



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from: ([click](#))

- Pharmacy Alliance

Supermarkets would 'poison fruit'

SENATOR Nick Xenophon has said if pharmacies deregulated, supermarkets would "poison the fruit", commodifying the service provided.

Speaking in the Senate on Tuesday, Xenophon said he feared the impact of accelerated price disclosure, which the Guild has said will see an average drop of income of \$90,000 per year (**PD** 08 Aug 13) would lead to a "push" by Coles and Woolworths.

"Medicine is not like petrol or sausages or cans of Coke, and the one thing that I believe the supermarkets will never offer is expertise."

Xenophon said unless the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement provided sustainable income for community pharmacies, the sector faced "incredibly hard times".

API revises profit forecast up

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries Limited (API) has revised its profit forecast up for the first half of the 2015 financial year, with an expected net profit after tax of, at minimum, \$21.1m.

This is up 30% on last year's underlying net profit after tax of \$16.2m.

At the company's annual general

meeting (AGM), ceo Stephen Roche had said an increase of 20 to 25% was expected (**PD** 30 Jan).

API posted a statutory loss of \$114.9m in its half year results last year, following a \$131m impairment charge, with underlying net profit after tax of \$16.2m (**PD** 01 May 14).

The company attributed the increased forecast to strong trading through January and February in its Priceline and Priceline Pharmacy network, with comparable sales growth to the end of February up 3.9% year on year, from 2.4% reported at the AGM.

Roche said the instore service, more prominent and targeted marketing and the range of products stocked was generating higher foot traffic into stores.

Final results will be released on 23 Apr.

SHPA input on life saving drugs

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has said it supports the international comparison of subsidisation of drugs for rare diseases and definitions relating to them, in its feedback to the Reference Group reviewing the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP).

SHPA also said not treating some patients through the LSDP had the potential to introduce other costs at a federal, state and territory level.

CLICK HERE to see the SHPA submission.

Paracetamol toxicity

A "CONSIDERABLE degree of paracetamol toxicity" was observed in a dose-response meta-analysis published in the *Journal of the Rheumatic Diseases*.

The research found eight studies, out of 1,888 scanned, that met inclusion criteria, revealing increased mortality rate, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal and renal adverse events related to the level of dosing of paracetamol.

The Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) said OTC paracetamol was intended for short term use and had a well-known safety profile, when taken at the recommended dose.

ASMI regulatory and scientific affairs director Steve Scarff said like all medicines, paracetamol must be taken only as directed.

CLICK HERE for the meta-analysis.

ACCC v RB over Nurofen specific pain

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has started proceedings against Reckitt Benckiser (RB).

The ACCC alleges that RB made false or misleading claims that Nurofen Specific Pain products were made to treat a specific kind of pain when "the products are identical".

The ACCC alleges that representations made on the packaging of Nurofen Back Pain, Nurofen Period Pain, Nurofen Migraine Pain, and Nurofen Tension Headache that the products were designed to treat, and had efficacy in treating, a particular type of pain were misleading because the caplets in all four products are identical and contain the same active ingredient.

Chairman Rod Sims said the retail price of the products was "significantly above" that of comparable analgesic products.

A case management conference is scheduled for 31 Mar.

Nurofen said it was aware of the ACCC's concerns and disputed any allegation of contravention of consumer law in relation to its pain-specific packaging.

"All Nurofen packs are approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and comply with TGA's regulatory guidelines.

"Nurofen pain-specific products provide easier navigation of pain-relief options in the grocery environment for consumers who are experiencing a particular type of pain."

It said it worked closely with all regulatory bodies to ensure compliance to guidelines and would continue to do so to ensure its packaging continued to be "fully aligned" with all guidelines.

CLICK HERE to read more.

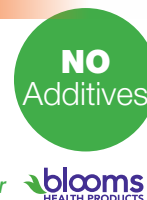


Cholesterol High?

100% Natural Beta-Glucan Powder

Scientifically shown to reduce blood cholesterol naturally.

bloomshealth.com.au 1800 181 323 *Make Every Day Better*



Two categories of influenza vax

THIS year is the first that two categories of influenza will be available, with trivalent and quadrivalent vaccines, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said.

A number of vaccines would be registered and available for use in children at specific ages, it said.

The National Seasonal Influenza Immunisation Program would start on 20 Apr, rather than 15 Mar, due to a double strain change from last year's vaccine, which led to manufacturing delays.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Regulated availability for cannabis

THE Criminal Law Committee of the NSW Bar Association has generally formed the preliminary view that the current legal prohibition on cannabis should be replaced by a system of regulated availability.

In a submission to the inquiry on the establishment of a regulator of medicinal cannabis (*PD* 16 Feb), Association executive director Philip Selth said the Committee had not specifically considered the use of currently illicit drugs for medicinal purposes.

However it had prepared a discussion paper of drug law reform, released in November last year, that had formed the preliminary view, he said.

The regulatory model in the proposed bill was similar to that in NZ for the regulation of party pills, he said, and could be adapted to apply to illicit drugs more generally.

CLICK HERE to read more.

