

Better Hearing Australia

The National Spotlight

Placing the Focus on Hearing Loss

LIP READING CHALLENGE EDITION



Better Hearing Australia (National) Inc.
www.betterhearingaustralia.org.au

December 2014
Edition 4



Better Hearing Australia National Spotlight— Edition 4, December 2014

(LIP READING EDITION)

*Welcome to this Lip Reading edition of Better Hearing Australia's National Spotlight .
This edition contains results and survey feed back from the Lip Reading Competition*

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Wishing all Spotlight readers a
Very Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year



WEST AUSTRALIA BRANCH REPORT

Since the moving to the historical Cottlesloe site at the start of this year, the Better Hearing Australia WA Branch (BHAWA) has enjoyed more stable accommodation than at any time in recent memory. We appreciate the assistance of the WA Foundation for Deaf Children in making the move so successful. This year the Bunbury BHA Committee decided to associate with the WA Branch after the new incorporation was completed in Perth. Bunbury members gave a warm welcome to Margaret Furphy who visited Bunbury to attend Cynthia Dutton's lip reading class in August. It was very impressive that three Bunbury members are taking the lip reading teacher's course. Margaret said that she learnt so much that she recommends BHA members include other classes when they are travelling.

The [Lip Reading App](#) and [Fire, Emergency for Deaf and Hearing Impaired](#) DVD are still in production. In November, WADA - entertained and educated us with [Alicia in Wondeafland](#). See article and photos in this edition. Our multi-talented President, Julie Edmonds, narrated the charming tableaux that depicted the exclusion experienced by people who are deaf and hearing impaired.

BHAWA members were very sad to hear that our inspirational President, Julie Edmonds, was taken ill early in December. Julie has contributed an enormous amount at the WA and National level. We wish her a speedy recovery and urge her to take her time before picking up her conductor's baton again. Contact details as follows:

BHA GOLD COAST, QLD BRANCH REPORT –

We have been saddened to hear the very hard working Julie Edmonds has not been at all well & we wish her a speedy recovery.

We have completed a successful 2014 Year enjoying Christmas parties for our members. These were fun.

We are only a small, happy group and due to our wonderful Tutor, Irma Maierhofer we hold our Hearing Loss Management class each Thursday with lots of laughter & learning. Irma offers a varied lesson. Whenever Irma needs to take a break our original Tutor, Mea Lee Khoo takes over with yet another style of teaching.

So we are very fortunate with our Tutors.

This year we have re-structured our Office Management style. We have done away with our costly, monthly, phone & internet account

As from 2015 we will not longer have our annual fundraising BBQ's & Community raffle ticket sales. We realised our Insurance costs were outstripping the fundraising income from these events.

We still have fundraising but this is done in conjunction with our social, Monday night dinners at the local, Nerang RSL club where \$5 of each meal is donated back to our group. This is a good fun way of raising funds and includes different members. We have been able to do this because we are fortunate to share the Gold Coast City Council building now leased to ABLE, a charity group for the Deaf/Blind, as our meeting place and share some office space also. They have permanent staff there, 5 days a week.

Sadly this year we lost the service of our Tweed Heads Tutor, Margaret Attwood due to family issues. Fortunately her class "pupils" were able to move to an Australian Hearing class that was also being conducted in Tweed Heads.

Our new phone no. is via ABLE, 5 days per week & is 07 5571 0166. Leave a message & we will return your message.

Our email address has not changed & is bhagold-coastinc@gmail.com

Our mail address has not changed: P O Box 3667, Australia Fair, Southport 4215

Our President is Irma Maierhofer

Secretary/Treasurer is Kerry Campbell kerry-derek@bigpond.com

And the winners are.....

