

2018 WINTER EDITION

# BETTER HEARING TODAY

*Members' Newsletter*

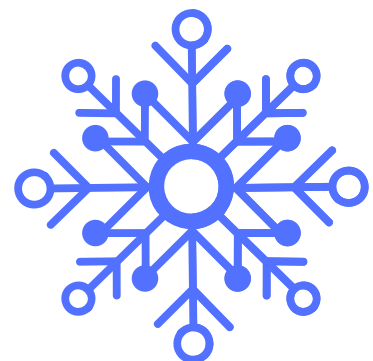


## WINTER WELCOME

A warm welcome to all our readers for the Winter edition of Better Hearing Today. We are committed to bringing you the latest on industry updates, community meetings, business developments and government initiatives that will be of interest to all members and the larger community.

Enjoy the newsletter,

The Better Hearing Australia (VIC) Team



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The last quarter at Better Hearing Australia (VIC) has been an exciting, challenging and innovative time. As we continue to search for a new facility that will benefit our long-term future, we are excited by new developments in community capacity building, fundraising events and partnering with like-minded organisations.

The *Australian Aged Care Quality Agency Audit* occurred in May, with fantastic results. Better Hearing Australia (VIC) passed all areas, ensuring that we remain an aged care provider for the next three years.

Also in May, a survey was sent out to our members to learn more about their hearing needs. The results of this survey will allow us to tailor seminars and focus groups in the future.

My colleagues attended an important key supporter event for the *Asylum Seeker Resource Centre* at the *Meat Market*, North Melbourne. The connections made will allow us to expand our outreach with refugees and asylum seekers in metropolitan and regional communities.

Moving to June, we had our first trivia night event, organised by the Diploma of Event Management students from *Swinburne University*. There were over 70 guests enjoying games, prizes, food and drinks. I would like to thank the students for holding a successful event that raised \$2000. The much needed funds will go towards new audiology equipment and ensure our clients continue to receive the best service with modern facilities.

I look forward to seeing many of our members at our next fundraising event, *Run Melbourne* on Sunday, July 29th.

Finally, it is with sadness that I inform the Better Hearing Australia (VIC) community of the passing of Kay Yardley on Tuesday 1 May 2018; she was a long time member of BHA. Our sincere condolences go out to her husband Mr Yardley of 51 years and her family. Mr Yardley expressed his gratitude to Better Hearing Australia (VIC) for all the help provided to Kay during her involvement with us.



Athina Georgiou





# NEW BOARD PRESIDENT, KIM TURUDIA

A big welcome to our new Board President, Kim Turudia.

Kim has been a member of Better Hearing Australia (VIC) since November 2017 and began in the role of President following election at the April 2018 Board meeting. Kim was drawn to joining the Board of Better Hearing Australia (VIC) due to the values, mission, history and work of the organisation.

She is positive about the future of Better Hearing Australia (VIC) and is confident that together with the CEO, Athina Georgiou, the dedicated team of staff and a committed and skilled Board, the organisation is well positioned to meet the challenges of the future. Kim also acknowledges the work and dedication of the past President, Georgie Stayches and her commitment to the role.

“I’m thrilled to work with a passionate board, staff and members to meet the goals and objectives of Better Hearing Australia (VIC). Our organisation is ready to take on the challenges of the NDIS, increase our advocacy, build strong partnerships and collaborations across the sector and the community to raise awareness of hearing health.

The future of Better Hearing Australia (VIC) is very positive and I look forward to meeting the supporters of Better Hearing Australia (VIC) and learning how we can work together effectively to continue the excellent work of the organisation into the future.”

With over 25 years of experience in healthcare management and having recently completed her MBA at Deakin University, Kim is excited by the challenges which lie ahead.



# NEW BOARD MEMBER, HARRY GOKSAN

Harry Goksan joined the Board in April 2018 as a Member. Harry has a BA (Hons) in Business Management and runs his own business in fashion apparel. Harry has experience working with customers directly across marketing and events planning, while also fundraising for TLC for Kids and Food Bank Victoria. Harry was instrumental in the planning and engagement of tinnitus campaigns and worked on the development of the Tinnitus Australia website.

Harry is committed to making the branding and visibility of Better Hearing Australia (VIC) stronger, to ensure that everyone can access all the information services available.



# NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome new staff to the Better Hearing Australia (VIC) team. The team will ensure that we continue to provide information services, advocacy, counselling and consultation to all Victorians.

