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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less**.

SHPA hatches a trip

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has opened registrations for the upcoming SHPA inaugural 2019 International Incubator, taking place 31 Aug-06 Sep in Tokyo, Japan.

The week-long intensive program will enable pharmacists to "critically self-assess and plan for leadership and success," according to SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels.

Key speakers include Peter Fowler from Launceston General Hospital, Jane Booth of Monash Health and co-host of the *Purple Pen Podcast*, and Duncan McKenzie from the Royal Hobart Hospital.

CLICK HERE for details.

Alcohol burden

ONE in 166 people in Australia (aged 10+) were treated for alcohol and other drug use in 2017-18, according to a report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) - aihw.gov.au.

Prescribing "out of scope"

GENERAL practitioners hope the Pharmacy Board of Australia will reconsider its plans to support pharmacist prescribing, claiming "burdens on GPs would increase" as a result.

In its submission to the Board, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) was critical of moves to expand pharmacist's scope of practice "beyond their core function of medicine advice and dispensing".

"It appears that the consultation is considering 'how' pharmacists should prescribe, without appropriately considering whether pharmacy prescribing is appropriate at all," the RACGP said.

"We know that many medical professions, and even pharmacists themselves, consider it inappropriate that pharmacists expand their role into prescribing.

"Pharmacists simply do not have the healthcare training required to safely deliver healthcare services.

"Expanding the pharmacist scope of practice to prescribing may result in unusual (and sometimes serious) conditions not being recognised

and managed appropriately."

The RACGP submission also flagged concerns about potential medication errors as a result of pharmacist prescribing.

"The changing nature of the pharmacist's role will inevitably affect general practice patients," the college said.

"It is important that discussions regarding the role of pharmacists continue to be undertaken in collaboration with the RACGP."

The RACGP said the extension of pharmacy practice to include prescribing would have an impact on the cost of pharmacists' indemnity insurance, but also raised concerns that GPs' premiums would also increase.

"The RACGP suspects that GPs' premiums would increase as they would be responsible for supervising a prescriber who could increase their own medicolegal risk," the college said.

The RACGP said if any of the proposed models were implemented pharmacists should be mandated to take out a higher level of indemnity cover.



Work stress hurts

A NSW-BASED pharmacist will be unable to practise for at least 18 months after admitting to abusing prescription painkillers to ease physical and emotional pain.

The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal heard that in 2016, Luke Pickett had misappropriated a number of schedule 8 medicines from a New England pharmacy he was managing - taking a total haul of 588 tablets including oxycontin, alprazolam and methylphenidate.

Pickett also confessed to working as a pharmacist while "impaired" by opioid misuse.

The Tribunal was told Pickett blamed his abuse of oxycontin on "chronic back pain, [the] death of his grandfather and mostly as a result of [a] breakdown [of a] professional relationship with one of the pharmacists at his workplace".


Pickett's misuse of prescription drugs was identified after a member of staff at the pharmacy flagged concerns about his behaviour, prompting a stock check of S8 drugs of addiction, which discovered discrepancies.

The Tribunal also heard Pickett was found by police on 01 Nov 2016 in possession of cannabis and prescription medicines.



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Personal import rules

THE TGA has detailed the "personal importation scheme" which allows some medicines to be brought into Australia, including many unapproved items - tga.gov.au.

Win with skinb5

This week **Pharmacy Daily & skinB5** are giving away each day their

NEW premium products Acne Control Australian Botanicals Cleansing Mousse and Acne Control Australian Botanicals Hydration Essence valued at \$85.90.

The advanced hydration essence uses 8 anti-acne Australian botanical extracts to effectively nourish, heal & restore a healthy skin barrier. Using cutting-edge cellular extraction, the ingredients' natural powers are harnessed to deliver maximum benefits to your skin.

For more info see www.skinB5.com.

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

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kerri Barwick.

What is the daily usage of the Acne Control Australian Botanicals Hydration Essence?

Blackmores profit dives

BLACKMORES yesterday released its financial results for the nine months to 31 Mar, with a net profit after tax of \$44 million, down 14% on the prior corresponding period.

That was despite revenue increasing 6% to \$460 million, with the company hit particularly hard in the most recent quarter which recorded a 43% year-on-year profit slump to \$10 million.

"The third quarter has been challenging for the company... however we firmly believe that this result does not reflect the long-term growth potential of the business," said interim CEO Marcus Blackmore.

He said the company was committed to a "major streamlining" of the business to simplify and improve its processes and structure.

The period included the abrupt departure of former CEO Richard Henfrey (**PD** 27 Feb) after just 18 months in the role.

Blackmore, who took over after Henfrey's resignation, said savings of \$60 million over three years were being targeted, while plans would also allow continued investment in key strategic initiatives, capability building and margin improvement delivery.

He noted that Blackmores remains the number one VDS brand in Australia with a 14.9% domestic market share, "supporting wellbeing in more than one in five households".

However revenue in Australia and NZ for the quarter was down a

hefty 26% to \$54 million.

"We continue to diversify our domestic customer mix and we have seen improvements during the quarter," Blackmore noted.

