



Supporters Newsletter

Hope arrives for Hear our Heart !

2020 started strongly for Hear our Heart Ear Bus Project as we finally secured our **first ever full time Audiologist**; WELCOME Hope Chan.

Co-Directors of Hear our Heart Ear Bus Project, Rachel Mills & Donna Rees worked tirelessly to finally secure a permanent Audiologist commenting **“It’s been a four-year search to find an Audiologist prepared to move from a capital city to Dubbo. We are so excited for our community”**



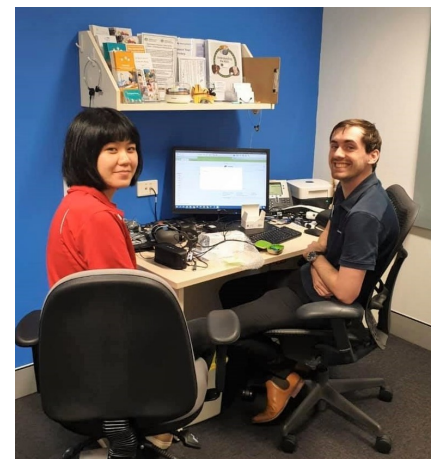
Hope was born in Australia, returning to Taiwan with her family when she was 5 years old. Working as an Occupational Therapist in Taiwan, she returned to Australia 2 years ago to complete her Masters degree in Audiology at Flinders University.

Hope’s father, who resides in Taiwan, was a big influence in her applying for work in a rural area as he had told Hope how much he had enjoyed working in rural areas when they lived in Australia many years ago. Hope arrived in Dubbo at the end of January 2020 to sweltering heat and the extreme savages of a hard biting drought. However, she has settled in very well & says she is enjoying her time here. Hope has spent the first part of Term 1, learning about our protocols, testing manuals and referral pathways processes as well as getting to know some of the schools & childcare centres along the Bus testing route.

Hearing Australia helping to support Hope.



Thanks to the wonderful **Manager Hearing Australia Deb Amos** for organising Hope to spend quality hours with her senior Audiologist’s Adam Johnson & Gemma Savage. Hope reports this has really helped to her understand our referral processes to Hearing Australia. She gained some valuable knowledge on their specialised testing for our littlest clients and watched some hearing aid fittings. Hope is pictured with Adam.



Unbelievable...
In 2019 our schools and childcare centres donated **\$12,876.88**

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

24 Erskine St, Dubbo.
68848751

directors@hearourheart.org



We would like to thank some of our regular supporters. These LOCAL businesses have helped us in many ways & we would like to thank them for their ongoing support.

During this COVID-19 unprecedented time, many of our local business have had a significant downturn in business. Now's the time the say thank you for all the donations our LOCAL businesses make towards our LOCAL charities and shop locally. Let's ensure our great city and its businesses **survive & thrive** long after this COVID-19 has all ended.

Please if you can, support those businesses that support us.



Sainsbury 1/13 Bourke St Dubbo. 6884 6444
AUTOMOTIVE DUBBO

Long-time supporter **Terry Green** at Sainsbury Automotive Dubbo who donated the Ear Bus. He also pledged that he would support us with the registration costs of the Bus as well as its ongoing servicing needs.

Without Terry Green's amazing support of our LOCAL service we would not be operational. Pictured is Paul, Owen & Jake from the Service Department who go above and beyond to ensure our Bus never lets us down.

Opposite Lock Autobarn 36-42 Erskine St Dubbo. 68844211.

Due to the drought we have had quite a few near misses in our Ear Bus with kangaroo's & even emu's on the road looking for food!

Thanks to the generosity of **Neil Sturrock**, owner of Opposite Lock and Autobarn Dubbo, for his kind donation towards the cost of our new bulbar & driving lights. It is a real relief to have the professional team at Opposite Lock in Dubbo fit the Bus with our new gear.



Midstate Freight

5-7 Johnson St Dubbo. 1300 643 782.

Recently with the Covid 19 work from home order, we have used this down time to get our hearing testing and medical equipment sent away for maintenance & calibration.

We would like to thank **Midstate Freight** for their generosity of free freight to send our equipment away to our technician. This generosity saves our project hundreds of dollars every year on freight charges.



Hear our Heart Ear Bus like to thank Andrew Houghton of Cartridge World Dubbo for his ongoing support.

Since 2015 Andrew has been supplying our printer cartridges and other printing needs for us at a discounted rate. Recently, with the Covid 19 work from home ruling, he very quickly set us up with a new printer/scanner and spare ink which can be easily used in our Ear Bus when hearing testing in schools resumes.

Term I hearing testing got off to a great start..... before Covid 19!

Term I was filled with much excitement for the Directors, Committee, & staff as we were keen to see what Project could achieve now that we had finally secured a full time Audiologist.

Testing began slowly but concisely while we introduced the program, our policies, procedures and partners to our Audiologist Hope. She began with some Community Days at our Office to familiarise herself before we hit the road in the Bus!

We completed testing at the Dubbo Aboriginal Medical Service, Playmates Cottage & Orana Heights in Dubbo before heading out of town to Wellington Public, St Mary's Wellington and Narromine Christian School. As we do every term in week 8, we completed testing at every school and child-care in Gilgandra & Gulargambone.

Sadly, it was during Week 9 of Term I, it all came to a grinding halt as we were forced to cease testing due to the Coronavirus risk. As yet normal hearing testing and healthy ears lessons have not yet recommenced however we are working with local partners to create a Covid 19 safe testing procedure to be able to safely provide Community Day Clinics as soon as we can.

Pictured below with our Hearing Testing Manager Virginia are Gulargambone Preschool students & Director Amii Marchant; excited to see the Bus come to their town for testing.



Ear Specialist Clinics



This term we attended two School Clinics. This program enables some of our most vulnerable families access to supported bulk billed ENT services and is run in partnership between our Local ENT's, Dept. of Education Hearing Support & Hear our Heart. It was great to have Wellington Public Principal Darryl Thompson attend Dr Ri-dha's clinic (pictured above) with his students.