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## In this month's edition

- [Government and Lyme Update](#)
- [Lyme Ed: Ask The Doctor - Part 3](#)
- [Simple Lyme Action Ideas](#)
- [Lyme Events - can you lend a hand?](#)
- [We're recruiting!](#)
- [A Word From The Committee](#)

Dear Lymelighter,

### Government and Lyme Update

Since our [last newsletter](#) two significant events regarding the [Department of Health](#) (DoH) and the recognition of Lyme/Lyme-like disease in Australia have taken place:

1. The DoH held a **Lyme Treatment Roundtable** in Sydney on 27th May 2014. In attendance were representatives from medical colleges, members of the Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease, Infectious Disease Specialists and General Practitioners.

You can read in detail the outcomes released by the DOH [here](#); and

2. The **Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease** met in Canberra for the last time on 15th July, 2014. Among the topics discussed, and perhaps of chief concern was the next steps regarding the recognition of Lyme disease in Australia.

You can review our patient representative's notes about this meeting [here](#).

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### Lyme Ed: Ask the Doctor Part 3

The third installment in our **six part series with Dr Yeoh** discusses dietary fat choices and is [available here](#).

Missed an installment? Part 1 is [here](#) and Part 2 is [here](#).

(Image source: [Nurse](#), Pixabay 2013)

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## Simple Lyme Action Ideas

Want to help the Lyme cause but don't feel that you can do much at the moment? Well this article could be for you! **Lyme action does not need to be huge to be successful** and you can think small and still make a huge difference!

### Distributing Brochures:

Could you ask your local chemist, community health center, doctors rooms, vets, school nurse, your corner store, public library, council offices (or any business for that matter) if they might be interested in displaying some brochures about Lyme disease?

The [Lyme Disease Association of Australia](#) can send some brochures to you for distribution by completing the contact us form on our website [here](#).

Alternatively any business or organisation can [contact us directly](#) to request brochures for public display too. This is a great way for people to raise awareness about Lyme disease in their community. It could help someone find some answers to years of medical problems or prevent someone from getting Lyme disease!

### Fundraising Made Simple:

You can also use the very same ideas mentioned here about brochures and either you or a local business (you have spoken to) can order some Lyme merchandise from the [Lyme Disease Association of Australia](#) to display and sell! We have a range of donation boxes including stickers and armbands. Just [contact us](#) and tell us what you are interested in doing and ask us for a fundraising order form.

You then select what items you would like us to send to you. When you have finished you send back monies owing with any unsold items. Selling 20 armbands or 10 stickers in your own time and in your community will certainly help to raise awareness

and this will also contribute financially towards improving the situation in Australia.

Our brochure and fundraising service is provided **free of charge**. We just ask people to please be respectful and considerate about wastage and about postal and printing costs when they order and distribute brochures. Regarding merchandise orders, people will be responsible for the retail price of all items ordered and that are not returned.

Want to contact us? Simply complete a contact form on our website [here](#).

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## Lyme Events - can you lend a hand?

### Noosaville Fundraising BBQ - September 27th 2014

**Where:** Bunnings, Noosaville

**When:** Saturday 27th September

**Time:** 7am - 4pm

The [Lyme Disease Association of Australia](#) is holding a fundraising BBQ and we are looking for helpers on the day. Can you spare about 3-4 hours? Shift times are flexible and can be tailored to your energy levels and availability). Just like last year, we will be holding a sausage sizzle and presenting an awareness table.

If you would like to join in the fun and volunteer, please contact us [here](#). We would love to see you there!

### Karl McManus Lyme Gladiolus Day - September 16th 2014

[The Karl McManus Foundation](#) (KMF) is again running Lyme Gladiolus Day in September. Buy a gladiolus badge and support Lyme disease research and raise awareness of this crippling disease.

Information about the 2014 event will be posted by the KMF shortly, should you have any enquiries or to place an order for a box of badges to sell please contact KMF [here](#).

### Dick Smith's "One Million Dollars to Charity" campaign

Did you know that during 2014, Dick Smith is giving away one million dollars to charities and that the decisions for which charities receive these donations are based solely on votes they receive from the public?

Thirty eight organisations received a share of \$500,000 in July 2014 and now voting has commenced for the second round of charity organisations.

[Details on how to vote for the LDAA can be found here!](#) ... and please also place a vote for our sister organisation, KMF, while you're there!

Your support in any of these events is truly appreciated!

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## We're recruiting!

The Lyme Disease Association of Australia is currently seeking more volunteers to fill the following voluntary positions:

1. **Secretary** - are you good with detail? Are you an organisational guru? Do you know your way around a virtual office, then contact us with a bit about yourself and your skills via our [contact us form here](#).
2. **Project and Ad-hoc Administrators** - Can you project manage? Do you have marketing or research experience? Can you send a few emails or do you have some other skills that could be of use, then [contact us here](#).

We'll be happy to send you a volunteer application form and touch base with you about your ideas and skill sets to contribute towards making Australia a better place for Lyme patients!

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## A Word From The Committee

While it's obvious that we have some major hurdles ahead of us in regards to the recognition of Lyme disease in Australia... we recognise the achievements of the Dept of Health's Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease. The committee process has completed, and the roadmap ahead in regards to research priorities is clear. Join us in envisioning the funding required to make the difference for the research so desperately needed.

The LDAA will continue to passionately and professionally represent patients and the need for affordable diagnosis and treatment for tick borne illnesses in Australia. We'd also like to sincerely thank the patient community for their input to the CACLD Scoping Study submission process - it was a team effort and you helped it be the success in recognising the plight of Lyme patients that it is.

This newsletter will be the last for our regular Editor, Michelle Kelly. Michelle has been an integral part of the Lyme Disease Association of Australia team and is moving on to focus on pressing priorities.

We thank Michelle for all of her hard work, her amazing contributions and skills and wish her well for her future endeavors. And, remember in the words of Theodore Roosevelt "Believe you can and you're half way there."

Sharon Whiteman  
President 2014

Newsletter Editor  
Michelle Kelly

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