

New Drugs for Men

DRUG COMPANIES, in the never-ending quest for profits, have a new line of drugs oriented towards improving the performance of men in today's society.

DIRECTRA — A dose of this drug given to men before leaving on car trips caused 72 percent of them to stop and ask for directions when they got lost, compared to a control group where only 0.2 percent would stop and ask.

PROJECTRA — Men given this experimental new drug were far more likely to actually finish a household repair project before starting a new one.

CHILDAGRA — Men taking this drug reported a sudden, overwhelming urge to perform more child-care tasks, especially cleaning up spills and little accidents.

COMPLIMENTRA — In clinical trials, 82 percent of middle-aged men administered this drug noticed that their wives had a new hairstyle. Currently being tested to see if its effects extend to noticing new clothing.

NEGA-VIAGRA — Has the exact opposite effect of Viagra. Currently undergoing clinical trials on members of parliament.

NEGA-SPORTAGRA — This drug had the strange effect of making men want to turn off televised sports and actually converse with other family members.

CAPAGRA — Caused test subjects to become uncharacteristically fastidious about lowering toilet seats and replacing toothpaste caps. Subjects on higher doses were seen dusting furniture.

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BUSH-FRIENDLY CATS

Maintaining the Status Quoll

Chris Malmberg tells of their furry friend

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO I had someone minding the place one weekend while we were away and when he came back this person said, "You had a quoll here".

And I thought, "Yeah sure".

Anyway, I walked out on the Monday morning and sure enough he came over the fence and just walked straight past me, over my feet — I couldn't believe my eyes.

He walked straight up to the chook house, he didn't seem frightened and he wasn't aggressive in any way. He came back a few times and then he went missing for a long time.

When he next came back he had pieces of fur missing from his back and tail — he was real mess. The vet told us he probably had mange so we trapped him and took him to the vet to be treated. Then we started feeding him so that he would keep coming back for his treatment.

So Status Quoll made this his home. He slept in the dog's basket and even tried to come inside through the doggie door so we had close to that up. He slept on logs in the garden or on top of the chook house and he was gorgeous. He was a messy little critter

though who poo'd and wee'd everywhere. That did get a bit much.

Then he got a bit creepy. I'd go to the door and he'd be there waiting for me and I'd say, "There's no more food for you", and sneak around to the laundry door but he'd be there waiting for me.

And then when I was gardening I would get the feeling I was being watched and I'd turn and there he was. His mouth would open right up like pac-man. He had the most enormous mouth and I was always wary of being bitten because they have very powerful jaws that could break the bones in your hand.

But Heikki, my husband could pat, stroke and scratch him with no worries at all. I once read in a gardening magazine of a woman who befriended a quoll that would curl up on her lap in front of the TV.

They're beautiful creatures — just magic to watch.

In the end he went away. It was the last day of his treatment and he was very edgy, pacing up and down. I told Heikki I thought he was getting ready to go. They go off looking for a mate and they go a long, long way.

And we never saw him again.



HERO FOR A DAY

DON WHITE & GARY WHITE

Mandy Thane strikes up a conversation

Don White, a long time resident and local character of Braidwood is the uncle of Gary White - the internationally acclaimed baseballer. Don is very proud of his nephew and has kept a comprehensive scrapbook spanning 35 years beginning when Gary was just five and culminating with his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2009.

Don says that he displayed natural talent from day one with the Canterbury Bankstown Vikings as a young tee baller that saw him go on to represent NSW and Australia at both junior and senior levels. He was a member of the Sydney Blues/Storm throughout the Australian National Leagues ten year history.

In 1986 Gary signed a professional contract with the Philadelphia Phillies who won the South Atlantic League Championship in 1988.

In 1999 Gary was diagnosed with testicular cancer three weeks into the season but remarkably only missed two games and continued to play during his radiation treatments. At the end of this season he held the second highest batting average in the league and was the first Catcher in ABL history to win the Gold Glove Award. Tough as nails, these White men!

Don had great pleasure watching Gary play with the Australian Team at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

When he announced his retirement from representative baseball in 2005, his trademark 'number 15' state uniform was also retired and presented to him.

He is still passionate about the game and now shares his expertise as coach and mentor.

Don's scrapbook contains many of Gary's front page covers, newspaper articles and magazine features and detailed information of his achievements, awards and accolades.

If you want more information, Don is always ready for a chat and a brag. He can be located on the other end of Roma's lead.

'What's your claim to fame' will be a regular feature in *BWD*. If you know of hidden fame that deserves to be outed, drop us a line at paul@artplan.com.au

WHAT'S YOUR CLAIM TO FAME?