

Hearing Matters



In this issue:

Tinnitus

**The Hearing Aid
Dilemma**

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Deadline for next issue – 5 April 2015

Dear reader, member,

Contributions are very welcome. Please don't hesitate to tell us your story, or write to us if you have something interesting to share. The editor reserves the right to use or edit as necessary. Ideas and opinions expressed in *Hearing Matter* are those of the author and not necessarily those of SHHH Australia Inc.

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SHHH Mission

SHHH Australia Inc. is a voluntary organisation giving services and support to hearing-impaired people throughout Australia.

SHHH is on Facebook! Do you like Facebook? If you do, then try our SHHH Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/160071054087557/> And tell your friends!

Launch of bigger and better www.shhhaust.org

On 13 November 2014, a new and very much improved website for SHHH was launched at the Australian Hearing Hub, Macquarie University.

Special guest Tony Crittenden MA Maud SA, Head of Audiology Dept. Concord Hospital NSW, gave an opening speech, then pressed the launch button. We heard from Richard Brading, President of SHHH Australia Inc., and web site teamster Pradeep Kanthan, as well as Chris Tweedie, who are all part of the team that will feed and maintain the website.

The new site hopes to achieve a bigger presence for the Hard-of-Hearing community by providing help and information, listing new and interesting facts and providing useful links.



Launch, Richard Brading speaks



Launching, Tony Crittenden

Pradeep Kanthan



Morning Tea

President's Message

'Unfortunately the day has arrived when the Federal Government has completely stopped funding DF...'



Deafness Forum of Australia (DF) was established 21 years ago. The first president of DF was Elizabeth (Libby) Harricks, who stepped up from her role as SHHH President, to take on guidance of the fledgling national organisation. SHHH has always supported DF, and recently re-nominated David Brady, the current DF Chairperson.

The primary purpose of DF is to enable the disparate groups in our sector, including hearing-impaired, deaf, tinnitus, Menieres, parents of deaf children and service providers to have a national body that provided information, advocacy and a communication channel to the federal government that had become confused by the plethora of voices advocating on disability issues.

Deafness Forum has achieved success in many of its objectives. It provides an excellent vehicle for organisations in our sector, such as SHHH, to share information and ideas and to work towards consensus on the big issues. In recent years, DF has been particularly effective in communicating directly with politicians of all persuasions and in working on important issues such as the NDIS and making hearing loss a National Health Priority. The organisation boasts the support of former Prime Minister, Hon. John Howard, AC, as its patron.

When establishing DF, the government had hopes it would attract a massive individual membership that would eventually provide the funds to make the organisation financially self-sufficient.

This was never a realistic goal. Over the years it has become obvious that DF's effectiveness as a peak body depends on its organisational members, not individuals. This also meant that DF was vulnerable to funding cuts.

Unfortunately the day has arrived when the Federal Government has completely stopped funding DF, as part of its widespread social services austerity measures. Not only DF is getting the chop, but another nine peak bodies are also losing all their funding, including the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, Deaf Australia, Blind Citizens Australia and Brain Injury Australia.

The loss of funding puts the future of Deafness Forum in jeopardy. It would be a significant loss to the hearing-impaired citizens of our country if there was no longer a united national voice. It would enable governments – current and future, to return to the bad old days of simply ignoring the voice of disability.

I would urge all of you who are concerned about the future of Deafness Forum to contact your local Federal member of parliament and express your views.

Richard Brading
President, SHHH Australia Inc.

The Editor's Desk from Giulietta Pellascio

Dear members,

No doubt some of you have just noticed the visual change in this issue of *Hearing Matters*. I hope it is not too much of a shock, maybe even a pleasant surprise, but yes, *Hearing Matters* has a new editor and a new graphic designer all in one package. First, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the outgoing editor whom you know well, for his enormous task of editing *Hearing Matters* in the past. He has been doing this job for ten years I was told, and he is your President as well. Richard Brading will still be contributing for *Hearing Matters* of course, but essentially as a writer and fact finder. All other contributors are also welcome, and much appreciated!

As editor, I have decided to include some new features and more visual material where possible, I would like the journal to be informative and reassuring, as well as entertaining. Most of all, I am looking for more contributions from members. Send in anecdotes, your personal story of interest, a little humorous excerpt, and remember, the editor reserves the right to use or edit as necessary.

...WELL you WOULDN'T read about it...
Listen to this...

