2012’s Motown-themed Epworth HealthCare Gala Ball proved to be a sensational night with a record number of guests and prizes contributing to the event’s success.

Group Chief Executive Alan Kinkade called this year’s Ball “the most successful ever” and his sentiments were reflected by the total amount raised for the evening, over $780,000, which will be used to support research at Epworth.

The night was all about our patients; about improving our care for all of them, through better treatments and the latest medical findings. Epworth’s doctors and nursing staff are currently involved in 150 research projects. And it is thanks to the fundraising efforts of nights like the Gala Ball that we are able to distribute a number of ten and fifty thousand dollar grants so that vital research can continue with tangible results.

continued page 4 >>
Epwords is a newsletter for Epworth staff. All contributions and ideas are welcomed and considered.

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Thank you
Thanks to the contributors of stories, photos and ideas for this issue of Epwords. Without them this edition would not have been possible.

Disclaimer
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Welcome to the Spring 2012 issue of Epwords. The last few months have been very busy, and many great achievements have occurred; from raising record amounts at our annual Gala Ball, to launching a brand new Epworth HealthCare website, to occupying a new hospital. We are in a constant state of renewal and thanks to the continued energy and commitment of our staff we are able to achieve such great things and remain a leader in health care.

The new Epworth HealthCare website successfully launched in August. As an innovator in Australia’s health system, it became increasingly important for us to redevelop our online presence. The new website has a dynamic visual design, rich in both content and interactivity. Importantly, it will enable us to accommodate the future expansion of our services, helping to further position us as a preeminent provider of health care in Victoria.

Epworth’s new By-Laws have been approved and came into effect on 1 September. Many people contributed to the review of the new By-Laws and they have positioned us well for the future.

Epworth Motown Gala Ball took over the Crown Palladium on 8 September. It was the most successful ever, with over $780,000 raised to support research at Epworth. It was great to see so many staff and doctors attend and enjoy a fabulous evening. Epworth’s doctors and nursing staff are currently involved in 150 research projects. And it is thanks to the fundraising efforts of nights like the Gala Ball that we are able to distribute grants so that vital research can continue with tangible results.

I would like to thank the generous donations we received for our auction as well as the support we received from our major partner – Gallay Medical and Scientific and ConMed Linvatec, associate partners LifeHealthcare, Slade Pharmacy, Technology One and Westpac Institutional Bank, as well as more than 25 table and half table sponsors. Keep your eye out on the terrific photos from the night, featured in this issue.

The Organisational Development team has been busy preparing for exciting new leadership and learning and development initiatives that will shortly be introduced across Epworth. The aim of these initiatives is to ensure everyone has the right skills, abilities and desired behaviours required to perform in their role, both now and into the future. I am committed to ensuring Epworth is the most exciting career destination for health care practitioners and these initiatives underpin this strategy.

The redevelopments at Richmond and Camberwell are progressing very well and are detailed later in this edition. A number of clinical and education areas will come on stream at Richmond in February 2013 and at Camberwell in August 2013. This is something we are all very much looking forward to. Epworth continues to be recognised as a leader in the health care setting; with Epworth Eastern receiving the world-renowned Studer Group’s first International Healthcare Organisation of the Month award and Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton receiving the 2012 PHAQ Innovative Practice in the Private Sector award for the Multidisciplinary Falls Prevention and Intervention Program, CARE.

Well done and congratulations to the teams at Epworth Eastern and Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton!

Thank you for all your support and dedication.

Alan R Kinkade
Group Chief Executive
Jenny Bentley

It is with much sadness that I advise that Jenny Bentley passed away on Sunday 30 September 2012 with her family and loved ones by her side at Epworth Richmond. Jenny’s sudden illness has shocked all who knew and loved her. It is very hard to believe.

Jenny has worked at Epworth since 2006, firstly in the Emergency Department and as my Executive Assistant since 2009. She was a remarkable lady, intelligent, witty and filled with integrity. She was always working to do the right thing, in every way, Jenny lived our values. She was totally dedicated to her family, her partner Ken, to Epworth and me.

During her short battle with cancer, she was treated at both Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Richmond and spoke very highly of all the great care and compassion she and her family received. On her behalf I would like to thank everyone who cared for her. I know that there were so many wonderful doctors, nurses, support staff who were dedicated to Jenny’s care and support throughout her illness. To each and every one my sincerest thanks and appreciation for your commitment. Every time I went to visit her, I could see how they were living Epworth’s values and pursuing every avenue to provide the best of care for Jenny and her family.

I know her family also want to convey their thanks for the care, support and love Jenny received through her illness. Jenny was my right hand and a great mate who I could confide in and trust. I will miss her very much.

Jenny’s family kindly requested that donations to Epworth Medical Foundation be made in lieu of flowers at her funeral. In consultation with her partner and family, we will ensure that Jenny’s memory and significant contribution to Epworth is honoured in a special way at Epworth. We will provide further details in Epwords in the near future.

Alan Kinkade
Group Chief Executive

Launch of new dynamic Epworth website

The brand new Epworth HealthCare website was launched on Wednesday 22 August. The new website has a dynamic visual design, rich in both content and interactivity. Importantly, it will enable us to accommodate the future expansion of our services, helping to further position us as a preeminent provider of health care in Victoria.

The new website includes many features not previously available. It has an online patient admission form, online donation form, dynamic research projects listing, event calendar and online booking, enhanced find a doctor search and profiles, location map of our hospitals and lots of content in an easy navigation environment.

