

Hearing Nelson: Autumn News



March 2025

In this newsletter:

World Hearing Day March Hearing Awareness

For World Hearing Day, people were invited to show their support by wearing a white cat pin. These are still available at reception in for a small donation.

Not to be outdone, a local feline resident made itself right at home in our reception area this week—looking completely at ease but; creating a bit of a tripping hazard for people stopping by to look at the pins!

More about white cats and hearing loss further on in the newsletter ...

What's coming up!

April

Positive Ageing Expo
Information Stall
Sat 5 Apr 10am-2pm

BBQ fundraiser Mitre10
Sun 27 Apr 10am-
3.30pm
Volunteers needed!

AGM
Tues 29 Apr 1pm

President's update
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President's update

Welcome to Autumn everyone. The weather has been relatively settled lately, and the grass has slowed down it's crazy summer growth – thank goodness!

Time for a few updates from the board starting with a quick summary of our updated organisational strategy. We are now preparing to put it in front of funders and other interested parties.

OUR VISION: People who are Deaf or have hearing loss are able to fully participate in family and community life, and hearing loss is prevented in the Top of the South/Te Tau Ihu.

OUR MISSION in support of this vision:

Hearing Nelson enhances quality of life for people living with deafness and hearing loss with a range of services and resources with a focus on advocacy, support, education and hearing loss prevention.'

Our mission stands on three key pillars underpinned by a diverse range of activities:

Advocacy: sign language advocacy; promotion of safe hearing environments; increasing awareness in the community about rights under the Health and Disabilities Act; and advice to public and private organisations on supporting participation of people who are Deaf or living with hearing loss.

Support: act as a hub for services and resources; advising people with hearing loss or deafness about their rights; provide access to unbiased information and advice; offer assistive technology products, hearing aid services, and advice; run outreach clinics for hearing aid maintenance; and information about hearing service providers.

Education: hearing loss prevention; carer training in rest homes; New Zealand Sign Language; how to live well with hearing loss for individuals and support people/whānau; and community presentations on relevant topics.

Activities:

- Awareness / Fundraising / Public visibility / Membership promotion
- Education / Training / Learning / Encouragement
- Support / Service / Advocacy / Targeted needs (e.g. care facilities)
- Operational efficiency / Effective communication

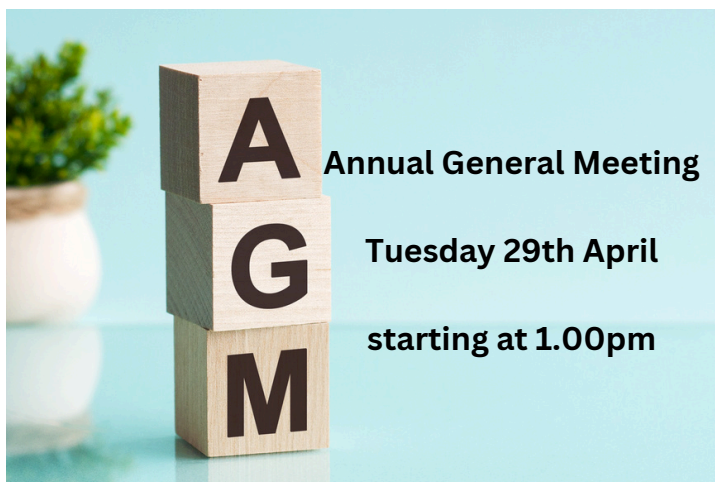
We invite your thoughts/comments/feedback on this living document. Please send these to manager@hearingnelson.co.nz

Simon Gutschlāg

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Hearing Association Nelson Incorporated Annual General Meeting will be held on 29 April 2025 at 1pm, at Hearing House, 354 Trafalgar Square, Nelson.

AGM papers, reports to year-end 2024, board nomination and proxy voting forms will be sent out to all financial members no later than Monday 14 April.



- Last year we reluctantly received board resignations from Kelly Shatford and Brian Munro.
- We would welcome new board members. Please get in touch if you wish to know more about what's involved.

The AGM is fast approaching and we are always on the lookout for new people to bring their perspectives to a) The annual meeting, and b) The board.

