

CICADA CHORUS

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SPRING 2025

LISTENING TO NATURE

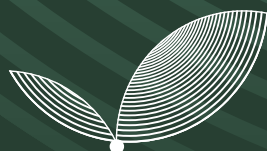
Reconnecting with
the world of sound

MY COCHLEAR IMPLANT DIARY

Linda Bradby

NEW GUIDELINES FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANTATION

Transforming the Pathway to
Adult Cochlear Implantation



CICADA
QUEENSLAND
SHARE - LISTEN - CONNECT



SHARE

- Support and assistance for hearing implant recipients and anyone affected by hearing loss.
- Independent information on all hearing technology options.
- CICADA Chorus magazine and regular newsletters.

LISTEN

- Hearing implant rehabilitation seminars.
- Listening resources for all brands of hearing implants.
- Education and advocacy on hearing loss issues.

CONNECT

- Hearing Solutions Summits - educating and connecting professionals with hearing implant candidates.
- Regular social meet-ups with a CICADA Qld group in your local area.
- Morning teas and larger events.
- Virtual chats - connect with us from any location.

**You are not alone –
Meet others on a similar journey**

Contact us:

connect@cicadaqld.org



PRESIDENTS DESK



This year has been an important one for CICADA Queensland. Our work continues to grow across the state, nationally, and internationally.

In February, we held our first CICADA Connect Leadership Conference, bringing together all our leaders and key supporters. It was a day of connection, shared ideas, and stronger relationships. The feedback was excellent, and planning is already underway for the next event.

Hearing technology continues to advance rapidly, with new processors, implants, and assistive devices making communication easier and more accessible. It is inspiring to see how these developments are improving everyday life.

A highlight this year has been our partnership with QPAC. With my background in audio engineering, it has been rewarding to help enhance hearing accessibility at one of Queensland's most iconic venues. This work demonstrates how true inclusion can look in public spaces.

Nationally, there has been significant progress in hearing health. After years of advocacy, audiology will now be regulated under AHPRA, bringing it into line with other allied health professions. This change will build public trust and ensure consistent professional standards.

CICADA Queensland also continues to contribute to national and international initiatives. As Chair of the Lived Experience Subgroup for the ANZ Hearing Health for Adults Collaborative, I have been proud to see the release of the new Living Guidelines for Adult Cochlear Implant Referral and Care. These guidelines promote consistent, evidence-based standards across Australia and New Zealand.

Together, we have helped to:

- Secure regulation for the audiology profession
- Support best-practice cochlear implant guidelines
- Promote inclusive technology in public venues
- Raise awareness of hearing health across Queensland

Thank you to every member who has shared experiences, attended events, and stayed involved. Your participation gives CICADA Queensland its strength and purpose.

I look forward to celebrating with many of you at our End-of-Year Gathering. We have achieved a great deal together, and there is much more ahead.

Warm regards, John.

Proudly designed and printed by:



Front cover: Richard Kobayashi

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LISTENING TO NATURE

RECONNECTING WITH THE WORLD OF SOUND THROUGH NATURE'S OWN CHORUS

CICADA Queensland members recently enjoyed a very special morning at the Maroochy Wetlands. This unique outing was designed not only to experience nature but to reconnect with it through sound.

The focus of the event was auditory rehabilitation for people with hearing implants, shifting the emphasis from birdwatching to bird listening. For many participants, the chance to hear birdsong again - in some cases for the first time in years, was both powerful and deeply moving.

The activity was led by MED-EL's Rebecca Claridge, whose personal passion for bird listening inspired the event. Participants were also guided by an experienced bird listening and birdwatching expert, Carolyn, who helped the group tune into the remarkable chorus of the wetlands.

The group included both implant users and several

people currently considering hearing implants. It was clear how valuable it was for those at the start of their journey to witness the joy and success of those already experiencing restored hearing.

"Just four years ago, I couldn't hear a single bird. Now, I'm surrounded by birdsong, laughter, and life itself." — CICADA Queensland member.

The morning highlighted how hearing health extends beyond the clinic and into everyday life. Surrounded by birdsong, laughter, and connection, members shared not only in nature's beauty but also in a sense of community and renewed appreciation for sound.

CICADA Queensland extends sincere thanks to Rebecca Claridge and MED-EL for making this memorable event possible, and to Richard Kobayashi for capturing the moment in his stunning images.

ADULT HEARING LOSS – A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

By Brian Lamb MSc, Sue Archbold PhD



Addressing hearing loss is one of the most challenging issues faced by health and social care systems globally today. Hearing loss challenges our ability to communicate and relate to family,

friends and partners, to lead productive lives with employment which uses our abilities, maintains good health, independence and autonomy as we age.

- Currently 1 in 3 people over 65 and over half of people over 85 will have disabling hearing loss.
- Nearly 30 million people will have profound or complete hearing loss in both ears, World Report on Hearing. (WHO, WRH 2021)
- By 2050 over 700 million people globally will have disabling hearing loss. (WHO, 2024)

Faced with this massive increase in the number with hearing loss in the coming decades the challenge is so urgent that The World Health Organisation (WHO) World Report on Hearing (2021) called for countries to integrate strategies for Ear and Hearing care into health care systems.

The positive news is that we have never been more effective in enabling people to continue hearing or restore lost hearing. Hearing Aids are worn more routinely and with greater satisfaction (EHIMA, 2024) and as the WHO noted; “Cochlear implant is one of the most successful of all neural prostheses

developed to date.” (WRH, WHO 2001).

Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants Are Effective and Cost Effective

- Regular hearing aid use was associated with lower risks of mortality than in non-hearing aid users in US adults with hearing loss.
- Hearing aids improve mental health, physical abilities, cognitive abilities, and employability.
- The use of hearing aids is associated with less cognitive decline.
- CI In adults reduces depression and improves cognitive functioning.
- CIs ensure better hearing, improved individuals’ quality of life, ability to communicate verbally and their ability to function independently.
- The latest hearing technologies, including hearing aids and implants, have been shown to improve the lives of those with hearing loss and to be cost effective.

Adapted from Spend to Save: INVESTING IN OUR HEARING IMPROVES LIVES AND IS COST EFFECTIVE, an original resource, available from the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA). To read the full article, and for up-to-date information and resources on cochlear implants, head to www.ciicanet.org/resources/

A HANDY TIP

Judith Raxworthy

All our wonderful Mini Mics are identical. So to ensure you can identify yours quickly, put a sticker on the front and your mobile number on the side in case it gets lost!

I know I would be lost without my Mini Mic.



MY COCHLEAR IMPLANT DIARY

By Linda Bradby

CICADA Queensland member Linda shares her blog on the early days of cochlear implantation, with her new Cochlear Nucleus Nexa implant and Kanso 3 sound processor.

Funny Stories One Week After Cochlear Switch On -

I have otosclerosis, diagnosed at 32. Five generations of hearing aids over 30 years, several surgeries and here I have arrived at 63 with profound hearing loss on the right and severe hearing loss on the left, as the disease progressed from the middle ear to the inner ear.

