



Welcome Wizard Pharmacy Strathalbyn!

WIZARD *pharmacy*

Wizard magic spreads to SA

Congratulations to the Wizard Pharmacy Strathalbyn team on your Grand Opening! We're so excited to have you join the Wizard family and look forward to supporting you in achieving great success as a Wizard in your community.

“The complete package Wizard provides is superior to any other options me and my partners saw available.

Back-office support, stock management, team training, and everything in between are exceptionally well covered.

They are a progressive business looking ahead at new opportunities and ways to do things not just differently but better” said James Wittwer, Wizard Strathalbyn franchisee.

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features five pages of news, including a photo page from APP, plus a cover wrap from Wizard Pharmacy.

A warm Wizard welcome

WIZARD Pharmacy is excited to welcome Wizard Pharmacy Strathalbyn to the group.

Opening its doors on 17 Mar, the new store is the first Wizard Pharmacy in South Australia (PD 21 Mar).

Speaking about his decision to join the Wizard family, Strathalbyn franchisee, James Wittwer, shared that "the complete package Wizard provides is superior to any other options me and my partners saw available."

To find out more about the Wizard Pharmacy offering, see the **cover page**.

First Nations workforce scholarship

A NEW joint student scholarship initiative was announced yesterday by Symbion and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, which aims to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pharmacy students and strengthen the First Nations workforce through education and career support.

The initiative flows from the Guild's and Symbion's reconciliation efforts being implemented through their own respective "Reflect" Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs), endorsed by Reconciliation Australia.

Under the initiative, four pharmacy student scholarship recipients of the program will receive an annual entitlement of \$10,000 and be eligible for conference registration fees, travel, and accommodation to a pharmacy conference for one year.

The initiative also provides two pharmacy assistant scholarships of \$5,000 annually and payment of conference registration fees,



travel, and accommodation to the Pharmacy Assistant Conference for one year.

To help strengthen Symbion and TerryWhite Chemmart's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples workforce, Symbion will provide each program participant with:

- Options and support for placement for each program participant during their degree/study;
- Opportunities for placement during the pharmacy student's intern year (or similar) at a TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy; and

- Employment opportunities during holiday periods. Each program participant will receive a mentor and that mentor will be paid \$750 for each year of support by Symbion.

Guild President Trent Twomey said the initiative was a welcome move in strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pharmacy workforce through education and career support.

"This is a very important and significant collaboration between the Guild and Symbion, and one which will have far-reaching and lasting positive impacts," he said.

Chief Executive Officer of Symbion, Brett Barons, also confirmed that the initiative "will help to build a strengthened Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pharmacy workforce which will result in an increased provision of, and access to, improved culturally appropriate pharmacy services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients".

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Handy health app

TERRYWHITE Chemmart's (TWC) new all-in-one app - myTWC - drives convenience and aims to put health and care in the hands of every patient.

With a strong focus on supporting medication adherence, myTWC enables e-scripts, bookings for health services, and rewards, and provides a full eCommerce experience.

The app has enhanced carer support and drives convenience for customers with click-and-collect, pay-in-store, and delivery all managed through the app.

Research commissioned by TWC shows that 70% of patients struggle to manage their medication effectively, with 61% saying that assistance with medication management was of high importance to them.

Executive General Manager Nick Munroe said myTWC was a step forward in the brand's digital strategy.

"With pharmacy and healthcare continuing to evolve, myTWC gives TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacists the confidence they have a customer solution that is keeping up with the latest trends and provides a platform for future development.

"We are constantly looking at the future trends for pharmacy and what patients want.

"myTWC enables us to rapidly respond to the needs of customers in an ever-changing digital landscape," he said.

myTWC is available now for Apple and Android devices.

For details [CLICK HERE](#).

Tas updates vax guidelines

TASMANIAN Premier Jeremy Rockliff yesterday released new guidelines for the Tasmanian Immunisation Program at a South Hobart pharmacy, with the update now including provisions allowing pharmacists to administer prescribed vaccines.

David Peachey, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) Tasmanian Branch, hailed the move.

"Next time a customer takes a prescription for a vaccine to their local pharmacy, they can save a return visit to the medical centre by having their pharmacist administer it for them.

