

CICADA BUZZ

The Biography of Professor Bill Gibson

It has been a long time coming but it's official – the biography of Professor Bill Gibson is in the final production stages! The photo below was taken on 28 June 2016 when the author, Tina Allen, and the president of CICADA Australia, Sue Walters, visited the offices of New South Press (NSP) in Coogee to sign the author contract and other paperwork. To the right of this photo is our project officer, Paul O'Beirne, and on the left is Elspeth Menzies, our non-fiction publisher.



Elspeth Menzies, Tina Allen, Sue Walters and Paul O'Beirne

Elspeth Menzies first became interested in the biography in December 2015 and she wrote in her acceptance email to Tina: 'With so much written on Graeme Clark, it's time for a biography of William Gibson'. Like so many of us, she agrees that he is an inspiring person and worthy of a biography for a general readership so the book will be available in book stores, on-line book sellers and libraries from March 2017. The working title of the biography is:

Professor Bill Gibson: the Sydney surgeon who made the bionic ear a clinical success.



Professor Bill Gibson in suit at the opening of the Penrith SCIC

The biography includes details of Bill Gibson's upbringing in Devon, his early medical career in London, his decision to move to Australia in 1983 and the 'ups and downs' he experienced in establishing a world-class cochlear implant program – which is known today as the Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre (SCIC). He is not yet ready to retire and continues to see his patients at the SCIC where he is the Founding Director. The twelve branches of the SCIC are one of the many legacies of his career. Others are the small incision he developed for cochlear implant surgery to reduce wound breakdown to practically zero and his advice to a NSW Ministerial Committee on the best screening test to be used in hospital on newborn infants. Automated auditory brain stem response (AABR) was subsequently adopted as the preferred testing regime by other states and countries. He is a brilliant man, but readers of his biography will also be able to see his human side through the many humorous anecdotes he shares. The love and support Bill receives from his family, especially his wife Alex, shines out from the pages of the book and Tina thanks them for allowing her to tell their story.



Alex and Bill near Diamond Beach

The personal accounts of more than forty of Professor Gibson's patients are included in the Australian chapters of the biography and all the patients who were interviewed are listed in the acknowledgments section of the book. The patients whose stories didn't make it into the book helped the author by providing valuable background knowledge about what it is like to be deaf

and have a cochlear implant. Thank you to everyone who reviewed chapters of the manuscript and to Shirley Hanke for being our official caretaker of CICADA knowledge, newsletters and photos.

CICADA members should be very proud to have initiated and commissioned this biography. The idea came about during the presidency of Alan Jones and has been steered to completion by a sub-committee comprising Sue Walters, Tina Allen and Neville Lockhart, who facilitated this complex process.

A turning point during the project was the encouragement Tina received from the non-fiction publisher at HarperCollins, Helen Littleton, who told her during a manuscript assessment interview that she thought her sample book content was well written and suggested that she approach two of the leading publishers associated with an Australian university. Tina then submitted her publishing proposal to NSP (the press of the University of NSW) and the University of Queensland Press (UQP). When they both wanted to publish Professor Gibson's biography, CICADA had a difficult decision to make, but one that we believe was the right one.

CICADA is indebted to our publishing partners – Cochlear and the RIDBC – for their assistance by committing to purchase an agreed number of books. From the same print run, four hundred books will be set aside for CICADA members, their families and friends at the discounted price of \$25 (the RRP will be \$30). Future issues of the *BUZZ* newsletter and *HQ* magazine as well as the CICADA website will include notifications of book launches from early 2017 onwards. An order form for the book will be mailed to CICADA members as soon as the publisher advises us of the final publishing schedule. There has already been strong interest in the book and stock is likely to sell out quickly.

The CICADA executive committee

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Darwin friends now have their own Facebook page Cicada Northern Territory

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please send your details to suewalters@cidada.org.au

Donations over \$2 to CICADA are tax-deductible.

CICADA Australia Inc. thanks Cochlear Ltd. for supporting the design, printing and distribution of this newsletter.

