



# Hearing Association Inc— National

ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2009

**This newsletter comes to you from the Gisborne  
Branch on behalf of the Board**

## **Introducing our new PAO Co-Ordinator**

It is very exciting to see that the work of the Public Affairs Office will continue.

This introduction was emailed to you all from Heather, but I think it's important to have it documented here in our newsletter.

Hi everyone, I am Heather Procter—the new PAO Co-Ordinator; working 8 hours a week from home here in Levin.

Some of you may know me already, or at least remember my name. I set the front line office up in Gisborne, in June 1999. Paddy Pilbrow was President then, with a committee of very able people including Tony Weatherley, who is the current president.. Grant McKee, Bev Pilbrow, amongst others. I worked there for 5 very happy years and then we returned to Levin. Katy Hart has been a

very able sec/treas/etc since then. I still have good contact with her. I also know Liz Clere from Napier very well, as well as Gillian Smailes. Wanda Gower-James became a branch member just prior to my leaving. Some of your names are familiar to me from the conferences and some I don't know at all. I am a committee member for the Horowhenua Association.

My first person in the chain of command is Wanda Gower-James. If there is any task you feel I could do, please get in touch with her.

Getting the website up-

dated is a priority and I will be contacting Stephen Weir as soon as I have the laptop. In the meantime can you check it over and update any of your contact numbers, hours of attendance In the office, upcoming events,

etc, and send the details to me asap please. I have been speaking with Chris Peters and he has asked that the contact details for him, plus his photo be deleted. Katy has asked if she can keep producing the newsletter because she enjoys it so much, which is fine. I hope to be able to forward items of interest to her and help out that way. I suspect this position will evolve over the next few months.

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The emphasis is on coordinating and I can't do that without the help from you all. I have the PAO mobile activated now—021 821 151 and my home phone number is: 06 367 9069.

I am quite happy for you to contact me on my landline. Please let it ring more than a 1/2 doz

times, I could be in the chook house, in the garden or whatever and will need to dash inside. If I am away from home, the answer phone will come on but I will take the PAO mobile with me. Emails—I will

check them at least twice daily, and answer asap.

Postal address: 436 Hokio Beach Road, RD 1 Levin.

Cheers, Heather.

(See page 3 for photo)

## CANTERBURY VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Christchurch Branch President Bob Abbott was presented with a Volunteer Recognition Award on 15 June 2009 recognizing his voluntary services to The Hearing Association Christchurch Inc for well over 20 years. Bob's award was presented by Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker in a ceremony celebrating the value of volunteers in our community.

Bob has achieved much during his time with The Hearing Association and his passion for raising awareness of hearing

loss issues is second to none. He has been an active member of The Hearing Association for 20 plus years and has served both locally and nationally. Locally, on our committee holding the office of Treasurer and is current President for the Christchurch Branch. Nationally, on the National as well as being a Southern region Board member.

Bob has implemented and taken part in many worthwhile projects to help and support those with hearing loss. Some of these include production of

yellow customer signs for Christchurch area (before they went nationwide under the PAO); production of a portable loop system for small meetings and available for hire;

Organization and management of National Hearing Association 2007 Conference; organization of upcoming Hearing Awareness Day; lobbying of TV stations and movie theatres regarding captions; lobbying of motels/hotels re provision of teletext, and many other valuable initiatives. Bob is constantly coming up new ideas

of hearing loss issues and their impact on individuals and families.

Bob's own hearing loss is severe to profound but he is a great example of someone who won't allow hearing loss and all its associated issues adversely affect him or prevent from making a difference and helping others with similar issues.

Bob is currently recovering from a Cochlear Implant operation that we trust will be

hugely successful and will propel him into a world of sound that he has not experienced in a very long time. We wish him well.

*Thanks Pauline from Christchurch*



Bob Abbott and Mayor of Christchurch Bob Parker

## Hear Here Information Cards

One of the first major projects of the Public Affairs Office—the Hear Here Information packs have been very well received.

This professional looking pack of cards will tell you everything you need to know about hearing loss, including funding for hearing aids and communication tips.

Gisborne branch have distributed the cards to each branch. If you have not received any, or need some more please get in touch with Katy—Ph 06 867 3652 or email—gisborne@hearing.org.nz.

