

Merry Xmas from Pharmacy Daily

THIS is the last issue for 2008, however *Pharmacy Daily* will be returning on 05 Jan 2009.

Thank you to our thousands of readers for your continued support and feedback this year.

We wish you all a fabulous Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and look forward to continuing to bring you the latest in pharmacy news throughout 2009.

MMR workshop

CONSULTANT pharmacists Dr Geraldine Moses and Debbie Rigby, will present a two-day workshop for Medication Management Review accreditation.

The workshop will be held at Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise, on Feb 7-8 2009.

WIN a Skin Cleansing Crème

EACH day this week *PD* has been giving subscribers the chance to win a bottle of DermaNew's Sensitive Skin Cleansing Crème, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

Today is the last day to enter, so to be in the running to win, simply send your answer to the below question to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Name three other crèmes in the DermaNew range.

The first person to answer correctly will win.

CONGRATULATIONS to Noelene Morris of Marlin Coast Amcal Pharmacy who was yesterday's competition winner.

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Pharmacists recognised

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia NSW branch, held its annual Pharmacy dinner at the Waterview Convention Centre in Homebush Bay last week.

The dazzling night saw Fiona Taylor, of West Gosford Pharmacy, win The Saccasan Bailey NSW 2008 Pharmacy Intern of the Year Award.

"Fiona shows a willingness to go above and beyond the normal expectations which is typical of her attitude towards work" said previous Intern of the Year, Trent Playford.

The dinner also played host to NSW Deputy Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, who spoke on the importance of Pharmacy within the healthcare system, praising pharmacists for their hard work, including the PSA for their role.

PSA NSW branch president Peter Gissing, highlighted the unification of the PSA in 2008 and the subsequent inherent benefits of this move in future dealings with the government, stakeholders and general public.



Pictured from left is Diana Bicopoulos, Aus DI; Clare Watts, finalist; Fiona Taylor, winner; Dinah Graham, MIMS; Tom Corte, finalist and Kim Sadler, Saccasan Bailey.

Product deletions

ASTRAZENECA has announced two respiratory product deletions due to low demand and available alternatives.

Accolate (zafirlukast) 20mg tablets will be discontinued in the Australian market effective from the end of March 2009.

The alternative therapeutic agent is montelukast.

Bricanyl (terbutaline) 5.0mg/2ml Respules (nebulising solution) will also be discontinued in Australia from the end of October 2009 and will be removed from the PBS.

The alternative is salbutamol nebulules.

For queries, pharmacists should call 1800 805 342.

Low GI for diabetics

A LOW GI diet is better than a high fibre diet for people with type-2 diabetes, according to a Canadian study.

The Report indicated that a low-GI diet achieved more effective glycaemic control - after six months it showed a decrease of 0.5 absolute HbA1c units compared to a 0.18 unit decrease in the high-fibre group.

Geriatric journal

GOOD Health publications are releasing a journal in April 2009 entitled *Geriatric Medicine in General Practice*.

The 36 page issue will be circulated to all allied health professionals.

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NOW here's a case of purr-fect vision.

Ernest, a fifteen year old cat suffering from entropion (a condition where his eyelids turned inwards causing him to scratch his eyes) has been given the gift of sight in a world first-contact lenses.

Too old to go under general anesthetic, an enterprising vet suggested this radical treatment for the cat living in England.

Ernest now has plenty to purr about, being quite the celebrity, as he gives autographs at the reception desk of the RSPCA where he hangs out.

WITH the summer music festival around the corner, pharmacies may need to increase their stock of neck braces.

Australian medical experts have warned that headbanging could be behind countless cases of head and neck injuries, so heavy metal fans should wear a neck brace.

University of NSW professor, Andrew McIntosh, proposed to the *British Medical Journal* that music packaging should come with anti-head banging warnings, similar to the smoking campaigns.

"Perhaps AC/DC should play something more appropriate such as 'Moon River', he quipped.

NICABATE Patches would have been much cheaper!

Thanks to hypnosis, a tiler from West Yorkshire has given up smoking, however he is now addicted to Scampi fries.

Darren Corbett eats 20 packets of fries a day, costing him £11 (A\$20), double the amount he used to spend on buying cigarettes.

"When my mates go outside for a smoke, I sit inside and munch," said the ex-smoker.



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