Presidents Report



August 2016

Our CICADA BBQ day in August was attended by about 70 people who helped us celebrate the 90th birthdays of our long time CICADA advocates, Shirley Hanke and Roma Wood. These two ladies have been great friends and mentors to me over the years. They have been staunch advocates for the hearing impaired and inspired others with their positive attitude and great personal strength. Roma and Shirley have seen a great number of changes in their time, especially the "miracle" of the Cochlear Implant. We had a big cake so we could sing Happy Birthday to them.



Shirley and Roma

I presented a slide show of the COOEE MARCH re-enactment in which I participated last year. This march was 640 km from Gilgandra to Sydney, over 26 days and followed the original route of the 1915 march as closely as possible, stopping in the same towns along the way. We had to wear period costume, as a working man from 1915. It was a great experience to march along back country roads in rural

NSW and witness the changing landscape and weather, to camp out in open fields, showground and school halls, a woolshed! Above all it was the every day experience of marching side by side with people who become good mates through travelling those roads together and it is this spirit of the march which stays with you. It demonstrates to me once again, that teamwork and supporting each other is so important in all aspects of life.

Again I am reminded how fortunate I am to have the support of the CICADA committees and our helpers, also other groups advocating for the hearing impaired who are all contributing to campaigns for greater awareness and equal access regarding hearing loss.



Sue with David Brady

David Brady, Chair of the Deafness Forum also attended our BBQ day and spoke about efforts the DF are making working with SERVICE NSW to improve communication access for deaf clients. David also reminded us to keep promoting the "Break the Sound Barrier" campaign

<http://breakthesoundbarrier.org.au/>

Our very own CI recipient, David Romanowski was running in the City To Surf on Aug 14th, helping to raise funds for Hear For You. David has been working with them as a volunteer mentor for deaf teenagers and I'm sure is inspiring them with his own energy and enthusiasm.

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Patient: "I need help. I keep thinking that I'm a bridge"

Doctor: "Good heavens, what's come over you?"

Patient: "Two cars, a bus and a motorcycle"

Shirley Hanke 30 Years of Happy Hearing

This is an edited version of
Shirley's presentation

The 23rd January, 2015 was the 30th anniversary of my cochlear implant. I lost my hearing suddenly whilst a child. It was a joyful and also emotional occasion when I heard my first sounds after 47 years of deafness at switch-on.



I was eleven years old and we were lined up at school for diphtheria injections. In 1937 it was very new. The next day when I was practicing my music lessons the piano sounded tinny. The following day the sound fluctuated. I woke up the next morning totally deaf! The cause was an allergy to the vaccine.

Then the tinnitus started. How does an eleven year old cope with screeching sirens? There would be silence and then the noise would rebound again. There was no counselling in those days, no one explained to me what the head noises were. I just had to cope. I was fortunate that I was able to continue at my school but it wasn't easy being the only deaf child attending. In spite of my deafness I did well and won prizes.

Six months after my hearing loss I commenced lipreading classes and attended the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institution, Darlington, twice weekly after school. The first lesson were the sounds P, B & M that look the same to lipreaders. I always remember the first sentence I learnt to lipread was "Would you like pea soup for lunch?" Two years later I joined an evening lipreading class commenced at the Deaf School that is now included with the early days of Better Hearing history.

I have found that hearing people don't understand that the deaf can't hear their own speech! I developed my very own accent. During the war I was often asked if I were a refugee. After the war, an English war bride, Scottish, then a new Australian, a Wog? The most recent was South African and I asked a neighbour why? He replied their vowels were flat and so were mine! Australians are now used to multiculturalism and many accents.

I have had a happy life with many interests, married and had two dear little boys who were never in trouble for being noisy!

For many years articles began appearing in the media about the bionic ear. I became impatient with my deafness. **I wanted to hear.** The Chinese were experimenting with acupuncture as a cure. I wrote to Professor Graeme Clark asking for information after reading about the research being done at the University of Melbourne. After consulting an E.N.T. specialist I was advised to wait and "let them experiment on the Melbourne people".

