

Alopecia
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research awareness information support embrace
Alopecia Areata Awareness Information Support Embrace

ISSUE 1 NOVEMBER 2015



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

It's been exciting seeing AAAF develop and since starting in 2010 we have participated in 10 research opportunities, established support networks throughout Australia, given out 250 grants and increased our registered community into the thousands. As we continue to grow, we're thrilled to launch our inaugural RAISE Newsletter.

The dedication of our volunteers focused on providing a voice for Alopecia Areata has enabled us to expand the team and further improve the services and projects we can deliver. In RAISE we will feature articles, hot topics, research within the field, upcoming events, and activities.

Let me introduce our committee members:



Chel - President



James - NSW Branch Manager



Vesna - Secretary



Liz - SA Branch Manager



Tracy - Treasurer



Judy - QLD Branch Manager



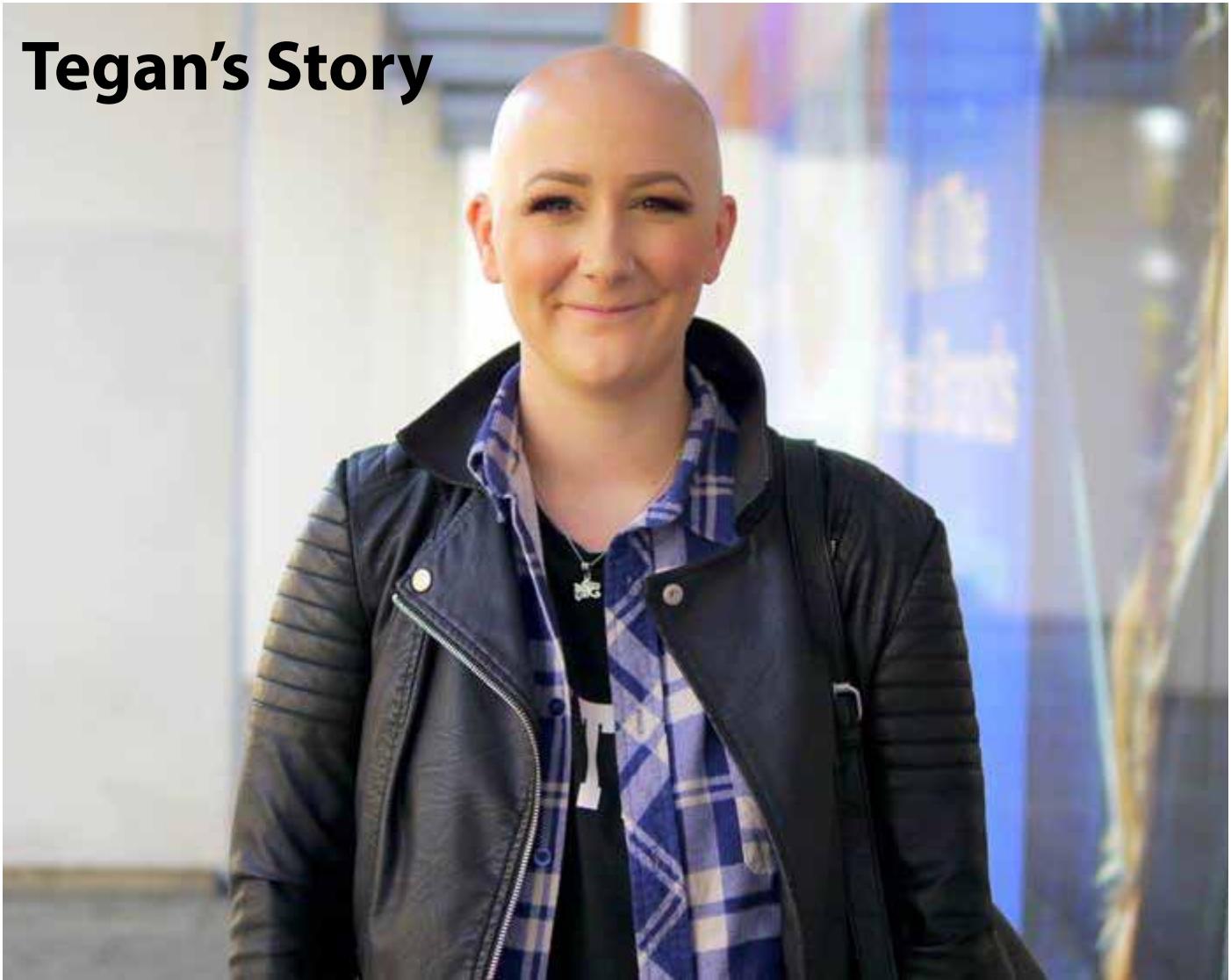
Sabine - General Committee Member



Greg - WA Branch Manager

If at any time you wish to unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

