



Tauranga BOP Hearing Association
Registered Charity: CC26713

‘Listening In’

Whakarongo mo te ora—Listen for Life

Kia ora, and welcome to this month’s newsletter. We have a full year planned with coffee mornings and presentations throughout the Bay of Plenty area. We always look forward to meeting you at one of our coffee mornings and welcome any feedback or ideas you may have, to provide a better service.

Hearing Support Bay of Plenty AGM- Thursday 23rd May 2024

Hearing Support Bay of Plenty AGM will be held on Thursday 23rd May 2024, 11am at The Collective, 145 Seventeenth Avenue, Tauranga. We will be sending out a copy of the agenda, voting papers and 2023 AGM minutes to our members. If you have not received these by the 13th May, please contact us.

Voting papers need to be received back to us by email or post before 20th May 2024

If you would like to attend our AGM virtually via Zoom/Teams, please send us an email so that we can send you a link.

Other news Eastern Bay of Plenty – Whakatane

March saw us attending Heart to Heart Expo at Whakatane war memorial which saw over 3,000 people attending this wonderful event, with roughly 30 other local service providers and charities.

We also provided talks to Rotary Whakatane, Parkinsons, Mary Shapley Retirement Village, Sheaffs Rest Home and Ohope Probus, where our trustee Helen Ware provided a talk on life with her hearing dog Meg.

Our Hearing Support coffee morning support groups have continued with Belinda from Deaf Aotearoa also attending.

14th May 2024 our Cochlear Implant Consumer Support Group will have a guest speaker, Angeline Slade, hearing therapist from Your Way|Kia Roha, Feel free to join us at Knox Church, Whakatane from 10am until 12noon.

Our Trustee Helen and Hearing Dog Meg have been in demand this year, the next group they will be attending will be Probus Whakatane at Whakatane Baptist Church, on Tuesday 25th May.

If you have any questions about our support groups, would like to book a talk or if you would like support and information surrounding hearing loss, please contact **Wendy** on **027 307 8647** or email whakatane@hearing.org.nz

Other news Western Bay of Plenty – Tauranga

On Sunday 28th April, Hearing Support BOP, in collaboration with Sonic Cinema presented our first Open Captioned (subtitled) matinee movie, at the Tauranga Historic Village, for our hard of hearing and deaf community. The Movie (The Duke) was attended by 30 people and was a great success, with super feedback. It was wonderful to be able to provide an entertaining service and experience to our hard of hearing community, many of whom find it difficult to attend movies with no subtitles available.

In the last few months, we have provided talks to Women's fellowship and 'Recycled teenagers' as part of our ongoing commitment to provide support, advocacy and advice to our hard of hearing community.

In April, we hosted the Tauranga Cochlear implant consumer group meeting at Greeton Library. Yet another successful morning, with some new attendees. Linda Giltrap, Nikki Maloney, and I were thrilled with the turnout and the new connections made. We have been able to support and advise members of further ongoing services for those with a cochlear implant.

Our Katikati and Papamoa monthly support group coffee mornings continue, with some new uptake following publicity in the Sun media free weekend paper.

If you have questions regarding our coffee support groups or you would like us to attend your local club or group, please **Telephone** Helen on **07 578 6476** or **Email: tauranga@hearing.org.nz**



Online Educational Seminars:

Hearing New Zealand have offered several online educational seminars during 2022 where "People meet research and researchers meet people". Eminent researchers from around the world discussing different perspectives of this complex sense in an easy-to-understand language. All presentations were held via Zoom on a monthly basis.

These seminars have been recorded and are now available via the Hearing New Zealand web site, <https://hearing.org.nz> recordings include:

- Dr Haruna Suzuki-Kerr "Where hearing starts: cells, genes and function of the ear and genetics of hearing loss"
- Sam Jeffs Beyond Hearing Aids: An update on Cochlear Implants in NZ
- Dr Pawel Jasterboff "decreased sound tolerance: hyperacusis, misophonia, diplacusis and polyacusis"
- Dr Wyatt Page "how do WHO environmental noise guidelines work in New Zealand".

Coffee Morning/ Support Groups:

Listen In! Hearing Support Group- Katikati

WHEN: Second Thursday of EVERY month

WHERE: Red cross building, 33 Middlebrook drive. Katikati.

TIME: 10:30am – Midday

Morning tea provided. Gold coin donation for use of building.

