

2015 is going to be a VERY exciting year in Lyme world. Are you ready?



**LYME DISEASE**  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
For Lyme Disease Awareness & Action

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*Dear Lymelighter,*

## [Lyme Brochures in INFO-MED stands](#)



We're PROUD to announce that our Lyme disease brochures will now be available at a large number of medical practices that hold INFO-MED stands throughout Victoria and NSW.

This is an AMAZING opportunity to assist those with undiagnosed Lyme disease. The distributing of our brochures throughout medical clinics could be life saving for so many people.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank INFO-MED for supporting the LDAA in assisting us in awareness of Lyme and tick-borne diseases, by hosting our brochures. Please let us know if you see one at your local practice!

The LDAA will be looking into expanding this service Australia wide. To sustain an initiative like this help us by [Donating Here](#).

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## Who Wants to Help Raise Awareness for Lyme disease in Australia?

We asked this a few weeks back on our [Facebook page](#) and the response was incredible :-) Well here it is – our united awareness campaign targeted directly towards our government officials – [AUSTRALIA'S LYME POSTCARD CAMPAIGN](#).



Imagine your Members of Parliament coming into their electoral office to find THOUSANDS of Lyme disease postcards signed by a community wanting action on Lyme disease. This can't be ignored. They need to know **who we are**. This is a united call to action for all Lyme disease sufferers and a voice for anyone affected by Lyme disease.

We have a series of key message postcards planned for 2015 – from May through to

December – we look forward to partnering with you! Together, we will show that our families, friends, neighbours and our communities support us and want action and answers.

As you know.... awareness leads to people understanding; leads to people standing up and being heard; leads to the government listening; leads to Lyme recognition here in Australia :-)

HUGE thanks to LDAA volunteer Yvonne Evans for bringing us this concept to support Lyme patients nationally.

**So, join us and let's go for it today!** [For full details including our handy 'How to participate guide' click here.](#)

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## [The May Lyme Project 2015](#)

Lyme awareness truly saves lives. This May we're excited to announce [The May Lyme Project \(TMLP\)](#) – new name, same goals! TMLP is our annual awareness and fundraising campaign.

The event is held 15 - 17th May each year and during the month of May, the LDAA sponsors and supports an assortment of awareness and fundraising events occurring throughout Australia. The purpose of the event is simple: to raise awareness and funds for the on-going advocacy of Lyme and Lyme-like disease within our country.

So, we've been extra busy in the background organising this nation-wide event. [Posters and flyers](#) for TMLP are ready and we already have many eager Lymies and friends on board with events registered or in the works! When you [register an event](#), your event will appear on our calendar and map so that people can show up to support you!

We're updating the event planning and management tool kit for 2015 (your event planning arsenal kit) but we promise to keep you in the loop! In the weeks leading up to May, we will keep you informed about the project's progress!

The added bonus of the [Lyme Postcard Campaign](#) this year brings an element of depth and breadth – our early feedback is that our community feels that it's something ANYONE can get involved in and they're EXCITED!

**Working together this May, we can make a HUGE difference in 2015 – Join us!**  
[Click here for The May Lyme Project.](#)

If you require additional info, please email [the Project Manager, Yvonne Evans](#).

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## Rare Diseases Survey



Our friends from the [Genetic and Rare Disease Network](#) would love for you to be involved in a short survey:

"If you are a **parent, mother or father**, of a child with a rare disease – Lyme is rare, in that it is **rarely recognised** – that is 18 years or under, you're invited to complete a survey aimed at identifying your supportive care needs.

The purpose of this research is to better understand the support needs of parents caring for a child diagnosed with a rare disease (irrespective of what disease your child has), and to develop a tool for use by health professionals to assist them in identifying parental support needs. The information obtained should eventually lead to more appropriate individualised supportive care for parents.

Parents of children with a rare disease play a vital role in the daily lives of their children with a rare disease. They carry significant daily responsibilities of care. Yet, very little is actually known about their supportive care needs. Research aims to give parents of children with rare diseases an opportunity to have their voices heard and their needs recognised with the ultimate goal to improve the way health providers identify needs, tailor support and plan and implement services within the rare disease community."

***This study has been approved by the University of South Australia Human Research Ethics.***

If you are caring for a child (under 18) with Lyme and wish to take part in this survey, [please click here](#).

