

New AusPARS update

THE TGA has released four new AusPARs covering the assessment processes for IVIg, Pitavastatin, Vismodegib and Rituximab.

CLICK HERE to access details.

Product most recommended by doctors for the appearance of scars and stretch marks.*

"I never worried about stretch marks before but when I found out I was pregnant, I just thought if I can, then I must do something to try and prevent them. My friend had a baby a year before me and she'd been using Bio-Oil a lot. My sister also said that it was the best thing, so I started using it right from the beginning. And I didn't get any stretch marks! Plus Bio-Oil really helped with getting my skin's elasticity back."

Theresa with Roxy



Bio Oil® is a specialist skincare product formulated to help improve the appearance of scars, stretch marks and uneven skin tone. Its unique formulation, which contains the breakthrough ingredient PurCellin Oil™, is also highly effective for ageing and dehydrated skin. For comprehensive product information and results of clinical trials, please visit bio-oil.com. Bio-Oil is available at pharmacies and selected retailers at the recommended selling price of \$14.95 (50ml), \$24.95 (125ml) and \$34.95 (200ml). Individual results may vary. *Colmar Brunton, 2010.

Blackmores profit drops

BLACKMORES has revealed a new strategy for its business in Australia, in the face of declining margins and a tough trading period which has seen the company's after tax profit for the three months to 30 Sep slump 31% to \$5.4 million.

Group sales were \$85 million, down 1%, with an update yesterday confirming that "challenges in the Australian retail market continue."

"Our Australian retail sales are down 7% compared to our record quarter the previous year," the company said, citing intense pricing pressure which has "intensified as many of our competitors face financial restructuring or sale."

Blackmores says there's also been a significant slowdown in the category as well as destocking by retail customers.

And the "continued growth of a major discount pharmacy whilst community pharmacies and health food stores are declining, adds to the challenges," the firm added.

In response, the company has announced the appointment of David Fenlon as Managing Director for Australia and New Zealand, reporting to ceo Christine Holgate.

Fenlon, who's been with the company since March, has significant retailing experience having held senior roles with Tesco in Europe and Safeway in the UK before heading up Red Group, the parent of the defunct Borders and Angus & Robertson's bookstores, in Australia.

Blackmores says as well as strengthening local management it will undertake more brand marketing and review its cost structures to help it adapt to market conditions in Australia, which "will have lower margins going forward than we have previously had".

The company has also "refreshed" its board, with the retirement of long-standing director Bon Stovold and the appointment of Helen Nash and David Ansell as new non-executive directors.

Going forward, key priorities for Blackmores include supporting the Australian business while "building our consumer brand," investing in its operations in Asia as well as BioCeuticals for further profitable growth, transforming the cost profile and simplifying the organisation.

"We strongly believe in the overall prospects for Blackmores [and] adapting the company to meeting the market dynamics is well under way," the Blackmores board said.

Emergency pharmacy asthma medications

THE Asthma Foundation NSW, Pharmacy Guild of Australia and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) are teaming together to provide rescue medication and asthma information to those directly affected by the NSW bushfires via community pharmacies in the worst affected areas around Lithgow.

With fires continuing to burn across NSW and a thick cloud of wood smoke present in many areas, Asthma Foundation NSW is urging people with asthma to make sure they have their asthma medication at hand as symptoms can quickly escalate and become extremely dangerous.

"Community pharmacists play an integral role during times of emergency as they can provide information, support and dispense medications to those in need", said Michele Goldman, ceo of Asthma Foundation NSW.

MMR Perth in Nov

THE Australian College of Pharmacy's upcoming MMR workshop in Perth (PD yesterday) will take place on the weekend of 09-10 Nov - see www.acp.edu.au.

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NPS online module

NPS MedicineWise has released a new format online learning module: this time a case study *Type 2 diabetes: tailoring ongoing treatment*.

NPS MedicineWise clinical adviser Dr Andrew Boyden says the new online case study offers an interactive, engaging and flexible online learning experience on a common chronic condition with an estimated 1 in 4 people over the age of 75 impacted directly.

Go to www.nps.org.au/casestudy.

Healthscope & Bupa

HEALTHSCOPE and Bupa have announced a landmark agreement that sets a new quality benchmark between a private healthcare provider and health insurer.

While the majority of patients within the Australian healthcare system experience excellent health outcomes, occasionally preventable errors occur.

These incidents, known as 'Never Events', are a specific set of 14 events with serious outcomes that should never happen.

Healthscope has agreed to forgo payment, from Monday 21 October, if a Bupa member experiences a *Never Event* in one of their hospitals.

CSO wholesalers help

CRITICAL medicines are continuing to get through to pharmacies across New South Wales despite the widespread disruption caused by bushfires.

A state of emergency is in effect across the state, with numerous roads and highways closed making normal deliveries very difficult.

Despite these challenges, Symbion and Sigma have confirmed that they have still been able to continue to provide pharmacies with essential deliveries.

"We've been keeping a constant watch on the situation, and we have been able to get through via some alternative routes when roads have been closed," said John Davis, Symbion's Operations Manager for NSW.

Symbion's warehouse facility in Greystanes delivers more than 280,000 individual units of medicines every day, servicing approximately 750 pharmacies and 120 hospitals through metropolitan and regional areas of NSW.

"This is another example of how the industry goes the extra mile to ensure patient care remains paramount, regardless of the challenges," said National Pharmaceutical Services Association CEO Pattie Beerens.

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A truckload of signatures



THE Pharmacy Under Threat petition has been delivered to the House of Representatives in Canberra – 1.1 million signatures reaffirming the value patients put on their local community pharmacy.

