

LYME'S DISEASE; Written and submitted by Bev McMillan, [REDACTED]

My awareness of a sufferer of Lyme's disease has been a young male, who was fully functional, as strong as an ox and had a work ethic of extremely high standards in 2007.

By 2010 this poor man was crippled, with what was labelled, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

In 2010 he lived with his partner in Geraldton and my youngest son shared their house with them. [REDACTED] was suffering the most extreme symptoms at that stage. Paralyzing headaches, ongoing crippling fatigue and then was unable to sleep at night. I suspect there was even way more agony, that he was covering.

By 2011 my son had another house, as did [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were married in March of that year in Geraldton.

[REDACTED] saw many doctors who prescribed a myriad of treatments to try and cure his fatigue and hopefully live the life he used to enjoy.

He was an enthusiastic and inspired young farmer up to 2007 and so the inability to carry on doing what he loved, was emotionally devastating.

With the help of a loving and understanding wife (thankfully a nurse), they forged on.

[REDACTED] tried working in Geraldton for a stock firm, but was unable to continue due to his health.

In 2012 their beautiful son [REDACTED] was born and they both delighted in his arrival to their family. But a new set of concerns and guilt arose for [REDACTED] "I am (should be.....the males in my family always have been), the breadwinner."

December 2012 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] tried another venture. He was to be an Auto Electrical apprentice. This wasn't the answer and in May 2013 they came back to live in the house on the Noman's Lake property where [REDACTED] was raised.

The farm had been leased, but the house was still theirs to use.

From that base, it seems they have found a way to unravel the mystery illness; which had destroyed body, mind and soul for [REDACTED] and for [REDACTED] too in parts.

[REDACTED] became a stay at home Dad. [REDACTED] worked at the local hospital.

They started appointments with a Dr in Perth and whilst the diagnosis of Lyme's was daunting, it was **such** a relief to have a concrete reason for all the crippling symptoms he was suffering. The guilt, shame and bewilderment started to lift.

Then the treatment with rugged doses of antibiotics began. Sometimes this treatment came close to being as debilitating as the Lyme's illness was.

Another deep guilt and fear emerged for [REDACTED] the suggestion that Lyme's disease is sexually transmitted. I recall the day he told me this information. It was gut wrenching for me, let alone how it must have been for them. (I have never had the courage to ask [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] what that implies for family planning.)

By then however, [REDACTED] had a mission. He is a tough, young, country male and has rarely complained, through what I suspect were some horrendous times.

The very sad part is, it now appears this could have been easily cured, had it been treated with antibiotics way back in 2010.

I believe [REDACTED] is only here still because he is made of steel.

December 2015, [REDACTED] is as close to the old [REDACTED] as I have seen him in the last five years.