"This is in addition to medicines pharmacists can already authorise and administer, including influenza, COVID-19, whooping cough, and Measles/Mumps/Rubella."

Despite the breakthrough, Peachey noted the lack of funded remuneration available to pharmacists for the service.

"The PSA will also continue to advocate for the removal of cost discrimination on vaccine administration," he fumed.

"It makes no sense that patients cannot access a consultation fee for the administration of a vaccine,

by pharmacists yet the MBS has provision for both nurses and medical practitioners to do this in general practice," Peachey said.

"As long as community pharmacists must continue to charge administration fees to cover the cost of this service, it will not reach its full potential."

Peachey said yesterday's move would help reduce pressure on wait times for medical services and provide a more convenient option for patients.

"Tasmanian pharmacists know all too well the overwhelming pressure and demand our medical colleagues are experiencing, and we welcome any initiatives which will remove an unnecessary step in accessing healthcare, such as vaccination.

"All health professionals need more time with their patients who have more complex health needs, and having local pharmacists administering more vaccines helps facilitate this."

The Society said it also continues to advocate for Tasmanian pharmacists to be able to authorise, as well as administer, routine and travel health vaccines, as pharmacists in NSW and QLD do.

Heart checks gone for good?

THE Heart Foundation is concerned that the Australian Government is yet to renew funding for vital Heart Health Checks, which have so far helped more than 420,000 Australians understand their heart health and develop prevention plans with the support of their GPs.

Making Heart Health Checks a permanent item on the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) is now the Foundation's highest priority of three initiatives it has proposed to the Government for inclusion in the 2023/24 Federal Budget.

Heart Health Checks were introduced to the MBS as temporary items in 2019, with Australians taking up the screening checks in record numbers in 2022.



Despite the demand, the checks have been left to expire on 30 Jun this year.

With the countdown now on, Heart Foundation CEO David Lloyd urged the Government not to take Australia backwards in its fight against cardiovascular disease.

"If nothing changes, we can expect to see 1.37 million Australians experience a cardiovascular event before 2029," Lloyd said.

"This would result in \$62 billion in healthcare costs and \$79 billion in indirect costs.


"Right now, the Heart Health Check is the only Medicare item available in Australia dedicated specifically to the early detection and prevention of heart disease; to let it expire would be a huge loss."



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Script signatures are back

PHARMACISTS will bear an additional administrative burden as the Department of Health has advised that the COVID-19 Special Arrangement that included adjusted PBS signature requirements will expire at the end of the month.

A community pharmacist at APP2023 yesterday told **Pharmacy Daily**: "This is going to be a pain... all claimable scripts need to be signed as of 31 Mar".

After this time, the Guild advises that patient signature requirements as a receipt of a pharmaceutical benefit and for Prescription Record Forms (PRFs) will be reinstated.

Safety Net PRFs signed by a pharmacist on behalf of their patient will no longer be accepted, and there will be no transition period once the Special Arrangement expires next Fri.

PBS signature requirements will revert to previous requirements as set out in the *National Health Act 1953*.

The Guild has expressed its disappointment with this decision to the Health Minister Mark Butler and the Department of Health.

"It is our position that the Special Arrangement has demonstrated the previous signature requirement to be an unnecessary administrative burden on pharmacists and patients," the Guild said.

"We will continue to advocate on our members' behalf for a long-term solution and will advise of any updates."

MRFF indicators

THE Health Department has published a set of performance indicators for assessing the success and impact of the Medical Research Future Fund.

The initiative sets out the importance of measuring the fund's impact, performance indicators and the approach to data collection - health.gov.au.

Weight loss trial

RESEARCHERS into weight loss are calling for generally healthy adults to join a clinical trial conducted by Southern Cross University's National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine.

Lead investigator Dr Janet Schloss says the trial aims to assess the effectiveness of a herbal supplement in aiding overweight Aussies to shed kilos, with participating practitioners available in several regions.

"This trial offers an opportunity for people who are overweight to try a new product which may assist them in losing weight in conjunction with nutrition information and exercise consultation," she said.

The trial will last 16 weeks, with participants also visiting a local health practitioner once a month for four months.

For more information on how to participate, [CLICK HERE](#).

