

Cigarette ban

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon has flagged new regulations which would ban the sale of flavoured cigarettes, which she described as "a threat to children."

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EACH day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving subscribers the chance to win an Australis Perfection Brush on Foundation.

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Congratulations to **Rohan Greenland** from the **Heart Foundation**, who was the first to correctly advise that the new Australis logo is pink in colour.

To enter today, simply be the first to email your answer to the question below to -

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Question: Name your favourite Australis product.

Coles pharmacy act breach

THE NSW Supreme Court has found that Coles breached the NSW Pharmacy Act 1964 when it purchased online outlet Pharmacy Direct.

Justice Peter Young issued his ruling yesterday after a hearing earlier this year (PD 20 Feb).

The comprehensive 114-paragraph judgement comes down on the side of the Pharmacy Guild's contention, which is that the so-called 'grandfather clause' in the Pharmacy Act doesn't allow the transfer of the business.

Young found that since Coles didn't own any shares in Pharmacy Direct's owner Sydney Drug Stores until 31 Mar 06, it's not able to claim an exemption from the rules which require a pharmacist to own a pharmacy.

The judge said the Pharmacy Guild is now entitled to the declarations it was seeking in the case - that is, that the Coles Group subsidiary holds a 'pecuniary interest' in the pharmacy business conducted by Sydney Drug Stores Pty Ltd, and

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that in turn this is a contravention of the Act.

Justice Young has given both parties three weeks to consider his verdict before making final orders, which could see Coles forced to transfer or sell the business to a pharmacist or pharmacist-owned corporation.

The case is next listed for mention at 9.30am on 24 Apr 08, and the judge has asked the Guild's lawyers to formulate "formal orders" in relation to the matter so they can be considered at that time.

Blackmores vision

BLACKMORES has reformulated its Lutein Vision supplement, with the new Advanced product adding omega-3 fatty acids and zeaxanthin after recent studies found fatty acids are the building blocks of photoreceptors.

HRT guidelines

THE International Menopause Society has issued new guidelines for the use of Hormone Replacement Therapy, saying that it can be safe and effective for symptomatic, otherwise healthy, peri- and post menopausal women under 16 years.

Early initiation of HRT in patients is of "major importance for relief of menopausal symptoms and protection against the consequences of oestrogen deficiency," the society said.

New Hep C drug

SCHERING-PLOUGH'S new Pegatron (pegylated interferon alfa-2b) has now been approved for use in Australia for retreating Hepatitis C patients, in combination with daily ribavirin.

It's the first and only pegylated interferon combination therapy approved here, with the company saying the move gives "thousands of Australians a second chance at clearing the virus".



DISPENSARY CORNER

A GERMAN man admitted for surgery to clear a blocked intestine was left with more than he started with after doctors left a pair of 15-inch surgical clamps inside his body.

Norbert Pohl emerged from the operation in "excruciating pain" but was only told about the blunder five days later after an X-ray clearly revealed the instruments inside his abdomen.

Pohl is claiming \$250,000 in compensation, with his lawyer saying the clamps "rattled and shook like a chain saw, mincing his insides to pieces."

YESTERDAY was officially dubbed 'Fat Wednesday' in the UK.

Nutrition experts said that Wed 02 Apr falls in the middle of a four week gap between people giving up New Year diets and starting new ones to get in shape for the northern summer.

An added factor is the early Easter break this year, which means most people still have chocolate in their homes.

The Sun newspaper said the average Briton consumed about 4000 calories yesterday - almost double the amount officially recommended by dietitians.

A BURGLAR who tried to rob a funeral home in Spain this week attempted to evade detection by pretending to be dead.

Neighbours living near the Crespo Funeral Home in Burjassot, near Valencia, heard the front door of the business being forced late at night and alerted police.

When officers arrived they couldn't find the thief - until they noticed a scuffily-dressed 'cadaver' lying on a glassed-in chamber used for viewings of deceased people during wakes.

Closer examination revealed that the corpse was breathing.

HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* new travel feature.

Each week we plan to highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

For those interested in Vietnam, Trails of Indochina is offering a luxury beach/city package. Staying at The Nam Hai in Hoi An for 3 nights and the Intercontinental Hanoi Westlake Hotel and Resort in Hanoi for 3 nights, the deal includes airfare between Danang and Hanoi, all accomm and daily breakfasts. Prices start from \$1399 pp. For more info visit www.trailsofindochina.com.

Explore Holidays and Malaysia Airlines have put together new stay-pay deals at the Golden Sands Resort in Penang, and the Quality Hotel

City Centre in Kuala Lumpur. In Penang get 6 nights for the price of 3 incl airfares, transfers and breakfasts from \$1049 pp ex Sydney. Or for Kuala Lumpur 4 nights accom for the price of 3, transfers and late check-out. Priced from \$953 pp Ex-Syd - for more info call 1300 731 000.

Intrepid is offering an amazing deal for selected trips to Africa throughout April. Book an African adventure in April get a second African trip at 50 % off. All bookings by 30 April 08. Offer is valid for travel between 1 July 08 and 31 Oct 08. Info at www.intrepidtravel.com.

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