

ALL EARS



EARS inc.

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NEW OFFICE OPENING

Ears Inc recently opened its new office on the premises of Trinity Uniting Church, 172 Doncaster Road, Balwyn North, Melbourne. Professor Graeme Clark kindly attended our AGM in May and helped David Pither, EARS Inc. President, to officially open the new office. The new space means we now have somewhere more suitable to store donated equipment before it is sent out on projects and to accommodate volunteers. Please note that our postal address has not changed and will remain as Suite 302, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000, Australia. We currently have one wonderful volunteer in the office one day a week (thank you Susie). For the time being visitors should please make an appointment prior to arriving at the office. Hopefully we will one day have enough volunteers to staff our office full time.

TAJIKISTAN

Ears Inc has recently donated a portable audiometer with freefield speakers and a tympanometer for the use by expat Speech Pathologists working in Tajikistan. They wish to set up a screening program and eventually a hearing aid clinic. We are keen to hear of any audiologists or audiometrists who might be interested in this part of the world. Please note that foreigners may be regarded there with suspicion and it is difficult to get visas. Please contact David Pither on (03) 9654 5511 or audicare@mira.net

Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

EGYPT



DAVID GIVING OTOSCOPY TRAINING TO SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH DONATED OTOSCOPES

In May this year David and Sheryl Pither, EARS Inc President & Treasurer respectively, visited Egypt. During their stay they saw a client in Cairo who was a relative of a Melbourne man. The young man, after working from 8am to 5pm travelled about 150kms for the evening "consultation" and then travelled back overnight to work the next day. He had a severe loss of hearing and David fitted him with a high power Phonak analogue aid after cleaning the wax from his ears. Impressions were taken and a second aid and new earmoulds have been sent over to him since David's return.

David and Sheryl also visited a Coptic hospital in a poorer area of Cairo and met with an ENT surgeon who is working there on a voluntary basis. His only means of conducting

hearing tests were with a tuning fork. A fairly old portable audiometer has now been delivered to the hospital by David but although it has a speech circuit and microphone it is without bone conduction.

The couple then travelled to a city over 200km's south of Cairo to visit a school for the deaf which is run for both Coptic and Muslim children. Three volunteers were trained in basic audiometry on an audiometer David, on behalf of Ears Inc, donated to the project. The group have been praying for an audiometer for some time and are now in need of a tympanometer, as is the Hospital in Cairo.

As a result of this visit David is considering taking a small team to Egypt in February/March 2010 but is waiting on advice from Egypt on what they consider to be the best time in those months to visit.



THE LIMITED ENT EQUIPMENT AT THE HOSPITAL

Anyone wanting to go or anyone who might have suitable equipment to donate to the project please contact David Pither on (03) 9654 5511 or audicare@mira.net. We need a better audiometer for the hospital and any ENT equipment. A visit to the Pyramids and also the Valley of the Kings might be an incentive. Whilst walking around the city at 11pm with our Egyptian hosts felt quite safe, the groups activities would be detailed to the security forces in Egypt for monitoring purposes. Specific identifying information has been withheld from this article.



SHERYL WITH A VIEW OF THE PYRAMIDS FROM THE HOTEL WINDOW

FROM THE DR..... Donna Carkeet and the university students have been working hard this year in the Dominican Republic. Six of the students graduated in May from the two year audiometry course and have found employment. Two of the students were the staff already working at the hospital clinic. Miguel continues to work with Donna in the clinic however Joel has decided to pursue opportunities elsewhere. The hospital was also able to employ two of the new graduates. The other graduates have all found employment at hearing aid clinics in the city. The end of July marked the official completion of our approved AusAid project in the Dominican Republic and five years of Donna residing there. The frustrations of expanding the hospital clinic and establishing the university course to provide appropriate training and level of qualifications for Dominican audiometrists have been endless. Donna must be congratulated, and God praised, for all that has been achieved in the last five years. We are currently in the process of reviewing this project and preparing a new project which will cover the next three year period. Donna feels called to continue this work in the DR at present.



Just over a year ago we heard from Sevanaia Ratumaitavuki (known as Tuks) in our newsletter when he was a student in the audiometry course. Tuks has now graduated and provides the following update. Tuks is Fijian and will eventually be returning to Fiji with his wife (an ophthalmologist) to start a hearing clinic there. EARS will continue to support Tuks in Fiji and he will act as our representative on the ground there.

