

Hearing Aids

By Jules Perrin

Why is the people who need hearing aids are the ones who most refuse to wear them. To enflame the situation, they are usually a relative. Other people's relatives never seemed to have the same problem talking and listening.

Now take my mother. PLEASE! Sorry old joke but a good one. My mother will not wear her hearing aids. It might flatten the battery she states.

OK we all remember pictures and stories of the old aunt with the hearing trumpet stuck to her ear and her favourite saying was, "Speak up sonny." So you get near this tuba type device, seems so big when you're a kid, and repeat what you said. Next minute she blurts out, "Well you don't have to shout". You cannot win.

Then came the transistorised devices make memorable by "Uncle Arthur" on TV. It did make the wearer look like a cross between a secret service agent and escapee from a radio assembly line but they worked. These devices were better but again, unless they were used, instead of collecting dust in the cupboard, they too are ineffective.

The devices available today have as many features as a modern TV. They are so small they can be worn without being visible. Yet she will not wear them.

"It makes everything so loud", she says.

"That's the purpose of the hearing aid", I reply in exasperation.

My neighbour's devices have Bluetooth fitted and he can watch the football on TV in peace without his wife telling him to turn it down. He's English so it's with a round ball and not the good Aussie rules, but that's allowed.

Now if I had to get hearing aids, I'd want them.

The other side of not wearing hearing aids is the conversation missed and lost.

"There was a bad earthquake in Italy. The news was terrible to see.", I comment to my mother.

"Yes, I'll have a cup tea", was her eager reply.

On a cruise in a bar I ponder the menu and state, "I'll have a martini with three olives".

"Three dollars, what can you get these days for three dollars", replies guess who.

"No mum, I said three olives.", I reply between clenched teeth.

"Three olives for three dollars?", she questions.

I rest my case. Why is it the people who need hearing aids the most refuse to wear them?

Sound familiar. Do you have them too at your place or in your neighbourhood. Join me and start a protest movement against people who don't wear hearing aids. Maybe if we all unite and make a stand as a new political party, "The Hearing Party". Sorry I digressed again.

The down side, I must admit about the size of the hearing aids is there ease in being lost or missed placed.

One time we did get her to wear the devices. All was good till she went to bed and removed them and accidentally dropped them into her glass of water beside the bed.

To this day we are not sure if it was accidental or on purpose.