

NFD Journal

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR THE HEARING-IMPAIRED OF NEW ZEALAND



VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4

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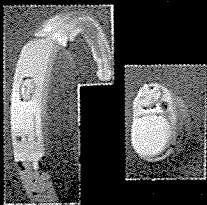
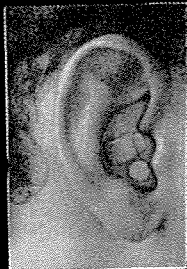
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The NZ Deaf Sports Association

The Deafness Research
Foundation

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Bella Wata courtesy Rotorua
Post.

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NFD
Journal

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR THE HEARING-IMPAIRED OF NEW ZEALAND

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to all those who worked to raise the profile of deafness and The National Foundation for the Deaf during Deafness Awareness Week.

We would appreciate a brief report of publicity and projects undertaken by each of you so we could keep a central reference and perhaps produce an ideas book to assist others in later years.

We can't print them all in the Journal but would love to keep them on record!!

I expect you are all dying to hear how our first National Appeal went. Well it was a success, as first appeals go. Donations are close to meeting our expenses and, taking into account the other benefits of Awareness and an improved donor base, the Board certainly made the right choice. There are still some donations coming in. Thank you to all who helped and/or made donations.

As the year closes we can look back on some of the exciting projects and success the NFD and Member Groups have set in motion.

Projects like the setting up of an Interpreter Training Course within a NZ Tertiary Institution which is moving closer with the completion of the Feasibility Study by Mrs Pat Dugdale. This was made possible by funding from the Roy McKenzie Foundation.

The \$200,000 grant to NFD to enable NZAD to address its communication problems has enabled them to appoint a Co-ordinator experienced in social work and Interpreting in the New Year to look at setting up a network of New Zealand Sign Language Courses throughout NZ so the deaf people can teach their language to interested professionals and others. A Communicator, a deaf person skilled in language teaching is being sought to direct and set up this project.

Through the initiative of The National Foundation for the Deaf, the Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr Koro Wetere, put in motion a working party which has produced a report and a set of recommendations which, if implemented, will make a great difference. We must all work to ensure the report does not die.

The first New Zealand Course for Audiologists will commence as a Master of Audiology Degree at Auckland Medical School from 1990.

The NFD has representatives on all major policy making groups on a national level addressing issues such as technology, employment, equal opportunities and the Executive Officer is part of an interpolicy group working along with representatives from other major charities and Government Departments, addressing such issues as funding, contracting, brokerage and health and welfare interface. This is a major step forward which reflects the higher profile of the NFD and deafness in general. Our work is paying off!!

The Variety Club of New Zealand will launch its first gala event, "A Night with the Stars", Tuesday 28th November. The charity will raise funds to assist New Zealand's children. Isn't it wonderful that their first project is to provide a mobil health caravan to reach *hearing impaired children* who cannot get to hospitals or services.

Access 2000 is still at the important ground-work stage but by next year should be having an impact throughout all New Zealand with deaf and hearing impaired people equipped with the skills and information to implement their own self-help access packages at a regional level. Thanks to the Accident Compensation Corporation for \$50,000 access funding and to the NZ Employment Services Restart programme which enabled us to employ Mr John Mountain to assist us in this task.

Yes, Auckland Hearing Association's What Club? is thriving with interested active young people. These are just some of the major gains we can be thankful for as the year ends.

1990 will be a year to glance back and to look forward.

We know some clubs have organised 1990 projects. Have you? If so please tell us about it.

As Journal editor, I would love to receive items and photos which reflect the history of deafness and related areas in New Zealand.

We hope to focus on the exciting changes in the educational area in our February Journal and would appreciate items related to this.

It is wonderful to see our young deaf people not just mainstreamed but with a mainstream attitude. Bella Whata who is featured on our cover, although described as a shy Maori girl, entered the school speech competition and proudly spoke in her own language. With the avenue of the new Youth Ministry open to us to deliver messages through deaf and hearing impaired youths we will need more young people like Bella and our What Club? members to deliver the message with impact.

On behalf of all the Board of The National Foundation for the Deaf and the Editorial Staff of the NFD Journal, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, an exciting New Year, and a prosperous new decade.

Eileen McGee

Any views of statements expressed
herein do not necessarily represent
the official policy of the Foundation.

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BELLA'S SPEECH KEPT THEM QUIET

Bella Whata made a speech with a difference to her fellow students at Rotorua Lake's High School when she described to them what it was like to be deaf.

Bella spoke in the final round of the fourth form speech competition. She became deaf when she was four months old through Rubella. Now at 16, she can communicate fully with people through sign language, lip reading and spelling.

She had the help from her tutor, Mrs Jennifer Andrew, who interpreted while Bella used sign language.

One of Bella's teachers, Mr Paul Hartstone, said that he had never seen a hall full of children sit so quietly as they did when Bella spoke.

"She has achieved a great deal out of this and it was great to see her in the final" he said. Afterwards Bella said that she was very

nervous but thought she had done very well. "I was just glad to get this far", she said. "I'll be back next year to do the same."

Bella is pictured on this JOURNAL'S Cover as captured by the Rotorua Post's photographer during her speech. The Editor thanks Rotorua Post for both the photos and the text.



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ADDRESS AT CHURCH SERVICE

To Open Deafness Awareness Week — Sunday, 24th Sep. 1989
by Mr Noel Bow, Chairman of the National Foundation For The Deaf



Mr Noel Bow, Chairman NFD

It is fitting that we should launch Deafness Awareness Week at a special Church Service — that we should come together in the spirit of love and hope to ask God's blessing on our work, to give Him thanks for the progress which has been made to alleviate suffering — for the work and research which is being undertaken to help those affected by the "INVISIBLE HANDICAP" — for the study and clearer understanding of the special needs for the deaf and hearing impaired — the greater awareness of and need of acceptance of the principles of equality, justice, and consideration for all people.

Deafness has been with us since the dawn of the age of man. (Leviticus 19:14 "You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind") . . . Perhaps the very fact that we feel the need to nominate 1/52nd part of our calendar year as Deafness Awareness Week is indicative of the level of neglect which the deaf and hearing impaired have been forced to endure throughout the historical span of our civilisation. But NOW, we want to change that. We cannot do it all in the span of 5 years — or 10 — in my lifetime nor in yours. But we CAN pick up the challenges which we see in the light of our present day knowledge and work through them, according to our talents, resources and opportunities, to ensure a brighter future for all deaf and hearing impaired — and also people of the hearing world, whose lives can equally be enriched by contact with deaf persons and their handicap, by love and understanding. In God's good time we will fully understand each other. Perhaps it is right that we should see our efforts in D.A.W. as our minute recognition of — and contribution towards that purpose.

And of course to-day is also "WORLD DEAF DAY". We must give thanks too for the fact that our busy, bustling, bruising, civilised world can see its way to designate 1 day in 365 to recognise the existence of "Deaf People"! But we should not be cynical — rather let us seize upon the day and use it to highlight POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT. It is fitting that our own D.A.W. should commence upon this day.

THE THEME — PARTNERSHIP

I was delighted when I learned from the organising committee that the theme for this service was to be "PARTNERSHIP". I quote you again those words from the lesson which has been read to you this afternoon. The words were written by St. Paul in his 1st letter to that group of people from all walks of life and capabilities (perhaps there were one or two hearing impaired amongst them!) who were the very founders of the Christian Church in Corinth. Paul writes in a way they could easily understand — he uses the parts of the body to illustrate the importance of each member, and the function which it performs to make the whole body a living and effective entity:— Many Parts — one body. "All of you together are the Body of Christ — each one of you is a part of that Body."

