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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus full pages from:

- PharmXchange
- Glucojel

Novus added on

PHARMAXCHANGE has added Novus to its platform.

The network is always expanding with new suppliers being added, and is an integral part of the inventory management process for many pharmacies.

See more on **page five**.

Original jellybean

THE Guild's Gold Cross Glucojel jellybean is the original pharmacy bean that has several favourable customer reviews, which keeps them coming back for more.

See more on **page six**.

PAG celebrates big win at APP 2023

THE Platform Alliance Group (PAG) showcased at APP2023 that inspiring success lies at the heart of what they do by helping all pharmacists to overcome obstacles and thrive with purpose in their communities.

CEO Dave Fenlon said he was delighted to see "Alliance Pharmacy - Thursday Island Pharmacy recognised for Excellence in Pharmacy Innovation Award."

"Their unique location presents immense logistical challenges in delivering healthcare to those living on Thursday Island and neighbouring islands in the northern tip of Queensland and Papua New Guinea in the Torres Strait."

"Still, Mick Delaney, Luci Delaney, Carli Berrill, Caitlin Davies and Simon Reynolds have created effective ways to engage with their patients and help them with their health."

"It takes a high level of commitment and passion to



achieve recognition from their patients and the industry - this is what inspiring success is all about, and we want to inspire all pharmacies and the industry."

Andrew Pattinson, Chief Innovation Officer of PAG and facilitator of the first panel session, at APP explained that the world in which pharmacists are practising is changing rapidly.

"To achieve better business, we need visionary leaders like Catherine Bronger, Kristina Fox, Haley Tamborini and Nicole Hooley."

"Whether you are starting your first or fifth pharmacy, the PAG will back you to deliver your vision to help your patients achieve better health expectations."

"With PAG celebrating our first birthday, we are thrilled to be supporting more than 2,500 pharmacies across Australia."

"We are urging all pharmacies to start the journey to practice to their full scope - pharmacy change must start today."

Panel member and pharmacist Kristina Fox added, "I couldn't be prouder to share the stage with three inspirational women in the industry."

"At my pharmacy, we try to understand gaps in health solutions and work on trying to fill those gaps

and constantly evolve to meet the needs of the community - this is critical as we approach full scope."

Pictured: Guild President Trent Twomey, Thursday Island Pharmacy's Carli Berrill and Caitlin Davies with sponsor Care Pharmaceuticals.

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First cohort starts full scope training

THE North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (Pilot) is officially under way with 175 registered community pharmacists embarking on higher education and training through the Queensland University of Technology.

Under the guidance of the Queensland University of Technology, James Cook University and the Australasian College of Pharmacy, two cohorts of pharmacists will undertake graduate certificate level, evidenced-based training, which is currently used in other Australian non-medical prescribing pathways.

Chris Owen, Queensland Branch President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia said the response from community pharmacists to be part of the Pilot has been extremely positive.

“Places for the first cohort were filled in less than a week with 175 pharmacists starting their journey. “With the second cohort

allocation close to reaching capacity, this Pilot is set to modernise primary healthcare by giving patients greater accessibility to seek treatment for everyday common conditions, which will remove unnecessary wait times to see GPs or patients presenting to an emergency department.

“I’m so proud that the first independent prescriber in Australia will come out of North Queensland.

“It is a testament to the hundreds of committed community pharmacy professionals ready to embrace working to their full scope of practice,” says Owen.

The Pilot will allow community pharmacists in North Queensland to prescribe medicines for common conditions such as nausea and vomiting, reflux, and mild skin conditions, and provide health and wellbeing services including hormonal contraception, oral health screening, weight management and support to quit smoking.

“It will also let pharmacists prescribe medicines as part of structured chronic disease management programs such as cardiovascular disease risk reduction, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Owen goes on to explain that the Pilot framework will continue to ensure meaningful collaboration between a patient, their pharmacist and GP through active communication and referrals, meaning patients will have more options for getting timely access to treatment.

“At the end of the year patients will be able to receive treatment by trained community pharmacists in a safe and private consultation room when they need it,” said Owen.

The second cohort will begin training through James Cook University on 03 Jul, with the first occasion of service expected to be delivered in North Queensland by the trained group of cohort one at the end of this year.