No	Name	Branch	Percentile
1	Carol McGhee	TASMANIA	100%
2	Gay Jennings Judy	CANBERRA	99%
3	Greenfield	CANBERRA	97%
4	Dr Mary Allen	Adelaide	97%
5	Graham Parry	Sydney	96%
6	Sunny Stewart Irma Maier-	Sydney	94%
7	hofer	Gold Coast	94%
8	Janet Siljac Geraldine	Brisbane	93%
9	Plumb	Central Coast	90%
10	Linda Dwyer Ann-Marie	CANBERRA	90%
11	Chandler	Sydney	90%
12	Sue Daw Georgina Bir-	CANBERRA	90%
13	chall	CANBERRA	87%
14	Patricia Con-	TASMANIA	87%
15	nolly	TASMANIA	87%
16	Jeannine As-	Central Coast	87%
17	ciak	Central Coast	87%
18	Pamela Duff	Sydney	83%
19	Barbara Munn	Adelaide	83%
20	Cynthia Dutton	WA	83%
21	Nari Jennings	CANBERRA	83%
22	Haydn Daw	CANBERRA	82%
	Margaret Fur-		
	phy	WA	80%
	Judy Fraser	Wagga Wagga	80%

For the full results report see Page 11



2014 Lip reading competition winner
Carol McGhee



2014 Lip Reading Challenge Report

(BHA.WA – BETTER HEARING AUSTRALIA)

Background

WA Branch of BHA accepted the challenge to run the lip reading competition in 2014. We were grateful to previous branches for example DVDs and ideas. We acknowledge the Tasmanian Branch who rose so well to the challenge last year and set a standard to follow.

Our intent was to create a template that was relatively easy to create and film, and simple enough to be recreated in future by other branches and adapted to their setting/topic if they wanted. So, thinking of the 2015 BHA Conference, we decided to choose a tourism theme centred on 'Sights around Fremantle'. After all, we (and hopefully you too!) will be at the Esplanade Hotel in the heart of Fremantle for next year's BHA Conference.

After its use as the 2014 test, the 2014 DVD should remain useful for practice sessions, and as a teaching resource plus a potential model for future DVD's. The question was, would the test meet our expectations and continue the good work of previous competitions? This review will provide some evidence for you to decide that for yourself. It is based upon your feedback forms, statistical analysis of the test and our observations. In another article look for the top lip-readers and best branches in Australia – according to our test – where we look at the scores and who achieved them.

Everyone who chose to participate was marked and given a score. Only those who also wanted to be in the competition – less than 20 did not – were then

processed further. Next their score was converted to a 'percentile' score that spreads everyone on a scale from 1%ile at the lowest to 100%ile for the highest score. Someone scoring 75%ile for example has 75% of the other scorers BELOW them. Thus they are automatically in the TOP 25% of the group. Using percentiles allows us to identify – and commend – those branches with members in say the top 25%ile of all lip-readers.

Reviewing the test

Enough Time	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	78%
No	22%

A good test, the experts say, should be neither too hard nor too easy. In fact they say that a good test should meet MANY different needs at the same time, like: Carefully GRADED so it starts EASY but gets HARD by the end; further it should be VALID, RELIABLE and REPRESENTATIVE.

After the theory comes the practical – a test should minimise marking ERRORS. Even if a test passes muster, people taking the test may still not score exactly like they were expected to. So your 'given' score may not be exactly right, perhaps because of errors in marking, or nervousness on the part of the participant, or even some random event on the day. Marking keys and Cross-marking are good ways to reduce errors. There were three markers and we tested and modified a marking key until we were cross-marking very accurately. But how do you deal with nerves, random events, etc.? These are a bit harder but statisticians tell us that your final score on any single test is only an 'estimate' of your ability, since no test can avoid every possible error. For these reasons all scores have been rounded to the nearest even percentage number. Eg you may have scored 85 or 86 on the test out of 125. Both scores will be rounded to 68% in an attempt to account for estimation errors.

What do these ideas mean for us and our lip-reading test?

If its *too hard* it will depress newer students, but if it is *too easy* then everyone will get a high score and the best scorer will be crowded out by all the other high scorers;

carefully *graded* so it starts easy but gets harder.

