

# Whispers

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HEARING 

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HEARING  
AUSTRALIA 

MARCH 2018

Newsletter of Better Hearing Australia [Sydney] Inc

*Dear Members, Supporters and Friends of BHA,*

*Welcome to our first Whispers for 2018.*

I trust everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable festive season and you are now reinvigorated and looking forward to the challenges of another New Year.

Our annual Christmas party was held on Saturday, 2 December at the Coronation Club in Burwood and was a resounding success. Members who we had not seen since the 2013 Sydney National Conference attended, together with many other BHA stalwarts (including Roma). We had a record number of 48 attendees – more than double the number of attendees at our previous functions. It looks like this is the way to go forward.

*Some good news from the UK.*

British scientists are testing new drugs that could banish hearing aids for good for the estimated 900,000 people in Britain with moderate to severe deafness.

Two major clinical trials have started in recent months and both studies involve injecting experimental medicines into the ear with the intention of repairing the damage that caused the hearing loss in the first place. The scientists believe the drug will restore hearing by stimulating progenitor cells to grow into healthy hair cells deep inside the ear.

Tests to make sure the drug is safe were completed on 24 patients in the UK at the end of 2017 and trials to measure how effective it is could now begin within the next few months.

The new trials have been described as “exciting” but one of the big questions is the bioavailability of the drug when it is injected into the inner ear — i.e. how long does it stay there, or does it just get flushed away by fluids in the inner ear within moments?

This is crucial, because it needs to be present long enough to have an effect on any progenitor cells that are present.

Our regular monthly “Social Tuesday” events continue to be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and my ongoing thanks to our organizers, Frances Wonsack and Patricia O'Connor. The next event is an Easter Hats morning tea and games on Tuesday, 27 March 2018. Why not come along and have some fun??

VALE - we have been saddened by the recent passing of Gwen Anderson, Moira Watkins and Jill Samek. Jill was a member of BHA Central Coast Branch and also a member of our BHA National 2006 and 2013 Conference Planning Committees and a long-term teacher for BHCC. Gwen, Moira and Jill will be missed and fondly remembered by all their friends at Better Hearing Sydney.

Volunteers don't just do the work ~ they make it work!!

*Best wishes  
John*



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# 2018

## DIARY DATES

### **MARCH 27: MORNING TEA , EASTER HATS & GAMES**

There will be a tasty morning tea of Pat's Perfect Pastries, Francis's Famous Sandwiches and Louise's Luscious Devonshire Tea Scones! Games will include Card Games and Draughts.

*Morning Tea will begin at 10am in the Concord Club Rooms.*

### **APRIL 24: COME WITH US AND SEE THE CALYX**

A new and exciting venue at The Royal Botanical Gardens.

In June 2016 the Royal Botanic Garden opened The Calyx, a new, world-class attraction. The venue is in the south-western corner of the garden and is an integrated mix of indoor and outdoor areas, with the exhibitions changing on a regular basis. The main feature of the display area is the Green Wall, the largest of its kind in Australia, reaching 6 m high and spanning 50 m. The wall features over 18,000 plants and flowers and is designed as a living artwork.

We will meet at 12 noon at the Garden's Café, and have lunch then wander over to the Calyx.

*NB:To get there: 11 min walk from Wynyard Station along Hunter Street or from Martin Place Station to the Botanical Gardens (Macquarie St entrance)*

### **MAY 22: MORNING TEA AND PHOTO TALK BY LOUISE ON HER NULLARBOR PLAIN AND WA TRIP**

There will be a tasty morning tea of Pat's Perfect Pastries, Francis's Famous Sandwiches and Louise's Luscious Devonshire Tea Scones! This will be followed by Louise Kelly giving a photo talk about her trip across the Nullarbor to Western Australia and back.

### **JUNE 19: JOIN US AT CANTERBURY LEAGUES CLUB AT 12 NOON FOR LUNCH IN THE NEW BAKEHOUSE CAFÉ**

- a cafe, restaurant and a lounge all in one, in bistro style with echoes of the French Nouveau era, elegant wrought iron screens, amazing timber parquet floors, sleek marble columns and brass detailing. There is a delicious range of food at very reasonable prices (mostly less than \$20) - gourmet sandwiches, Pulled Pork Sliders, Bakehouse Pie, Panka Fish Tacos and Tennessee Chicken Ribs, delicious hearty salads like the Wagyu Bresaola Salad and Pearl Couscous & Quinoa Salad.

*Canterbury League Club, 26 Bridge Rd, Belmore, very close to Belmore Station.*