

Happy Christmas!

THIS is the final edition of *Pharmacy Daily* for 2018, as we take a break for some rest and relaxation over the festive season.

The next issue will be published on 02 Jan 2019.

We'd like to thank our thousands of daily readers for your ongoing support, input and encouragement and wish you all the compliments of the season.

Studio 54 at APP2019

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is inviting attendees at next year's APP Gold Coast conference to get out the flares, glitter and glam for a "Studio 54" themed Street Party taking place during the conference.



The APP2019 Street Party will take place on Sat 09 Mar at The Pavilion at The Star Gold Coast, with platform shoes and disco balls set to be the order of the night.

Comedian Bob Downe will perform some of his disco mega hits, alongside the Forever Soul Band with a mix of motown, disco, soul, R&B and funk.

Highlighting the main arena will be the 100% Kylie Minogue tribute show - see appconference.com.

Blooms launches in WA

BLOOMS The Chemist has taken the next step in ambitious national expansion plans with the opening of its first three stores in Western Australia in the last few months.

The brand debuted in North Perth, followed closely by outlets in Port Coogee and Geraldton, with Chief Operating Officer, Jason Blanchard, saying the WA communities had welcomed Blooms The Chemist with open arms.

"We have been pleased by the positive response from local families in all three locations.

"Our business model is truly focused on the customer as we strive to be the best community pharmacy brand in Australia," Blanchard said.

Blooms The Chemist now comprises a total of 90 stores across NSW, Queensland and now Western Australia, with Blanchard expressing "a lot of confidence in the growth potential of WA".

He said there was significant interest from independent pharmacists wanting to partner with Blooms The Chemist and the support provided by the brand.

"It's proving particularly appealing to independent operators who find themselves competing with some



of the bigger pharmacy chains," Blanchard said, adding that "even some stores that fall under other banners are walking away from their existing group and joining Blooms the Chemist".

The Blooms brand was officially launched by ambassador and cricket legend Steve Waugh, who is **pictured** above with Port Coogee pharmacist Andria Aird.

Steglatro PBS listing

MERCK Sharp & Dohme has welcomed the addition of its Steglatro (ertugliflozin) to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with the SGLT2-inhibitor listed for adults with uncontrolled type 2 diabetes mellitus as evidenced by HbA1c blood glucose levels.

The Authority Required indication is for Steglatro use in combination with metformin or a sulfonylurea.

Save Santa this Xmas

A **PUBLIC** health announcement by cardiac safety group Australian Hearts is urging the community to help Save Santa this Christmas.

The tongue-in-cheek campaign says that like all workers, Santa faces many workplace risks including the possibility of sudden cardiac arrest.

"Saint Nick is old, and he should have retired centuries ago, but his demanding schedule doesn't let up," the organisation said.

Other key issues include the fact he travels in a sleigh at about 3,000 times the speed of sound, along with workplace expectations to consume at least two choc-chip biscuits in each home - a total of a whopping 154 million kilojoules.

"If Santa suffered a cardiac arrest in his workplace - which could be your home - you or his little elf could save his life if there was access to a defibrillator," Australian Hearts noted, adding that there are 3,000 unnecessary and preventable deaths from sudden cardiac arrest in Australia each year.

Spokesperson Matt Andrews said Australian Hearts was determined to create a situation where every worker is within three minutes of a defibrillator - potentially saving up to 10 Aussies per day.

"Everyone deserves a second chance at life, including Santa, and that's why this Christmas we are sending a message that all workers should have access to defibrillators," Andrews said, with the campaign calling on governments to make the items, along with training, mandatory in every workplace.

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Dispensary Corner

DRONE technology has enabled the vaccination of 13 infants and five pregnant women on a remote island in Vanuatu, with UNICEF arranging for the injection to be flown about 40km across an impenetrable mountain range.

The medicine, along with a temperature logger, was carried in a small styrofoam box (pictured), with the incident believed to be the first time people have been immunised with the assistance of a commercial drone.

"Today's small flight by drone is a big leap for global health," said UNICEF executive director, Henrietta Fore.

"Drone technologies can be a game-changer for bridging that last mile to reach every child," Fore said, with the drone supplied by Australian firm Swoop Aero.



ODOR-EATERS may have helped a Chinese man who has reportedly ended up in hospital with a severe lung infection from smelling his own socks.

According to media reports from the city of Zhangzhou, each day when he got home from work the man underwent a ritual including changing into more comfortable clothes and giving his socks a good sniff.

It turns out he caught a fungal infection from the practice, with doctors saying he must have inhaled spores which spread to his lungs from his sweaty feet.

SafeScript saving Vic lives

THE SafeScript real-time prescription monitoring system currently being rolled out in Vic has alerted doctors and pharmacists in Western Victoria to almost 3,300 patients at risk of harm or overdose from visiting multiple clinics or pharmacies.

That figure has been achieved in just the first two months of operation of the platform, with more than 400 sites part of the initial deployment across the Western Victoria Primary Health Network at a range of locations including Ararat, Ballarat, Geelong, Maryborough and Warrnambool.

SafeScript is monitoring all Schedule 8 medicines such as morphine and oxycodone, along with other drugs including codeine and diazepam, giving health professionals "finger-tip access to real-time information about their patients' prescription history of monitored medicines.

"Prescription medicine dependency can happen to anybody, and deaths caused by

prescription medicine misuse have outnumbered the road toll in Victoria for the past six years," said Vic Health Minister, Jenny Mikakos.

"We said SafeScript would save lives and that's exactly what this cutting-edge program is doing.

"Now health professionals can access real-time information about a patient's prescription history, and discuss with them the risks of using dangerous amounts of prescription medication," Mikakos said.

The Victorian Government has invested \$29.5 million to implement SafeScript, including the development of the platform by Guild/Telstra offshoot Fred IT as well as training and support for practitioners.

A public awareness campaign has also been rolled out targeting more than 600,000 people in the region, who can also get free, confidential advice by calling the 24 hour SafeScript Pharmaceutical Helpline on 1800 737 233.

The system will be rolled out across the state in Apr 2019.

Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **SkinB5** are giving away each day the NEW SkinB5's Clear Skin Superfood Booster valued at \$63.90.

Clear Skin Superfood Booster is an innovative nutritional approach to skin wellness for blemish and acne prone skin, using specially selected ingredients to supply the body with key vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids, amino acids, digestive enzymes, probiotics & prebiotics. Available from Sigma PDE CODE PD301911. Watch the YouTube video [here](#) for more.

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



What type of protein does Clear Skin Superfood Booster contain?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner *Simonne Cameron*.

Hunt pharmacy visits

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt has visited several community pharmacies in Qld this week, meeting with pharmacy owners to discuss current industry issues.

Activities included a round-table discussion with several proprietors at TerryWhite Chemmart Samford facilitated by local MP Peter Dutton.

Hunt also toured the Holland Park Chempro Chemist medical centre, as well as a Gold Coast pharmacy.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Branch Vice President, Kos Sclavos, said key issues on the table included concerns about the \$1 PBS discount, access to the National Immunisation Program, the next pharmacy agreement and the opportunity to embed specific programs so they are not up for renewal every five years.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to **Pharmacy Daily's** events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

22 - 28 Jan: NAPSA Congress; University of South Australia, Adelaide; for more info see: www.napsacongressadelaide19.com

07 - 10 Mar: APP 2019; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; early bird registration now open: www.appconference.com

22 - 24 Mar: NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2019; Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley; early bird registrations now open: www.psa.org.au/atu