And I still didn't think my hearing loss was that bad

- Driving home after switch on of the right cochlear, I was full of hope and quite overwhelmed. The heightened emotions after a journey of acceptance of my hearing loss, acknowledging the 30 year struggle (I didn't self identify with a disability), meeting the lovely members of CICADA Queensland, a support group on the Sunshine Coast, realising I was not on this journey alone, observing Michael coming to terms with my hearing loss and acknowledging the impact on him as my partner, telling my family & friends gathering my support network close, anticipation, the waiting, new technology released, surgery and here I am.

Getting to the start line is a journey in itself! Ahead I have 12 months of rehab, to activate my right side of the brain to hear again.

My First New Sound

On the way home after switch on, I was like a meerkat asking Michael what's that noise? It was the car indicators! I asked, do all car indicators make a noise? Apparently they do, who knew. This may seem pretty ordinary to most, but this brought me to tears. What else do I not know, not hear?

Second story, all week I have been walking around the house looking for what is beeping. Is it the fridge open, washing machine or dryer finished, it has to be something! It never stops! Today on day 7 post switch on, I decided to check outside for the "beep". Maybe it's in the shed? On my way there I paused and listened. Really listened. It's birds! I realised I haven't heard birds for a very long time and they have a melody! The realisation had me teary up again. Once I understood the sound, it is less "beep" like and more birdsong. I am so excited as this journey unravels and I hear more. Voices and music are there in a robotic tone. I am understanding conversation in good environments and not wearing a left aid to help the cochlear settle in. My anticipation is high for the unravelling of more and more sounds. Those tears are back again. Grateful tears.

Day 14 Post Switch On

I'm back into my usual activities of kayaking,



swimming, yoga and cycling and immersing myself into every sound. The paddle hitting the water, how the waves hit the sand, the snap of my swim bag clip, the sound of my bike tyres turning as they hit the bitumen, wow that sounds so cool and fast! How the yoga mat sounds as I roll it out, hearing my yoga teacher's guidance. What a beautiful voice Rashida Cottrell has. Beforehand I followed the poses visually. A walk for morning coffee is now a walk with audio. The rain drops on my umbrella, the squelch of my shoes on wet the footpath, the wind in the trees. The coffee shop grinder, the teaspoon touching the plate and voices. My friends' chats. Talking less and listening, really listening. If I gaze at you with gogo eyes it's real, it's love. I love hearing your voice. I feel like a toddler on a discovery expedition.

The things that bring me to tears surprise me with big emotions on this cochlear journey. I attended the CICADA support group this week and listened to stories of other cochlear recipients and found myself incapable of speech. My emotions were so high. This group shares tips and hints, but the big thing is how group members are prepared to be vulnerable and share their stories. They open their hearts and share their experiences about being hearing impaired, the challenges, the unseen disability and their post cochlear implant journey. What was a solo experience for me, has now become a community journey. Thank you, Penny Phillips, for everything you contribute to our group at the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

The main photo is our backyard, early light. In the past I sat enjoying the light change in silence. This morning, I saw and heard morning, immersed in birdsong, listening to the parts and identifying different birds. Thanks for the challenge John Ross and your story at CICADA. John shares his story eloquently in a blog and videos and I had the privilege to chat to him this week. What an amazing man. I challenge you to watch John's short films and not laugh and cry along with him.

Thanks to CICADA Queensland member Linda Bradby for sharing her personal blog. To continue reading, please visit <https://cicadaqld.org/your-stories>

Introducing the Cochlear™ Nucleus® Nexa™ System



Nucleus Kanso® 3 Nexa™
Sound Processor
Off-the-ear

Nucleus® 8 Nexa™
Sound Processor
Behind-the-ear

The world's first and only smart cochlear implant system*



For the first time, you will be ready to **access future innovations** as they become available through **upgradeable firmware** in the world's first and only smart implant.



The world's first and only smart implant has its own **internal memory, securely storing your hearing settings**, so they're always with you.



The system intuitively **adapts its power usage to maximise battery life**, so you can power through your day with the world's **smallest** and **lightest** sound processors.^{1,2,#}



Smart sound processing technology **automatically senses and responds** to changes in your environment, to **make sounds clearer**, even when it's noisy.³⁻⁷

**Talk to your hearing health professional or visit
www.cochlear.com/NucleusNexa for more information.**

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*The first and only cochlear implant having internal memory with upgradeable firmware. #The described feature and benefit are available for recipients with a Nucleus Nexa Implant only. Battery life varies for every user, according to the age of the battery, the programs used each day, your implant type, the thickness of skin covering your implant, and the size and type of battery used. Streaming from compatible devices, True Wireless devices or FM may decrease sound processor battery life depending on how often and for how long streaming is engaged.

Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for your condition. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always follow the directions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information. Cochlear™ Nucleus® implant systems are intended for the treatment of moderately severe to profound hearing loss. For Cochlear™ Nucleus® systems: This product is not available for purchase by the general public. For information on funding and reimbursement please contact your healthcare professional. Consult your health professional to determine if you are a candidate for Cochlear technology. The product images shown are for illustrative purposes only and may not be an exact representation of the product. In Australia, Cochlear, Hear now. And always, Kanso, Nucleus, Nexa and the elliptical logo are either trademarks or registered trademarks of the Cochlear group of companies.

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NEW NATIONAL GUIDELINES

AIM TO TRANSFORM THE PATHWAY TO ADULT COCHLEAR IMPLANTATION AND HEARING HEALTH IN ANZ

The Australia and New Zealand Hearing Health Collaborative (ANZ HHC) today launches the first ANZ guidelines for adult cochlear implantation, a landmark initiative designed to improve access, consistency, and outcomes in hearing healthcare for adults across the region.

Hearing loss affects a significant proportion of adults. Assistive technologies such as hearing aids and cochlear implants can improve communication for those with hearing loss, but these devices are used by only a small percentage of those who could benefit from them.¹

"What many people don't see is the emotional toll it takes. There was a time when hearing loss brought John to such a dark place," said Donna Ross, wife of John a cochlear implant recipient. "The pain, the silence, the feeling of being disconnected from the world."

In response, the ANZ HHC - comprising over 70 clinicians, researchers, and individuals with a lived experience of hearing loss - adapted the Global Living Guidelines for the local context through a series of national workshops held in 2023 and 2024.

"This was a detailed and consultatory process involving clinicians, academics and consumers, whose collaborative expertise sets a minimum standard of care, a starting point to drive change, improve services and address inequity," said Professor Payal Mukherjee, ENT surgeon and ANZ HHC Co-Chair.

The result is a set of practical, consensus-based recommendations tailored to the needs of adults in ANZ.

"These guidelines are a major step forward in ensuring equitable access to hearing care," said Professor Bamini Gopinath, Macquarie University and ANZ HHC Co-Chair. "They provide a clear, evidence-informed framework for clinicians, policymakers, and consumers alike."

The ANZ HHC's goal is to reduce disparities in hearing care and support high-quality, population-level outcomes. The full evidence and recommendations are available at MagicAPP with supporting information and summaries at hhc.anz.adulthearing.com.

"This is about more than clinical practice—it's about restoring connection, participation, and wellbeing for thousands of adults," said Dr. Jaime Leigh, Audiologist and ANZ HHC Co-Chair.

