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‘Ear ‘Tis

Newsletter for Audiometry Nurses

www.anaa.asn.au

Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.
‘The professional association for Audiometry Nurses’

Welcome to this issue of the ANAA Inc newsletter

Presidents Report June 2025

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the Winter edition of our newsletter.

I have had a lovely break since my last report. Road tripped to Kangaroo Island. Now back into the swing of things.

Our Conference planning is coming along well with Gisella at the helm. Remember to lock in October 15th to 17th at the Log Cabin in Penrith. The program is pretty well full, but obviously changes will get made leading up to the day. The conference registration form and draft program will come out with this edition. Remember the theme is race day attire.

Nearly all the students have completed first semester’s course. Congratulations to you all.

The next intake commencing in July is taking enrollments now. If you know anyone interested, let them know to apply now. Thank you to all the Clinical Advisors who have been supervising the students in their placement. With their professionalism, dedication and passion, we know our students are in good hands. If you are interested in becoming a clinical advisor, don’t hesitate to contact me for further information.

The committee had a motion proposed and accepted this year regarding a student membership. It has been accepted that all ACN Audiometry students be offered complimentary associate membership whilst doing their course. The following financial year they will be eligible to continue as a full member with the appropriate fee paid along with proof of qualification.

At our last committee meeting we voted to provide a \$2000 scholarship to 3 applicants. They are all very worthy recipients and come from areas in need of Audiometry Nurses.

Congratulations to Alice Fu from Canterbury area, Prue Hancock from Orange & Noel James from Narellan.

Our updating of the Audiometry Report and History Forms continue. Our suggested changes went to the Ministry of Health forms committee. Sadly, the report form was declined, but the history form was accepted. We will try again this month.

We love hearing from our members. What have you been up to? Any interesting articles you have read. A great website you would like to share. Any farewells? Send us a small blurb with some photos. Send these to our editor Lee Lewis.

Please don’t hesitate to contact your committee members with any issue you have in regards to Audiometry. Our contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Kind regards, Kate

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Letters to the Editor

As there are no letters to the Editor this time, I thought I would share a case study of my own: **Case Study. Possible Non-Organic Hearing Loss**

7yr old boy "Jay" presenting with previous test from an experienced audiometry nurse showing a bilateral severe sensorineural hearing loss. (Results not with mum today as she is waiting for final report but showed me photo of a printout) He had been seen by the ENT for nose and throat examination relating to hayfever and the hearing loss was also discussed at this time. The mother reports the ENT said "there's nothing wrong with him". Concerns re: possible ADD or ADHD at school. He presented to me for retesting 4 weeks after first test. While taking the history, Jay spoke over his mother answering questions and speaking loudly. He was moving around the small space and interrupting conversation He was not focused on my face to read lips. He was compliant with testing and seemed to understand the instructions for play audiometry.

Otoscopy: incomplete view due to wax. Tympanometry : right : Middle ear pathology and Left Normal. Audiometry: Jay did not respond to air conduction at any frequency either ear until 70-80dB. Given new instructions and repeated with similar results. Jay could answer questions with headphones on and when unable to see my mouth. Trialled PA5 with earphone and again no response until 80 dB then he complained it was "too loud". Given new instructions explaining that he needed to respond to the quiet sounds and tried both ascending and descending techniques. No change. Discussed with mum who is a RN and she explained to him how to respond. His bone conduction was similar levels or about 10dB **lower** than air conduction.

Case discussed with mum when Jay not present, explaining the inconsistencies. She denied any trauma or stress at home or school. Jay is seeing a psychologist for assessment re the behaviour issues. Jay lives with both parents and his younger sister. I suggested to mum that she try Blow, Breathe and Cough Exercises and wax softening drops with him and tell him this will improve his hearing. Booked for retest in 6 weeks. Also referred to Hearing Australia as I don't have access to OAE's etc. They do have a long waitlist at times. I then sent an Email to an audiologist from Hearing Australia for advice or comment. She shares my office when I am not there and works on the HAPEE ears program. She suggested speech test using the Kendall Toy Test, changing from button to answering yes/no, ascending vs descending technique and checking for acoustic reflexes.