Any questions or queries about board membership – please email Bev in the first instance manager@hearingnelson.co.nz. It is a rewarding thing to do, and we always need more good people.

Call to action

There certainly is a lot going on at the moment. We have a number of initiatives underway and plenty of ideas for things the association could and should be doing.

If you can help in any way at all – time / money / ideas – we would gratefully accept! Remember we are a charity and receive no central funding, it's all on us to operate ourselves and for our community.

See you at the AGM!

Simon Gutschlag
President

Carer training in rest homes



Our annual training sessions for staff in rest homes is in full swing across the Nelson and Tasman region.

Here we have staff at Woodlands Care Centre in Motueka, experiencing what hearing loss can be like and the impact of hearing aids not functioning well. An important aspect of the training is to discuss communication strategies and the role rest home staff can play in helping residents experiencing hearing loss.

We'll be out in the community!

April

- Positive Ageing Expo Hearing Nelson Information Stall, Headingley Lane, Richmond - Saturday 5 April 10am - 2pm
- BBQ fundraiser Mitre10, The Junction, Stoke - **Volunteers needed!** Sunday 27 April 10am - 3.30pm
- Annual General Meeting, Hearing House, Nelson - Tuesday 29 April 1pm

Mark your diaries!

We are excited to be offering our very popular Matariki breakfast celebration on Saturday 28 June, in partnership with Te Mana Ha who will sing waiata during the morning. More details soon.

2025 Hearing Aid Clinics

Clinics coming up and available to you

Richmond and Stoke

Ernest Rutherford - 25 March
Summerset in the Sun - 22 April
Oakwoods - 13 May
Ernest Rutherford - 20 May
Summerset in the Sun - 24 June

Motueka

Community Health Centre, 15
Courtney St. - 8 April and 10 June

Takaka - *new location!*

Room 3, Heartlands, 84 Commercial
St 2-4pm - 20 March, 17 April, 15 May
and 19 June

For Takaka, please contact Morfydd
for an appointment ph525 7465 or
021 928 455. Morfydd can make home
visits for those unable to attend a
clinic.



Free for members

\$10 for non-members

Advance bookings can be
made when attending a
clinic, or by contacting
Hearing Nelson
ph (03)548 3270 or
email:

office@hearingnelson.co.nz

NZ Sign Language courses

NZ Sign Language Level 1A: Tuesday 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm (8 weeks)

Learn basic NZSL conversation skills and begin to understand and develop NZSL grammar. Develop the use of facial expressions and improve visual and spatial awareness. Open for adults and college students with approval. Most people are eligible for a 50% subsidy.

Tutor: Rachel Summers 29 Apr – 17 June Fee \$154*

Waimea College Community Education

Booking link <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/14903>

Paying it forward - repurposing old hearing aids

We are happy to receive donations of used hearing aids that are no longer required.

The aids are cleaned and checked by an audiologist before Hearing Nelson makes these available to people in the community who may not be able to afford new hearing aids.



The repurposed hearing aids are fitted and reprogrammed to suit the needs of the new owner.

Hearing Nelson also offers a loan scheme to enable its members to purchase hearing aids and devices that they would not otherwise be able to purchase without receiving this assistance.

If you have used hearing aids to donate, please drop these off at Hearing House, 354 Trafalgar Square. If you wish to know more about our loan scheme, please talk to your audiologist or contact Hearing Nelson, ph 03 548 3270, email: office@hearingnelson.co.nz

Funding for Hearing Aids

The Ministry of Health has two types of funding available for hearing aids. Depending on your circumstances and type of hearing loss, you may be able to get help from their funding or subsidy scheme.

People may also be able to get help towards the cost of hearing aids from ACC, Veterans' Affairs NZ, or through various foundations/trusts.

Only audiologists who are full members of the NZ Audiological Society or audiometrists who are an audiometrist member of the NZAS can access the Ministry of Health Hearing Aid Subsidy Scheme for their clients.

