

Healthscope sellout

HEALTHSCOPE has sold out of Symbion Health, ending its efforts to extract assets from its new owner, Primary Health Care.

After a 13 month takeover war, Healthscope yesterday gave up its 12% interest in Symbion, leaving Ed Bateman's Primary able to take full control of the firm.

Healthscope said it had terminated a share swap it held over the Symbion shares because it was no longer able to justify the cost of the stake and it wants to focus on other assets.

The sale of the swaps to Goldman Sachs, its advisor, made a small net gain.

Healthscope is still interested in Symbion's pathology assets in Victoria and WA, but no deal has yet been made.

MEANWHILE Primary Health Care this morning extended its bid deadline to 11 Mar.

The deal was set to close today but with the Healthscope move Primary is now hoping to hit the 90% compulsory acquisition level.

As of yesterday Primary held 65.17% of its takeover target.

Record Blackmores profit

COMPLEMENTARY products specialist Blackmores yesterday reported a net profit after tax of \$12.3m for the 6 mths to 31 Dec.

The figure was up 20.2% on the previous corresponding period, on sales up 6.7% to \$90.1m.

Blackmores cited healthy performances in both pharmacy and grocery channels in Australia, with successful launches of new products and infomercial-style TV advertising under the 'B your best' Health Update theme.

The company said it was confident about its international

operations, despite the strong Australian dollar leading to a reduction in overseas profits.

Management said it was expecting another record year.

Blackmores chief operating officer Jennifer Tait this morning also announced she would leave the company at the end of Aug.

Teen E-mentors

TEENAGERS living with a disability will benefit from a new e-mentoring program that aims to alleviate their social isolation.

Novita Children's Services has received a grant from the Telstra Foundation to set up the online program for teenagers with an acquired brain injury to help them 'reconnect' and build positive relationships with others in their community.

Trained volunteer e-mentors and disabled teens will communicate by mobile phones, SMS, email, letters, internet forums and face-to-face.

Novita's e-mentor Project Officer, Anita Smith, says the program is all about helping teenagers improve self esteem and form stronger relationships with family and friends.

Beauty workshop

THE 2008 Melbourne International Beauty Expo & Conference will for the first time run an interactive workshop program.

The tax-deductible workshops provide hands-on training by qualified educators and participants will each receive a certificate on completion.

The beauty expo has also announced its fourth and final sponsor, Elly Lukas Beauty Therapy College, joining Pevonia Botanica, Payot Paris and Dermalogica.

The event takes place 12-13 Apr at Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre.

Cot standards

ALL portable cots will have to meet mandatory safety standards from March 2009, Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs Minister Chris Bowen said today.

The announcement was welcomed by CHOICE Chief Executive Peter Kell, who said: "Of the 28 portable cots CHOICE has tested in recent years, only seven met the voluntary safety standard."

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.

Have you ever felt like you needed another holiday at the end of the first day after returning from a break?

Research released last week described that feeling as "losing your holiday mojo," with Tourism Northern Territory claiming that Australia's outback is the best place to have an enduring holiday experience.

AAT Kings is offering a saving of up to \$490 per couple on a 16-day *Outback Wonders* tour, priced from \$4665 per person.

The fully escorted trip with first class accommodation and takes in the Clare Valley, Coober Pedy, Uluru, Kings Canyon, Alice

Springs, Katherine and Kakadu.

It's available from 07 Apr 08 - info at www.aatkings.com.au.

An exotic cruise can also create lasting holiday serenity.

For adventurous souls looking further afield, *Adventure World* is offering 20% off two South American expedition cruises.

The voyages take in Cape Horn, Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, departing in Sep and priced from \$1024 per person.

The package includes accom with private facilities aboard the *Mare Australis* and can be combined with a selection of other itineraries in South America - details 1300 363 055.

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DISPENSARY
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WOULDN'T it be great to do this for some patients?

An online health monitoring system has just been installed for a South Australian sealion.

The aquatic mammal, named Henry, has been fitted with a special tracking device by the SA Department of Environment and Conservation.

Minister Gail Gago said Henry, who's a well-known visitor to Glenelg and other Adelaide beaches, hasn't been well lately.

The monitoring device will allow his wellbeing to be tracked, with his progress online at www.henrythesealion.com.

DUTCH prison research could indicate a new type of ADHD treatment.

Police in Rotterdam have just finished a study in which the scent of oranges was circulated into cells occupied by violent criminals.

During the four week trial they found the inmates were "calmer and more malleable" when the perfumes were used.

"It's amazing, fighting in the cells has been dramatically reduced and we are using ten per cent fewer sedation drugs," said the head of the police social services Herma Heester.

NON-SMOKERS are often disturbed by people lighting up, but a German man probably overreacted a bit this week.

His girlfriend ignored a request not to smoke in his apartment, and he grabbed a fire extinguisher and emptied the contents all over her, covering the woman and the room in white powder.

Police responded to reports of violence, saying "it looked like a bomb had gone off in there."

"He managed to put the cigarette out though," they said.

pharmacy
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2008

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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