

**NEW**



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## Guild honours NSW bushfire heroes

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch is honouring members who went above and beyond to support their communities during a crisis-ridden 2020.

Earlier this week Branch President, David Heffernan, presented Presidential Citations to four South Coast pharmacy owners for their heroic efforts in supporting communities impacted by bushfires.

The citations were presented to Narooma Pharmacy Managing Partner, Danielle Campbell, Beachside Pharmacy Ulladulla Manager, Jeffrey Soo, Capital Chemist Ulladulla Owner, Tim Rudd, and Seeto Dodd and Dwyer Merimbula Pharmacy Co-Owner, Linda Badewitz-Dodd.

Speaking with *Pharmacy Daily*, Rudd (pictured with Heffernan), said he was happy that the efforts of his team were acknowledged by the Guild.

"They knew about all the extra lengths we went through to keep the medicines supply going to people in communities that were



cut off by the bushfires," he said.

"We were even sending medications out to Manyana - a satellite community of about 500 people - by boat and jet skis, because it was completely cut off from vehicle access."

Rudd said the pharmacy had been able to coordinate the supply of medicines, including smoking cessation supplies with the aid of a doctor who was holidaying in the

area and had brought a prescription pad with him.

Meanwhile, Badewitz-Dodd, said the citation was for everyone in the pharmacy, including business partner Tanya Dwyer.

"Everybody here did their bit...it's what we do," she said.

"It was an honour [to receive the citation], and an unexpected honour, but it's not mine, it's everybody's."

Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news.

### wheezo deal

AUSTRALIAN Securities Exchange (ASX) listed e-health software as a service (SaaS) company, Respi, has launched a sales and marketing partnership with Pharmacy 4 Less, to sell its wheezo asthma management device.

As part of the arrangement Respi will support the group with a commitment to building a relevant training program focused on asthma management using wheezo.

In a statement to the ASX, Pharmacy 4 Less CEO, Feras Karem, said the group was committed to supporting asthma patients and their caregivers.

"We are passionate in improving asthma management, and patient understanding is a critical step to limiting the avoidable complications of asthma," he said.

"wheezo can assist patients to better manage their asthma."



### PDL seeking new Professional Officer

PHARMACIST indemnity insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) is seeking applications for a Professional Officer position.

Applicants must hold general registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), be available after business hours to support members and have the ability to work effectively within a small, cohesive and geographically dispersed team.

The successful candidate will report to the CEO, while working with three other Professional Officers, State Directors and Local Advisory Committees (LACs).

The role includes providing member support and advice in the event of a dispensing error or other notifiable event and actioning PDL members' Notifications of Incidents (Nols);



collating, filing and classifying NOI information and reconciling and reporting upon statistics; risk management and advocacy work for the pharmacy profession in consultation with relevant regulatory and other pharmacy organisations; and mentoring of pharmacists, in line with the PDL Mentoring Program.

Applications, including a current CV should be sent to PDL CEO, David Brown by email ([david.brown@pdl.org.au](mailto:david.brown@pdl.org.au)), by 12 Jan 2021.

### CWH expansion

CHEMIST Warehouse (CWH) is continuing its expansion in Ireland, with broadcaster, RTÉ, reporting the discount giant has signed deals to open two new stores in Dublin in 2021.

CWH opened its first Irish pharmacy earlier this year in west Dublin (PD 27 Oct).



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## NPSA prepped for seasonal disasters

**PHARMACY** wholesalers have strengthened their distribution logistics to provide "additional certainty for the medicine supply chain" ahead of a summer of potential natural disasters, the National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA) reports.

With temperatures set to rise in the coming months and the La Nina weather cycle increasing the threat of cyclones and flooding, NPSA Chair, Richard Vincent, said wholesalers were braced to deal with situations where communities are cut off or have spikes in medicine demands.

"Throughout 2020 our member companies have demonstrated expertise in crisis situations with successful management of health logistics during the bushfires and COVID-19, both of which have placed extraordinary pressure on all supply chains," he said.

"We have been able to use this experience to further enhance

our capability and agility to service community pharmacy, patients and governments during challenging situations.

"Rapid response teams are ready to be activated across our distribution network along with disaster management strategies for our road transport teams.

"We understand that every disaster is different and presents our network with a unique set of challenges.

"Our members are well placed to respond and help manage spikes in demand and shortages in medicine supplies where possible, something which occurred in Mar and Apr this year as COVID-19 panic buying took hold."

Vincent noted that wholesalers have increased information sharing and invested heavily in boosting storage capacity, with two new automated distribution centres being opened in NSW and Victoria during the year, delivering



additional storage capacity of 60,000m<sup>2</sup> online.

"We want the community to know that the various segments of the medicines supply chain have never been more connected, from government, manufacturer, distributor, pharmacy and through to patient with increased information sharing and dialogue," he said.



## Dispensary Corner

**WE'VE** all been there, overly hydrated, miles from home and no idea where the nearest public convenience is.

Thanks to the Australian Federal Government's National Public Toilet Map app, you'll never be caught short again.

The app provides details of the locations of more than 19,000 public loos across the nation, and includes details of the toilets' opening hours, and what facilities are available, making it a must-have app for those planning roadtrips this Christmas.

The Continence Foundation of Australia CEO, Rowan Cockerell, said the surge in socialising and exercising outdoors in 2020 had highlighted the importance of publicly accessible toilets, noting that "fear of leakage... in public can restrict, and even stop, people from leaving their home for everyday activities".

Cockerell added that a sudden desperate urge to go to the loo could be linked to a health condition, noting one-in-four adult Australians experience bladder or bowel incontinence.

**CLICK HERE** for the toilet map.



## Triptan training

**GUILD** Learning and Development has launched a new online module called Supplying triptans as a Pharmacist-Only medicine for migraine.

The new program provides an update on the complexities of migraine management considerations and guides for pharmacists to confidently manage the supply of triptans, ahead of the down-scheduling of eletriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan and zolmitriptan for acute relief of migraine from 01 Feb 2021.

**CLICK HERE** for more information.

## Conviction for unpaid TGA import fines

**A VICTORIAN** woman has been convicted on three charges of unlawful importation of cosmetic injectables after failing to pay infringement notices issued by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria also ordered the destruction of the goods seized by the TGA during its investigation.

"Criminal prosecutions are an important enforcement tool the TGA can use to address serious non-compliance and in cases where infringement notices have not been paid," the TGA said in a statement.

"In this case, the woman was

convicted for importing dermal filler medical devices (pre-filled syringes containing hyaluronic acid) and hyaluronidase (enzymes that can be used to dissolve dermal fillers), a therapeutic good for cosmetic use in humans.

"At the time of importation, the woman had not included the goods in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

"Therapeutic goods must be entered in the ARTG before they can be lawfully imported into Australia, unless a specific exemption, approval or authority applies, which did not exist in this case."