Congratulations to everyone involved, particularly the Internet Redevelopment Project Team led by Kristina Garla, as well as the IT and Marketing and Business Development teams. Redeveloping the website has been an enormous effort and it is a credit to all those involved that we have ended up with such an impressive site.

Launch of new dynamic Epworth website

Advancing patient care

Epworth Radiation Oncology has recently upgraded its configuration of the linear accelerators and ancillary equipment, with the purchase of the Novalis Tx. This specialised piece of equipment is designed to deliver high accuracy radiotherapy to very small brain malignancies that are generally inoperable. Due for delivery in early December, the Stereotactic service will be clinical by February 2013. It will position Epworth Radiation Oncology as the most advanced radiation oncology service in Victoria.

The Novalis Tx will also strongly support Epworth Richmond’s clinical aspirations around neurosurgery and oncology and will further enhance Epworth’s position as a pre-eminent provider of quality health care for cancer patients.
The evening featured video tributes from high-profile patients Bert Newton and Molly Meldrum, recounting their experiences as Epworth patients and asking for the guests’ support in funding vital research at Epworth. Molly’s story was especially moving as she talked candidly about his accident and life changing recovery at Epworth Rehabilitation.

Guests were treated to an evening inspired by the brilliant colours and smooth sounds that flowed from Detroit during the Motown era. On stage entertainment included stellar performances by The Fabulous Singlettes, a tribute group to The Supremes, and Matt Hetherington and his band Beyond Belief.

The record breaking auctions, which included vintage jewellery from Kozminsky, a European cruise from APT and a host of exclusive dining experiences, along with the raffle and individual pledges of support helped raise a tremendous $274,000 on the night.

This was enhanced by the generous support of major partners Gallay Medical and Scientific and ConMed Linvatec Australia, associate partners LifeHealthcare, Slade Pharmacy, Technology One and Westpac Institutional Bank, as well as more than 25 table and half table sponsors.

Particular thanks go to the Special Events Committee, chaired by Robyn Beddison OAM, as well as the volunteers who helped on the night ensuring the events amazing success.

**Thanks to our sponsors**

**Major Partners**
- Gallay Medical and Scientific
- ConMed Linvatec Australia

**Associate Partners**
- LifeHealthcare
- Slade Pharmacy
- Technology One
- Westpac Institutional Bank

**Event Partners**
- Australian Pacific Touring
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- Kozminsky
- Moonee Valley Racing Club
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**Pledges**

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**Table Sponsors**
- ANZ
- Aon
- Bidvest Melbourne
- Bonacci Group
- Boston Scientific
- Brainlab Australia
- Communications Australia
- Device Technologies Australia
- Generation Healthcare
- Healthcare Imaging Services
- Hudsons
- Johnstaff Projects
- Kane Constructions
- Medtronic Australasia
- Melbourne Pathology
- MIA Victoria
- Olympus Australia
- Princes Laundry Services
- Rauland Australia
- Schneider Electric
- Urbis
- Vital Healthcare Property Trust

**Half Table Sponsors**
- Aurecon
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- Slattery Australia
Epworth Freemasons understands that new parents have a lot to learn and remember when caring for their newborn baby and so offer a comprehensive education program to assist parents with their newborn. The program includes information about preparing for labour, birth, breast feeding, preparing for home, twin births and parenting skills.

In addition to the education program, Epworth Freemasons has taken the important step to help raise awareness of peri-natal depression. Melbourne GP and parent educator Dr Melanie Strang will discuss mothers' well-being and the emotional journey of parenthood.

Dr Strang ran the first of her workshops for parents-to-be and new parents on 3 August. It is part of a wellmumwellbaby program, covering the reality of parenthood and how family relationships can change when a new baby arrives.

It’s important for staff working in maternity services to help raise parents’ awareness of the emotional, as well physical preparation for a new baby's arrival. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reported last week that one in ten mothers of children aged 24 months or less have been diagnosed with peri-natal depression.

Epworth Freemasons is currently running a trial of weekly ward visits by psychologist Monique Rodger who distributes info packs and talks to mothers about accessing help if they feel vulnerable.

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**Milestone in pioneer heart procedures**

In a trial managed across Australia and New Zealand by medical device company Medtronic, Epworth cardiologists Ron Dick and Tony Walton have successfully performed a life-saving replacement heart valve procedure on more than 50 Epworth patients - without exposing them to open heart surgery.

Dr Walton performed the first CoreValve System procedure in Epworth Richmond’s cath lab in March 2010. Since then, more than 130 further procedures have taken place at Epworth Richmond and The Alfred.

The new aortic valve is inserted on the end of a wire through a small hole in the groin in patients over 80 years of age, who are suffering from aortic stenosis but are not considered robust enough to undergo the invasive open heart surgery as an alternative.

**Congratulations!**

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**EPWORTH CARDIOLOGISTS DR TONY WALTON AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RON DICK**
The redevelopment at Epworth Richmond has continued to progress well over recent months, with a number of key milestones having been achieved.

Construction works are in progress on Level 4 of the Bridge Road Tower with the development of a Day Oncology and Renal Dialysis Unit and two Patient Prototype Rooms. This important construction will provide 24 Day Oncology Chairs and 16 Renal Dialysis chairs with future expansion of the area for 6 Sleep beds. These services will be operational from February 2013. Two Patient Prototype Rooms are also being constructed on Level 4, which will allow the operational assessment of room layouts and finishers prior to the construction of the new beds within the Erin Street proposed works.

