

Syringe attack prison

A FIVE year prison sentence has been given to a man who held up a pharmacy in Toowoomba, Qld with what appeared to be a syringe filled with blood.

30-year-old Justin Clarke pleaded guilty to armed robbery before the Toowoomba District Court.

He allegedly used the syringe to threaten staff, who gave him several boxes of morphine-based drugs.

Fifty new items onto PBS

HEALTH minister Peter Dutton yesterday announced the addition of 50 new and amended medicines and technologies to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with the Pharmacy Guild saying the move reflects the sustainability of the PBS.

Dutton said the new listings include Rafinlar (dabrafenib) for

the treatment of melanoma, along with a new Medicare item for the genetic testing required to determine eligibility for Rafinlar.

Also new is Sutent (sunitinib) for pancreatic cancer, while Prolia (denosumab) for the treatment of osteoporosis has had its indication extended to cover men.

Conditions covered by the new listings include cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and "a range of other debilitating diseases."

"About 230,000 people will now be able to receive new and improved medicines they may otherwise not have been able to afford," Dutton said.

Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty said the price disclosure arrangements applied over the last five years have contained PBS spending, "allowing new medicines to be added without causing any blowout in expenditure."

"Community pharmacy has made a significant contribution to the management of PBS costs, and will continue to do so, while recognising the importance of ensuring that pharmacies are sufficiently remunerated to enable them to dispense these medicines safely and securely," Quilty said.

New listings include Nesina, Botox for migraine, Budenofalk, Symbicort Rapihale, Invokana, Atozet, Protos, Tafinlar, Forxiga, Tecfidera, Afinitor, Flutiform, Coralan, Stromectol, Nicotinell, Sevika, Xifaxan & Aubagio.

The full list of new and amended PBS listings can be accessed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Six months of SHPA

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia is offering a special six month membership option commencing from the beginning of January 2014.

Pharmacists who sign up for the special offer are granted immediate access to SHPA CPD activities on the SHPA eCPD website.

"When you become an SHPA member, you are joining a strong professional organisation whose mission is excellence in medicines management through leading edge pharmacy practice and research," the SHPA said.

"You join a network of colleagues from all parts of the healthcare system who are also dedicated to improving patient care with the appropriate and safe use of medicines" - [CLICK HERE](#) for info.

Yeppoon Chemmart honoured



Photo: Tamara MacKenzie/The Morning Bulletin

YEPPOON Chemmart Pharmacy has been named the 2013 Capricornia Business of the Year, with the award courtesy of the Capricornia Chamber of Commerce.

Bruce Elliot and Kay Kemp from the pharmacy accepted the award at a ceremony at the inaugural *Morning Bulletin-The Rock 2013 Capricornia Business Awards* held last on the weekend at the Rockhampton Leagues Club.

According to the *Whitsunday Times*, more than 290 businesses were nominated by the general

public, and eight judges used submissions from the businesses nominated to ultimately decide the winners in 12 award categories.

The judges said that Yeppoon Chemmart Pharmacy had shown "excellent community engagement, business growth, commendable commitment to staff training and an outstanding business model".

Bruce Elliot and Kay Kemp are pictured above accepting the award from Noni Ryan of Capricornia Chamber of Commerce and Di McCulloch of *The Rock*.

List your pharmacy for sale by
Xmas and go into the draw to
win a holiday for 2 to Hawaii.

*Conditions apply [click here](#)



1800 670 440

www.ravens.com.au



Specialists in:

• Pharmacy Insurance • Professional Indemnity Insurance

Tony Carollo - VIC/NSW/TAS

Nick Nicola - VIC

Susan Carollo - WA

FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE [CLICK HERE](#)
OR PHONE 1300-CAROLLO / 1300-2276556

Psoriasis push

ABBVIE is supporting a new public awareness campaign which encourages people living with psoriasis to "peel away" the shame of living with the condition.

Two compelling TV commercials have been developed along with a comprehensive website and a guide to living with psoriasis, with the materials all released in conjunction with World Psoriasis Day which takes place today.

About 500,000 Australians are estimated to be living with the condition, with the awareness campaign intended to create a wider understanding in the community of the silent sufferers around them.

Abbvie has also distributed a series of mailers to GPs and dermatologists, with the campaign supported by the Skin & Cancer Foundation.