I see an analogy to the structure of the National Foundation for the Deaf very clearly in those words of St. Paul. I also see the need for an acceptance of the principles which St. Paul writes about — the importance of each member, the particular function which each member performs, and the contribution which each makes towards the functioning of the overall body and its level of achievement in fulfilment of its very being and existence. In our case, our goals and objectives. (to summarise) "To promote and advance the interests and general welfare of all deaf persons in New Zealand."

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

This is the 10th year of the N.F.D. — 'The Partnership' — and I believe it is good that we recognise our achievements — surely to do so is an exercise in AWARENESS too.

Firstly, we have recognised the need for the PARTNERSHIP. We have worked through the early stages of recognition of each member group, its particular function, concern and area of expertise. We are learning that we can achieve our objectives by working steadfastly together, recognising each others needs and priorities.

Secondly, we have progressed to the point

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

of achieving recognition of our existence and credibility by Government and welfare agencies and trusts. Recognition of the PARTNERSHIP means AWARENESS of our existence, our needs, our work, and above all AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF THE DEAF AND THE HEARING IMPAIRED in their struggle to achieve fulfilment and satisfaction in their own lives.

Thirdly, there have been the 'winning milestones' — and I mention only a few:—

- (a) The grant to help provide TTYs for profoundly deaf so that they might more easily communicate with each other.
- (b) Teletext and TV captioning.
- (c) Recognition of NZ Sign Language — a language in its own right — and the production of the first NZ S. L. Dictionary.
- (d) Successful lobbying for and achievement of grants to promote communication and welfare co-ordination for the deaf.
- (e) Acceptance by the NFD of a Project to "ESTABLISH A PERMANENT TRAINING SCHOOL OR FACILITY FOR INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF".
- (f) Launching of ACCESS 2000.
- (g) Our 1989 National Conference.

THE "OTHER" PARTNER.

A word now on behalf of 'The Other Partner' — equally important when considered in the context of what we are trying to achieve. I mean those whom I often hear referred to by my deaf and hearing impaired friends as — "THE HEARING WORLD — HEARING PERSONS". Surely they have a part to play? I as one of them assure you that there are many sympathetic, concerned, caring and understanding people in the world. Let us not simply refer to them as "HEARING PEOPLE", but rather as "HEARING PARTNERS" — Partners in our cause.

Our Awareness Programme is aimed at the Hearing World in general. We can, therefore, measure the level of the success of our efforts by the degree of interest and concern which the Hearing World continues to show when our week is past. I urge you to do all in your power to foster and encourage the alliance with that "OTHER PARTNER".

CONCLUSION

Two Saturdays ago, I attended as an onlooker, what turned out to be a unique and memorable experience — a PARTY with a difference. It was in fact the making of our new promotional video which you will surely see this week being screened in the Community Service slot by TVNZ. The scenario was a party — children, teen-agers, parents — profoundly

deaf, hearing impaired, hearing. It took a full hard day's work by the camera team, the professionals, the cast, the willing extras. But right to the end of that long and tiring day it was fun, positive, rewarding. I believe that this note comes through very clearly in the all too few seconds of screening time which result from that day's hard work. Miranda Harcourt and Sonia Pivac are the stars, and together they indicate the potential of PARTNERSHIP for the future.

We must make our Partnership work for the benefit of all — but if you feel the need for inspiration for the task — think of the future — and of those growing up into the changing world where all should be AWARE of the "Invisible Handicap" and of what it entails for the affected — a world where we will need a fuller acceptance of our responsibilities towards each other. There is much to be done. I congratulate you on the Awareness Week Activities Programme which you have organised this year. I commend those activities to the 'OTHER PARTNER' for wider participation.

There is much to be done. I pray that our PARTNERSHIP will be blessed, and that together we may achieve our goals.

I ask you — "HAVE YOU HEARD?"

DEAFNESS RESEARCH FOUNDATION AWARDS 1989

The Deafness Research Foundation is very pleased to announce that it has recently awarded a number of grants for research to be conducted into deafness in New Zealand.

Dr RJM Gardner of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Otago Medical School has been awarded a grant to study the genetic basis of congenital sensorineural deafness. This research will investigate the family history of people with this condition, and it is hoped that the research may eventually lead to the determination of the actual gene which is responsible for causing this type of deafness. Miss G Yardley, a third year medical student has been awarded a Summer Studentship to assist Dr Gardner with this study during the summer vacation.

Dr Simon Kemp of the Department of Psychology at the University of Canterbury will



carry out an investigation into tinnitus which is caused by noise exposure. This study will provide important insights into the possible causes or mechanisms of tinnitus.

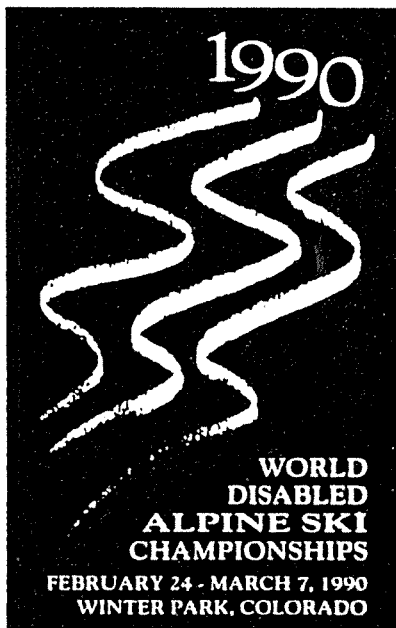
A grant has been awarded to Associate Professor Rae West in the Department of

General Practice at the University of Auckland School of Medicine to undertake a preliminary study of the cry of new born babies. This novel research will establish whether deaf babies emit a cry which has different characteristics from children with normal hearing, because they are unable to monitor their own voices. This could eventually lead to a relatively easy screening technique for establishing deafness in babies.

Christopher Jerram, who has recently completed his studies for a Bachelor of Science degree in Physiology has been awarded a Deafness Research Foundation Summer Studentship. He will work with Dr Peter Thorne in the Department of Pathology at the University of Auckland School of Medicine looking at what happens to the blood flow through the inner ear during noise exposure.



ANGELA SEW HOY — NO SHRINKING VIOLET



While the rest of us are putting our skis behind and looking forward to the Summer and the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, Angela Sew Hoy is packing her skis and preparing to fly off to Winter Park, Colorado in December 1989 as a member of New Zealand's Disabled Ski Team.

Angela, aged twenty-four has been profoundly deaf from birth and doctors have been unable to pinpoint the cause of her deafness. Angela was diagnosed deaf at the age of two and fitted with her first hearing aids.

Angela is grateful of the "countless hours of intensive speech therapy and the hours my mother spent when I was small teaching me to speak" for now she is an articulate speaker and a competent lip-reader.

Educated at Arthur Street and Kenmure Intermediate school with the deaf unit from standard four, Angela divided her time between the Deaf unit and hearing classes. Her first experience of being fully integrated in a hearing class was at Kaikorai Valley High School.

Angela went on to become one of the small minority of deaf students to attend university. In 1986 she was one of four profoundly deaf students who attended Otago University where the total student population was 6,000.

"It is hard," says Angela, "for a hearing person to understand the enormous amount of effort that goes into attending lectures, labs, and tutorials with a profound hearing handicap."