For media enquiries, interviews, or access to the guidelines, please contact: anzguidelines@adulthearing.com or call 0436 442 400

Get Involved

Whether you're living with hearing loss, supporting someone who is, or simply passionate about better healthcare, your voice matters.

Learn more: hhc.anz.adulthearing.com

Contact us: anzguidelines@adulthearing.com

Together, we can build a future where hearing health is a priority – and no one is left behind.

¹ World Health Organization. World report on hearing 2021. World report on hearing (who.int).



TRACEY AND HER HEARING ASSISTANCE DOG MAWSN

Tracey gave an excellent presentation to our gathering on the 18th September at the Townsville RSL.

This is her story - In 2002 my hearing loss problems started with nasal polyps and chronic sinusitis and severe infections. Since that time, I have had approximately 29 surgeries on my ears and sinuses. It is believed that I have an incurable, Mucociliary disorder that continues to cause my chronic suppurative otitis media. This has caused my extreme hearing loss. I have immunoglobulin infusions every month.

In 2016 I had a Baha 5 superpower implanted on my left side.

In March 2022 my home was broken into as I slept. They had smashed the front door, taken a lot of property and stole my car (later found burnt out). I felt very unsafe in my own home.

I had been on the waiting list for a Lions assistance dog for approximately 18 Months. The Rollingstone and District Lions club organised an assessment of my property to ensure it was suitable for a Lions Hearing Assistance dog. I was very fortunate to be offered the dog that was allocated to an elderly chap who unfortunately suffered from severe dementia and could not take him. In June 2022 Mawson arrived at my home with his trainer. The trainer spent a week with me to get Mawson settled in and ensure that he was responding to his commands.

Mawson was sponsored by the Rollingstone and District Lions Club. For the first three months members from the club visited my home three times a week to run through Mawson's sound tests with me. A bit like Cochlear Implant rehab training. Mawson and I joined the Rollingstone and District Lions Club to show our appreciation for sponsoring Mawson. We help with both community assistance and Fundraising for the Lions Hearing Dogs.

In the three years that I have had Mawson, we have travelled together on Planes, Trains and even a Cruise. I plan his toilet breaks, and he is accepted as my travel companion.

Here is a little more about Hearing Assistance Dogs

- Assistance Dogs are for the Deaf and hard of hearing.
- They are trained to respond to up to 10 common household sounds.
- They respond to sounds by alerting their owner



with a 'touch' of the paw and leading them to the source of the sound.

- A smoke alarm is a different alert, and they respond with a 'touch' of the paw and then drops to the ground.
- Over 750 Hearing Assistance Dogs have been delivered in over 40 years.
- Hearing assistance dogs have public access rights, just like guide dogs for the blind.

In public, they help their recipient remain safe and engaged in community life, offering not only practical Assistance through alerting to sounds in public but also through social inclusion and confidence.

Hearing Assistance Dogs provide a vital link to the world - not just hearing but living more fully. Benefits reported by recipients include:

- Improved personal relationships;
- Enhanced mental and physical health;
- Increased social activity and community involvement
- Reduced discrimination against individuals with hearing loss;
- Decreased anger and frustration
- Greater employment opportunities, particularly for those with severe hearing loss;
- Lower incidence of depression
- Enhanced safety and security

Lions Assistance dogs also train dogs to provide vital assistance to diabetes patients and personnel with PTSD.

If you want to learn more about the LIONS Assistance Dogs (LAD) programs, or how you can help, contact info@lionsassistedogs.com.au or call 08 8388 7836.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT TECHNOLOGY TOOLS TO SUPPORT YOUR JOURNEY



NICOLE DA ROCHA • AB SENIOR CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER AT ADVANCED BIONICS

Getting a cochlear implant (CI) is a big step toward better hearing. It can feel exciting that today's hearing implant technology can bring new sounds, new routines, and sometimes a few challenges. You're not alone in this. Many people of all ages are learning to hear again with CI. Think of listening as a skill that gets stronger with time and practice—just like exercising a muscle. Here are 10 simple ways to support your journey, using easy-to-use tools that can help you practice, track progress, and stay encouraged.

1. Listen a Little Every Day

When you first start using your CI, things might sound a bit strange or unclear. That's normal – your brain is adjusting. The more you listen, even for short periods each day, the easier it becomes. Over time, everyday sounds like voices, music, or nature will start to feel more familiar.

2. Try Helpful Digital Tools

There are simple digital tools (many of them free) that can support your hearing practice. You can use them on a smartphone, tablet, or computer. These tools help you practice understanding words and sounds, listen to music again, track your progress, and stay motivated.

You don't have to be "tech-savvy" to benefit—many are made to be simple and easy to use.

3. Use Free Resources from Advanced Bionics (AB)

AB offers free resources through our Advanced DigiCare portfolio. Discover the latest CI resources to practice understanding speech and sounds, and more!

- **AB ListenFit** – this phone app is designed to help track your hearing progress.*
- **HearingSuccess** – A website full of listening exercises, tips, and videos.
- **SoundSuccess™** – Practice listening with different voices and sounds.
- **WordSuccess™** – Practice hearing differences in similar-sounding words.
- **Musical Atmospheres** – Rediscover music, one step at a time.

4. Keep Practice Short and Simple

You don't need long sessions to improve. **Just 10 to 15 minutes a day** can make a real difference.

Try practicing while doing something simple—like cooking, taking a walk, or sitting in a quiet room. Regular practice, even in small amounts, helps your brain get used to hearing again.

5. Celebrate Small Successes

Hearing a new sound like a bird, a laugh, or your doorbell is worth celebrating. It means your brain is learning!

You can use an app like **AB ListenFit** to track those moments. Or simply write them down in a notebook. Every step forward is something to be proud of.

6. Practice with a Loved One

Practicing alone is helpful—but it can be even better with someone you trust. A friend, family member, or partner can

join you in short listening exercises.

Use **WordSuccess** with a partner. They say a word; you repeat it. Listen to music together using **Musical Atmospheres** and talk about what you hear.

7. Reconnect with Music

Music is personal. It can bring back memories and emotions. Music might sound different after getting a CI. That's okay—and very common. You can enjoy music again, but it may take time. Start small. **Musical Atmospheres** is a tool that helps you gently explore music again, one sound at a time. You can explore different types of instruments, rhythms, and melodies at your own pace. Many people find they start enjoying music again—and some even discover new favorites.

8. Help Children in Your Life Learn Too

If you have young children in your life who use cochlear implants, there are fun tools for them too:

- **BabyBeats™** – Music and movement activities for babies and toddlers.
- **AB Listening Adventures (iPad)** – Games that build listening skills.
- **VocAB Scenes (iPad)** – Learning words through pictures.

These tools make listening practice feel like play—and can be a fun way to bond.

9. Join the HearingJourney™ Community

HearingJourney.com is a friendly online space where CI users and their families can connect, ask questions, share stories, and find support—whether you're new to the journey or have years of experience.

10. Set Your Own Hearing Goals

Everyone's hearing goals are different. For you, it might be enjoying a favorite song again. Or simply hearing your loved ones more clearly.