See www.mypsoriasis.com.au.

PBS Changes Need a solution?

Call today
for your
pharmacy
survival kit



Increase your financial performance, with choice and flexibility, by improving your:

- ☒ Wholesaler trading terms
- ☒ Generic discounts
- ☒ Supplier and manufacturer deals

SmarterPharm

SmarterPharm Business Development Managers

Vic & Tas: Chris 0466 711 702
ACT, NSW & Qld: Cathy 0408 163 701
All other states: 03 9842 2974

www.smarterpharm.com.au

Aussie anaesthetic

MELBOURNE-BASED

Drawbridge Pharmaceuticals has announced that patents on its lead anaesthetic drug candidate Phaxan (alphaxalone formulated in sulfbutyl ether beta cyclodextrin) have been granted in Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Africa.

Phaxan is a novel water-based formulation of alphaxalone, and is claimed to be superior to propofol with a wide therapeutic index and rapid onset and offset of action.

The anaesthetic agent in Phaxan has been administered in the past as Althesin when formulated in a different excipient, and was withdrawn in 1984 because of problems with the formulation.

Phaxan doesn't have these issues, and the granting of the patents will add significant value to the Australian company.

Drawbridge chief medical officer, Colin Goodchild, said the case for the use of Phaxan in modern critical care is compelling, with the need for a new anaesthetic that is both safe and effective continuing to grow significantly.

Healthy Balance Check

THE first Australian industry-led interactive tool to simplify healthy lifestyle choices has been launched to



promote nutritional intake and active living.

Olympic gold medallist and mother of two, Susie O'Neill (pictured above), says the *Healthy Balance Checker*, developed by the Healthier Australia Commitment as part of its *Together Counts* initiative, marks a positive step in improving the diet and lifestyle of Australian families.

"Balancing the diet and exercise requirements of a busy family can be a tricky task," O'Neill said.

CLICK HERE to see the site.



Advertise with us

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

Pharmacy DAILY

For details call us today: 1300 799 220

eRx Express app launch



LAST week's launch of the new eRx Express smartphone app (**PD 22 Oct**) took place at Exhibition Pharmacy in Melbourne, with local member Kelly O'Dwyer, MP for Higgins, officiating.

The new app allows pharmacy customers to order their scripts using their smartphone at their convenience, ready for pick up on the day and time that they want.

Exhibition Pharmacy owner Stephen Speirs said that as a busy CBD pharmacy, eRx Express will help clients organise collection of their scripts at the time and day they want.

"It's perfect for people who want to skip the busy lunch hour or fit picking up script medicines around other commitments," he said.

Speirs also said the use of the app would create loyalty with customers, who would return to his pharmacy rather than having their prescriptions dispensed elsewhere.

"Another major advantage is that our 'scripts on file' can be ordered via the app rather than over the phone or tying up staff in the shop," Speirs added.

TGA registers Trobalt

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has announced the TGA registration of Trobalt (retigabine).

The product is not currently commercially available in Australia, with GSK saying it will work with its partner company Valeant to provide certainty as to how Trobalt may be supplied to patients.

Trobalt is used for the treatment of epilepsy.

Pictured above at the launch are, from left: Fred IT ceo Paul Naismith; Kelly O'Dwyer, MP; Exhibition Pharmacy owner Stephen Speirs; and Pharmacy Guild National President George Tambassis.

PHARMACY OF THE YEAR 2014

THE SEARCH IS ON ...

ENTRIES NOW OPEN

COMPETITION CLOSING 12 NOV 2013

Entries are now open for the Quality Care Pharmacy Program Pharmacy of the Year awards, which provide the highest recognition of superior achievement in the industry.

START YOUR ENTRY NOW



Quality Care Pharmacy Program
An initiative of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Guild Update

Supermarkets

Why shouldn't supermarkets be allowed to have pharmacies?

That's a question a number of people may have been asking last week when it was revealed in newspaper reports that Woolworths has again applied to register the name "Pharmacy-in-Supermarket".

This was interpreted as signalling a new bid by supermarkets to operate pharmacies.

This is an opportunity for community pharmacists to re-visit the many arguments why the current pharmacy model serves Australians well, and would not be improved by the intrusion of the big supermarkets.

