

Friday's comp winner

THE winner of the Pharmacy Daily Friday competition was Malie Ung from Barone Pharmacy in Fairfield. Ung wins a Designer Brands pack including a Mineral Eye Shadow Palette and a Paw Paw Plus kit.

App bridges barrier

A NEW app for smart phones has been developed by an intensive care specialist to bridge the language barrier between clinician and non-English speaking patients.

Dr Janet Liang from Auckland has developed 'Listen Please' which translates the five main non-English languages in the Waitemata district: Samoan, Tongan, Cantonese, Korean and Mandarin.

Liang won the Health Informatics New Zealand Clinician's Challenge prize in 2011 with her concept.

Face to face consultation

PHARMACY Guild of Australia national president George Tambassis has said face to face consultation is better for consumers than online suppliers of prescription drugs.

Jon Faine of 774 ABC Melbourne said "traditional style pharmacies" had warned that online suppliers were putting patients' health at risk and asked whether this was self interest or public interest.

Faine said having to go back to a doctor and pharmacist for a repeat prescription seemed like a waste of time and money and online portals undercut pharmacies on cost.

Tambassis said he believed it was not appropriate to "go online, answer a questionnaire, and work out what your issues are," when it came to talking about health.

"There'd be a much, much better outcome for all your listeners if you had a face to face consultation... if you've run out of your medication, ...I suggest you need to go and visit your local pharmacist and work out what the issue is."

Tambassis said there was legislation that allowed pharmacies to continue dispensing medications even if a patient had run out of their prescription.

"These online portals don't know who you are, you don't know who's taking the information off you."

Tambassis said local pharmacies were used to being price-competitive as well as providing high value information services.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) advises consumers on its website to ask

a healthcare professional (HCP) before buying something and only purchase from pharmacies located in Australia.

NPS MedicineWise said prescribing decisions needed to be made in the context of a patient's full medical history and needs, and a "perfunctory" online questionnaire might not be sufficient to make an appropriate prescribing decision.

It was important for health problems to be properly diagnosed and for people to have an opportunity to talk to an HCP before receiving treatment, it said.

MA on pholcodine

FOLLOWING an article in the *Australian Prescriber* calling for pholcodine to be re-classified to prescription only, Medicines Australia ceo Dr Brendan Shaw said calls to restrict the availability of medicines could cause undue alarm and confusion among consumers and healthcare professionals.

"It is important that health care professionals and the community are provided clear and accurate advice, based on reliable evidence, on how best to self-manage minor illnesses and creating unnecessary alarm or panic is not helpful."

He referred to the TGA's agreement with the EMA decision that evidence regarding a possible link between pholcodine and neuromuscular blocking drug-related anaphylaxis was circumstantial, as mentioned in the article (PD 03 Jun).

Pharmacy honours

RHONDA White has been appointed an Officer of the General Division of the Order of Australia, for "distinguished service to the pharmacy profession, particularly through contributions to education and retail management practices, and as a role model for women in business."

The Pharmacy Guild congratulated the co-founder of the Terry White Chemists Group, saying she had made a "significant and formidable" contribution to pharmacy.

Gwynneth Petrie was appointed as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia, for "significant service to medicine as a senior hospital pharmacist, mentor and innovator."

Petrie's career includes having been director of pharmacy at Princess Alexandra Hospital for 10 years until 2005.

Richard Lim, proprietor of Lim's Pharmacy, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the community through a range of social welfare organisations.

These included being a patron, honorary adviser and benefactor of a number of organisations including the Cambodian Orphanage Fund.

Laurie Smith, a former member of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Western Australia branch state committee was also awarded a Medal for service to local government and to the community of Rockingham.

EMA clears Ranbaxy

ALTHOUGH some Good Manufacturing Process (GMP) deficiencies were found at the Ranbaxy Toansa site in India, the European Union has assessed that there has been no resultant risk to public health.

The EMA and FDA investigations followed shortfalls in quality controls at the Toansa facility which resulted in bans for products exported from there (PD 24 Jan 14).

European regulators also considered the corrective measures put in place and were satisfied they were sufficient to ensure GMP-compliant manufacture of products at the site.



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Mothball mothballs

THE NZ Ministry of Health has asked retailers selling mothballs to remove them from sale and is urging consumers who have any such ‘mothball’ products at home to dispose of them safely subsequent to them being identified as a toxic risk, especially for children.

The Ministry said the Environmental Protection Agency had advised that chemicals used in all currently available mothball products were not approved for use as a pesticide.

The New Zealand Pharmacy Guild posted the Ministry’s directive on its Facebook page.

The Ministry said on average every three years two people required hospital treatment for eating mothballs or flakes, with 80% of these cases being children under the age of four.