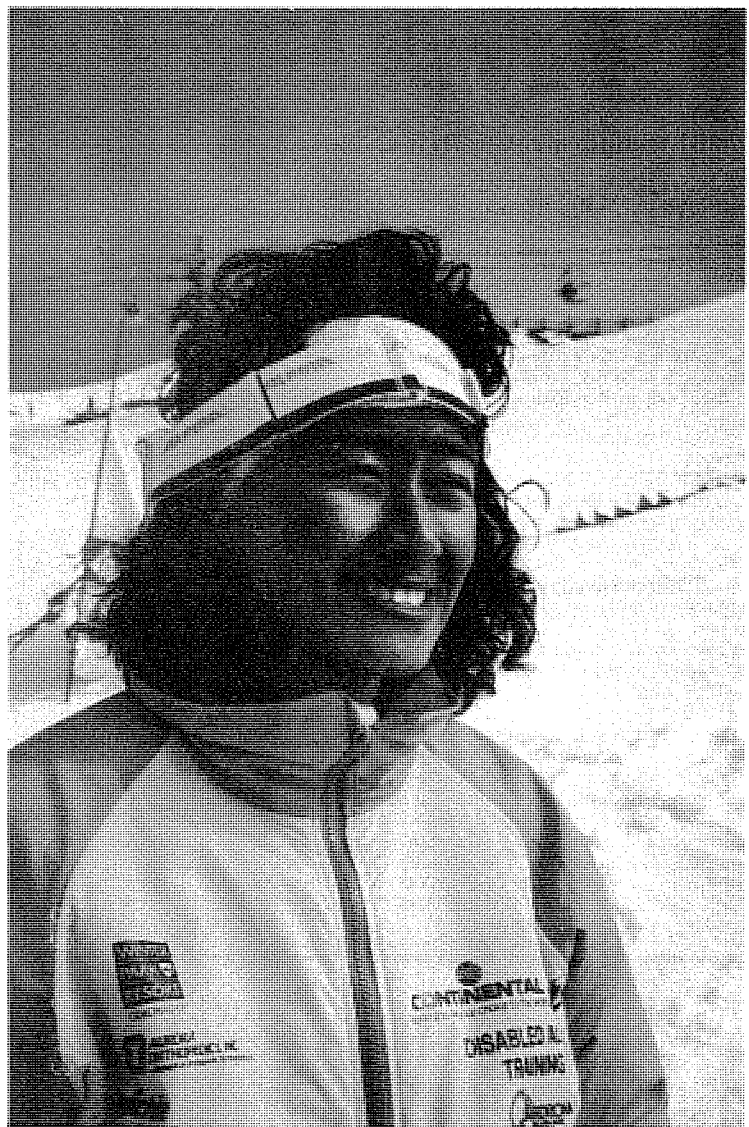
Angela says, "I received little help from the University apart from extra time for examinations."

However with the help of friends' notes and lots of determination Angela made it. Angela says "University is not for shrinking violets." There's a whole lot of commonsense strategy necessary to compensate for the hearing loss.

Angela introduced herself to every lecturer and asked tutors to allow her to be in the same class as her friend who was of great assistance with notes and helping to bridge the communication gaps she experienced. Arriving early to lectures to obtain the best position was also part of the strategy and these efforts along with a heavy load of extra book study to compensate for the hearing loss all paid off.

After four years Angela graduated from Otago University with a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a Major in Information Systems. Angela is now employed as a cost accountant.

"Being deaf," says Angela, "is not a problem, the problem is how hearing people do not recognise, much less understand deaf culture." The Education Department prefers to use the generic term 'Hearing Impaired' avoiding the word 'deaf' lumping the hard of hearing and deaf together. Deaf people are



generally regarded as hearing impaired, but this is a misconception.

Angela agrees with the President of the NZAD, Hilary McCormack when she describes New Zealanders as 'light years behind other countries in its attitude toward the deaf'.

Angela describes the education they receive under hearing control as "wretched". It produces a majority of deaf people who neither read nor write well, 'often leaving school deaf youths have a reading and writing ability of an eight year old' she says.

Angela stresses deafness does not mean the deaf person is a social recluse for many thrive on sport.

Angela quotes the 'World Games for the Deaf' hosted by New Zealand Deaf Sports Association as a showcase for successful deaf sports men and women.

And identical twins from Timaru, Bruce and Andrew Price, 24, who became the first New Zealanders to qualify as chefs through London City & Guilds in 1988.

We have seen from our readers stories that deafness is no barrier to travel and adventure.

Recently Angela was at the Salomon New Zealand Disabled Ski Championships, Angela won selection for the New Zealand Disabled Ski Team. This certainly means travel and adventure and hard work for Angela.

The hard work will begin with a full-time training programme on the snow at Winter Park, Colorado, December 1989.

The team will compete in three regional race meetings, Park City, Powderham International and the Columbia Crest Cup, during the build up period. It is hoped that athletes will peak at the World Championships Feb 24 — March 7 1990. Three days after the

Angela Sew Hoy of Dunedin is a member of the 1990 NZ Disabled Ski Team at the NZ Disabled Ski Championships held at Cadrona Ski Area.

World Championships the team will move to Kimberly British Columbia to compete at the Canadian Nations, before returning home. Angela is still trying to find sponsorship to cover the \$10,000 costs which will have to be borne by each team member. She is still \$5,000 off meeting her costs and would welcome any level of support.

Every successful person has their mentor obviously Angela values the support of her parents but who else?

Marlee Matlin the deaf actress who won an academy for her starring role in "Children of a lesser God".

Angela says, "she shook the world into awareness and acceptance of deaf people." And closer to home, "Vivienne Martin, who was the first New Zealander ever to win an Olympic medal for skiing in the partially sighted class of 1984."

At twenty-four Angela with her high degree of success in both the academic and sporting arenas is undoubtedly in line to be a positive role model and inspiration for other young deaf people in New Zealand.

We congratulate Angela and wish her a most enjoyable and successful trip.

*Sponsorship or donations towards Angela's trip may be forwarded to the NFD and will be duly sent to her.

ACCESS 2000



Mr John Mountain an ex Army Officer who has a wide range of skills, working with us for better ACCESS in the future.

Introducing Mr John Mountain who has been employed under Restart to work with us in developing the ACCESS 2000 programme.

John has gathered a lot of information and has almost completed the training package which will be used by the trainers of Access Regional Committees and by the deaf and hearing impaired representatives who will be needed to make this self-help project a success in each region.

John is also working to gather information regarding issues related to Telecom and Telephones for deaf and hearing impaired people.

John has proved a valuable asset to the NFD in establishing the important ground work for Access and hopefully by July next year we will have regional committees of deaf and hearing impaired people in place and trained ready to carry out the exciting and important work of the ACCESS 2000 project. You will hear more from John and more about ACCESS 2000 both through the Journal and through the ACCESS 2000 Newsletter planned.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

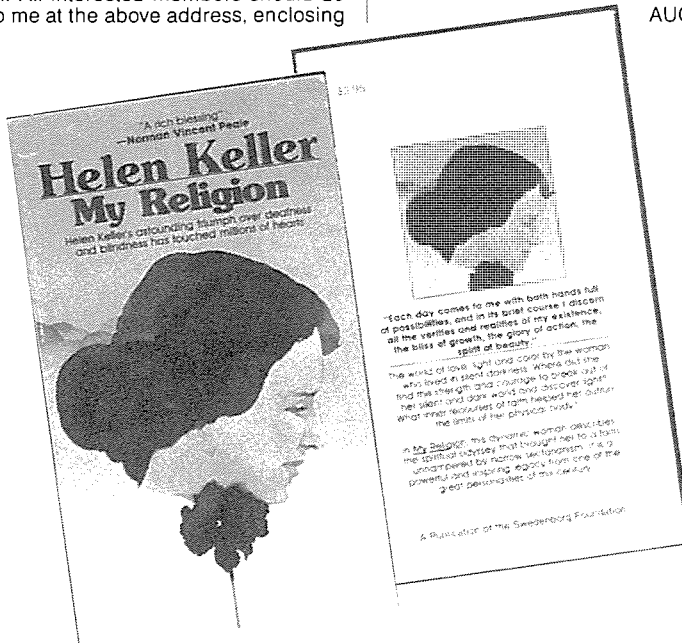
Enclosed is a complimentary copy of *My Religion* by Helen Keller. I am sure that all those belonging to your organisation are very familiar with the accomplishments of this remarkable deaf and blind woman. Many would be interested to discover the source of inspiration and strength, which led her to overcome so many limitations and achieve so much. For this reason, I should like to offer all members of your organisation a free copy of this book. All interested members should do is write to me at the above address, enclosing

\$1.50 to cover postage and packaging, and a free copy of *My Religion* will be sent to them.