The Level 5 Leigh Place Education and Simulation Precinct is also progressing within the same building contract with Kane Construction. The project involves refurbishing and extending an existing space within Epworth Richmond to establish a clinical education and simulation centre (The Centre).

The Centre will incorporate a number of simulation rooms including a simulation operating theatre, tutorial rooms, debrief rooms, student library and lounge. The project which is a joint collaboration between Monash University, the University of Melbourne and Epworth HealthCare is a key component in the establishment of the Epworth Clinical School. It will provide infrastructure to support the clinical school with a focus on simulation and video conferencing linking Epworth’s campuses and the universities.

Specifically, the project will provide:
- Simulation operating theatre with control room
- Simulation patient room with control room
- Simulation intensive care room with control room
- Nine debrief / tutorial rooms
- Student lounge and study area with online library facilities
- Office accommodation for clinical education staff

Both of these exciting projects are programmed for occupation in February 2013.

Epworth Richmond has also recently gained approval from the Board for the redevelopment of the Bridge Road Theatres. This work will be completed in stages allowing for works to progress without the loss of theatre accommodation during the process. The net gain will be three operating theatres in early 2014, with one of these becoming operational in February 2013.

The Normanby North vacant land is out to tender for the establishment of a temporary “on ground” staff car park that will provide an additional 49 car parks.

Some minor changes have been made to the design of the Erin Street development and these changes are awaiting a VCAT hearing in October 2012. Upon approval of VCAT, Epworth expect to begin demolition of 62 Erin Street early next year to allow for the development of Pod 4 as the beginning of the Major Epworth Richmond Redevelopment along Erin Street.
The major redevelopment project at Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell which includes the development of a ‘rehabilitation wellness precinct’ is progressing well.

The basement, lower ground, ground floor and first floor slabs are complete, with the structure works to be fully completed in October. Concrete panels continue to be erected, along with the construction of the stairs. The overhead gantry and site accommodation currently located in the existing car park off Toorak Rd will be dismantled in the coming weeks.

Construction Engineering (CE) continues to work well with our onsite staff to keep the site operational. The project team has worked hard to bring forward the Kitchen Works within the Main Reception area, this is anticipated to commence in October and completion will occur prior to the new beds on Ground Floor and Level 1 of the new building being completed. Upcoming activities include preparing and pouring second floor slabs with services rough-in for mechanical, fire and electrical to commence on the lower floors. Subcontractors are busy offsite getting the facade and services equipment ready, with installation scheduled for later in the programme.

The first major handover is still scheduled for early-2013. This includes basement car park and part of the lower ground level including main reception, consulting and administration. This will allow CE to access the internal spaces for refurbishment and completion of support spaces, including the new kitchen. Epworth’s internal team is working in the background on a number of activities including procurement of furniture, fixtures and equipment, with installation to coincide with the various stages of handover. At this stage, it is anticipated some staff will be moving in February 2013. During the reporting period Epworth has reached terms with a Café tenancy operator, with fit out of their tenancy anticipated to commence in March 2013.

Rehabilitation wellness precinct starts to take shape

1. MAJOR WORKS ON LEVEL 1 TAKE SHAPE
2. WORKS CONTINUE ON THE CORNER OF BURKE AND TOORAK ROAD

Plans progress with Epworth Geelong

The project team has reached the end of schematic design, with the consultants currently finalising their reports and a cost plan. Input has been provided into the design by Epworth staff from across our existing facilities and Deakin staff with regards to the education and training spaces. An updated business case has been presented to the Epworth Finance Committee and recommended to the Board for approval at the September meeting. This approval is for design development, tender documentation and procurement phases.

The Epworth Geelong Establishment Group has now had two meetings to discuss the project. The group comprises of more than thirty Geelong doctors who have expressed keen interest in the planning of the hospital with a view to establishing practice when the hospital is commissioned.

As plans progress we will be providing everyone with a regular newsletter and an ability for all to contribute their ideas through an “expressions of interest” section on our website.