This is important to allow most people to give their best;

valid means it really IS testing lip-reading skills (not hearing ability or guessing, say) and *reliable* means

no questions make people give inconsistent or random answers. So, if they took an identical ('parallel') test, they'd get the same score.

A *representative* test samples from the whole syllabus, ie all the skills lip-readers should have.

Even if a test minimised marking errors, if it cannot meet all of these four criteria then its results may be suspect. A review is called for: Below we review this test and with the help of your feedback, make suggestions.

The test in summary

There were 5 sections each with 5 questions, and each question was rated on a scale from 0 to 5. The maximum score was thus 125, which was converted to a percentage (the 'final score'). The highest final score was 90%, the average was 44% and the lowest was down in single digits. Does this mean the test was a little hard? A number thought so (see *The Questions*, below), but it is not that simple. Should the average be 50%? Some people think that 50% is ALWAYS the pass mark for every test. For lip-reading (sometimes called speechreading), it is often said that only about 30% of English sounds can be speechread (ie trying to understand spoken language by 'reading' the face)*. Thus we consider that anything over 30% may be considered a 'pass', in tests like this.

All scores were also scaled to percentiles, as explained earlier. The percentiles are important in the section on Results.

FEEDBACK ON VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY...

Before considering individual questions and whether they were too hard or too easy, the issue of validity and reliability are overall features. Two outsiders who were not responsible for creating the test reviewed it and judged it overall as Valid and Representative. Pleasingly none of the feedback drew attention to validity or reliability issues, suggesting there were indeed no glaring problems. Finally a form of Reliability was provided by the markers themselves. Each time they marked a test paper they reviewed all the test's questions, and they felt that the responses to the questions were largely understandable and consistent.

The participants

There were 108 entries in the Lip Reading Challenge in 2014 and 108 feedback forms received. 2 test-takers were non-members, and 17 asked not to be included in the actual Challenge. The feedback

forms were done straight after the Challenge. Those providing feedback ranged from experienced lip readers to novices. The feedback is summarised below. Overall it was considered useful, informative, considered, pertinent and representative of varying views. Not everyone providing feedback answered every question.

In relation to the first 4 (short-answer) questions the response rate varied from 76% to 93%. Hence, the results when percentages [%] are stated relate to the percentage of respondents who gave an answer to the particular question.

The questions

FEEDBACK ON EASE/DIFFICULTY/SEQUENCE.

Table Q. 1: Were you given enough time for each question?

Over three quarters felt there was little additional time pressure, but there was still a significant remainder, suggesting already that the test might have been a little hard for some.

Table Q. 3: Which sections of the Challenge were too easy?

Sections too easy	Percentage of Respondents
None	86%
Some	14%

Scores ranged from 90% down to single digits, and the average (44%) was roughly in the middle, suggesting it was pitched about the middle of the ability range. Of course it could have been easier, which may have made it less frustrating for those who scored less well. But easy tests are also less good at separating the top students.

Twenty four of twenty eight feedback forms said the Full Sentences were most difficult; and four thought those sentences missing the Start of the Sentence were hardest.

The difference is reinforced by information on the question: Which sections of the Challenge were too difficult? The tables Q4, 5 and 6 provide some conflicting answers.

Table Q. 4: Which sections of the Challenge were too difficult?

Sections too difficult	Percentage of Respondents
All	32%
Some	68%

In a good test each group of questions gradually gets harder, and the first section was intended to be relatively easy. In fact the median (most common) scores did change across the five sets, but not as simply as would be preferred (see Table 5). The highest score possible is 5 on any question. Table 6 shows that a score of 4 (out of 5) was the most common score awarded in Section 1. Note that S.2 is harder, but perhaps too hard – harder than S. 4 even – and S. 3 was particularly hard. So it is not the case that S.4 and S.5 are the hardest, despite the feelings of the test-takers from Table 6.