I hope you enjoy this book. You will be intrigued to discover a side to Helen that most people didn't know about.

Yours faithfully

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WHO IS MANDY JONES AND WHY DOES SHE RECEIVE FAN MAIL?

Meet Mandy Jones, she is twelve years old and has been hearing impaired since birth. Her deafness was caused by her mother having Rubella (german measles) in the first three months of pregnancy. Tens of thousands of New Zealand's primary school children have met Mandy, seen her audiogram, examined her hearing aid, learned to sign from her and watched her as she plays Dame Edna or otherwise entertains them with stories told in sign language and a somewhat distorted voice. All this publicity and fame yet she is only one metre tall.

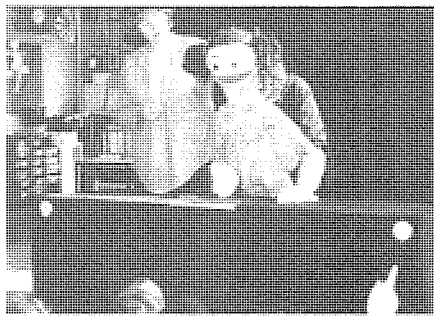
Mandy is one of the "Kids up the Road", a disability awareness programme for New Zealand primary school children using the medium of large puppets to educate about disability. Mandy is the only puppet to have real hands. This enables her to use sign language, her hands have been designed so the puppeteer can slip inside the gloved hands.

The Disability Programme commenced in 1981 and was the Crippled Children Society's contribution to the Year of the Disabled person. The programme has grown from a single touring team to three teams centred in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington. Regional areas are covered from these centres. The programme reaches out to all primary schools who would like to see the programme: No school is ever considered too small.

The "Kids" are actually one metre high puppets imported from America and the programme has been developed for New Zealander audiences on a format developed by the highly successful "Kids on the Block" (Inc). (1977) There are now over 900 "Kids on the Block" programmes in 15 different countries. To the Society's knowledge, no country has the intensive national coverage that the Crippled Children Society has promoted throughout New Zealand.

The New Zealand programme features a new theme each year that relates to the interests of the Primary age child. A disabled character interacts with an able bodied character in a short sequence and then invites questions from the audience. Generally 4 sequences are presented in an hour long programme and a resource folder is left with teachers. The dramatic sequences reflect the varying cultural, linguistic, physical and intellectual patterns in today's multicultural society.

The characters portray both hidden and obvious disabilities. Over the years children have been able to question characters about Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Intellectually Handicapped, Visual and Hearing Impaired, Diabetes, Asthma and Epilepsy.



Our Hearing Impaired character, Mandy Jones, shows juniors how to sing and sign Happy Birthday.

The programme embodies the spirit of mainstreaming. The Crippled Children Society's goal is to develop future generations of enlightened New Zealanders free from the negative attitudes and prejudices of the past.

A measure of the success of the programme is the involvement children feel towards the puppets and their operators, Jenny Mills and Judy van Berk. All receive fan mail showing the children's desire to continue the friendships long after the show is over.

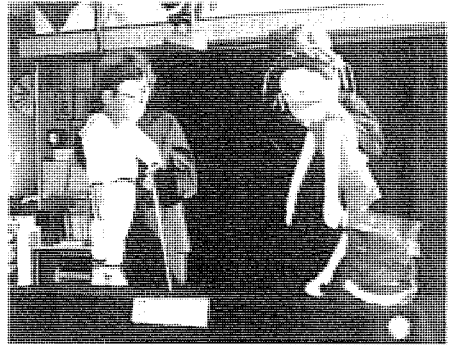
The following selection reprinted from Access, the NZ Crippled Children Society's Journal, shows reactions are not surface but deep, with children encouraged to ask questions in a straight forward unselfconscious way. Questions which in other situations would probably have parents silencing or censuring the child's natural curiosity, are welcomed here. Questions like, "How do paralysed people go to the toilet?" and to Mandy "Why do you speak so high?", to John "What is it like being blind?" "Where did the blind man's watch come from?"

A major aim of the programme is to develop children's feelings of tolerance towards others and their own self-esteem, so that children will accept those with disabilities as people first and not to distinguish them by their differences. The "Kids" in various ways tell the audience, "Hey, watch me, I can control my disability", "I'm just the same as you", "Let me be friends with you."

The "Kids" through Jenny and Judy meet thousands of children and touch their lives and their consciousness. The Crippled Children Society is to be congratulated on this project.

and thanked for the work it does through Mandy for deafness awareness.

I'm sure Jenny and Judy and the Society derive a special feeling of satisfaction through the magic of the fan mail, a sample of which follows.



Johnny Katene — Visual Impairment, Christina Kontos — Diabetes. Johnny is about to demonstrate how he plays cricket. He uses a rattle ball. Christina is rather doubtful.

Surrey Park School
Invercargill
26-7-89

Dear Valerie,

Hello, my name is Monique Lee. We had some people from the Crippled Children Society visiting us today and they talked to us about children with disabilities. I had never heard of your disability before, 'spina bifida'.

What is your favourite music? Mine is Poison, Guns n' Roses and some of Jason Donovan's songs. My hobbies are Guides, Saturday morning music and collecting Garage Gang Stickers. I heard that you love being in the water. So do I. As you can see I am doing this on the computer. It is fun. For my Kiwi sport I am doing Rugby. If you would like to write to me, could you please write to the above address.

Yours sincerely,
Monique Lee

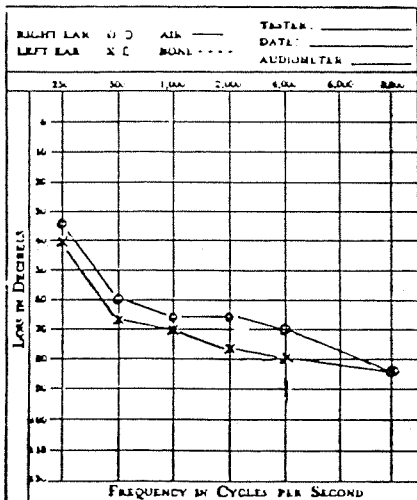
Waipa School
Ngaruawahia
14 June 1989

Dear Chris and Lisa

It is me, the one that asked you how paralysed people go to the toilet. Yes, that's the one. I would also like to thank you for coming to our school and inviting us to Camp Waitui . . . Have a good time doing your shows and keep well.

Janferay MacDonald

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Mandy's audiogram
This shows that Mandy's hearing loss is greater in the higher frequencies



Audience experimenting with signs

oticon

Hearing Aids

SUPREME PERFORMERS

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Cannon's Creek School
Porirua East
20 April 1989

Dear Judy and Jenny

... My cousin has something wrong with her spine and she can't bend down and her arm always stays beside her waist. She still goes to school and is a normal person.

Love from David Isaia

Fairfield School, Room 2
Dunedin
14 June 1989

Dear Roger and Chris

I really liked your speech and most of all your puppets. Where did the blind man's watch come from.