Rural video winners

PHARMACY 777 Port Hedland in Western Australia is the winner of this year's Pharmacy Guild 'Why I Love Rural Pharmacy' video competition for its "fun, quirky and powerful message".

The second prize is the People's Choice award, which went to Life Pharmacy Orange.

Pharmacy 777 Port Hedland receives full registration to APP2024, while Life Pharmacy Orange has won a Guild Digital website credit to the value of \$300.

The 'Why I Love Rural Pharmacy' video competition's theme this year was: "Rural Pharmacy - exploring challenges, hidden opportunities".

Chair of the judging panel and Executive Director of the Pharmacy Guild, Suzanne Greenwood, said the entries this year had successfully showcased regional, rural, and remote community pharmacies which have made substantial changes to adapt their pharmacy practices to the evolving healthcare environment.

To view the entries, [CLICK HERE](#).



“ Our onboarding experience with Wizard Pharmacy has been excellent and seamless. The Wizard team has guided us through each step, kept us up to date with what is happening and have taken on a lot of the burden that is required in any pharmacy conversion. **”**

James Wittwer | **WIZARD PHARMACY FRANCHISEE**
STRATHALBYN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA | **FORMER AMCAL**

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APP 2023 off to a triumphant start!

PHARMACY'S biggest event of the year kicked off in the Gold Coast yesterday, with over 6,000 proprietors, pharmacists, interns, students, pharmacy assistants and industry professionals expected to attend over the coming days.

This year's conference and exhibition is once again being held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre and will give attendees opportunities for networking, upskilling and professional development.

The four-day program opened yesterday with an address from Trent Twomey, National President, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, followed by a triumphant Pharmacy 777 Shoalwater in Western Australia being crowned as the 2023 Guild Pharmacy of the Year.

Presentations and the trade show will continue today, including a keynote address from The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care.



ALL smiles with FredIT's Kerrienne Winmill, Leah Ford, Jason Bratuskins, Andrew McManus, Kate Reimers, Byron Mitchell and Yen Omar.

TERRYWHITE Chemmart's Peter O'Brien, Bernard Steele, Vicky Dimitriadis and Rowan Howarth.



FATHI Abdoon, David Cannalunga, Peter Simaris, Leah Aharon, Chris Davis, Gaurika Madan, Nimesh Prasad and Elizabeth McMenamin at the MedAdvisor Stand.

WILLACH'S Meg Brideson, Simon Gerrits and Jan Pendrakowski.



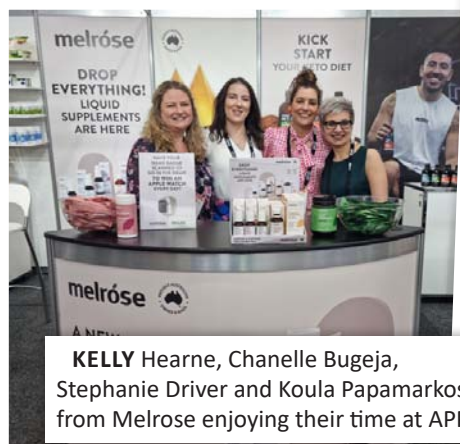
FANCY pink colour at the Power House stand with Samantha Malley, Kelley Dathan, Helen Sykes, Chrys Katsigianni and Camille Deutron.



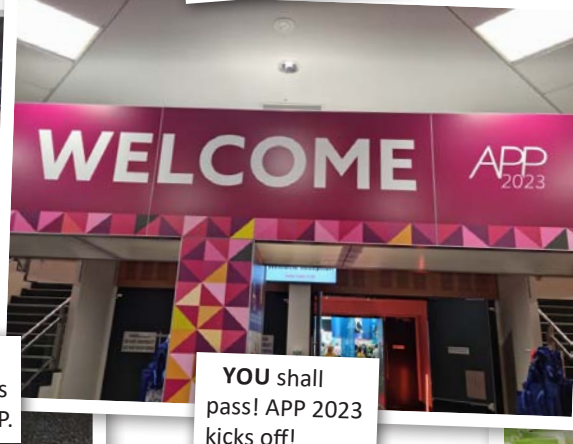
ALL green at Pentative with Hong Xu, Samantha Neil, Melita Bailey and Shelley Young.