Tegan's Story



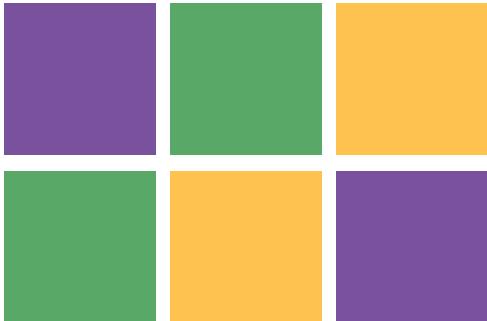
All of my hair fell out when I was 8 years old. My mum took over and wanted to protect me. I wore wigs and hats for a long time. They didn't make wigs for children at that time, so I went to school with old-lady wigs. Fortunately, the school was very supportive and no one cared except for me.

When I was thirteen or fourteen, I realised I was preventing myself from developing friendships with new people because I thought that if they discovered that I didn't have any hair then they wouldn't like me. It got to a point where I was like, if I don't wear a wig, then people are going to have to accept me for how I am at face value as opposed to me having this secret that I am going to get anxious about.

So, I decided to stop wearing wigs. I have never worn one since and this is how I am every day. I am quite happy and content with who I am.

I am a qualified, primary school teacher. We all talk about being normal, but there is no such thing as normal because everyone is different. Being this way helps children understand that earlier because they see me like this now. I feel like I give children the freedom to explore who they want to be and what they want to look like.

It takes them a while to adjust, but, over time, they accept it and love it. When I am marking their home work, they pat my head. It makes me feel that, when they meet people down the track who are different, they are not going to see it as something they need to make fun of or bully, they are going to accept it. Then that person will have an easier journey in life.



DID YOU KNOW?

Over 200,000 pony tails are needed each year to make wigs for children with hair loss in Australia alone. AAAF donate hair campaign is receiving on average 120 pony tails a month. The money that is received from these pony tails supports our Wigs For Kids Program. From November 2015 to February 2016 we are running a program for our Biggest kids more details [here](#).

WHAT'S ON?

Alopecia Areata Awareness Week - November 15-21

*** Australia Wide - Boldest Bald Tea Wednesday 18th. (See the Information Sheet [here](#).)**

*** Crazy Hair Day - Friday 20th November. (See the Flyer [here](#).)**

NSW - Social Meetup Saturday 21st November from 6.30pm at Micky's Cafe, 268 Oxford St, Paddington.

SA - Health Day November 14th from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Adelaide South West Community Centre, 171 Sturt Street, Adelaide.

Join Liz in a Healthy Life afternoon with guest Patricia Lam.

QLD - Head Talk, Sunday November 15th from 10.00am to 12.00pm In Queen St Mall, Brisbane. Judy and members of the Brisbane Support Group will be we asking the public to write one inspiring word on their scalps.

VIC - Sinclair Dermatology Boldest Bald Morning Tea Wednesday November 18th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Sinclair Dermatology, Level 1, 2 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne.

WA - Pizza Night Thursday November 19 from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm at Brandos Cafe, 252 Albany Highway , Victoria Park.

WA - Boldest Bald Brunch Saturday November 21st from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at Leeming family and Community Centre, Leeming.

What's new?

RESEARCH UPDATE

In 2013-2015 the latest news has been all about the use of JAK Inhibitors in the treatment of Alopecia Areata. But did you know Rigel Pharmaceuticals has been awarded the exclusive, worldwide licence for the development and commercialization of JAK inhibitors for the treatment of Alopecia Areata valued at up to 90 Million dollars.

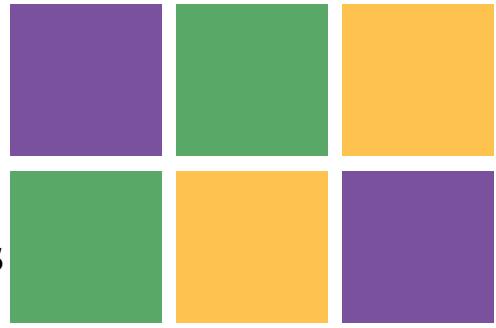
AAAF trial on JAK Inhibitors is progressing with some participants having already completing the trial and showing positive outcomes. Trial ends in May 2016.

The 9th hair Congress starts on the 18th of November 2015. It will feature 32 research papers on different trials on Alopecia Areata presented from Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, USA, UK, Brazil, Israel, Czech Republic, Ukraine, China and Australia.

Something new on the market is Scalp Micropigmentation (SMP). It is a medical grade tattoo technique where tattoo pigments are placed on the scalp in a stippling pattern, thus reducing the contrast between the colour of the hair and colour of the scalp. It is suitable for those with Alopecia Areata, Alopecia Totalis or androgenetic alopecia.



AAAF is well supported by the general community with over 100 individuals engaging yearly.



Each year AAAF acknowledges individuals providing services and support in alignment with our service philosophy.