Tracey Scott, Group Manager Strategic Development, can be contacted on 9426 8825 or tracey.scott@epworth.org.au for further information.
1. MC LYNDA KINKADE FROM THE SEVEN NETWORK
2. MR DANIEL AND ANNELE MOON
3. THE BAILLIEU FAMILY ENJOY THE NIGHT
4. AJA THOMAS (SILVER THOMAS HANLEY), MICHELE AND CIARAN MOONEY (LCI)
5. DR TIM AND GABBY WHITEHEAD
6. PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT JANET LATCHFORD AND KEN LATCHFORD
7. JAMES WANG PLEDGES A GIFT
8. KATELYN AND ANGUS GALATI (ANSELL)
9. JENNY AND DR MICHAEL PONSFORD
10. THE HIS TEAM FROM EPWORTH RICHMOND
11. BRUCE CROOK FROM STI PLEDGES A GIFT
12. DR BRUCE TAIT AND DR MEGAN ROBERTSON
13. DAVID AND TAMMIE SLADE (SLADE PHARMACY)
14. MARCO CRESCIA FROM COOK MEDICAL PLEDGE A GIFT ON THE NIGHT
15. ADAM AND LOUISE CARROLL (WESTPAC)
16. DR ANDREW AND VERNON TANG
17. THE KINKADE FAMILY ENJOY THE NIGHT
18. KEN AND KATHI BIDDICK
19. HELEN AND ROBERT WARD
20. PHIL AND ANN JOHNSTON (JOHNSTAFF)
21. PREMIER OF VICTORIA THE HON TED BAILLIEU AND ROBYN BAILLIEU
22. GINA AND JAMIE STANISTREET (MEDTRONIC)
23. DR LYNN BURMEISTER AND PARTNER
24. ANTON AND JENNY GAUDRY (ADVANTAGE SALARY PACKAGING)
25. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GRAEME AND NARELLE BRAZENOR
26. BENEFACTORS JAMES AND LINDA WANG
27. CHAIR OF SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE ROBYN BEDDISON OAM
28. KATARINA AND BENHAM ROOHIZADEGAN (TECHNOLOGYONE) WHO MADE A MAJOR PLEDGE WITH LYNDA, DENISE AND ALAN KINKADE
29. CHRIS ADAMS AND PARTNER (GENERATION HEALTHCARE)
30. MISS J AINE O’BRIEN AND ANDREW POOL
31. PROFESSOR GEOFFREY METZ AND DR KAYE ANDERSON
32. LOUISE O’CONNOR, PETRA HYAM AND ISOBEL SMITH
33. MARK AND BEC NICHOLLS (SLADE PHARMACY)
34. EPWORTH RICHMOND STAFF
35. EPWORTH UROLOGISTS ENJOY THE NIGHT
36. ALAN AND DENISE KINKADE
37. ROWAN AND ELIZABETH KENNEDY
38. SUPPORTERS KAREN AND JACK DEL OAM
39. SPONSORS KOZMINSKY
40. SHARON AND PAUL FENTON
41. SPONSORS SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC
42. GERALDINE AND KEITH MACKENZIE WITH SCOTT BULGER
43. EPWORTH MOTOWN HITS CROWN PALLADIUM

44. DR MINOO AND NIL PATEL

45. COMMITTEE MEMBER LIBBY MCCANN AND RAE BIGGART

46. STAFF FROM EMBASSY PRINT ENJOY THE NIGHT

47. DEBBIE BURKE MAKES A BID

48. DR BENNO AND J ACKIE IHLE

49. PETER VAT AND THE TEAM FROM GALLAY MEDICAL

50. PETER J ONES AND ALISON KINKADE

51. J AMES AND LENA PIPLIOS

52. TROY AND TINA HOFFMAN (PRINCES LAUNDRY)

53. TESTIMONIAL FROM MOLLY MELDRUM

54. THE FABULOUS SINGETTES PERFORM ON THE NIGHT

55. VINCENT BORG AND MELANIE BARR

56. DR SAM SOO AND PARTNER

57. DR PETER AND LINDA DANNE

58. PRIZE WINNERS COLLECT FROM VOLUNTEER MELITA BROWN

59. DEBBIE PERRY AND LAURIE PARK (ROYAL FLYING DOCTORS)

60. ELIZA ARMSTRONG AND J ACQUI DINGLE

61. EPWORTH VOLUNTEERS GET INTO THE GROOVE
62. ALLAN & EMMA BOSTON
63. STUART & CHELSEA MOORE
64. CHRISTINA AND WALTER SCHWAIGHOFER
65. IAN REYNOLDS AND PARTNER
66. DR PETER AND JANE TREMBATH
67. FIRST PRIZE RAFFLE WINNER JENNY LOCK AND ANNA COCHRANE
68. CHRIS AND MEG ENGLAND
69. GAIL ROCHE AND DAWN ROWE
70. DANCE BAND BEYOND BELIEF ENTERTAINS ON THE NIGHT
71. LISA AND MARIE SMITH
72. SUSAN WARDLE AND JOHN WOOLFE
73. GREG & KYLIE ALLEN
74. DANCE BAND BEYOND BELIEF ENTERTAIN GUESTS
75. STEPHEN & JO GARNER
76. DR HARVINDER AND SUSHIL BEDI
77. DR CHANTEL THORNTON AND SRECKO LORBEK
78. DR DAVID AND CLAIR MARSH
79. PROFESSOR JOHN AND JUDY OLVER
80. MR AUBREY ALMEIDA AND PARTNER
81. STUART KINKADE AND MANDY HUYNH
Hats off to Epworth’s volunteers

The first annual Friends of Epworth and Cancer Auxiliary You Can Leave Your Hat On took place at the Park Hyatt on Tuesday 7 August and was deemed a heady success by all.

Nearly 100 guests celebrated Melbourne’s finest milliners and their ornate headwear creations with a delicious lunch followed by a parade of the most eye catching designs.

The highlight of the day was hearing guest of honour and Master Milliner Mr Richard Nylon discuss the history of hats and the changing fashions through the ages while demonstrating some modern twists to old designs with several of his quirky hats.

President of the Friends of Epworth Jenny Henderson said that the event had been a great success and along with the President of the Epworth Cancer Auxiliary, Mary Cole, thanked everyone for attending and making the day such a hit.

Money raised from the event will be used to purchase an ice machine for oncology patients and to support cancer survivors’ groups at Richmond.

