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Seasons Greetings from OARA!

Dear OARA Community

As 2017 draws to a close, it is timely that we reflect and look forward to an exciting 2018.

2017 has been another successful year for OARA, with our major achievements including the Annual Ball with outstanding guest speakers Moira Kelly and Chris Judd, a record attendance at our National Catch-Up Day in Melbourne at the Royal Children's Hospital, developing new relationships across Australia and the world and strengthening our ongoing relationship with the wonderful staff at the Royal Children's Hospital.

2018 promises to be a big year for OARA! We have our Annual Ball booked at the Windsor Hotel in the city for Saturday 19th May. We will continue with the National Catch-Up Day but in 2018 we also hope to focus on OA/TOF patients transitioning into adulthood and building new relationships with hospitals across Australia. It will be a big 2018!

OARA's board members are driven by a desire to improve the lives for those children born with OA/TOF. Many of us have experienced the effects of the condition first hand and understand the importance of having a community to share experiences. However, OARA's work can only continue with your assistance and support. We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help further our reach and to build on our initiatives! If you are keen and have a desire to help OARA please feel free to let any of OARA's board members know.

Alternatively, **a donation of any amount** is also greatly appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank OARA's board for their ongoing commitment and dedication, OARA's army of volunteers across the country for their endless time and effort, the Royal Children's Hospital for their ongoing relationship and to everyone that has contributed to OARA's ongoing

success in 2017! A special thanks to Laura Overdyk who this year resigned from OARA's Board. Laura's contribution to OARA over the last ten years have been outstanding and her contribution to OARA will not be forgotten. We also welcomed Cathie Wareham to our Board this year and we look forward to her insights and contribution over the coming year!

From everyone at OARA, we wish you, the OARA community, an enjoyable festive season and a Happy New Year!

All the best for 2018!

Yours Sincerely
Vito



Dani's Peach & Raspberry Coconut Trifle

We have a delicious recipe that Dani has shared with us just in time for Christmas. Perfect for an scorching Aussie Christmas, these desserts are gluten, dairy and refined sugar free.

Check out the recipe here:

<https://thewholeheartedcook.com/2017/12/17/peach-raspberry-coconut-trifle/>



OARA Local Contact Network

A core service that we offer the OA/TOF community is a connection to others that may have been through similar experiences. This is a great way for families and individuals who might want to talk to someone about their OA/TOF experiences to share their stories and in doing so, hopefully lighten their load.

In 2018, we are wanting to formalise this through our OARA Local Contact Network and we are keen to hear from anyone who would like to be part of this network and would be happy to meet with or call an OA/TOF community member that needs some support.

If you are interested in being part of the Network or would like to know more, please email Liv at secretary@oara.org.au.

Annual Gala Ball 2018



We invite you to join a night of food, fun and entertainment to raise awareness of Oesophageal Atresia.

When: Saturday 19th May 2018 7pm -11pm

Where: The Windsor, 111 Spring Street Melbourne VIC

Includes 3 course meal beer, wine & soft drink.

Guest Speakers:

Host: Dani Venn (OARA Ambassador, Master Chef former contestant & “Eat it Up Creative Director”)

Mark ‘Squiz’ Squirell: From car bombings to meeting Yasser Arafat and making it to the summit of Mount Everest.

Lori McIntosh: Adult OA/TOF patient who will talk about her experience growing up and living with the condition.

Live Music: Russell Robertson & Phil Ceberano

Price: \$150 Single or Table of 10 for \$1,400 (\$140pp)

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/TILN>



OARA Golf Day 2018

Albert Park Golf Course

Monday February 26, 2018 at 8.30am

Dust off those golf clubs and register your group for the 2018 OARA Golf Day. This year we are looking to hold our OARA Golf Day at the beautiful Albert Park Golf Course.

After the round we'll present prizes to our winning Group over a Gourmet BBQ There will be the usual Nearest the Pin, Longest Drive plus other prizes throughout the day

All funds raised on the day will go towards the continued work of OARA. Sponsorship packages available for business wishing to support the day.

To register your Interest or for any questions please email greg.overdyk@crowehorwath.com.au or ring Greg on 0417 524 553 for any other queries.



OARA Merchandise

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.

We have an exciting new range being developed, which will be available in the New Year to go with our existing range:

- Polo Shirt
- Cap
- Hoodie
- Stubby Holder
- Miniature Version of TOARA Bear

The current range includes:

- Bandges
- Stickers
- Sanitisers
- Drink Bottles
- Tote Bag
- Wrist Bags



Would you like a visit from TOARA Bear in 2018?

TOARA Bear is our travelling OA TOF awareness bear and is available to visit your family in 2018.

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 newsletter, please email it to mail@oara.org.au



Other Information

We have a range of other useful links and resources on our website, including international OA/TOF networks and resources:

<http://oara.org.au/Links>

Thanks to our sponsors!

And finally, a big thank you to all the businesses that sponsored OARA this year, including:

My Little Tribe	Lifestyle Portraits
Crown	National Sports Museum
Back in Motion Camberwell	Port Adelaide Power
Studio Star Photography	Nicole Vine, Personal Stylist
The Windsor, Melbourne	Melbourne Renegades
Melbourne Stars	Melbourne Football Club
Hugster Family Photography	Cecil Tailors
The Baths	Cricket Australia
Spirit of Tasmania	The Valley
Bellagio & Co Collections	TryBooking.com
Eat It Up Creative	Simone Pérèle

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