

## Tasigna TGA tick

A NEW breakthrough treatment for people battling chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) has been approved by the TGA.

Tasigna (nilotinib), a selective Bcr-Abl tyrosine kinase inhibitor, is a new second-line therapy for this life-threatening form of blood cancer.

It is now approved for adult patients with chronic or accelerated phase CML with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy, including Glivec (imatinib).

## Pharmacy assist

PHARMACISTS are being offered assistance with the development of a fully customised QCPP manual and procedures.

A company called Pharmacy Assist will provide advice, consultation and training with all consultance having extensive experience in Quality Care.

More info 0402 422 597.

## Bill Scott on the canvas



ABOVE: Former Vic Guild president Bill Scott was this week immortalised with a portrait commissioned to commemorate his contribution to pharmacy.

Colleagues, friends and family gathered to mark the event at Guild House in Hawthorn, where the painting will join those of other past presidents Alexander McGibbony, Sir Eric Scott, Norman Keith and Brian Lowrie in the Branch Committee Room.

Current Vic president Dipak Sanghvi said the gesture was a fitting mark of the respect commanded by Scott.

"Those who worked with Bill

## Symbion set to settle?

SYMBION'S pharmacy and consumer divisions are likely to be split from the rest of the company, as the long-running Primary takeover gets closer to success.

Yesterday Symbion directors said they would reconsider their recommendations against the bid

## Drop in strokes

THE incidence of stroke declined by 43% in the 1990s, a WA study has found.

The Perth Community Stroke Study recorded 251 first-ever strokes in 1989-1990, 213 in 1995-1996 and 183 in 2000-2001.

The significant drop in both ischaemic stroke and intracerebral haemorrhage was attributed to efforts to reduce risk factors such as smoking, heart disease and hypertension, said the study authors in this month's *Stroke* journal.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

MALE pilots and even passengers could be reaching extra altitude if the recommendation of an Israeli study into impotence medications are taken up.

The research found that tadalafil, the active ingredient in erectile dysfunction drug Cialis, improved breathing in a thin atmosphere.

Officials in the Israeli Air Force are considering the report, which follows research undertaken by a retired general on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

PATIENTS in Serbian hospitals will have a more pleasant environment, after an official government ruling which bans health workers from grumpiness and rudeness.

The health ministry's website listed the new regulations, which also ban gossiping and the wearing of mini-skirts, as well as outlawing the common practice of being bribed for better treatment.

"There needs to be ground rules for decency," said a ministry spokesman.

A STUDENT who swallowed his front door key to stop friends making him go home because he was drunk claims he has no memory of the incident.

However waking up on a sofa the next morning he felt unwell and was advised to go to hospital, where an X-ray revealed the key moving through his alimentary tract.

Fortunately he "let nature take its course" and the key emerged naturally the next day, meaning keyhole surgery wasn't required.

if Primary declares the takeover unconditional and its stake increases to more than 50.1%.

The changed rhetoric is the first glimmer of capitulation, and Primary this morning agreed that it would proceed if acceptances hit 50.1% by next Tue.

It's getting very close, with Primary confirming today that it now holds 48% of its target.

## API surges 5%

INVESTORS reacted positively to strong sales figures posted by API (PD yesterday), with the company's shares increasing by 7.5c to \$1.59.

## Antibiotic resistance initiative

A SPECIAL health-promotion on antibiotic resistance has been launched by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Pharmacy Self Care Program.

The package, which includes the February edition of *inPHARMation* magazine and consumer health facts information leaflets, will be distributed to all Pharmacy Self Care member pharmacies across Australia.

Member pharmacies will have access to additional Continuing Pharmacy Development (CPD) points and Counter Connection recognition and access to materials at [www.psa.org.au/psc](http://www.psa.org.au/psc).

## Grants up for grabs

THE Pharmacy Research Trust of NSW is now taking grant applications for 2008.

The principle object of the Trust is to further the research and postgraduate education and study in all branches of pharmacy related to the causes, prevention or cure of disease in human beings, animals or plants.

Research project grants (up to \$20,000 per annum) may include requests for research maintenance personnel or scholarships for postgraduate students (\$19,000 per annum), and seed funding (up to \$10,000 per year) is also available for new investigators and researchers.

Details and application forms can be downloaded from [www.psansw.org.au](http://www.psansw.org.au), with applications closing 29 Feb.

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