Table 5: Average median score for each Section of 5 questions (Scores from Min 0; Max 5)

Section difficulty (0 - 5)	1	2	3	4	5
Avg. median	4.0	2.4	1.7	2.6	2.1

Interestingly, those who identified the actual difficult sections seemed to focus on the last two sections, with 13 and 14 people respectively saying they were the hardest sections (Table 5). Only 2 accurately identified S.3 as the hardest, overall.

Table 6: Sections identified as hardest by test-takers (Answered by 29 people)

Hardest Section?	1	2	3	4	5
Number of	0	0	2	13	14

The feedback (eg Table 6) suggested that most people thought the last few sections were the hardest, which wasn't true even though it is a reasonable expectation. Still, the difficulty did indeed increase but it is best to increase the difficulty gradually if possible. Good test design dictates that this should occur too, and should be ensured if possible in any future test.

Feedback on Content, Visual Clues, Context

Over 70% in feedback thought that the various and contextual cues and clues were helpful, and a large number commented favourably on the quality of the production overall. 11 respondents though, found the original music distracting, while 3 'loved it'. Members' most frequent comment was that 'speaking slower' would have helped, and 17 respondents made a plea for clearer speech and enunciation in general. A smaller number commented on the use of 'teenagers' and of these 11 stated that they found the male harder to lip-read than the female, while one preferred the reading the male to reading

SUMMARY

The test was indeed harder at the end than at the beginning, but it was not linear. There were more comments saying that the test was too hard than it was too easy (see Tables Q2 and Q3), but interestingly, the most common observation was that the last questions were the hard ones, and the stats show this was not actually the case.

The most frequent comment from respondents was 'speak slower'. Sixty per cent of these respondents stated that if they had to make changes to the DVD, it would be to slow the rate of speech. Other comments included suggestions that could help the makers of the next Lip-reading Challenge DVD. It is hard to judge whether using teenagers is so problematic, when so many of our interactions are with people not our own age. Perhaps changing other factors before worrying about this aspect could make the next DVD even better.

If only it were possible to press a button and make a question easier or harder! We knew the theory with the graduated difficulty idea and sadly did not hit the target as well as we wanted. Secondly it probably should be made easier if at all possible so as to reduce frustration especially for novice to the classes of lip-reading. On the other hand the test must be reasonably difficult or it will not allow the very best lip-readers to shine, and that is probably a key part of this whole exercise. Some ways to cater for the novice lip-readers present in any group need to be especially catered for – they will be all important new members, for example – should be devised.

Overall the test seemed largely appropriate but was clearly a little harder than people expected. We know that the simple answer is not just to make it easier. If it is too easy then it will force good lip readers to bunch up as a group near the very top score – with many earning say 98% to 100% – and no way to identify the very best. But if the test must be reasonably difficult so as to identify the very best lip-readers – some would say this is the key reason for this whole exercise – then this brings up the issue of how to avoid frustrating the weaker members who do not need to be put off.

Perhaps there is a case to encourage only those ready for a hard test to take the annual Lip Reading Challenge? Or construct a separate easy test for novices only? Or make the test longer say Parts A and B, asking novices to stop after Part A? Or, following the suggestion above, to let everyone watch the DVD twice and put in an answer sheet either

before, if they are confident, or, if they are new to lip-reading, after the second viewing.

We hope that some keen branch will be stimulated by the efforts that have gone before them and take on the challenge of producing the 2015 Lip Reading Challenge DVD. Please consider taking on the task... there are lots of people who could help and provide advice. If you are interested, note that, on previous experience, planning needs to start before March 2015 – Good luck!

Barney Clarkson and Wally Thompson

NEWCASTLE BRANCH REPORT

Newcastle Branch AGM was held in October, the new Committee of Management has a challenging year ahead of them as the Branch undergoes an accreditation process to comply with the NSW Disability Standards. The workload has been a very big one and we will find out in January if all the hard work has paid off and our funding will continue for another year.