Your friend, John

Featherston School
Wairarapa
30 June 1989

Dear Johnny

What is it like being blind? Have you been blind all your life? I don't think there is any thing wrong with you.

from, Ryan Clifford-Mars

South End School
Carterton
10 July 1989

Dear Jenny and Judy

Hi, I really liked your puppet show and I hope to see it again next year. Thank you for giving us your time to come and give a great



Mandy Jones
Hearing Impaired
Megastar

performance. My favourite character is Valerie. She looks like she could be a really good friend. Well, gotta go. So thanks again.

Love
Madeleine Richardson

Featherston School
Wairarapa
30 June 1989

Dear Brian McDaniel

How did the first person to see you react to your second seizure? I've never seen a person have a seizure before.

Yours sincerely
Cathryn Dopson

Brooklyn School
Wellington
10 July 1989

Dear Mandy

Why do you speak so high? What was it like at your Grandad's party? Is he 100? Do you love your Grandad? Does your Grandad like your present?

Rebecca (6 years)

Dear Judy and Jenny

... I really liked Mandy very much. She taught me how good it was to have ears and to use them. Valerie showed me how it felt to have a spine completed in my body. Johnny showed me how good it was to have my eyesight but most of all you showed me how it was so good to have life.

Love, Tracy Repia

Surrey Park School
Invercargill
26-7-89

Dear Mandy

I wear glasses and I cannot see a lot without them. I am in standard four. I am ten years old and understand a lot. Could you please teach me some sign language as I am very interested in it. Let me tell you more about my hobbies. I really like swimming and rugby. In my family there are four of us and I have a cat and a dog. Could you be my penpal.

Yours sincerely,
Ross Warnock

The Editor thanks the New Zealand Crippled Children Society for permission to use their material and photos of the "Kids".

For further information please write to the National Office of the New Zealand Crippled Children Society, (Inc); P.O. Box 6349, Wellington.

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BETTER HEARING AUSTRALIA INC. CONFERENCE

Brisbane, July 1989



"Tout ça change, tout c'est la meme chose"
Better Hearing Australia seems to have all the problems, real or imagined, that The Hearing Association has, but it has its triumphs too.

I was privileged to represent The Hearing Association at the 43rd Annual Conference of Better Hearing Australia from 2nd to 8th July 1989. Held on the beautiful University of Queensland campus, the cool weather did nothing to detract from the warmth of my welcome.

As I listened to the opening speaker, Dr Merv. Cheong, Director of Community Medicine Division, Queensland Health Department, then Noeline Neilson and Maureen McGrotty speaking on Audiology and Total Communication respectively, I seemed to hear much of the same strengths and weaknesses in the care of the hearing impaired that we have in New Zealand.

This feeling was strengthened as I sat in on an all afternoon workshop on the theme "Does BHA Rehabilitate? Can it be improved?" The key words in the discussion, Access, Image, Training, Publicity, Government Support, Technical Aids, and the conclusions that more should be done were, oh, so familiar. For instance, one recommendation was that the National Council should undertake a statistical analysis of the membership — and of non-members. Another was that a Strategic Plan was required, especially in relation to teacher training. I offered to send a sample of our questionnaire and some of the conclusions



reached so far. An offer that was eagerly accepted.

As in New Zealand, the Quota Club takes a keen interest in the hearing impaired. The Conference was officially opened by Beris Pritchard, International President of Quota International.

There were papers on technical and educational matters, public relations and other subjects. I was intrigued by a paper on "The Aviphone, A New Hearing Aid" delivered by Dr R. Piddington of the University of Queensland Vision Touch and Hearing Centre.

In the search for a means of eliminating background noise from hearing aid reception, Dr Piddington and his team were applying a bird's hearing process to hearing and design. It is known that birds have a canal connecting left and right inner ears. Sound therefore impinges on the eardrum from both sides. It is thought that the resulting "Time enhancement" effect provides a direction-finding ability.

The effect was being applied in research to develop a hearing aid that, in theory, would totally eliminate all sounds except the speech of the person addressed. The Aviphone (bird-hearing) however is still in the research and development stage.

The cochlear implant programme is well advanced in Australia. How interesting to meet no fewer than four implantees, each one taking a full part in the Conference.

As the Conference drew to a close, I reflected on the warm and friendly acceptance I experienced as a representative of The Hearing Association. People showed a lively interest in New Zealand and the Association, and a desire for a closer liaison between the two bodies.

I would certainly like to see Better Hearing Australia represented at our conference in Masterton next year.

Gordon Roberts
(Member National Executive)
ROTORUA.
28 September 1989.

MÉNIÈRE'S SELF HELP GROUP

In an interview for a suburban newspaper during Deafness Awareness Week Wellington Hearing Tutor, Lidia Dabrowska, made mention of the possible need for a support group for people with Ménière's Disease. She had spent time with such groups in Toronto during a recent study tour. The newspaper article brought inquiries from 8 people who were enthusiastic about the formation of a group in Wellington.

Consequently a meeting has been scheduled for 23 November to decide how the group will be structured and what will be its objectives and functions.

It is hoped that a newspaper will publish information about the disease at the same time as an advertisement is placed offering sufferers the opportunity to learn how to cope with the dizziness, hearing loss, tinnitus and associated stress by joining a self help group. Spouses and friends will be welcome.

It is proposed to set up the group within The Hearing Association, participants joining the branch and paying the normal membership fees. Meetings will be held monthly with the tutor initially acting as facilitator and supplying information from the literature and other sources. How the group develops, the amount of tutor input needed and the involvement of guest speakers will depend largely on the wishes of members.

AN ASSET

What an advantage "MY HEARING IS IMPAIRED" Badge proved to be on a recent tour in Australia. Everywhere I went, people would say — "What a good idea, wearing that Badge." When I went to book for a tour of the Sydney Opera House, the Receptionist saw my badge — immediately raised her voice and said "I'll tell the Tour Guide to keep you near her", and my! what V.I.P. treatment I received.

Likewise in Melbourne when I toured the Art Centre and Concert Halls, and on all other tours.

So, I say a big "Thankyou" to my Badge for helping to make my holiday so very enjoyable.

F. A. CROMPTON Ch.Ch. Speech reading student in Irene Marshalls class. Christchurch Branch of The Hearing Association.



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Hearing Aids
POWERFUL FRIENDS

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AROUND THE BRANCHES

WELLINGTON BRANCH

We have been happy to welcome back our senior tutor, Lidia Dabrowska, who has returned from study leave with lots of information and ideas to share with her colleagues and branch members and plenty of projects to keep them busy. Her return was timely as she gave interviews on the radio and in the newspapers during Deafness Awareness Week.

The Wellington Branch main activity for Deafness Awareness Week was the promotion of counter cards similar to those used in other branches to encourage better understanding and a more helpful approach when communicating with hearing impaired customers. Influenza prevented the Mayor from launching the cards but he was ably represented by Councillor Dalton. The City Council administration led the way by distributing the cards to all their offices and libraries. An exhibit of colour photographs of branch activities was mounted in a display window in the Central Library along with an interesting collection of books from the library holdings. Staff of the Science and Technology section of the public library are very helpful in publicising the work of voluntary organisations with a scientific background to the service they

TAURANGA BRANCH

Tauranga Branch was very sorry to be losing the services of one of its tutors, Dianne Burgess, after having been with the branch for four years.

At a function held to farewell Dianne, who is moving to Pukekohe, speakers including President Rex Firth, Past President Owen Merriman and Tutor Judi Spencer all spoke very highly of the excellent manner in which Dianne had carried out her work as Tutor. Particularly moving was the "Thank You" speech signed by Pam and John Grant on behalf of the members of the Total Communication Group.

