

Philanthropy Report

Epworth
Medical
Foundation



2021

A/Prof Andrew Metz,
Centre Director, Jreissati Family
Pancreatic Centre at Epworth

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at Epworth launches

Expanding
the cancer
ophthalmology
service

2,000 patients
treated in La Trobe
Financial Cardiac
Catheterisation Unit



I receive many messages of thanks from patients for the care and treatments they have been able to receive, directly because of your kindness in giving.

Welcome dear friends!

In the 1920s when Epworth was in need of more beds and equipment to meet demand from the sick in Melbourne, our generous hospital community donated everything from money to flowers, chickens and even a parcel of fish to help fund the expansion. In the '60s, Epworth saw the need for a neurological and neurosurgery unit. Who did we turn to to make bring this goal to fruition? Our donors, who once again gave generously and in great numbers to make this possible.

And late last year, when we reached out to the Epworth family for help purchasing two "sentinel node navigator probes" to diagnose and treat breast cancer, you responded with your customary generosity and enthusiasm: 1,102 people donated their own money to help us buy the probes, many writing personal notes of encouragement for our team that they sent in with their cheques. By January we were able to purchase and install this new technology, and surgeons at both Richmond and Freemasons can now provide patients with the best diagnosis equipment available.

As I was curating records of generosity and innovation to share in our book *Built on Giving** last year, stories like these came up time and again. Epworth identified a need, or an opportunity to provide even better care to our patients, and the Epworth family stepped up and gave generously so that need could be met and the opportunity grasped.

It's a pattern of kindness and generosity that is woven into the fabric of our community, and one that gives me enormous hope for the future of our hospital.

There are many more such stories to celebrate in this newsletter, and I hope you enjoy them as much as I have. I'm excited for the rest of this year: we are doing great things for our patients, and lots of exciting events are back up and running for our community. In fact, all of our donor events are back, and I hope you can be part of them!

Once again, I want to thank you for all you do to help the patients and staff at Epworth Hospital. I've been with Epworth now for almost 10 years, and I can honestly say that your support is making a bigger difference than ever. And that's really saying something!

I receive many messages of thanks from patients for the care and treatments they have been able to receive, directly because of your kindness in giving, and I want to pass those thanks on to you. Philanthropy truly is a force for good at Epworth.

Scott Bulger
Executive Director, Epworth Medical Foundation

* We've had wonderful feedback on our book *Built on Giving*, which celebrates the 100-year history of philanthropy at Epworth HealthCare. The book has been so popular we've had to go to a second print run. Simply call the EMF Office on 03 9426 6132 if you'd like a copy.

When I commenced at Epworth Eastern almost 4 years ago, I was excited to be joining the Epworth family, and on stepping into the Executive General Manager role in 2020 fully valued and appreciated my privilege in leading our amazing team to continue to care for each other and across what was an unprecedented year.

2020 was a year that gave us the opportunity to demonstrate our 'can do' attitude in a rapidly evolving global pandemic, while never forgetting to care for each other and our community. I am so proud of the Eastern team.

The generous support of so many of our donors over the past year can not be underestimated. It not only enabled the purchase of key equipment outlined below, but served to remind our people that they were not alone, and that their work is highly valued by the community they serve.

This ongoing commitment from our donors enabled us to:

- Purchase equipment for our critical care areas, including special respirators to keep our staff safe when they care for people with severe COVID-19;
- Ensure we have specially designed equipment to support our delivery of care to patients, including specialised lifting equipment and slings;
- New scalp cooling caps to ensure we give our patients undergoing cancer treatment the best opportunity to minimise their hair loss;
- Funding the purchase of equipment to conduct key neurological assessments on site for our most unwell patients, enabling their timely access to care, and
- The purchase of a specialised scope for our endoscopy suite to expand the range of procedures our doctors can offer to our community.

This is but a small snapshot of the many items that were purchased through philanthropic support, including new equipment for our food services team to support them to continue to nourish our patients while they are in our care.

Equally appreciated have been the treats provided under the Epworth Kindness Movement, from free coffees (never underestimate the value of a free coffee for a frontline worker!), sweet treats and our many opportunities to share our joy in creating and consuming food.

Please know how grateful each and every one of our team at Epworth Eastern are for your support.

