

Cochlear Hearing Solutions

Cochlear Implants

Captures sound using an external speech processor and sends it to the inner ear via an internal implant placed in the cochlea.



- ① Behind the ear processor
- ② Cable & Coil

Bone Conduction Implants

Re-routes sound via bone conduction, sending it directly to the cochlea, bypassing the middle ear.



For more recipient stories

www.c-a-network.com

For more information on Cochlear solutions

1800 620 929 (Toll free in Australia)

0800 444 819 (Toll free in New Zealand)

customerservice@cochlear.com

www.cochlear.com

Cochlear Awareness Network (CAN)

CAN is a team of volunteers who are recipients of Cochlear hearing solutions, or parents of recipients. They proactively educate the community and health professionals on how Cochlear hearing solutions can dramatically improve the communication ability and quality of life for people impacted by a significant hearing loss.

Cochlear Awareness Network Volunteer

Carol Beaumont

Cochlear Implant Recipient

Tel: 07 3269 9268

Email: carol.beaumont@gmail.com

www.c-a-network.com



Cochlear Awareness Network



Cochlear Awareness Network



Carol's story

Sensorineural deafness

"Taking part in the hearing world."

Hear now. And always



Meet Carol

I would like to share the story of my journey from silence, back to the world of sound – thanks to Cochlear.

When I was 3 to 4 years of age because I hadn't learned to speak, Mum took me to the specialist, who told her I would not learn unless I had a hearing aid. So I was given one. With that I learnt to talk so quickly I didn't need speech therapy. I didn't like wearing it, hating it because it made me feel different.

I attended mainstream schools, with visits once a term from the Glendonald school for deaf. But I did so well that these visits were discontinued. I never really made allowances for my hearing loss. My first job was at a library. I really loved it but was asked to resign due to the perception that I was having difficulty at the front counter.

Life continued and I didn't think much about my hearing. One year I contracted Ross River Virus and a really bad cold a few months later. I noticed then that I could barely hear even when my hearing aid was turned on.

Fortunately I recovered but found I was having

more and more bad hearing days. I became increasingly reliant on an assistive listening device; I couldn't have a one-on-one conversation without it. I thought this was due to the age of my hearing aid and trialled a new one, but it didn't help. I went to the GP, who said I was likely to go totally deaf and referred me to a specialist who confirmed my hearing was declining, but told me I heard *'too well'* for a Cochlear Implant and nothing could be done to help me.

Once again on holidays while camping in 2000, I suffered an allergic reaction. I did recover but found I could no longer understand my family without my hearing aid. It got to the point where, even with my aid, I couldn't have a conversation with someone across my lounge room. To hear them I had to sit on the floor at their feet. I avoided softly spoken people. I could not use the phone and I had to get someone else to make appointments for me. I hated music, because it was a constant reminder of what I could no longer hear. Unfortunately most people didn't understand I was grieving for my loss.

One day my neighbour told me about a Cochlear Implant surgeon. Thus began my

journey back to the world of sound. I walked into his surgery and the first thing he said was: *'You need help'*. Testing was long and arduous, but when the evaluation was complete, it was confirmed I was a suitable candidate for an implant. The operation went smoothly and I went home the next day. Switch-on was interesting. In a few minutes the noise had settled down and people sounded like modified versions of themselves. I could actually understand them.

At home, the first thing I heard was a dripping tap. I wandered around trying to find it, but I couldn't. Perplexed, I went back to the family room and something made me look up. It was the clock ticking!! A sound I'd never really heard before – it is still a favourite sound. I have discovered a whole new range of wonderful sounds. I have found that my greatest hearing success is with softly spoken people. I have regained the ability to hear on the phone at work, I can hear the full range of sounds, and once again I can enjoy music.

"I am so happy – it has given me my best hearing ever."