

## Turn the DDS key

**DISCOUNT** Drug Stores offers a "simple turnkey solution" for pharmacy owners wanting to offer everyday low prices and value along with all the trappings of a national brand - see the **back page**.

## Compounding contempt case in court

A **FALLING** out between two pharmacists who studied together at Sydney University in 2002 has led to a contempt of court judgement over a pharmacy compounding software program, amid allegations of the "deliberate frustration of execution of search orders".

The long-running case between parties associated with Nicholas Bova and Alexander Corry centres on a company called NHB Enterprises which trades as Bova Compounding Chemist, claiming to be "Australia's largest veterinary compounding business".

While a hearing in the contempt of court case took place Jul-Sep last year, the judgement was only handed down two weeks ago.

Corry was employed by NHB from 2008 until 2017 and was the company's Chief Operations Officer.

However towards the end of

2016 he also became a Director and shareholder of Medicina Pty Ltd which traded under the name of NexGen Pharma, in competition with NHB/Bova.

Previous court action by Bova against Corry alleged various breaches of statutory, contractual, fiduciary and equitable obligations in relation to his departure from the company, but ultimately was settled via mediation and a "Deed of Settlement and Release" involving a \$1 million payment, a non-compete agreement and the return of key software and databases of formulations and standard operating procedures.

However later a former NexGen employee testified that Corry still had a copy of the software on his laptop, resulting in further court action brought by NHB/Bova.

This included an order permitting

a search to be carried out in Feb 2019 at the NexGen business premises as well as Corry's home.

Evidence tendered during the hearing alleged that while the search of the Corry residence was under way, employees at the NexGen office were warned of an approaching raid, and attempted to hide computer equipment and documents by taking them to a neighbouring business.

The latest judgement found that Corry was in contempt of the previous court orders because he had retained and used confidential information owned by Bova, but dismissed a claim that he had wilfully directed the removal of items from the NexGen premises.

NHB/Bova are seeking penalties, with any proposed directions as to a penalty hearing to be served to the court by 20 Jul.

## PSS, NAPSA deal

**THE** Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA).

The three year deal sees the organisations collaborate to "promote the wellbeing of the pharmacy profession," with PSS President John Coppock saying the MoU's formalisation "ensures that we are able to meet their needs appropriately both now as students and into the future when they are registered pharmacists".

## Connect promise

**THE** Pharmacy Guild has assured prospective attendees at the upcoming Pharmacy Connect conference that they will not be out of pocket for registration fees due to any COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The guarantee means that if people can't travel to Sydney for the event due to border closures they will either be able to get a full refund or transfer their registration to another delegate.

Earlybird tickets are still on offer until 30 Jul - see [pharmacy-connect.com.au](http://pharmacy-connect.com.au).

## More C-19 sites

**NSW** Health has advised that anyone who visited Bridge of Belfield Pharmacy from 8.20-8.40am on 28 Jun is deemed a "close contact" and must get tested and isolate for 14 days.

Chemist Warehouse Westfield Hurstville from 1.30-1.55pm on 02 Jul is also a new "casual contact" COVID-19 site.

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **Sigma Healthcare**.



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## UK script change

**AUTHORITIES** in the UK are considering raising the age at which free prescriptions are provided under the National Health Service (NHS).

Currently the upper age exemption for prescription charges is 60, but this could change to 66 under proposals suggested in a consultation which launched last week.

The UK Department of Health and Social Care said the change would raise £226m per year for the NHS which "found itself under unprecedented pressure in 2020".

The plan, described by detractors as an "unacceptable tax on the sick," has been strenuously opposed by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, with a spokesperson saying the change is "unacceptable in the current economic situation when many have been disadvantaged by the pandemic".

## Sleep recall alert

**THE** Australasian Sleep Association says people using Philips ventilation or positive air pressure machines (BiPAP or CPAP) should consult with their doctor before changing their treatment, as thousands of the items are facing a recall issued by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (PD 28 Jun).

"Some machines manufactured before 26 Apr 2021 contain sound-muffling foam that may break down and be breathed in when the machine is being used," the Association's President, Associate Professor Alan Young said.

Symptoms that patients might experience from affected devices include headache, cough, chest pressure, nausea/vomiting, sinus infection and eye, nose, airway or skin irritation.

"This problem is a very rare issue and there have been no serious health problems that have been reported," he said, urging patients to be aware of the issue, register their machine with Philips and discuss the situation with their GP.

## Guild NAIDOC painting



**QUEENSLAND** Pharmacy Guild of Australia Acting President Chris Owen (**pictured**) this week unveiled a new painting commissioned from Torres Strait Islander artist Barry Maitie, as part of the organisation's NAIDOC Week 2021 commemoration.

