

## Auckland Cochlear Implant Consumer Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2015 at Hearing House, Greenlane, Auckland

Present: Donna, Lyn, Jorgen, Donald, Nic, Marian and John, Maxine, Laurie, John C, Pam, Lee.

Apologies: Diana Houtman, Raewyn Ashdown, Zeta and Jed, Derek Butcher, Vince, Virginia, Anita and Frank, Louis, Rosie, Apii.

Host-hostess: Stuart and Raewyn Moffitt.

Donna opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. The venue for the next 3 meetings is to be at the Hearing Association, 8 St Vincent Ave, Remuera. Parking is available at the back down on the left hand side of the building.

Lyn said that there needed to be more help with organising the meetings. Currently Donna is doing all the jobs. They are: Team Leader, Secretary, Host-Hostess's and Treasurer. The role of treasurer has been taken over by John C. There was the suggestion that the current minutes are too good and all comments are noted. Perhaps they should be more brief. John S said he could take over the job of doing the minutes after October. If the person holding the key to the Hearing House is away, Lee has one.

A recent TV programme was the American reality show Survivor. A contestant is a double CI recipient. There were 3 teams of 6 competing. She was in her mid 40s and put into a group with 20 year olds. She seemed to be on the outer and don't know if it was her age or hearing being the problem but she was eliminated quickly.

A recent comment on Trade Me showed that Queensland has a smoke alarm subsidy scheme

<http://www.deafservicesqld.org.au/sass>

If you are resident you can get the Brooks Wireless Smoke Alarm for \$20 with concession card, \$50 without concession card. Normal retail is \$400. The unit has a 10 year lithium battery, a vibration pad and flashing light. John S said he knows the owner and next week is attending a fire service conference. He will look into the matter.

Donna queried if members used disposable batteries. After they are discharged the first time, she put them away for a few days and then found she could get a few more hours from them. This is possible with the rechargeable batteries also (only up to 1/2 an hour). John C said that towards the end of the battery use, the sound tails off. Pam said she had bought some disposable batteries when visiting Christchurch from SCIP (Southern Cochlear Implant Programme) at a cost of \$36 for 60.

Gadget topic:

Donna had been at a hearing therapist training day. One of the panellists is blind from birth and is starting to have hearing problems. They successfully use hearing aids in the car. However in a room used an ipod device for the ears and a small 2 inch by 3 inch unit with a microphone is placed on the table. This allows them to hear best when lots of people are around, however as there is no directional facility it was as if 5 people were all sitting on top of each other. If still hard to hear – people pick up unit and speak into it.

Pam recently attended an Outward Bound 8 day course. As a result of lots of water exercises (canoeing, sailing, rowing) she had bought an Aqua+. She got it direct from Cochlear Australia for under \$350 and it took 3-4 days to arrive. NCIP quoted \$441. This is a plastic seal-proof cover for the whole processor and also an extra cord and waterproof coil. The cover is meant to last for 100 swims. She had received 2 for this price. There is a cord from the cover which allows it to be clipped onto clothing. Some people buy the unit but forget to utilise the clip and their processor disappears. For extra security she used an ear bandage. This is an elastic Velcro band to hold the processor on. This enabled her to wear a helmet successfully. She also had used a swim cap for added protection. She has yet to use the unit in hot pools.

<http://www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/au/home/discover/cochlear-implants/the-nucleus-6-system/six-reasons/aquaplus-and-water#WaterReliability>

Another gadget Pam displayed was my tiny reminder from America.

<http://www.mytinyreminder.com/>

This is a Velcro wrist band with an alarm inside. They are approximately \$20 per unit if purchased in bulk. She had tried the shake n wake with the vibrating unit under her pillow and felt it was not successful enough for her. The wrist band shakes the arm at a good vibration. Pam had been to Tiritiri Matangi with the aqua+ unit and could still hear the birds successfully.

Pam said there is a group on facebook where you can ask others questions. This is a closed group and you need to register and have someone you know allow you to join.

John has the N6 processor which has a chip which means it is wireless and the ability to successfully use the TV and mobile phone. The processor needs to be programmed and have a channel added. He has a unit approx 4 inches by 3 inches which cost \$400 and sits in front of his TV. This means he has the ability to hear the TV from 7 metres away and even in other rooms. He said a sports commentary was brilliant as he heard every word. Others asked if the crowd noise was a problem and John replied that this was reduced. This is a portable unit and could be used with on demand. This also means he could conduct a conversation at the same time. He also had a mini microphone which could be used with the TV but was not as good as the wireless version. Marian asked if it could be used with hearing aids – unfortunately not. The N6 also has the ability to hear music as the quality is better. There is no separate programme for music, but the processor senses and changes to the environment. Great for use in a windy situation.

The meeting broke off into several conversations and concluded at approximately 11.45pm.