

soundscape

NEWSLETTER OF THE OTICON FOUNDATION IN NEW ZEALAND

RESULTS OF GRANTS



This issue of Soundscapes features the results of a number of the Oticon Foundation grants that were allocated last year. All of these inspiring stories show how just one grant can benefit a large number of people, whether through improving the quality of life for rest home residents through better working hearing aids, to

enabling an itinerant teacher of the deaf to provide greater support to her students.

If you have a project that could advance our understanding of hearing impairment and the solutions available to hearing impaired New Zealanders, consider applying to the Foundation for a grant. Applications close on 31 March – check out the back page for information on how to apply.

Karen Pullar, Secretary to the Trustees

Meet the trustees

The trustees of the Oticon Foundation are passionate about improving the lives of hearing impaired New Zealanders. They include New Zealanders Tim Olphert, David Underwood and Graeme Hall, and senior management from Oticon Denmark, Niels Jacobsen, Kenneth Sachse and Steen Bindslev.

Chairman Tim Olphert has been involved with the Foundation since he helped set it up in 1976.

“In those days, there was little awareness about the needs of hearing-impaired people, and issues affecting those who were hard of hearing were not in the public arena. By

establishing the Foundation, we hoped to create greater awareness in the community and to do something to help people with hearing loss.”

A barrister who heads two independent immigration authorities, Tim has a long history of community involvement, including being a former chairman of the Order of St John and the Samaritans helpline service.

Business advisor David Underwood and chartered accountant and company director Graeme Hall are also involved in community activities. David is a trustee of the Enterprise New Zealand Trust, a former board member of Downstage Theatre and

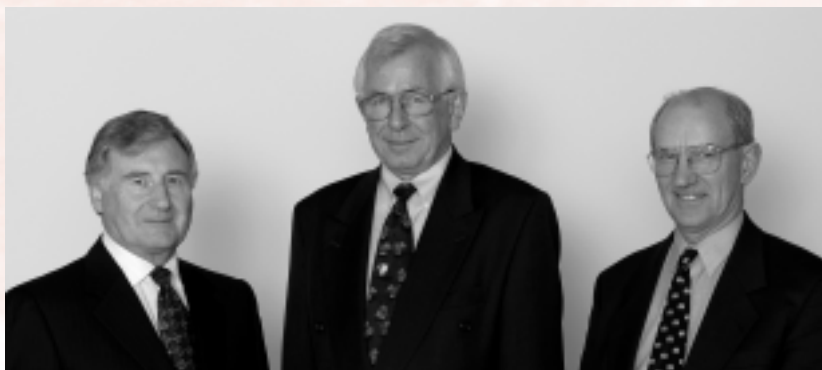
former treasurer of the Royal Forest and Bird Society, while Graeme is the chairman of a number of boards and agencies in the education and health sectors.

The New Zealand trustees meet on a regular basis to discuss the Foundation's financial and administrative activities, and once a year review grant applications and decide how grants will be allocated. The Danish trustees are kept informed of the Foundation's activities and have input into the decision-making process.

“We consider every application we receive to assess how it will assist New Zealanders with hearing loss,” says Tim. “While we can't support every application, we do encourage anyone who has a scientific or study project or who needs equipment for their school or community facility to apply and tell us how their venture will help improve the lives of hearing-impaired New Zealanders.”

Tim says that he and the other trustees get a lot of joy from

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Oticon Foundation New Zealand Trustees Graeme Hall, Tim Olphert and David Underwood.

Meet the trustees

continued

knowing the Foundation is making things happen and helping people.

“From Oriole Wilson’s research into classroom acoustics which has the potential to help not just hearing-impaired but all school children alike, to installing hearing loop systems to allow people with hearing loss to rediscover the pleasure of going to the theatre, it’s very satisfying to know that our work is benefiting others,” he says.

Graeme Hall says that being involved in the Foundation “gives me an appreciation of all of the great work that is going on in the community, satisfaction in being able to help groups to do more of it, and recognition of how much more there still is to do”.

Manawatu elderly benefit from care kits

Rest home residents in Manawatu have been hearing better recently, following the donation of hearing aid care kits provided by the Oticon Foundation and the Manawatu Hearing Association.

The kits were distributed to 12 rest homes in the Palmerston North and Feilding areas and included equipment for rest home staff to test and clean residents’ hearing aids.