Class Christmas parties have been held with everyone having a most enjoyable time and classes resume the first week in February, 2015.

We have been asked to talk to several retirement groups next year and spread the word of what Better Hearing can do to help people manage their hearing loss.

Karen Dempsey

BHA CANBERRA NEWS DEC 2014

Well another year has gone past and we are indebted to all our membership for their loyalty and interest in our program. The Hearing Loss Management sessions continue to perform a very useful role in the ACT community.

We have completed the annual program and have had our Christmas Party, a buffet at the Hellenic Club for 62. Many were keen to hear from our Expert Advisory Panel member Professor David Ryugo who attended with his wife Karen. Prof Ryugo spoke on Hearing Loss and the Brain and had the audience listening attentively. We are indebted to the Hellenic Club for their continuing support, to Polly Templeton for the captions, Margaret Hackett for AUSLAN interpreting and Carol Taloni for her meticulous organisation. We have been successful in increasing our market based investments during the year and are looking forward to an increasing dividend stream over time. Our Canberra Symphony Orchestra music program has continued to bring joy to many members and other hearing impaired people. We nominated the Canberra Symphony Orchestra for an ACT Chief Ministers Inclusion Award.

We have recently seen Sara Duncan (BHA National President) and Michele Barry (BHA National Vice President) who were in Canberra for a day or two and had an interesting conversation and dinner. Happy Christmas everyone from Canberra.

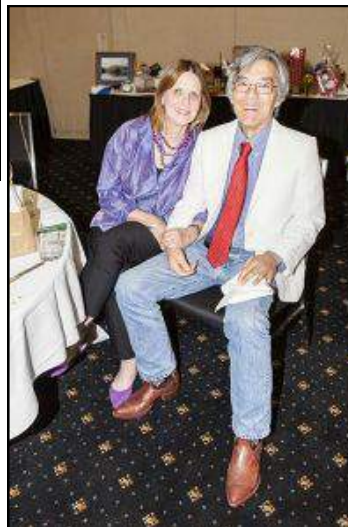
Raffle prizes awaiting luck winners



Raffle prize winner Margaret Wilson



Professor David Ryugo delivers his presentation



Professor David Ryugo and wife Karen relaxing after his presentation



2014 Class members and Teachers

Bunbury Lip Reading Class

Every year a new group of people comes to BHA in an effort to come to terms with the fact of hearing loss. For decades, Sr Maureen Hodge, the Perth lip reading teacher, has helped people to manage the changes involved. After standing in for Sr Maureen a couple of times, Margaret Furphy realised that inspirational lip reading lessons do not “grow on trees”. Her interest in seeing other teachers in action was born.

Margaret initially contacted Cynthia Dutton, who has taught the Bunbury lip reading class for nearly 10 years. Cynthia said Bunbury is an extremely warm and friendly group and issued an invitation to Margaret and any other BHA member to attend a class, which Margaret accepted. Motivated by Spotlight’s June article about the 2014 Lip Reading Challenge, Cynthia chose Fremantle as the theme for her lesson. She generously gave Margaret her printed cards which were later recycled in a lesson in Perth! The warm welcome continued after the class as Bunbury members shared their Group’s history, their experiences with assistive technology and tips about interesting places to visit in their city!

This wonderful Bunbury lip reading class prompted Margaret to ask Sue Daw if she could join her Canberra classes during a visit to the Eastern States in September. Haydn and Sue left no stone unturned during this memorable visit. They even turned on the perfect spring day which showed their lovely city to advantage as they chauffeured Margaret from the airport to the lip reading class venues. Joining in the classes taken by Sue Daw and Carol Taloni was very helpful as were the resources that both kindly collated for Margaret to take back West! The warm welcome and opportunity to exchange ideas with fellow BHA lip reading students provided the icing on the cake of a very memorable day.



Sincere thanks are due to Cynthia Dutton, Sue Daw and Carol Taloni for sharing their experiences and wisdom about teaching lip reading.