TFS TGA appeal fails

AN APPEAL by TFS Manufacturing Pty Ltd, manufacturers of the Australian Mesh Implant Tissue Fixation System for treatment of Stress Urinary Incontinence and Repair of Pelvic Organ Prolapse, has failed to reverse the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) decision to uphold its deregistration of the product.

CLICK HERE for more.

Oxycodone morphine equivalence

OXYCODONE offers similar levels of pain relief and adverse events to other strong opioids including morphine, a new meta-analysis published in the *Cochrane Library* has shown.

The UK research mined eight databases to find 17 qualifying studies involving 1,390 patients.

CLICK HERE for the paper.

MA: we don't expect med prices to rise

MEDICINES Australia has said it expects the same result from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) as that from the free trade agreement (FTA) signed between Australia and the US in 2005.

A report based on leaked documents said the TPPA could risk increasing the cost of medicines (*PD* 04 Mar).

Ceo Tim James said critics had predicted the demise of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) when the FTA was signed, saying the price of medicines would "skyrocket" and patients would be denied access to new medicines.

"They were wrong.

"Since 2004, more than 100 new, innovative medicines have been listed on the PBS.

"Despite this, public expenditure on the PBS has remained virtually unchanged as a percentage of GDP."

Medicines Australia expected the same result should Australia sign the TPPA, the terms of which were expected to be largely consistent with the FTA, James said.

FDA: novel new drugs

THE US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Centre for Drug Evaluation and Research has said last year had the highest number of approved novel new drugs since 1996, with two thirds approved in the US prior to approval in any other country.

CLICK HERE for the summary.

MEANWHILE the FDA has launched its first mobile app designed to give people speedier access to information about drug shortages.

The app identified current drug shortages, resolved issues and discontinuations, the FDA said.

The app is available on iOS and Android devices and is free to download.



DISPENSARY CORNER

AN EASTER gift line tip - soap on a rope.

How long since you stocked soap on a rope in your front shop?

If the latest story out of Western Australia has any followers, there may be a rush on supplies.

One *WA Bradenton Herald* reader claims to have used a bar of soap in her bed for more than 10 years to help relieve night time aches and pains, saying it works 95% of the time.

What's more incredible is the claim that her friend's arthritic dog bounded out of bed after the second night of "being soaped".

TUNNELLING for truth.

Are random tunnels turning up outside your pharmacy?

You may have been struck by the mysterious tunnel building pair from Toronto.

A 10 metre tunnel was discovered in a "wooded area" last week, with police worried about who had constructed it due to its proximity to a sports venue used to host a major event, *SAPA-Dpa* reported.

The force has since closed the case, finding two men who just "wanted to dig a tunnel" for "personal reasons", the publication reported.

FAIRY awful.

If you think left over Christmas decorations in shops is a bit much, how about garish fairy doors in woods?

Someone nailed a small wooden fairy door at the bottom of a tree in Wayford Woods in the UK in 2000, which had a tiny handle and a bed inside. Trustees approved.

However, now 200 doors can be found, which get "more and more garish", the trustees say, including tinsel, glitter and primary colours, the *Telegraph* reported, with portal construction to be curbed.

Travel Specials

Acacia Africa 'On Sale' Year Round Discounts

Acacia Africa is offering 25% off selected Camping Overland Tours, 12.5% off other Camping Overland Tours and 10% off Escorted Accommodated Overland Tours and some Small Group Safaris.

It offers a range of six tour styles and 90 safe and reliable tours using local guides with an in-depth knowledge of the destination.

Conditions apply - call Venture Holidays on 1300 414 151.

Advance purchase deals: Ascott Serviced Residences

Ascott in Australia is offering guests up to 20% off the Best Flexible Rate when booking at least 30 days in advance for Melbourne, Hobart and Perth venues.

Ascott also offers two-night specials with 10% discount year round - T&Cs apply.

Go to www.the-ascott.com.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

Sign up free at www.pharmacydaily.com.au.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Alex Walls info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdzyk advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

How are you feeling about the future of your pharmacy?



Fearful



Worried

The harsh reality of PBS reform is making every pharmacy owner contemplate the future prospects of their business.

With almost 500 independent pharmacy members, at Pharmacy Alliance we have built up the strength and influence to support each one of our members in facing the challenges of today and in the future.

Through our innovative programs and selective, long-term industry partnerships we provide our members with leading tools to tackle price cuts, competition and the growing consumer demand for value, plus also future proof their business.

If you're fearful or worried about the future of your business, call us to find out how we can help access the right information for your business' needs.



Happy

Be confident about the prospects of your business with our 'profit increase' guarantee*.

*'Profit increase' guarantee relates to your new baseline profit results post PBS SPD

Going to APP2015? Book a confidential appointment to discuss your business with

Darren Dye
CEO
0434 310 879

Scott Carpenter
GM Operations/
Business Development
0430 320 098

Simon Reynolds
Executive Chairman
0412 558 845

Paul Sidhom
Director
0409 657 477



Level 4, 111 Coventry Street
South Melbourne VIC 3205
P +613 9880 3300 | F +613 9820 5009
E enquiries@pharmacyalliance.com.au