We are a small group of people who experience hearing loss. Our aim is to come together to share tips and information on coping with hearing difficulties.

For more information contact Helen on 07-578 6476 OR tauranga@hearing.org.nz

Tauranga Cochlear Implant Consumer Group (CICG)

Where: Greeton Library.

When: Saturday 3rd August. 10:30m – Midday

Saturday 7th December 10:30m – Midday

LISTEN IN! Hearing Support Group – Papamoa. Mobility centre

When: LAST Wednesday of EVERY month

Where: Mobility Centre Papamoa. 520 Gloucester Road. Papamoa.

Time: 10:30am – Midday.

Morning tea provided.

We are a small group of people who experience hearing loss. Our aim is to come together to share tips and information on coping with hearing difficulties. For more information contact Helen on 07-578 6476

OR email tauranga@hearing.org.nz

Whakatane Library

Whakatane Library. Come along and chat about any issues you are having with your hearing and hearing aids. Usually, last **Friday** of the month **10:00am until 12:00noon**

31st May

28th June

26th July

We also have a **facilitator, from Deaf Aotearoa attending**, if you need support with job seeking, Workbridge funding, information or advise come along, or contact Belinda on 021 471 672 or email, belinda.sperling@deaf.org.nz

Whakatane Cochlear Implant Group

Date: Tuesday 14th May 2024

Time: 10:00 to 12:00 noon

Where: Knox Church, Domain Road, Whakatane, with **Guest Speaker:** Angeline Slade, hearing therapist from Your Way|Kia Roha.

An opportunity to meet other cochlear implant users, whanau/family support, or anyone interested in finding out more information. **For more information, contact Wendy on 027 307 8647 or email**

whakatane@hearing.org.nz

Ear Services

Ear Care BOP

As you are aware, we no longer have **The Ear Nurse, Nicky Johnson**, attending our clinic days or working from our offices; however, you can book an appointment to see Nicky, her appointment days are:

Tuesday: Audika, 7/9 Domain Road, Topaz Corner, Papamoa, **telephone 5421122**

Thursday: Audika, 43, Girven Road, Mt Maunganui, **telephone 5750091**

Friday: Matamata Hearing Association, 8 Meura Street, **telephone 8886414**

Nicky charges \$45 for an appointment or couples \$70.00. Free for ACC and War Pensioners.
Phone the above telephone numbers or **Book online at:** <https://www.earcarebop.co.nz>

The Ear Clinic bop – Sandy Cheetham

51 Fifteenth Avenue, Tauranga (**Unichem**)

Tel: 021 220 5539

Email: sandraann@outlook.co.nz or **Book online at:** www.earclinic.co.nz.

Clearer Hearing Ear Nursing – Emma Pere-Brandt

Every other **Monday** at **Bay Audiology**, The Esplanade Mall, Whakatane, \$65.00 for suction appointment.
Also, Winz service provider and ACC service provider.

Tel: 027 610 2047

Email: info@earnursing.co.nz

Or **Book online at:** www.earnursing.co.nz

Healthy Ears EBOP (previously Ear Health Ltd) – Clinics:

KEA Centre, in Kaweau Community Clinic, Corner Onslow & Gordon Street, Kawerau

TE AO Hou Trust, 38 King Street, Opotiki

Kope Pharmacy, 78 King Street, Whakatane- now run Monday to Friday

Telephone: **07 571 6360 OR 0800 327 435.**

Email: admin@healthy-ears.co.nz OR **Book online:** <https://healthy-ears.co.nz>

Hearing Therapy is a **free and independent national service** that can help you to live well with hearing loss they offer:

- Hearing evaluation with a qualified hearing therapist
- Information on hearing aids and other technology, including available funding options
- Practical advice and tips for living with hearing conditions like tinnitus. Strategies for you, your family, and whanau to ease communication.
- Referrals to other health services if needed. Hearing Therapy, provided by Your Way|Kia Roha & is funded by Whaikaha Ministry of Disabled People, for New Zealand citizens and permanent residents aged 16 years and over. Available in Tauranga and Whakatane.
- **Freephone: 0800 008 011 OR email:** info@yourwaykiaroha.nz **Web site:** www.yourwaykiaroha.nz

Available to Purchase

It is so easy! Simply call or email to place your order and have them posted to your home. Pay by internet banking or by cash in person.