We soon will reach another significant milestone with the opening of the new Epworth Eastern East Wing Tower. As we embark on this new chapter, we are excited about the continued opportunity to partner with and to serve our community.



EPWORTH EASTERN UPDATE

It is truly an exciting time at Epworth Eastern. The Epworth Eastern team are energized about our year ahead, and we look forward to caring for our community in our expanded home.

This ground-breaking 14-story tower will expand the care we provide to patients in Melbourne's east. The purpose-built facilities will allow us to increase our capacity by adding three new patient wards to provide exceptional care for patients requiring care across a range of specialties including oncology, hematology, orthopaedics and cardiology.

We will be expanding our theatre complex, and in a Victorian first, we will introduce a brand-new hybrid theatre designed for complex surgeries, as well as cutting-edge robotic technology for minimally invasive procedures. I'm so proud that we will have this at Eastern, helping us deliver exceptional, life-saving care to patients every day.

It is truly an exciting time at Epworth Eastern. The Epworth Eastern team are energized about our year ahead, and we look forward to caring for our community in our expanded home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kerry May
Executive General Manager, Epworth Eastern



Dr Andrew Narita using the Cryomatic Console to treat a surface eye cancer.

Expanding the cancer ophthalmology service

Patients with eye cancer can now receive life-changing treatment at Epworth thanks to our generous donor community.

The new Cryotherapy Console enables Epworth ophthalmologists to increase the level of care for patients with eye cancer.

The Cryotherapy Console uses a specialised freezing technique to treat eye cancers and eye lesions by using a freezing probe to the eye and its surrounds.

"Cryotherapy is mainly used for treatment of surface cancers of the eye – the conjunctiva – which is the covering of the white of the eye," says Dr Andrew Narita, Epworth Ophthalmologist.

"Eye cancers on the surface of the eye are often caused by sun or UV damage."

"We remove the cancerous area with surgery and use the freezing technique to decrease the rates of recurrence."

In addition to cancers on the surface of the eye, cryotherapy treatment can be used to treat retinal tears and eyelid lesions.

For one of Dr Narita's patients, the cryotherapy treatment changed his life.

I recently treated a patient who works outside every day. He had a focal (localised) cancer on the surface of his eye and we were able to freeze it off.

He's gone back to work without any issues.

If we couldn't provide this treatment, there was risk of losing his eye sight which would have had life-changing implications.

The generosity of donors enabled Epworth to purchase a new cryotherapy unit, which has allowed us to provide a great level of care.

My sincerest thanks.

Dr Andrew Narita, Epworth Ophthalmologist

Welcoming the arrival of new equipment

Epworth Medical Foundation Directors Cathi Biddick AM and George Stamas welcomed the arrival of new equipment to Epworth Richmond on behalf of donors.

State-of-the-art equipment including the Endoscopic Ultrasound, SPY-PHI and Observation Machines were funded via recent appeals.

"It's a privilege to see first-hand the new equipment funded by donors to the Epworth Medical Foundation," says Mr George Stamas.

"It was wonderful to meet with staff at Epworth and see their genuine excitement and gratitude for the philanthropic community who made the purchase of this equipment possible.

Epworth has a vision to provide patients at Epworth with the best possible treatment and care, and ensuring that our surgeons and nurses have the best equipment in hand is critical to this.

George Stamas, Epworth Medical Foundation Director

Elizabeth Todd (middle), Nurse Unit Manager - Operating Room, explains the benefit of the SPY-PHI to Epworth Medical Foundation Directors George Stamas and Cathi Biddick AM.



New microscope providing magnified vision for surgeons

Epworth donors have enabled the purchase of a new Zeiss microscope, ensuring Epworth is one of the first hospitals in Australia to have this state-of-the-art microscope in theatre to treat patients.

This highly advanced microscope will provide Epworth surgeons with greater magnified vision to perform Ear, Nose and Throat, Urology and Plastics surgery.

For Dr Amanda Richards, Ear Nose and Throat Otolaryngologist, the Zeiss microscope is particularly important when treating a patient's voice box.

"The voice box itself is a tiny organ," says Dr Richards.

"Often, the growth I need to remove from a patient's voice box is only one or two millimetres in size, and despite this, it can cause the patient significant problems".