I then went on CIAP to research Non- Organic Hearing Loss. Most articles were very old.

The two I found so far were: Stiles, Derek.J. Audiologist perceptions of diagnosis and management of children with non-organic hearing loss (NOHL) Hearing, Balance and Communication. 2017 Vol 15, No.4 172-182 and Pflug, C et al. Prognostic factors in non-organic hearing loss in children. International Journal of Audiology 2022. 61:5 400-407. Plan: I will read up on the Kendall toy test for his next visit and reset the tymp for acoustic reflexes (takes too long usually to get the reflexes for most kids).

I will finish the articles for further knowledge.

Happy to hear from anyone who has had experience with similar cases or to forward the articles. Regards, Lee

This column provides a forum for discussion and an exchange of ideas. The letters page gives members the opportunity to comment on newspaper and journal articles. You are invited to submit clinical case studies, questions or queries for discussion. Send any comments or concerns that you would like to go to the committee to this column. Have a go and tell us your news! – Editor

LATE NOTICE DUE TO TIMING OF NEWSLETTER NNEC Conference 18-20th June

20th National Nurse Education Conference 2025
Sydney Masonic Centre, Sydney.
Wednesday 18 - Friday 20 June, 2025
<https://dccam.com.au/nnec2025>

The theme for NNEC 2025 is 'Accelerating into the Future: Empower, Transform, Connect' which reflects the inspiring work, achievements and experiences of nurses and midwives in education. We wish to celebrate our successes together and energise our creativity for our future practice.

As health professionals we have a commitment to life-long learning, and we recognise the importance of keeping abreast with current developments in our field of practice. The conference will allow you to share knowledge and celebrate experiences through invited speakers, presentations, research opportunities, and networking.

The Conference will allow you to share knowledge and celebrate experiences

Audiometry Course 2025

Australian College of Nursing
are again offering the course
Audiometry Nursing in Prac-
tice. Intakes for 2025 in Janu-
ary and July.

[https://www.acn.edu.au/
education/non-award/
audiometry-nursing-in-
practice](https://www.acn.edu.au/education/non-award/audiometry-nursing-in-practice)



2025 HNELHD - Northern Area Audiometry Workshop

Tamworth again hosted the Annual Workshop & Calibration 11th & 12th March at Tamworth Community Health Centre.

The program for the first day including an awesome presentation on Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV) by local Physio Claire Doherty (who also gave us some invaluable exercises to aid bone density).

We had a fun & interactive presentation by Todd Oliver (3M - Newcastle) & Simon Ambrose (Blackwoods) on Hearing Protection. We got to play with the latest in hearing protection & also check out EarFit which can assess the effectiveness of hearing protection for the user.

Carol McKinnon SWISH Co-Ordinator gave us an update on the progress of children from our area who had been diagnosed with a hearing loss through the SWISH program & all the latest statistics.

James Cantrell Audiologist from Tamworth Hearing Australia spoke about tinnitus & the importance of tinnitus sufferers being 'heard' & provided with information & some options for sufferers.

We had a very interesting & inspiring mum talk to us about her daughters hearing journey – mum herself has an aided hearing loss & has spoken to us about her journey at past workshops.

Sadly TAFE NSW EarTrain Team of Jean, Jo & Mandy were not able to attend due to the recent weather event (not that it affected our area at all) -so Day 2 of the workshop saw us all band together & pool our knowledge & skills to discuss industrial hearing assessments, otoscopy & some case studies & have some hands on practical with air bone & conduction masking being the main focus.

Thanks to all that attended & stayed for both days – we are hoping that the TAFE NSW EARTRAIN workshop can be rescheduled later in the year.

A huge thank you to Lucy Rindo for arranging such a great program & lunch & please pass on our thanks to Tamworth CHC Administration for their ongoing IT support.



