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CARLIE STREETER
Horsham Amcal Pharmacy



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Crampeze.

The eyes have it

THE Government yesterday announced the addition of several eye medications to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

The \$80 million investment will see new subsidised treatment options from 01 Nov 2018 for a range of eye conditions, with additions including Ozurdex (dexamethasone) by Allergan for retinal vein occlusion.

This ocularly-injected product is expected to benefit around 3,300 patients per year.

The current PBS listing for Lucentis (ranibizumab) injection will be expanded for patients suffering from types of choroidal neovascularisation not currently covered on the PBS.

The conditions relate to forms of macular degeneration, which is responsible for about 50% of all cases of legal blindness in Australia.

The Government reiterated that its "commitment to the PBS is rock-solid," approving the subsidy of all drugs recommended by the independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

Vic mental health probe

THE Victorian Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed a pledge by the state Labor Government that it will hold a Royal Commission into mental health if re-elected to power.

The Royal Commission, said to be the first of its kind in Australia will "address the undeniable recognition that the current system is under strain and in need of reform", with Premier Daniel Andrews pledging early intervention and better support for families and mental health.

Vic Guild Branch President, Anthony Tassone, said "Pharmacists are an increasingly important part of our community's response to mental health issues.

"As the most frequently accessed health destination, community

pharmacies are ideally placed to recognise potential early signs or symptoms of depression, anxiety or other mental health conditions."

Tassone said the Guild strongly supported the establishment of a Royal Commission and looked forward to making a contribution.

Operation Pangea XI

IN A global operation led by Interpol and code-named Pangea XI, international regulatory and law enforcement agencies have targeted 465 websites illegally selling potentially dangerous, unapproved versions of opioid, oncology and antiviral prescription drugs across the globe.

Patients buying medicines from illegal online pharmacies "may be putting their health at risk because the products, while being passed off as authentic, may be counterfeit, contaminated, expired, or otherwise unsafe", the US Food and Drug Administration warned.

The UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has netted a haul of more than one million doses of fake medicines worth in excess of £2 million in its Pangea XI exercise.

ACT pharmacist win

PHARMACISTS at Canberra Hospital will be subject to a new classification structure including "at-risk bonuses" to help ACT Health attract and retain pharmacists, following a battle led by Professionals Australia and calls by the SHPA for safe pharmacist to patient ratios (PD 03 Oct).

Guild Flordis course

GUILD Learning and Development is partnering with natural medicine manufacturer Flordis to launch an online course titled "Proprietary Natural Medicines".

This CPD-approved course examines the complexity of natural medicine formulations and the principles used to ensure batch-to-batch consistency and reproducible clinically proven health outcomes for patients - to enrol, go to guided.guild.org.au.

Guild vs Ramsay case

THE NSW Supreme Court case brought by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia against Ramsay Health (PD 17 Sep) formally kicked off in Sydney yesterday.

Court documents revealed that plaintiffs listed alongside the Guild include Southside Pharmacy and Masen's Pharmacy in Grafton; Priceline Pharmacy Nowra; and Coady's Pharmacy in Caringbah.

The case centres on the compliance of Ramsay Pharmacy franchisees with ownership rules, with Ramsay promising to "vigorously defend" the action.

After arguments yesterday the case was listed for a further full hearing on 29 Apr 2019.

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Dispensary Corner

A WOMAN has brought new meaning to the term "Bridezilla," after confessing to deliberately attempting to make her bridesmaids fatter so they wouldn't upstage her on her wedding day.

The cunning plan was revealed on *whimn.com.au* this week, with the unnamed lady saying she had always been competitive with her sisters, with whom she lived.

Concerned that she wouldn't look as good as her siblings, "I set about making sure my sisters looked as ordinary as possible on my big day".

The technique involved making breakfast smoothies for everyone each morning, telling them it had special slimming qualities - however she emptied the contents of weight loss shake packets and replaced them with "mega-weight gain protein powder" she bought from a body building shop.

The plan worked - by the time the wedding arrived her sisters had to have their dresses altered "to accommodate their thickening waistlines."

"And now, when I look back on my wedding photos I sometimes feel a twinge of guilt that I'm standing there glowing and gorgeous in my bridal gown, and my sisters are looking washed out and chubby."

"But mostly I feel happy."



Blackmores helps out



BLACKMORES has donated \$50,000 to support the Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW Drought Relief fund, & \$50,000 more to the Red Cross Indonesian Earthquake and Tsunami Appeal.

Blackmores CEO Richard Henfrey said the CWA was a grass roots organisation, "as close as can be to the families in need."

"I am incredibly proud that both our employees and the company are committed wholeheartedly to helping these communities".

The company has contributed \$5 from each unit of infant formula -

sourced from Australian cows - sold online during Aug and Sep, while fundraising events have been held at Blackmores campuses in NSW and Henfrey also made a personal donation to the cause.

The Indonesian appeal reflects Blackmores' growing operations in the country where it has been operating for two years in a 50% joint venture with Kalbe Farma.

Henfrey (right) is pictured with Executive Chairman Marcus Blackmore handing over a novelty cheque to Nicki Anderson & Danny Hortense from the Red Cross.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an NS-8 Heel Balm and an NS-8 Leg Care Cream valued at \$28.90.

Give your feet some love! Spring is here and it's time to make sure your feet and legs are ready - soft and smooth. NS-8 Heel Balm is not greasy, so you don't need socks and natural exfoliants gradually remove dry, thickened skin, so you don't need foot files. NS-8 Heel Balm is now available as a Bonus Pack containing a 150g mL tube. Recommended by podiatrists and diabetes friendly. Australian owned and made.

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Who recommends NS-8 Heel Balm?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Laura Forte.

Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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For example take the 7-day Glacier Discovery Northbound cruise on board *MS Noordam* from AU\$1,739 per person.

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