



*Ashburton Hearing Association Inc.  
Supporting the Hearing Impaired since 1957  
Newsletter August 2025*

***Barry's Bit***

What a fun lunch and afternoon we had with Quiz Master Colin Morgan at our June get together. He started off with a knockout round of questions, Gordon Mockford was the last person standing. Colin's questions tested us, with quite mixed results over the various rounds, with the lead changing several times ending with a close finish.

It was great to learn Advance Ashburton Community Foundation has awarded a scholarship from our Hearing Association Fund to Carol Smith to enable her to undertake further training and qualification through "Sign Language New Zealand". Carol who is profoundly deaf, is one of the 73 NZ Sign Language recognized tutors.

Carol who has recently joined our Association has commenced teaching public sign language classes. She currently has 52 students enrolled over 4 classes for the first of 2 x 8-week courses.

In order to encourage people to learn sign language our Association has agreed to a subsidy of \$20 per student for two terms, limited to 60 pupils. Student's contribution is \$80 or \$60 a term. Carol will report to our committee on the outcomes of these classes.

For further information contact Carol on phone 0272498400.

Carol will have a site at the "Lifelong Learning Festival" to be held at The Ashburton Public Library on Tuesday 9 September from 4 to 7pm. and invites members to call in and meet her.

Our guest speaker for our afternoon tea meeting on Friday the 29th August is Owen Moore who will tell us about the Ashburton Aviation Museum and the development taking place there.

**Car Parking**, please be aware of limited car parking with the temporary closure of the Balmoral Hall car park. Best wishes, **Barry President**



***A very well deserved Award***

Our President Barry has received the Lions Club Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

Bearing the name of the founder of Lions, The Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, created by Lions Clubs International, is a prestigious recognition for exceptional service. The Award recognizes dedication and commitment to the Lions mission of service.

We congratulate Barry and are glad his tremendous and long standing community service both within and outside Lions has been recognised.

**Sign Language** In a sense our support for Carol and New Zealand Sign Language is similar and follows on from one of our original aims of teaching lip reading.

New Zealand Sign Language along with Te reo Māori are the two official languages of New Zealand. You may be thinking what about English? Currently English is the de facto official language in our country.

**Q & A**

**Question** where could you go if you'd like to hear a very interesting speaker, enjoy great company and have a tasty afternoon tea all for just \$5?

**Answer** our gathering at the Seniors Centre on Friday 29 August 2025.

***P.T.O.***

**Cochlear Companions** We're pleased to be associated with Cochlear Companions a support group for those who have had or may have a Cochlear implant. The Group extends an invitation to their lunch on Saturday 13 September at 11:30am. Please bring a small plate of food for a shared lunch. For further information phone Helen Wallis 0272213701



### **The Wisdom of Little Johnny**

Teacher – Little Johnny why are you late for class?  
Little Johnny – because you started before I got here.

### **Our history**

In November our Association will be 68 years old and as time goes on its fascinating to take a glimpse back to earlier times. And of course the best place to start is at the start. In November 1957 a public meeting was held to consider forming an Ashburton Sub Branch of the Christchurch Centre of the New Zealand Hard of Hearing League. The name was a bit of a mouthful!

Twenty five people attended the meeting and decided to go ahead. It certainly turned out to be a wise and great decision!

Five people – Mrs D. R. Brand and Messrs A.G. Morris, R. F. Lynn, R.D. Sheehan and H.R. Tasker formed the first Committee with Mrs Dorothy Lill serving as Secretary.

Mr A. G. Morris was our first President. Twenty members have now held that office.

The League had three aims – to teach lip reading, to promote the most effective use of hearing aids and to provide a good social life for members.

Tutors funded by the Education Department came by train from Christchurch one day a week. We continued as a sub branch of Christchurch until 1963 when we set up on our own and in fact soon had our own sub branches.

Following a visit to New Zealand by American Professor H. Bates in 1976 a nationwide decision was made to change the League's name to The Hearing Association.

Since 1957 a lot's been achieved and we plan to share snippets of our history from time to time.

### **Upcoming events**

- Friday 29 August 2025 Afternoon tea, (please see below).
- Friday 17 October 2025 Afternoon tea, speaker Julie Dockrill Manager Ashburton Maternity Hospital who has trained Midwives in remote areas of Nepal and Mongolia.
- Friday 5 December 2025 Christmas lunch.

### **August Afternoon Tea**

**Where:** Ashburton Seniors Centre 206 Cameron Street.

**When:** Friday 29 August 2025 at 1:30pm

**Cost:** \$5 per person payable on the day, correct change is a big help.

**Program:** Owen Moore – Ashburton Aviation Museum.

**Attending?** We hope you can join us. **For catering purposes we need numbers and any dietary requirements by Tuesday 26 August.**

Please phone Bernard 308 3999 or text 0274 853006 or email geegeeber@gmail.com

Or leave your name at the Seniors Centre office.

**Ashburton Hearing Association Inc. P O Box 200, Ashburton 7740**

**Phone: 0274 853006 Email: geegeeber@gmail.com**