

BETTER HEARING TODAY

Members' Newsletter

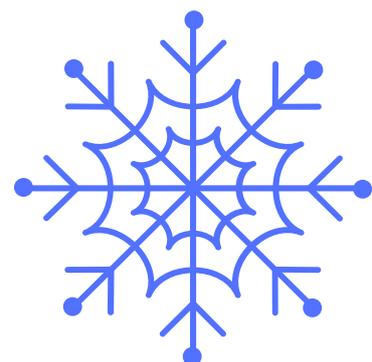


WINTER WELCOME

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

And now it is Winter. As a girl from Gippsland – where it is usually 3 degrees colder and wetter than the rest of Victoria, I am quietly enjoying the ‘fresh’ weather. I hope that you are staying warm. Since our last newsletter, much has happened at Better Hearing Australia VIC, the highlights of which are shared herein.

Recent weeks has seen the Board of BHA Vic and I finalise our new strategic plan that will see the organisation through the next three years. Importantly, we have clarified that we are passionate about eliminating the social and emotional impacts of hearing conditions. As a member-based charity, we have provided opportunities for people living with hearing conditions to be socially connected and enjoy life for over 85 years.

This acknowledges the important history of our organisation but we are forward-looking. With our new strategy, our ambition is to transform lives, the system and ourselves. We will do this by engaging with people, not just ears; by creating the future of hearing experiences; by serving our community and particularly those most vulnerable; and, by catalysing change across the system.

This is a bold direction for BHA Vic, but central to it is you, our members, supporters and the public. We will be reaching out to hear your thoughts on our strategy in coming weeks and months. Please do connect with us.

One key part of BHA Vic’s work is to facilitate and support *Tinnitus Australia*. Tinnitus, for many, is a condition that impacts their daily life. Since starting this role, it has become apparent to me that tinnitus is more common than we think, and that help is really hard to find. And that many people are bounced between professionals and not given hope that they will be able to cope and manage.

This has highlighted the importance of *Tinnitus Australia*. The mission of *Tinnitus Australia* (an initiative of BHA Vic), mission is to help people impacted by tinnitus achieve health and wellbeing. We do this by offering independent information on tinnitus and tinnitus management, advocating for and creating better management options, and bringing together a network of professionals who share our passion. We want everyone to know that help is available. You can support *Tinnitus Australia* in ensuring everyone gets the help they need by visiting the website.



In May, we ran a workshop with 15 of Victoria’s outstanding professionals and people living with tinnitus to better understand how *Tinnitus Australia* can make an impact. I was honoured to be joined by audiological experts, psychologists, business and organisational management, researchers and educators to work through these problems together. Keep an eye on this exciting space.

June is also *Tea for Tinnitus* month, and we had the opportunity to share our messages around hearing loss and tinnitus with the public across programs *Your Health is Your Pension* on 98.9 Northwest FM and *Best Medicine* on 88.3 Southern FM.

Also in June, we were delighted to have a Trivia Night organised and held to raise funds for Better Hearing Australia VIC, by *Diploma of Event Management* students of *Swinburne University*. As you’ll see from the pictures, it was a fun and vibrant night for all (140 people!) who attended. Our deep appreciation goes to these students, their teaching team, and all attendees as we gratefully accept funds raised that will support access to hearing aids for ten people through our *Hearing Aid Bank*. As always, I am always pleased to hear from our members and supporters! Until we speak, wishing you all the best.

Caitlin

BUNNINGS CAKE STALL

We had the pleasure of running a fundraising cake stall at *Bunnings Warehouse Hawthorn*. Our team of staff, members & volunteers made delicious treats from banana bread to croissants, honey joys to rocky road, choc fudge brownies to protein coconut balls and more. We also had the opportunity to speak with the public about hearing health & explained the importance of getting your hearing tested every two years after the age of fifty.

