

We've got some exciting content for you to read this month!



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Dear dan,

[Celebrating Rev'd Nikki Coleman](#)

To continue our series in celebrating some of our early Lyme awareness warriors, we're proud and delighted to present an interview with Rev'd Nikki Coleman, the immediate past President of the LDAA.

You may or may not know, but Nikki was once famously known as 'the woman who wouldn't die', wheelchair bound and required full care for 8 years.

Nikki's recovery is a true triumph and unsurprisingly she still continues to dedicate a significant amount of time behind the scenes improving the situation for Lyme and Lyme-like disease patients in Australia.

Read Rev'd Nikki's inspiring interview [here](#).



[Lyme Ed: Ask The Doctor - Part 5](#)

The fifth installment in our **Six part series** with [Dr Yeoh](#) will be available to you in our February Newsflash!

Missed one? Access all the [previous installments here](#).

(Image source: Pixabay 2013)

[Lyme in the Media](#)

Chanel Seven's current affairs program ['Sunday Night'](#) recently aired a segment focusing on Australian Lyme disease patients heading to Germany for treatment.

The overwhelming consensus from the Lyme community was that the segment raised awareness and presented some very real issues faced by sufferers. However, we also acknowledge that there were some missed opportunities.

Haven't seen the segment?

You can head to our [website](#) or watch [part one](#) and [part two](#) here.

[Counting Lyme patients!](#)

As many in our community would be aware, Lyme or Lyme-like disease is not notifiable. As a result public health officials do not collect statistics about patients with Lyme or Lyme-like disease or vectors that infect said patients in Australia.

In an attempt to alter the status-quo, the Lyme Disease Association of Australia began counting Lyme and Lyme-like disease patients and their experiences a few years ago. The resultant responses was then analysed and a [report prepared](#).

We've now taken this one step further and [spatially represented the data](#); its visually sobering. There are currently two sets of data represented:

- [Locations of individuals by residential suburb with a confirmed case of Lyme disease](#); and
- [Tick bite locations of individuals with a confirmed case of Lyme disease](#).

Keen to help?

Members of our community can participate in the mapping process by completing [our short survey](#). Data from the survey will be analysed and plotted periodically.

[Did you know we have a new LDAA Shop?](#)

The Lyme Disease Association of Australia has recently transitioned to a new platform for our [merchandise shop](#).

The shop is based in Australia but the same premise applies in that the LDAA receives a percentage of each sale made. Importantly, there are more than just t-shirts to have designs printed on. There are aprons, doggy jumpers and much, much more!

There are two ways to purchase; the first is to select one of the [pre-designed items](#), the second is to select a [design](#) and then have it printed on an item of your choice. It really is that easy!.

[Feel free to let us know](#) if you have a favourite design or product you'd like to see customised.

TIP: Keep watch for an announcement regarding a new and improved 2015 Worldwide Lyme Awareness Project (WWLP) t-shirt that will be released soon!

[Coming Up: Early Schedule of Events for 2015](#)

There's some events already booking for next year - here's a snapshot:

Bee's 4x4 Adventures Annual Charity Weekend:

You may remember that the Bee's 4x4 charity weekend was advertised in our last newsletter and was originally booked for a weekend in November 2014. Unfortunately, due to ongoing extreme drought conditions and fire risk in the area, the Bylong Creek 4x4 Park made the difficult decision to close for the season. As a result, the Lyme fundraising event did not proceed and has been rescheduled for March 28th and 29th 2015.

Please keep this date free as it's going to be a great weekend! To keep in the loop

about this event or to confirm your attendance, visit the [event Facebook page here](#)

KMF International Tick Borne Diseases Conference:

[The Karl McManus Foundation \(KMF\)](#) is holding the 3rd International Tick Borne Disease conference entitled "***The Way Forward***" on 7-8 March 2015.

The event is being held at the [Kerry Packer Education Centre](#), Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, Sydney.

For more information go to the [KMF website](#).

The LDAA would like to continue their annual 50% Doctor Scholarship program for the KMF Tick Borne Disease Conference. We have a couple spots available for the 2015 conference, if your doctor is open to the existence of a Lyme-like illness in Australia, has NOT been to a KMF conference previously, would be open to having their details listed on our physician list and you'd like to invite them - please contact us via our [contact us form](#).

Worldwide Lyme Project (WWLP) May 15-17 2015:

While you may have heard the WWLP is in a process of transformation globally, please be assured that the Australian event planning is well under way. We've had a committed team meeting each month and working towards building on the successful frameworks of the past two years. We are planning for implementation of systems to streamline communication, merchandising orders, event support and more.

Keep watch for the planning announcements in late January! If you already know you'd like to host an awareness event, volunteer for the planning committee or you have questions, please [email](#) or connect with us in the [Facebook planning group](#).

If you'd like to volunteer your services for the planning - some key areas of expertise like social media, media/marketing or administration require assistance. Just let us know at the above email or via our [contact us form](#)

[We're recruiting!](#)

Being a Lyme volunteer is a deeply rewarding and vital job. So much progress has been made and yet, we have such a long way to go. If you're an authentic and passionate person with some skill sets to share, let us know.

The LDAA 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](#).
2. **General Administration** - We often have short term projects with which we need help. This would be perfect for the high detailed, behind the scenes type. [Contact us here](#).
3. **Social Media** - A whiz with social media - especially Facebook and Twitter? Yay, we need you! [Contact us here](#).
4. **Medical Copywriter** - Do you have medical or science copy writing or even research experience? We've got some exciting things happening and we need your help, [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!

[A Word From The Committee](#)

WOW, what a powerful year! We've had some major steps forward and some disappointments as well. We're so honoured to be part of such a vibrant and productive community... even with all the challenges we each face, we witness people pick themselves up and keep moving forward... working to make a difference for themselves and all Lyme patients in Australia.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank those that contacted us, those that assisted us and the broader Lyme community for a productive 2014. It has been a mammoth year! We wish you and your families seasons greetings and goodwill.

The LDAA team are also taking a much needed break over the festive season and as such **our email enquiry service will only be periodically monitored during the festive season**, specifically from 5:00pm Friday 19th December 2014 until Monday 5th January 2015.

Yours in Green,

Sharon Whiteman | President
Michelle Kelly | Newsletter Editor.

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