Record numbers attend GP Conference on the Coast

This year’s annual GP Conference, held on 11–12 August at the Wyndham Report in Torquay, was a tremendous success. A record number of 125 GPs from across Australia and New Zealand attended the conference, which is the largest continuing professional development program hosted by Epworth as part of the overall GP Liaison Unit Education Program. There were 37 Epworth specialists from across all Epworth sites who presented on a range of topics.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity for Epworth to engage with GPs. Program topics included Cancer, General Medicine, Women’s Health, Pain & Neurology, Respiratory, Orthopaedics, Emergency Medicine, CPR, and Cardiology.

Post conference feedback has been exceptionally positive, with comments including:

“Excellent conference and a well organised event. It was a great networking opportunity and good to meet specialists and hear their messages.”

“Thank you for organising this conference! Beautiful conference venue, broad range of medical/surgical topics. Excellent opportunity to get to know the specialists”

“The event was really well organised by the friendly, helpful and caring conference staff at Epworth. Fantastic venue, great food and helpful staff.”

The conference proved to be once again a great success and displayed Epworth’s ongoing commitment to supporting the education of General Practitioners. An event as large as this would not be possible without the dedication of a large number of people. All those involved should be congratulated in making the conference such a great success.
**Leading the way for surgical training**

In a first for surgical training in Australia, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Epworth HealthCare joined forces in June to deliver a mini-fellowship training program in robotic-assisted surgery for the benefit of prostate cancer patients.

The course harnesses multiple new technologies, allowing surgeons to gain advanced surgical skills prior to adopting the technology in their own hospitals. There has been a huge growth in both the number of machines and procedures being performed in Australia. Robotic surgery accounts for more than 70 per cent of all prostate cancer surgeries in Victoria.

The course is aimed at experienced urological surgeons who are planning to offer robotic surgery to prostate cancer patients and who require advanced training to safely use this advanced equipment. Until now, the four-day intensive course has only been available outside Australia.

The course comprises rigorous training exercises in theatres at both Peter Mac and Epworth, consisting of video and lecture based learning, ‘dry lab’ training – or practice surgery on constructed models, advanced computer simulator training akin to a flight simulator for pilots, and viewing of live surgical cases. By gaining accreditation in Australia instead of in the US, more surgeons will be able to gain the expertise needed to offer patients the choice of minimally-invasive procedures in a wide range of surgical specialties.

**The Melbourne Breast Unit**

The Melbourne Breast Unit, formerly known as the Breast Unit at Mercy Private, has undergone some significant improvements and is now located at Epworth Cliveden. Miss Suzanne Neil has relocated her entire practice to Epworth Cliveden and is joined by Breast and Endocrine Surgeon, Mr Su-Wen Loh.

The Melbourne Breast Unit provides dedicated breast care in a nurturing environment with a dedicated multidisciplinary team.

The team of surgeons, radiologists and pathologists, use an integrated approach to diagnostic assessment, improving the overall patient experience.

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**Tax appeal to benefit men with prostate cancer**

This year’s tax appeal is raising funds for new life-saving ultrasound equipment.

The new device will help specialists to effectively diagnose and treat prostate cancer before it has the chance to spread. This new technology will not only provide a safer and more accurate means of testing for prostate cancer, but in addition, the same technology will be used to provide radiation therapy to actually treat the cancer.

The appeal hopes to raise more than $390,000 so that all components of the equipment can be purchased.

To donate to this appeal or to find out more information please contact the Epworth Medical Foundation on 03 9426 6132 or visit emf.org.au.
The RACV's annual road trauma scholarship aims to prevent road trauma and improve the quality of care in the area of road trauma. It has been awarded annually since 1983 in memory of the late Sir Edmund Herring, a former Governor of Victoria and RACV patron.

Epworth Rehabilitation Richmond Orthopaedic Team Leader, Bridget Hill, is the latest recipient of the prestigious award.

Bridget's scholarship application addresses the RACV's aim to improve the quality of care delivered to victims of road trauma, specifically individuals with brachial plexus injury (BPI) and other upper limb peripheral nerve injuries (PNI).

With part of her scholarship funding, Bridget will visit 10 specialist BPI and PNI centres in the USA and Europe to review current best practice on the assessment and treatment of BPI and PNI. Bridget and her team will then use the research findings to assist in the development of a specialist centre here in Melbourne that will be based on current best practice. In addition, Bridget hopes to form ongoing research links with the centres.

Well done and congratulations Bridget on receiving the RACV scholarship and for the wonderful contributions you are making to furthering some very important research into road safety and trauma prevention.

BRIDGET HILL

Epworth Medical Foundation is proud to announce the creation of a new society to honour those who have chosen to contribute a lasting legacy by leaving a bequest to Epworth HealthCare.

Bequests are vital to the hospital, without them Epworth would not be able to afford much of the new clinical equipment, staff research and patient care programs that keep the group at the forefront of health care.

The Lockwood Society, named after the Lockwood Family for their service to Epworth across three generations, recognises supporters who have indicated that Epworth has been included in their last will and testament.

Members of the Lockwood Society are given a commemorative pin to wear as a symbol of their lasting legacy to the healthcare group.

The pin depicts Yalcowinna, the grand mansion that first housed Epworth hospital, bordered by Epworth Blue and brushed stainless steel.

If you come across a patient or visitor wearing a Lockwood Society pin, please thank them for their generosity and do your best to make them feel welcome while they are at Epworth.
By Laws

Epworth’s Board of Management has approved the new By-Laws which came into effect on 1 September 2012.

The By-Laws reflect the changes in our credentialing of accredited medical practitioners at Epworth. For example, they now require doctors who simply rent rooms from Epworth at a satellite clinic to be credentialled by Epworth and to accept our Values and Behaviours and to demonstrate a commitment to Epworth.