It took a sizable utility to do it – but 22 boxes of petition forms were transported up the hill from the Guild national secretariat in Canberra.

The mammoth petition response will be a key plank in the Guild's campaign, and reinforce to politicians the importance placed by patients on community pharmacies.

The petition, launched in early August, is believed to be the largest number of signatures ever presented to the Australian House of Representatives.

This followed an amazing effort by pharmacists and pharmacy staff all over Australia.

The petition calls on the House to take whatever action is needed to ensure that community pharmacy receives the funding support it needs to stay in business, serve patients, employ staff and remain open.

This follows the decision of the former Labor Government, without consultation, to accelerate the Price Disclosure mechanism for PBS medicines without adjusting pharmacy remuneration.

The Guild has said they would like to say a big 'thank you' to all pharmacists, pharmacy assistants,

pharmacy students, wholesalers, banner groups and pharmacy media who supported this significant project.

Pictured above are Guild National Director Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Ann Dalton and Executive Director David Quilty farewelling the ute full of petitions as it headed off to Parliament House yesterday.

ASMI thanks Sclavos

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) yesterday welcomed George Tambassis as the new National President of the Pharmacy Guild, and paid tribute to outgoing president Kos Sclavos and the ongoing strong relationship between the organisations.

"Together, we have been focused on initiatives that support the expanded role of pharmacists in primary healthcare delivery and entrench a powerful preventative health culture in the community," said ASMI executive director Deon Schoombie.

He said the Guild had also played an instrumental role in contributing to ASMI's proposal for an alternative regulatory model which would permit branded consumer communication of S3 medicines.

"ASMI looks forward to working closely with Mr Tambassis to see these important initiatives come to fruition," Schoombie said.

ASMI has also warmly welcomed the appointment of Catherine King as Labor's Shadow Health Minister.

WIN A DERMA E TEA TREE PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a **Derma Tea Tree Pack**, including Tea Tree & E Antiseptic Crème, and Tea Tree & E Face and Body Wash.

Get fresh and clean with Derma e Tea Tree!

The Derma e Tea Tree range includes Tea Tree & E Antiseptic Crème, and Tea Tree & E Face and Body Wash, to refresh your skin and help remove bacteria. The Derma e Tea Tree range uses the highest-quality tea tree oil in effective quantities. It also contains Vitamin E, to soothe and nourish the skin, as it disinfects.

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Hint! Visit: www.dermaenaturalskincare.com.au



Can Tea Tree and E Crème be used as a daily moisturiser?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner **Amy Tobia** from **Apotex**. The correct answer was: Tea Tree and E Oil and Itch Relief Lotion.

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Lady Jayne's NEW Vibrant Monochrome collection

Monochrome is having a fashion moment. Monochrome is one of the freshest trends for 2013. Celebs and street stylists alike have already started embracing the chic trend. Lady Jayne combines this classic sophistication of black and white with the vibrant, rich jewel tone of Emerald Green, the Pantone Colour of 2013. Pony Snap Cuff & Semi Snap Cuff (scrunchie), Bobby Slides & Bobby Pins, Headband, Hair Elastic Ball, Travel Brush & Hair Ties.

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Stockist: Major wholesalers

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Website: www.thermoskin.com



Sally Hansen New Limited Spring Racing Selection

Sally Hansen has launched seven Spring Racing inspired shades of premier polish. As the ultimate colour authority, Sally Hansen has always set the trends when it comes to nail shades. This season is no different – these latest colours are perfect for spring and are designed to make a statement. From pretty pastels to chic neutrals these new limited edition shades of Sally Hansen Complete Salon Manicure are sure to have you race-day-ready this Spring.

Stockist: Major wholesalers

RRP: \$9.95

Website: www.sallyhansen.com



The Fit & Fab Bar – Peanut choc Fudge and Crème Caramel



Slim Secrets Fit & Fab Mini Protein Bars are your new secret snacking weapons designed to keep you looking fit and feeling fab! Tuck one of these in your gym bag and you know you'll always be armed with a nutritious, and best of all delicious, snack. Just the thing for refuelling post workout, smart snacking on the go or a sweet treat to satisfy your cravings, Slim Secrets Fit & Fab Mini Protein Bars tick all the right boxes for less than 100 calories with 9.5g of protein per serve to keep you feeling fuller for longer.

Stockist: 03 9822 3121

RRP: \$2.70 each

Website: www.slimsecrets.com.au

DISPENSARY CORNER

WE'VE heard of multitasking, but this is ridiculous.

A professor at the University of Central Missouri has combined his enthusiasm for health and fitness with a penchant for craft activities, by knitting a scarf as he ran the Kansas City Marathon.

David Babcock, who works in the university's graphic design faculty, set a Guinness World Record with the feat, running the marathon in just under six hours and at the same time creating a scarf which measured over 3.6 metres in length.

Amazingly, there is a previous record holder of the unusual feat, with Alzheimer's disease charity supporter Susie Hewer knitting a 2m scarf during the London Marathon in April this year.

The 41-year-old Babcock is also urging supporters to support the Alzheimer's Association, saying he began running and knitting as separate activities about three years ago.

"I decided to combine them to keep things interesting," he said.

FORMER US vice president Dick Cheney has revealed that special modifications were made to his heart implant to protect against attack by terrorists.

Cheney, who's suffered from heart problems for much of his life and has an implanted defibrillator, told the US 60 Minutes program that doctors disabled the wireless function of the device in 2007, to stop potential assassins from interfering with it and causing a heart attack.

Researchers from Harvard, the University of Washington and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, have published results of a study which analysed the security properties of an "implantable cardioverter defibrillator" and found that radio-based attacks could "compromise patient safety".

Cheney was associated with George W Bush's "war on terror".