With their biggest sellers being cigarettes and alcohol, supermarkets are hard pressed to argue any genuine interest in providing the services and medication advice provided by community pharmacies.

Would supermarkets mean cheaper prices?

No. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme subsidised medicines are not like other products. Around 80 per cent of the PBS scripts dispensed every year are subsidised, and the consumer pays only the co-payment set by the Government.

Supermarkets only want to cherry pick the more profitable parts of pharmacy businesses – and that would make pharmacies unviable, and unable to provide the range of other services they provide, often for little or no remuneration – such as home deliveries; dose administration aids; or methadone treatment etc.

Supermarkets do what they do well – general retailing – but they already have enough market share – some say way too much.

We are not just about protecting our turf – although we do want our businesses to be viable. More importantly, it is about making sure a really good efficient network of modern community pharmacies remains available to Australians.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Deseril to be discontinued

LINK Healthcare has confirmed that there will be no further supply of Deseril (methysergide as maleate) 1mg tablets.

The move comes despite vigorous efforts working with the current manufacturer, Amdipharm Mercury Company limited (AMCo) "to establish a sustainable supply of this important medicinal product."

Deseril is an ergot alkaloid which is used in the prevention of migraine headaches as well as other indications including the treatment of diarrhoea linked to carcinoid syndrome.

Link Healthcare says it has no alternative but to cease supply of the product, with attempts to

source an alternative supply from the global market also a failure.

"All practitioners should consider alternative treatments for their patients who are currently taking methysergide," the company said. More info on 1800 181 060.

AtCor contract

ASX-LISTED AtCor Medical has announced a new contract to supply its SphygmoCor systems and clinical trial support services to a "major international pharmaceutical company".

The SphygmoCor product non-invasively measures central aortic blood pressures and arterial stiffness, with the US\$600,000 contract using the system to assess a new disease state.

CEO Duncan Ross said he was pleased at the new contract, with one of AtCor's goals being "to expand both the number of companies using SphygmoCor and the range of therapeutic disease areas that employ central aortic blood pressure measurement"

Breast cancer leaflet

HEALTH minister Peter Dutton yesterday launched a new illustrated booklet designed to inform and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women through the breast cancer journey.

It was developed by Cancer Australia with government support.

Formula by machine

BABY formula milk powder is being sold in Chinese pharmacies via vending machine.

According to *CNN*, four chain pharmacies have installed vending machines each with 120 cans of 11 different brands of powder.

By 2014, 10,000 pharmacies in 100 cities will use the vending machines, the report claims.

Consumers pay by *UnionPay* credit card or using Chinese social networking app *Wechat*.



DISPENSARY CORNER

DUCK out for popcorn?

A New York pharmacy was invaded by around 50 ducks in Saratoga Springs last Thursday night.

When the ducks comfortably wandered through the pharmacy sliding doors at around 7.00 pm, according to *Metro News*, no amount of shoo-ing with a floor mop impressed them to leave.

What finally helped them decide to wind up their waddling pharmacy shopping spree was the lure of popcorn, a last resort by the pharmacy employee.

The incident was recorded on YouTube and you can view it on our website by **CLICKING HERE**.

US jobs website CareerBuilder has released a list of somewhat imaginative excuses which people gave their bosses when calling in claiming they were sick.

One employee said his "fake eye was falling out of its socket," while another said he was taking a day off because his false teeth had accidentally flown out of his car window as he drove along a freeway.

More than 5,000 people took part in the online survey, with almost a third admitting that they took sick days when they weren't actually unwell.

Some said they used their sick leave when they just didn't feel like going to work, while one said he was "too grouchy from quitting smoking" to go to the office.

WIN THE JOJOBA COMPANY SKIN CARE PACK



Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win **The Jojoba Company's** skin care pack, valued at \$29.95.

Be travel savvy and remain fresh faced no matter where your travels take you with The Jojoba Company's essential 5-step skin care set. With handy sizes

that are convenient enough to pack into carry-on luggage, suitcases, weekender or gym bags the packs are also essential for maintaining gorgeous, glowing skin.

For more info visit www.thejojobacompany.com.au.

To win this great pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below.

What are the names of The Jojoba Company's founders?

Email your answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Grace Grimm** from **Symbion**. The correct answer was Yenda.