There are still lots available.

Some very efficient branches have already distributed their cards and have requested more.

Each branch can decide what to use the packs for—giving them out to customers, handouts during public displays, delivering them to audiology clinics, medical centres etc. One branch has laminated each card and put them in a ring binder for their front desk.

Please make the effort to use this great resource, it would be a great

shame if they sat under a counter somewhere collecting dust.

Karen Pullar from Oticon has kindly offered to do a proper launch of the cards, this will be sometime in September.

Check out our website to view these wonderful packs.

## National Statistics

24 branches have supplied their membership numbers. These were as at June 2009 and will no doubt fluctuate—but it gives us an idea of how many people belong to our group.

Hamilton: 354, Gisborne 149, Horowhenua: 114, Manawatu: 150, Te Awamutu: 226, Morrinsville: 65 (30)?, Kapiti: 125, Southland : 77, Hutt Valley: 292, Dunedin:

155, Hastings: 246, Wanganui: 328, Wairarapa: 110, Nelson: 670, Wellington: 315, Auckland: 245, Dannevirke: 116, Tauranga: 343, Napier: 243, Hokitika: 20, Paeroa: 27, Matamata: 239, Te Aroha: 57. Christchurch: 200

The total membership here is: 4866.

These stats will be useful for

Heather when applying for funding.



Heather Procter

## Stalwart from Dunedin has retired

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After 33 years of service with the Dunedin branch of the Hearing Association, Ngaire retired last month.

The branch held a farewell dinner on 8th July.

I'm sure her knowledge and wisdom will be missed at Dunedin Hearing Association.

(sorry I couldn't rotate your photo Ngaire!)

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## NFD Council Meeting—Points raised by our delegates

1 The money that the NFD received from the Govt was/is specific grants paying for contracts where the Govt had asked the NFD to provide research information about a particular aspect of hearing impairment. These requests usually come from the Ministry of Health. N.B. not us. There is no Govt grant to NFD for running expenses.

2 I stated that the information and brochures for Deaf Awareness Week and this years Noise Awareness Day was far too late to really be of any use. I went on to say that Hearing Assn's were out there and throughout NZ. Also that we had the ear of local free newspapers and could so easily spread the word where as

NFD could only work through the national media which was good but did not have as much impact as the local '2 minute silence' in every home in a town or district or city.

3 I also said that as Hearing Assns were part of NFD please be aware of us and use us sensibly to really get to the general population. I have made this commitment so I hope you will be able to actually do this. This particular matter came to me from Nelson and Te Awamutu.

4 I also said that we were in the local communities and that we were the people who were asked to provide speakers at local groups or if we were doing our job properly would ask

to speak at local groups especially at such times as Deaf Awareness Week. This is where we distribute brochures produced by NFD. This is where the speakers came from for speaking to the Presbyterian and Methodist womens groups and I know NFD pamphlets were used by some of the speakers.

5 As Bob Abbott had asked me I put forward the suggestion that it be Hearing Awareness Week not Deaf Awareness Week. This suggestion was met with rye grins but at least the top table noted the suggestion.

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## GISBORNE BRANCH RENOVATIONS

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Gisborne branch have undergone extensive renovations to their 50 year old building recently, after securing a long term lease with the local council. They have battled with council for more than 10 years to secure such a lease, along with St John, a child care centre, the Girl Guides and the Pipe Band.

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The above photo shows the new reception area and the open door leads into a new office.

They used a large sum of their own money, which had been saved for many years for this purpose and they received grants from the Eastern and Central Community Trust and the Lion Foundation, and a generous sum of money from their members.

As well as a new reception and office, renovations include a heat pump for the office, disability accessible toilets and a wheelchair ramp and glass front door.

They are raising funds to upgrade their function hall and kitchen area next.

Also—Dulux have run a national wide promotion of their new “Colours of NZ” and the Gisborne Branch were lucky

recipients of this for the Gisborne region. They applied for a grant to pay for the labour and will soon be getting their exterior painted chili red—“giving colour to the invisible disability.”.

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NFD Council Meeting cont.

6 NFD is well on the way to appointing a new CEO.

7 We are well represented on the NFD council by Dick Earle as he seems to have got to grips with how they work.

Eunice Algar.—

*Thanks Eunice.*