Dianne expressed regret at having to leave and said how much she had enjoyed being with the Branch. The large attendance of members from Tauranga, Mount Maunganui, Katikati and Te Puke were then able to talk with Dianne and good wishes for her future were warmly extended.



President Rex Firth makes the presentation to Dianne.

offer the public.

This year the different member groups of the NFD arranged their own programmes but supported one another by attending the groups' events when possible.

A very sad event for Wellington was the death on 9 October of Hylde Berry. Hylde, a former hearing tutor and more recently a

member of the staff of the audiology department of Wellington Hospital, was a branch field worker, visiting hearing impaired residents of rest homes and hospitals and also house-bound persons at home. She was greatly appreciated for her skills and also for her lively personality and her empathy with clients.

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CHRISTCHURCH BRANCH

Dear Editor

Last term the Christchurch branch social club held a vegetable and flower show, to raise funds. The afternoon was a great success, with some splendid exhibits. The day ended with a lovely afternoon tea.

Yours sincerely
Irene Marshall
Senior Tutor



FROM BAY OF PLENTY/WAIKATO REGIONS

Tutors in the Bay of Plenty/Waikato Regions gained a better understanding of the technological developments in hearing aids and audiometric procedures for fitting them during a two day in-service course at Tauranga Hospital. The course was taken by Audiologist Shawn Richardson, and covered moulds — types and material used; in-the-ear; behind-the-ear aids and techniques in fitting.



Shawn Richardson explains some of the equipment used in The Audiology Department to an interested group of Tutors.

DUNEDIN BRANCH

FIVE TUTORS PRESENT AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Just over 50 years ago, in July, 1939, Miss Doris McLean was appointed 'Lip Reading Tutor and Social Organiser' at the then recently formed Dunedin Branch of The Hearing Association.

She held this position for just over 18 years and in recognition of her services to the Association was guest of honour at the recent 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

The late Miss Connie Atkinson took over from Miss McLean and worked as Tutor until Miss Elizabeth Briton's appointment in 1958.

Mrs Gwen Dunbar, whose 11 years of service began in 1963, attended the Celebrations, but sadly has since passed away.

In 1974 Mrs Colleen Jones began her 9 year term as Tutor with the Association and was followed by the present Tutor, Isla Griffin.

SOUTHERN HAWKES BAY BRANCH

Since the last publication of the NFD Journal we in Southern Hawkes Bay have been very active.

Our shop day was a great success with \$145900 being raised in four hours. Once again the Community were well behind us and the baking and raffles were the main drawcards. To date this is by far the most successful shop day we have had.

Deafness Awareness Week — What a busy week. Two members of our Executive and our Tutor attended the Regional meeting in Hastings and this was a good start to the week.

Our Tutor Marie saw 41 people this year for free Hearing tests in Pahiataua and Dannevirke, the numbers seen this year were down considerably and fewer were referred to the E.N.T. Specialist. This we regard as proof of the impact our Tutor Marie is having on our community and the continuing education of the people in our community.

During the week we also held an open day with demonstrations of devices as needed. A luncheon was held this day also and enjoyed by our many elderly members, the younger ones seem to be coming out and enjoying themselves more at these functions. On the Friday of Deafness Awareness Week we had

a community information caravan in the Main St. — this was equipped with many devices which were once again ably demonstrated by our Tutor and we had many pamphlets and newsletters also to give away. Two teenage girls very ably made a banner for the caravan in dark blue with the letters in white. Our Tutor was in the caravan from 9.30am to 4pm and our Client Liaison Officer assisted in the morning, in the afternoon however the Client Liaison Officer had to vacate the caravan and go to work at the Community Day Nursery. She is still trying to decide if the noise of the heavy traffic was worse than the 36 pre schoolers.

Our sweets are still selling extremely well with all the popular lines once again sold out in the first few weeks.

Marie our Tutor has given talks to the Access workers and to schools as well as covering the usual speechreading classes. A tutor in-service course has also been attended by Marie.

Pauline Teahan
Client Liaison Officer.

The names of the Dunedin Branch Hearing Tutors in the photograph are as follows:—
Back Row: ISLA GRIFFIN, COLLEEN JONES
Seated: ELIZABETH BRITON, DORIS McLEAN, GWEN DUNBAR



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HAWKES BAY

An 'Active for Life' programme was held in the Hawkes Bay area during the month of September. This was aimed at the 'over fifties', and tried to show all the interests and activities that were available in the community for this group.

The Hastings Branch manned a booth at the 'Active for Life Expo' held over three days, (14th, 15th, 16th Sept.), at the Hastings Indoor Stadium, where we had a selection of telephones and hearing safety devices (courtesy of Telecom and N.Z. Safety Ltd), information about our Branch and its services, and where appointments could be made for a hearing check as part of an overall health 'warrant of fitness'. These hearing checks were done at the Branch rooms during Deafness Awareness Week and the week following.

Photograph shows part of the booth, with a Branch member speaking to an interested 'customer'.



NEWS FROM TE PUKE

Te Puke Branch of The Hearing Association participated in a very well organised and attended Health Festival held in the town in June. A large number of bays were set up for display and actively encouraged people to take the opportunity to test out their own state of health in a number of areas. An attraction to The Hearing Association's bay was the Adult Hearing Check List. People stood off at a distance and read it and then soon joined the queue for a hearing test which unfortunately had to be abandoned from sheer pressure of numbers and the unsuitability of the environment for doing testing. But all names were taken and Tutor Judi Spencer had a busy time for some weeks after.

The display also included a selection of hearing aids through the ages leading onto modern assistive devices. The Branch's effort was awarded 2nd placing in the judging of the displays.



Visitors at the display with Branch members Mavis and Ivan Reynolds (at right) looking on.

GREETINGS FROM THE WAIRARAPA

With the help of Tutors from outside the Wairarapa, we held a very successful Free Testing Day on the 8 June this year. We tested at six different venues. Martinborough, Featherston, Greytown, Carterton, Solway and Masterton. Testers came from Lower Hutt, Wellington and Dannevirke. We tested over 150 people all together.

As I was very new at all this, the main aim in holding the day was to find out the needs of the Hearing Impaired in this area. I also wanted to let the people of the Wairarapa know what The Hearing Association has to offer, and what we were. This was very successful, as many enquiries came from the public before the FTD. Most of the clients I saw in the weeks following this day were the result of this. I am now kept very busy in the community because of the success of this day. I am very grateful to all the Tutors who travelled so far to assist this very new Tutor get established. Also the Committee members of the local branch for their help with lunches and receptionist duties.

Dawn Hobbs
Tutor, Wairarapa Branch Inc.



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ASHBURTON GOING PUBLIC

That was how one could describe the Ashburton Hearing Association Deafness Awareness Week. We decided to use every available avenue to advertise — the local papers, the local radio station and the public library. Along with the above, notices were placed in all the local doctors' surgeries, chemists, banks and some supermarkets. The local paper did interviews as well as sitting in on a speech reading class and observing a screening test. Assistive listening devices, also posters, pamphlets, books and information about our services were displayed in the library.

On two occasions we actually hit the front page of the local paper — much to the tutor's embarrassment — not what one would call photogenic!!

However, all this proved to be very worthwhile as all the 12½ hours were packed with free testing and counselling, not just the elderly and our members wanting a check-up, but all ages, especially both young women and young men, 25, 28, 32, 40-45 year olds.

Questions from young mothers about their children's hearing. Also some younger men with queries about tinnitus.