More information is available on these sites:

www.audiology.org.nz and search for hearing aid funding, or

<https://www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz> and search for deaf or hearing loss equipment

Volunteer opportunities - we need your help

Easter Raffle



- We will be running an Easter raffle and would appreciate any donations to help fill a basket, whether in kind or monetary towards purchasing items.
- Maybe you know a business you could approach that may donate items or gift vouchers? All donations will be gratefully received.
- Items need to be received by Tuesday 2nd April at Hearing Nelson (avoiding April Fools Day so you know it's for real!)
- Proceeds will contribute towards a continuation of our services.

Thank you!

Fundraiser @ Mitre10

We are holding a BBQ fundraiser at Mitre10 Sunday 27th April 10.00am-3.30pm

Can you help?

We need volunteers to help alongside a Hearing Nelson representative for these two shifts:

9.00am-11.30am

11.30am - 1.30pm

Please let us know if you can help out, or call by to see us on the day, and tell your friends we'll be there!



Hearing House opening hours
Mondays - Thursdays 9am - 4pm
closed 12-12.30pm for lunch

ph 03 548 3270

email office@hearingnelson.co.nz

Hearing Aid Hero

Malcolm Grooby, 84 years young and a hearing aid wearer for approximately the past 25 years.

Malcolm has quite the adventurous hobby! His goldmining, using a dredge has taken him all over the area including the Motueka River, Baton River in Tasman, West Coast and the Buller, Wangapeka River, and Murchison. He says about finding gold “It could be anywhere!”



When conditions are right, he's out there for three to four months of the year, 3 days a week, in a wetsuit if needed.

Some days of fossicking he finds a few colours (on asking, he tells me that's the little shiny flakes), but it's a good day when he finds the odd nugget which could weigh around 3 grams. It's all about those moments when it pays off.

His adventures take him to some quite rich rivers...working the Motueka River he once found 9 ounces. He usually sells about 1.5 ounces a year, although the most he's sold in a year is about \$6,000 worth.

It's amazing how much hard work goes into his days, lifting big rocks to get to the smaller rocks, and ultimately the gravel, silt and sands, and getting a little wet, but he tells me it's quite a good hobby, and of course it's good fun, meeting all sorts of people along the way. There must have been some very interesting conversations held!

Malcolm's 'finding gold' is about more than just the shiny flakes, it's about the experiences, the people, and a good bit of hard-earned fun. He must have some great stories to tell!

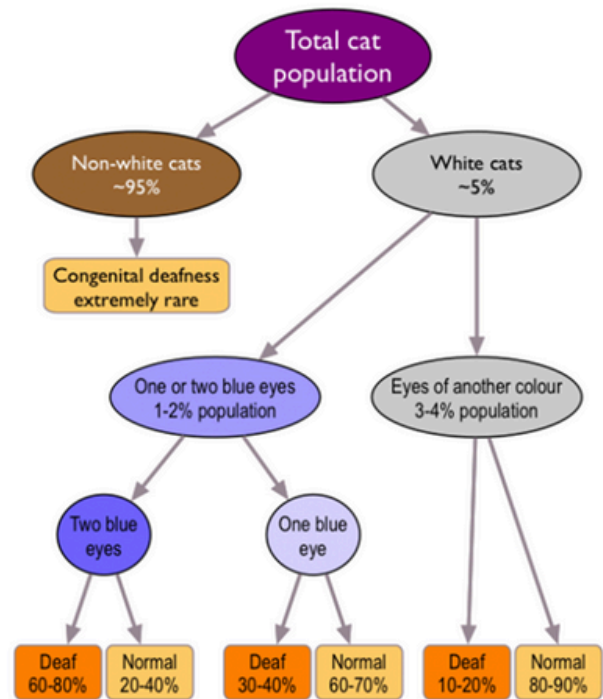
For Cat Lovers

Did you know ... ?

White cats are significantly more likely to have profound congenital deafness than people, especially if they have blue eyes. For people, the prevalence is only about 1 in a thousand.



WHAT'S THE DEAL
WITH THE WHITE
CAT?



It has been a great start to the year!

We were very appreciative to receive grant funding to help with our operational expenses from the Rata Foundation, Lotteries Communities and New World Nelson city - customer check-out donation boxes, plus the generous donors who pop into the office! from time to time.



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