SHPA on Labor

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is looking forward to hospital pharmacist-specific investments as it congratulated NSW Labor on winning Sat’s NSW state election.

Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says SHPA welcomes the Labor Party’s commitments to reduce long-standing inequities in patient care and access to medicines expertise.

“Hospital pharmacy has long been under-resourced in NSW and we reiterate our support for NSW Labor’s \$268m Hospital Pharmacy Workforce Sustainability in NSW Public Hospitals proposal, which will fund over 600 positions in the pharmacy workforce each year.

“This will aid in expanding the scope of pharmacist practice in Emergency Departments to ease bed block and support patient flow.”

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Doctors call for far-reaching reforms

IN THE May budget, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is calling on the Federal Government to make a number of reforms with far-reaching impact on pharmacy.

These include extending the length of prescriptions; allowing a larger supply of medicines in one go - a two-month supply would halve dispensing fees, which cost taxpayers \$1.67 billion in 2021-22; investigating the benefits of removing the \$1 discount rule; overhauling Australia's anti-competitive pharmacy ownership and location laws; and making prescribing faster and easier for GPs by streamlining the PBS prescribing system, which RACGP says is unnecessarily complex.

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins said Australia's health system crisis must be tackled from all sides explaining that "this includes extending the length of prescriptions.

"If GPs could give longer

prescriptions of 15-months instead of the usual six-months to suitable patients, it would make a big difference," Higgins said.

"GPs should have the flexibility to decide what's right for their patients.

"Another easy way to lower costs



RACGP

is to allow patients to get a larger supply of medicines in one go by increasing the supply interval for certain medicines.

"This will save the government money on dispensing fees which could in turn be used to further subsidise patient care.

"Over 140 medicines could have an increased supply interval of two months, according to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, many for chronic conditions, such as heart disease which affects over 4% of people.

"The cost of dispensing was \$1.67 billion in 2021-22, a two-month interval would cut this by half.

"We also support further investigation of the benefits to patients in changing the \$1 discount rule.

"This prevents pharmacies from discounting medicines that cost more than the current co-payment of \$30 by more than \$1.

"Other countries like New Zealand don't have this rule, so pharmacies can offer significant discounts on some medicines."

The RACGP President also called for changes to the PBS prescribing system to reduce administration time as well as looking at alternative models to reduce costs.

"Other models such as supermarket pharmacies, online pharmacies and automated dispensing machines are used widely in other western countries like the US and UK, and could make a real difference here, particularly in rural communities."

Smart solution

THE theme for World Pharmacists Day on 25 Sep is 'Pharmacy: Strengthening health systems', the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) announced yesterday.

If health services are to meet future needs, FIP's campaign presents opportunities to increase awareness of pharmacists as an intelligent solution.

"The COVID pandemic has given us undeniable evidence of the capabilities of the profession.

"To cite just one example, during the pandemic pharmacy teams in the US provided over 350 million clinical interventions in the form of COVID testing, vaccination, treatment and in-patient care.

"Without our actions, there would have been many more deaths," said FIP President Dominique Jordan.


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Dispensary Corner

FOR years, schools in a drowsy town in Kerala, India, have been facing an unusual problem: students are scarce and teachers have to go out looking for them.

They also have to pay from their pockets to bring students to the school in Kumbanad.

As India overtakes China as the world's most populous nation, there is a crisis of population in parts of the country where fertility has fallen below replacement levels and migration to places like Australia has left behind ghost towns inhabited by the elderly, *BBC* has reported.

A 150-year-old government upper primary school - which educates students up to the age of 14 - in Kumbanad has 50 students on its rolls, down from about 700 since the late 1980s.

With only seven students, grade seven is the largest class.

In 2016, the class had only one student.

Getting enough students to the school is a challenge.

Each of its eight teachers fork out 2,800 rupees (A\$34) every month to pay for auto rickshaws (*tuk-tuks*) ferrying students from home to school and back.

They also go door-to-door looking for pupils.

Even the few private schools in the area send out teachers to look for students - the biggest one has barely 70 students.

"What can we do? There are no children in this town. I mean, there are barely any people living here," said Jayadevi R, the principal, wryly.