Whatever your goal is, big or small, it matters. And every sound you hear is a sign of progress. Keep going. You're doing great.

Scan the QR code to explore AB's blog for expert insights, personal journeys, and valuable information on hearing loss and cochlear implants, or visit: advancedbionics.com/blog



*AB ListenFit is compatible with Marvel CI and/or Phonak Link M Hearing Aid. AB ListenFit is designed for adults and children aged 13 and older, and for younger children with caregiver assistance. This app is to be used as an educational resource for tracking your hearing journey. It is not intended to substitute professional medical advice or be interpreted to contain treatment recommendations. Contact your healthcare provider if you have any medical concerns about managing your cochlear implant(s).

Note: The views expressed in this post are those of the author. Each person's situation is unique so your experience may not be the same. Talk to your hearing care provider about whether a cochlear implant is right for you.



Smart digital connections

FOR YOUR HEARING JOURNEY

- **FULL SET OF DIGITAL TOOLS:** Apps and resources for every step of your hearing journey
- **YOUR HEARING, YOUR WAY:** So you're in control of your progress
- **STAY CONNECTED WITH EASE:** Knowledge and support at your fingertips

AB's Advanced DigiCare solutions keep you connected to success.

Visit AdvancedBionics.com/DigiCare to learn more.





YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED: LIVING WITH A COCHLEAR IMPLANT

Wondering about cochlear implants? Here are some questions that are frequently asked at our meet-ups:

How do I know a cochlear implant solution is right for me?

Are you having trouble hearing on the phone? Do you struggle to hear speech in crowded places? If hearing aids are no longer helping you, then a cochlear implant may be an option for you.

Which sound processor is the right one for me?

There are three cochlear implant brands available in Australia and you need to discuss all the options available from these companies with your audiologist or surgeon. Talk to people who use different brands to find the best fit for your lifestyle.

What factors can affect the benefits of a cochlear implant?

It is very important to have realistic expectations of your outcome. These factors can have an impact on the benefit of cochlear implants:

- How long have you had a severe to profound hearing loss.
- How long have you worn a hearing aid.
- The condition of your cochlea.
- Other medical conditions.

My current health insurance provider doesn't cover surgically implant prosthesis, should I consider changing providers?

Before changing providers, find out what level of cover you need to cover a cochlear implant, and be mindful of waiting periods.

How much hair will be shaved off for the operation?

The surgeon will typically only need to shave a very small area of hair immediately behind the ear (1 cm to 2 cm).

Will I be able to hear speech at switch-on?

The day of your initial activation can be life-changing and may be filled with hope, excitement and varied expectations. Every experience is different and although there are no guarantees that you may be able to hear or understand speech straight away, if

you can tell the difference between a loud or soft sound at your first activation appointment, the day has been a success and you are on your way to better hearing.

What will speech sound like after switch-on?

This is a tricky question to answer, as it varies for all patients. Initially, the most commonly reported sound qualities are described as 'mechanical', 'robotic', 'cartoonish', and like people are 'talking with marbles in their mouth'. Some patients will only feel the stimulation when it is first turned on. It is very important to realise this is a process. Over time the sound quality will change as the brain re-learns the stimulation patterns provided by the cochlear implant. For the majority of patients, the sound quality will continually improve over the first six to twelve months.

Will the implant help in noisy situations?

You may still experience difficulty when listening in large groups or noisy situations. However, you may find that over time your ability to communicate in those situations gets easier as you have greater access to information and your brain can ignore some of the noises you do not want to hear. Sound processors are continually improving with features that assist with speech clarity in noisy environments and there are a range of assistive technologies on the market which can also help.

Will my head hurt where the magnet sits?

Sometimes you will have soreness where the magnet sits on your head. This can be altered by changing the strength of your magnet or using a soft pad between the external magnet and your skin. Always contact your clinic for advice if you experience pain at the magnet site.

Can I have an MRI or X-ray or CT scan?

CT scans and X-rays are safe but depending on your type of implant, an MRI requires different precautions to be taken. Generally, an MRI is safe if care is taken around the internal magnet position. Many new cochlear implants are MRI-compatible. However, older models may require the magnet site to be bandaged up prior to the procedure, or

the internal magnet removed. Procedures differ between cochlear implant brands and models so it is important to consult your audiologist or surgeon on the best course of action.

How long do the batteries last?

Disposable batteries last around 60-90 hours and rechargeables anywhere up to 2 days. Factors affecting battery length include how much you use your sound processor, your individual MAP, the volume level you are using, and the time you spend streaming your processor to a device such as a mobile phone or other Bluetooth accessory.

Can I sleep with my cochlear implant processor switched on?

Yes, you can wear your cochlear implants to bed if necessary, but most people take them off at night to save on batteries, make use of a dry and store accessory and to get a peaceful night's sleep.

How soon can I wash my hair after implantation?

On average, you should not wash your hair for 5-7 days, but it is best to discuss with your surgeon. It is also best to refrain from colouring your hair until the incision is fully healed which is usually at approximately 4 weeks.

Can I swim, surf or play sports with my cochlear implant?

Yes, modern speech processors come with various compatible accessories to allow you to continue the activities you love. If you take part in high-impact

sports or you surf, you may need additional security accessories or headbands, or you may wish to remove the external speech processor completely. It is always best to discuss your lifestyle needs with your audiologist to make sure the option you choose is right for you.

Will I be able to hear music again?

A cochlear implant may improve your perception of music. You can stream music directly from your device using Bluetooth or a compatible Assisted Listening Device, which may improve clarity. Please be aware that it may take a while for music to sound as it once was, and it may take lots of practice. Start by listening to music that you are very familiar with before trying new songs. You may find some styles of music easier to distinguish than others.

How often do I have to be Mapped?

The cochlear implant is a lifelong commitment. You will be set up for three to four programming appointments starting approximately 2-4 weeks after surgery. These appointments are set up to provide you with a transitional period to help you acclimatise to the new sounds you will hear through your cochlear implant. Following those initial appointments, you should expect to be seen every three to six months for the first year and then once a year for a review.

This article was adapted from the original publication "Everything you need to know about cochlear implants", by CICADA Queensland.



Staying connected made simple — even when hearing is hard.

The **Konnekt Captioning Videophone** helps people with hearing loss stay connected with loved ones through on-screen captions and easy one-touch calling. Families like Anna's are using Konnekt to share stories, laughter, and everyday moments — no matter where they are.

konnekt



Learn more at
<https://konnekt.com.au/cap>

☎ 1300 851 823



Struggling to hear with just one ear?

Reconnect with the world of sound through MED-EL cochlear implant technology.

Experience clearer speech, better sound direction, and fuller sound - whether in quiet or noisy environments. Scan the QR code to download the "Solutions for Single-Sided Deafness" brochure or contact MED-EL for more information.



hearinghelp@medel.com.au

Stephen's Journey as a Bionic Musician

Music has always been central to Stephen's life. Growing up in a family of musicians, he built a career performing, writing, and producing songs around the world. When sudden hearing loss took away the sound in one ear, it felt like the music had stopped. With the help of a cochlear implant, Stephen has found new ways to listen, create, and share the music that continues to define his life.