U3A film group partners with Better Hearing WA to produce the 2014 Lip reading Competition DV



Handover of the Lip reading DVD by the U3A film Crew to Better Hearing took place at WAIDE in Cottesloe. Pictured here from left are John Bath, Peter Alcock, Steve Thompson, Vicki Norman (All from U3A Film), Wally Thompson, Julie Edmonds (Better Hearing), Peter Browne (U3A Film), Barney Clarkson (Better Hearing) and Isaac Edmonds, who, along with Katelynn Thomas Hall (absent) were the talent for the film. Filming was done at the WAIDE building in Cottesloe where a studio was set up for the spoken parts of the video and then filming was done at various locations around Fremantle and Cottesloe Beach. The Sculpture by the Sea exhibition was at Cottesloe in February, so with permission from the organisers the last section was done there. Although this was section 5 in John Bath’s script, it was filmed first.

Our young talent Isaac and Katelynn, had no experience at this type of thing but made there time available between studies and work commitments, doing a great job.

The only costs incurred were the actual DVD s and the printing of covers. U3A Film is a voluntary organisation and was set up initially as a course through University of the Third Age in Perth.



The studio shots and audio were done in front of a blue screen and these were then added to location shots which provided the settings for the sentences in the script.

Pete Alcock



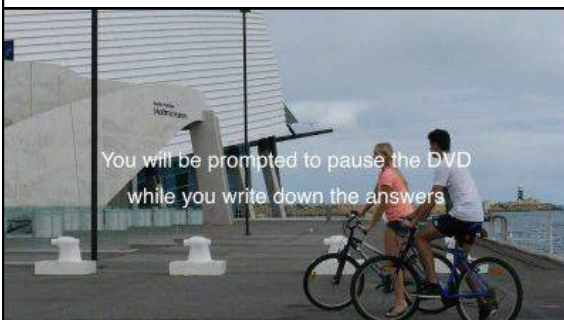
Isaac in studio waits for his cue and the clapperboard



Studio shot of Katelynn in front of a blue screen which is replaced by a shot of Fremantle Market. This method used for all scenes where audio is needed.



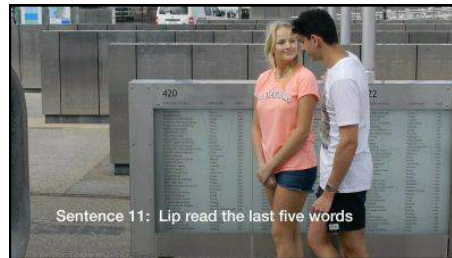
Katelynn and Isaac enjoyed this shot– maybe not much lip reading required here!



Some may have noticed that outside shots here were of the Maritime Museum, whereas the Interior shots were in the Batavia Gallery of the nearby Shipwreck Museum



Sentence 6: Lip read the last five words
Fremantle Arts Centre Sign is a clue



This was tricky for any one unfamiliar with the Welcome walls!



Katelynn is quite shocked by these gruesome stories



The Annual "Sculptures by the Sea" Exhibition at Cottesloe Beach provides some wonderful backdrops, held in February each year.



Some highlights from the recent production of “Alicia in Onedeafland” by WA Deaf Arts



As you can tell from the photos, WADA went to no end of trouble to put on an amazing production, based on the story of Alice in Wonderland. The leading “lady” is really named Alicia but I’m not sure if she was the inspiration for this particular production or not!

At the beginning of each scene the Story Teller and Interpreter gave us a précis of what to expect which certainly helped those of us who weren’t familiar with the storyline. The story revolved around Alicia’s uncertainty as to which Language Other Than English (LOTE) she should study at school the following year. As luck would have it, she met some deaf people during her “journey” down the wombat hole and as she gradually learnt some Auslan she came to the realisation that studying Auslan at a local Perth high school would be the perfect LOTE subject for her!

