

Tassie milestone

TONIGHT past and present members of the Pharmacy Board of Tasmania, along with many pharmacists and interstate guests, will gather to celebrate the board's 100th birthday.

Events to commemorate the historic centenary include; a reception organised by Tasmanian Governor, The Honorable Peter Underwood, at Government House - followed by a celebratory dinner at Hobart's Bellerive Oval in the appropriately named Century Room.

Attendees will include Tasmanian Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon. Ms Lara Giddings.

The Pharmacy Board of Tasmania first met on 15 Dec 1908 after the introduction of the Pharmacy Act 1908.

Achievements over the last century include being the first pharmacy board in Australia to introduce competency-based re-registration, requiring pharmacists to maintain a portfolio demonstrating their ongoing professional development.

"I am convinced that the standard of practice of Tasmanian pharmacists is second to none," said board chairman Ian Huett.

"It is to be hoped that the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme which is planned to commence in July 2010 maintains these high standards," Huett added.

HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

Viva Holidays is having a 'March Madness' sale which includes a 4 night package to Hawaii from \$1411pp with return flights ex Syd, and four nights accommodation at the 3 1/2 star Ohana Waikiki West - see www.vivaholidays.com.au/vivamarchmadnessale.

Rydges Sabaya Resort in Port Douglas is offering a set of sizzling stay 3 nights pay 2 nights specials, with Resort Rooms starting from \$90pp and 1 bed apts starting from \$115pp. - www.rydges.com/portdouglas.

The Ghan is turning 80 years old, and to celebrate, is offering

eight free accom and touring gift packages for passengers travelling in 09 in either Platinum or Gold class. For more info call 13 21 47.

Quickbeds.com is offering some penny pinching deals including accom at the 4 star Bayview Boulevard Sydney in a Superior City View room from \$140 per night.

See www.quickbeds.com.

Abercrombie and Kent is offering free internal flights and pre night's accom plus a cabin upgrade or complimentary spa treatment for every 'Highlights of China Platinum' tour between 15 Mar - 31 Jul 09.

More info 1300 851 800.

Complaints code changes

THE Federal parliamentary secretary for Health and Ageing, Senator Jan McLucas, has asked the Therapeutic Goods Administration to prepare advice on "possible changes" to its current Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.

The move follows a meeting with La Trobe University research fellow Ken Harvey at which he raised issues relating to his complaint about Cat Media's FatMagnet product (PD 11 Mar).

McLucas is reportedly concerned that "enforcement of the code is not working efficiently and effectively" - with Harvey providing a case study of his complaints about the product, followed by a ruling which appears to have been ignored by the product sponsor.

The senator also last week highlighted the need for more evidence to support the use of

Asthma deaths down

FEWER Australians are dying from asthma, according to data released yesterday.

In 2007, 385 people died from the lung disorder, compared to 402 in 2006.

The median age for deaths in 2007 was almost 80 years - 71 for men and 82 for women.

Asthma deaths have been in decline in Australia since the '90s, peaking at 964 deaths in 1989.

NUROFEN JUST GOT FASTER

THAN STANDARD NUROFEN

TWICE AS FAST

NUROFEN ZAVANCE

*ABSORBED UP TO TWICE AS FAST AS STANDARD NUROFEN

complementary medicines.

Speaking in the NSW regional city of Armidale at the opening of the first ever conference on evidence-based complementary medicine, she said: "a stronger evidence basis for complementary medicines will be important in securing widespread acceptance for their role in the health care system."

"Evidence will also be important in ensuring that we maximise the benefits to be derived from complementary medicines as part of the preventative health agenda."

McLucas said she believed that "there does need to be a place for evidence based complementary and alternative medicine in our long term preventative health strategies."

Aussies skip meds

CONSUMERS have been urged to speak to their pharmacist if they are concerned about the cost of their medicines or thinking of stopping a prescribed medicine.

New research from the Menzies Centre for Health Policy has shown a direct correlation between financial stress and consumers failing to collect prescriptions and skipping doses of medication.

"If you are having trouble with the cost of your medicines, speak to your doctor or pharmacist about ways of reducing your spending on medicines without compromising your health. This may include having your medicines reviewed to see whether you need the medicines you have been prescribed or utilising the PBS safety net scheme," said National Prescribing Service CEO, Dr Lynn Weekes.

DISPENSARY CORNER

AN American man named Rip Van Winkle says his insomnia is "truly ironic" after consulting a doctor to help him sleep.

The 37-year-old from Oregon confirmed that his father and grandfather had both been nicknamed Rip, after the fairy tale character who fell asleep for 20 years.

His dad decided to make the name official for his son "as he didn't want to delay the inevitable".

Van Winkle said he's hoping that sleeping tablets prescribed by his physician will help him to rest - hopefully not for two decades!

NOW this is truly what we call a "thumb drive".

A computer geek from Finland who lost a finger a few months ago in a motorcycle accident has had it replaced with a USB memory stick.


Jerry Jalava (pictured below) created the special prosthetic digit which apparently looks like a normal finger, but can be 'peeled back from the nail' and plugged into the USB socket on his computer.

The "finger" has an expandable capacity of two gigabytes, and is a removable prosthetic, meaning it can be taken off his hand when plugged into the PC.



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