

## **Auckland Cochlear Implant Consumer Group**

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2016 at Hearing Auckland (Hearing Association), 8 Vincent Ave, Remuera, Auckland.

Hostesses: Rodney, (Vince) Lyn.

Present: Donna, Lyn, Gloria and John, Kerry, Glenda, Des and Gay, Stuart, Laurie, Lee, Nic.

Apologies: Louis and Mona, Karel, Di, Maxine, Zita and Ged, Rod and Helen, Raewyn, Maurice and Patricia, Pam, Anita and Frank.

Donna opened by welcoming everyone to the meeting. Thanks to Rodney and Vince with help from Lyn and Kerry for morning tea. Vince was unable to attend at the last minute, however made sandwiches for everyone to enjoy.

Louis had his switch on Tuesday 13 Sept. I have not heard how he is going, and when he comes to the next meeting, we can all ask.

Information from Waikato group re next meeting. Sunday October 2. Cabby talking about her experience in readiness for public speaking. Nic has heard Cabby do her speech to a retirement village where Cabby explained about how the CI works, her experience and said the speech was amazing. Cabby is going to do more speaking including Rotary clubs, etc.

The Paralympic medals have beads inside which is a new innovation. Each medal has a different number of beads to alert blind people as to what the medals are. They have for a number of years had Braille printed on them.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/other-sports/84268329/kiwi-paralympics-swimmer-mary-fisher-can-hear-her-gold-medal>

Laurie commented that he had an iron cross from WWII which when shaken rattles.

In Australia a \$5 note which has recently been released has Braille printed on it for visually impaired people. <http://www.mindfood.com/article/new-five-dollar-note-released-to-help-visually-impaired/>

Your smart watch can be used to change texts into Braille

<http://www.mindfood.com/article/new-smartwatch-will-turn-your-texts-into-braille/>

An article about two deaf workers who are part of the team and everyone looks after them.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/83679849/deaf-pair-just-part-of-the-team>

Unfortunate news about a deaf guy shot in America because could not understand commands. He had probably been trying to tell them in sign language that he was deaf.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/world/deaf-us-man-shot-dead-by-police-for-not-following-commands-2016082315?ref=newshubFB>

Laurie said he was affected by Karel's story last month about having a gun pointed at him at the airport when the security alarm went off. Karel has a steel upper arm and this was at the time he was extremely deaf.

A petition has been started after a deaf person was left behind during a fire alarm practice at Auckland University. The petition is for mandatory smoke alarms in public buildings. [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11700378](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11700378)

Coming up is Loud Shirt Day (September 23) which supports Hearing House. They help the children through their CI and hearing experience. 1 in every 1000 babies is born deaf, and another three with have severe hearing problems. Pizza Hut are running a promotion of where you purchase a quesadilla and \$1 is donated to Loud Shirt Day. <http://loudshirtday.org.nz/>

Nic talked about the latest from Pindrop Foundation. They are pleased to announce the Honourable Simon Bridges is opening the Tauranga Sounds of Life Photo Exhibit next Friday, 23rd September, 5-7pm at the Balcony Room, The Historic Village, 17th Ave West, Tauranga. Also on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 10am-3pm. Everyone is most welcome to attend either day.

A service dog which helps an autistic person unfortunately now has cancer. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/83491520/autism-service-dog-in-cancer-battle>

A recent new contact has come from Anita – Linda, who is on the waiting list. I have sent new member information to her and added her to the mailing list. Contact has been made with the Wellington group and they are now on our email list which currently stands at 72 individuals and groups.

Donna had made enquiries to Simon Wilson from Cochlear NZ and below are his replies:

1. With the demonstration implant model there is 2 threads. One has the curly cochlear one and is implanted in the cochlear. What is the other for and where does it go.  
*This electrode sits behind the ear on top of the mastoid bone and under the temporalis muscle. This is a grounding electrode.*
2. At a recent police expo they demonstrated the taser and said it was an efficient tool as there are no lasting side effects. It locks up the muscles. Does this interfere with a CI? Simon was stunned at these questions. He was wondering why as to why a CI recipient would be getting tasered.  
*A stun or taser gun applied to the head or neck – the implant and sound processor would need to be checked for any induced damages before reusing them. Normally a taser is directed at the body.*
3. At our recent meeting you said there was a manufacturing plant in Queensland?  
*We have a plant in Brisbane. The main one is in Sydney. If anyone is going over to Australia and has a free hour or two – let me know and I will arrange for you to have a look around.*
4. On TV we see a lot of cardiac defibrillation happening. This is when people's bodies are shocked because of heart problems. Does this affect the CI?

*Cardiac Defibrillation.*

*For guidance three risk classes are used: **High, Medium and Low**. High risk issues are*

*contraindicated for CI patients. Medium risk issues can be exercised with respective caution outlined in the issue. Low risk issues require only minor caution or are generally safe.*

*Cardiac Defibrillation carries a **Medium Risk** classification.*

**Potential Interactions**

*Induced currents across the implant site have a potential to cause damage to the implant or to the cochlear tissue.*

**Recommendation**

*The induced current flow is limited to the tissue between the defibrillator electrodes.*

*Internal and external electrical defibrillation can be used with CI recipients.*

Many thanks to Simon for these helpful answers.

Donna has been checking out the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme website and come across the adult rehabilitation manual. <http://scip.co.nz/news-media-2/publications/> Under publications about 2/3rds way down

This is an excellent resource with lots of information which should be given to all CI recipients for help in a number of situations. Currently a lot of this information has been available from the consumer group when people sign up.

Lee suggested alerting Ellen from the Auckland University to this publication in the hope that they could come up with something along similar guidelines. The university only supplies help with listening practices.

The Hearing Association rooms have been booked for meeting dates for 2017 for the third Saturday of each month (except January and December).

The meeting are anticipated to alternate between having guest speakers and social events for everyone to catch up. Currently 2 speakers are lined up. Any suggestions for speakers are most welcome. These are the dates: 18 February, 18 March, 15 April (Easter), 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 21 October (labour weekend), 18 November. Donna will make up a new poster and will need to have a group photo taken towards the end of the year for publicity purposes.

One of the speakers approached was Cynthia Brown-Mendes who is the new manager of Hearing Auckland (Hearing Association). Seeing as we are using their rooms, it would be great to see what they do and how the industry has changed over time. Cynthia has only been the position a few months and is new to the hearing industry, so has generously agreed to talk to us early next year when she is more able to.

Next month's speaker is David Welch who is the head of audiology from Auckland University. Donna had seen him earlier in the week and he is looking forward to speaking to us. He had been at the forum in 2015 and had some great statistics and information to share about CIs.

Lee from Pindrop told us Cochlear New Zealand is in the process of creating an online shop for CI users to access spare parts. Watch this space.

The Forum for 2017 is going to be on March 11.

Further information from Lee was requested to not be minuted.

The meeting closed approx 12noon.