Two years later I received an unexpected letter from Prof. W. Gibson who had recently taken the position of the head of the newly formed Dept. of Otolaryngology at The University of Sydney. My letter to Prof. Clarke had been forwarded to him and if I was interested in a cochlear implant to contact him for details and expectations. I was fortunate that Paul, my husband, provided so much help and support.

That is how I became the third person in N.S.W. to have one. The only problem was the length of time of my deafness – no one knew what would happen. I was given numerous tests like bone scans, x-rays, etc. I had a hearing test with increasing loud tones and at 140 Db I felt rather than heard. Then I wore a hearing aid for a month that "whistled" but I could not hear it but everyone in the office could! I had no hearing.

I had a five and a half hour operation that was recorded on film. My cochlear was blocked with a mastoid and the Professor had to drill through it. My balance was very wonky for weeks. I was switched on eleven days after surgery. Leaving RPA I was amazed at the roar of the traffic in Missenden Road. It was deafening! Plastic bags that I found so soft had the most horrid cracking sound. I was experiencing forgotten sound and was constantly asking what did I just hear?

My hearing range improved gradually. I recognised many sounds and my speech was clearer and I experienced a marked improvement in lipreading as the clue. I still combine lipreading and hearing and with failing sight, rely on my CI even more.

Most of all I love the bush sounds in the evening, the frog chorus and the crickets. Paul and I spent many holidays in the Capertee Valley where I went bird watching. I could recognize many of the birdcalls better than Paul did. Then there was the lyrebird who mimicked the birds in the area and really confused me. We were members of the NSW Field Ornithologists and I discovered the Regent Honeyeater I had been watching was one of the rarest birds in Australia. My Wahroonga garden was full of birds and the butcher bird would sit on the back of my chair and sing in my ear.

They were exciting times. We didn't give a thought that we were making history – we were the first deaf people in the world to hear. Our contributions to the cochlear implant program helped its development and thousands have benefitted from our efforts. It was reported worldwide in the media and on television. **If anything could go wrong it did go wrong!**

In 2004 I had my second implant. Each new model of the sound processor is an improvement. Also I give our audiologists much credit. They are responsible for making our CI's work. They become our friends and so patient when tuning our programs.

I must give tribute to Paul Hanke, my husband who died suddenly in 2007. We had been married for 53 years. I had to learn to manage without him and without Paul's support I may not have had my cochlear implant. Paul assisted CICADA in many ways. Paul designed the CICADA logo and the hundreds of photos he took are a record of those days. Also one of his paintings is hanging at the Newcastle clinic.

Annual Raffle

Thank you to all those who have responded so promptly in buying raffle tickets.

As you all know, this fundraiser is important in helping Cicada with their activities each year and we greatly appreciate your support. If you have not returned/purchased tickets, there is still time, as it will not be drawn until November 6th - closes last mail, 4th November.

Roma Wood OAM

Roma had poor hearing as a child and this was further damaged following a bout of pneumonia. Through her teenage years her hearing deteriorated rapidly and she was 18 years old when she received her first hearing aid. Roma's first Cochlear Implant was in 1993, followed by her second in 2009.

Roma has worked as a volunteer for the Sydney Branch of Better Hearing Australia for many years. She started off learning to lipread as a pupil of Dorothy Jackson at the Bond St headquarters in Sydney and progressed to teaching Hearing Loss Counseling to others. Roma worked closely with the Australian Caption Centre to lobby for increased captioning of TV and videos. She received her OAM in 1990 for services to the deaf.



It can be difficult for hearing people to understand what it is like to lose your hearing, especially if it happens so gradually that people are not always aware of the change. I think back to those early days and what it was like without any constructive hearing. I hear better today with my cochlear implant, than I did in those days.

Entering the workforce increased my ability to cope. I was in a situation where I met people who HAD to speak to me and I was able to tell them HOW to speak to me. However, it was tough.

My involvement with Better Hearing Australia marked the beginning of a real turning point in my life. Here I found people who understood what it was like to have hearing loss. No doubt my teaching background with Better Hearing has been a major influence in terms of understanding what I am hearing as opposed to what I am lip reading.

