

New Willach chief

GREG McPherson has been named as the new md of the Australian operations of pharmacy automation firm Willach+Heise.

McPherson said he was excited about the role, saying: "We're really only just beginning to see the potential of automated dispensing technology in the Australian marketplace."

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More weight loss worries

PHARMACY weight loss systems are once again drawing attention, with the Weight Management Council Australia (WMCA) backing the recent CHOICE survey of the programs (PD 04 Feb) which raised concerns about the weight loss advice and support being provided to pharmacy customers.

"We are very concerned that consumers may be provided with unproven weight loss solutions, and incomplete advice that may not address the problem in a holistic and appropriately tailored manner," said WMCA chairman Professor Gary Wittert.

He said the CHOICE report had found that "some diet plans sold in pharmacy, including shakes and meal replacements, fail to deal effectively with the complex issues surrounding weight loss.

"A related and equally problematic issue is the promotion and sale of 'medications' for weight loss that are not required to be subjected to evaluation by the TGA," Wittert added.

The WMCA administers a code of practice for its members, which include Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, Fernwood, Trim-a-Weigh and Nestle Healthcare Nutrition.

Wittert said the code covers "all

Marcus steps down

BLACKMORES has announced that its executive chairman Marcus Blackmore AM will take on the role of Chairman of the Board following the recent appointment of new ceo Christine Holgate.

The company reported a small dip in net profit after tax, which was \$12m for the six months to 31 Dec on record revenue of \$96.3m, up 5.9% on the previous year.



Dispensary Loop

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Raptiva suspended

THE European Medicines Agency has suspended marketing authorisation for psoriasis treatment Raptiva (efalizumab) after reports of serious side effects including three confirmed cases of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy in patients.



WIN A DVD

Surfs Up Dude! Each day this week EasyCruising.com.au and Roadshow Entertainment are giving *Pharmacy Daily* readers the chance to win a copy of the comedy movie, *Surfer Dude*, on DVD.

Starring Matthew McConaughey, the film is about a longboarding soul-surfer who returns home to Malibu for the summer to find his cool hometown vibe corrupted.

To enter, simply tell us in 50 words or less what is one of the most unusual requests you've received from a customer.

Working in the pharmacy industry, we know there are some quirky stories out there and we want to hear them.

The best entry each day will win a copy of the DVD and have their story published in *Pharmacy Daily*.

Send your stories to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.



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Pharmacy Alliance Gala Awards



ABOVE: The winning team - the staff staff from Kalamunda Centro Pharmacy. From left: Deborah, Sarah, Carolyn G, Carolyn R, Olivia, Kirrily, Michael (Part owner/Pharmacist), Bianca, Amy, Sally (Retail Manager), Alice and Rebecca.

Pharmacy Alliance's marketing manager, Matt Archdall, said "Awards like this recognise that there is more to being a Pharmacy Alliance member than just the financial benefits."



PHARMACY Alliance recently hosted its first Gala Awards Dinner, held on the final evening of its recent four day conference.

The night of nights saw the buying group name its 'Pharmacy of the Year' as well as make awards for 'Best Generics Conversion' and 'Sales Increase', along with a number of other smaller awards.

The Pharmacy Alliance Pharmacy of the Year was Kalamunda Centro Pharmacy in Western Australia, with its gross profit rising from 30.5% to 34.54% since WA regional group manager Craig McNally took the reins late in 2007.

For the 2007/088 financial year sales were up by \$500,000 - almost \$100,000 over budget.

"I'm really proud of what the store has been able to achieve" said Mr McNally, who said improvements came from a number of areas including assessing traffic flow, catalogues, merchandise and store training and improved generic conversions.

He's pictured left accepting his award from Pharmacy Alliance National Operations manager Stephen Vella.

OTHER awards won on the night included:

- 'Sales Increase' won by Nambucca Pharmacy, New South Wales.
- 'Generics Conversion' won by Mallee Pharmacy, Victoria.
- 'Wages to Sales' won by Dog Rock Pharmacy, Western Australia.
- 'Best Gross Profit' awarded to West Leederville Pharmacy, Western Australia.
- 'Region of the year' awarded to Western Australia
- 'Sales Achievement' won by Jeff Shea, who's pictured left accepting his award from Pharmacy Alliance managing director Simon Reynolds.

The company said the event capped off a great year which saw its membership grow from 121 to 181 members in 2008.



A HIGHLIGHT of the night was the entertainment provided by the 'Team Challenges' that saw groups test their skill in rounds of Bocce, Tennis and Trivia.

Pictured right is the NSW Crew who were the grand winners of the Team Challenge award, possessing well-rounded talent in the sporting and academic fields!



DISPENSARY CORNER

A DENTIST in Germany has been found guilty of assault after he forcibly extracted a set of dentures from a patient who was unable to pay for them.

The 57-year-old dentist was fined €6000 after he went to the woman's home and took the false teeth from her mouth.

She owed him €700 for the dentures, with the dentist claiming he pulled them out because he was under "personal and professional stress".

PARACETAMOL needed here.

A man in Queensland has broken his own world record by smashing 47 watermelons with his forehead in sixty seconds.

29-year-old John Allwood performed the feat during the Chinchilla Melon Festival in the south-east of the state last weekend.

Other events in the festival included melon tossing, 'Melon Idol' and of course a Pip Spitting Competition.

THE world's shortest man says he's planning to cut down on cigarettes - but not because they might stunt his growth.

74cm tall He Pingping of China, who's now 20 years old, was born with a growth deformity and weighs just seven kilograms.

He's a pack per day smoker, but said he hopes to reduce this because "it's bad for the health."

Pingping said he's very happy to be small, with advantages including not having to spend lots of money on food - a single chicken nugget fills him up.

"If you're tall it is hard to move and it's very inconvenient," he said.

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