“To see and hear the world through music is to help maintain one's sanity and appreciate how beautiful life can be. My cochlear implant hasn't just restored some of my hearing—it has restored my ability to live fully as a musician, a teacher, and a husband.”

Stephen's Hearing Journey

I'm Stephen, a 69-year-old musician, living in Sydney with my wife. In April 2022, while teaching at our music school, I suddenly lost hearing in my left ear. At first, I assumed it was temporary, but treatments didn't help. By the time I saw a specialist, it was too late for early intervention, and I was diagnosed with permanent single-sided deafness. Accepting it was tough, but I soon began exploring cochlear implants as a way forward.

Choosing MED-EL

In December 2023, I had cochlear implant surgery and chose MED-EL for its exceptional frequency range—vital for musicians. I received the SYNCHRONY 2 implant and now use both the SONNET 2 and RONDO 3 processors. The early weeks were a steep learning curve. Mapping sessions with my audiologist helped fine-tune the sound, and her support gave me the confidence to keep going. With time and training, the implant began to feel more natural.

Training my Brain for Music

As a musician, I knew I had to actively retrain my brain to adapt to this new way of hearing. At first, sound through the CI felt unnatural—like low-quality audio—but I was amazed by the technology behind it. I committed to daily practice using apps like Hearoes and Meludia, listening to audiobooks, and revisiting familiar music. One of the toughest challenges was playing piano through headphones—initially, all notes sounded the same. But over time, I began to hear pitch differences, a breakthrough that kept me motivated.

Music With a CI: The New Normal

Music sounds different through my cochlear implant, but it's still deeply meaningful. Combining it with my natural hearing creates a richer, more immersive experience. Bass and percussion feel most natural, while strings and vocals are more challenging—but each mapping and training session brings improvement. I've also returned to producing and mixing music. The CI helps me hear balance and texture more clearly, restoring much of the joy I thought I'd lost.



“My cochlear implant gives me the ability to enjoy, create, and share music again. To me, that's priceless. Every day, I continue to train, adapt, and discover new layers of sound.”

Performing at Beats of Cochlea

This August, I proudly represented Australia at the Beats of Cochlea festival in Poland. Performing my original song “I Don't Mind the Rain”—singing and playing piano on stage—was an unforgettable moment. Events like this highlight music's power to connect people worldwide and showcase the life-changing technology behind it. MED-EL isn't just making devices—they're creating opportunities to rediscover joy, purpose, and connection through sound.



Rehabilitation Support for SSD CI Users

Rebecca Claridge, Regional Rehabilitation Manager for MED-EL ANZ, shares:

“SSD cochlear implant users who wear their audio processor daily report significant improvements in these key areas: better understanding of speech, particularly in noise, improved sound localisation, reduced tinnitus and noise sensitivity, peace of mind about their hearing in the other ear, and an overall boost in quality of life.”

For individuals with Single-Sided Deafness, dedicated auditory training is essential to achieving the best outcomes. MED-EL supports this journey with tailored rehabilitation tools:

- **ReDi:** A free app using advanced AI to deliver personalised auditory training, streamed directly to the CI. MED-EL recipients also receive in-app support.
- **ReDi Studio:** A web-based companion for clinicians and MED-EL rehab specialists to assign customised content through the ReDi app.
- **Rehab Helpline:** To learn more about the rehabilitation process for SSD CI users, or to request a copy of MED-EL's “Single-Sided Deafness & Cochlear Implant Rehabilitation” brochure, email HearingHelp@medel.com.au



CELEBRATING CONNECTION:

CICADA QUEENSLAND'S FIRST-EVER ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



In June was the first CICADA Queensland Connect & Leadership Summit at the scenic Oaks Resort in Caloundra. This landmark event brought together area coordinators from across the state, industry professionals, audiologists, and special guests for a weekend dedicated to connection, growth, and leadership in the hearing loss community.

Over three days, attendees were treated to a thoughtfully paced program designed with accessibility and inclusion in mind. From casual breakfasts to breakout sessions and keynote presentations, the summit created space for meaningful learning and authentic connection among people who share lived experience with hearing loss.

Keynote speakers included audiologist Karen Lovelock from Attune Hearing, who opened the conference with insight into pathways to hearing care. Psychologist Veronica McKeon, from MindWare Psychology in Toowoomba, delivered a powerful presentation titled *Wired to Connect*, drawing on

her personal and professional experience supporting those impacted by hearing loss. She explored the neuroscience of social connection, highlighting how humans are biologically wired to seek out relationships and how these connections are vital for mental and physical health. Veronica also discussed how hearing technology supports neuroplasticity, enabling the brain to adapt and helping individuals re-engage socially, reinforcing the critical link between hearing, connection, and overall wellbeing.

The weekend also featured contributions from CICADA Queensland members and leaders. In her presentation "Our Roots," Penny Phillips honoured CICADA Queensland's founding member, Nancy Gibb, reflecting on the organisation's humble beginnings and the vision that brought it to life. Kymm Smith spoke about the enduring role of the CICADA Chorus as the voice of our members, while CICADA QLD President John Ross shared insights into the organisation's future direction.

