

Your Hearing News

www.hearingbalance.com.au Phone: 1300134327

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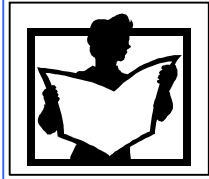
Hearing & Balance Centre
St Vincent's Hospital

Hearing & Balance Double Bay
Shop 4, Goldman Lane, Double Bay

HBC News

Tinnitus Update

HBC Audiologists attended a seminar hosted by the Australian Tinnitus Association.



Guest speakers were Prof Pawell Jastreboff and Dr Margaret Jastreboff from Atlanta. It was Prof Jastreboff who developed the neurophysiological model on which Tinnitus Retraining Therapy is based. The Jastreboffs brought us up to date with some new developments in the treatment program.

A 3 day training course on the theory and practical application of TRT was also held. This was attended by our Psychologists Jennifer Chu and Maria Harasymczuk. Although both have experience in the delivery of TRT (Maria having attended Jastreboff's course 10 years ago!) they jumped at the opportunity to bring themselves up to date with this treatment. TRT has been clinically proven to be effective in reducing tinnitus and managing hyperacusis. HBC has based much of its tinnitus treatment program on the principles of TRT for the past 15 years. Using a team approach, with Audiologists and Psychologists, we have found that many patients obtain a significant reduction in their perception of tinnitus.

Balance News

The Neuro-Otology Society of Australia (NOTSA) had their 20th Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting in November. Invited speakers included Prof Ji Soo Kim from Korea, Dr Kamrin Barin from the USA and many experts in the diagnosis and treatment of inner ear problems. Our own physiotherapist, Kathee De Lapp, presented on the use of the Wii-Fit system to record, analyse and treat balance problems. NASA astronauts also use Wii-Fit to determine their flight worthiness in landing the space shuttle!

More Staff News

In November, Sue, our receptionist from the Double Bay clinic, left to pursue other adventures. Sue has been with us for 2 1/2 years and will be missed by all our regular Double Bay clients. We also welcomed Stella Condos in October who has joined us as receptionist at the St Vincent's clinic.

Happy Christmas and
Best Wishes for 2011 from the
Hearing & Balance Centre

The Hearing & Balance Centre
will close at 5pm on 23rd December
and re-open at 10am on Wed 5th January.

We encourage you to check your hearing instruments now.

- Clean your aids thoroughly. If in doubt about how to do this call us for help.
- Make sure your batteries are fresh. Replenish supplies if needed.
- Store your hearing aids in a clean, dry container. A hearing aid dehumidifier is ideal.

To replenish supplies give us a call or go to our online shop at
www.hearingbalance.com.au



Festive Season Specials

- **Back by popular demand** - buy two packets of batteries or wax filters and get one free - available until 30 January 2011.
- **Free Hearing Screening Test:** do you know someone who should have a hearing test or do you think your own hearing has changed? To book a free screening test give us a call on **1300 134327**. Available until 30 January 2011

Facts about the Office of Hearing Services (OHS)

Clients who have a pensioner concession card or other eligible social security benefit are entitled to a free hearing assessment and hearing aids from the Office of Hearing Services. The Hearing & Balance Centre is a registered provider of these services.

At HBC clients can choose from a range of hearing instruments from a variety of manufacturers. There are a large number of free instruments available or clients can choose to top up to hearing aids with more advanced features. Clients are entitled to have their hearing aid needs reassessed every two years or earlier if there is a clinical need.

If you were fitted with hearing aids more than 12 months ago and you feel you are not achieving optimal benefit or satisfaction with them you can also come in for a hearing aid adjustment without needing to apply for a new Hearing Services Voucher.

