



[Send to a friend](#) | [View email as webpage](#)

| [about us](#) |

[events](#) |

[join us](#) |

[donate](#) |



## MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

It is always fitting at the end of another year, to look back and reflect on all that was accomplished. For OARA, there have been many new initiatives in 2014, including the introduction of a new range of OA TOF Awareness Products, more formal and updated brochure packs, attending the International OA conference and the National Catch Up Day, to name a few.

We will continue to work on other projects such as liaising with major Children's Hospitals around Australia to identify key contacts who will distribute information on OA TOF and OARA to new patients. Securing grants and increasing fundraising initiatives will also be a primary aim of 2015.

Your continued support of OARA, whether it be through making a donation, organising or attending OARA events, such as fundraisers or volunteering your time, is very much appreciated.

OARA would like to extend a very Merry Christmas to all our members and your families and a happy and healthy 2015!



## GOLF & DINNER FUNDRAISER

**When: Friday 20th February, 2015**

**WHERE: Box Hill Golf Club, VIC  
202 Station St, Box Hill**

**TIME: From 12:30pm**

**COST:**  
**\$80 Golf only**  
**\$80 Dinner only**  
**\$150 Golf and dinner**

Please accept this invite to our Inaugural OARA Ltd Fundraising Golf Day.

It's sure to be a great day and all proceeds go to OARA. So book in your Annual Leave and make sure you get there or better still why not invite some clients or work colleagues and make it a networking day.

There will be a Shot Gun Tee Off at 12.30pm with chances to win various

prizes throughout the day. More details will be provided in the New Year, but places will be limited so book your spot so you don't miss out. Afterwards there'll be a three course dinner as well as Raffle/Auction and presentation of winners for the day. If you are not a golf enthusiast, you are welcome to just attend the dinner.

Finally, if you or your business has anything they would like to donate to our Raffle/Auction we'd greatly appreciate any support you can provide. We are also seeking sponsorship from businesses who would like to promote themselves throughout the day by displaying banners, having your business mentioned and supported at our dinner afterwards.

For any questions please email [greg.overdyk@crowehorwath.com.au](mailto:greg.overdyk@crowehorwath.com.au) or [treasurer@oara.org.au](mailto:treasurer@oara.org.au) or call Greg on 0417 524 553.



## South Australia Report by Carlie Baker

### National Catch Up Day 2015

It was great to see a few new faces at our National Catch Up Day, with two new families joining us. It was a shame that some of the families couldn't make it but hopefully next year we will get everyone together at the same time. Unfortunately, some people left early and some arrived late so I couldn't capture a photo of all the children that attended.

Thanks to all those who bought many of the new awareness items at the park. The OARA website has more information on these products if you weren't able to purchase on the day.

### Golf Day Fundraiser

Port Adelaide Rotary held a golf day with funds being raised for OARA. It was a great day, and we couldn't have asked for better weather, although a few sunburns were noticed by the end of the day.

I have not yet received the total money raised for OARA but from the raffle, donations and a silent auction we raised over \$670.

Thanks to all the businesses that donated goods, services and vouchers, including, Just Cuts West Lakes, Magic Car Wash West Lakes, Framing Land, Better Health Pharmacy West Lakes, J & L Hair Studio, Checkside Tavern, Dan Murphys, Reading Cinemas West Lakes, Chatty at Heart, Zuri Jewellery, Foodland Bartley Terrace, General Trader West Lakes, Harris Scarfe, Avanti Cycles, Semaphore Pets and Garden, Exeter Hotel, Chemplus, Chem Mart, B & F Distributors, Drummond Golf Mile End, Bartercard.

## Victoria Report by Laura Overdyk

What a beautiful day the National Catch Up Day in Melbourne was! We made our way down to Albert Park Lake to a spectacular playground, which I found out on the day, was built in a day by many volunteering their time, which is just incredible. We had approximately 12 families attend the day with children of all ages. It was nice to introduce some of



those familiar to OARA to those who were new to the community. Many had already 'met' through facebook, so it was nice to finally put the face to the name.

There were a few families who were unable to attend due to illness, including our very own state rep, Chris who traveled all the way there but unable to join in. So we hope to see them at the 2015 catch up.



## Tasmania Report by Esther O'Halloran

### National Catch up Day 2015

The Tassie OARA catch up day was held on a lovely sunny day at the Launceston Central Park. It was a good opportunity to network and have a casual chat about our little OA TOF boys (all the families had little boys!). We are all looking forward to another get together and hopefully meet some more OA TOF families. It's so comforting having a network of people close by that have gone through similar experiences.

### Nurses conference

I had the opportunity to speak at an ENT nurses conference in November about a mother's perspective of having a child with a congenital abnormality. It was the first time I had formally spoken about my journey with an OA TOF. Writing the speech alone brought up many emotions and I was pretty nervous speaking in front of a room of professionals. I spoke from the heart, starting at my son's birth and his progress up until now at age 4. I also introduced OARA and what their goals and achievements have been. I made them laugh and cry and was overwhelmed with the amount of nurses who came up and thanked me for sharing. Only two nurses at the conference had heard of OA TOF so it was a great opportunity to spread awareness.



## Perth Report by Erin Carver

We had five families meet at Mueller Park, in Subiaco, across from Princess Margaret Hospital, where all our OA TOF kids started their brave lives. The children spent the whole time playing in the enclosed playground and cooling down in the water feature as it was a sunny 35 degree day. We all brought our own food and shared our hospital stories and current situations. The kids ranged in age from just five months up to three years old.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the State Representatives and Committees for all their hard work this year. We are all volunteers at OARA so we are very grateful for those who donate their time to help out where they can, between juggling family, work and other commitments. State reps have been offering catch ups in their local areas recently, including the National Catch up, as a way to build support networks. Please be mindful in rsvping in a timely matter to these events that have

been organised. We understand that things happen for reasons you can't always foresee, so if you have rsvp'd and at last minute you are not able to attend, please make sure to contact the organisers to let them know. All the state rep details are on our contacts page of the website. We also welcome feedback on these events via facebook or email, if you have any other suggestions on building support networks in your area.



## Have you always wanted to spread awareness of OA TOF?

OARA have recently brought out a range of awareness products! These include badges, wristbands and water bottles to name a few.

The details on how to purchase are on our [website](#), you can buy in bulk and sell to family or friends and in the process start the discussion on what is OA TOF.



## Would you like a visit from TOARA Bear in 2015?

TOARA Bear is our travelling OA TOF awareness bear and is available to visit your family in 2015.

For more details please go to our [website](#).



## SHARE YOUR STORY!

Sharing your OA TOF journey can be a very healing experience. It is also nice for others to read and relate to, through their own experiences.

If you would like to share you or your child's story in our quarterly enewsletter, please email it to [mail@oara.org.au](mailto:mail@oara.org.au)



## 2014 CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Olivia Giudice attended the 3rd International conference in Rotterdam this year as the OARA representative. She has put together a summary brochure of the main topics discussed and it is now available on our website [HERE](#).

O.A.R.A P.O Box 502, Pakenham, Vic 3810

This email has been sent to you as a valued supporter of Oesophageal Atresia Research Association.

If you received this email from a friend, sign up for membership [here](#).

Ensure delivery! Add [mail@oara.org.au](mailto:mail@oara.org.au) to your safe sender list.

To unsubscribe from future emails [click here](#).