The costumes, choreography and script were all made by WADA members and friends and they must surely take away with them, huge feelings of satisfaction for their efforts. They would also like to see their efforts contribute to the saving of the hall in which the production took place. Sadly it is due for demolition as the land overlooks our won-

derful Cottesloe Beach and is seen by the Western Australian Government as prime housing land.

We can’t wait for the next WADA production and we sincerely hope a new venue can be found if the hall is demolished. Many thanks to Julie for her efforts in supporting WADA. Get well soon!



Alicia gets lessons from the Cheshire cat



Dance of the Red Crabs



Some wisdom and confusion for Alicia from the caterpillar



Take a bow—Rae makes a passionate and personal plea for saving this theatre

Results from the 2014 Lipreading Challenge.

Across the Country – The participants

There were 108 entrants from every state in Australia (Table 1) for the 2014 Lip Reading Challenge, designed and administered this year by the WA Branch. These 108 people were distributed through 10 of the 12 BHA branches and varied from some single entries up to 24 from a single branch (Table 2).

Table 2: Branch stats

Branch...	Count
Canberra	19
Central Coast	14
Sydney	20
Wagga Wagga	4
Brisbane	1
Gold Coast	8
Adelaide	11
Tasmania	5
Geelong	2
WA	24
Grand Total	108

91 people said they wanted to be recorded in the competition, and 17 said they would rather not (Table 3). These people had their entries marked, but they were not included in the actual competition and are not included in the final calculations for individual and branch winners. Nearly all entrants were members, but there were two non-members who participated.

Table 1: State stats

State	
ACT	19
NSW	38
Qld	9
SA	11
Tas	5
Vic	2
WA	24
TOTAL	108

Table 3: Entrants

Enter Competition?	Total
no	17
yes	91
Grand Total	108

Top Individuals scorers

First of all the Individuals. We identify all members who scored at least in the 80th to 100th percentile band (See Table 4). These are our top 20%ile and deserve much praise for such an impressive individual performance on this test – especially since it unfortunately proved to be relatively hard (see the 2014 Lip reading Challenge Report). In this case we identify twenty two members, listed in Table 4. Pleasingly they come from branches all around Australia – nine in all (Table 5).

In first place was **Carol McGhee** from **Tasmania** Branch. She was the top scorer in Australia and is therefore given 100% as she is the top band of the one hundred percentile bands. A close second was **Gay Jennings** from **Canberra**; and equal third were two placegetters namely **Judy Greenfield** (also from **Canberra**), and **Dr Mary Allen** from **Adelaide** in SA.

How did these 22 top scorers compare with last year? is difficult to gauge as we do not at this stage have access to any previous year's data – yet – but this may change.

Top Branches

Top Branches were identified not by the counts of Table 5, since there may be branches with less than 5 entrants. The preferred approach is to add the top 5 scoring members of any branch, and compare this total with all other branches. This method requires teams of at least 5 members. This may seem unfair or arbitrary, especially as in many cases the branches are bigger than this as they have members who did not enter. Nevertheless the statistical value drops as the number of entrants from a branch gets too small. So the rule is that when we do not receive entries from at least 5 people, that branch is not allocated a score.

Table 4: Lip Reading competitors who achieved in the top 80 percentile

No	Name	Branch	Percentile
1	Carol McGhee	Tasmania	100%
2	Gay Jennings	Canberra	99%
3	Judy Greenfield	Canberra	97%
4	Dr Mary Allen	Adelaide	97%
5	Graham Parry	Sydney	96%
6	Sunny Stewart	Sydney	94%
7	Irma Maierhofer	Gold Coast	94%
8	Janet Siljac	Brisbane	93%
9	Geraldine Plumb	Central Coast	90%
10	Linda Dwyer	Canberra	90%
11	Ann-Marie Chandler	Sydney	90%
12	Sue Daw	Canberra	90%
13	Georgina Birchall	Canberra	87%
14	Patricia Connolly	Tasmania	87%
15	Jeannine Asciak	Central Coast	87%
16	Pamela Duff	Sydney	83%
17	Barbara Munn	Adelaide	83%
18	Cynthia Dutton	WA	83%
19	Nari Jennings	Canberra	83%
20	Haydn Daw	Canberra	82%
21	Margaret Furphy	WA	80%
22	Judy Fraser	Wagga Wagga	80%

These branches may still have the distinction of having at least one individual member in the top 25%ile across Australia, as indicated in Table 5.

