

NEWSLETTER

The Hearing Association Hamilton And Districts Branch



In This Issue

We're hopping into Easter celebrations. This edition is packed with updates and exciting news: join us for our upcoming AGM with all the details you need, stay informed about the national Emergency TXT number for the deaf and hard of hearing, and get an update on the services offered by our new audiologist.

We're also sharing highlights from our recent rest home visit at Awatere Care Suites, introducing a new way to support our work, and celebrating World Hearing Day. Plus, get a first look at the new state-of-the-art BNZ Theatre and discover how it's making performances more accessible for everyone.

And of course, we're bringing some festive fun with a delicious Easter recipe and an Easter egg hunt competition you won't want to miss.



NEWS UPDATES



MEMBERS



EVENTS

2026 AGM

You're Invited!

**Hamilton Hearing Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date: 20 April | **Time:** 12:30 PM
Location: 27 O'Neill Street,
Claudelands, Hamilton

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by:
✉ Email: info@hamhearing.org
☎ Phone: 07 852 5725 (ask for Adél)

We look forward to welcoming you! ❤️



DID YOU KNOW?

If you're Deaf, have hearing loss, or have difficulty using the phone, the 111txt service allows you to contact emergency services by text message instead.

- ✓ Available 24/7
- ✓ Free to use
- ✓ Confidential and easy to access

How it works:

- ◆ You must register first to use the service:
<https://www.police.govt.nz/111-txt/how-register-111-txt>
- ◆ You'll receive a confirmation once registered
- ◆ When you need help, simply text 111 and a trained advisor will respond

World Hearing Week

**Text Service for
Deaf & Hard of
Hearing People**

Text 111 REGISTER FIRST | 24/7

✓ Available 24/7
✓ Free to use
Confidential and easy to access access

Hamilton Hearing Association

This service helps make emergency support more accessible for everyone ❤️



Phone: 07 949 6809
Mobile: 021 280 3625



Hello!

My name is Melissa Mesina, I am the Director and Clinical audiologist of Hamilton Hearing.

Hamilton Hearing is an independent clinic, not owned by any hearing aid manufacturer. This gives us access to a wider range of quality hearing aids than most clinics. We set no limits in offering the top products that suit you best, based on your level of hearing and lifestyle, at very competitive prices. We offer relaxed and unrushed appointments, and seamless continuity of care.

With over 20 years of clinical experience, we deliver comprehensive, personalized hearing care using best-practice guidelines and the most effective diagnostic equipment.

Our main services include; free funding advice, free basic hearing checks, full diagnostic hearing assessments, hearing aid fitting, hearing aid repair/maintenance, hearing and rehabilitation support for adults, tinnitus assessment and ear micro suctioning (ear wax removal).

We are now using one of the Hearing Association rooms to help provide support to our community. Please feel free to contact us if you need any assistance.

I look forward to welcoming you at my clinic.





Easter Closure

We will be closed from Friday 3 April 2026 and re-open Monday 13 April 2026

Reminder of our office hours:

Monday	9.15am to 2.00pm
Tuesday	9.15am to 2.00pm
Wednesday	9.15am to 2.00pm
Thursday	9.15am to 2.00pm
Friday	Closed

We often do work amongst the community, the office might at other times be unattended. Please call ahead or make an appointment if you need specific assistance/hearing aid maintenance or cleaning

Reminder to renew your membership

All current members will need to complete a Membership form to renew their memberships.

Please go to our website: <https://hamiltonhearingassociation.org/>

OR

Scan the QR code



OR

Complete the form on the last page of the Newsletter and drop it in our letterbox.

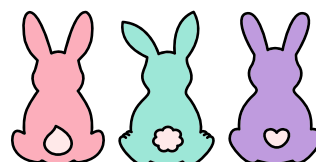
Membership fees 2026:

\$38.00 a person \$55 per couple Student \$22.00

Bank details for online payment

Hamilton Hearing, Westpac 03-1556-0065744-00

Please quote your surname & initials eg; Smith J S



REST HOME CARE

We recently visited Awatere care suites to talk to residents and staff about the services we deliver to residents in rest homes. It was great to meet new faces and to reconnect with old friends and we enjoyed letting all residents know that we are here to help with their hearing aid and hearing concerns. We introduced our new Audiologist Melissa and it was good to let everyone know that we offer comprehensive care when it comes to hearing. We invite residents and staff of other rest homes to get in touch with us so that our services can be made available in your homes too.

What We Offer

Our caring team can visit your rest home to provide:

Hearing aid cleaning, maintenance, and minor repairs, Ear-wax checks and safe micro-suction, Advice on hearing protection and device care, Delivery of hearing aid batteries and accessories to your home care and do demonstrations of assistive listening devices like amplified phones and alarms

Who It's For

Rest homes and Lifestyle villages, our Rest Home Care Visit service ensures you still receive the hearing support you deserve—comfortably and conveniently.