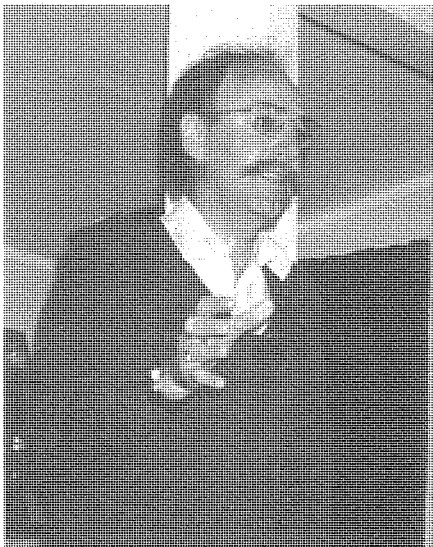
A delightful feature was that it was a joint effort by committee, secretary as well as the tutor. A very busy week followed with further counselling. Although exhausting it was a very exciting time and well worth the effort. Who knows next year we may even try TV!!!



THAMES BRANCH NEWS

At our October Social day (17th) we had 34 members, and we had a guest speaker Constable Ron Agnew, and his talk was on "Security in the Home". He explained the best ways we can achieve this and the necessity of Neighbourhood Watch and how it works by way of taking note of unusual activities near our homes.

We also had a Mrs Leonie Donaldson show us three alarms. "Personal attack", a handbag alarm, and a home alarm which is attached to the inside of your door. Each of these devices gives out a LOUD sound which can be easily heard by the deaf. Also, both personal and door alarms have flashing lights.



1) Constable Ron Agnew giving his speech on Neighbourhood watch



2) Demonstration of hand held handbag alarm.

Our social days are very popular and more members, new and old, come and the fellowship formed is good to see.

Our Deaf Awareness Week was successful and we always either begin or end with a church service, usually held in a different church each year.

On a recent tour of the South Island, one of our members wore our badge everywhere. However only once was it referred to leaving her wondering if it wasn't too small. Maybe it should be about the size of a 20c or 50c piece with a black background and a white or silver hand behind the ear. What do you think?

She was also disappointed at not seeing enough D.A.W. posters down there advertising our appeal, as she was down there during that time and only saw 2 in a shop window in Invercargill.

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Auckland University is to offer the first professional training in New Zealand for audiologists.

A Master of Audiology degree will be taught at the Medical School from 1990.

Audiologists, who assess and rehabilitate people with hearing disorders, have had to study overseas until now at some expense. The two year course will boost numbers and remedy the shortage caused by the lack of a local qualification.

There are only 50 audiologists throughout the country to help the estimated 480,000 people with hearing impaired by noise, disease and congenital factors. The course will supply the extra audiologists needed — at least 20 at present — as graduates emerge.

The 10 students enrolling each year will learn about hearing science, and diagnostic and clinical audiology. Training of this kind was recommended by the Board of Health Committee on Hearing in 1984.

The Department of Health is funding two new academic positions in the Medical School's Physiology Department which is responsible for the course.

Department head, Associate-Professor Paul Hill, says the Master of Audiology has been established in direct response to a clear community need.

"It has an entrepreneurial element in that we have gone out and got funding. Moreover it contains the seeds of exciting developments in communication science such as, for example, an artificial inner ear."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND COMMENT PLEASE CONTACT ASSOCIATE-PROFESSOR HILL ON PHONE 795-780, EXT 6304 (WORK), 766-848 (HOME).

DIERDRE WARD — "A BRIDGE TO SOMEWHERE"



Dierdre Ward, Polytechnic Resource Teacher for Hearing Impaired since May 1989.

Dierdre Ward has this year been appointed to the position of 'Polytechnic Resource Teacher for Hearing Impaired Students'. This new position represents an important first step to making tertiary education more accessible for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Students, offering them a bridge to better employment opportunities and wider career choices.

Dierdre is English but has lived in New Zealand for fifteen years. From 1980-1982 she completed primary teachers training at Auckland College of Education. Her first teaching position was Titirangi Primary School where she taught for three years. Encouraged by a parent, Janefrt Lovie, herself a teacher for the Deaf, Dierdre applied for entry to the Education of the Hearing Impaired course

which she completed in 1986. From 1987 — May 1989 when she took up this new position Dierdre taught in a resource class at Kelston Girls High School along with Marilyn Trubuhovich.

As resource teacher for the Hearing Impaired students at Polytechnics in the Northern Region, Dierdre has her base at Carrington Polytechnic and is responsible for Auckland, Waikato, Northland, Bay of Plenty and Wiriki.

"My job", says Dierdre, "is as a resource support person. I will not be involved directly as an interpreter. My task is more to assess support needed and to try to provide it".

Dierdre finds out about courses available, feasibility of hearing impaired students doing the courses and gives the information to prospective students both adults and transition students.

"My responsibilities are varied," says Dierdre. "I also set up Link courses specifically for deaf students. I can discuss Hearing Impairment with Tutors before the interview stage and provide support in interviews for students straight from school. I run Tutor/staff training at polytechnics giving them information about deafness and communication. I run Australasian Sign Language and Total Communication courses for students/tutors and allied staff at the polytechnics; visit tutors before a hearing impaired student starts their course to discuss considerations/alterations needed to fully integrate the student. I talk to students who have a hearing impaired student in their class to discuss deafness and communication."

If that's not enough, Dierdre is also involved in Tutor training at the Tutor training centre at Auckland Technical Institute.

At the moment Dierdre's job is specifically

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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set up to support students who are straight from school. "In the future, I'd like this support to be extended to all Deaf/Hearing Impaired Polytechnic students. I'd also like Kelston School for Deaf Children to become a centre for providing more opportunities for adult education", she said.

"I would like to see tutors/interpreters employed by the Polytechnics specifically to support mainstream deaf students." Like all of us Dierdre would like to see Polytechnics recognise their responsibilities and provide the support needed in the form of tutors,

interpreters and notetakers for deaf and hearing impaired students and similar support and facilities extended to Universities.

In term three of this year Dierdre has spent a lot of time travelling around the Northern Region visiting outlying Polytechnics and Universities.

She has run many staff training courses and says, tutors have been really keen to learn Sign Language.

Awareness of special needs seems to be increasing and Polytechnics are all looking at employing co-ordinators for students with disabilities. This she says is a "great move for hearing impaired students".

In 1990, Dierdre will be supporting at least sixteen hearing impaired under the age of twenty in the Auckland area and about eleven students outside Auckland.

We wish Dierdre well in her new position which, by improving access for tertiary and vocational training, represents an important step to ensure that improvements in primary education for deaf students are not just a "Bridge to Nowhere", but a first step in life long education and enhanced career choices and opportunities.

EDITOR



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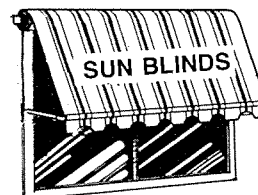
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READERS STORIES

— ELIZABETH FALLA

Elizabeth writes about 'A world born Anew' for herself and her late husband after he acknowledges his hearing loss.

My husband died two years ago, at the age of 64. He had been wearing hearing aids for just six months, six months in which he experienced a new joy in living.

When I first met him fourteen years ago, he was already becoming a recluse. He avoided social occasions, hated eating out and escaped from using the telephone. At the time we both accepted this as part of his personality but problems developed because he seemed constantly to misunderstand what was said to him. I would be accused of not speaking clearly or of mumbling — yes, he actually used that word.

He rarely answered the telephone and would ask me to make calls for him or, alternatively, would travel miles to make an enquiry in person. Professional advice always dissatisfied him and he blamed over-complicated explanations. He asked me to accompany him to consultations with doctors, specialists, optometrist, banker, solicitor and others. He asserted that he could not remember what they told him, they spoke too quickly, failed to listen to him. I felt embarrassed and rather like an overprotective mother and suggested he make notes at the interviews — of course, he never did, he just could not hear what was being said.