Postage per small order is \$2.40

Postage for large order has increased to \$5.20 (this includes battery sales of over 6 packets)

Order as much as you can each time for the best value.

***No. 675 Batteries at \$3.00 for one packet of 6 cells.**

HEARING AID BATTERIES

Purchase your hearing aid batteries and have them posted to your home.

Batteries cost:

Non-Members = \$6.00 for one packet of 6 cells. Postage applies

*Special Offer: Box of 10 packets of batteries for \$55.00 plus \$5.20 postage.

Members = \$5.00 for one packet of 6 cells. Postage applies

*If you purchase 5 to 9 packets cost per packet is reduced to \$4.75

***Box of 10 packets of batteries is \$45.00** plus \$5.20 postage.

Battery Recycling Programme

We are now able to offer a battery recycling programme with support from Phonark New Zealand. Please post / drop off, your used hearing aid batteries to our address in Tauranga. Alternatively, we will collect batteries at our Coffee Mornings.

DRYING CAPSULES

Always replace the drying capsule at the first sign of discolouration or fading.

Drying capsules can be posted to your home.

\$2.00 each. Postage applies as above.

BADGES

"I am hearing impaired" badges can be purchased for \$12 (small) and \$17 (large).

Posted directly to your home address. Postage applies.



These products are also available at the Clinic Days (cash sales only, no EFTPOS)

What is a hearing dog?

Hearing Dogs are trained to alert their deaf and hard of hearing person to specific household sounds by making physical contact (jumping on you or nosing you) then leading you to the sound.

They can learn to recognize and alert their person to sounds like:

- Smoke / Fire Alarms
- Alarm Clocks
- Door Knock / Door Bell
- Telephone Ringing / Text Message
- Portable Timer
- Baby Monitor
- Other sounds specific to their person's environment

Hearing loss can be isolating, and a Hearing dog can provide comfort and security.

At night, when hearing aids are removed, the Hearing dog can add an element of safety for a person with a hearing disability. They also help their carer feel more independent. Having a Hearing dog may encourage its carer to be more confident socially, to be able to connect with family, friends, and community on a more interactive level.

Hearing Dogs NZ

Hearing Dogs NZ is an independent charitable trust that assesses, selects, trains and places Hearing Dogs with deaf and severely hard of hearing New Zealanders. Hearing Dogs are placed at no charge to the deaf person receiving the dog, Hearing Dogs NZ rely on support from individuals, groups and organisations to help train and place these wonderful, portable 'hearing aids'.

Hearing Dogs NZ brief history

In 1997 Hannah Samuels had bill passed allowing Hearing Dogs same access as Guide Dogs. Hearing Dogs was working from a garage in Auckland. The first Hearing Dog was Shandy gifted to Johanna Brenda (Occupational Therapist) who had spent 6mths in UK with Hearing Dogs UK. Lions HD Australia gifted Shandy to Johanna on her way home.

2000 New Plymouth Hearing assoc. received a large bequest with stipulation it be used for Hearing Dogs.

Hearing Dogs Established Group with Johanna, Heather & local community- worked together to opened Hearing Dogs National Training Centre.

2003 National Training Centre opened.

2023 - since 1998 we have placed **163 dogs**. 76 currently working of which 56 are Internationally accredited.

At any one time there are 5 puppies in training (with 'foster families') & 4 dogs in training at centre.

In 2023 Hearing Dogs NZ received 1,873 volunteer hours per **WEEK**. The cost for one Hearing Dog is \$30k to train & place, the Hearing Dog is then given to recipient for life, at no cost to them.

Are You Interested in Applying for a Hearing Dog?

Hearing Dogs NZ assesses every application for a Hearing Assistance Dog as an individual case.

A Hearing Dog is not for everyone; we want to make sure that a Hearing Dog is the most suitable aid for you. In all cases, once you express an interest, Hearing Dogs NZ will contact you or your representative to find out more about you. Hearing Dogs NZ will then send you a full application package and discuss your options with you. For more information, please see Hearing Dogs NZ website, phone: 06 769 5000 or email: info@hearingdogs.org.nz



Picture of our trustee Helen Ware with her Hearing Dog, Meg.

We are grateful to our many funders for their generous support of our organisation.



OUR CONTACT DETAILS:

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whakatane@hearing.org.nz
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