

GG to be PSA patron

QUENTIN Bryce, the Governor-General of Australia, has accepted an invitation to become the Patron of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

The PSA is currently considering activities and events to invite Ms Bryce to attend.

The announcement comes exactly a year since the signing of the Branch National Agreement for the unification of the PSA.

Free asthma meds

THE Asthma Foundation of Vic is supplying free Volumatic spacers and Ventolin to all children affected by the Vic bushfires.

The move has been made possible with the support of GlaxoSmithKline and the Guild, with 30 pharmacies in fire-affected areas distributing the "reliever packs".

Foundation ceo Robin Ould said smoke and increased air pollution from fires breathed into the lungs "can linger long after the actual bushfires threat has subsided."

See www.asthma.org.au.

Pharmacy E-bulletin

THIS week's edition of the RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of the use of natalizumab (Tysabri) for multiple sclerosis.

The bulletin is available at no charge by emailing Chris Alderman on chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

Super-Duper clinic plan

THE National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission has today released its 400-page interim report, recommending the "widespread establishment of Comprehensive Primary Health Care Centres."

These centres would be a larger scale version of the govt's current GP Super Clinics, providing one-stop shops for emergency and routine treatment by GPs, nurses and other health professionals.

However the report doesn't detail whether professional

Menopause myth

DRUG companies have been accused of perpetuating the "myth" of male menopause, with epidemiologist John McKinlay saying there's "no endocrinological or epidemiological support for the notion" of such a condition.

McKinlay, who's speaking today at the Freemason's Foundation Centre for Men's Health in Adelaide, warned that attempts to treat male menopause "may lead to an increase of certain diseases, particularly prostate cancer".

He's studied 2000 men over the last 25 years, finding that levels of testosterone in about 7% of men aged 40-70 dropped by up to 1% a year, which he described as a "very, very gradual decline."

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DISPENSARY CORNER

"MELLOW Yellow" could be an ideal name for this drink.

Indian Hindu movement, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, has confirmed that it's in the final stages of developing a new soft drink made of cow urine.

Spokesman Om Prakash said the 'cow water' was currently undergoing laboratory tests and could be launched by the end of this year.

The non-carbonated drink will be very health, he said.

"Don't worry, it won't smell like urine and it will be tasty too," he added, insisting that the beverage would compete head-to-head with other brands like Coca Cola and Pepsi.

"We're going to give them good competition as our drink is good for mankind," he said.

A CAR accident in the USA last week has seen a tragic truncation for the holder of the world record for long fingernails.

Lee Redmond, whose nails previously measured about 8.5m in total (below), was hospitalised after being thrown from a vehicle during the car crash in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The accident apparently ripped off her long nails which hadn't been cut since 1979.



pharmacists would be part of the care team, only specifying that the centres would operate "with proximity to pharmacy".

The draft plan also proposes the expansion of outreach pharmacy and other health services for rural and remote communities.

MEANWHILE the Health Dept has also confirmed a contract with Balance! Healthcare to run a new GP Super Clinic covering 10 sites in the NSW Blue Mountains.

US pharmacy law

THE US state of North Dakota has reaffirmed the principle of majority pharmacy ownership by pharmacists, with the defeat of a proposed law which would have removed current restrictions.

North Dakota is the only US state which enforces such rules.

Osteoporosis chief

OSTEOPOROSIS Australia this morning announced that Rosanna Martinello is its new ceo.

She succeeds founding ceo Judy Stenmark, who's moving to the International Osteoporosis Foundation in Switzerland after leaving OA since 2001.

Pack medications, urges PSA

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia this morning advised people in areas still under threat from bushfires or floods to pack essential medications, scripts and their Medicare card and keep them handy in case they have to evacuate their homes.

PSA vice president Shane Jackson said "Keeping their medication supply going is very important in maintaining their health and in keeping some serious medical conditions under control".

Those forced to evacuate without their medications should contact a pharmacy to obtain an emergency supply, he said.



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