There is an emotional component to the experience of hearing loss – you may have a range of emotions such as frustration, tension, fatigue or fear of embarrassment. So much is affected, such as not being able to hear the normal flow of conversation

and having to ask people to repeat the comment. Constantly being alert to the change of topic in conversation can cause tension and fear of confusing the issue. However, you only miss out if you let yourself worry. No one is stopping you from joining in.

We grow up with knowledge and comprehension of meaning associated with language. This happens when we combine the visual understanding of what we see with the sound of conversation. When you think about it, it is a clever skill to develop... especially if we lose the ability to hear certain sounds.

Learning to lipread is an essential skill to develop that will help those with impaired hearing to gain confidence in communicating with others... BUT it is not a talent that can be developed without hours of practice. It is like learning a new language from a visual perspective... recognising words and grasping meaning in communication without actually hearing the sounds of speech.

Friends with hearing loss may complain that they need to wear a hearing aid or sound processor, however for me, my sound processors put me into the real world. Using your hearing aid or sound processor to put the sound together with what you see is ESSENTIAL.

I'm getting older, but I'm still here and have things to do. I'm not dancing as much, but I can still move.



Great work Faye!

Many CICADA members have either met, spoken with or emailed Faye Yarroll before receiving their Cochlear hearing solution. Faye received her first Cochlear Implant in 2005 and her second one in 2007. She says she's received the greatest gift of all ... *The Gift of Hearing*

Faye can often be seen at CICADA

morning teas and other social days and is a passionate advocate for two very worthy causes; Lions Hearing Dogs and Cochlear implants. She volunteers her time talking about these subjects and has spoken to more than 36,000 people over the past few years. This has resulted in many hearing impaired people regaining their hearing or hearing for their very first time. That's a lot of people to help!

Lions Hearing Dog "Sydney" now accompanies Faye to speaking engagements about her Cochlear journey and has brought the Lions Hearing Dogs to the attention of many interested people. Sydney delights folks everywhere she goes and puts a smile on many faces. She's one very smart little dog.

Recently, Faye and her brother Robert (and Sydney too) were invited to the Bondi Lions Club 60th Anniversary celebration at Woollahra Golf Club. It was a great opportunity to see old friends again and make new ones too. However, Faye soon realised there was an ulterior motive for her invitation when she was awarded the Helen Keller Fellowship Plaque. Faye said, "I feel humble receiving this beautiful award and deeply appreciated all the heartfelt good wishes from those who consider me worthy of this honour."



(The plaque is in recognition of dedicated service to the community. Helen Keller lived from 1880 to 1968. She was an American author, political activist and lecturer, and the first deaf and blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.)

Faye was heard saying recently, "how lucky am I ... a profoundly deaf woman with two Cochlear implants and a beautiful Lions Hearing Dog? Both of these amazing aides enable me to live a happy and fulfilling life. It's a great feeling!"

*A quote from
Helen Keller:*

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched ... they must be felt with the heart."

Hearing Awareness Week (HAW) events

Quota Club in Bowral, with the helping hands of Hearing Coach Pat Fulton, invited President Sue Walters to attend the Hearing Awareness Week EXPO on Friday 19th August at the CWA hall, which attracted a good local crowd. Sue received a lot of interest and questions about cochlear implants from people who attended this event.



A large contingent of Cicada members and CI recipients attended the Cochlear Breakfast, with special guest Brett Lee, held for HAW on Monday 22nd August. Brett spoke about his work as Cochlear's first Global Ambassador for Hearing. "I can't imagine cricket without sound," he said. "On the field not hearing the appeals and the crowd, off the field not hearing team mates or at home not hearing family."

"Hearing Awareness Week is important because it gives us the opportunity to raise awareness of hearing loss and remind people to take care of their ears and get regular hearing health checks."

A number of people including Cicada Committee members took the opportunity to have their photo taken with Brett.



