

Mid-year Lyme update!



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

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Dear Lymelighter,



## In the Media

- [NBN News \(Newcastle\)](#) shed light on the controversy of Lyme disease and its research. 2015 media has blessed the community with unbiased broadcasting and highlighted the immediate need to address Lyme disease as a health crisis in Australia.
- Television programme, ABC Landline released a report on [Q-Fever in Australians and the absence of a vaccination campaign](#). Q-Fever is an

infectious, debilitating disease caused by bacterium, transmitted to humans from animals. Those most at risk are those who handle animals during times of drought. In response to Lateline's programme, Health Minister Sussan Ley has promised to keep a "watching brief" on the incident of Q-Fever. If treated early on with antibiotic therapy, Q-Fever like Lyme disease can be effectively treated. Up to 25% of patients with Q-Fever go on to develop long-term, debilitating chronic fatigue.



## Support Group | Southern Sydney

**First meeting | Monday August 10th @ 12pm to 1.30pm.**

Contact for details: [southernsydneylymegroup@gmail.com](mailto:southernsydneylymegroup@gmail.com)



LDAA support group has been established in Southern Sydney and is run by Gabrielle Stevens. The support group will create a safe, non-judgemental environment, where people can share their experiences and stories of living with Lyme disease, a meet up where Lyme disease sufferers are met with understanding, care and support. The Lyme Support Group welcomes Lyme sufferers, carers and family.



## Ask the Doctor | Protecting the Mitochondria

In our ASK THE DOCTOR series, Dr Christabelle Yeoh brings us part 2 of 'The Terrain, The Neuro Immune System & its Interface: Mitochondria & its cell membranes'.

*"As we know, a large number of patients with chronic tick-borne diseases do not get diagnosed with a single neurological deficit or clearly defined neurological disease. Instead they have a variety of neurological complaints..."*

[Read more here.](#)



## QLD Tick Collection | CQU Study

The project is only open to ticks collected in QUEENSLAND. The initiative is run by Ms Melissa Chalada, Dr Richard Bradbury and researchers from Central Queensland University (CQU). The project is collecting ticks from animals, looking for the presence of several agents known to cause infections in humans.

The research will assist in uncovering how common different infectious agents are in Australian ticks, which will better allow researchers to know the likelihood of people and animals acquiring disease when bitten by ticks.

[Click here to view details...](#)



## Research | Murdoch Uni Paper

**Peter Irwin and his team of researchers at Murdoch University released their findings and it is a game changer!** Peter Irwin and his team found a Borrelia relapsing fever group, Bartonella henselae and a new type of Neoehrlichia bacterium, Anaplasma and Rickettsia in an Australian paralysis tick. The Murdoch University research provides the much-awaited scientific fuel needed to show that Lyme-like pathogens are indeed present in Australia.

Whilst the research doesn't definitively show Lyme disease pathogens are in Australian ticks, their findings do pave a new path for tick-borne disease research. Peter Irwin et.al research is ongoing and inspires a renewed hope for the future of tick-borne disease discoveries.

You can read our media release [here](#), or the research study [here](#).



## Events Calendar

- [Ticked Off & Travelling](#): The Pooley family are travelling around Australia, to raise awareness and education for Lyme disease, an illness that plagues their entire family. If you want to support their journey/travels, you can connect with the Pooley family via their facebook group [here](#). Or, contact the family [here](#).
- [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. Donate [here](#).



## From the Committee

**Welcome |** Our fulfilment volunteer Jen has passed the baton to our new fulfilment team member, Michael. LDAA would like to give Michael a warm welcome! Jen will stay on as Vice President and is looking forward to expanding her role in other areas of LDAA Lyme activism. For the past 2 years Jen has undoubtedly exceeded all expectations within the fulfilment officer role at the LDAA. We're still looking for a IT web support volunteer for our virtual office (view details at the very bottom of this newsflash.)

**Political Advocacy** | Thank you to all patients who have reached out to their state and federal MPs with postcards and personal contact. We've been busy backing you up with contacts and to date we have over 21 MPs who've received an in-depth briefing on Lyme disease in Australia. To date we have 3 federal MPs and 3 state MPs who are taking various levels of action on our behalf. We will continue our reach out with the goal to have all postcard MPs briefed within the next month.

**Lyme Gala Ball** | We'd like to send out a hearty congratulations to the patient organisers of the recent Lyme Gala Ball, as volunteers who are struggling ourselves we understand the immense task of organising, managing, liaising a large event. Well done!

**The Big Picture** | I'd like to leave you with my favourite quote of the year to date:

*"Previously diseases which didn't fit into the medical model of the day were labelled as emerging diseases and patients were treated as best as possible while science caught up and determined the greater picture." - Dr R.S. (paraphrased).*

This is the direct opposite of the Lyme patient experience in Australia. Instead patients are the 'burden of proof' of their own disease. Join me in asking Australia what's gone wrong? We're working hard to diagnose and treat Australia's opinion of tick-borne disease, the biggest symptoms for the Australian government and health professionals is denial, absence of care and testing for Australian sufferers of Lyme disease. Slowly, Australia will change and we will continue to inject awareness through advocacy and fundraising.

Yours in Green,



Sharon Whiteman  
President



**Join our volunteer team!**

**Enquire or Apply**

**IT & Web Support** | to view this role's responsibilities and application criteria click [here](#).

*Newsletter Editor | Amber Beilharz*

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