To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

eRx wins ICT award

ERX Express has won the Victorian Innovation Award for Health at the iAwards.

Hosted by the Australian Computer Society, the Australian Information Industry Association and the Pearcey Foundation, the awards honour companies at the cutting edge of technology innovation.

eRx Express will go on to the national judging process, with national winners to be announced on 29 Aug.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency chief information officer (CIO) Graeme Dunn also won the Victorian CIO of the Year at the awards.

API dividend payment

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries Limited (API) has declared a fully franked interim dividend of 1.5 cents per share.

The company said it expected to have the capacity to continue to pay fully franked dividends.

It expected an underlying net profit after tax for the full year of \$28 to \$30m, following “very strong growth” in the Priceline network.

This follows a statutory loss of \$114.9m announced in April (**PD** 01 May).

Pharm defence award

STEVE Flavel’s Woody Point Pharmacy is the winner of the National Employer Support Awards 2014 in the small business category, presented at a dinner hosted by the Defence Reserves Support Council in Canberra.

Presented by Assistant Minister for Defence Stuart Robert, the award recognised Flavel’s support of his employee, Army Reservist Luke Wale, during his posting to the Solomon Islands.

Wale had since finished his preregistration training, Flavel said.

This support included providing military service leave and visiting Wale in the Solomon Islands to see how the training would benefit his career, where Commander of the Eighth Brigade Brigadier Allan Murray said Flavel reassured other reservists that employers were behind them.

Flavel said it was “vitally important” for pharmacy to be recognised in the community as being responsible and desired employers who were active contributors.

This was a further example of how pharmacy contributed to its communities in a far broader perspective than “many politicians would have the public believe,” Flavel said.

DISPENSARY CORNER

NOW listen ‘ear!

Do you perform hearing checks in your pharmacy? It’d be a bit difficult to perform one in this situation...

Vincent van Gogh, the Dutch artist who famously removed part of his ear when in a troubled mental state, has had his ear resurrected, so to speak.

A copy of his ear has been grown using some of his own genetic material using 3D printing technology.

According to *Orange News*, the ear now on display in a German museum was made of living cells grown from samples provided by the great-great-grandson of the artist’s brother, Theo.

MISCALCULATED (j)ape.

If you’re planning on having any costumed events or promotions at your pharmacy, stay away from veterinarians.

Apparently, a Spanish zoo keeper has been shot with a tranquilliser dart after dressing in a gorilla suit and being so convincing he fooled a veterinarian, the *Daily Mail* reported.

Zoo employees at Loro Parque Zoo on Tenerife were taking part in a drill for an emergency plan against the possibility of a gorilla escape and one unfortunate got the job of wearing a gorilla suit and running around, mimicking a gorilla, the publication reported.

Alas, nobody told the vet, who promptly shot the ape.

The keeper was taken to hospital from where he has since been discharged, the publication said.

OLDEST Dpt of Ageing head.

If you’re wondering about the Government’s plans to raise the retirement age to 70, take a look at Edith Prague, who is retiring from her job as commissioner of Connecticut’s Department on Aging at 88, *Reuters* reported.

Believed to be the oldest commissioner on ageing, Prague said it was on advice from her doctor, the publication reported.

Guild Update

PPI claims due Saturday 14 June

If you have not yet claimed for the 01 Apr to 31 May 2014 PPI Clinical Interventions and/or DAAs claiming period, simply log in to the 5CPA Registration and Claiming Portal and click on the ‘NEW CLAIM’ Tab. The claiming period is available until 14 Jun 2014 as detailed in the PPI Programme Specific Guidelines.

To assist you when completing your PPI claim a ‘Calculating your PPI claim for DAAs’ worksheet and a ‘How to claim for PPI in the 5CPA Registration and Claiming Portal’ user guide are available under the ‘Resources’ Tab at www.5cpa.com.au.

When claiming you may notice a reference to the last claiming period on the portal; this is an IT configuration glitch, therefore we ask that you please disregard it and continue with your claim for the current claiming period.

WIN A CANCER COUNCIL PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving four readers the chance to win a **Cancer Council** BB Crème and Body Lotion, valued at \$33.90.

Cancer Council BB Crème is a 3 in 1 formula that corrects skin tone and offers SPF 30 protection. The crème is made with ingredients including; grape seed extract to help reduce signs of ageing, vitamin E to increase moisture, mushroom extract to fight bacteria build up and mica to help reflect light, giving skin a flawless finish. The BB Crème is available in light and medium tint.

Cancer Council Body Moisturiser with SPF 30 is a rich crème with aloe vera to soothe dry skin, and vitamin E to nourish, hydrate and protect skin.

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

True/false: Sales of Cancer Council products help fund important cancer-fighting initiatives such as research, patient support & education?



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia