

Last herbal chance

PHARMACISTS wanting to know more about herbal medications are being offered a "historic last chance" to participate in a comprehensive, systematic course conducted by Denis Stewart in Melbourne this year.

Stewart, who's been called "the godfather of Australian herbalism" will for the last time conduct the course this year, on 12 weekend days, with the course leading to a Diploma of Botanic Medicine issued by Southern Cross Herbal School, which is a division of the University of Newcastle.

This year the course has also been extended to include a session on herbal toxicology and drug interactions.

More info 03 9439 1918.

HOT Travel Deals

EACH week we publish some great travel deals; today's are:

AUSandNZ Travel are offering Britz motorhomes from \$39 per day to Aussie licence holders, valid for travel from 14 April - 30 June, including Broome & Hobart.

For more information visit www.ausandnztravel.com.

AAT Kings has some amazing savings on tours of Australia and New Zealand, but you need to be quick as they must be booked by 14 February.

The specials include 50% off for the second passenger on any NT Short Break of two days or more (valid 01 Apr-31 Dec) and 25% off the second passenger on NZ tours of 14 days or more or Australian tours of 10 days or more.

See www.aatkins.com.au.

ASX questions HIP figures

THE parent company of Health Information Pharmacy has responded to a query from the Australian Stock Exchange, aiming to satisfy the ASX "as to the ongoing viability of the company."

Last week Health Corporation released its cashflow figures to the exchange, which showed that it "appears to only have sufficient cash to fund its activities for less than two quarters."

\$10m Sigma lawsuit

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals is fighting a \$10m damages claim brought by Swiss firm Vifor International, in relation to the development of its Ferrosig injectable iron supplement.

Vifor, a subsidiary of pharmacy giant Galenica, formerly licensed Sigma to sell its Ferrum H product in Australia, but the agreement ended in 2002 before Sigma brought out its own product.

The Swiss firm is alleging that Sigma "misused confidential information of Vifor in developing its iron product Ferrosig," saying Sigma "has caused and continues to cause Vifor loss."

The claim was lodged in the NSW Supreme Court last Dec.

This morning Sigma issued a statement saying it continues to deny the allegations "and will vigorously defend Vifor's claims."

PSA NSW course

PHARMACISTS looking to get accredited can take the first step by attending the upcoming PSA NSW Medication Review Stage 1 course, which will be held at the St Leonards office 9am-5pm from 28 Feb-01 Mar.

Registrations on 02 9431 1100.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

A BRITISH florist has been forced to change careers after owning a flower shop for 14 years, due to suddenly developing a life-threatening allergy to flowers.

Jan Wass of Wrexham consulted a doctor after developing 'scaling' on her neck, and was told she was close to suffering anaphylactic shock.

"It was a nightmare. I still can't watch the Chelsea Flower Show because it breaks my heart," she said.

However all's well that ends well, with Wass and her husband setting up a successful new business which specialises in celebration balloons, artificial flowers and candy bouquets.

VENEZUELAN president Hugo Chavez has used an interesting technique in the country's current referendum campaign, praising his opposition leaders as being good for the health of the population.

Chavez was mocking what he described as 'ridiculous speeches' by his opponents in the lead-up to a poll on Sunday to decide whether political terms should be extended.

"It has been proven that watching and listening to opposition leaders is good for your health...because it's good to have a laugh, you know, not just psychologically but it gets your spirits up too," he said.

However opposition leader Manuel Rosales hit back by saying that Chavez's bid to remain in power is "no joke".

Emergency supply

VICTORIAN Guild President Dipak Sanghvi has thanked pharmacists and their staff dealing with the bushfire crisis for their commitment to patient health and well-being.

He said there's a special fund available to members which will help reimburse pharmacies who provide medications to bushfire victims who are unable to pay - more info on 03 9810 9999.

MEANWHILE a number of suppliers have generously given products to help the victims, incl Care Pharmaceuticals which told PD yesterday it's sent supplies of FESS saline drops, spray and gel as well iSOOTHE cleansing wipes and iProfen liquid for children to the Amcal pharmacy in Whittlesea.



MARCH WEEKEND

Continuing education by the beach...

Lifestyle Management of Chronic Conditions

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
Annual Therapeutic Update

Friday 27 - Sunday 29 March 2009
Novotel Northbeach Wollongong

For more information, [click here](#).

 Pharmaceutical Society of Australia



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