

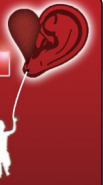
Term 4, 2020

DUBBO & DISTRICT
DEAF CLUB



Ear Bus Project

HEAR OUR HEART



Supporters Newsletter

Journal article published internationally

Our very busy volunteer directors Donna Rees & Rachel Mills (plus academic Louise Paatsch from Deakin University) have been extra busy behind the scenes and have just had their first journal article published in the Taylor and Francis journal called *Deafness & Education International*. This was all completed via zoom which is shown in the photo below.

The journal article is about the important work the Hear our Heart Ear Bus has undertaken in Dubbo and Districts over the last 6 years and includes a longitudinal study about the 1290 children and adolescents that have been seen. A snippet from their article.....

“The Bus was started back in 2012, when it became obvious to parents and teachers in the community that Dubbo area had many children who were experiencing otitis media and were not being identified early enough, treated effectively, and were not achieving age-appropriate educational outcomes.

Otitis media is a condition in the middle ear. It can range from the middle ear being filled with fluid with no infection, to the ear area being badly infected. Our middle ear should normally be filled with air. One of the main concerns of otitis media is the hearing loss that accompanies it. This can include short term loss up to more permanent loss for chronic cases. It is important to pick up otitis media as early as possible as it can affect the child's cognitive, speech and language development. This then can impact on their communication and academic skills, making it hard for these children to make friends, access the curriculum, and obtaining later employment opportunities.”

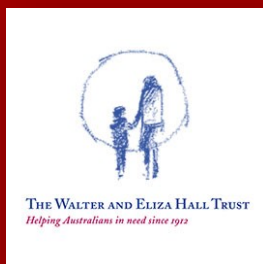
PLEASE give Rachel, Donna and Louise a GREAT BIG round of applause for the amazing work they have done and also bringing this very important issue into the forefront internationally.



A project of Dubbo District Deaf Club; helping children to hear and achieve.

24 Erskine St, Dubbo.
68848751

directors@hearourheart.org



facebook join our group +

Volunteer audiologists visit

Sending a BIG THANK YOU to volunteer Audiologists Louise Rimmer and Belinda Kwok for volunteering to do testing for the Hear Our Heart Ear Project. For Louise this is her 4th time coming up from Sydney and volunteering her valuable time to our cause. This is also a big deal for us, as it helps our in house audiologist Hope Chan to gain more knowledge and more children are able to be tested. Louise recently said that “she loves volunteering.” She says that she “originally volunteered to develop my skills and give me a change of scenery. Now I keep coming back to work with the lovely Hear our Heart people and schools and to help the kids”.



Audiologists can accrue Continuing Professional Development Humanitarian points by volunteering. We are open to more volunteers next year depending on the COVID rules at the time. We provide for all volunteers free accommodation, a visit to the Western Plains Dubbo Zoo, which they sponsor (Louise's favourite animal is the giraffe). Contact Directors for more information

A big thank you for Dubbo Regional Council for sponsoring Belinda Kwok's accommodation for the week.



Schools Day with Dr Hayder Ridha

Hands on learning a success for our audiologist Hope!

Last week Dr Hayder Ridha saw some of our chronic children to ensure their ears remain stable over the Christmas break. This 'Schools Day' program is a supported appointment with Dr Ridha which includes healthy ears education / support provided by one of the healthy ears teachers before and after the child's appointment.

For audiologist Hope, this was a perfect opportunity to see the end results of her hard work testing in the Ear Bus and a great way to learn more from the an extremely experienced ear specialist. Dr Ridha's Registrar Dr Joe Jabbour also attended again and we wish him all the best now that he is moving on. He is keen to help Donna and Rachel write their next journal article.



On the Schools Day we had HoH children from Orana Heights, Dubbo West Public and West Dubbo Preschool Inc., Dubbo Aboriginal Medical Service, Dubbo Public and Dubbo Christian School.

