

Welcome to 2014! Lyme awareness is well underway and there are many exciting projects to come this year. Here are just a few..

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**Dear** <<First Name>>,

## ***Scoping Study Submissions Are In!***

You may well remember that toward the end of 2013, the report of the scoping study by Professor John Mackenzie was released. It was sent to the Chief Health Officers of each state and territory around Australia. The Chief Medical Officer invited people to respond to this report.

The Chief Medical Officer noted that research that comes from the scoping study would be vital in helping those who are not yet convinced that Lyme is in Australia, to come to a new understanding. It would also be vital for lobbying government departments such as the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to cover medications for Lyme disease patients in Australia.

The Lyme Disease Association of Australia saw this feedback process as a valuable opportunity to provide constructive input that could shape future research, health policies, guidelines and processes for Lyme disease in this country. It was our aim to present feedback that represented the Australian patient experience of Lyme disease.

The deadline for submissions was January 31st, 2014. Many individuals and some groups submitted responses. Some of the people who worked on these responses did so through all of December and January. The Lyme Disease Association of Australia (LDAA) and The Western Australia Lyme Association presented two major group submissions.

*The Lyme Disease Association of Australia extends an enormous thank you to each and every person who contributed to this cause.*

*Every person's time, energy and input has been extremely appreciated!*

*Together you created some of the most significant pieces of work relating to Lyme disease in Australia!*

*There are also a few people that really gave their all to this cause and they maintained valuable leadership roles in the group projects. The exceptional outcomes you achieved are a credit to you!*

*The LDAA group join the entire Lyme community in expressing our gratitude for your epic contribution!*

**So from us all.....**

**Congratulations & Thank you!**

We now find ourselves commencing 2014 with the greatest of hopes that:

- The Australian Government will recognise the magnitude and significance of the points made in these responses.
- These documents will contribute to a better future for Lyme patients in Australia.
- The Australian Government will explore Lyme disease with the required dignity, efficiency and depth that these documents clearly illustrate.

**If you haven't already done so, you can read:**

The LDAA response document to the scoping study here: <http://ow.ly/t7JrG>

The Western Australia Lyme Association response document here: <http://ow.ly/tF3yV>

The LymeLinks response document here: <http://ow.ly/tF3Fk>

The Sarcoidosis Lyme Association response document here: <http://ow.ly/tF3lq>

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## ***Reminder: Volunteers Needed For Tick Study!***

Murdoch University in Western Australia have been awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant. This Grant has enhanced the current tick research program under the leadership of Associate Professor Peter Irwin (Veterinary). It will now enable the development of 'a new molecular toolkit to investigate zoonotic tick-borne pathogens in Australia'.

Would you like to help prove the existence of Lyme disease in Australia?

Dr Irwin needs ticks to test for Lyme pathogens & he is interested in receiving samples from as many states and regions as possible!

Can you help?

if so.....

here's what you will need to

know: [LDAADrIrwinTickProject.jpg](#), [LDAADrIrwinTickProject.pdf](#)

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## ***The 2014 World Wide Lyme Awareness Protest.....***

***May 16-18 in a town near you!***

You may recall that in May last year, The first inaugural World Wide Lyme Awareness Protest (more widely being referred to as the WWLAP) was held.

It was considered the most significant awareness campaign that has been held for Lyme disease to date.

Last year there were over 50 events in 25 countries. In Australia, multiple events, both large and small, were held in almost every state and over 14 iconic buildings or bridges were lit up in green.

Planning for Australian awareness events is only just now getting started....

We hope to see events in all of states and territories this year!!

But...

We would also really like to see more country towns/regional areas hold events too!!!

Not only would this help spread awareness in regional areas, it would also reduce travel distances and open up more options for regional Lyme patients to be involved.

**Any town anywhere in Australia can hold an event for the 2014  
WWLAP!**

**So get together with a few people & Start thinking about a WWLAP  
event in your home town!**

**Remember it doesn't have to be big to be successful.....**

**A table. some brochures and some friends and family to attend your  
stall and talk to people as they pass-by will raise awareness!  
or you can choose to support or attend the main event nearest you!**

**Whatever you choose, watch this space because.... Lyme  
Awareness Saves Lives**

**We will be releasing information very soon  
(like how to register your event, ordering merchandise and brochures & where to  
connect with others)**

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## **Lyme-ED:**

**As of our next edition, LYME-ED will be a new regular section in our newsletter  
that we hope will bring our readers some helpful Lyme information  
& education.**

To kick off this new and exciting segment, we will be having Dr Christabelle Yoeh join us for a while!

Christabelle is a physician in nutritional and environmental medicine who has been treating patients with chronic infections and Lyme disease. She has been working in this field since 2006 and she was previously based at the Breakspear Medical Group in the UK.

Christabelle believes that addressing digestive function, mucosal immunity and detoxification are the three pillars of treating these conditions with the forth being antimicrobials.

**In a series of short articles that will be designed to allow you to**

take in information and follow up on some ideas,

**Dr Christabelle's first series of articles will cover:**

What are the most important lifestyle and dietary changes that you would recommend for Lyme patients?

**Future Topics will include:**

How can I best support my immune system naturally?  
Supplement Spotlight

We extend a very warm welcome to Dr Christabelle and we thank you in advance for sharing information based on your knowledge and experience.

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## *Notice of the LDAA Annual General Meeting:*

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting for the Lyme Disease Association of Australia will be held on

Monday 3rd March 2014 at 8pm EST (7pm for QLD, 7:30pm for SA) via conference line.

Nominations are open for the position of Secretary as well as targeted committee leaders and members.

For Further information on attending the AGM (dial in information) or to obtain a nomination form:

Please email: [info@lymedisease.org.au](mailto:info@lymedisease.org.au)

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## *A Word From The Committee:*

It's an exciting time in the Australian Lyme community... the call out for collaboration for the Scoping Study submission brought us all together like never before. And, WOW, what an amazing and determined group we are. Our work and governmental lobbying will continue as truly, not another day should go by in Australia where a patient is denied care or discriminated against on the basis of mass rejection of a particular diagnosis.

We will continue to be very actively involved behind the scenes advocating for patients as part of the Australian government's Clinical Advisory Committee. The next meeting is expected sometime in March.

Please put up your hand for the upcoming WWLAP on May 16-18... participate in a BIG or SMALL way – it all helps! I can still remember all in-depth conversations I had at our last two awareness events here on the Sunshine Coast - lives were changed by learning about Lyme. I'd even go as far as to say a few lives were saved! Any effort you make to participate will make a difference.

Thanking you!

Sharon

### **The International Tick Borne Diseases Conference**

Will be held again this year and hosted by The Karl McManus Foundation. We will provide some more information on that shortly. Information will also be released soon at <http://www.karlmcmanusfoundation.org.au/>

### **Random Acts of Lymeness .....is an ALL-YEAR-ROUND awareness and fundraising campaign!**

The LDAA can support and help people who want to do something for the good of Lyme. You can read more about it, make enquiries, get some ideas and find out how to register an event here:

<http://www.lymedisease.org.au/randomacts/>

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