

\$75m for biotech

QLD Premier Anna Bligh today committed \$50m to the University of Qld Institute for Molecular Bioscience, as well as \$25m in operational funding for the Queensland Brain Institute.

The move was predicted to grow the economy by \$400m over the next 15 years.

Vic smoking move

THE Victorian govt yesterday announced a boost to anti-smoking marketing, following the release of new research which showed many smokers didn't think they could get lung cancer as a result of the habit.

Premier John Brumby said a \$5.6m campaign boost would be effective with almost half of successful quitters saying mass media had prompted them to stop smoking.

The govt hopes to cut the rate of smoking in Vic from its current 17.4% rate to 14% by 2013.

Wine time with *Pharmacy Daily*

WELCOME to our regular *Pharmacy Daily* wine feature. We know that many pharmacists enjoy a nice bottle of wine, so have decided to provide a regular column on some of the new wines available.

AUSTRALIA'S first wine exporter and award winning winemaker was Blue Mountains explorer Gregory Blaxland!

In 1816 he planted vines at "Brush Farm" in the Parramatta region, near present-day Sydney Suburb Eastwood.

In 1822 he sent a red wine fortified with brandy to England, and for his exporting efforts he was awarded a number of medals by the Royal Society of Arts.

Blaxland could have dreamed, but little could he have imagined, that 150 years later Australia would forever change 800 years of French domination of the English market, by replacing France as the largest supplier of table wine to the England

Although Blaxland's Vineyard no longer survives, a few other earlier wine innovators and pioneers have vineyards which still exist today.

One of the few early vineyards still in existence is "Dalwood", founded in the Hunter Valley in 1828 and now known as Wyndham Estate.

By 1832 George Wyndham had 2 acres of vines, some of which

Symbion shares on hold

TRADING in Symbion Health shares was this morning suspended at the company's request, pending a major announcement to be made before the stock exchange opens next Monday.

Symbion's frustrated suitor Healthscope also requested a trading halt.

The move may or may not be related to an announcement yesterday by Symbion predator Primary Health Care, which advised it would not waive its key takeover condition.

Primary says that if Symbion shareholders vote for the Healthscope proposal to sell the company's diagnostic division it will withdraw its offer and will use its 20% shareholding to vote against the deal.

Primary continued its push to delay the 30 Nov shareholder

he had bought from James Busby who is known as the father of the Australian viticulture and founder of the Hunter Valley.

Two wines made for celebrating Australia's pioneering innovation and first wine awards come from Philip Shaw (philipshaw.com.au) - the first Australian to win the International Winemaker of the year award- TWICE!

Philip's pioneering spirit covers the revitalisation of Mudjee, the development of the cool climate region of Orange, and the enhancement of Chardonnay to world class standards.

Vintages include Philip Shaw No 8 Pinot Noir (RRP \$39.95), which is the only Pinot Noir to make it into this years NSW Top 40 Wines.

Further showcasing his innovative talents, is his Philip Shaw No. 11 Chardonnay, which is considered the epitome of the great Australian Chardonnay.

Recently chosen for service in Qantas international first class, it's considered a flag waver for all that is good and great in Australian cool climate Chardonnay.

Limited quantities are available from retailers at \$30.00 RRP.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

THOSE keen on hygiene will be thrilled with a new Korean robot which claims to be tough on both grime and crime.

The device is named *Iclebo* and its manufacturers claim it's the first robotic vacuum cleaner which can also watch out for burglars attempting to steal from its owners' home.

"If strangers break in, Iclebo will send an alarm signal to your cellphone," said a spokesman for the manufacturer, KTF.

The robotic vacuum cleaner also allows its owners to give directions about which room to clean via their mobile phones.

KTF said it plans to release the combination guard dog and housemaid onto the market within 12 months, with a price of roughly \$600.

THIS probably isn't a good Christmas health tip.

A UK man this week won \$2500 by eating 26 festive mince pies in ten minutes.

Clive Pearson, pictured below, claimed the secret of his success was taking small sips of water between pies.

He's moving onto better (and very likely much bigger) things with an entry in the upcoming world eating championships in Las Vegas.



Soon he'll be as big as a mountain - of mince pies, of course.

Schering-Plough buys Organon

SCHERING-PLOUGH this week announced the finalisation of its takeover of Organon BioSciences, saying the move gives it "an enhanced pipeline and increased R&D facilities".

As a result of the deal Schering-Plough prescription products will now also include fertility treatment Follistim/Puregon, muscle relaxant Esmeron and Nuvaring and Implanon for contraception.

Crestor 10mg suitable for Asians

A 10MG dose of Crestor (rosuvastatin) has been found to be effective and well tolerated in a wide range of Asian patients at high risk of cardiovascular disease.

A study published in the Dec issue of *Current Medical Research and Opinion* found 10mg was an appropriate starting dose, with Dr Stephen Li of Westmead Hospital saying "it is an advantage to avoid titrating Asian patients as they prefer lower doses of Western medicine and don't like having doses increased."

Win a booster

HIGH Tech Health is giving away five of its Circulation Boosters, which produce low frequency electrical waves to stimulate the reflexes in the feet, said to give relief from stress and fatigue.

Enter your "improving circulation" story in the comp at www.hightechhealth.com.au.

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