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Spring is here!

Welcome to our Spring edition to the OARacle newsletter. Winter can often be a hard time for our TOF OA kids and adults, so seeing the blossoms, the weather warming up and days getting longer, brings with it hope.

There is much to look forward to in the next couple of months with OARA. There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes with our first conference, fundraising initiatives, and parent catch ups across the States.

We wish all of our families a happy Spring and look forward to seeing you at the events coming up.



2013 OARA TOF OA Conference

OARA is holding a Conference this year to launch the new National group, as well as to bring awareness and educate families on the condition of oesophageal atresia and tracheo-oesophageal fistula, as well as socialising with one another. The details are:

When: Saturday 19th October

Where: The Treacy Centre

126 The Avenue

Parkville Victoria

Time: 9:30am - approximately 3pm

Cost*: \$50 per adult (over 15 years)

\$60 medical professionals

\$30 children (aged 5-15 years) participating in CAMP

Australia program

children under 5 - free

(* Please note: These prices are subsidised by OARA Ltd.)

For more information and to download your registration form, please go to the events page on our website oara.org.au

OARA Crop-a-thon Fundraiser - report

On Saturday the 6th of July, 20 scrapbooking



enthusiasts came together to raise money for OARA at our second Crop-A-Thon. We had a terrific day with many great scrapbook layouts created. The ladies laughed, chatted and crafted, all gaining greater awareness about OARA and TOF/OA. Each participant received an OARA show bag, OARA drink bottle and scrapping goodies. Through the admission donations, awesome raffle and silent auction we raised a great total of \$1600. Thank you to our sponsors and supporters for your generosity. We hope to run smaller fundraising crops in 2014, so if you can help or would like to attend please email Christine (Victorian State representative) at croption@oara.org.au.



Nathan Baker, a TOF OA dad from South Australia ran in the City to Bay Fun Run on Sunday 15th September to raise awareness and funds for OARA. His aim was to complete the 12km run in 65 minutes and with only 23 seconds over, we congratulate Nathan on an amazing effort! We would like to thank Nathan and his family & friends for their support and donations, which has come to a total of \$420, with still more donations to come! You can see Nathan's story below.



The Melbourne Marathon will be held on Sunday 13th October and OARA would like to wish Alyssa Beckley the best for her training and marathon run. We would like to thank Alyssa and her family & friends for their support and donations, which so far has reached a total of \$524!!



OARA is excited to announce their association with Aussie Farmers Direct. Anyone who signs up with AFD or is already an existing member can nominate OARA as their fundraising charity, and 2% of your weekly order will go towards OARA. Anyone in Australia is able to take up this offer and will be donating to OARA just by ordering their weekly groceries. Click [HERE](#) to find out more.

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING OARA?

If you would like to raise funds for OARA and bring awareness to TOF OA in the process, please email your interest to Olivia at secretary@oara.org.au for more information.

If you would like to make a donation to OARA, please go to our website and click on donate.

Nathan Runs for OARA

Unfortunately I (along with the whole family) had a cold in the lead-up, limiting my



final weeks of training. Luckily, Chaise has really been improving with his resilience against chest infections and was (probably for the first time since he was born) the first one to recover. The day started out with pouring rain and I was really reconsidering my participation. To tell you the truth, I was sitting in my car near the finish line (there were shuttle buses to the start line) watching others leave their car, some with big plastic bags covering them from head to toe. I thought that perhaps I could go home and have Carlie drive me to the start line – the boys had spent the night at my brother's family home with their cousins, after all. Instead, I left the car and went to the buses, getting drenched! However, by the time we arrived at the start line, the weather had cleared and my new worry, was not taking along my sunglasses!!

All in all, a perfect day for a run, even with a little tail wind that gusted and gave us a kick along every now and then. There's a really interesting sound that breaks through my running playlist – the clap, clap, clap beat of feet hitting the pavement in unison. By the end I was exhausted. However, I managed to get really close to my revised target time of 65 minutes (65:23!!).



Qlders Catch up!!

The Queensland group are organising a catch up in October.

Please join us to meet or reconnect with other families of TOF/OA/Vacterl children.

The Lions club has a miniature steam railway and offer rides for \$2 each from 9.30am.

Bring along a picnic blanket or chairs and a morning tea plate to share and enjoy a chat.

Details...

WHEN: Sunday 27th October

TIME: 10am-1pm

WHERE: McPherson Park, Bracken Ridge

For more information or to discuss further, visit www.tof2tof.ning.com

Hope to see you there.

NSW families Catch Up

The NSW group are organising a catch up in November.

An opportunity to meet up with other TOF/OA children and their families. Bring along a picnic blanket or chairs and a picnic lunch.

We will meet at Bicentennial Park - Concord West Picnic area. There are BBQ's, picnic area, playground and a bike and scooter riding tracks.

Details...

WHEN: Sunday 3rd November

TIME: 11am - 2pm

WHERE: Bicentennial Park

For more information or to discuss further, visit www.tof2tof.ning.com

Hope to see you there

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are on a Spring recruiting drive and looking for volunteers to help OARA expand our support services and assistance to TOF/OA patients families across Australia.

We are particularly looking for the following skills but welcome all offers of assistance as there is much work to be done: event management, legal experience in

the NFP sector, HR, corporate governance, fundraising. Please email Olivia at secretary@oara.org.au with your expression of interest.



TOARA Bear

TOARA has been having a lovely time travelling to all the TOF OA families across Australia recently. She certainly has some great adventures in her journal to share. If your child would like a visit from TOARA, please contact Emily McLellan at upsonfamily@optusnet.com.au or call her mobile 0430 083 333. For more information, visit our website.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

OARA's address has been changed, so for future correspondence, please post to
OARA Ltd.
PO Box 502
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AUSTRALIA

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