

China change hits BKL

SHARES in Blackmores dropped almost 24% earlier this week before recovering slightly yesterday after tax changes in China which could affect online imports.

Australian made vitamins and dairy products are popular on a number of sites in China, with customers warned yesterday about new tariff policies which could lead to delivery delays.

Analysts say that while there is a lack of clarity about the new regulations it is likely to increase the complexity of importing items which will lead to higher costs and therefore a reduction in demand.

ACCC seeks \$6m from RB

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has urged the Federal Court to fine Reckitt Benckiser (RB) a whopping \$6 million over its "misleading" marketing practices for Nurofen targeted pain relief.

RB has already admitted to engaging in "contravening conduct" over the Nurofen Specific Pain range of analgesics (**PD** 14 Dec 2015), with a hearing yesterday part of the process to decide the penalties in the case.

The company had made strong returns from the products

according to ACCC barrister Katrina Banks-Smith who argued that there "needs to be some serious taking away of profit".

She told the court consumers had been financially harmed as the pain-specific products were sold at almost double the price of Nurofen's standard range.

"They purchased a product they thought was special and it wasn't," she said. "They were misled."

The interim measure of placing stickers on labels has been obscured in some supermarkets, she added, proving the company lacked a "culture of compliance".

RB barrister Matthew Darke said that a consumer who bought a product for specific pain relief got exactly what they paid for.

Justice Edelman has reserved his judgement on the penalty until next week.

Student awards

TWO University of Canberra pharmacy students have been honoured with awards sponsored by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

Kayla Lee received the Gold Medal Award, presented at the Canberra Student Pharmacy Association (CaSPA) Ball on 09 Apr, for the best overall student doing the Master of Pharmacy by coursework degree, achieving the level of a distinction throughout the entire course.

Therese Pham was named for the Excellence in Pharmacy Practice Prize, awarded to the most outstanding second-year student undertaking the Master of Pharmacy by coursework degree.

Congratulating the winners, PSA ACT Branch President Patrick Reid said the skills displayed by the pharmacists showed the profession's future was in excellent hands.

Students' professional welcome



THE Faculty of Pharmacy at The University of Sydney hosted a 'Welcome to the Profession' event for first year Bachelor of Pharmacy and Master of Pharmacy students (pictured above) on 04 Apr in the prestigious Great Hall.

Each student was presented with their own University of Sydney name badge and a copy of the FIP (International Pharmaceutical

Federation) Pharmacists' Oath, which they recited together as part of the ceremony to help guide them in their future professional ethical practice as pharmacists.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia were represented as well as Faculty of Pharmacy Foundation Council.

F2 clock is ticking

THE Health Department has published a list of drugs and manners of administration that meet the F2/multi-branded criteria (30 month clock) for the 2016 Oct cycle of price disclosure.

Originator removal calculations will apply to price disclosure data submitted for the period commencing 01 Oct 2015 when a drug has been on F2 for at least 2.5 years - more at www.pbs.gov.au.

Oncaspar an orphan

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has added Baxalta's pegaspargase (Oncaspar) injection for the treatment of patients with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia to the list of designated orphan drugs.

Go to www.tga.gov.au for more.

Slimming capsule risk

RANZHISHOU slimming capsules pose a risk to health and should not be taken, the TGA says in its latest Safety Advisory.

Testing has revealed the capsules contain the undeclared substances sibutramine and phenolphthalein making supply of Ranzhishou slimming capsules illegal.

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Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Amanda Seeto from Good Price Pharmacy Ashmore.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

RESEARCH so often seems to drag at what seems like a snail's pace, but in this case that may produce breakthrough pain relief for millions, according to scientists at the University of Queensland.

School of Biomedical Sciences researcher Dr Richard Clark said marine snail venom was a well-known and promising source of new pain drugs, but substantial hurdles had restrained progress, until now.

The sea snail (pictured) uses its venom to immobilise prey and protect itself, said Clark, and now "we've been able to shrink a particular conotoxin to its minimum necessary components for the pain relief properties to continue to work."



Muscle Soak Bath Salts by Radox

Made with a unique blend of herbs and minerals to relax the mind and body, Radox Muscle Soak Bath Salts gives the relaxing sensation of gently soothing aching muscles and unwinding tired minds. Particularly effective after energetic muscle-stressing sporting activity, the herbal salts in this product helps ease the muscle strain and relieve stiffness. Radox Muscle Soak is packaged in a convenient canister with an easy slide opening. This product has not used animal-testing.

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Sally Hansen 18K Gold Cuticle Eraser renews, softens and improves the appearance of rough, parched cuticles. The gel texture combines real gold with natural humectants to trap moisture and nourish cuticles, making nails and cuticles not only look healthy but feel silky smooth and comfortable. The eraser features an applicator tip with a nibbed exfoliator and built-in cuticle pusher, making it the complete cuticle management kit in one.

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TURKMENISTAN'S somewhat eccentric president Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has ordered the country's population to exercise as part of a month-long official healthy living campaign.

According to Vienna-based news website chrono-tm.org, activities include mandatory group exercise routines by public servants and students, along with communal jogging and bicycle riding.

State television has been broadcasting footage of officials exercising en masse outside their offices, while some reports cite orders for all institutions to send staff to running events.

The government's website says the annual "Month of Health and Happiness" forms part of the president's "wise and far-sighted policy to keep citizens healthy".