AAAF Supporter Award Nominations for 2015:

Barbara – Endless supply of AAAF Scaaaf's – hand made.

Stefanie – Administrative work in connecting corporate organizations into AAAF

Nathan - Our website developer – redesigning and integrating services

Samara – Event coordinator for W.A. Trivia Night

Keria - Event coordination of the W.A. Open Day

Linda - Soliciting donations for S.A. events, promoting awareness into corporate organisations

Caroline Soliciting donations for S.A. events, promoting awareness into corporate organisations

Rachel - Engaged Glam Polish to design, manufacture and campaign the "bad hair day" nail polish

Jane – Co-ordination of 15 grade 6 girls hair cut-a-thon

Special mention to all who assisted in the making of Alopecia Areata – Why does my hair fall out?

Congratulations to this year's winner Samara. Samara for the 2nd year organized the W.A. Trivia Night, raising the profile of AAAF in obtaining 50 corporate sponsorships, prizes and over 200 attendees.



Kids Korner

Hope Toys is a wonderful organisation headed by a woman who makes toys to help raise awareness for disabilities, illnesses, birth defects, developmental conditions, injuries and other medical conditions.

Contact details:

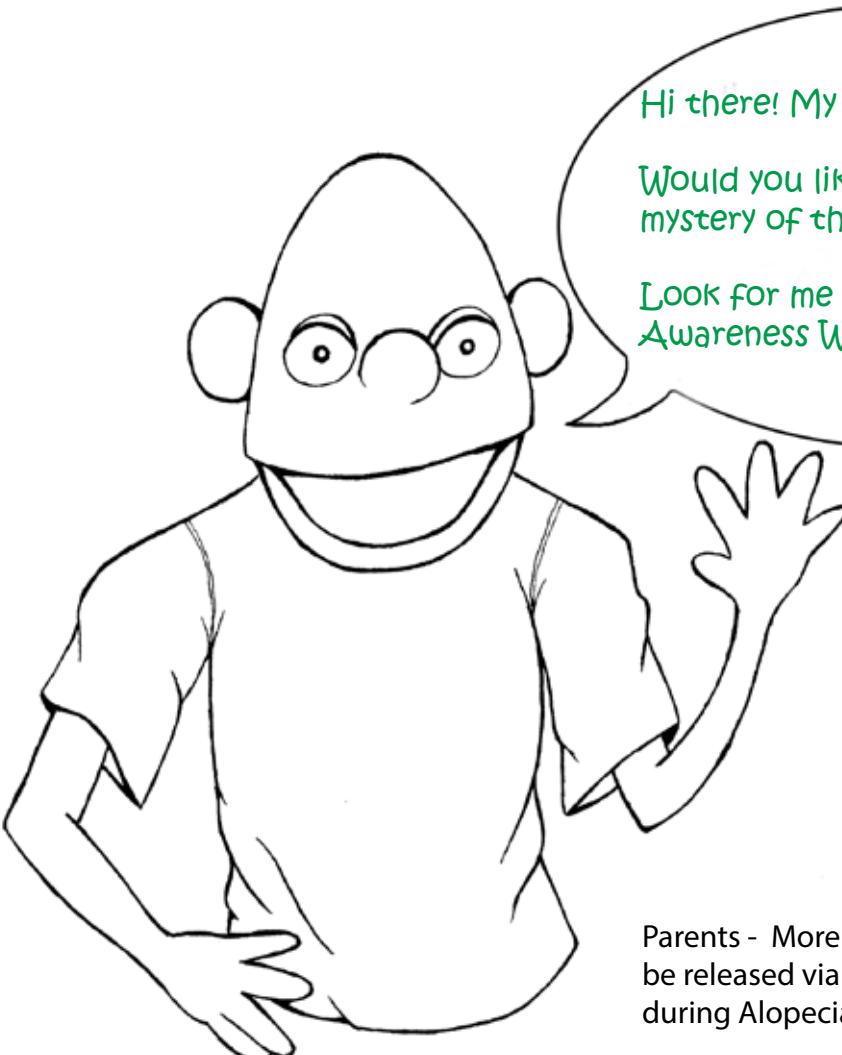
P.O. Box 710, Werribee VIC 3030 Melbourne Australia

E-mail: Hopetoys@hotmail.com

website: www.hopetoys.org



The Dr Richard Long's 'Back to School' webinar for parents from NAAF (National Alopecia Areata Foundation) gives some helpful reminders for starting the school year. You can view the video from the Parent's Support page on our website. [Click here to go to our Website.](#)



Hi there! My name's Jamie.

Would you like to help me solve the mystery of the missing hair?

Look for me during Alopecia Areata Awareness Week!

Maybe you would like to colour Jamie in or access more colouring pages [here](#).

Parents - More information about Jamie will be released via e-mail and on social media during Alopecia Areata Awareness Week.