Dr Richards reflects that one of the key things about this microscope is that it has brilliant optics and is easy to move around, helping her to complete a surgery as smoothly as possible.



Dr Amanda Richards performing surgery on a patient's voice box using the Zeiss microscope.

“

I am able to get a super high-definition picture. I can move the microscope around with great ease, zooming the picture in and out to give myself the perfect angle to see the voice box.

I can magnify the vocal folds to a point where I am able to make tiny movements that in fact look huge on the screen. In reality, they are the smallest of movements.

There's no doubt that this is the most finessed microscope I have access to – I absolutely love it.

I'm really grateful to our donors that have enabled the purchase of this new microscope. Your generosity means the world to us and our patients.

Dr Amanda Richards,
Epworth Ear Nose and Throat Otolaryngologist

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2,000 cardiac patients treated in new La Trobe Financial Cardiac Catheterisation Unit

Epworth cardiologists have treated 2,000 patients since the opening of the new, world-class La Trobe Financial Cardiac Catheterisation Unit in October 2020.

"The equipment in the new unit is an absolute dream," says Epworth Cardiologist A/Prof Ron Dick.

Amongst the 2,000 cases, Epworth cardiologists have performed:

- 1,200 coronary angiography cases including stenting and TAVI
- 388 arrhythmia surgeries including pacemakers and cardiac ablations to treat heart arrhythmias
- 380 vascular procedures including the placement of stents to create better blood supply to a patient's legs and other organs.

“

We have also provided critically urgent care to patients with evolving heart attacks who have come into Epworth via the Emergency Department.

Providing immediate care to unblock a patient's coronary artery and decrease the size of the heart attack is ultimately life-saving, reducing the impact on the heart and supporting a quicker recovery.

We can provide this level of care because we have first-class equipment.

Thank you La Trobe Financial.

I have no doubt that this world-class facility will enable greater treatment and outcomes for cardiac patients at Epworth. .

A/Prof Dick Epworth Cardiologist

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A/Prof Ron Dick performing the first procedure in the La Trobe Financial Cardiac Catheterisation Unit.



Caring for patient's families

Epworth Geelong has launched a dedicated space for families of patients to relax as they support their loved ones.

The new Des O'Connor Family Room will be available for patients receiving cancer treatment.

"It's designed as a comfortable and relaxing retreat for families and patients who often spend weeks in hospital," reflects Bec Cooke, Nurse Unit Manager (pictured with Scott Bulger).

"It has comfortable furniture, a refrigerator, a microwave oven and other comforts such as cushions and blankets."



Thank you

from our staff to you

“

We are truly grateful for our new neonatal cots that have been provided to us here in maternity. The new cots not only look lovely in our maternity patients' room, their design allows mothers to place them ergonomically to their preferred height, making it more comfortable for them. Thank you once again.

Hayley Carter, Maternity Nurse Unit Manager,
Epworth Geelong



I would like to thank you for your ongoing, generous support. Here at the EJ Whitten Foundation Prostate Cancer Research Centre, we are firmly committed to providing the best care through research and innovation for men with prostate cancer and their partners, loved ones and families. Thank you for building a stronger research community. We could not achieve this without your ongoing support.

Thili Chengodu, Research Manager,
EJ Whitten Foundation Prostate Cancer Research Centre



Thank you for your generous gift of six cardiac telemetry units to Epworth Geelong's Coronary Care Unit. We are thrilled to have your support. Through your donation we have expanded our service to meet our growing demand. You truly make a difference and we are extremely grateful.

Neisha Hall-Sullivan, Cardiac Nurse Unit Manager,
Epworth Geelong



Thank you for helping us purchase an EUS scope. This is the absolute fastest, most accurate and least invasive way of diagnosing gastrointestinal diseases, including pancreatic cancer, making sure our patients receive the immediate treatment and care they need.

Harley Ambrose, Nurse Unit Manager
Endoscopy
Epworth Eastern



I wanted to take the time to thank the donors for our new scoliosis and foot and ankle trays. Over the past few years, demand for spine, foot and ankle surgery has grown. These extra trays enable us to care for more patients each day, enabling them to start their recovery journey quicker.

