

Hear things
differently



DECEMBER 2020

Newsletter



From the Chief Executive

Kia Ora

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2020.

The COVID-19 crisis has been an unprecedented event this year. The lockdown forced us to delay surgeries and revert to an emergency service, but we are now providing a full range of services at Alert Level 1.

Since our last newsletter the general election has been and gone, with a positive outcome for the Southern and Northern Cochlear Implant Programmes. Before the election, Labour pledged to increase funding for adult cochlear implants to \$28 million, over four years.

If implemented, this will increase the national number of adult implants from 40 to 120 per year.

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Talk to us

As always, we would welcome any feedback on the content as well as your input into future issues. Email us on newsletter@scip.co.nz



"The gift of sound is the best gift we could have given Owen."

OWEN GAUDIN

Cochlear implants a "modern miracle" for Blenheim toddler

Owen Gaudin has higher than average listening skills for his age, is a great story teller, and loves dancing to music. He is also profoundly deaf.

The two-year-old Blenheim toddler had surgery for bilateral cochlear implants when he was just six months. Owen's mum Kate White says the technology is a "modern miracle".

"He now has age-appropriate speech and continues to come out with new words and sentences – and he is only two. It is phenomenal that modern technology has gifted him this," says Kate.

"It has been the hardest and the most rewarding thing we have had to go through. When I found out that Owen was profoundly deaf I cried all the way home thinking he was never going to say mum or dad, or hear our voices. He can now say a lot more

than that, and he continues to blow us away.

"I still get emotional talking about it. The gift of sound is the best gift we could have given Owen. His progress is incredible, he comes back from preschool full of stories and we are so proud."

Owen's assessment and cochlear implant surgery was provided by the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP). He continues to receive speech and language therapy from SCIP's Christchurch team.

Kate and her fiancé Hayden organised a 24-hour rowing challenge in October, raising more than \$10,000 for Loud Shirt Day – the annual fundraising campaign for SCIP and The Hearing House. You can read more on page 4.

Cochlear implant helps Alec in successful career change to law

At 31-years-old, Alec Nash decided to follow his passion and study law at Victoria University. While a law degree is challenging in itself, he is thankful he had his cochlear implant throughout the journey.

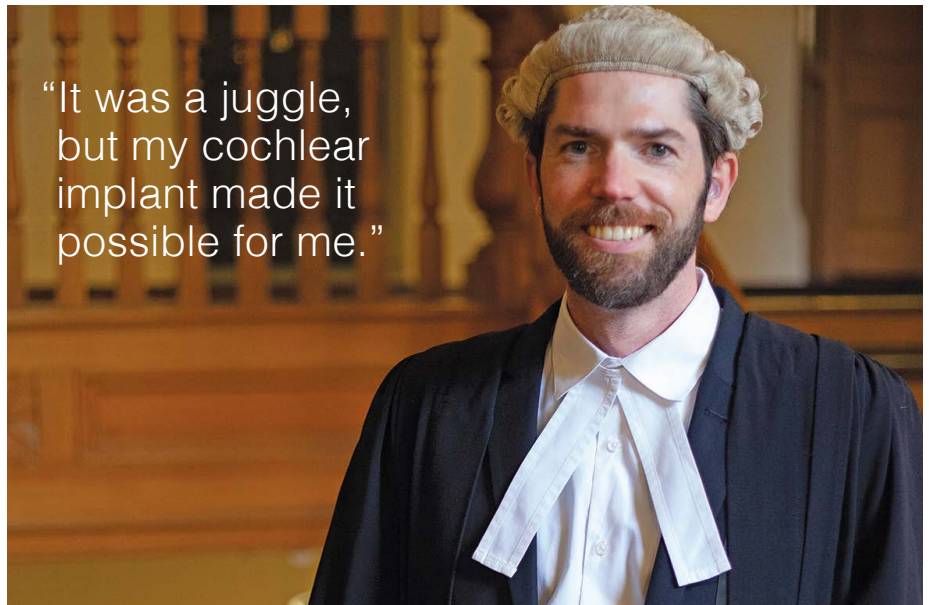
Alec successfully completed his degree in 2020. He believes he is the first person in New Zealand to have completed a law degree and subsequently be admitted to the bar as an enrolled barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand after having received a cochlear implant. Alec aims to specialise in employment law.

