

PSA NSW says yes

NSW PSA branch members voted overwhelmingly in favour of the establishment of a national organisation at an extraordinary general meeting held on Tue.

More than 30 members and staff attended the historic meeting, with about 200 more lodging proxy votes.

The two resolutions to finalise NSW constitutional changes allowing the establishment of a single, united national organisation were passed without dissent.

Steroid suicide

A PHARMACIST in the US, who was a prime suspect in a steroid scandal involving NYPD officers, has reportedly killed himself.

John Rossi, 56, the co-owner of Lowen's Pharmacy in New York, was found in his home with a gunshot wound to the head.

Police discovered 90g of raw human growth hormone, worth US\$8 million, plus testosterone, nandrolone, and stanozolol in an October raid on his pharmacy, as part of a probe into pharmacies selling HGH and steroids online.

API pharmacy up 23%

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries this morning advised that sales in its Pharmacy division for the five months to 31 Jan were up 23% on the same period last year to more than \$1 billion.

CEO Stephen Roche said "organic growth of the business has been pleasing and the integration of Alphapharm products has been successfully completed."

Updating investors, he said the Priceline Pharmacy store roll-out continues, with a "well developed

pipeline for 2008 keeping us on target for our growth plans."

He claimed Priceline had "grown its national presence" over the last 6 months in OTC healthcare, colour cosmetics and dietary supplements.

Quit smoking best contribution

HELPING people give up cigarettes is the greatest health outcome achieved by pharmacy, according to smoking cessation expert Renee Bittoun.

Speaking at last week's NAPSA Congress, Prof Bittoun said smoking intervention was vital.

"After all, one in every two smokers will die from a smoking-related condition.

"This is why we need to continue to invest in educating the future of pharmacy and why smoking cessation advice and product recommendations should remain in the domain of those professionally qualified to give that advice," she said.

2008 QUM Awards

ENTRIES are now open for the biennial National QUM Awards, which celebrate significant contributions to Quality Use of Medicines.

Pharmacists are encouraged to submit entries if they have contributed to QUM through a best practice activity or program within the last two years.

The Awards recognise the originators of QUM work and their contribution to achieving better use of medicines at a national, state or local level.

An initiative of National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) and the Pharmaceutical Health And Rational use of Medicines (PHARM) Committee, entries close on 15 Mar, with the awards to be presented in May at a gala dinner in Canberra - more info at www.nps.org.au/events.

APP2008 dinner

TICKETS to the APP2008 Gala Dinner, featuring '80s band *Mental As Anything*, have nearly sold out.

Due to a venue change to Conrad Jupiters only 800 tickets were made available.

Bookings are essential as ticket allocation is not automatic for registered conference delegates.

Places are also filling fast for the AACP Accredited Pharmacists' Forum on Thursday 27 March - to

HOT Travel Deals

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

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

Voyages Hotels and Resorts has today launched a range of special deals for its reef, rock and rainforest resorts.

Offers available include Brampton Island from \$89 per person per night, including breakfast and many activities.

Or try Dunk Island from \$99 per person per night, with kids eating and staying free.

For a rainforest experience, Silky Oaks Lodge is 49% off at \$149pp, or if the Red Centre is more appealing stay at the Lost Camel Hotel at Ayers Rock Resort from only \$77pp/night.

If you're looking at something

a little more adventurous, Flight Centre and the Royal Childrens Hospital in Brisbane have launched a fundraising website offering some amazing travel deals.

There's a small catch - if you take one of the trips you have to also carry a special bear, as part of a Guinness World Record attempt for the most travelled stuffed toy.

All proceeds go to the hospital and travel packages on offer include trips to New York, Morocco, Disneyland and Fiji.

Details are on the website at www.teddyworldtraveller.com.au.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

SUPERMARKET chain Aldi in the UK has completely sold out of its Siana Moisturising Anti-Wrinkle Cream.

The product, which costs about \$3, has been named the most effective anti-ageing cream on the market.

It was a surprise outcome from the study carried out on 2000 women which compared a range of products, some costing hundreds of dollars.

Aldi is now frantically restocking the stores after seeing sales rocket 800%.

One of the blind testers wrote "My face looked so fresh that I was asked if I'd had a facial."

PEDICULOSIS has been around for a very long time.

Scientists have just tested head lice taken from 1000-year-old mummified remains in Peru.

DNA testing showed the ancient lice were almost identical to other strains found around the globe, with Florida University researcher David Reed saying the results prove that the creatures accompanied humanity as they spread across the globe from Africa.

The two mummies must have been fairly itchy, with the scientists finding more than 500 in their elaborately braided hair.

"It was amazing. It really was remarkable how lousy they were," Reed said.

DOES this create more antioxidants?

A South African winemaker has come up with a novel way to crush his grapes - he's using a three tonne elephant to squash out the juice.

The Boplaas winery will release its first elephant-crushed Cabernet next year, with some of the proceeds going to wildlife conservation.

pharmacy
Expo
2008

Fri 20 - Sun 22 June
Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW

The largest pharmacy profession event returns to Darling Harbour in 2008. Click here for information on exhibiting or visiting the show (www.pharmacyexpo.com.au) or contact Carlene Clarke on 02 9467 7127