Alan and Robyn Jones, Brett Lee, Judy Cassell and Sue Walters

Sue visited Canberra to attend the Canberra Symphony Orchestra Music Workshop on 25th August. Another great example of people supporting each other to rediscover music with hearing loss. This is a valuable exercise where you can ask lots of questions and listen to different instruments played by professional musicians, in an informal setting and focus on what you CAN hear and enjoy. Valerie Looi the SCIC Research manager presented some of her findings on music research and the most important points she raised were:

- Start with simple music e.g. solo instrument with lyrics, especially music that is familiar to you
- Listen in a focused manner, paying full attention
- Listen for a short period of time regularly rather than long periods of time sporadically
- Try different listening programs in your sound processor to hear the difference
- Keep trying to listen to different types of music, to expand your listening skills



A member of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Building Confident Kids

July 2016 The Shepherd Centre

The Shepherd Centre has recently finished its cutting-edge program, Confident Kids in the Classroom. The group program teaches social communication skills to young children with hearing loss (aged 3 to 5 years old) to help boost their confidence in social settings. The program was established as a result of The Shepherd Centre's research into Theory of Mind (ToM). Theory of Mind is the ability to recognise that people have different mental states (knowledge, feelings, desires and beliefs) from our own. As our mental states are not always expressed clearly or directly, children with hearing loss can have trouble recognising them; the ability to detect a shift in tone or grasp implied meaning through figurative language can be challenging, particularly in complex listening environments. This, in turn, revealed that the acquisition of language, speech and listening skills does not always translate to age-appropriate social skills, which can affect confidence when interpreting or responding to social situations.

Our Confident Kids in the Classroom Program aimed to turn this around and during Term 2 our Listening and Spoken Language Specialists (LSLS), Jess and Tess, delivered 'split-sessions' to both children and parents. Over eight weeks they led children through a series of play-based activities that strongly engaged key social skills such as, listening to understand, questioning to clarify and participating to solve problems. Parents were also provided with plans they could implement at home, and during day-to-day life, to support and improve their child's social skills and help develop their confidence. The feedback from Confident Kids in the Classroom has been wonderful; parents are amazed at their children's increased confidence in social settings and the positive impact it has had on their transition to big school; they are quick to interpret social situations, identify emotions and independently solve communication problems.

Laughter is the Best Medicine

"My desire to be a dermatologist was only skin deep. I know I was destined for osteology – I could feel it in my bones"

"The chiropractic author wrote a spinal column"

"Lacking proper instruments, the surgeon had to resect a bowel using plumber's tools – it was a gut-wrenching experience"

"The paediatrician was a real kidder"

Cicada Functions at Gladesville

Our AGM is to be held on **Sunday 6th November**, with our last morning tea of the year on Thursday 6th October. See the agenda for the meeting below.

26th Annual General Meeting of Cicada Australia Inc.

Agenda

- * Welcome to members and guests
- * Apologies
- * Acceptance of the AGM minutes from the 1st November 2015
- * Matters Arising
- * President's Report
- * Treasurers Report - Chris Boyce

Office Bearers and Committee Members to vacate their positions

- * Ratification of Office Bearers and Committee members for 2016/17 (if nominations received are not in excess of vacancies available, no election is required)

Elected President takes the Chair

- * Vote of thanks to committee
- * New committee and year ahead
- * Other Business
- * Close of meeting



Helper Wayne Foster and long-term committee member Alan Jones

Laughter is the Best Medicine

"The most important thing to know about becoming an urologist is that you have to be able to go with the flow"

"Never lie to an x-ray technician. They can see right through you"

Function Dates for 2017

Morning Tea. Held on the first Thursday of the month at Gladesville

2nd February; 2nd March; April (Nil – too close to Easter); 4th May; 1st June; 6th July; 3rd August; 7th September; 5th October.