How to Book

📞 Call: 07 852 5725

✉ Email: info@hamhearing.org

🏠 Visit: 27 O'Neill Street, Claudelands, Hamilton 3214

🕒 Office Hours: Mon, Tue & Thu 9:15am–2 pm



Adél Hattingh (Office Manager), Melissa Mesina (Audiologist), Dorothy Lovell (Community Liason)

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Support Our Mission with a Gift - Or leave a Lasting Legacy

As a valued member of our community, you play a vital role in helping us fulfil our mission. Your generosity has already made a meaningful impact - but if you're looking for a way to deepen your support, we invite you to consider making a donation or leaving a bequest to our organisation.

Make a Donation

Your contribution - no matter the size - helps us to maintain our services and continue to provide for the deaf and hard of hearing in our community.

We are a voice for the deaf and hard of hearing, and provide unbiased support and understanding to enable our Members to enjoy life to the full within our community.

We educate our younger generation on the importance of protecting their hearing.

One-time or recurring donations can be made easily and securely

Leave a Legacy

By including our organization in your Will or Estate Plan, you ensure that your values will live on and continue to make a difference for years to come. A bequest is a powerful way to leave a lasting impact, and it's easier to arrange than you might think.

Whether you choose to give today or plan for tomorrow, your support helps sustain and grow the work we do.

If you would like to discuss your options or learn more about how to make a bequest, please don't hesitate to contact us at the Hamilton Hearing Association.

Thank you for standing with us, and believing in the future we're building together

MAKE A DONATION



The Hearing Association is fully reliant on funding to continue doing the important work we do, apart from serving the community we are also trying to freshen up our workspace. We would greatly appreciate any contribution towards our work and workplace. If you would like to support us you could scan the below QR code with your mobile phone and this will take you to our give a little page or you could make a donation directly into our bank account.

Thank you for making a difference



WORLD HEARING DAY

On March 3rd we celebrated World Hearing Day — an annual awareness campaign recognised globally on 3 March to promote hearing health and the prevention of hearing loss.

Our National President Dr Lisa Seerup was featured in The New Zealand Herald speaking about World Hearing Day and the need to raise awareness that hearing loss affects people of all ages, not just older adults.

Dr Seerup says “Hearing loss is often thought of as a condition that affects only older adults — but this perception is outdated. Hearing loss is increasingly affecting people of all ages across New Zealand.

Current estimates suggest that around one in four New Zealanders experience some degree of hearing loss, a significant rise from previous decades. While age-related hearing changes remain common, growing exposure to everyday noise — including recreational sound, personal audio devices, concerts, and workplace environments — is contributing to hearing issues among younger generations as well.

Why This Matters

Hearing loss doesn't just impact the ears. It can affect: Communication with family, friends, and colleagues
Mental wellbeing and social connection
Workplace safety and performance
Overall quality of life

Because hearing changes often happen gradually, many people are unaware of the decline until it begins to interfere with daily life.

Prevention and Early Action”

Dr Seerup emphasizes that “hearing health should be treated as a lifelong priority. Key steps include:

- Practicing safe listening habits
- Using hearing protection in noisy environments
- Scheduling regular hearing checks
- Seeking early support if changes are noticed

By raising awareness and encouraging proactive care, we can reduce the long-term impact of hearing loss in our communities.”



HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Information, support, and advice for people with hearing loss and their families.
- Hearing aid batteries and consumables available for purchase.
- Personal assistance with hearing aids, including minor repairs and maintenance.
- Demonstrations of assistive listening devices — such as amplified telephones, alarm clocks, and doorbells.
- Ear care services, including earwax removal every Thursday in our rooms.
- Rest-home visits for those unable to come to us.
- Community education and hearing protection talks, including sessions for schools.
- Resources and information on hearing health, prevention, and funding options available on our website.



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

We would like to thank our recent funders for their continued support



Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua
LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



A NEW THEATRE FOR HAMILTON

Vice President of Hamilton Hearing Association Allan Gauntlett reached out to the venue to find out more about the technology available for the hard of hearing community.

BNZ Theatre (Hamilton) — A new World-Class Venue with Next-Level Acoustics and Accessibility

The BNZ Theatre (previously the Waikato Regional Theatre) is Hamilton's brand-new, purpose-built performing arts venue that opened in January 2026 with worldwide-standard design and technology. It features a 1,300-seat flexible auditorium capable of hosting theatre, opera, dance, concerts and large-scale touring productions.

Acoustics Technology — Built for Exceptional Sound

One of the standout features of the BNZ Theatre is its innovative acoustic design, which serves both performers and audiences across the hearing spectrum:

Adaptive Acoustic Elements

The theatre includes an acoustic halo and an adjustable orchestra shell that help to shape and enhance natural sound for unamplified performances such as symphonic music, vocal ensembles, and theatre.