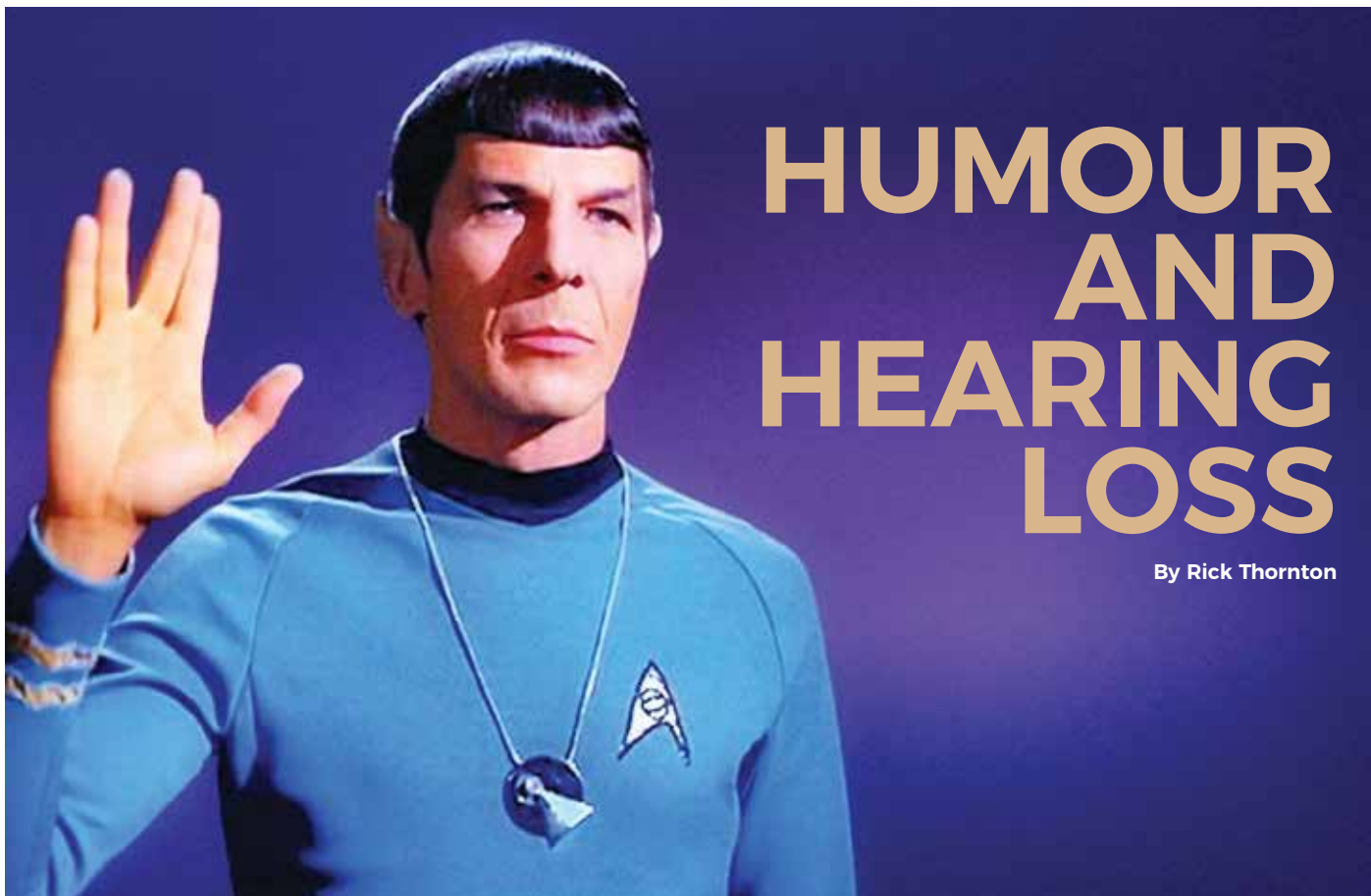
A key feature of the summit was

the Coordinators' Round Table, where volunteers from across the state stood to share local challenges, success stories, and reflections from their regions across Queensland.

Another standout moment was the Manufacturer Showcase, where companies including Cochlear Ltd, MED-EL, Advanced Bionics, and Audeara hosted interactive displays. Attendees had the opportunity to trial new technology, ask questions, and connect directly with industry experts.

The weekend concluded with a heartfelt presentation from Donna Ross, who shared her personal journey as the partner of someone with hearing loss. This was followed by a celebration of CICADA Queensland's achievements and a warm thank you to the volunteers who make it all possible.

As CICADA QLD continues to grow, this inaugural summit marked a major step forward in uniting coordinators, recognising lived experience, and strengthening peer-led support for hearing loss across Queensland.



HUMOUR AND HEARING LOSS

By Rick Thornton

Generally, and before my bilateral cochlear implants, I found absolutely nothing humorous about my hearing loss.

That look and “What” with laughter while looking around to see who noticed how clever they were used to drive me nuts! Firstly, because it was the millionth time I’d heard it and, secondly, anger that someone found humour in my disability. I mean who does that? Plenty of them.

There are countless accounts of this kind of disrespect and discrimination which most folk with hearing loss experience. Add that to the dehumanising introductions such as “this is Rick, he’s deaf” and other misguided attempts to help that can make you an angry, isolated person. No one likes to be the source of entertainment for the thoughtless, so you stay away. You’re not “hearing enough”.

Thankfully, I discovered cochlear implants and now have two. Aside from being amazed at how noisy the world actually is, I hear everything (sometimes too much). I hear differently to others and have very good word recognition except in very noisy conditions. I have greater control of my hearing environment than I did as a hearing person. I am seen more like the humanoids with enhanced sense you see in science fiction films. It’s me and Mr Spock against the world. I may be a Vulcan!

I have learned to see the funny side of misheard words and my reactions. I now have some compassion for those whose ignorance I used to consider hostility. My hearing loss is no longer invisible. I mean, my processors are big, black and sit on the side of my bald head! No luxurious locks to hide them for me.

Like a comedian once said “if you got-flaunt it!” So I do.

I take every opportunity to educate about my amazing hearing abilities. I demonstrate how much control I have over it. I laugh with them. After all, they only have analogue hearing, sound waves and all that, whilst I hear electronic signals. Best of all, if they continue to annoy, I can turn down their volume or simply turn them off! THAT’s funny. In a sense I have the best of all worlds.

“So I am not deaf or a hybrid being, I’m quite simply - Rick.”

In closing I offer a quote from my hero Mr Spock from Star Trek (please delete Vulcan/Starfleet and insert Hearing)

“I admit I have been afraid that I was not Vulcan enough for you. That... You saw me as human, more concerned about my duty to Starfleet than to my culture or my betrothed. My feelings about Vulcan are not easy. On our world, I was forced to prove my Vulcan-ness. Any deviation was seen as proof I did not belong. In Starfleet, I am accepted for who I am. Half Vulcan, half human. I am quite simply - Spock.”

So I am not deaf or a hybrid being, I’m quite simply - Rick.

Live long, hear well and prosper my friends.



THAT SPACE BETWEEN YOUR LIPS AND MY EARS

By Gael Hannan

I haven't yet watched Code of Silence, in which a deaf worker with exceptional speechreading abilities uses her skills to aid criminal investigations. I want to avoid the usual cringing at the myths of hearing loss and deafness perpetuated in popular media. If someone can assure me that Code of Silence avoids these myths, even in the pursuit of TV entertainment, I'll give it a go.

But until then...

There's a space between a hearing person and me,

Between their words and my ears.

A space that changes shape and size as it

Fills with the sounds of spoken language

That I don't always get.

To "hearing people", this space is not only invisible,

It doesn't exist,

As they converse easily with (most) people, crisply, speaking and listening,

Back and forth, blah-de-blah-blah-ing.

But the people with hearing loss, we can feel this space

Between your voices and our ears. It's challenging, sometimes painful,

Because in this clear, tasteless, and odorless expanse,

Sound and meaning are often splintered,

With blurry edges and hollow middles

Or even nothingness—as if the sound never happened.

We work hard to understand.

We look across this space to the lips of speakers, taking in their full face and eyes and facial expressions and body language

Which help fill in the words' meaning when our hearing aids don't detect crucial bits of speech. (But what we see is never enough to expertly speechread criminal conversations from a distance!)

We get things wrong and ask for the sounds to be recreated and spoken again

We might even have to ask what are we talking about now, if the discussion has spun out of our control.

If we have the topic wrong, nothing we see or hear will make sense.

(And we wouldn't want to send someone to jail on something we thought we saw them say, right?)

This distance and time between the spoken words and the receptive ear,

Between your lips and my ears,

Is, for some of us, the space between hearing and loss.

Some of us will say, "I never had good hearing, so how can I have lost it?"

And some of us say, "Hearing has slowly dripped away" or

"It left so fast I didn't have time to say goodbye."

But we can smooth the space between there and here.

Let's use technology, develop skill at reading faces, and learn how to ask and pull

Better communication from the people on the other side.