BBQ's. 12th March; 21st May; 13th August and 12th November



Helper Di Lee

You will find a nomination form for our 2016 AGM, to be held on 6th November included with this Buzz. We currently have a small, but hard working and effective committee, the majority of whom have served on the committee for many many years. It would be great to have some new blood/ideas. So please seriously consider joining us. It is not an onerous task. Our committee meetings are held every second month, following our morning tea at Gladesville



Long term helper and supporter Torben Albaek and secretary Judy Cassell

Brain area that adapts to hearing loss identified

Aug 2016 Business Standard

A specific part of the brain that older adults rely on to differentiate speech sounds in background noise has been identified in a move that could revolutionise the treatment of hearing loss. As people age, their peripheral and central auditory system -- areas of the brain that help to intake and interpret sound -- decline in function. The results showed that in order to adapt for hearing loss, the speech motor area of the brain's frontal lobe steps in to help an older adult interpret someone talking in a noisy room. "Our study was able to show that we appear to tap into the speech motor areas, regions of the brain that are important for speech articulation and production, and use that information to identify speech embedded in noise," said Claude Alain, Assistant Director at Baycrest Health Sciences -- Canada-based research and education hospital. "By showing there are other brain areas that affect hearing you can design training programs that target these brain areas to see if we can improve their use," Alain added.

Korean researchers take a step closer to curing congenital deafness

June 2016 Arirang News and Nature Communications

Congenital deafness, or inborn hearing disorders, are mostly caused by mutations in a protein located in the inner ear, called Pendrin. The mutated Pendrin loses its function of forming proteins and leads to genetic disorders including congenital bilateral hearing loss. A research team from the College of Medicine at Yonsei University found a substance that could help the mutated Pendrin regain its function. Their findings state that a protein called Chaperone can activate and strengthen the function of Pendrin, making it possible to secrete protein again in an unconventional way. This has drawn attention among researchers as it could be a stepping stone to developing an effective treatment for congenital deafness.

NSW Support Groups

Illawarra

Sunday 21st August Illawarra CICADA BBQ at Shellharbour

The beautiful days continue for our outings

Shellharbour provided a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere for the 20+ people who turned up. A huge thank you to those who brought along nibbles to share with the rest of the group, especially those tasty warm mini-pies! The highlight was Bill's BBQ onions! I suspect he has now earned a spot on the cooking team

Cricket and Frisbee were the games of choice. We might have potential Australian cricketers in the young guns. Whilst at Frisbee, we had a moment when one young strong powerful unnamed junior shot the Frisbee UP UP and UP only to land on the highest shelter roof which required a major rescue operation to retrieve the Frisbee.

What a day!

Looking forward to seeing you at the next event:
Live Steamers Wollongong on 23rd October

See you there!

P.S. Future date for the Illawarra Xmas Party:
Sunday 11th December - Shellharbour Pools

For more information please contact David Romanowski.
Mobile: 0432 715 691 Email: dr930@unowmail.edu.au



The Escapees – “young adults” with cochlear implants & friends

July saw the group at SkyZone Alexandria – a massive trampoline park.
Below is what James had to say about the day out:

“It seemed a shame to spend the day indoors, with the sky outside being so blue and cloudless, but the Sky Zone Trampoline Park proved to be more than enough compensation.

Already packed with early arrivals that thought likewise, the place was full of sound and colour and movement when we got inside. We spun and bounced around and defied gravity as best we could in the Stratosphere section. We attempted, and occasionally succeeded, at slam-dunks at the Sky Slam. We survived, somehow, the Pit of giant foam cubes.

Most notably, one of us had courage enough to brave The Wall (only “for the serious jumper,” the website cautions) that may as well have been an audition for the new Spider-Man movie. But easily the most fun of the activities happened in one of the Dodgeball Zones where we battled each other, plus the more mature-aged of the jumpers, for eternal glory. Some of us got trampoline burn by the end of it, but it was worth it”.

The Escapees have bimonthly outings in Sydney that revolve around having fun while spending time together! This group organises and communicates the events from a private Facebook group. If you would like to know more then please contact David Romanowski (Email: cicadaescape@gmail.com Mobile: 0432 715 691 or directly on Facebook)



Northern Rivers

The Northern Rivers group held their last morning tea on Thursday 25th August. The meeting was well attended with 15 people all up. Three with implants who shared their journey and answered questions of those on the waiting list and those exploring their hearing options. All

participants had the opportunity to share their journey and all went away feeling heard, uplifted and encouraged.