These elements support clarity and balance, ensuring that sound is evenly distributed throughout the space, whether it's a whisper in a dramatic scene or the full resonance of an orchestra.

Distributed Sound System

A distributed acoustics sound system works together with the architectural design to deliver consistent audio quality to every seat, minimising "dead zones" and reflections that can muddle speech or music.

Acoustic-Friendly Materials

Thoughtful use of materials — including timber panelling and structural elements designed to work with sound — contributes to natural warmth and clarity within the auditorium.



Enhancing the Experience for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Audiences

The BNZ Theatre goes beyond headline acoustic performance — it includes specific accessibility features recognising that sound experiences vary across audiences:

Hearing Assistance Systems

The venue is equipped with a Hearing Aid Loop (also called a hearing loop or audio induction loop). This system transmits audio directly to hearing aids with a “T-coil” setting, reducing background noise and making dialogue, music, and announcements clearer for people who use hearing aids.

Seating & Sightline Considerations

Close seating recommendations for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing help audiences be physically positioned to see performers’ expressions and visual cues, which are essential complements to the sound experience.

Inclusive Front-of-House Support

The theatre promotes accessibility through trained staff at the box office and front-of-house to assist with specific needs relating to sound, seating, and general navigation, helping Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons enjoy performances comfortably.

Why the Acoustic Approach Matters

Good acoustic design isn’t just about louder sound — it’s about clear, intelligible, and richly textured audio that supports:

Speech clarity in theatre and spoken word events — a critical accessibility factor for audiences who rely on lip-reading or clearer sound cues.

Reduced audio masking — making it easier for hearing-aid users to focus on speech and music without distortion or background interference.

Confidence and comfort for all audiences, especially those for whom standard venue acoustics can be overwhelming or inaccessible.

By combining cutting-edge acoustic architecture with specific assistive technologies like hearing loops and thoughtful seating strategies, BNZ Theatre is setting a new standard for inclusive performance spaces in Aotearoa — one where people with different hearing needs can experience the arts with dignity and enjoyment.

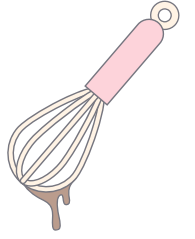
The infra-red hearing assist units are available at the box office for use with headphones or existing hearing aids.

We welcome our members that attend the theatre to write to us about their experiences when attending the brand new venue.

Visit <https://www.bnztheatre.co.nz/> to find out more about upcoming shows and productions.



fun filled easter egg cheesecake recipe



1. Strawberry Cheesecake Filling 🍓

Sweet and fruity with a cheesecake vibe.

Ingredients:

4 oz cream cheese, softened

2 tbsp powdered sugar

2 tbsp strawberry jam or puree

Optional: crushed freeze-dried strawberries
for topping

Instructions:

Mix cream cheese, sugar, and strawberry
puree until creamy.

Fill eggs, top with mini eggs, and sprinkle
some crushed freeze-dried strawberries on
top.

2. Lemon Cream Cheese Filling 🍋

Bright, zesty, and spring-ready.

Ingredients:

4 oz cream cheese, softened

2 tbsp powdered sugar

1 tsp lemon zest + 1 tsp lemon juice

Optional: tiny pastel sprinkles

Instructions:

Beat together cream cheese, sugar, lemon
zest, and juice until smooth.

Fill the halved chocolate eggs and top
with mini candy eggs.

💡 Extra tip: Use a piping bag or a small zip-top bag with the corner snipped off to fill the eggs
neatly—especially useful for these fun, colorful flavored fillings.





competition time

Be in to win a mystery prize

How many easter eggs can you spot in this newsletter?

Email your guess to info@hamhearing.org

Correct guesses will go in the draw to win and the winner will be announced in the next newsletter



EAR HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL EAR CARE

Ear Microsuctioning / Wax Removal

Donnell Our Ear Nurse is in the
Clinic on Thursdays from 09:00am
to 5:00pm
To book call 07 852 5725

Adults: \$55.00

Members: \$50.00

Children 18 and under \$45

ACC Funded Hearing Aids: \$20

Registered War Veteran Affairs: No Charge

Home/Rest Home Visits: Enquire



Membership Form

Joining The Hamilton Hearing Association, connects you with a supportive community passionate about improving the lives of those with hearing loss. As a member, you'll gain access to regular newsletters, exclusive events, and discounts on various services.

Your membership also plays a vital role in strengthening our advocacy efforts for better resources, support, and awareness for the hard of hearing.

To become a member or renew your membership for 2026 please complete this form and return it to us by post or do it online by scanning the QR code provided below:

Personal Information

First Name :

Last Name :

Contact No. :

Address :

Email :

Type Of Membership

*Choose your type of membership

Single Membership \$38

Couple Membership \$55

Student Membership \$22



Term & Condition

This membership is valid for a year

Membership includes exclusive events for members only

Membership is not automatic
