

# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT HEARING

**“When you lose your eyesight, you lose contact with things. When you lose your hearing you lose contact with people” – Helen Keller.**

Writer: **Dirk de Moore – Audiologist**

Do you know that around the world an estimated 800 million people have a hearing problem? That is one in every six – the same number of people who own a car.

Hearing loss is projected to increase to one in four Australians by 2050.

The number of Australians who are hearing impaired is increasing because of long term exposure to excessive noise in the workplace or social settings and as a natural result of ageing.

A federal government study from 2010 showed that 13 per cent of Australians aged between 18 to 35 are receiving a yearly noise dose from clubbing, concerts and sports events that exceeds the maximum allowed under workplace laws. The researchers found that the average noise in night clubs was 98 decibels and often reached 100dB – enough to damage hearing after just 15 minutes.

If you want to know if that power drill or that leaf blower you use could be damaging your hearing, go to Too Loud? at [www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au)

Quick facts:

- Access Economics released a study in 2013 showing that the cost of hearing loss every year to the Australian economy was 11.75 billion dollars.

- 73 per cent of people with hearing loss reported their relationship with their family improved since they started wearing a hearing aid.

- The three middle ear bones are the smallest bones of the human body and they don't grow as you get older as they are fully formed when you are born.

- According to Leonardo da Vinci the perfect length for a human ear should be exactly one third of the length of your face.

Do you know that the reason we use fire crackers to wake the famous SunLoong dragon at Easter time here in Bendigo is because he is apparently very deaf.

And finally the blue whale is not only the largest animal that is known to have lived on earth it is also the loudest. The call of a blue whale can reach an amazing 188dB, much louder than standing next to a jumbo



jet at take-off. In good conditions, blue whales can hear each other up to 1600 kilometres away. Which reminds me of the one about the marine biologist telling his friends about recent research into whale songs. “Some whales can communicate at a distance of more than 1000km” he said. “What the hell would one whale say to another 1000km away?” asked his sarcastic friend.

“Well were not absolutely sure”, the expert said. “But we think it sounds something like, can you hear me now?”

**Hearing is important to a healthy relationship, a good social experience and more broadly your quality of life.**

**For more information or to make an appointment contact the Bendigo Hearing Clinic on (03) 5442 5800 or visit [www.bendigohearingclinic.com.au](http://www.bendigohearingclinic.com.au)** ■

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Frank – Lamb producer, Collingwood supporter, hearing aid user

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