

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today
features three pages of news.

Blooms eyes B Corp certification

BLOOMS the Chemist is aiming to become Australia's first pharmacy group to obtain B Corp certification, ensuring the business meets the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose.

Ahead of the group's Game Changers Gathering in Sydney tomorrow, which will be sponsored by social enterprise, Bambuddah Group, Blooms Chief Marketing Officer, Pamela Bishop, said the pharmacy network was committed to working towards B Corp assessment.

Low turnout for Guild elections

DATA from the 16 contested seats in the Pharmacy Guild of Australia State Branch Committee elections in NSW (12), Victoria (three) and Queensland (one), shows less than half of eligible members cast their vote in the ballot.

Figures released by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) revealed five of the seats were decided by a single vote, including Queensland's Sunshine Coast District, which saw James Lester pip Julianna Neill, with just 39.5% of those on the electoral roll casting a valid ballot.

The NSW Branch constituency of South West Sydney saw the lowest turnout of the contested elections, with just one-in-three Guild members in the region voting, with National Councillor, Catherine Bronger, claiming 75% of the poll.

Across NSW, 555 of 1,197 possible ballots were counted (46%), with the Sydney and Eastern Suburbs seat - won by Richard Walsh,



with 63% of the vote - recording the highest percentage turnout nationally, with 71% of members casting their ballot.

The Victorian Branch's District 2 - won by Sam El-Ahmad by one vote - had the second highest turnout, with 57% of members submitting ballots.

Of the 16 contested seats, only six saw more than 50% of voters cast their ballot - four in NSW, including the North Sydney and

Northern Beaches district - won by former NSW Branch President, Rick Samimi - the Inner West Sydney seat - claimed by Adele Tahan - and the West and Far West constituency - taken by Luke van der Rijt with 83% of the vote - in addition to the Sydney and Eastern Suburbs area.

Victoria's District 3 - won by Marylin Tsitonakis who claimed almost four of every five votes cast - also recorded more than 50% turnout.

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Workforce growth continued in Sep

AUSTRALIA'S pharmacy workforce is continuing to grow throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with the latest data from the Pharmacy Board of Australia revealing 33,610 pharmacists hold general, provisional or limited registration.

The new figures for the third quarter show 31,794 pharmacists hold general registration, an increase of 100 compared with the Jun Quarter - 79 of whom were female.

While the workforce has grown modestly over the last quarter, the Board's data shows the number of pharmacists with general registration aged less than 30 years has fallen by 209 in the three months to 30 Sep, while the number of general registration holders aged 65 years and older increased by 67 in the same period.

The new figures also showed an increase in the number of



non-practising pharmacists for the first time in 2020 (up by 12 to 970), after a significant decline in the non-practising registration numbers in the Jun Quarter (958) when it dipped to the lowest level since Mar 2014.

The 35-39 age category represented the largest group of

non-practising pharmacists (165), while the 40-44 age bracket saw the largest increase in numbers over the quarter, climbing to 151 in Sep from 142 in Jun.

The profession's gender balance remained static in the Sep Quarter, with 62.7% of the profession female and 37.3% male.

TGA warnings

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is urging consumers to stop taking unapproved products which have been found to contain undeclared prescription only substances.

Testing by the TGA revealed Rise 2.0 Liquid Cialis 30ml contains traces of tadalafil, while Grain German Shepherd tablets were found to have undeclared quantities of sildenafil and paracetamol.

Consumers have been advised to take any remaining supplies of either product to their local pharmacy for safe disposal.

The TGA added that it is working with Australian Border Force to stop future shipments of the products from entering the country, noting if found at the border they will be seized and destroyed by officials.

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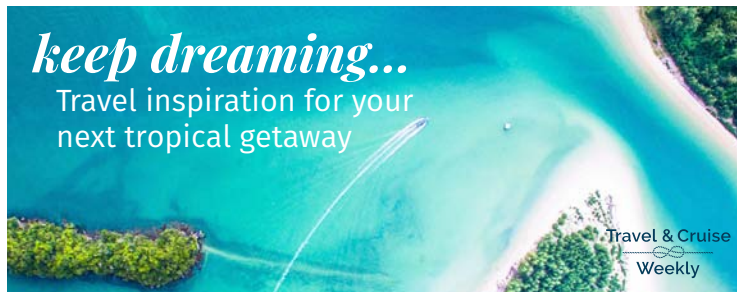
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Mylan



Wizard magic scoops business award

WIZARD Pharmacy Kalgoorlie Central has added another trophy to the cabinet, taking home the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry 2020 Community Support and Engagement Award this week.

The award comes less than a month after Western Australian Premier Mark McGowan, presented owner, Elise Wheadon (pictured), with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's 2020 Excellence in Professional Innovation Award (PD 15 Oct).

Wheadon said the pharmacy team was humbled by the latest accolade.

"During the pandemic, I did a mental health first aid training to help the community and support my staff and loved ones," she said.

"Our pharmacy maintained our opening hours despite the reduction in customer numbers because we knew the consistency gave our customers some sense of routine and familiarity which was



lacking in the uncertain times.

"We started offering home deliveries for the vulnerable, we immunised over 1,500 people in our local community against influenza, and we were also strong advocates for the use of ePrescribing in the Goldfields/Esperance region, becoming the first pharmacy in WA to dispense an ePrescription (PD 30 Jun).

"Being based in Kalgoorlie and being recognised for our dedication to our community means so much to us as it confirms we are making a positive difference to people's lives."

Wizard Pharmacy Chief Operating Officer, Sally Parker, said it was fulfilling to see the Kalgoorlie team being recognised for its contribution to the local community.



Dispensary Corner

WE ALL know too much fried food is bad for your cardiovascular health, but it's also caused other problems for a US man this week who has been banned from Yellowstone National Park after trying to fry chicken in a hot spring.

The Idaho resident is not allowed to return until late 2022 after being part of a group found by park rangers in Aug around the Shoshone Geyser Basin.

The officers had been alerted by a passer-by who noticed the people walking towards the hot spring armed with cooking pots.

They arrested the offender for his finger-lickin' good cooking attempt, with a subsequent court appearance seeing him fined US\$1,200 and banned from the park.

Visitors to Yellowstone are required to stay on designated boardwalks due to danger from the geyser, with water emerging from the volcanic underground at a super-scalding 92°C.

AND on the same topic - well sort of - comes confirmation from fast food behemoth McDonald's that it is set to launch a new range of meat-free menu items.

The move was unveiled during an investor presentation in the USA earlier this week, with the company saying it is developing its own plant-based burger which will roll out in selected test markets in 2021.

The so-called McPlant range may expand in the future to include "chicken" sandwiches that don't contain any chicken.

MDR extends US health program

DIGITAL medication management company, MedAdvisor has announced it has extended its US secure messaging pilot, with a major pharmaceutical company.

The program will run through the 2021 calendar year using its product marketed by Adheris in the US as inMotion, which sends text messages to patients on a specific and targeted drug to allow them to access a secure website with important information about their medication.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away both a NS 8 Heel Balm 250ml and NS 8 Deo Foot and Shoe Spray 100ml worth RRP\$37.90

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