We both enjoyed music but he turned the volume of stereo, radio and TV increasingly higher until I found it almost painful. It interfered with the pleasure of us both. As time went on the situation worsened but he assured everyone that his hearing was perfect, "I can hear a pin drop, it's just when other noises are going on that I don't hear what people say".

We had a gramophone record which tested one's hearing range with music, but when it was apparent that I heard notes which he did not, it was just that I had "exceptionally keen hearing".

Many areas of our lives were affected. For instance, we would travel for long distances in the car without speaking as he said he could not hear me above the road noise. If I whispered endearments or made a small joke I would be asked to repeat the sentence and the point of both would be lost. The quality of our relationship deteriorated because of the communication problem and we both felt frustrated. It was a shadow on an otherwise happy and sharing marriage.

It finally became so bad that a "slight" hearing loss was admitted and he went reluctantly for a hearing test which showed a profound loss in both ears, eventually attributed to his war service as a pilot — all those years of gradual withdrawal and misunderstanding!

There was a wait of five months for an appointment at a hearing clinic but the time was not wasted for his reluctant (at first) attendance at a class for the hard of hearing gave him such a keen interest in the mechanics of the disability that he became an enthusiast. His discovery that it was possible to do something positive himself to alleviate his problem, and his perseverance, enabled him to adjust unusually quickly to the aids when they were finally fitted.

After the fitting I met him in the city and there was a smile of sheer joy on his face as he walked towards me. The list of sounds he rediscovered was almost endless but it took weeks for him to adjust to the loudness of his own voice and the sound of his footsteps. His voice actually deepened again from the rather feminine tone he had gradually adopted as his deafness increased.

The day after obtaining the aids he went for a walk alone in the bush to listen to the water

and the birds and the wind in the trees.

The house was again filled with the sound of music which we were both enjoying, conversation again became part of our lives. As he shared with me what he learned at the hearing group I was able to make adjustments too, remembering to look at him when I spoke and not be impatient on the few occasions when he took a rest from the aids. We went to lectures and social functions sometimes. Of course, it was not all easy and he did become a bit of a hearing bore — as a friend one day commented that "I made the mistake of asking how the hearing aids were going and half an hour later he was still telling me!" How we laughed but, oh, it was worth it.

In those last months the world was born anew for him. He enjoyed being with people once more, he went alone on business matters and interviews and came home to tell me what had been discussed. We talked and laughed a lot more. He actually heard the phone ring and answered it himself and his favourite surprise gift to me would be a compact disc of classical music — in six months he bought 30.

I cannot blame him for failing to accept his hearing loss earlier. It is true that people do deny what is obvious to everyone else — but how do we know that we are actually failing to hear what we, in fact, do not hear. I realised this when I developed cataract, I actually did not realise that what other people saw was invisible to me until after surgery and I was able to see clearly again.

But I do write this to say to others — from both of us — if there is any suggestion that you may have some deterioration in hearing, do get advice before that loss impairs your quality of life. If you need aids accept them with pleasure, always remembering that it is your own positive attitude which will effect the greatest improvement.



NEW ZEALAND DEAF SPORTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

We have received no news of the NZDSA 33rd New Zealand Games for the Deaf as yet. Come on NZDSA you can do better than this, share your fun and games.

However we do know that since our last NFD Journal Mr Tony Walton, President of NZDSA has made a flying trip to Germany to take part in discussions which put the concept of a separate World Games for the Deaf under threat. Megan Mansfield went along as interpreter.

We believe the conference was successful from NZDSA's point of view and a separate organisation of World Games for the Deaf will remain. Great!!

Tony's trip was made possible by the generosity of the Hilary Commission who paid all airfares and our National Foundation for the Deaf who gave a \$1000 towards accommodation.



This could be Tony Walton President of the NZDSA shaping up to fight to retain separate Games for the Deaf. However it is Tony caught by the Editor's camera addressing the NZDSA AGM earlier this year.

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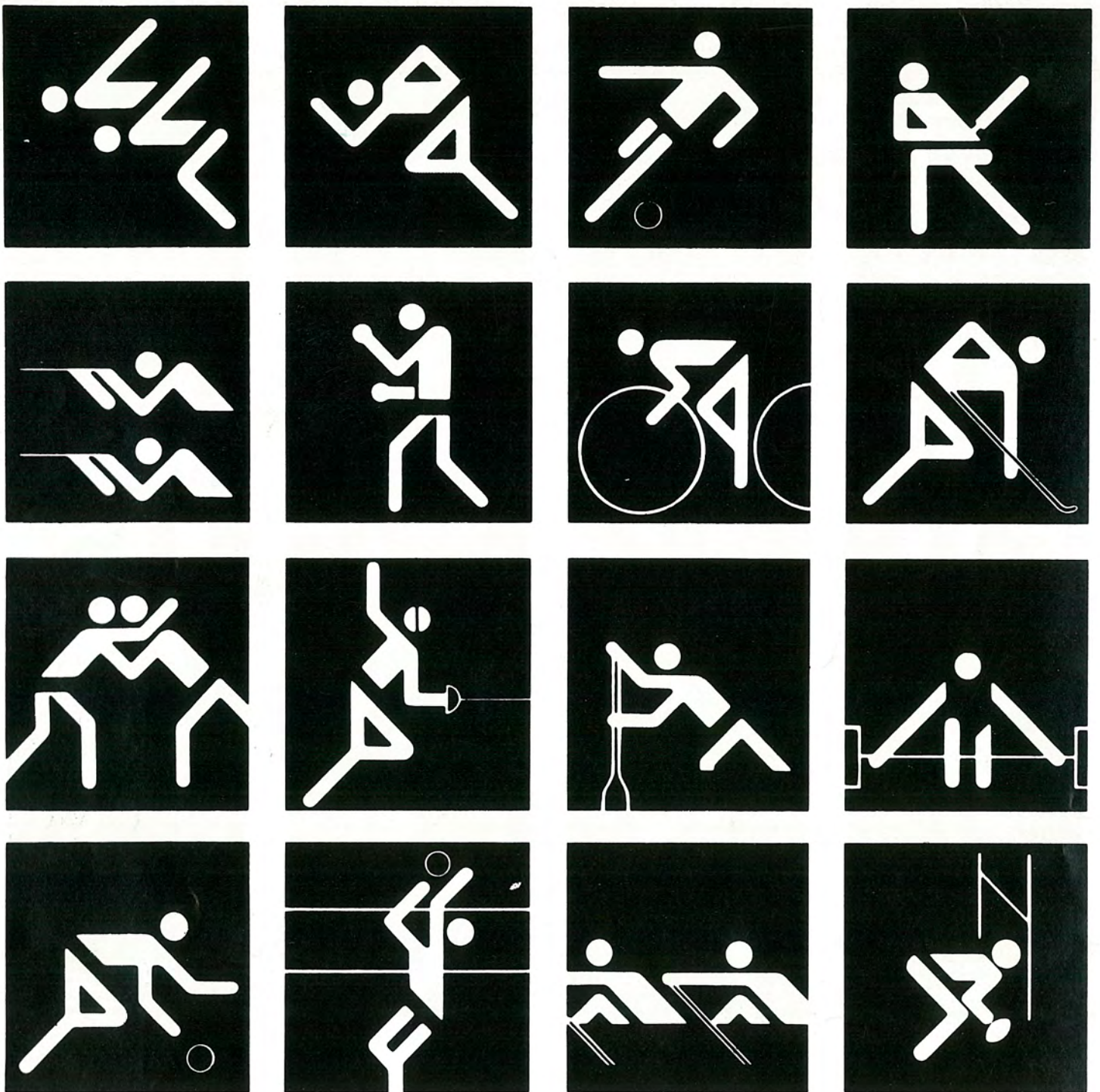
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