

## **Auckland Cochlear Implant Consumer Group**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2017 at Hearing Auckland (Hearing Association), Remuera, Auckland.

Hosts: Donna and Raewyn.

Present: Donna, Maxine, David Merryweather, John and Gloria, Bea Marquette, Vince, Raewyn, Stuart, Donald, Anita, Nic, Lee.

Absent: Diana Houtman, Marian and John, Kerry, Pam, Di, Maurice and Patricia, Caroline, Louis and Mona, Des and Gay, Lyn.

Donna welcomed everyone and thanked Raewyn and Donna for morning tea.

At our last meeting in 2016, Zeta and Ged had attended. Unfortunately the following Sunday Zeta passed away suddenly. Donna and Anita attended the funeral and it was interesting to note that a thank you to the hearing fraternity featured early in the service. A moment's silence was held.

Donna met David Merryweather at her local Countdown and he had come along.

As a result of a few new members attending, we went around the group introducing ourselves and telling how long we had had our CIs.

Donna – 5 years.

Bea – 3 months.

Lee from Pindrop and NCIT.

Nic from Pindrop and NCIT.

Stuart – 5 years.

David has had his implant for 3 months. He said New Zealanders speak far too fast. He mentioned that when he visited the area in America where the movie Forrest Gump portrayed, he found that with his hearing loss he could understand them well. (They spoke very slowly).

Vince – 5 years.

Donald 11 years (2006) Freedom and in November 2016 upgraded to an N6 processor.

Anita – 6.5 years.

Raewyn – 9 years (Freedom) and upgraded 1.5 years ago to an N6 processor.

Gloria – 2 years. As she had had deafness in her family – they did not correct the problem of hearing loss via the use of hearing aids.

John (husband of Gloria) – Is grateful for the CI. They had the opportunity to be in a 7 Sharp programme which documented Gloria's operation and switch on.

Maxine – 22 years. To communicate people had to be right in her face. She could hear as soon as switch on happened.

Bea said for Christmas she had been given a mini mic. She said it makes the sound louder and clearer and she uses it for TV. She has an N6.

Gloria and John had gone on a cruise late last year. When Gloria had placed the mini mic on the table, they were told they were not allowed to do so. The cruise company was Australian.

Donna said it was important that they go to management to explain what the use of the microphone was for and its compatibility to Gloria's CI for communication issues.

Lee said if it had been an American company he would have understood them having a problem. They obviously had thought it was a recording device.

In late November, Attitude TV had held their 2016 Attitude Awards. This half hour programme is scheduled every Sunday at 8.30am and highlights disabled people in the community. They did not screen the awards at the regular time, and Donna found that it had been screened later that night in a different time slot. However it was available online, but had no subtitles. A complaint was lodged early in the new year, but am waiting on a reply. I advised that there are 1-6 New Zealanders have a hearing problem, and by putting it online with no subtitles, this was not good enough.

Anita said she had noticed her TV subtitles were including extra captioning.

Donna explained that on her TV or DVD remote, there is a button for audio. By pressing this a number of times, the subtitles versions change. Sometimes programmes have different settings and the audio profile changes.

Christmas Eve Donna met up with a relative whose father had had an implant 18 months ago through the southern programme. At age 77 he doesn't seem to have advanced any better than when he had hearing aids.

Lee said that sometimes some people don't manage to get good sound. People who are born deaf and are implanted don't advance past a humming noise.

Donna said we should all be grateful for the sound we do receive.

Another book from the Auckland library by Katherine Bouton is about 'Living better with hearing loss'. A worthwhile read. Even mentions Frank Lin who is the main speaker at the Pindrop Forum.

A recent newspaper article mentioned a skateboarder who was run over and died who was hearing impaired. He had been a promising engineering student.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11783860](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11783860)

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11782870](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11782870)

Lee said this boy and his family were heavily involved in the Hearing House and this has been a huge loss.

Nic was on hand to give flyers out so that people could drop them off at their local drs surgery, audiologists and libraries. She was also available to register people for the Pindrop Forum to be held on March 11. This event is to be subtitled.

The meeting concluded approx 11.30am.