He said the company's Board was continuing its "extensive search" for a new CEO, "and this process is progressing well".

The outlook for the company is for "modest full-year revenue growth," Blackmore added.

GP rego suspended

A RESIDENTIAL care facility GP, Judith Silberberg, servicing around 300 patients, has had her registration suspended for six months, after which she will be subject to conditions resulting from a Health Care Complaints Commission arraignment.

Silberberg, who had administered "high doses" of some drugs, will not be able prescribe S8 drugs or midazolam and be subject to practice audits - caselaw.nsw.gov.au.

healthSAVE Burnie meets Minister



HEALTHSAVE Wilkinson's Pharmacy in Burnie, recently celebrated its win of the 2019 Guild Award for Excellence in Community Engagement – Health Services (**PD** 07 Mar) with a visit from Health Minister, Greg Hunt.

The pharmacy is jointly owned by Heather Wild, Diane Kerr and Jack Muir Wilson and the trio have been involved in the business together for around five years.

Opening 9am-9pm Mon-Sun,

healthSAVE Wilkinson's Pharmacy offers a range of professional services to the local community including: in-store IVF dispensing and counselling, diabetes and cardiovascular screening, Home Medication Reviews, disability carer support and education service as well as regular on-site health education programs for locals.

Pictured with Health Minister Greg Hunt is the happy healthSAVE Wilkinson's Pharmacy team.

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Dispensary Corner

PHARMACISTS are zombies spilling pills across the dispensary to patients and subjugated by their unscrupulous masters, according to Professional Pharmacists Australia.

Inspired by the excitement of the first episode of the final series of *Game of Thrones* this week, the pharmacy union has let its imagination run wild, casting the Coalition Government as The Army of the Dead, while the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has been dubbed The Lannisters.

In a dramatic news update on the union's site, possibly drafted moments before the *HBO* hit aired, the PPA described its struggle for improved pay for its members as the "Game of Fair Wages".

"Game of Fair Wages is an industrial fight that pits our hardworking pharmacists against the Lower and Upper Houses of Australia," the author mused.

"Like the Army of the Dead, the Coalition have turned a blind eye to the working Australian.

They pose a threat to anything resembling a decent living wage. The cost of living is rising but wages are going nowhere. The pharmacists are being turned into zombies living off the bare minimum."

Dubbing itself as "the good guys", the PPA then turned its attention to the Guild, claiming it was hoarding "all the gold for their members... while stabbing pharmacists in the back".

Responding to the union's efforts, a Guild spokesperson told *PD*: "Groan. How lame. The PPA better not give up its day job because creative writing is just not their thing."

Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Cheeki Coffee Mugs

Grab your latte-to-go the sustainable way in one of these reusable 350ml Cheeki Coffee Mugs. The double-walled insulation will keep your brew hot for up to eight hours – perfect for the morning commute. Constructed from 18/8, food grade stainless steel, the mugs feature a unique, leakproof pop-up lid with a 360° drinking surface. Available in four fresh colours – pink, orange, chocolate & topaz. Cheeki is a proudly Australian brand and all products are BPA + toxin free.



Stockist: 02 9981 1000

RRP: \$42.95

Website: www.cheeki.net.au

Nurofen Quickzorb

When it comes to pain relief, Nurofen knows speed of action is important to consumers, with seven out of 10 Australians looking for a pain relief product that "is absorbed quickly for fast relief". Containing ibuprofen lysine, **Nurofen Quickzorb** is proven to be absorbed quickly into the bloodstream. For the temporary relief of pain and inflammation. This medicine may not be right for you. Read the label before purchase. Follow the directions for use. Incorrect use could be harmful. If symptoms persist, talk to your health professional.



Stockist: 1800 022 048

RRP: \$4.99 for 12, \$7.99 for 24, \$15.19 for 48 caplets

Website: www.nurofen.com.au

MediChoice Epsom Salts



MediChoice **Epsom Salts** are now available in a mega value 1kg pack. Are you stressed? Suffering from aching muscles and sore joints? Relax with an Epsom salts bath. Magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts) is also widely used by gardeners, particularly on citrus plants.

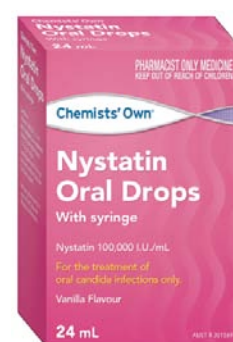
MediChoice Epsom Salts are unscented, fine crystals, which dissolve easily in water. Available now to order via API and DHL.

Stockist: API (40376), DHL (506415)

RRP: \$6.10

Website: www.novapharm.com.au

Nystatin Oral Drops - Chemists' Own



Chemists' Own has launched its new product, **Nystatin Oral Drops**. Chemists' Own Nystatin Oral Drops provide effective relief from oral candida albicans – also known as oral thrush. Oral candida is a fungal infection of the mouth caused by an imbalance between bacterial and fungal growth. This

medicine may not be right for you. Read the label before purchase. Follow all directions for use. If symptoms persist, talk to your health professional.

Stockist: 1300 9 ARROW (27769)

RRP: \$9.49

Website: www.chemistsown.com.au

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