Manawatu Hearing Association field officer Lynne Donaldson says the kits were put together in response to a demand noticed in rest homes.

“It means rest home staff can help residents maintain their own hearing aids so the aids function well and the residents enjoy better hearing, and an



Karen Pullar, Manawatu Hearing Association president Don McLean and Brightwater Centre charge nurse Heather Bewick with one of the 12 maintenance kits donated to rest homes in Manawatu. Photo: from The Guardian

improved quality of life,” Lynne says.

Research has shown that a lot of hearing aid users have hearing aids that are not working properly. “Often the reasons are simple, such as flat batteries or wax, and are quick to fix if people know what to check for,” says Foundation Secretary Karen Pullar.

Haka highlight of summer camp

New Zealanders David Crowhen, Michelle Nazzar and Nicola Robertson were among 46 audiologists who attended the Eriksholm Summer Camp in August last year, funded by grants from the Oticon Foundation.



Nicola Robertson, Michelle Nazzar and David Crowhen in front of the New Zealand stand at the summer camp’s international evening.

The camp, held at Oticon’s research centre in Denmark, aims to provide an opportunity for young audiologists to gain and exchange knowledge. The programme includes lectures and workshops along with a range of social events.

David Crowhen applied to attend the camp to further his understanding and knowledge so he could provide a better service to his patients.

“The camp’s main theme of fitting hearing solutions to meet the individual’s unique needs is very applicable to my everyday work. The lectures and workshops provided lots of useful information and tips that I’ve been able to put into use with the patients I have contact with.

“I also valued the opportunity to gain

a greater understanding of the complex process involved in researching and developing new hearing aids.”

A highlight for most of those attending the camp was the international evening where people from each nationality served local delicacies, dressed in national costume and performed traditional songs or dances.

“Our stand featured the All Blacks and offered a taste of Minties, manuka honey and Marmite,” says Michelle Nazzar. “We also taught everyone how to do the haka, which they all found heaps of fun.

“The camp was a great opportunity to meet other audiologists from around the world and to share experiences to learn what others are doing. It was also encouraging to discover that our training and audiological services here in New Zealand are among the best in the world.”

Study grant assists children in remote areas

Rotorua Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf Cathy Worthington feels a lot more confident assisting the students she has contact with to handle problems with their hearing aids after attending a course on Educational Audiology and Sensory Aids at Sydney's Renwick College in July last year.

Cathy received funding from the Oticon Foundation to assist her to attend the week-long course, which also completed her Masters of Special Education in Sensory Disability. She says she wanted to attend the course to provide greater practical support for the deaf and hearing-impaired students in her area who often have limited access to audiologists.

"Most of my students live a long way from Auckland where their hearing aids and FM systems are serviced. As a result, I am the school's first port of call when anything goes wrong with the students' equipment or when teachers or parents

have questions about how effective a particular child's hearing aid is. I'm neither an audiologist nor a hearing aid technician but am increasingly called upon to help out with these equipment-related issues."

The course at Renwick College covered hearing disorders, hearing testing and diagnosis, hearing aid fitting and the range of modern hearing solutions that are available.



Cathy working with one of her students.

"The course has made me a lot more knowledgeable and confident about trouble-shooting common problems, providing advice on better ways to use systems, and upskilling teachers and parents on how to do daily checks and to use and care for new devices."



Cathy Worthington

Cathy says she also enjoyed meeting other New Zealand Teachers of the Deaf who attended the course and having the opportunity to discuss common problems and issues.

"And because of the Oticon Foundation's support for my study, I have made a special effort to share what I have learnt with other colleagues and mainstream staff in my region."

Stars in their eyes

Hearing impaired star gazers will benefit from an Oticon Foundation grant to install a hearing loop at the Phoenix Astronomical Society's recently expanded observatory in the Wairarapa.

The Society has grown rapidly since it was first established five years ago, with membership growing from 25 to 500 during that time. The Society applied for a grant to install the hearing loop so that all of their members as well as school children and other members of the public don't miss out on being able to attend lectures, films and other events at the observatory.

"It isn't until you suffer from hearing loss yourself that you realise what it's like for other people who have difficulty hearing in crowded public places," says Society President Richard Hall. "We want to make the facility and the activities we are planning available to as many people as possible."

The hearing loop will assist people wearing hearing aids to cut out background noise. Even the most advanced hearing aids find it difficult to manage background sound and reverberation in busy public places.

