

Welcome to our May Lyme month, where we celebrate community, Lyme warriors & raise awareness for this debilitating disease!



LYME DISEASE
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
For Lyme Disease Awareness & Action

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Dear Lymelighter,

[The May Lyme Project](#)



MAY 15th-17th, 2015

Lyme disease is affecting someone you know
Please join us to Take Action Now for Lyme patients!

lymedisease.org.au/events

We May'd it! If you haven't heard yet, we've been trumpeting loud & proud that May is LDAA's annual awareness month. We're so excited to be able to share with you a host of wonderful events across Australia. From awareness days at city landmarks, to market stalls, seminars & BBQs, we sincerely value your contribution to raising the Lyme disease profile in Australia. All these fundraising and awareness efforts are really made possible by the joint effort of our community, and we're so thankful! Lyme awareness truly does save lives!

To see what's on in May, please check out our [May Lyme Project events calendar](#) on our online interactive map or the tabs directly below to see what is happening in your state. For more information please [visit us!](#) Click here for [Posters and flyers](#).

If you would like to contribute, but are unable to attend an event, you can [donate](#) or purchase merchandise from [our store](#), wearable merchandise that you can wear all year round!

Remember to download a Photo permissions form for your event, you can do so [here](#).

[Media Savvy or Want to Share YOUR Story?](#)

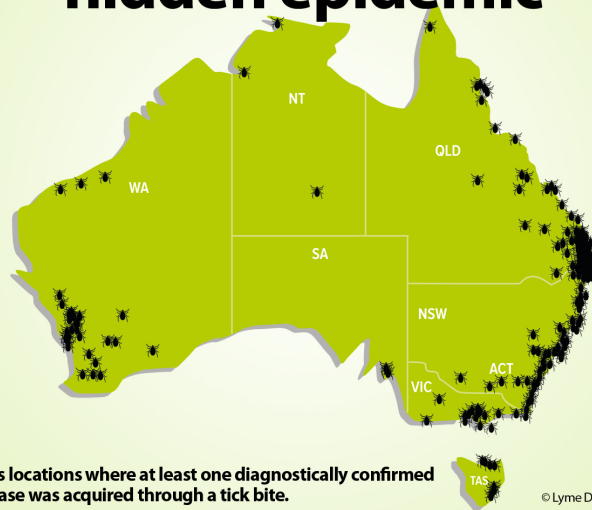
If you have media contacts, and would like to reach out to your local magazine or newspaper, we'd like to help! We have Pre-made Press Releases and Media Talking Point documents for you. All you need to do is fill in the blanks! These documents ensure Lyme disease facts are consistent, which enables you to just share YOUR story.

Join our [Lyme Action Australia Facebook group](#) or [contact us](#) for the above documents, or if you have been in contact with media, so we don't duplicate.

We will also be contacted by journalists who would like to represent Lyme patient stories in the media. Please complete [our form](#) if you're willing to share your story!

[The Lyme Postcard Campaign](#)

Lyme disease: Australia's hidden epidemic



The support, from you and our community has been AMAZING! We told you this was our year for Lyme awareness and the community and beyond have been so generous in supporting our campaign to lobby government! Our postcards are a visually outspoken, collaborative message to our government officials urging our policy makers to listen. Your involvement in our campaign has been vital in spreading a far-reaching message that Lyme is here in Australia, instilling a message that without government action our community and the public go without diagnosis, are frequently misdiagnosed, and continue to endure unnecessary suffering. The LDAA has been working to make this a reality since the organisation's inception, but it is a road that is well travelled. We hope that this year and our Postcard campaign will inspire change.

When your cards are in the post, please send a quick email to [the events team](#) to let them know! If you have any cards left over, please also email the events team at the above email address, so they can reallocate them to someone else :-)

Government Ready

As part of the Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease (CACLD) that met between 2012 to 2014, the Chief Medical Officer of Australia asked for public submissions to the Scoping Study. The LDAA collaborated with over 150 Lyme patients via an online forum and submitted a comprehensive response.

