



*Ashburton Hearing Association (Inc.)
Supporting the Hearing Impaired.
Newsletter April 2025*

Barry's Bit

My apologies for the late start for our Association this year. Due to a combination of holidays, trying to get our new Constitution finalised and reviewed by our solicitors, together with my involvement in the Ashburton Lions Motorhome Show in February, things have not progressed as fast as I hoped. Perhaps this is applicable to me, "LIFE IS VERY SIMPLE BUT WE INSIST ON MAKING IT COMPLICATED"

Our committee members and helpers manned our site at Age Concern's "Positive Ageing Expo" held at the Ashburton Hotel on 6 March. We were fortunate to be assisted by Peter White-Driver and Helen Wallis both with their hearing dogs which created much interest and was a great attraction. We gave out our local Hearing Association brochures together with information on hearing Dogs and the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme. We made ourselves known to the various Audiologist firms present, all of whom are open to form a relationship with our Association going forward. My sincere thanks to those who set up the display, manned our site, and the members who visited us.

Our Association's new Constitution is now ready for members to adopt at our upcoming Annual General Meeting, in order to proceed with its Registration with the Incorporated Societies Office as required by the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This new legislation requires all Incorporated Societies to hold "Signed Membership Applications", as proof of membership. Appropriate forms will be available at our AGM on 9 May 2025, or you can complete and return the membership application enclosed with this newsletter.

Recently your committee received a request and agreed to assist a family with three children, one of whom, their 8 year old daughter has two Cochlear Implants. Her parents had already purchased a "Cochlear Aqua Kit" for their daughter but she still required one for the other ear in order to hear her swimming instructor. Hearing instructions in a group Learn to Swim Session, is difficult enough for children with good hearing, let alone a young child with two Cochlear Implants. It makes one wonder how children reliant on Hearing Aids cope.

A Cochlea Aqua Kit is a flexible sleeve with a specially designed waterproof coil which connects the cochlea sound processor for use in water.

It was pleasing to learn that the Government had recently held a Professional Development Seminar at Timaru for Teachers and Teacher Aids teaching Hearing Impaired Children. I understand some teachers attended from Schools in Mid Canterbury and they considered the seminar very helpful in the day to day dealing with these children.

P.T.O.

Speakers:

Last year we had the privilege of hearing two outstanding speakers, Dr Duncan Han on "The Management of Tinnitus" which was very well received as evident by the number of people who attended and Carolyn Clough from Advance Ashburton Community Foundation. We welcome suggestions for speakers or activities which need not always be related to hearing issues. Please feel free to give your suggestions to myself or Bernard. The guest Speaker for our AGM will be Joanne Lake who is the Lead Paediatric Habilitationist, specialising in the support of children who have been given a Cochlear implant. I believe Joanne has taught at the van Asch Deaf Education Centre. Having Joanne speaking is both appropriate and timely given our connection with the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme.

Just to finish on a lighter note before handing over to Bernard.

I spilled spot remover on my dog, now he's gone.

What did the horse say after it tripped? Help! I've fallen and I can't giddy-up

Barry.

Bereavements

Lois Hogg who passed away recently was a member for many years. Lois often attended our gatherings and we were always delighted to enjoy her company. We offer our condolences to Lois's family.

We also offer our sympathy to Helen Wallis following the passing of her husband John.

Membership Application

To comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 we are required to update and maintain a list of members who have consented to belong to our Association. Please complete the enclosed membership form as soon as possible. Let us know if you would like it picked up from you, or it can be returned to The Seniors Centre office or posted to us at P O Box 200 Ashburton 7740. If you have any questions or need assistance please do not hesitate to contact us. The information provided will remain confidential, is for our records only and will not be shared.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This will be held on Friday 9 May 2025 in the Seniors Centre at 1:30pm.

The agenda will include the business normally taken care of at an AGM along with a recommendation to adopt a new Constitution.

As mentioned by Barry we have to update our Constitution to remain registered as an Incorporated Society.

The newly prepared Constitution includes among other things, various definitions the minimal number of members, the appointment of officers and provisions in the event of the Association being wound up. An overview will be provided at the AGM but if you have any questions or would like access to the document please contact us.

Afternoon tea will be served following the meeting. There is no charge but we do need numbers and any dietary requirements for catering purposes. If you're able to attend please advise Bernard or Barry (contact details below) or leave your name at the Seniors Centre office by Monday 5 May 2025.

We hope to see you at our AGM.

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