

Priceline push

PRICELINE is promoting its franchise program, offering pharmacists the opportunity to purchase currently operating company-owned Priceline stores.

API is seeking expressions of interest from pharmacists interested in buying one or more of the company-owned Priceline outlets - see page 2 for details.

Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia/GSK National Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award 2008 is calling for entries.

Pharmacy assistants can nominate themselves or be nominated by a colleague, such as a pharmacist or pharmaceutical rep.

Judges from the Guild will assess the written applications to select finalists from each state and territory to attend a full-day workshop.

Eight state/territory winners receive airfares and accom for the final judging session at the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference in October.

The national winner wins a cash prize of \$5,000, a Guild training course, and writes a monthly column for *Post Script* magazine.

To enter, complete the form at www.pharmacyassistants.com.

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Blackmores profit surge

BLACKMORES this morning announced a \$17.5m profit for the nine months to 31 Mar, up 19.6% on the same period in 2007.

Total sales were up 5.2% to \$133.2m, with Australia contributing 6.3% growth across the major channels of Pharmacy and Grocery, the firm said.

Although no new products were launched during the first quarter of 2008, a "heavy product launch programme is planned" for the next quarter, with products incl Odourless Fish Oil, Vegetarian Glucosamine, Prostate Health Formula, Proactive Multi for 50+.

Urgent recall

THE TGA has issued an urgent recall for Age Intervention Eyelash Conditioner, a product made by Jan Marini Skin Research and supplied by Erase Products Management Pty Ltd.

The product contains a number of prescription only ingredients incl fluprostenol and travoprost.

Health workers ignore flu risk

PHARMACISTS and pharmacy assistants may be among the healthcare professionals ignoring this winter's flu risk.

Health experts have warned that influenza vaccination rates among healthcare professionals are unacceptably low, putting them at an increased risk of developing the disease, with potentially serious implications for themselves and their patients.

"Despite the fact that influenza kills more than 2,500 people annually, the people who care for the wellbeing of our community are often the least protected during the influenza season, with 50 to 80 per cent of healthcare professionals not getting vaccinated regularly," said Professor Robert Booy, Influenza Specialist Group (ISG) member.

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Internationally the business traded about 5% higher in constant currency terms, but slightly lower than last year in A\$ terms due to the strong Aussie dollar.

RGH e-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin covers the management of psychosis in Parkinson's disease.

The bulletin is available at no charge by emailing chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

Pharmacists help heart failure patients

PHARMACISTS can help improve the outcome for hospital patients with heart failure, according to a systematic review in Canada.

Researchers from the University of Alberta found pharmacists working as part of a multidisciplinary team contributed to better outcomes than cases involving pharmacist-directed care.

"This finding is not surprising given that medication management and patient education would complement care given by nurses, physicians, and other healthcare professionals," they wrote in *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

Conference topics

A MIX of educational and career-related seminar topics has been announced for the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference 08.

Topics include job satisfaction, work performance, training and career options for assistants.

Eczema, weight management, and dehydration will also be covered in the sessions.

The conference will be held at Holiday Inn Surfers Paradise, Queensland, on October 16-18.

DISPENSARY CORNER

A VILLAGE in England is holding a vote to determine whether it can defect to Wales - in order to obtain free prescriptions for its residents.

Audlem in Cheshire is about 15km from the Welsh border, and has organised an online survey to ask villagers if they want to break away.

Although the tongue-in-cheek poll isn't expected to bring any concrete results, organisers say it's a way of highlighting increasing inequality between different areas of Britain.

If Audlem switched to Wales villagers would also get free parking at hospitals.

PEDICULOSIS treatments will be badly needed for a group of young German artists, who have announced a 'performance art' piece in which they'll live in an Israeli museum for three weeks with lice in their hair.

The Berlin artists will eat and sleep in the gallery, with "the idea being that we live in the museum as their guests, and at the same time we are hosting lice on our heads," said 23-year-old Vincent Grunwald.

The artists will wear plastic shower caps to prevent the lice from spreading, he said, insisting the performance wasn't a stunt.

"We are serious. The lice are part of the art," Grunwald said.

AN ARACHNID invasion last week forced the evacuation of a hospital in Queensland.

The redback spider infestation at Baralaba Hospital meant it was too dangerous for patients.

The hospital only has ten beds, with patients relocated to allow a thorough fumigation.

The spiders took up residence in the hospital to escape recent wet and humid weather.

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Want to be a part of a unique, powerful and growing franchise business?

As a pharmacist, this is your opportunity to purchase currently operating company-owned Priceline stores and operate them as a franchise.

As Australia's fastest growing retail chain – with sales in excess of 1 billion dollars – occupying Australia's leading market position in mid-mass cosmetics, skincare and haircare, it's no wonder Priceline is the most popular health, beauty and wellbeing shopping destination.

Priceline is a household name. We have 291 stores Australia-wide and our offering is truly unique, we're the one-stop-shop for health, beauty and wellbeing. We have a loyal customer base, dedicated Clubcard customers, a multi-million member loyalty

program, high profile advertising and a reputation for carrying the best brands. No wonder we are a household name. All that's missing is you.

Priceline is now seeking expressions of interest from pharmacists on a number of Priceline stores from within the company-owned portfolio.

You may choose to buy one or more stores.

**Expressions of interest will close
on May 30, 2008 at 4pm.**

To receive the initial expression of interest pack, please contact Johnston Rorke Chartered Accountants and speak to **Bruce Annabel** on **07 3222 8401** or **Mark Nicholson** on **07 3222 8434**.



priceline