



John Waters with audiologist, Glenn Johnson

You may recall the story of farmer Lindsay Olman from Mullewa. He lost his hearing when struck by lightning 13 years ago. He had worn hearing aids for five years, but until he was fitted with fresh hearing aids from Sonic Hearing, had essentially dropped out of participating in things he had held dear, such as family gatherings and community events where conversations grew to sound like “chooks’ speak”.

A comment from Lindsay that he listened to the radio while driving from our clinic in North Perth all the way back to Mullewa, some 450kms, struck a cord with John Waters (pictured left). John hadn’t been able to hear the car radio for years, even with his old hearing aids turned up full bore.

Life is much better now John can hear

John Waters is a retired farmer from Yerecoin. He lost his hearing gradually through driving noisy tractors and rifle use. He read the story of farmer Lindsay Olman’s experience with hearing aids, particularly the part where Lindsay said he listened to the car radio all the way back to Mullewa. “I thought that was a load of nonsense,” said John. “I’ve been wearing hearing aids for years now and there is no way I could hear the car radio, particularly if there was someone else with me. Even the fiddly process of turning the volume up on my old hearing aids wouldn’t help.”

In fact, John told me that he couldn’t have a normal conversation with his wife, his kids or his grandchildren, his rellies or his friends. “My wife Ann would have to interpret conversations, just about shouting at me so that I stayed in touch with what was going on,” John said. “Even then, no-one including me was sure that I got the story right.”

John’s sister-in-law, Nora, had already been fitted with hearing aids at Sonic Hearing, and insisted that he try the hearing aids that Lindsay Olman was raving about. The story is the same: John loves his hearing aids too. “I can hear birds, the commentary

on the tour bus, and listen to the car radio; have a conversation with my wife in the car, in fact I can have a normal conversation with everyone,” John said. “I catch the subtleties and nuances of chatter when I’m in a group, I can laugh along with jokes and I no longer feel isolated. Life is so much better. It makes me realise how much I’ve been missing out on now that I have my hearing back.”

“I can hear birds, the commentary on the tour bus, and listen to the car radio; have a conversation with my wife in the car...I no longer feel isolated. Life is so much better..”

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