The revised By-Laws were reviewed by Chairman Group Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) Dr Alan Crosthwaite, and by each site MAC as well as Group Chief Executive Alan Kinkade and Acting Executive Medical Director Jack Mackay.

Making a difference

On Wednesday 15 August Epworth hosted International Nursing Executive Speaker Joan Meadows. All Directors of Clinical Services and Nurse Managers across the Group came together to attend an interactive session presented by The Advisory Board Company on “Creating a Culture of Accountability”.

Distinguished guest speaker Joan Meadows presented on best practices and tools to help enable our leaders to achieve each step critical to enhancing frontline accountability. It was a three-part framework for instilling accountability on the front line: clarifying goals and priorities, building ownership of wards goals, and creating a culture of shared responsibility. We workshoped 14 key strategies to assist in achieving frontline accountability and ended the session with a vote on what we felt were the Top 3 most important to implement.

This was the first time that all the Nursing leaders across Epworth have been together as a group and the dedication and passion to “Make a Difference” was palpable in the room. This is just the first in a series of Nursing Leader Symposiums.

Louise O’Connor
Executive Director
Clinical Services

Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton receives national award and international recognition

Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton are the 2012 winners of the PHAQ Innovative Practice in the Private Sector award for their Multidisciplinary Falls Prevention & Intervention Program, CARE. The team also won an award in the category of Clinical Innovation and have had their submission accepted at the World Congress of Quality in Healthcare, to be held in October in Geneva, Switzerland.

Well done and congratulations to everyone involved! It is a wonderful achievement that your hard work is being recognised through a number of different awards.

Joan Meadows (in red) gathers with Epworth Nurse Managers
Waking up and everything you were once able to do with ease, you can no longer do at all. This is the very real scenario for those who have suffered an acquired brain injury (ABI).

On 14–15 July, six patients from Epworth Rehabilitation’s ABI Unit were able to enjoy a weekend away at Falls Creek. Before their injuries they were all keen skiers or snowboarders and over the last few years have been redeveloping the skills that most of us take for granted.

Here are a few of their stories...

Peter

Peter has been coming to Falls Creek as a Disabled Wintersport Australia (DWA) member for four years. Before his accident Peter skied all over the mountain and all over the world. Since his accident, balance has been an issue for Peter. But during the weekend at Falls Creek, with outriggers in his hands and 20cm of fresh snow on the ground, Peter was cruising down the mountain!

Paul

When Paul first came skiing with DWA, he was hoping his muscles would remember their expert skiing skills, but was prepared for the fact he might be back to square one. Luckily, skiing was one thing his body remembered how to do and in no time he was tearing up the mountain. This year Paul wanted to challenge himself. Enter: Snowboarding. Two hours with Fiona from the Snowsports School and Paul was sliding smoothly down the runs and linking turns. A few more hours relaxing in the Howmans Gap lounge room by the fire and his wrist, shoulder and tummy muscles were aching. Although happy to say he could snowboard, Paul was also happy to step into his skis again the next day.

Meg

Meg, a ten time ‘Australian Equestrian Endurance Rider of the Year’, is a regular at Falls Creek. For two years her balance has been improving and this year she was ready to test her skills on more challenging parts of the mountain. With a Snow Slider (put simply, a walking frame with skis) and her DWA Guides Richard, Jim and Tom, Meg ventured down some of the hardest ski runs and she’s already planning her next trip to Falls Creek and working towards skiing those same runs without the Snow Slider.
Freemasons leads the way with Bublove

Epworth Freemasons is the first Australian hospital to develop a pregnancy app, designed to be the ultimate pocket guide to pregnancy. The app was officially launched at the Epworth Freemasons Practice Managers Christmas in July function on 30 August 2012.

This free and exciting new app is to support expecting mums throughout their pregnancy. The app includes helpful information and tools such as a journal, appointment diary planner, contraction timer as well as weekly information to assist expectant parents track the development and growth of their baby. The app will be available from the Apple App Store from September 2012.

As well as the app, a Bublove Facebook page has been developed. It is an interactive hub that provides the latest maternity information on pregnancy and babies. Bublove’s Facebook page is a great place for new and expectant mothers to find pre and post-natal information and video tutorials to assist new mums both during and post pregnancy.

New courtyard for Richmond oncology

The courtyard at the Oncology Ward at Epworth Richmond is set to be revamped thanks to the generosity of Epworth’s supporters.

The new oncology family area will include a peaceful garden, family kitchen and dining area and a children’s play area with toys, DVDs and video games.

Patients and their families will be able to spend time away from the clinical environment of the ward while enjoying simple pleasures such as cooking and sharing a meal together.

Nurse Unit Manager Gabrielle Weston says that this will extend the excellent level of care provided at Epworth.

“The psychological and emotional benefits of creating such an environment cannot be underestimated when it comes to caring for our patients,” says Gabrielle.

This upgrade to the courtyard would not be possible without the generosity of Epworth’s supporters, especially the late Barbara Heine, who made a significant donation toward a family area after spending much time at Epworth Richmond during her battle with cancer.

Epworth Medical Foundation is still seeking support for the courtyard upgrade. If you would like to know more, please contact Kathleen Lambrick on (03) 9426 8170.