**Mary-Ann Law**  
Senior Audiologist

Mary-Ann has worked in a variety of roles including both the public and private hearing aid sectors. She has been a research audiologist for Cochlear Ltd, and a member of the Cochlear Implant team at the *Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital*. Mary-Ann has had her own audiology clinics in Blackburn and Fairfield since 2014.



**Jack Leigh**  
Senior Audiologist

Jack has been an audiologist in Melbourne for 10 years and has run his own private clinic since 2013, specialising in home visits and aged care. Jack has experience in both the public and private sectors, having worked for the NHS and a selection of private companies.



**Faik Demir**  
Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Faik has worked in a number of not-for-profit roles, specialising in marketing, communications and fundraising. Faik is excited to increase the digital growth of Better Hearing Australia (VIC) and create relationships with like-minded organisations.



**Anne Young**  
Executive Assistant

Anne has vast experience in administration across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. She strongly believes in the services provided by Better Hearing Australia (VIC) and looks forward to the organisation growing with a progressive thinking CEO and Board.



# MEETING WITH BHA CANBERRA

Our CEO met with Bill Leane, Chair of *Better Hearing Australia Canberra* and Steve Williamson, CEO of *Deafness Foundation*, to discuss all things hearing health.

The team spoke about the roll-out of the NDIS, community engagement programs and how digital technologies could better support people with hearing loss.

All agreed that further collaboration between like-minded organisations were required, to ensure that hearing is to become the next National Health Priority Area. This would result in more funding, advocacy and services for the community.



# MEETING WITH COTA VICTORIA

Ronda Held, CEO of *Council of the Ageing (COTA) Victoria* met our CEO to discuss potential collaborations between our organisations.

A survey on hearing loss was conducted by our organisation and sent out to all *COTA Victoria* members, as well as *Better Hearing Australia (VIC)* members. A positive response came from the survey, with many *COTA Victoria* members wanting to stay up to date with hearing health news, while others learned about our services for the first time.

We look forward to working with *COTA Victoria* and connecting with their members and network regularly.





# VISIBILITY VEST FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

Chair of *Better Hearing Australia Canberra*, Bill Leane, met with our CEO in Melbourne to discuss several initiatives and collaborations between the two branches. Bill was excited to share a particular initiative that is really catching the eye of locals in Canberra.

He was very proud to show a safety vest for the hearing impaired that can be worn during walks, bike rides or hikes. This tells those nearby that the wearer may not hear requests or warning bells.

Designed by a member of *Better Hearing Australia Canberra*, the vest has a caption stating, "Caution Hearing Impaired" and has had a positive response in Canberra, with wearers feeling safe and respected by other members in the community.

The next step is to provide branches of Better Hearing Australia with safety vests for members to try out and provide feedback.



# MEETING WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR SENIOR VICTORIANS

Our CEO met with Gerard Mansour, *Commissioner for Senior Victorians*, to discuss exciting initiatives at our organisation and ensure that senior Victorians are aware of the information and services that Better Hearing Australia (VIC) provide.

Gerard provided advice on how Better Hearing Australia (VIC) could better connect with senior Victorians through events, seminars, community clubs, social media and partnering with like-minded organisation.



# TINNITUS INFORMATION AND EXPO DAY

Supporting *Tea for Tinnitus Month* in June, we encouraged the community to have a cuppa and start a conversation with friends, family or co-workers about tinnitus and hearing loss.

To support this event, we had our *Tinnitus Information and Expo Day*, where guests were invited to a morning tea, product viewing and presentation by our senior audiologist, Jenny Smith. A panel discussion took place with representatives from *Widex* and *Oticon*, sharing their insights into future tinnitus products and treatment methods.

Check out the full presentation *Current Trends on the Treatment and Management of Tinnitus* or visit our website.



## DIGITISATION OF BHA MEMORABILIA- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As we begin the move to our new location, we are sorting through past memorabilia at the Better Hearing House. We aim to digitise and display our important history on the *Victorian Collection* website.

Interested members can participate in the project by attending a training day that will cover how to sort and record data, photograph objects and upload information.

To register your interest, please email [marketing@betterhearing.org.au](mailto:marketing@betterhearing.org.au).



# HEARING ACCESSIBILITY IN PUBLIC SPACES: REVIEWS

## Stokehouse

30 Jacka Boulevard

St Kilda, Victoria

(03) 9525 5885

Reviewed by Virtual Sharon

Winter in Melbourne can be glum, but when the midday sun dances on the water, it's time to find a restaurant with a sea view. The Stokehouse upstairs bar is just the spot. The menu has interesting raw foods and bite sized snacks to go with almost any cocktail you can dream up. There are also larger servings of old standards like fish and chips that taste and look anything but standard.

