

## Wounds on tap

TAP water is as good for cleaning wounds as sterile water or saline, a Cochrane review has concluded.

A meta-analysis of 11 randomised controlled trials found that ordinary tap water is unlikely to be harmful if used for wound cleansing.

It also found no significant difference in the infection and healing rates of post-operative wounds cleaned with tap water and wounds cleaned with saline.

The researchers said further trials were needed to compare cleansing with no cleansing of wounds to establish best clinical practice.

## Bloody Aussies

HEALTH Minister Nicola Roxon is encouraging people to donate blood in the lead-up to Australia Day tomorrow.

She said the Red Cross needs about 20,000 donations per week. More info 13 14 95.

## PSA conference booked

THE PSA Offshore Conference, to be held in South America in May, is almost full.

More than 260 people have booked to attend, with organisers advising that time is running out for late registrations.

Although the pre- and post-trips to Peru and the Amazon are also full, the committee is "formulating variations to these tours to allow accommodation of additional numbers," organiser Warwick Plunkett told PD.

A post-tour to Peru has also been added to the options, he said.

"Finalisation of the opening day program is nearly complete with confirmation that Jeff Poston, CEO of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, will be delivering one of the keynote addresses," Plunkett added.

Carlos Fernandez, president of the Argentinian Pharmaceutical Society, will formally welcome delegates, with other dignitaries

including the Argentinian Minister for Health, Graciela Ocana.

Key speakers include Professor Charlie Benrimoj, who will deliver his presentation in Spanish for the benefit of the local pharmacists attending, and Pharmacy Guild national president Kos Sclavos.

Details of the new pre- and post-conference tour options can be obtained from Fiona at PSA Travel on 1800 771 679.

## Primary at 44%

PRIMARY Healthcare now holds interests in 44.06% of takeover target Symbion, with the current sharemarket ructions making the \$4.10 offer look a healthy option.

## Cough medicine

OTC cough medicines may not work, according to a review of 25 randomised controlled trials which found some studies showed positive results, but others didn't. Reviewers concluded the conflicting evidence could not support a case for or against the effectiveness of the products.

The 17 trials in adults and eight studies in children involved medicines containing antitussives, expectorants, combinations of antihistamine and decongestant, mucolytics, and antihistamines.

## Spray for "tweens"

A MELBOURNE company has developed the first Bratz body spray range, aimed at the "tween" market.

The four fragrances and packaging were developed in-house at the Springvale headquarters of Creative Brands, alongside Haven licensing and MGA Entertainment Los Angeles.

"The new range is completely different to any body sprays available in the market currently," claimed David Reid, Sales & Marketing Manager.

This is Creative Brands' first entry into the "tween" body spray market after previously working on the Evoke and Australis Body sprays brands in the "teen" market.

## No issue Monday

THE next issue of *Pharmacy Daily* will be on Tuesday 29 Jan, due to the Australia Day public Holiday on Monday.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

FARMERS in the African country of Malawi are claiming a major adverse reaction to the use of government-supplied manual irrigation pumps.

The high-capacity treadle pump lifts water from shallow wells, and about 100,000 of them have been distributed to poor farmers over the past three years.

Although the pumps have reduced the risk of famine, the farmers now say they're hurting their sexual performance because they are too tired.

A parliamentary committee on irrigation said it "intends to start probing and finding out if the pumps are really to blame for the problem."

THIS is quite a stockpile.

The government of Brazil last year purchased more than one billion condoms - or a quarter of the total global production of the prophylactics.

The country's health ministry says it's hoping to rein in the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among the population of 190 million people - particularly during the annual Carnival period.

About 20 million of the stockpiled condoms will be distributed free across the country to partygoers - almost double the number given out during last year's event.

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## Today's PD wine fact

WELCOME to our regular *Pharmacy Daily* wine feature.

It takes 4 clusters of grapes to make a single bottle of wine...

Did you know that there are 75 grapes in one bunch of grapes, and on average it takes four clusters to make a bottle of wine?

There are usually 40 clusters on a vine, so one vine will be able to produce 3,000 grapes and just 10 bottles a year.

For high-quality dry table wines, you can count on roughly 600 to 800 grapes per bottle, which may be about eight bunches of grapes per bottle or about five bottles from a healthy grapevine. (Dessert wines, using shrivelled grapes for their concentrated juice, will have even more.)

Most grape varieties have a similar output, but Cabernet Sauvignon and Viognier are known as vines that produce extra-low yields.

If you feel like rewarding the winemakers efforts, pop out to purchase one of the following excellent examples:

The 2006 Blue Metal Ignis Cabernet Sauvignon (\$45.00 [www.bluemetalvineyard.com](http://www.bluemetalvineyard.com)) Made in the Southern

Highlands, this wine displays graceful cool climate features; perfumed aromas with an overall potpourri like complexity, showing fine succulent mix of ripe cassis, cooking raspberry and a subtle background lick of dark liquorice and cinnamon.

Already quite fine, it offers 2 to 4 years cellaring and development - if you can keep your hands off it.

The Viognier from the Kirrihill vineyards in South Australia is blended with Chardonnay to create the 2007 Kirrihill Companions Chardonnay Viognier (RRP \$14.99 [www.kirrihillwines.com.au](http://www.kirrihillwines.com.au)).

The blend produces an attractive lemon-yellow colour in the glass, with hints of green indicating the youthful nature of the wine. The nose is vibrant and zesty, with apricot notes from the Viognier combining with the white peach and melon aromas of the Chardonnay.

The palate is supple and fruity while retaining a vibrant, crisp acidity.