ARTIST IMPRESSIONS OF THE PROPOSED NEW COURTYARD AREA
Tell your story

The Speech Pathology Week Education Event was held on 23 August. To coincide with this year’s theme, ‘Tell Your Story’, a variety of patient stories were displayed on posters, with a selection of these stories emailed to all staff. These stories showcased the incredible experiences faced by our patients with communication and/or swallowing impairments, and provided some insight into how our patients have worked with their therapists to overcome some of their challenges.

The Education Event also featured a number of interactive stalls including, where participants were invited to engage in interactive activities that gave them a glimpse of what it might feel like to live with an impairment.

The Speech Pathology department would like to thank all those who attended the Education Event and trust you came away with new knowledge and enjoyed the interactive activities and giveaways.

1. STAFF FROM SOCIAL WORK AND PHYSIOTHERAPY TRIAL ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION AIDS

2. BERNADETTE DORNOM, ALAN KINKADE AND LORETTA GRECO PARTICIPATE IN A SWALLOWING TEST LED BY SAVERINA RENDA (SPEECH PATHOLOGIST)

3. ANNA BLACK (SPEECH PATHOLOGIST) DEMONSTRATES THE FUNCTION OF A TRACHEOSTOMY IN AIRWAY MANAGEMENT TO NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS, ADAM MCKAY AND JACINTA GRACEY

Walk for Wellness

Join a group of ramblers for a trek along the rugged Victorian coastline while raising money for Epworth’s cancer patients. The Walk for Wellness is a three day moderate level hiking trip that takes place amidst the spectacular scenery of the Great Ocean Road.

All funds raised will be used to support cancer patients at Epworth, whether through the purchase of equipment, funding new research projects or improving hands-on care during cancer treatment.

The cost of the trip is $2500 of which $1500 is tax deductible. Epworth’s professional fundraisers can provide help with fundraising ideas to help cover the cost of the walk.

For more information about the Walk for Wellness, please contact Kathryn Johnston at the Epworth Medical Foundation on 03 9426 6359.
Investing in the next generation of health care professionals

Epworth remains committed to making a substantial contribution to the next generation of health care professionals, through the ongoing professional development of our staff. We have long been involved in the education of medical students and the postgraduate training of registrars.

As part of this commitment to education, Epworth Eastern formally opened its new Education Centre located in the Elgar Hill Medical Suites in August 2012. The 3 bed simulation space includes an area for an operating table and a scrub sink, a control viewing office area and two tutorial rooms with interactive videoconferencing capabilities.

The purpose-built simulation centre offers simulates, imitates, creates or replicates the real clinical environment. The design of the area is both versatile and multifunctional, allowing for small group discussions; facilitated discussions; large group presentations; clinical skills sessions; and immersive team scenarios that use high fidelity manikins.

For further information please contact Tess Vawser, Director of Clinical Education tess.vawser@epworth.org.au or Andrea Kattula, Epworth Eastern Nurse Education Manager andrea.kattula@epworth.org.au

Enhancing the patient experience through improved processes

Over the course of 2012 Epworth Freemasons has been undertaking a comprehensive review of its surgical bookings processes, encompassing everything from the patient booking through to the patient arrival in theatre.

The review identified a number of areas for improvement that will positively impact the doctor’s practice and patients experience. These initiatives include:

- A central point of contact for practices and patients;
- Preparation of patient documentation well in advance of the admission date; allowing identification of issues that may impact on patient preparedness for theatre;
- Streamlining the clerical admission process by way of eliminating unnecessary administrative steps;
- Ultimately undertaking clinical pre admission reviews of all patients; enabling identification of potential health or clinical issues prior to admission that may affect cancellations.

The key component of this improvement is the establishment of a Patient Service Centre which will allow Epworth Freemasons to centralise the booking process and enhance the clinician and patient experience. The Epworth Freemasons Patient Service Centre commenced operations in September 2012. Ms Christine Ferlazzo will be managing this centre under the leadership of Allison Evans, Perioperative Manager at the Clarendon St Theatres.
Saying thanks

To all the staff on ward 4EE at Epworth Richmond

From my heart, I am writing to express my gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful treatment and care you are all giving to my brother at ward 4EE.

Your beautiful smiles, generous attitude and kindness are like sunrays that illuminate the whole ward. Your compassionate services towards my mother and to me, is beyond comprehension.

You demonstrated your total commitment to caring for him when he was helpless in the days prior and immediately following the operations. Also, you are giving him the support and encouragement he needs to take his first steps on the road to recovery which means so much to him.

I'd like to particularly express my appreciation and gratitude to Charles Bonavia. He is the most outstanding Nurse Unit Manager I have ever come across. He demonstrated and showed his expertise, professionalism and compassion to us and to all the patients in ward 4EE. I would also like to thank all of the nursing staff and Team Leaders on Ward 4EE who are providing my brother with round the clock nursing care.

I am obliged to the doctors, especially Dr Rowan Doig and Professor David Ball, together with the surgical team for their expertise in the operating theatre and for their post-operative support. I would also like to thank all the other people, too numerous to mention, who are playing such an important part in treating my brother.

Finally, I would like to mention the Executive Staff of the hospital, Ms Eileen Hannagan and all her beautiful management staff. You should all be proud of your outstanding vocation. You have developed and recruited teams that have flourished in their medical and non-medical duties that you would be proud to honour and to represent Epworth.

Thank you once again, for all your care and ongoing support.

