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OARA Christmas Appeal

You know the value of what we as an organisation can provide. And coming into the new year, OARA will be looking to expand its ability to provide support and information to individuals and families, and support much needed research into OA/TOF and related conditions.

Your continued support of OARA, whether it be through making a donation, organising or attending OARA events or volunteering your time, is very much appreciated. If you would like to make a financial contribution to acknowledge this special time of year, please [click here](#).



2015 Wrap Up

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 achievements in 2015, including new Board Members that have reinvigorated our organisation, many local fundraising campaigns operated by our State Representatives, contribution to research projects and continuation of 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 to expand the OA Nurse Network around Australia will continue to be our focus in 2016.

OARA would like to extend a very Merry Christmas to all our members and your families and a happy and healthy 2016!

KEY DIARY DATES FOR 2016

We have been busy planning our calendar of events for



2016 and are excited to announce the following dates for your diaries:

- **Saturday 21 May 2016** - Fundraising Gala Dinner in Melbourne (further details to come in the new year)
- **Thursday 15 - Friday 16 September 2016** - Fourth International Oesophageal Atresia Conference in Sydney
- **Sunday 6 November 2016** - National Catch-Up Day (details of each State's event available closer to the date)



National Catch Up Day 2015

The National Catch Up day is a fantastic opportunity for families to come together and share in similar experiences of living with OA TOF, either as a parent or a patient.

This year the National Catch Up went ahead in Adelaide, Melbourne and Tasmania. It was a beautiful day around the Nation for playground fun, sausage sizzles and face painting. Melbourne were very fortunate to also have the OA TOF nurses attend and present a choking first aid session. We hope to see more of these types of activities at future Catch Up days.

If you were unable to come along or your State's catch up day did not go ahead due to numbers, the opportunity is always there to connect in the future. Next year's date has already been set as Sunday 6th November, 2016, so please save the date and we hope to see you next year.



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 to RSVP 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 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.



Dani Venn, The Wholehearted Cook

We're very happy to announce that Danni Venn has become an ambassador for OARA. We're excited to work with her to develop safe and yummy meal ideas, spread awareness of OA/TOF and help with some of our major events next year.

Dani Venn is a Melbourne based celebrity cook most widely known for her time as a finalist on MasterChef Australia in 2011 and as an All Star in 2012. Since then Dani has hosted her own cooking show Weekend Feast on Channel Ten as well as co-hosted summer breakfast radio with Tommy Little on Nova FM.

Dani has also enjoyed cooking her way around the country at live food events, creating delicious recipes for major food brands, catering intimate dinners parties and large scale events has this year launched her new food blog, [The Wholehearted Cook](#) where Dani shares her healthy wholefoods recipes. Dani has also been a proud ambassador of Ovarian Cancer Australia since 2012.

Stay in touch with Dani across social media, you can find her regular updates on Instagram @thewholeheartedcook, Twitter @danivenn and Facebook.



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



Would you like a visit from TOARA Bear in 2015?

TOARA Bear is our travelling OA TOF



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,



JOIN US

We would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the OARA team - we have lots of projects on the go and the more people we have to share the load around, the quicker these initiatives will come to fruition! Please contact Olivia Giudice at

bulk and sell to family or friends and in the process start the discussion on what is OA TOF.

awareness bear and is available to visit your family in 2016.

please email it to mail@oara.org.au

secretary@oara.org.au if you are interested.

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



Conference Name Badge Design Winner

We're please to announce that the winner of the 2016 International Conference Name Badge Design is Alannah Upson. Alannah will have her artwork (pictured) included on the name badges of all the delegates. Congratulations to Alannah, and thank you to everyone who submitted their artwork.

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.

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