Hi everyone...once again. I am Sevanaia Ratumaitavuki (Fijian), an audiology student of Donna here in Dominican Republic. At the moment I am no longer writing as a student but I am an Audiometrist working in an audiology clinic in the capital city, Santo Domingo. I completed my course about three months ago and got this job straight after my final day in the course. Working in this clinic for the last three months has been good experience for me and now what I learnt through Donna is part of my daily job life. I have never regretted taking up the audiometry course. I would like to take this opportunity to thank EARS.Inc and Donna for teaching me audiology. We are so lucky to be trained under an experienced audiologist like Donna. I do pray that God will keep on blessing every project EARS sets up in the future. I thank God for setting up an organisation like this that has been a blessing to not only patients but to people like me. Sevanaia Ratumaitavuki, EARS Inc Rep,Fiji.

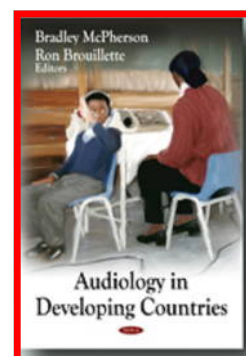
WEBSITE

The EARS Inc website at www.earsinc.org has been in an unfinished state for some time. EARS is very grateful to the wonderful volunteer who has offered to revise, review & update it for us.
Thank you John!

AUDIOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

BRADLEY MCPHERSON & RON BROUILLETTE, EDITORS

This new book addresses the challenges faced by audiologists in developing countries. It gives an overview of the specific barriers to quality hearing health care in developing nations and the ways in which those barriers can be overcome. Thank you to Brad for donating several copies of this book to EARS Inc and our projects! Copies may be ordered from www.novapublishers.com





PAPUA NEW GUINEA 2009

By PETER BARTLETT, VICE-PRESIDENT

In February I made a short trip to Lae in Papua New Guinea to support the Hearing and Speech Clinic of the Morobe Special Education Resource Centre. This is the same project Rebecca (my wife) and I supported when we and our two children lived in Lae for half a year in 2004/05. Erick Honenu, the healthworker we trained in 2005 is still at the Clinic. He has been conducting hearing tests and fitting a dozen people with hearing aids during my visit.

The goals for my visit this year were to train staff and/or volunteers in hearing screening to restore school screening programs; to provide resources, encouragement, leadership, training & accountability in order to promote Hearing & Speech Clinic sustainability; and to improve the strategies and level of communication between MSERC and her sponsors and supporters, including EARS.

I was able to train five other MSERC staff who have Community Based Rehabilitation or Inclusive Teacher support roles. The training covered skills in otoscopy, tympanometry and audiometry to enable them to carry out a school-based hearing screening and ear disease prevention program for the remainder of the year. We started the school screening while I was there and tested about 80 children at a local school (Markham Road Primary School) with a quarter of them having some ear or hearing issues requiring follow up. The new trainees were very keen and quite capable so will be a good support to Erick. Foreting Yang was trained by us in 2005 to make earmoulds for hearing aids and continues in this role, allowing us to fit half a dozen people with hearing aids during my visit.



For those reading for the first time.....

EARS Inc. is an Australian based interdenominational Christian organisation comprising audiologists, audiometrists and allied health professionals. EARS Inc. is dedicated to serving, and addressing the needs of those affected by hearing impairment and deafness, who live in the developing world, irrespective of nationality, race, gender or religion.

The work of EARS Inc. aims to provide ongoing training and support to local workers or health clinics, hospitals, deaf schools and mission groups in developing countries, to empower them with the necessary skills and equipment to rehabilitate people with hearing loss. The aim is to help people help themselves and others.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you can assist us with any of the below needs or just want more information please phone the **EARS Inc office on +61 3 9654 5511** or contact **Judith Francis at j.r.francis@bigpond.com**.

- ♣ **Financial donations**, particularly to support & keep Donna in the Dominican Republic.
- ♣ **Volunteers** are needed:
 1. Audiologists, audiometrists & hearing aid technicians who would love to travel to provide training overseas.
 2. A Marketing Director/Co-ordinator to assist with fundraising.
 3. Administrators to man our new office in Balwyn, Melbourne. We currently have one wonderful volunteer providing assistance one day a week but we would love to have someone there everyday.
- ♣ EARS is keen to receive **second hand hearing aids** (behind-the-ear and body-worn aids) which are still in good working order, so that they can be refitted overseas. We also take hearing aids that appear dead but have useful parts including in-the-ear hearing aids.
- ♣ Donations of **second hand equipment** (audiometers, tympanometers, insertion gain machines, ultrasonic cleaners, otoscopes etc.) in good working order are also most highly valued and appreciated.