Supplement snacking!

FRUIT isn't cutting it for the younger generation, who would rather chew a vitamin gummy or pop a high-tech capsule to stay youthful and healthy, reports *alizila*.

Generation Z consumers born after 1995 eclipsed older shoppers in terms of anti-ageing purchases.

"In terms of wellness awareness, Gen Z consumers woke up earlier than their parents," says Candice Wan, Bayer's Vice President of APAC cross-border e-commerce.

"And unlike their parents, tablespoons of cod liver oil and giant multi-vitamin capsules aren't enough.

"Tablet-shaped vitamins make consumers feel like they are taking medicine, [and] makes it difficult for them to develop a long-time habit," added Wan.

Young shoppers demand tasty, convenient and straightforward

products, and the company's One A Day brand ticks these boxes with fruit-flavoured gummy vitamins packed with 10 supplements.

Zoomers aren't the only ones stocking up.

Searches for "anti-ageing" as a whole rose 500% year on year in the first sales period of last year's 6.18 Mid-Year Shopping Festival on B2C marketplace Tmall.

Companies young and old are flocking to take part in this upcoming health boom, from 159-year-old Bayer to a new generation of technology-powered health startups.

This includes newcomer supplement brand Ritual, which launched on Alibaba's Tmall e-commerce platform this year and has amassed a following among Gen Z and Millennial shoppers, with a quarter of buyers under 25.

"Our patented bead-in-oil design allows us to combine oily and dry ingredients in one capsule, which means consumers can get key nutrients like omega-3 DHA and vitamin D3 in just two capsules a day," said Joy Chua-Schwartz, Ritual's Vice President and Business Development Director.

The company sources ingredients globally and develops the final product in stateside labs.

"Seeking changes and innovations" is an integral part of life for supplement brands in this competitive field, according to Bayer's Wan.

But newer is not necessarily always better.

Modern supplements can complete, not compete, with traditional health regimes rooted in thousands of years of traditional medicine practice, according to

Chua-Schwartz.

"Anything you're doing for your health can be done in parallel and can complement one another.

Bayer and Ritual both see a growing focus on the origin and quality of ingredients, as consumers prioritise efficacy and take time to research and evaluate products.

"All of our work around sustainability resonates a lot with that younger generation," said Chua-Schwartz.

It's paying off. Ritual's high-tech capsules have quickly gained traction, and around a quarter of purchases made during the mid-year shopping festival were by repeat buyers.

Likewise, Bayer's One A Day brand saw 60% sales growth during last year's 6.18 shopping festival, with the Gen Z customers accounting for 16.78% of the shopping force.



Guild Update

Guild thrilled with APP turnout

THE Pharmacy Guild says it is "thrilled" with the turnout at this year's APP Conference which wrapped up on Sunday.

Organisers says the event's attendance easily surpassed pre-pandemic levels and the Guild was very pleased with the number of conference goers who visited its stand.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's National President Trent Twomey got APP 2023 under way last Thu with a keynote address to the Opening Plenary session.

He updated the industry on progress the Guild has made on key issues affecting pharmacies, staff and their local communities.

These included the affordable medicines campaign, scope of practice, workforce issues, the community pharmacy agreement and further training and qualifications.

Twomey also explained why APP is such an important event on any pharmacist's calendar.

"APP has grown and challenged the Community Pharmacy industry to be bigger and better every year and it's APP which has given birth to program funding, agreement negotiations, service delivery advancements like vaccines and now our journey to full scope of practice.

"And we always have a good time and love catching up with friends and colleagues," he told the conference.

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THE REVIEWS ARE IN



Oliver Campbell

I tried these and I definitely don't like them.

🤢 Lucky other chemists are still keeping the Glucojel one. I will get them for them.

Neil Duffin

They are disgusting 🤢 glad I only purchased the small bag!!

Wendy Brown
These are disgusting and not worth buying compared to the other brand. Worst decision swapping brands

Lisa Brown



Wendy H Brown



Tracy MacCormac

Yuck. Awful texture.
Bring back Glucojel please!!

Marie Stogren

Some of these flavours are feral and horrible. Wont buy them again



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