Table 5: Branches of the individual winners

Branch of winners	Total
Canberra	7
Central Coast	2
Sydney	4
Wagga Wagga	1
Brisbane	1
Gold Coast	1
Adelaide	2
Tasmania	2
WA	2
Grand Total	22

Table 6 shows the branches with scores of the top 5 people added and divided by 5 (ie the average of the top 5 for that team).

Table 6: Winning branches based on best 5 members (note that the score has not been calculated for the smaller branches), starting with Canberra Branch.

Branch...	Top5 Avg %
Canberra	19 80
Sydney	20 74
WA	24 66
Adelaide	11 65
Central Coast	14 64
Tasmania	5 63
Gold Coast	8 42
Wagga Wagga	4 0
Brisbane	1 0
Geelong	2 0

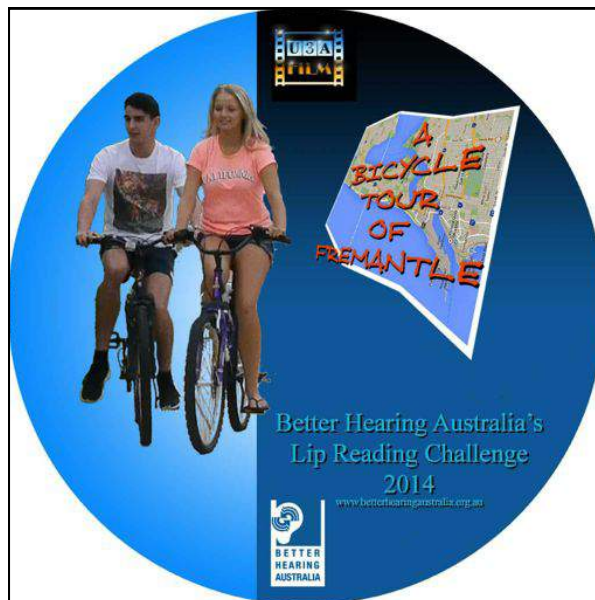
When looking at the list, the case of the **winning branch Canberra** is inspiring. They already have 7 individuals in the top 20%ile of the country. Now their top 5 members scored an average of 80% on the 2014 LR Challenge. Canberra Branch is in **First** place. Canberra will therefore retain the Marie Henderson Award (Open) and the 'Norman and Freda Ward Trophy' for Branches with fewer than 100 members. **Second** place was the **Sydney, NSW** Branch with its best five members averaging 74%. **Third** place is WA whose top 5 members averaged 66%. Note that this is only a whisker above three more branches all averaging above 60%. By not including the smaller groups it is easy to overlook some striking results, including the fact that 100% of the Brisbane branch made the top 20%ile! In casting the net wider with the top 20%ile of all competition participants, we find an interesting factoid, namely that there were individual winners in nearly every Branch in the whole competition. Nine of the ten Branches who sent in entries, had people who qualified as Top 20 percentile in the country. Therefore the top scorers across the country were spread across all of Australia. In other words, regardless of where they are, or how difficult

some people found the test or even when they did it, there was someone in nearly every branch who scored well enough to achieve a place in the top 20%ile.

Final Summary

Congratulations to the winners and if you hope to do better next year then we wish you well. In fact you could do worse than the design the next year's Challenge! Consider this your invitation for your branch to have a go for 2015.

Barney Clarkson



This was a U3A Film Production

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear
and the blind can see.

Mark Twain