Communication is the glue that connects us.

Without it, we really would be islands, separate from each other.

And I don't want that kind of space between a hearing person and me.

Gael Hannan is an advocate, author, and international speaker on hearing loss issues. Living with a profound hearing loss, Gael is bimodal, using both a hearing aid and a cochlear implant. She lives in Canada, although lived in Australia when she was young and then later worked for the Australian Tourist Commission in Canada. Her books, *The Way I Hear It: A Life with Hearing Loss* and *Hear & Beyond: Live Skillfully With Hearing Loss* are available in Australia from Amazon, Dymocks and Booktopia.

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<https://hearinghealthmatters.org/better-hearing-consumer/2025/that-space-between-your-lips-and-my-ears/>



PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION

DID YOU KNOW? The ATAGI (Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation) recommends that all cochlear implant recipients receive the pneumococcal vaccination that is funded by the National Immunisation Program.

The Queensland government state: Pneumococcal disease is caused by bacteria called *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (also known as the pneumococcus). There are different strains of the bacteria, some of which are more likely than others to cause disease.

The bacteria are easily spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing or contact with mucous from the nose and throat. Many people carry pneumococcal bacteria in their nose and throat, often without causing any health problems. Some people are at a higher risk of developing disease from the bacteria. Those at higher risk include children younger than two years of age, adults 65 years and older, people with conditions that weaken the immune system, people with cochlear implants or cerebrospinal fluid leaks, people who smoke and people living in overcrowded conditions.

Vaccination is the most effective way of preventing pneumococcal disease. Previous pneumococcal infection will not provide immunity as there are many strains of the bacteria that cause illness.

The course of disease depends on where the infection is in the body, the person's immune system, and the use of appropriate antibiotics. The illness may last anywhere from a few days to weeks.

Pneumococcal disease can sometimes develop into 'invasive pneumococcal disease' (IPD) which can include serious diseases, including meningitis (infection of the covering of the brain), septicaemia (blood infection), and pneumonia with a blood infection.

NB: Pneumococcal disease is not meningococcal disease which is caused by another type of bacteria. Meningitis is the most severe type of IPD. Of children younger than five years of age who get pneumococcal meningitis, about one out of 15 dies of the infection. Others may have long-term problems, such as hearing loss, cognitive impairment, or developmental delay. About one out of 100 children younger than five years of age with a pneumococcal bloodstream infection die from it. About five out of 100 people with the non-invasive type of pneumococcal pneumonia will die from it. The rates of death from pneumococcal disease are higher in elderly people.

CICADA Queensland recommends chatting with your GP about the pneumococcal vaccination.

Source: Queensland Government.



X-RAY, CT SCAN, AND MRI: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

X-rays are a quick and common way to capture images of bones and other dense structures inside the body. They're often used to check for fractures, infections, or tumors. Since X-rays are fast and relatively inexpensive, they're widely available and frequently used in medical settings.

CT scans take things a step further by using X-rays and computer processing to create detailed cross-sectional images of the body. Unlike a standard X-ray, a CT scan can show not just bones but also organs, blood vessels, and soft tissues. Doctors use CT scans to diagnose issues like internal injuries, tumors, infections, and blood clots. If you're undergoing a cochlear implant evaluation, you may have a CT scan to assess the structure of your inner ear and determine if you're a good candidate for the implant.

MRI scans work differently. Instead of X-rays, they use a strong magnetic field and radio waves to create highly detailed images of soft tissues, organs, and other internal structures. MRIs are especially useful for looking at the brain, spinal cord, joints, and muscles. Since they don't use radiation, they're considered a safer imaging option, especially for children and pregnant women. However, MRIs take longer, cost more, and aren't suitable for people with certain metal implants.

If you have a hearing implant and need an MRI, check with your audiology team first. They'll help determine if it's safe and make sure the right precautions are taken to protect your implant during the scan.



EAR TO THE GROUND...



Ange Jonassen

BRISBANE

What a year it has been for our Brisbane Group! We kicked things off at Wynnum Library with a fantastic start, welcoming new faces alongside our regulars. It is always such a joy to see the group growing, and to feel the

continued support from those who have been with us for some time.

The beginning of the year wasn't without its challenges. With Tropical Cyclone Alfred and flooding across Brisbane and SEQ, things were a little slow to get going. I was involved in community recovery work during that time, supporting Queenslanders who had been affected, and it reminded me again how important connection and resilience are.

Once we found our rhythm, the year unfolded with some really interesting and useful topics. We talked about preparing for emergencies—like floods and power outages—and the importance of having a kit ready. The discussion sparked plenty of tips and personal stories around the room, which made it all the more valuable.

One of the highlights was a visit from Dr Ilona Waner, who shared her knowledge on post-cochlear implant recovery. She spoke about brain plasticity, vestibular balance, the nervous system, and the role osteopathy can play in supporting recovery. It was both fascinating and practical, and everyone really enjoyed it. We're lucky to have her return in 2026—so keep an eye out for that!

We also had a lively session with Cochlear Australia and John Nakulski from Konnetk. It was full of questions and conversation, and I loved watching people not only engage with our guest speakers but also share their own experiences and support one another. That's the heart of our group—coming together to learn, laugh, and walk alongside each other on this journey.

As the year winds down, we still have two special events to look forward to:

- Saturday 25th October – Taking Care of Your Devices and Self-Care During the Summer Months
- Saturday 6th December – our Brisbane Christmas Get-Together. Everyone is welcome! More details will be posted on the CICADA website.

I want to finish by saying thank you. Your support and participation mean the world to me. This group wouldn't be the same without the energy, kindness, and generosity you bring to each gathering. I look forward to seeing even more of you in the months ahead as we continue to share, learn, and support each other on our hearing journeys.



Penny Phillips

SUNSHINE COAST

What a year we have had on the Sunshine Coast, the Hearing Solutions Summit held at Maroochy RSL was a huge success followed by The Connect Leadership Summit held at The Oaks at Caloundra which brought together all our amazing Coordinators to network

and get ideas to better support people on their hearing loss journey.

More importantly we have had some great MeetUps sessions, with almost 70 members on the Sunny Coast now, each MeetUp has plenty of recipients and people contemplating a Cochlear Implant attending and reaching out for information and support. And with the help of some lovely presenters, Rebecca from MED-EL, Vicki from Advanced Bionics, and Emma and Iva from Cochlear, all giving us plenty of information on a variety of issues when it comes to making use of our implants in the best way possible.

Our inaugural Bird Watching Walk was very popular at Bli Bli wetlands in July. It was cold but our guide was wonderful and another one will be organised for 2026, so watch this space.

Thank you to each and everyone of you for helping to make our Sunny Coast MeetUps supportive and informative and to those that help in any way, you are so appreciated.



John Foreman

TOWNSVILLE

Townsville region has a MeetUp on the third Thursday of the month at the Townsville RSL. We meet from 10.00 for 10.30 in the Boardroom upstairs and many stay on for lunch and to chat.