Phonak Spice Generation – Our audiologists always get excited when Phonak announces the launch of a new hearing aid. Their latest range is called the Spice Generation which includes. There are two new models - Ambra and Audeo S. These attempt to tackle those really noisy situations where you just want to focus on a single voice. We all agree this is a brilliant concept - if it works. Although the jargon they have used is confusing - too many Zoom words (see below), these hearing aids are worth a try. With a number of sophisticated processing strategies the Spice range has tried to combat background noise in ways we have not seen to date:



StereoZoom - By combining information from 4 microphones (2 on each hearing aid) StereoZoom creates a highly focused front beam to highlight a single voice in a crowd.



UltraZoom This is the foundation of Phonak's beam forming features. They state it is the first and only dual-microphone system to incorporate a unique noise cancellation algorithm designed specifically for directional applications.



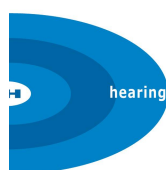
Auto ZoomControl - automatically tracks and focus' on speech, regardless of the direction, enabling understanding without the need to face the speaker. This is ideal for in the car!

The Spice Generation of hearing aids is now available at the Hearing & Balance Centre. For more information call and speak to an Audiologist on 1300 134327 or email us at www.enquiries@hearingbalance.com.au.



Newborn Screening and the early identification of hearing loss in Australia.

About one baby in every 1,000 is born with a hearing impairment. In most cases there is no family history of hearing impairment. Five states and territories now offer hearing screening to all new born babies. Screening is carried out days after birth with the use of either Auditory Brainstem Testing or Otoacoustic Emissions testing. Both tests are reliable, painless and quick to administer. Early intervention leads to better language and educational outcomes.



HBC Audiologists Give you Choices

So many new hearing aids have been released over the past few months, it's impossible to review them all here. For example there's Oticon's Acto Pro Acto and Chilli range, Phonak's Spice range, Unitron's Tandem for single sided hearing loss, Widex Clear440 with its Dex wireless accessories and the list goes on.

This presents a good opportunity to remind our clients that the Hearing & Balance Centre is an independently operated clinic: An increasingly rare situation in today's world. Although it may not be immediately apparent, a rapidly growing number of hearing aid clinics in Australia are owned by hearing aid manufacturers. HBC is not, nor do we have exclusive contracts with any manufacturer.

The directors of HBC are Audiologists and support the view that Audiologist's should be independent providers, giving client's access to whatever device can most effectively meet their individual needs. The degree, configuration and type of hearing loss varies as much as people do. It follows that not everyone's needs can be met by one brand of hearing aid.

Clever Ideas Award

We can't believe no-one has thought of this before! Widex have come up with a gimmick that we think is very clever and useful. Their latest hearing aid (the Widex Clear 440) has a lost partner alarm. If one of your hearing aids falls off your ear, a tone signal and a spoken message will sound two times in the other hearing aid to let you know! And to top it off, the lost aid will flash to let you know where it is. Congratulations to Widex for such a practical idea.



tandem.
Better together

A NON-SURGICAL SOLUTION FOR SINGLE-SIDED HEARING LOSS. Individuals suffering from unilateral hearing loss (single sided deafness) are affected by a multitude of difficulties. Previously we have featured a surgical solution to single sided deafness i.e. the Bone Anchored Hearing Aid made by Cochlear. Unitron have introduced a non-surgical solution, the Tandem hearing system.

Tandem™ is a new wireless CROS/BiCROS hearing instrument designed to overcome the difficulties associated with hearing in only one ear. The system comes with a remote control which can be used to fine tune the hearing aids to the environment.

CROS - the transmitter hearing instrument (HI) microphone located on the poor ear picks up sound from that side of the head and sends it to the receiver HI on the better ear to hear.

BiCROS - the transmitter hearing instrument microphone located on the poor ear picks up sound from that side of the head and sends it to the receiver located on the better ear. Since the better ear also has some hearing loss, a second microphone on the receiver picks up sound at the better ear and amplifies all sounds to help you hear more effectively.

The Tandem comes in two levels of technology - the Tandem 4 and Tandem 16. Both are now available at the Hearing & Balance Centre.

unitron.
connect