"With the hearing loop, hearing aid users

simply need to switch their aids to "T" to tune in to whatever is being broadcast over a speaker's microphone," says Richard. "We'll be letting people know there is a loop available at the observatory to encourage them to visit and attend our events."



Phoenix Astronomical Society's clubrooms.

Oticon Foundation Grant Recipients 2002

AUCKLAND SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY SUPPORT GROUP
Books on hearing impairment for their library

DAVID CROWHEN
Eriksholm Summer Camp for Young Audiologists 2002

DEAF ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND)
Reprint of Information Kits

DEAF ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (CHRISTCHURCH)
Working with deaf in a counselling relationship workshops at New Zealand Association of Counsellors conference

DEAF ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (NELSON)
Workshops for Deaf parents with normal hearing children

PATRICIA GILLBANKS
CHARGE conference, Melbourne

GROUP SPECIAL EDUCATION (ROTORUA)
Sound Distribution System

HEARING ASSOCIATION (MANAWATU)
CareKits for rest homes in Palmerston North

HEARING ASSOCIATION (WELLINGTON)
CareKits for rest homes in Wellington

HEARING ASSOCIATION (TIMARU)
Portable Screening Audiometer

HEARING ASSOCIATION (SOUTHLAND)
FM Systems for Southland Hospice

KELSTON DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE, MICHAEL HEENEY
Research Project on Sound Distribution Systems in Schools

KELSTON DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE, MARGARET PIHAMA
Study Grant – Masters of Special Education (Sensory Disability)

KELSTON DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE, EILEEN RAYNEL
Study Grant, Masters of Special Education (Sensory Disability)

KELSTON DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE, CATHY WORTHINGTON
Study Grant, Masters of Special Education (Sensory Disability)

METHODIST MISSION NORTHERN
Staff training in working with hearing impaired patients

MT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Sound Distribution System for MacLean Centre

NATIONAL AUDIOLOGY CENTRE
Professor David Luterman, keynote speaker at workshops in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington

NAYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
Sound Distribution System

MICHELLE NAZZER
Eriksholm Summer Camp for Young Audiologists 2002

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION FOR DEAF CHILDREN INC.
Materials for Information Kits

NEW ZEALAND PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE
Workshops on hearing and acoustics at Windley School

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
Hearing loop for Wairarapa clubrooms

PORIRUA COLLEGE
Literacy Project

TE KURA KAUPAPA MAORI O MANAWATU
Sound Distribution System

CHRISTINE AND CHARLES TODD
CHARGE conference, Melbourne

WAIRARAPA DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
To print "Nose Blowing" stickers to use in child education

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
Research into effectiveness of Personal and/or Soundfield FM for children with cochlear implants

VAN ACSH DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE, JULIET CLARKE
Study Grant, Masters of Special Education (Sensory Disability)

WHITIREIA COMMUNITY POLYTECHNIC
Personal FM Systems for hearing impaired students

how to apply for grants

Applications must include:

1. The name and address of applicant
2. If relevant, the organisation represented and position of applicant within the organisation, plus copies of latest balance sheet and annual report
3. Details of expenditure involved
4. Information about funding you are seeking from any other organisation for this or supplementary projects
5. Overseas travel details where applicable. Please state whether an applicant/s will be returning to New Zealand permanently after the visit is completed
6. How the hearing impaired in New Zealand will benefit from your project/research
7. Information about how you will publicise your project and its results. (We would like you to seek as wide an audience as possible)
8. Details about how you will promote the Oticon Foundation if your application is successful

Applicants applying for project funding should also include:

1. Title of project
2. Summary of project (not exceeding 150 words)
3. Qualifications of applicant relevant to project
4. Aims and design of project, and expected completion date

Applications for grants other than project funding should also include:

1. Details of grant requested
2. Reasons for request

Successful applicants will be required to:

1. Submit a report (five copies) within three months of completion of the project
2. Disseminate results or information from the project to as wide an audience as possible, such as to the bulletins and newsletters of professional groups, hearing impaired and Deaf groups
3. Acknowledge the Oticon Foundation in any reports or publications about your project/research

deadline

Grants are allocated annually.

Applications (together with five extra copies) should be made no later than 31 March in any year to:

**The Secretary
Oticon Foundation in New Zealand
C/- PO Box 9128, Te Aro
WELLINGTON
Phone: 0800 OTICON
E-mail: info@oticon.org.nz**

www.oticon.org.nz