Alec was a toddler when his parents noticed his hearing was affected. He was fitted with hearing aids, which helped to some extent, but school was still a challenge.

"It was difficult to grasp the understanding of what the teachers were saying anytime they turned their backs to the blackboard," Alec says.

He received a cochlear implant in his right ear in 2004 after suffering a head

"It was a juggle, but my cochlear implant made it possible for me."



ALEC NASH

injury, which wiped out the rest of his hearing at 20-years-old.

"After this incident my hearing loss met the threshold to receive an implant and it's been life-changing ever since," says Alec, who was previously working as a Senior Advisor for consumer issues in a government agency.

"I've had my implant for 16 years and it played a big part in giving me the confidence to study for a law degree

in 2015. University was a challenge as lecturers would walk around as they spoke, while I was taking notes and trying to listen to them. There is a big difference between hearing someone speak and understanding what they are saying. It was a juggle, but my cochlear implant made it possible for me."

The Southern Cochlear Implant Programme has supported Alec with adjustments and processors during the past 14 years.

From the Chief Executive

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Labour has formed a government on their own and we expect that they will remain committed to their pre-election pledge. If implemented, the increased funding is likely to take affect from 1 July 2021. In preparation we have sent the newly announced Minister of Health and Associate Ministers of Health a briefing that you can read here: <https://bit.ly/2TRvbvx>. We hope to meet with the Minister soon.

Our funding year runs from July to June and we recently published our Annual Report. We have found that our recipient numbers continue to

grow, which means an increasing number of peoples' lives are being transformed by cochlear implant technology. Our Annual Report can be downloaded from the news section of our website <https://scip.co.nz/scip-annual-report-2019-20/>.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. This year has presented many challenges but the Government's pledge for increased funding means it is ending on a high note!

Ngā mihi nui

NEIL HESLOP
Chief Executive

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are more than **200 New Zealand adults on the waiting list** for a cochlear implant (172 in SCIP's region)
- The Government currently **funds cochlear implants for 40 adults** every year (20 in SCIP's region)
- Cochlear implants are **not covered by health insurance**
- The **cost of a single cochlear implant is \$50,000**



Fundraising update

I hope everyone is looking forward to the holiday season and saying goodbye to what has been a difficult year. It's a good time to reflect on the important relationships the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP) has with individuals and businesses.

SCIP is fortunate to have a small number of donors who give generously each year to help fund a cochlear implant for the growing number of adults who remain on the waiting list. Their life-changing gift does more than restore hearing – it transforms lives.

Our ongoing partnership with Mutual Credit Finance (MCF) is greatly appreciated. The company continues to support SCIP through annual donations and in other non-monetary ways. MCF is a supporter of our annual Loud Shirt Day fundraising campaign and allocates space to SCIP on its advertising billboard in Christchurch.

Part of my role as Fundraising Manager is to speak with people and groups about SCIP and the work we do. In 2020, this has included addressing the National Lions Convention, presenting to Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, an Inner Wheel Club and the ACC Hearing Loss Unit. These presentations provide an opportunity to communicate the

benefits and importance of cochlear implants to a wider audience.

To encourage our patients and their whānau to feel more connected to our organisation, we have created a supporters database. This lets us keep in touch with our clients on what is happening with our fundraising efforts, advocacy and other relevant news or updates. This is an 'opt in' programme, and if you'd like to be part of the supporters database, please contact me.

SCIP is also working on a new bequest programme that will be ready to launch in the next few months. If you would like to be part of the focus group that will help inform the development of this programme, please contact me.

Warm regards,

BELINDA VAN DER MONDE

Fundraising Manager

Belinda.vandermonde@scip.co.nz
or 027 355 3042.

Staff changes

Our wonderful Christchurch receptionist **Helen** will be retiring in February 2021, after nearly ten years with the organisation. Many of you have been looked after by Helen, and she will be sorely missed. She has promised to pop in for lunch every now and then! We wish you a happy and healthy retirement Helen.

Sarah Corry will be leaving our Wellington clinic at the end of the school year to take up a new position as an Adviser on Deaf Children (AODC) with the Ministry of Education. We will be sorry to see Sarah go and thank her for all of her hard work. We wish her every bit of success in her new role.

Welcome to the world Edwin!

Wellington audiologist Joseph and his partner Pip welcomed a new baby in late October. Edwin weighed in

at six pounds four ounces. Warmest congratulations to Joseph and his family from the SCIP team.