A big shout out to Dr Ridha's lovely office staff who always go out of their way to accommodate our needs. Schools Day clinics wouldn't happen. Pictured is Dr Ridha and Audiometrist Sahar with their lovely office staff Archeena (right) and Srijana (left). Merry Christmas to the team and thank you all for your ongoing support this year.

Arrival of Baby Boy for Hearing Australia Audiologist



Congratulations to Hearing Australia's Paediatric Audiologist Adam Johnson and wife Emma (local speech pathologist) on the arrival of their beautiful baby boy. Let the fun and games begin!

Dubbo's St Mary's using Sound Scouts for hearing screening



The Hear our Heart Ear Bus Project has been educating teachers about ear health in public and private schools this year. We would like to let you know of the wonderful things one school in particular has been doing in regards to hearing.

St Mary's Primary school Dubbo. They have been utilising our teacher Therese Quigley who has been teaching St Marys educators about the Sound Scouts hearing screening app and hearing strategies to support hard of hearing students in the classroom. Therese reported the teachers felt that "understanding what the kids were experiencing by using the app on themselves was invaluable." St Mary's used the sound scout program on all pre- kinder to year 3 students. They detected 4 children that needed more comprehensive follow up testing with us. One of the 4 children will need extra hearing support in the classroom. This year St Mary's decided to utilise the sound scouts screen rather than having the ear bus come to school as they wanted this important resource to go to more needy children/schools. Thank you St Mary's.

Another thing they have done is gone that extra mile and decided to ensure their classrooms were acoustically treated. Cramptons Carpet installed acoustic panelling up the walls of the kindergarten rooms. This helps absorb reverberation and makes is easier for teachers and children to hear in the classroom which is especially important for deaf and hard of hearing students. St Mary's will continue to carpet year 1 classroom walls next year. They felt that their classrooms were "calm and quiet" and that the children were responding well to new measures put in place. What a great thing to do to!

Staff development provided by CEO of Sound Scouts

A big shout out to Sound Scouts CEO Carolyn Mee for providing our staff a personal information session about updates of the program. The program is great as a pre-screener for hearing testing as well as it detects if the child has difficulty listening and processing information when there is background noise distracting them. We will be able to pass this invaluable information to schools and teachers in our area.



Donation from the Regional Australia Bank

Please give the Regional Australia Bank Dubbo a LARGE round of applause. The Hear our Heart Ear Bus Project just received \$4096.58 from them as part of their Community Partnership Program. This program is incredible, as it donates the equivalent of 1% of your average annual balance back to your chosen local charity or group. Thank you to all those people in the community that picked us to be their chosen charity. They also gave Dubbo Deaf Club \$1066.72.

Pictured right are the Regional Bank manager Nathan Merchant and HoHEBP representative Amy Barling.



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Santa gives everyone a big thumbs up because we have survived 2020. A year that we won't forget.

We wanted to say a big thank you to our sponsors and local supporters and partners. Without you we would not be able to deliver this very special service that we deliver. If you are reading this and not one of these sponsors –please support these businesses as they are community minded and support you too! Some of our regular sponsors/supporters are listed below.



Sainsbury
AUTOMOTIVE DUBBO



THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
Supporting medical research and those with health related problems



We Work Together To Meet Your Goals



- Taxation Services
- Small Business Advisors
- Rural Accounting
- Superannuation
- Estate Planning
- GST

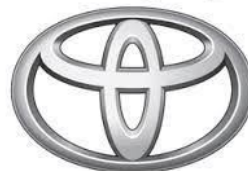
(by appointment only)
22 Castlereagh Street
Coonamble, NSW 2829

(by appointment only)
30 Richard Street
Bourke, NSW 2840

6884 4143
35 Church St, Dubbo NSW 2830
www.hendersonmccoll.com.au



Dubbo City Toyota



TOYOTA



**Royal Institute
for Deaf and Blind
Children**

