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CARING FOR ALL YOUR HEARING PROBLEMS

THE HEARING CLINIC

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Newsletter Spring 2004

Living with Hearing Loss

“Though endowed with a lively and passionate temperament and even fond of the distractions offered by society, I was soon obliged to seclude myself and live in solitude. Yet I could not bring myself to say to people: “Speak up, shout, for I am deaf.” So forgive me if you ever see me withdrawing from your company, which I used to enjoy. For there can be no relaxation in human society, no refined conversations, no mutual confidences.

I must live quite alone and may creep into society only as often as sheer necessity demands.”

In this touching excerpt from a letter by Beethoven to his brothers Carl and Johan, we can hear the isolation, the sadness, the passivity, and the stigma that are hearing loss. Fortunately, for most hearing impaired people, things are not quite as bad. Were he alive today, an array of devices would offer the hope of hearing and understanding. However, we need to consider hearing loss as more than just the loss of a sense or organs of sound reception. We need to blend the use of sensory aids with the emotional, cognitive, social and often spiritual losses that hold those with hearing problems back from experiencing a fuller life.

It takes an average of seven years for someone with a hearing loss to explore the help available. Over 16% of those with hearing aids do not wear them and an even smaller percentage use assistive devices. Another 16% of people who try hearing aids reject them. Only 60% of those wearing hearing aids are satisfied with them. Surveys show that half of all hearing aid users would like more information about how to make the most of their instruments.

Those with a hearing loss must find a lifestyle that will allow them to live as a person with a hearing impairment, and not as a hearing impaired person.

Society, starting with family and friends, must provide a supportive atmosphere.

We must recognize the impact of hearing loss on our lives, develop the skills necessary to stay in conversation, evolve a new social identity and be confident in it.

We must acknowledge the hassle, be proactive about intervention, appreciate the benefits on a realistic scale and just get on with it!

OTHER EXCITING NEWS



The Team at The Hearing Clinic has been busy! In our last newsletter, we reminded you about our name change and announced that Philippa Round had joined us on a permanent basis as our 2nd Audiologist.

In this edition of our Newsletter we have even more exciting news!

For months now we have been attempting to spread our wings a little further, which was partly the motivation behind employing a second audiologist, but had some difficulty in securing a location. Now, it has all come together in a big way. Not only are we opening satellite rooms at the new upgraded Kenilworth MediCross, but we have also taken over a practice in Tokai, previously known as House of Hearing/Kim Kennedy/Lauren Matz, which also includes rooms in Fish Hoek.

Understandably, this would mean that between Francis, Philippa and Janet, there is going to be some changes made in terms of when who would be where. For the time being, the Kenilworth, Tokai and Fish Hoek rooms will all be run as satellite rooms on a part time basis. Wynberg will still be our "Home Base" consulting room, which will be open everyday as before and offer all the same services. We thought to do the following:



Wynberg will be open every weekday from 8h30 to 17h00. Janet will be managing things from here and deal with all accounts. Francis will be in every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and Philippa will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Kenilworth rooms will be open every Monday from 9h00 to 17h00 and Philippa will be holding the fort there. The newly renovated MediCross is easily accessible from Rosmead Avenue, which is an extension of Milner and Belvedere Roads. There is ample parking and the rooms are on the ground floor, which makes for easy access. Consultations will be by appointment only and made through our Wynberg rooms on **021- 797 7948**.

Philippa will be at the **Fish Hoek rooms every Friday from 9h00 to 17h00**. These rooms are on the first floor, number 103, of the Vallyland Shopping Centre, in Upper Recreation Road. There is lots of parking and some good shopping, but should you not be able to manage stairs, we would prefer you to make use of the Tokai or Wynberg rooms.

Francis will be in Tokai every Tuesday, all day, and every Thursday afternoon. The rooms are also easily accessible from Tokai Road and are situated in the Tokai Village office block. As you turn into Vans Road, the signage to the ground floor rooms is clearly visible to your right with the entrance to the Blue Route Mall on your left. There is currently a receptionist on duty at the Tokai rooms, who can receive hearing aid repairs, help with batteries/accessories and make **all bookings for Tokai and Fish Hoek on Tel. 021 - 7155623**.

Confused? Contact us in Wynberg on 021-797 7948.

All the consulting rooms are fully equipped with a soundproof booth, the appropriate testing equipment and all the necessities to supply and attend to hearing aids. All the same services that we have been providing in Wynberg will be available at the satellite rooms:

- 📍 Diagnostic Audiology
- 📍 Hearing aid accessories and repairs
- 📍 Hearing aid assessment, trials and fitting
- 📍 Swimplugs and noise protection

Remember:

- ➡ The importance of hearing aid maintenance/regular checking of tubes, moulds and ears
- ➡ Have your hearing aids serviced before the guarantees expire
- ➡ Check the replacement cost of your hearing aid with us for insurance purposes
- ➡ Hearing aids need lots of TLC and for optimum benefit should be used daily

Francis Slabber
Audiologist

& Janet Steer
Acoustician

& Philippa round
Audiologist