In the bar, background music plays at around 65 decibels. The floor is wooden and there's an expanse of shuttered glass windows. These add to the breezy, relaxed atmosphere, but allow traffic noise to flow in when they're open. For me, this means that I need to concentrate hard to hear voices. On the up side, there's a nook with comfortable seating and sheer curtaining and if you can't catch every word, there's always the view.

It's a joy to find a sophisticated yet relaxed bar with impeccable food and service where conversation is possible. Find an off-peak period and try it.

Hearing accessibility and enjoyment



## The Roasting Warehouse

19-21 Leveson Street

North Melbourne, Victoria

(03) 9329 2973

Reviewed by BHA Member

After shopping and taking in the atmosphere of Victoria Market, I recommend dropping in to The Roasting Warehouse.

Easily accessed and with adequate metered street car parking, this venue serves great coffee and delicious food for a decent price. Comfortable seating inside, with booths available in this large space make for a cosy meeting. Conversation was not interrupted with any noise from the large number of customers or the grinding of fresh arabica beans.

So, for comfort, sound ability and being able to have a decent conversation with a friend, I recommend you check this out.

Hearing accessibility and enjoyment





# SWINBURNE TRIVIA NIGHT AT ROC'S JAM FACTORY

On Monday June 4th 2018, the first ever Better Hearing Australia (VIC) and *Swinburne University* trivia night took place at *Roc's Jam Factory* in South Yarra.

As part of their assessment tasks, the Diploma of Event Management students were required to organise and run a trivia night charity event. The students did a fantastic job by creating engagement in the community, raising an incredible \$2000 through trivia tickets, raffle tickets, BBQs and general donations.

The much needed funds will go towards buying new audiology equipment to ensure that everyone in the community receives a quality service with modern facilities.

Thank you to our incredible supporters for donating generously; our sponsors, for the hampers and prizes; *Roc's Jam Factory*; and the *Swinburne University* students for their effort and dedication in helping the hard of hearing community. We are already looking forward to the next trivia night in 2019.



# FIND US ONLINE

Keep up to date on all things hearing health via our Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter pages. If you have tinnitus or a hearing related issue, please phone (03) 9510 1577 or email [victoria@betterhearing.org.au](mailto:victoria@betterhearing.org.au) to book an appointment with an audiologist.



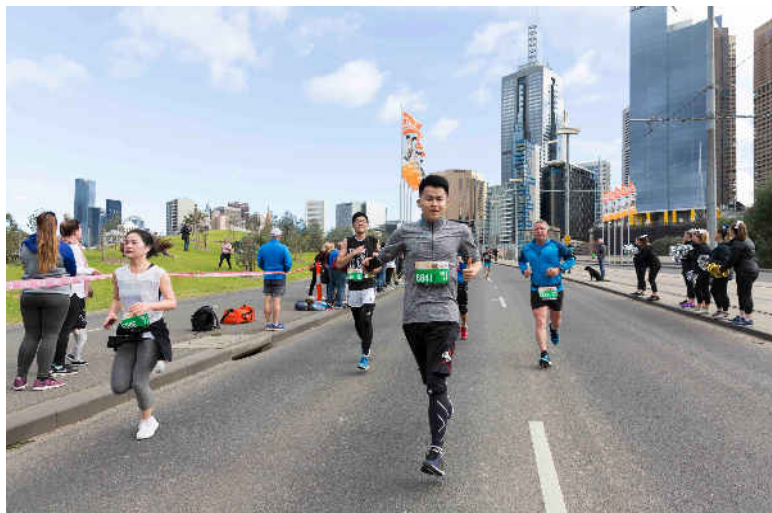
# SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions that can improve the structure, service delivery or general activity of Better Hearing Australia (VIC), please feel free to get in touch, as we value all member feedback and advice.



# RUN MELBOURNE 2018

*Run Melbourne* is fast approaching, with the event set to take place on Sunday, July 29th from 7 am. Sign up to participate in a 5K, 10K or Half Marathon run or walk, and raise funds for our organisation while challenging your fitness levels. Donate directly to the [Better Hearing Heroes 2018](#) or visit the *Run Melbourne* website for more details.



We look forward to updating you on all things hearing health with the Spring edition of Better Hearing Today.

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