Kirsty Halley, Orthopaedic Nurse Unit Manager,
Epworth Richmond



We really appreciate your generosity enabling the funding of a Scalp Cooling machine.

Scalp cooling assists our patients to retain their hair during chemotherapy treatment – it is very much in demand.

Margaret Underwood, Nurse Unit Manager
Day Oncology,
Epworth Geelong



I cannot thank you enough. Without your support we would not have been able to purchase new observation machines that make such a difference to so many patients.

Rhiannon Carey, Nurse Unit Manager,
Epworth Richmond



Thanks to the generosity of donors, I received a scholarship to undertake training in administering immunisations, including qualifying to administer the COVID-19 vaccination and other important vaccinations as needed.

Beto Popocatepetl, ICU Liaison Nurse,
Epworth Freemasons



The generous donation of four new recliners to our Day Surgery department has complimented our expanding service. This will enhance the experience for our patients by allowing greater efficiency and comfort in the service we provide.

Bri Parotta, Nurse Unit Manager –
DOSA/Pre Admissions, Epworth Geelong



Thank you for the heart-warming donation that helped us refurbish the Day Procedure Unit.

This generosity has improved our patient's experience while they're undergoing surgical procedures.

Ayumi Nakamura, Nurse Unit Manager:
Victoria Parade Theatres, Epworth Freemasons



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Colleen and Elias Jreissati

Jreissati Family Pancreatic Research Centre at Epworth

With thanks to the generosity of the Jreissati Family, The Jreissati Family Pancreatic Research Centre at Epworth has launched, seeking to revolutionise the treatment and care of patients with pancreatic cancer.

The Jreissati family understands the fear and uncertainty that follows a pancreatic cancer diagnosis. Knowing the impact it's had on their family, the Jreissati's wanted to change the patient and family experience for others.

"Pancreatic cancer, once it grabs you, it has a mission. And the mission is to grow the fastest way possible undetected," says Elias Jreissati.

"We need to be able to detect it earlier and we need to be able to deal with it very quickly once detected."

Led by Centre Director A/Prof Andrew Metz, the Jreissati Family Pancreatic Centre is the first of its kind in Victoria. "The outcomes for patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer have barely improved in 40 years."

"Pancreatic cancer is going to be the second biggest cancer killer in Australia within 10 years. We are committed to changing that".

The centre is dedicated to the research and treatment of pancreatic cancer, but it is much more than a centre of excellence in treating a disease. It is a centre committed to finding answers that will allow patients

the opportunity for better outcomes. "One of the centre's primary missions is to find a way to diagnose patients in the early stages of pancreatic cancer," shares A/Prof Metz'

"Early diagnosis will increase the number of patients with operable tumours. This will help achieve the centre's ultimate goal — to increase the survival rate for patients diagnosed with this disease."

As Elias Jreissati reflects, "if the Jreissati Family Pancreatic Centre at Epworth saves just one life, then it will be worth it."



“One of the centre's primary missions is to find a way to diagnose patients in the early stages of pancreatic cancer.”

A/Prof Andrew Metz,
Centre Director, Jreissati
Family Pancreatic Centre
at Epworth.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE JREISSATI FAMILY
PANCREATIC CENTRE, VISIT

epworth.org.au/who-we-are/jreissati-pancreatic-centre

Jo-Anne Crowther, Pancreatic Nurse Coordinator, with patient John.



Meet Jo-Anne Crowther
PANCREATIC NURSE COORDINATOR

A pancreatic cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming for a patient and their family, and in an Australian first, Epworth has appointed Jo-Anne Crowther, a dedicated Pancreatic Nurse Coordinator to coordinate a patient's care in collaboration with a patient's treatment team.

“

I see myself as the go-to person for the patient. I will meet them at their initial consultation, gauge their needs and enable them to really understand what they're going through and what their treatment plan is.

It is important that the patient and their loved ones are aware what is happening and what may be ahead for them. It is equally important that they feel supported emotionally. I am in the unique position where I have the opportunity to spend time getting to know the patient and providing that support.

I'm available to answer any questions, whether that be about their medications or treatment, or understanding where to park at the hospital. Anything that will help ease their minds and take away some of the worry.

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Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories

The Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories is now open, and it is 100% funded by philanthropy.