[The LDAA Scoping Study response can be found here.](#)

We've been recently prompted by the patient community to highlight the [Patient Focussed Strategic Action Plan](#) which was submitted as part of this.

As we all know, Lyme does not discriminate. There are also experienced government employees who are Lyme patients. This plan is 'government ready', an action plan prioritising both research and a patient-focused immediate support plan which is ready to implement on our behalf.

[Celebrating Our Lyme Pioneers – Rosemary Trudeau](#)

We're happy to be able to share with you, our interview with Rosemary Trudeau. Rosemary was a member of TAGS (the first Australian support group) and Founder of 'LymeOz' in 2006. We're blessed to be able to share Rosemary's Lyme journey with you. [Read the full interview here.](#)

[Ask the Doctor: Part 5 – Looking After Your Nervous System](#)

We're excited to bring you the fifth part in our sixth part series from 'Ask the Doctor' written by Dr. Christabelle Yeoh. Part five explores 'The Terrain, The Neuro Immune System & its Interface'.

"When we talk about an infection, the focus should not be just about the organism. It is in fact, a combination whereby microbial genes interact with our genes and this can then dictate the outcome of the mix. Just like in a relationship, this is a partnership where it takes two to tango with the pathogens that we carry."

[Read the rest of PART 5 here.](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

- [30th April - 31st May | I See Lyme presented by Town Smoke](#)
Screenprinting: This is an online T-shirt drive, hosted by a member of our community to fundraise and raise awareness with this cool design. All profits from the T-shirts purchased in the month of May will go to the LDAA. Love to support the community, design & us -- shop the 'I See Lyme' range from Town Smoke [here.](#)
- [15th - 17th | LDAA The May Lyme Project events:](#) Where you can find a FULL list of our May awareness events. Scroll down and check out our map! Let's show Australia how broad-reaching Lyme disease can be. Join us in spreading

awareness!

- [11th July | Lyme Gala Ball](#): The Lyme Gala Ball by the community and their supporters. It will be held at the Ivy Ballroom (George Street, Sydney). Tickets from \$200. You can find event details [here](#) or join the event Facebook page [here](#). Alternatively, you can contact organisers: Sue Sherratt (0488 603 532), Mal Pace (0408 644 401) or Elaine Kelly (0412 621 773).
- [26th July | Run Melbourne](#): Jane is running for her best friend and nephew, Andrew who suffers from Lyme disease. Run Melbourne is on Sunday 26th of July. Jane is raising money and awareness for the LDAA, so supporting Jane in her run is supporting Andrew, and our community.

[Volunteer With Us!](#)

Volunteers are the LDAA life-blood. Being a volunteer is a deeply rewarding and vital job. So much progress has been made in the Lyme volunteer world 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. **Medical Science Writer** | Do you have skills in medical research, writing and analysis? Let us know!
2. **Fulfilment Volunteer** | Are you an organised person with a skill for analysis? This role is perfect for someone who likes to work independently and would like to give back. Hours are flexible and it would be great for this person to have friends or family to help during bigger projects.

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!

[A Word From the Committee](#)

We're overwhelmed with gratitude to the community who continue to give, support, and champion the Lyme awareness cause with their boxing gloves on, despite being both patient and advocate. Thank you for what you do, we rely on our community, we

appreciate you and are indebted to your support, thank you for cheering us on, in our effort to make major strides forward in the fight for recognition.

Australia has a world class medical system, so it's inconceivable that we receive countless emails per week outlining neglect and discrimination that patients experience in the doctors office, emergency rooms and specialist clinics. We're looking forward to this month, to supporting you in your fundraising efforts, to lobbying our government with our Postcard Campaign keeping the spotlight on Lyme disease, we will continue to make waves.

Yours in Green,

Sharon Whiteman | President
Amber Beilharz | Newsletter Editor



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