



Services at Falls of Sound:

Hearing assessments
Hearing aids & repairs
Counselling related to
hearing impairment
and tinnitus
Noise plugs
Swimming plugs
Musician plugs
Assistive listening
devices

Trading hours:

Mon-Thurs

9:00am-5:30 pm

Friday: 9:00am-4:30 pm

by appointment only

Thursdays after

5.30 pm and

Saturday

Dear readers,

The mornings are getting cooler, winter is arriving and so is our new newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your patience and understanding when I was sitting in front of you with my sleepy eyes and wondering thoughts. Being a mum of a little baby girl can be very rewarding but is also a demanding role.

As your audiologist, I feel it is my duty to inform you of the latest technology, so in this newsletter we will be talking "beyond hearing aids". FM systems, loop systems and telecoils, which you have probably already heard of. Now is the time to look at them in more detail! So we have organised a special day for more information and trials. Hope to see you soon.

Katia Peeters

Assistive Listening Devices

There has been an increasing trend in recent years in the installation of Assistive Listening Systems (ALS) in cinemas, theatres, public meeting rooms, churches and other centres where groups of people gather.

The installation of an appropriate ALS provides a means of delivering clear sound at adequate listening levels to people with a hearing loss who are affected by distance from the source (e.g. speaker or vocalist), background noise and reverberation (echo). It helps them to understand speech and enjoy music and other significant sounds during movies, stage performances and other presentations. Many people using an ALS with their own hearing aids will usually hear better in these situations.

There are three ALS wireless technologies available:

- Frequency Modulation (FM) Listening Systems (explained below).
- Audio Induction Loop Systems (will be explained next newsletter)
- Infra-red Listening Systems (will be explained next newsletter)

What is FM?

What is the benefit for you?

FM is a wireless communication technology which is very common today for many different applications, including baby monitoring systems and walky-talkies. An FM system to improve understanding in noise works on the same principle. The transmitter microphone sends the speaker's voice via radio waves, wirelessly to a miniature receiver worn by the listener. The receiver can be worn alone by someone with near normal hearing or coupled to the person's hearing aid.

Even with the best hearing instruments, most hearing-impaired people notice that they have difficulty hearing in certain situations such as using a telephone, watching television, during a business meeting, or in a restaurant. Using a wireless communication system (FM system) makes communication in all these difficult situations much easier.



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“ Easy link and Mylink in conjunction with my hearing aids has done a great deal of good for me. By using this device I am able to listen very clearly to the speech addressed in a meeting, even if I sit in the last row. I realise how much I have missed all these days. I am able to listen clearly to TV programmes from any distance in the room. And even if I have to go to another room in the middle of a programme, I can continue to listen clearly.” Mr. A S from Chapel Hill. Full story available on website: www.fallofsound.com.au

How does it work?

Understanding in background noise : Depending on its microphone mode, the transmitter picks up one or several voices and suppresses unwanted background noises. This increases the clarity and audibility of individual voices.

Understanding over distances: The voice is picked up by the transmitter and transmitted wirelessly to the hearing instrument. This bridges the distance between talker and listener, giving the best speech understanding

Connection to audio sources and telephone: Audio sources (TV, CD, PC, MP3, etc.) and telephones can be connected to FM transmitters with the help of the audio input or Bluetooth link for mobile phones.

Would you like to learn more or trial the system?

FM info day 18th of July 2007

(RSVP by 4th of July)



New Technology:

**Centra Active
from Siemens**

This easy to wear hearing device has some great new innovations. It is water resistant (to sweat, moisture and debris) so you can wear it while performing any kind of activity. Rechargeable batteries: plug it into its system and it will charge overnight.



SoundSmoothing™ technology – instantly recognizes and reduces annoying noises like rustling paper, clanging dishes, and breaking glass, while preserving the sound of voices and conversations.

DataLearning™ – learns based on your volume changes, and automatically adjusts itself to match your preferences.

e2e wireless™ communication – keeps your instruments properly balanced at all times, so you can easily and naturally tell where sounds are coming from. Also makes instruments easier to use by enabling you to control the volume and program of both instruments at the same time.

Most Advanced Adaptive Feedback Cancellation – reduces or eliminates the high-pitched whistling common with many other hearing instruments.

Captions can assist you!

When I got a phone call from the Queensland Theatre Company about their captioned performances I thought it was a great opportunity to be able to follow an on stage dialogue without struggling to hear! Queensland Theatre Company is presenting two captioned performances for three plays in its 2007 Season, including Premier’s Drama Award winner *The Estimator*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Heroes*. The spoken dialogue and sound effects will be transcribed and displayed on an LED screen placed to the side of the stage. The captions will be cued live from the theatre to keep in time with the dialogue on stage. More info available in the Falls of Sound clinic, or for bookings phone QTIX Groups on 07 3840 7466 or email groups@qtix.com.au and ask for the special ‘captioned’ ticket price. Limited seats available.

To access closed captions at home you will need either a television with a Teletext capability or a digital set-top box. Teletext is available on all free-to-air channels via page 801 of the Austext service. To access this page, take the following steps:

1. Select the channel you wish to watch.
2. Press the teletext/text button on the remote control (often depicted as a TV set or square with lines across it to represent text).
3. Press 8-0-1. Provided there are captions available on the particular program you have chosen, then the captions will usually be displayed on the TV screen within a few seconds.

**Assistive Listening
Systems in public
places**



Do you know where loop systems are available in your area? If so, let us know and we will add it to our list to be published in next newsletter