GETTING magical with Wizard Pharmacy's Edwin Van Der Graaf, Sally Parker and Lyndon Dyson.



KELLY Hearne, Chanelle Bugeja, Stephanie Driver and Koula Papamarkos from Melrose enjoying their time at APP.



YOU shall pass! APP 2023 kicks off!



Dispensary Corner

GROUNDBREAKING research set to be released at the upcoming European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) has found that being stuck overseas during COVID-19 border closures caused high levels of stress.

The observational study from scientists at the University of NSW looked at the COVID-19 information and support options provided by 11 countries, including Australia, to their citizens stranded overseas in Jun 2021.

It found there were “gaps, inconsistencies, and potential inequities in the support available”, with more than half the people they looked at having been stranded for over five months.

Around two-thirds reported financial distress and a moderate or severe level of depression - a rate substantially higher than the general population during the pandemic.

“Very little attention has been paid to the unintended consequences of these restrictions on people’s lives and wellbeing,” said lead researcher, Associate Professor Holly Searle.

“Often the focus is on tourism and holidays, yet many tens of thousands of people were separated from their partners or families for 18 months or more.

“We hope our findings will help policymakers plan and communicate support packages for this vulnerable population in future public health crises.”

Blooms provides tips on collaboration

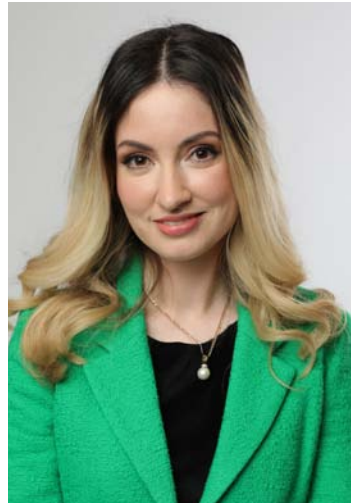
BLOOMS the Chemist is making the most of its sponsorship of APP2023 this week, hosting a thought-provoking panel featuring 2022 Queensland Young Australian of the Year, Dr Tahnee Bridson (pictured), on why healthcare industry collaboration and prioritising self-care are key to delivering better patient outcomes and healthier teams.

Under Blooms’ overarching theme, ‘Better Together’, Bridson, who is Founder of Hand-n-Hand Peer Support, will lead sessions providing practical tips on how to establish “authentically set boundaries” to avoid burnout, and boost confidence in connecting and communicating with both peers and patients.

Blooms The Chemist Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel Vavoulas says it’s important the profession works together to tackle the issues facing them and look to the opportunities that oftentimes emerge from adversity, which starts by ensuring the wellbeing of pharmacists themselves.

“We must acknowledge that the industry challenges we have all faced have taken their toll.

“We have seen experienced pharmacists leave the profession and we know others early in their careers may feel disillusioned and under-resourced.



“With an extended scope of practice already underway, it’s so important that we take the time to listen and better understand what can be improved in our profession, and how collaboration is key to ensuring better outcomes for pharmacists and patients alike,” the Blooms CEO added.

Blooms will also deliver a conscious-networking workshop at APP for Early Career Pharmacists facilitated by Bridson.

The group also invites pharmacists to book time slots to have candid chats with its CEO Vavoulas sharing what they love, and what they feel could be improved about the profession, with the insights used

to inform a Whitepaper and other key resources.

Blooms will conduct an important Pharmacist Focus Survey at APP, with responses captured via a video booth (similar to a photo booth set-up), as well as an online survey, with the chance to win a travel voucher and other self-care prizes.

“We’re aiming to capture deeper insights into the motivations, aspirations, and challenges facing our profession,” said Vavoulas.

Coumadin SSSI

THE TGA has made a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) to address the shortage of Coumadin warfarin 5mg tablets.

The SSSI allows pharmacists to offer patients a lower strength if the 5mg tablet is unavailable.

Grim milestone

TODAY, on Diabetes Victoria’s 70-year anniversary, new data shows that diabetes prevalence rates are growing at a concerning rate.

In the last 15 years, Victorians living with diabetes has almost doubled and will cross 400,000 this year.

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