The artwork is titled 'HisTree' reflecting Maitie's homeland of Malu Kiai, Boigu, and "his distinctive style expresses the

vibrant spirit and atmosphere of the Torres Strait culture," according to Owen.

Owen is also holding a copy of the Guild's Reconciliation Action Plan, with many community pharmacy members this week sharing heartfelt stories about how they are working locally to "close the gap" on the Queensland Guild Facebook page: [facebook.com/pharmacyguildqlld](https://facebook.com/pharmacyguildqlld).



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## Dispensary Corner

**NOW** this is what we call LEGO mastery.

German scientists have built a high-resolution microscope out of LEGO parts, along with a magnifying glass and a component salvaged from an old iPhone 5.

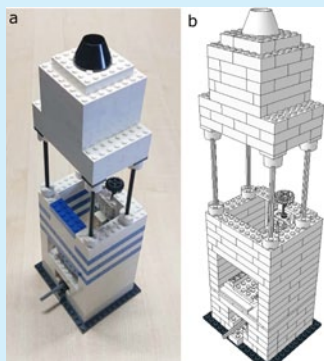
The project was described in a paper published in the *Biophysicist* journal, including full instructions and photos of the finished product (pictured).

Aimed at an educational setting to get kids interested in science, the researchers said they designed it "by taking advantage of the modular and flexible characteristics of the LEGO brick system".

The paper suggests a range of observations which can be undertaken, including salt crystals, an onion cell monolayer, microorganisms in pond water and artemia (brine shrimp) eggs.

The study found that students in the age range of 9-13 had a significant increase in their understanding of microscopy after working with the LEGO microscope.

For full instructions and a parts list [CLICK HERE](#).



## Pharmacists key for OTC pain

**THE** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has highlighted the "crucial role" that pharmacists play in responsibility for over-the-counter pain management.

A FIP statement issued yesterday noted that the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide had led to more people managing their own health and seeking information in order to do so, with the accessibility of pharmacists meaning they are the "first (and often preferred) source of reliable, evidence-based advice and care".

Key pharmacist roles cited by FIP included making sure analgesics are only supplied if a need is established; ensuring the most appropriate product is selected; and counselling on effective and safe dosing and administration.

Pharmacists also contribute to safety by checking for and preventing drug interactions,

advising on safe storage of analgesics, recognising conditions that need referral to other health professionals, and recording supply of analgesics in some countries where national patient record systems are in place.

The FIP update also noted the importance of pharmacist involvement in transitions of care, when patients are particularly at risk of medication errors.

"As patient-care advocates, community pharmacists play an important role in facilitating seamless care," FIP noted.

"These actions, routinely performed every day by community pharmacists, ensure access to effective medication, optimise quality of life and health outcomes for people with pain, improve safety for patients and others, and support the sustainability of our healthcare systems."

## MHRA new vision

**BRITAIN'S** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has released a "new and ambitious" Delivery Plan 2021-2023, detailing the regulator's priorities, opportunities and challenges now that the UK has left the European Union.

The document promises the creation of a "new business model that provides a financially sustainable future that will meet the increasing expectations of patients, healthcare professionals, partners, the pharmaceutical industry, government and wider industry and non-profit stakeholders alike".

The new vision is available online by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## Bupropion alert

**THE** Product Information (PI) documents for bupropion-containing products have been updated to include a warning about the risk of serotonin syndrome when the drug is co-administered with other drugs known to be associated with serotonin syndrome.

An update from the Therapeutic Goods Administration noted the risks were linked to bupropion with SSRIs and SNRIs.

"If concomitant treatment with other serotonergic agents is clinically warranted, careful observation of the patient is advised," the TGA said.

Relevant products currently on the ARTG include Zyban SR and Contrave 8/90.



## Guild Update

### NAIDOC Week

**THIS** week is NAIDOC Week, with the theme of *Heal Country*. This is an important time to come together and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture, to listen to Indigenous people share their knowledge of 60,000 years of history through their stories, and connecting the past to the present.

Community pharmacists can play an important role to *Heal Country* within their communities by developing closer relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations and assist in the delivery of better primary healthcare outcomes and by investigating opportunities to work with them to improve the community pharmacy services we provide.

Community pharmacies working with Aboriginal Health Practitioners and Aboriginal Health Workers can help to deliver medication education. They are a vital part of medication education in remote clinics and, the lynchpin to successful pharmacy services, is that relationship between pharmacists and Aboriginal Health Practitioners working as a team to help patients get the best results out of their medication.

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