

Tuesday 10th Dec 2024



## Today's issue of *PD*

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

- Pointrs
- Fend

### Save with Pointrs

**POINTRS** is offering a free 30-day trial, giving pharmacists the opportunity to save big on their next holiday.

Using cash, airline and credit card loyalty points, members save up to 81% on flights - p3.

### Fends off insects

**FEND** Insect Repellant range offers DEET-free protection from mosquitoes and sandflies for customers.

It is hypoallergenic and can be used on infants from two months - for more information see page four.

## 10 million blister packs milestone hit

**BLOOMS** The Chemist has achieved a major milestone by recycling more than 10 million blister packs from across its pharmacy network in partnership with Pharmacycle.

Since Blooms The Chemist rolled out in-store blister pack collection boxes across its entire pharmacy network in Nov 2022, over 15,000kg of aluminium and plastic have been recovered from recycled blister packs.

Blooms The Chemist launched this initiative across its network of more than 115 stores with the support of its sponsors, Gaviscon, Nurofen and Strepsils.

"Thanks to our collaboration with Pharmacycle and the passion of our network pharmacies, we have been able to reach this remarkable milestone, and reduce our environmental impact while helping our customers do the same," said Blooms The Chemist's Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, Pamela Bishop.

"We are incredibly proud as a network of community-minded pharmacies to be a leader in the industry in tackling environmental issues such as recycling medicine packaging."

Plastic packaging comprises more than 80% of Australia's litter, Pharmacycle's Account Manager for Blooms The Chemist, Ursi Kernan pointed out, saying it is more critical than ever for companies and Australians to step up and change habits to create a better future.

"This joint initiative with Blooms The Chemist is important to help achieve better outcomes for the planet by delivering end-toend recycling solutions to our community," Kernan said.

"By teaming up with Pharmacycle, the local community can



conveniently recycle their blister packs by dropping by their local Blooms The Chemist."

Pharmacycle has recycled a total of 45 million blister packs collected from over 870 participating pharmacies across Australia since the program started in Jul 2022. KB





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# ARE YOU A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL? ARE YOUR DETAILS CORRECT?

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## Dispensary Corner

POTENTIALLY worse than a rampaging hoard of barbarians heading your way is said barbarians whacked-out on one of various botanical stimulants in vogue 2,000 years ago.

Archeologists have discovered over 200 spoon-like items alongside warfare-related artifacts at Roman-era dig sites across central Europe.

Unlikely to be weapons, the only possible conclusion as to their purpose was utensils to snort stimulants off while preparing for battle.

Well, obviously.

Made from wood or antler, the relics comprised a flat disk or shallow bowl around 2cm in diameter and a handle about 4-7cm long.

The handle had a hole in it, allowing convenient attachment to one's belt for some quick midbattle fortification.

While the Romans and Greeks were known to enhance their war experience with opium, the findings surprised archeologists who had previously believed the only drug used by the Germanic peoples was alcohol.

Now we know they could have been ripped on options that include belladonna, multiple fungi varieties, poppy, hops, hemp and henbane in a dry, powdered form.

The spoon allowed them to precisely measure their stimulant of choice so as to avoid overdosing while still giving them the necessary dose to live up to their name and role as berserkers.

That famous German precision!

## Helping pharmacy efficiency

AN INNOVATIVE tool that prioritises high-risk inpatients and streamlines workflows was presented at the Advanced Pharmacy Australia Medicines Management conference in Adelaide last month.

Pharmacist Neve Munro from Mackay Hospital and Health Service discussed the development of the Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) that has revolutionised inpatient care at Mackay Base Hospital.

With limited clinical pharmacists available to manage an increasing workload, the department faced an urgent need to optimise its resources, Munro explained.

The tool was created to address this challenge by enabling pharmacists to prioritise high-risk patients more effectively and allow the department to maintain safe, efficient and equitable patient care to ensure the most critical cases received the necessary attention.

A small team started working on the tool in Oct last year, generating 31 clinical indicators after a literature review.

"These indicators were then localised for the Mackay population," Munro told delegates.

Pulling data from the hospital's medical records creates the dashboard which shows pharmacists the high risk, medium risk and low risk patients for each day, Munro explained.

"This helps us target our work and benefits staffing because it reduces the time for pharmacists to manually prioritise patients, which can take up to 1.5 hours a day.

"The RAT decreases the time



wasted, increases efficiency and really allows us to see the more high-risk patients."

Munro described how the department restructured its workflow and technician workforce to support this model once the RAT was rolled out in Feb after significant validation and trialling.

"We did a staff satisfaction survey and overall there's been a significant improvement in pharmacy camaraderie, which is due to transparency in workflows which has helped improve the level of teamwork," Munro said.

The tool is now being rolled out to other Mackay HHS facilities.

"It's great to see you can still make big waves in healthcare, even from a regional centre, which can have an effect on the care delivered in other centres," Munro said.

"There's a lot more things we can do and hopefully, more projects we can work on in the future." KB



## 2025 Rental Report released

LAST week the Guild offered members the opportunity for a sneak peek into the pharmacy leasing landscape, and this week, we're pleased to say the full report is live.

The annual *Pharmacy Rental Report* is a comprehensive guide designed to help pharmacy owners navigate the complexities of retail leasing.

It's packed full of valuable insights and practical advice to ensure you achieve the best pharmacy leasing outcomes.

This year's report comes with a little something extra - an additional guide has been included to provide detailed assistance for pharmacy owners on reviewing Permitted Use Clauses in leases.

The guide provides valuable insights to help pharmacy owners leverage their time and financial knowledge effectively when entering private leasing negotiations.

As the business model of pharmacy continues to evolve, it is vital pharmacy owners stay on top of the cost of doing business.

Structured in three parts, the report provides context to the current leasing environment, key benchmarks and indicators, and detailed strategic and practical considerations for lease negotiations.

Members can access it on the Guild **WEBSITE**.

## Pharmacy

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#### EDITORIAL

Editor - Karina Bray
Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Myles
Stedman, Janie Medbury
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Publisher - Damian Francis

#### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan Advertising - Laura Aghajanian & Dante Muranty advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Head of Operations &
Contributing Editor - Anna Piper

#### ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

info@pharmacydaily.com.au



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