Epworth Medical Foundation, in partnership with Snowdome Foundation, have joined together to establish a new research centre that will ultimately expand the availability of CAR-T Cell Therapy to Australian patients.

"This state-of-the-art facility dedicated to Cellular Therapies will enable Epworth to treat more blood cancer patients with cutting-edge CAR-T cell therapies and ultimately save more lives," says Professor Miles Prince, Centre Director.

"This is one of the most important and exciting projects I have been involved in".

"My team and I are deeply grateful for the support we receive from Epworth and Snowdome Foundations. Without the support, commitment and belief of their supporters this facility and service would not have been possible."



Above: Prof Miles Prince officially opens the Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories

Below: Scott Bulger, Executive Director Epworth Medical Foundation, guest Rebecca Long and Leslie Bell, Epworth Freemasons Nurse Unit Manager.



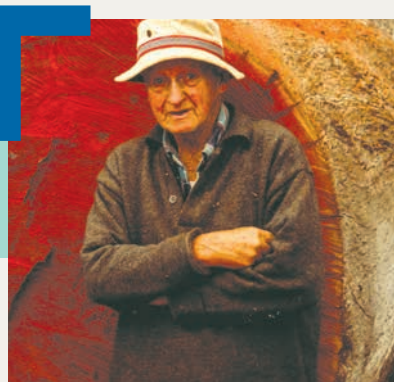
How one act of kindness makes a lifetime of difference

James Patrick 'Pat' Polland was a caring, generous man, known in his community as someone who was always willing to help others.

Born in the small rural community of Moyston near Ararat in 1926, he did very well at the local school despite a severe, long-lasting illness at the age of 10. While recovering he took up photography. He won many photography competitions and his photos were published in the Weekly Times.

As a grazier Pat ran a farm raising sheep, cattle and grain. He was an active member of the CFA, receiving multiple awards in recognition of his years of service.

Pat was a very generous man, whether that be lending machinery to his neighbours, or fitting out a fire-fighting unit at his own expense. He wanted to ensure that the people he cared about were taken care of.



Pat Polland

There is perhaps no greater reflection of Pat's genuine care for others and desire to make a difference in the community than his decision to leave the majority of his estate to Epworth via his Will. As he did in life, he wanted to make a difference in the lives of others, and via his Will, The Polland Family Endowment Fund was created, making this one of the most special and lasting gifts he would ever make.

Every day, patients at Epworth benefit from Pat Polland's kindness. And because an endowment is quite literally *'the gift that keeps on giving'* Epworth patients will continue to know of Pat's support for generations to come.

Epworth has officially launched Built on Giving: The history and future of philanthropy at Epworth

Built on Giving tells the 100-year story of Epworth HealthCare, through the lens of philanthropy, and the generous donors – like you – who helped to bring it to life.

Filled with wonderful stories from donors of the past to today, the book showcases the critical role our generous donor community has played, enabling our dedicated doctors and staff to provide the best possible care.

TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE COPY OF BUILT ON GIVING, CONTACT KATHLEEN LAMBRICK TODAY:

P: 03 9426 8170

E: kathleen.lambrick@epworth.org.au



New equipment funded by Pat Polland's bequest helps a patient walk again

Nicolas Topia is learning to walk again after being seriously injured in a hit-run collision on New Year's Day.

Having spent the morning cooking breakfast for his family, he decided to go for a ride on his motorcycle.

After more than a dozen operations, a decision was made to amputate his lower leg.

The grandfather of nine has undergone rehabilitation at Epworth Hawthorn, working with a physiotherapist, occupational therapist and rehabilitation doctor, to improve his movement before he is fitted with a prosthetic leg. His rehabilitation includes a gym session in the morning and working with a physiotherapist in the afternoon.

Thanks to the Polland Family Endowment Fund, Epworth purchased rehabilitation equipment to help enhance a patient's recovery.

This includes:

- Pilates reformer
- Dumbbell weights
- Upper body ergometer
- Treadmill
- Ergonomic bike
- Step up boxes

Mr Topia said gym sessions have been with several other amputees, who understand what he is going through.

"There's a few amputees in here so we all talk," Mr Topia said.