We managed to raise over \$650 that will go directly towards our unfunded program, *The Victorian Hearing Aid Bank*. These funds will ensure that people of refugee, asylum seeker, low income or other disadvantaged status are provided with support, counselling and a reconditioned hearing aid.

A special thank you to all of our baking enthusiasts & *In A Rush Espresso* (St Kilda Rd) for their generous donation.



UMBRELLA DEMENTIA CAFES

A great opportunity to partner with *Umbrella Dementia Cafes* to provide hearing loss management strategies for people living with dementia & their carers. Working with the local audiology team *Always Hearing*, we discussed tips when visiting restaurants and cafes, explained the anatomy of the ear & played a game of true or false sharing some surprising facts about hearing.

New research continues to highlight the link between hearing loss & dementia, and it's imperative that we educate those already living with dementia & the wider community about the support that is available. We look forward to working with *Umbrella Dementia Cafes* again in the future.



LATROBE AUDIOLOGY SEMINAR

The *Latrobe Clinical Audiology Student Association (CASA)* organised an expert panel of audiologists and health experts to share their knowledge and insight into the future of hearing health and audiology.

With our CEO in attendance, the open forum had students asking the panel about life in the field as a first year graduate, the impact of sales when it came to audiological services, the long-term future of the hearing health sector & many more diverse and challenging questions.

The *La Trobe CASA* also managed to fundraise for our organisation on the night, contributing over \$130 that will go straight into our *Hearing Aid Bank* - a fantastic effort.



KOOWEERUP HEALTH SERVICE

We presented a hearing health & wellness seminar to the local *Men's Shed* group at *Kooweerup Health Service*.

We covered a range of topics that included general hearing loss & tinnitus management strategies, the importance in knowing when to get your hearing tested, what to look for when purchasing a hearing aid & the process of accessing hearing devices through the *NDIS* & *My Aged Care*.

We look forward to presenting to the group again in the future.



SWINBURNE TRIVIA NIGHT 2019

On Wednesday June 5th, the *Diploma of Event Management* students from *Swinburne University* hosted a fundraising trivia night for our organisation at the *Green Acres Golf Club*, Kew East.

Guided by their expert teachers over the past four months, the students went above and beyond to organise the venue, catering, ticketing, sponsorship, logistics, marketing & administration. The night included a diverse mix of fundraising activities including silent auction, hamper raffle, wine toss, heads or tails game & four rounds of trivia that all included hearing health questions.

We are thrilled to announce that an incredible \$4,500 was raised on the night! A massive effort by the students & the generous donors - these funds will allow us to provide refugees, asylum seekers & disadvantaged people with reconditioned hearing aids and have access to interpreters & counselling sessions.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors & attendees for supporting this worthy cause. We look forward to working with *Swinburne University* again in the future. Full list of sponsors and more photos via our social media pages.



FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES



Make sure to stay up to date across our social media pages for the latest on hearing technology, community stories, government updates & more.

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/betterhearingaustralia

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/betterhearingau/

LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/company/better-hearing-australia-vic-inc

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

2019-2020 membership renewals forms have now been sent out to all members. If for any reason you have not received this, please get in touch via generaladmin@betterhearing.org.au or phone 9510 1577. New membership applications are always welcome.

THANK YOU BIGGIN & SCOTT



On behalf of the Board, members and staff we would like to sincerely thank estate agents *Biggin & Scott*, in particular, Tom McCarthy, Director at the Prahran office.

Biggin & Scott have been long-time supporters of Better Hearing Australia VIC through donations, advertising and the provision of an information board which sat facing High Street at our former premises.

When the Board made the decision to sell Better Hearing House in 2018, various estate agents were invited to provide their presentations as to the sale and value of the property. *Biggin & Scott* had a vision that would allow a valuable return and were subsequently appointed.

Since the sale of the property, *Biggin & Scott* have offered their board room for meetings and workshops. In April this year we received a donation of \$2,000 from Tom and his team. We are very grateful for the support from *Biggin & Scott* Prahran.

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

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