We have quite a mix of hearing impaired people at our MeetUps. Newbies who are at the beginning of their journey to improve their hearing and who have lots of questions; those who have been recently implanted and are doing rehab exercises to fine tune their hearing and those of us who have had a CI for a few years and want to guide, assist and encourage them in their journey to better hearing.

We often have members present their experiences so we can learn and encourage one another in our efforts to hear more clearly.

If you are from this region or are visiting Townsville on the third Thursday of the month (excluding December and January), come and join us for a few hours. You're most welcome.



Greg Nichol

FRASER COAST Introducing Greg Nichol, our Fraser Coast Coordinator

The Victorian winters finally took their toll.

I was 20 and had itchy feet to see the world, so off I went and ended up in Western Australia, where I discovered

hot weather, white sandy beaches and girls in bikinis. I did all sorts of odd jobs, from a brickie's labourer to bread carting, to save some money and move on.

Unfortunately, Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin so any travel further north was impossible. So I took a job with RIO TINTO Exploration and joined the elusive hunt for diamonds in the Kimberley and Pilbara.

Then I met my wife-to-be and settled in Perth, Western Australia.

After 15 years with RIO TINTO I decided I would take another plunge and went into real estate, and within 2 years opened my own Agency. I built the business up into a successful operation with hundreds of property managements and several sales staff.

In my early sixties it was time to retire and passed on the business to my nephew who still runs it today.

My wife and I heard how good the weather was in Queensland so we hopped on a plane and travelled from Brisbane to Bundaberg scoping out the lifestyle villages. We settled on Hervey Bay as our next destination on life's journey. Making our way over from Perth in our caravan.

My hearing had started to deteriorate over time and hearing aids became part of my life. I suddenly lost the hearing in my ear right overnight while traveling in South Australia. In Hervey Bay I experienced another overnight loss of hearing in my left ear.

Stronger hearing aids were required. Gradually my hearing in my left ear deteriorated to the point the audiologist thought I might be a candidate for a cochlear implant.

Never one to let other people decide what was good for me, I contacted Judy Raxworthy who was running the Fraser Coast branch of CICADA. I attended several of her meetups at the Hervey Bay Library and asked the other implant recipients at those meetings a thousand questions. All of them were so helpful and offered up their stories of their journey of hearing loss to their eventual Cochlear Implant.

I sporadically attended the meetups. I heard that Judy was taking a step back from the local CICADA coordinators role, and I decided it would be a good time to give back and try to help others who are going down the Implant journey.



Gillian Bartholomew

NEW BRISBANE NORTHSIDE GROUP

Come along and meet our friendly new Brisbane Northside Coordinator Gillian at Bracken Ridge Library! Visit our website for full details of upcoming events.



Jody Wallace

MEET JODY WALLACE...

Jody joined the CICADA Qld committee in late 2024 and has since been an invaluable asset, playing a key role in organising major events such as the Hearing Solutions Summits.

Jody has a background in Community Service, Chaplaincy, Business Support & Process Improvement across the NFP community, legal and Gov sectors. She is an experienced national event lead.

Jody is excited by events and projects, especially those that give back to and strengthen community. She currently facilitates short-term respite stays, with a focus on creating restful atmospheres that offer a retreat haven away from the world for every guest. Jody has loved ones within her circle experiencing varying degrees of hearing loss and is honoured to serve as a member of the CICADA Qld team.

THANK YOU, RICK AND JUDY

CICADA Queensland would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Rick Thornton and Judy Raxworthy for their dedicated service as Area Coordinators on Bribie Island and the Fraser Coast.

Rick and Judy have been instrumental in building local support networks, welcoming new members, and sharing their lived experiences to help others navigate life with hearing implants, in their regions.

We're incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and care they have given over the years. While they may be stepping back from their roles as coordinators, their contributions continue to resonate across the CICADA community.

Thank you, Rick and Judy, from all at CQ!



Queensland Leading the Way with Auracast

For people with hearing implants, enjoying clear sound in public spaces has often meant relying on loops, receivers, or asking for extra equipment. These systems work, but they can be awkward and inconsistent. A new technology called Auracast is set to change that, and Queensland is already at the forefront of making it a reality.

Auracast is part of the latest Bluetooth LE Audio standard. Instead of the old one-to-one Bluetooth connection, Auracast can broadcast high-quality sound from a single source to an unlimited number of receivers. In a theatre or a stadium, that means people can simply “tune in” to the audio feed directly through their implant processors, hearing aids, or even earbuds. The result is inclusion by design, with no special gear, no extra steps, just seamless access to the sound everyone else is hearing.

While the promise of Auracast is enormous, not every hearing device is ready to connect just yet. That’s where the **Audeara Audio Transceiver** comes in. The small, versatile device acts as an intermediary for implant users, allowing them to access Auracast audio today for people who don’t have access to an Auracast product. Importantly, this device doesn’t require an app or complicated setup. Users can simply bring it with them to a venue, connect their implant accessories or headphones, and immediately access the broadcast audio being shared.

Queensland organisations are ensuring this new accessibility isn’t just a future idea but a current lived reality. CICADA QLD has been raising awareness among implant users and advocating for broader adoption, helping people understand how Auracast can improve daily life. Venues are beginning to follow suit, with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) positioning itself as an early adopter. And earlier this year, Audeara transformed Brisbane’s Normanby Hotel into the world’s first Auracast-enabled pub, showing just how versatile and transformative the technology can be.

Reflecting on the launch of Audeara’s Auracast-enabled products, Audeara CEO Dr James Fielding said: *“This technology is about helping people feel connected to the moments that matter and to the world around them.”* His words highlight the real promise of Auracast. It delivers not only clearer sound, but also stronger connection, inclusivity, and confidence for people who have too often been excluded from shared experiences.

With CICADA QLD advocating, local innovators like Audeara creating practical solutions, and major venues like QPAC ready to lead, Queensland is setting the pace for Auracast adoption in Australia. As global platforms like Google Maps prepare to highlight Auracast-enabled locations, people will soon expect this kind of access everywhere. Queensland has the chance not only to keep up with this change, but to define what inclusion looks like for the rest of the country.

Wish it sounded like it used to?

Rediscover the joy of listening with sound tailored to you.



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WHO WE ARE

CICADA Qld Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers, supporting people with hearing loss and hearing implants for over 30 years.

VISION STATEMENT

To ensure all Queenslanders of all ages affected by hearing loss, considering hearing implants, or currently using hearing technology, along with their families, are supported and informed.

MISSION STATEMENT

To work collaboratively with hearing professionals and the industry to promote and provide awareness, rehabilitation support, and opportunities for social engagement in a community encompassing all people with hearing loss, current hearing implant users, those considering hearing implants, and their friends and families.



Would you like to host a CICADA Qld group in your local area?

Can you spare a few hours a month to hold a regular MeetUp? We are looking for friendly, outgoing people with a passion for supporting people with hearing loss,

hearing implant users and prospective cochlear implant recipients.

Good with technology? We need volunteers to assist with social media, graphic design, digital content and technical assistance. Are you a business with a venue or room suitable for our MeetUps? If any of the above apply, please contact us.



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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information in the CICADA Chorus is accurate, it's intended as a general guide only and should not replace personalised advice from your hearing health professional.

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