Guest: Beryl** – Paper craft expert – explore new ideas

Friday 21st **Social Club Outing** to Gosford - **Edogawa Commemorative**

Gardens. Newcastle and Central Coast BHA Friends are warmly invited to join us.