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## Preparing for apocalyptic conditions

**PHARMACISTS** in southern NSW are bracing for another day of extreme temperatures on Sat, as bushfires decimate lives, homes and businesses in the region.

Amcal Merimbula co-owner, Linda Badewitz-Dodd, told *Pharmacy Daily*, the bushfires, which have led to road closures have limited wholesalers' ability to deliver, flying vital products in, however, smoke haze has limited their ability to reach the town.

Badewitz-Dodd said she had managed to arrange to get Ventolin and face masks, from pharmacists in the Capital Chemist Group based in Canberra, which arrived yesterday afternoon.

"We're still going to run out [of asthma medication and masks]," she said.

"We're going to run out really quickly, but at least we're helping some people.

"We've been rationing the salbutamol.

"The local area hospital gave us supplies, because they know if we can look after people they don't end up there while they're busily trying to treat burn victims and other people."

Badewitz-Dodd said a local doctor had helped bring the masks down from Canberra, had said they should give out free of charge, however, the pharmacist said she will ask customers to make a contribution to the Rural Fire Service in exchange for the masks.

Capital Chemist Group Business Manager, Andrew Topp, who played



a part in facilitating deliveries to the Merimbula pharmacy, highlighted the efforts of pharmacists across the southeast in a LinkedIn post yesterday.

"Amazing stories coming out of the south coast pharmacy network," he said.

"Danielle Campbell from Narooma Pharmacy has spent three days in an evacuation centre, working with local doc, sourcing scripts and products for hundreds of evacuees.

"Meanwhile her house is at risk.

"Tim Rudd from Capital Chemist Ulladulla is currently at the dock in Ulladulla delivering medicines to a boat for patients stranded in Manyana which is currently cut off.

"Sandra Ferrington from Capital Chemist Kingston and Gareth Wheeldon from University of Canberra Capital Chemist have arranged delivery of much needed asthma medication to Linda Badewitz-Dodd at Amcal Merimbula - other suppliers

couldn't get through.

"All coast stores have spent hours on the phone chasing medication records for evacuees and victims using emergency supply provisions to ensure medication continuance (saving hospitals and medicare thousands of dollars)."

Speaking with *Pharmacy Daily*, Topp said the New Year's Eve fires had forced a number of pharmacies in the network to close early, with two stores in Batemans Bay evacuated.

Topp confirmed a number of staff members lost homes in the fires, but said all the group's employees were safe, and the pharmacies were still standing.

**MEANWHILE**, bushfire smoke has been identified as a potential factor in the death of an elderly woman, after she went into respiratory distress after disembarking a flight from Brisbane to Canberra yesterday afternoon, with the city enveloped in a cloud of smoke.

Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news.

### SHPA online CPD

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has launched its new EMIT (Electronic Medicines Information Training) online continuing professional development (CPD) program.

The new online resource provides timely, accurate and relevant medicines information for pharmacists.

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said the program had been "comprehensively reviewed and updated by expert medicines information pharmacists".

"EMIT is suitable for any Australian pharmacist seeking to enhance their daily practice and impact on patient care, while also facilitating the accrual of up to a combined 44.5 CPD credits (including 41 Group 2 credits) across the 22 modules, which include Mental Health, Adverse Drug Reactions and Critical Evaluation," she said.

"EMIT features a new module on Toxicology and all-new multiple choice questions, all clinically relevant to Australia."

Michaels said the SHPA would work with universities and hospitals to ensure students, interns and early career pharmacist have access to EMIT.

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### Locum Pharmacist

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Locum pharmacist required for a community pharmacy in the Fraser Coast. Good team support available. Locum will be working as the sole pharmacist on the Saturdays.

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## Dispensary Corner

**PHARMACIST**, Horatio Todd, is one of more than 1,000 people whose lives are being commemorated in a new book about a less than lively topic - Belfast's Dundonald Cemetery.

The deceased pharmacist, who reportedly lived his life by the slogan "5,000 prescriptions filled and refilled and not a single mistake" passed away in 1973.

The book's author, Peter McCabe, described Todd as a "quite a character".

"He was a pharmacist and the first president of the Pharmaceutical Society for Northern Ireland," McCabe told the *Belfast Telegraph*.

"He also had an OBE and was a bird watcher. He did prescriptions for humans but he also did prescriptions for animals, he was a vet prescriber as well.

"And he was always immaculately dressed and always wore a bow tie."

The new book, which is set to accompany McCabe's tour of the 120-year-old graveyard, is not the only sign of Todd's legacy on the community, with a bar and restaurant in the city adopting his name and celebrating his life.



## Pharmacists crisis roles

**PHARMACY'S** peak bodies need to advocate for pharmacists to be empowered to take on critical roles in disasters, research reveals.

Data published by *Plos One* on Boxing Day, found the 15-person panel of disaster health and pharmacy experts believed pharmacists could take on 43 key roles to integrate within disaster management teams.

The study found pharmacists were capable of undertaking 21 roles in the response phase of a disaster, including triaging low-acuity patients, providing one-off emergency supply refills for up to 30 days during the declared disaster, prescribing and administering vaccinations, deciding on the appropriateness of donated medicines and other supplies, and maintaining media liaison on medications issues.

The expert panel also supported pharmacists engaging the pharmacy student workforce to backfill duties, including dispensing and inventory, to free up pharmacists to perform more clinical roles in a crisis situation.

In the recovery phase of a disaster

the expert group agreed on eight roles including identifying and prioritising vulnerable patients in the community, restoring order to patient and drug records in the event that power outages forced health workers to create written records, documenting what worked and didn't work in the disaster response, and participating in post-disaster research.

"This study provides evidence to policymakers on the acknowledgment by international key opinion leaders in the disaster health community of the accepted roles pharmacists are capable of undertaking in disasters," the authors said.

"However, it is up to the pharmacy profession to instigate the capability of these pharmacists' roles through training for specialist roles and expanding pharmacy operational environments.

"It is up to the pharmacy professional bodies to take a disaster pharmacy proposal to the government about how more extensive involvement of pharmacists in communities and on deployment could be achieved."

## UK pharmacy apprenticeship on hold

**PLANS** to create pharmacy degree apprenticeships are being put on hold in the UK over misconceptions over what they might entail, the *Pharmaceutical Journal* reports.

Initially proposed by a group of pharmacy employers including major chains, such as Boots and LloydsPharmacy, in Apr (*PD* 15 Apr), the decision to halt development of the proposed five-year program was made after a meeting with Skills

of Health, which oversees development of the healthcare workforce in Britain.

"The pharmacist apprenticeship development group decided that development on the proposal and standard should be paused whilst further engagement is undertaken with the sector to help address some of the misconceptions about degree apprenticeships and their relationship to regulated occupations," the group said.

## WADA updates banned list

**THE** World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) has released its latest list of prohibited substances.

Under the 2020 list, athletes producing in excess of 1,000ng/mL of salbutamol or 40ng/mL of formoterol in urine samples will be considered to have had an adverse analytical finding, unless they can prove that the abnormal result was the consequence of a therapeutic dose.

All-natural and synthetic cannabinoids are also prohibited under the updated list, released this week.

## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**23 - 29 Jan:** NAPSA Congress; University of Newcastle; for more info visit: [www.napsa.org.au](http://www.napsa.org.au)

**6 - 8 Mar:** NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2020; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; Save the date - registrations open 2 Dec: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**19 - 22 Mar:** APP 2020; Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; Early bird registrations now open: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)