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## Calendar of Events

- [March 14th & 15th CIRS Conference | Dr Ritchie Shoemaker](#) is hosting a one and a half day Physician's Only Seminar in Sydney on 14 -15<sup>th</sup> March 2015. All details and registration information is available [here](#).
- [15th - 17th | LDAA The May Lyme Project](#): Our annual May awareness

campaign takes a new name this year, but holds the same goals! Planning to host an event, then please [click here](#). Once you register, your event will be added to our [calendar and map](#), so people can show up to support you in your fantastic fundraising endeavours.

- [28th - 29th March | 4x4 Lyme Adventure Fundraiser:](#)

Bee's 4x4 Adventures Annual Charity Weekend is hosting a Lyme fundraiser at the [Bylong Creek 4x4 park](#).

It's gearing up to be a great weekend for all the family, that will also raise Lyme awareness, and benefit the LDAA, [the Karl McManus Foundation](#), and the needs of one seriously ill patient in particular, Mandi Loren. Keep up with the latest about this event by joining the official [Facebook Event Page](#) or you can [email Janice](#).

- [Starting 23rd March | Environmental Sensitivities Symposium 2015:](#)

23 thought leaders will present over the week including Dr Tania Ash, John Coleman and Dr Christabelle Yeoh. The ES Symposium is packed full of tips, strategies and actions that you can take to improve your health! The symposium is online & [registration is FREE](#).

**Get your free ticket today and consider upgrading, so you can support some great charities, including the LDAA.**

- [11th July | KMF Lyme Gala Ball:](#)

The Lyme Gala Ball will be held at the Ivy Ballroom, George Street Sydney. Tickets from \$200. All proceeds will allow the important work of the Sydney Uni Tick-Borne Unit to continue their crucial research. You can find event details [here](#) or join the event Facebook page [here](#).



**Organisers of the KMF Gala Ball need your help** to secure appropriate auction prizes & memorabilia type items, or are you able to secure sponsorship or help us to sell tickets. Please help the Lyme Gala Ball become a true success | [Contact KMF](#).

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## [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 and the LDAA team has fun! (in a 'Lymie' kind of way ;-)) If you're an authentic and passionate person with some skill

sets to share, let us know.

The LDAA is currently seeking volunteers to fill the following voluntary positions:

1. [IT/Wordpress Support](#) | Are you passionate about IT support? If so you will also need to be proficient in HTML5, CSS, MySQL, PHP, Wordpress and familiar with cloud storage and social media. If this sounds like you, or you'd like to know more then please [contact us](#).
2. **General Admin** | Are you a computer whiz? If you're organised, familiar with gmail, dropbox, MS Office and love teamwork then we need you! Please [contact us](#).

If you have a skill set that isn't listed, please contact us and let us know how you'd like to help. 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](#)

WOW, what a busy time it's been, but if it's possible to be so, we're even more committed to 'getting the job done'.

On behalf of Lyme patients nationally, We want recognition; we want research funded; we want affordable testing and treatment; and we want tick bite prevention and awareness programs.

Our efforts combined in the upcoming May Lyme Project and Lyme Postcard Campaign will be crucial in building that recognition and highlight our plight and government engagement this year. I hope you are as excited about the possibilities as we are.

We're very pleased to see almost consistent/regular press exposure of Lyme disease. Even with irregularities in the facts – it truly does make it rare now to find an Australian that doesn't know what Lyme disease is. Thank you to all of you who reach out!

### **How can you help?**

Part of our engagement this year will include reaching out to Australian politicians. If you have a contact that you'd like us to connect with –please feel welcomed to send their information (including details of previous contact) through to us [here](#).

## **Your story counts too!**

We will be doing a call out in the next month for more personal Lyme stories... Stay tuned, we look forward to your assistance!

At the LDAA, we're very grateful for all of the Lyme community participation past and future. SO many of you reach out, work tirelessly and support others no matter how rough you're feeling yourself. If you can participate in our Postcard Campaign and/or May Lyme Project – we'll look forward to being in Lyme action with you! So, we'd like to say we appreciate and thank you for all you do!

Yours in Green,

**Sharon Whiteman | President**

**Amber Beilharz | Newsletter Editor**



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