

## **Smoke alarms for deaf or hearing impaired.**

There are a number of specialised smoke alarm systems available for use by people who are deaf or have hearing loss. The ideal smoke alarms would have to be hard wired, interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms fitted with bed-shakers/strobe lights/pagers or a combination of these but the costs may be prohibitive. These need to be installed by a registered electrician.

Contact Deaf Aotearoa, Life Unlimited, Blind Foundation or Housing New Zealand who are credentialed assessors and can let you know if you are eligible for funding from Ministry of Health or for a system that is installed by Housing New Zealand, they will give you the most appropriate options available for you to consider.



Information obtained from NZ Fire Service website



## **STREET DAY**

### **Volunteers required**

We are holding a street day on Friday 18th November and are in need of volunteers to assist. If you have some spare time and would like to help please let us know.

Thank you

# *Hello from the office*



## ***Hello everyone,***

I am leaving, with much regret, my position as Field officer at the end of June. I am leaving one month short of three years in the position to live in New Plymouth. My husband, an Optometrist, has a new job up there and we also have children and grandchildren in the North Island.

In my time here we have set up the Rest Homes program and established some important relationships with audiological services and other community links. We are now seeing more people coming to the office for advice and support which is fantastic. We want this to continue as we believe the Association is in a unique position to help those with hearing loss to come to terms with the disability and to encourage those with unassisted loss to seek the help they need. There are much better outcomes for those who attend to hearing loss early.

We also want to grow in our role as educators; to bring the disability of hearing loss to the attention of the community and to support health professionals and those in allied roles to understand and support their patients.

I am very grateful to the Hearing Association (soon to be renamed Hearing Support Otago) for the training and support they have given me. I am hoping to continue in this role in some way in New Plymouth which doesn't have a Hearing Association.

Thanks also to those of you who have come into the office and been supportive. I've loved meeting you all.

Please continue to support the Association. Without members it would not continue and it is doing a fine job.

***Catherine***

## ***Welcome Nicky Bisley our new Field Officer/Educator***

***I am excited to be taking on the Field Officer/Educator role in July. Catherine has done a wonderful job and I will do my best to continue in her footsteps.***

***I have spent the last 5 years raising 3 children as well as working in teaching and advocacy roles.***

***I look forward to meeting you all.***

***Nicky***



Do you need us to visit you at home?  
Are you struggling to clean your hearing aids and change your batteries but you can't get to us?

We are happy to help because we want you to have the best hearing possible. Phone us to arrange for someone to visit you. There is a charge for this service.

We have two personal listeners for cochlear implant wearers to loan. We have found these can assist your hearing particularly in public situations and meetings. If you would like to try one of these there is a \$50 refundable bond. You will need the headphone adapter from your cochlear kit to use this.



**HEARING SUPPORT  
SOCIAL MORNING**

Last Thursday of each  
month from 10.30am  
onwards

Everyone welcome

We offer a free clean and check service for your hearing aids if you are a member. For non members it's a gold coin donation. Additional services such as tubing may cost extra

If you or a family member are struggling to hear on the phone remember we can help. There are several types of phones available that can assist.



Come and talk to us about how we can help.

**LIPREADING CLASSES** are held on a Tuesday morning between 10.30am & 11.30am. Classes are \$15 per term.

If you can't get in to see us, we can post your batteries to you. Send us an email [hear.dn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hear.dn@xtra.co.nz) or phone us 4877641 to arrange for your batteries to be sent. There is a small charge for postage.

## **PLEASE HELP US!**

We are committed to assisting those with hearing loss in our community. We are in urgent need of people to join our committee to enable us to reach our goal. If you are keen to support this work we would love to hear from you. You do not need to have a hearing loss yourself.

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10.30am for approx 2 hours.





## Fast facts about hearing loss

- Children may receive more noise at school than workers spending 8 hours at a factory
- Some 10 million Americans have permanent hearing loss from noise or trauma
- 12.5% of 6-19-year-olds in the US have high hearing thresholds due to noise exposure.

We are excited to be able to announce that we will be delivering our Dangerous Decibels program into the kindergartens in Dunedin.

Protecting your hearing is a very important message. The earlier we start to protect our hearing the better.



It would seem that hearing is a second-rate sense when compared to vision in our visually oriented modern society. People with hearing loss delay a decision to get hearing help because they are unaware of the fact that receiving early treatment for hearing loss has the potential to literally transform their lives. Research by the National Council on the Aging on more than 2,000 people with hearing loss as well as their significant others demonstrated that hearing aids clearly are associated with impressive improvements in the social, emotional, psychological, and physical well-being of people with hearing loss in all hearing loss categories from mild to severe.

If you are one of those people with a mild, moderate or severe hearing loss, who is sitting on the fence, consider all the benefits of hearing aids described above. Hearing aids hold such great potential to positively change so many lives.

## UNIDEN CORDLESS PHONE

- Loud ringer
- Hearing Aid compatible
- Amplified receiver
- Visual ring indicator
- Handsfree speaker
- Answerphone
- Backlit display
- 200 name phonebook

**\$120**



**HEARING SUPPORT OTAGO** HEARING ASSOCIATION

**2 Playfair Street, Caversham, Dunedin**

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**Office hours 9am — 1pm Monday to Thursday**