For information about the group and their meeting dates contact:
Sheliya Van Buggenum. New contact details sheliyavan@yahoo.com



Western Sydney

Western Sydney's last BBQ was held on Sunday 21st August – a cold, though sunny day. There was a good turnout, with about 20 people attending.



Sean Sewell and Geoff Letford cooking up a storm

The last BBQ for 2016 will be held on 27th November, starting 10.30 in the Rosella picnic Area, Nurragingy Reserve, Knox Road, Doonside. In wet weather, all the area is undercover with play area for kids nearby.

You can contact Sean and Margaret Sewell on Mobile +614 2521 5654 or 041 5205 877 Judy Tutty – Co-coordinator 043 704 9452 for more information

Auditory Training Study

Participant Information

Name of Project: Effectiveness of computer-based training for cochlear implant recipients

You are invited to participate in a study involving two training approaches for cochlear implant recipients. The purpose is to compare the effectiveness of computer-based auditory and cognitive training after cochlear implantation in post-lingual deafened adults with more than 2 years of cochlear implant use.

This research is being conducted to meet the requirements of the Doctor of Philosophy degree of Mariana Reis (mariana.reis@students.mq.edu.au) under the supervision of Dr Isabelle Boisvert (isabelle.boisvert@mq.edu.au; (02) 9850 1065) and A/Prof Catherine McMahon (cath.mcmahon@mq.edu.au; (02) 9850 8775) of the Department of Linguistics.

Who can participate?

Adults- 18 years of age with bilateral post-lingual deafness, who are obtaining limited speech perception benefits (<85% CUNY sentences in noise) after at least two years of experience with a cochlear implant. Participants should be competent English speakers, able to use a computer, and do not present with significant neurological, cognitive and/or (corrected) visual

Hear For You

By mentor David Romanowski



Series 2 HearForYou NSW Oral Program @ Australian Hearing Hub

Workshop Dates

Sunday 16th October
Sunday 30th October
Sunday 13th November
Sunday 27th November

Do you have a deaf or hard of hearing teenager in High School? HearForYou Mentoring program could be just the thing they need!

Register online: <http://hearforyou.com.au/program/nsw/enrol/>

Got questions? Contact NSW Co-ordinator John Lui by email: john.lui@hearforyou.com.au

Still uncertain? See below for **David Romanowski's** comments on his first year experience as a Mentor for the program.

This year I started a new, challenging and exciting endeavour - mentoring deaf & hard of hearing teenage kids. The program is called HearForYou which involves young adults volunteering their time to share their experiences with young teenagers who are at a vitally important stage of their lives. Our role is to help the kids overcome any hurdles with their hearing and empower them to be the best version of themselves in every aspect of their lives.

impairments. We will assess these in a screening session.

What will you need to do?

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to: (1) Complete a 6-week auditory training program for 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week; (2) complete a 6-week cognitive (visual) training program for 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week. Both training programs will be performed with a computer at your home with a 3 month interval between programs. A computer and sufficient internet connection is necessary, and you will be asked to perform training using your personal audio direct input connected to your cochlear implant. You will also be asked to attend four

I've had the unique opportunity to mentor year 7 kids over four separate sessions in Sydney as well as a weekend long intensive workshop in Canberra in June. It is just incredible to see the progression the kids make with the various activities, group discussions and performances. The most amazing change is the confidence instilled in the kids as a result of this workshop. For myself, I have been surprised at how much I have learnt from the kids I've had the opportunity to mentor. My only wish is that the program had existed when I was a teenager as I know I would have had enormous benefits from it.

Just recently I also participated in the City2Surf with other HearForYou Mentees and Mentors and that was a brilliant day! It was just fantastic to see everyone giving it a go and having a great time.



testing sessions for each training program. These will occur at the Australian Hearing Hub (16 University Avenue, Macquarie University) and will be conducted: twice before the starting of training programs (with a two - four week interval in between) and twice after the end of trainings (one straight after the end of the training program and the other after six months of the training end).

If you are interested in taking part in this research, or are wishing for more information, please contact

Dr Isabelle Boisvert, Chief Investigator:
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