

Is the Press noisier than a typical Café?*

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ABSTRACT

The Café & Restaurant Acoustical Index (CRAI) hit the public arena in the December 2003 issue of New Zealand Acoustics. The aim of the rating is to allow diners to have a say in the acoustical environment in eating establishments, and in time provide the ability for intending patrons to make an educated choice of where to eat, based on the type of environment they want. For three years, CRAI ratings have struggled to gain recognition, confined to the back of a quarterly journal and unknown outside of the New Zealand acoustics fraternity. Then, the power of the press takes hold, courtesy of the National Foundation of the Deaf. A press release issued to coincide with Deaf Awareness Week resulted in a flood of publicity and “vast numbers” of emails and completed rating forms. This presentation takes a broad look at the CRAI rating system; why it began, what it aims to do, how it's progressed, and where it might go from here. It also looks at some of the press articles which have recently appeared, and examines alternative views on the issue of noise in the eating environment.

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