"It's pretty good as you can help one another. I am just new to this, so it's good to talk to someone else who has been through it." Despite his injury, Mr Topia remains positive about his future, looking forward to being able to spend time again with his three daughters and nine grandchildren.

"I just want to move forward and be a happy person, like I am. I am always a happy person."

Nicolas Topia is just one of thousands of patients who have benefited from the generosity and kindness shown by Pat Polland via the Polland Family Endowment Fund. If you would like to learn more about how you can establish an endowment during your lifetime, or as a gift in your Will, contact Vanessa Dannock today on **03 9426 6572**, **0408 122 599** or email vanessa.dannock@epworth.org.au



Nicolas Topia during rehabilitation at Epworth.

The Lockwood Society Annual Lunch

When you leave a bequest to Epworth Medical Foundation you are automatically invited to become a member of The Lockwood Society. All members of The Lockwood Society will be welcomed to an exclusive lunch with A/Prof Nerina Harley, Director Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Geelong Intensive Care Units.

We also welcome any donors who are considering leaving a bequest to Epworth and wish to learn more about the difference their support can make.

Date: Friday 27 August 2021
Time: 12.00pm - 2.30pm
Location: Epworth Richmond Auditorium, 89 Bridge Road, Richmond

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL VANESSA DANNOCK ON:

P: 03 9426 6572 or 0408 122 599
E: vanessa.dannock@epworth.org.au



A/Prof Nerina Harley

Urgent equipment needed at Epworth

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Every week I walk around Epworth and speak with our talented surgeons and nurses who are on the frontline delivering care to patients. I often ask them to share a list of equipment they need to treat and care for our patients. This is some of what they shared with me

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Scott Bulger,
Executive Director
Epworth Medical Foundation



BK Ultrasound System

Used for pancreatic, liver, bladder and prostate cancer tumour removals, this real-time intraoperative ultrasound system allows the surgeon to make critical decisions.



\$164,670

6 x Headsets for complex cardiac cases

New headsets will support our cardiologists to communicate directly with the technical specialists in the control centre, assisting them in their treatment of the patient.



each **\$2,925**

Vascular Ultrasound

The use of ultrasound to guide catheter placement reduces the number of access attempts and may reduce other complications as well.



\$38,100

Lucas 3 Chest Compression System

The Lucas 3 Chest Compression System is a mechanical chest compression device that delivers continuous chest compressions to deliver high-quality, urgent care to patients facing sudden cardiac arrest.



\$27,952

2 x ECG Machines

A new ECG machine is needed to detect heart abnormalities by measuring the electrical activity generated by the heart as it contracts.



each **\$11,084**

2 x Computer on Wheels

New computers on wheels will ensure Epworth staff have easy access to important patient data at the bedside, including imaging, pathology results and blood pressure.



each **\$3,511**

Portable Ultrasound

The portable ultrasound machine is a handheld device that allows surgeons to obtain diagnostic images at the bedside.



\$15,100

2 x Vein Finder

Epworth's Day Oncology Unit requires a new vein finder to help administer chemotherapy in a way that is comfortable for the patient.



each **\$4,275**

Nerve Monitor

Nerve monitoring systems enable surgeons to identify, confirm, and monitor motor nerve function to help reduce the risk of nerve damage during procedures including ENT and general surgeries involving the removal and treatment of tumours and lesions.



\$66,644

3 x Electric Wheelchairs

New wheelchairs are required by our rehabilitation team to safely transport patients to and from physical therapy.



each **\$7,509**

Greenlight Laser Cystoscopy

A new laser is required for surgeons treating enlarged prostates. The surgeon looks through the cystoscope and delivers a high-powered laser that vaporises the prostate tissue.



\$14,104

Double Balloon Enteroscope & Processor

A new enteroscope and processor is needed to perform minimally invasive medical procedures that allow doctors to review the small intestine or small bowel.



\$78,900

Anaesthetic Infusion Pump

A new pump will help anaesthetists predict safe levels of anaesthesia for a patient which results in faster recovery.



\$9,805

If you would like to help purchase any of these items, complete the coupon attached and place in the reply paid envelope enclosed or contact Kathleen Lambrick

P: 03 9426 8170
E: kathleen.lambrick@epworth.org.au

CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like to know more about the activities of Epworth Medical Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact us, as we are always happy to help.

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