Kirsty Biddle Inverell Jacqueline Dunn Walcha Sandy Corbett Gunnedah & Narrabri
Lucy Rindo CNC Tamworth Deborah Pont Muswellbrook Helen Haire Wee Waa
Angela Morrish Boggabilla Rebecca Jordon Student Audiometry Nurse & Raj –
NATUS technician.
(Missing Purna Sweetman Marion Huempel. Jennifer Henderson & Tonya Rees)

Northern Area Audiometry Workshop



Todd Oliver from 3M with Angela Morrish Boggabilla





News from the One in Six Newsletter:

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations is conducting an Audiometry Qualification Review.

Deafness Forum Australia recently released an editorial discussing the public perception of the differences between audiometrists and audiologists and the need for clearer definitions.

They say “We believe that establishing a consistent national standard for both audiologists and audiometrists, supported by strong governance structures and evidence-based data, could help ensure that consumers receive accurate information.

We are committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure that these improvements are made together, with them, and not for them.”

These are the definitions they are using : “ Audiometrists are involved in conducting hearing assessments, managing hearing devices, and providing advice on rehabilitation programs primarily with adult clients. They usually hold a Diploma in Audiometry which involves two years of study at TAFE followed by a formal supervision program through a recognised employer. Some audiometrists may also then complete a Bachelor of Audiometry.

Audiologists are university trained health professionals, with the entry level educational requirement being a postgraduate two-year Master of Audiology degree. They work in a range of settings: hospitals, government hearing clinics, private practice, academia and research, schools for individuals with impaired hearing, and hearing instrument manufacturers. They are the main provider of services relating to hearing and balance disorders including diagnosis, nonmedical/ surgical treatments and rehabilitation.”

As registered/ audiometry nurses, we are separate to these definitions and registered through APHRA. There is a survey if you would like to comment on Deafness Forum



June: Deafblind Awareness Week

Deafblind Awareness Week is observed during the last week of June in memory of Helen Keller’s birthday.

August: Safe Listening Week.

Nearly half of young people in Australia are exposed to unsafe levels of sound from the use of personal audio devices and around 40% of young people experience damaging sound levels at social events such as clubs and bars.

Practising safe listening through noise protection is one of the simplest ways to prevent these types of hearing loss caused by recreational exposure to loud sounds.



A little reminder about our upcoming conference! Another exciting event with a fantastic lineup of speakers and topics ready to enhance our understanding of hearing health.

The 'ladies day at the races' theme adds a delightful touch, offering a wonderful opportunity to dress up and have some fun. Be sure to prepare your best frock and hat or fascinator to fully embrace the theme. Looking forward to a day filled with insightful discussions and stylish ensembles.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORMS ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER



From Sonic:

At Sonic, we believe in celebrating the people who shape our journey—and today, we have both a farewell and a welcome to share.

After an incredible tenure, **Werner Schwender** is retiring as our General Manager. Werner has been a guiding force behind Sonic's growth and success, and we are deeply grateful for his leadership, dedication, and vision. We wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

As we turn the page, we're excited to introduce **Darran Ginn**, who joins us as our new Business Unit Manager. Darran brings a strong track record of leadership and innovation, and we're thrilled to have him on board as we look to the future.

From Sanibel:

Sanibel is now Diatec as of January this year.

<https://shop.diatec-diagnostics.com/>



ANAA Membership will be due for renewal **from 1st July.**
Not earlier, please!

An invoice will be sent out via email to you from this date.

Please renew promptly.

Any change in your contact details please contact our membership secretary Helen Gee on helen.gee@health.nsw.gov.au

Clinical advisors for audiometry!

Are you looking to expand your professional role and share your passion and talent for audiometry?

Are you due to renew this year or would you like to apply?

Application forms are attached to the newsletter.

Workshop dates 30th September.

Apply now.

AUDIOLOGY EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION

Bring along your equipment to be calibrated
during the Audiometry Nurses Assoc.
Conference



Our qualified Engineer will be onsite to
calibrate your equipment for \$300 per device
on the 16th and 17th October 2025

To make a booking email: service.anz@natus.com
or phone: 1800 290 772

natus.
sensory

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