BABY EDWIN AND BIG SISTER BEA.

LOUD SHIRT DAY 2020



Loud Shirt Day 2020

Loud Shirt Day (the annual fundraising campaign for the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme and The Hearing House) was held on Friday 23 October, and was a huge success!

Businesses, schools and individuals throughout the country celebrated the day by wearing their loudest shirts and donating money to a great cause – helping children and adults with hearing loss listen and communicate with spoken language.

Special mention and thanks must go to Kate White and Hayden Gaudin from Blenheim. Hayden and at least 30 other New Zealand rowers (including Olympic gold medallist Joseph Sullivan) participated in a 24-hour rowing challenge – raising more than \$10,000 for Loud Shirt Day. The event, called 'Owen's Day', was inspired by Kate and Hayden's two-year-old son Owen. Owen was born profoundly deaf and received bilateral cochlear implants when he was six months old. You can read more of his story on page one.

If you didn't get the chance to donate to Loud Shirt Day, you still can at: <https://www.loudshirtdaynz.org>



TOP: WELLINGTON SCIP TEAM

MIDDLE: FORSYTH BARR CHRISTCHURCH OFFICE

BOTTOM: CHRISTCHURCH SCIP TEAM

Joseph studies medicine with help of SCIP scholarship

Joseph Kulathinal's cochlear implant was part of his inspiration to study medicine at university.

The 18-year-old from Wellington, who was born with congenital bilateral hearing loss, says being at the receiving end of medical science and technology was a big motivating factor behind his chosen field.

"I am extremely grateful for the help that was given to me and this has motivated me to impart the same help and service to others," he says.

Earlier this year Joseph was awarded the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme's (SCIP) tertiary education scholarship, to the value of \$5000. Sponsored by investment firm Forsyth Barr, the scholarship is awarded annually to a cochlear implant recipient enrolling in a tertiary-level training programme or study.

"When I was awarded the tertiary scholarship, the first thing I did was tell my parents, and they were overjoyed," Joseph says.

"This meant that I would not have to stress about fees and I could focus solely on studies, which I have been very thankful for."



JOSEPH KULATHINAL

Joseph received a cochlear implant when he was five-years-old.



"I really owe a lot to my cochlear implant. Since I got it I went through speech therapy, which allowed me to learn and speak English. I had to start school at the age of seven. But now I am in my first year of uni, socialising and making new friends, learning new material and having a great experience."

Joseph was accepted into the Health Sciences First Year course at the University of Otago, with the aim of completing a Bachelor of Medicine degree. He has used the scholarship to buy textbooks and pay residential fees at Carrington Hall, where he lives in Dunedin.

Cantabrians – time to get out the running shoes!

The Southern Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP) is the chosen charity for next year's Ashley River Ramble event, which is hosted by the Rangiora Lions Club.

The 11 kilometre, family-friendly event is for walkers, runners and cyclists. It begins at Waikuku Beach in North Canterbury and ends at Ashley Picnic Grounds near Rangiora. All ticket proceeds will be donated to SCIP.

The 2021 event is being held on **Sunday 28 February** – rain or shine! If you live in Canterbury, then please support the Lions (and SCIP) by participating. There will be spot prizes on the day.

Please be aware that if you choose to cycle or push a pram, there is the odd fence that needs to be climbed over so only off-road buggies recommended. No dogs permitted.

WHEN

Sunday 28 February
(9am-12pm)

WHERE

Waikuku Beach Oval

TICKETS

\$20 adult
\$10 child/student

If you would like more information, please contact ashleyriverramble@gmail.com or visit the event's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ashleyriverramble/>



OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

We have provided cochlear implants to:



250
CHILDREN

We have provided cochlear implants to:



738
ADULTS

In total we have provided:



1,192
COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

On the waiting list there are:



172
ADULTS

Our locations

We have clinics in both Christchurch and Wellington.

In addition to this, we also provide visiting clinics to a catchment area that includes all regions south of Taupo in the North Island, and the entire South Island.



Wellington

Christchurch

Christchurch

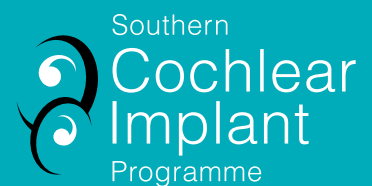
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