

February 2016

# Hearing Matters



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New rules help ensure hearing aids compatible with wireless device.

Look Honey, my hearing aid is driving the car!

Book reviews and pages to entertain!

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## SHHH MISSION

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



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**Renew your membership for 2016 ... see form on page 13!**

## TEENS: I've learned plenty from my hard-of-hearing mum

### Reflections of a Schoolgirl...

The louder-than-average voices, all calls on speakerphone, and the TV volume at full blast are the sounds with which I have grown up.

My mother was born half-deaf in one ear. Over her 50 years, it has grown to full deafness in her left and half deafness in her right ear. The struggle is much worse for her, but I cannot write about her struggles for her, so will write about my struggles of growing up in a hard-of-hearing home.

I've had the struggle of sleeping over at a friend's house and getting shushed because my voice is too loud while the parents are sleeping. I am used to the anxiety of public gatherings, as the act of whispering is a foreign language to my mother. I have seen the looks she gets in public when a person says "excuse me" four times before eventually barging past, treating my mum like an inconsiderate fool.

After my dad passed away in 2006, I slept in the same room as my mum for three years due to the fear that she wouldn't hear the fire alarm if it were to go off. I can see the confusion in her eyes if the TV is on and someone tries to talk, as two sounds at once makes her head spin. I have become accustomed to making almost every phone call for her, due to the fact that even on speakerphone, she misses 70 percent of what the person is saying. I always am ready to take over the conversation at any given moment, due to the common problem of