Epworth Volunteers

Hi there,

On a Wednesday afternoon a couple of weeks ago I was called at work to meet my 93 year old mother in the Emergency Department at Epworth Richmond. She had fainted in her GP’s waiting room and an ambulance had been called.

I caught the tram across from Parkville and entered the hospital – which I am completely unfamiliar with – from the Bridge Road building site entrance.

I felt quite bewildered, and very anxious about Mum. However, I was greeted almost immediately by a hospital Volunteer sitting at a small enquiries desk just inside the front door. She asked if I needed assistance and to my surprise she left her post to escort me to the Emergency Department. Rather than give me complicated directions which I’m sure I’d have found confusing, she just hopped up and off we went. I was really grateful to her for going that extra mile to help me out.

Sitting in the cubicle with my dozing Mum a while later, another of your wonderful Volunteers gave me a kind smile and asked if I’d like a cup of tea or coffee. She promptly brought me back a really lovely cup of tea that I enjoyed very much and found very reviving. I don’t know what that lady’s name was but she made an excellent cup of tea!

On a daily basis, I see the work done by the Volunteers at the hospital I work in. However, this was the first time I actually got to experience the difference that Volunteers can make to the hospital experience of patients and their families.

I wanted you to know just how much these two quite small actions meant to me when I was feeling very anxious about my elderly mother.

Mum only spent one night in hospital and her health is now (relatively) good once more. But my memories of the kindnesses shown by your Volunteers will last.

Thank you so much.
To whom it may concern,

I have just had a liver biopsy done at Epworth – an unpleasant experience but not a necessary one. The staff doctor, nurses, the ultra sound technician and the other staff were helpful nothing was an issue and the support they gave to my partner was amazing – this ranged from the nurses to staff in recovery room to the staff in the ward. I was overly impressed with the quality of the staff, the catering, the cleanliness and the double room we received it was a high standard. This was my third child and by far the best experience that I have ever had. The staff were truly excellent. In the course of the procedure I developed a chest infection just prior to my stay at the hospital and I felt this was handled in a professional way. I found myself fainting and the team swung smoothly into action to give me atropine and overcome the problem. After the procedure the nurses were on the ball constantly monitoring my condition while I was under observation and they worked as a team to provide this monitoring.

I want to thank the special staff who looked after me they were just astounding – this ranged from the nurses to staff in recovery room to the staff who looked after the catering. I would like to mention the following individuals that I cannot thank enough for their support and care of both myself, my partner and our special little angel Skylar.

Francis – who cared for me just after having the c-section and ensured I was pain free, clean and that Skylar was feed and supported.

Karinda – for getting on top of my pain relief overnight.

Ita – who came and saw me on a daily basis and did room allocations she was just fab.

Donna – who was just amazing on discharge.

Helen, Sophie, Gabby, Jan and Kathy – you are all amazing women who do such a great job when people are at their most vulnerable.

Keep up the great work and I will be back for sure!

Thank you.

Regards,

To whom it may concern,

I have just had a difficult c-section in the past and the staff were aware of the risk and the experience I had had previously and were supportive of my recovery. I felt they were knowledgeable around pain relief and were on top of giving this to me, ensuring a speedy recovery. I did develop a chest infection just prior to my stay at the hospital and I felt this was handled in a professional way. At all levels communication about my care was incredible.

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Keep up the great work and I will be back for sure!

Thank you.

Regards,

Epworth Freemasons – Maternity

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank you and your staff for my recent stay in the maternity ward. I was very impressed with the quality of the staff, the catering, the cleanliness and the double room we received it was a high standard. This was my third child and by far the best experience that I have ever had. The staff were helpful nothing was an issue and the support they gave to my partner was amazing – this ranged from the nurses to staff in recovery room to the staff in the ward. I was overly impressed with the quality of the staff, the catering, the cleanliness and the double room we received it was a high standard. This was my third child and by far the best experience that I have ever had. The staff were truly excellent. In the course of the procedure I developed a chest infection just prior to my stay at the hospital and I felt this was handled in a professional way. I found myself fainting and the team swung smoothly into action to give me atropine and overcome the problem. After the procedure the nurses were on the ball constantly monitoring my condition while I was under observation and they worked as a team to provide this monitoring.

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Keep up the great work and I will be back for sure!

Thank you.

Regards,

Medical Student Feedback

When I was a first-year medical student, and heard that in our final year we had an elective placement that could be taken ANYWHERE in the world, my imagination ran wild. I had grand ideas about going to a tiny village in a developing country, where medical care was scarce and I could really make a difference to people. Fast-forward five years, and unfortunately life (and finances) get in the way of even the best laid plans. So it was with some regret that I decided to stay in Australia for my elective. However, from the first day of my elective in the Emergency Department of the Epworth Hospital in Richmond, any regret I had melted away, and I knew I had made an excellent choice.

From the minute I began my elective placement, I immediately felt like part of a team. The doctors treated me like one of their own, and the nurses were happy to have me there and help me out. As a medical student, I have at times become used to feeling like I am in the way, with doctors being too busy to teach or listen to me. At Epworth, I never once felt like this. I was treated like an equal member of staff whose inputs were relevant and valuable.

I was surrounded by consultants, most of whom love to teach, but who, working in a private hospital, see relatively few medical students. Indeed, I was the only medical student for the entire four week elective period. Thus, I had a virtual smorgasbord of Emergency specialists all eager to teach me.

Despite working within a supportive team and receiving teaching, I was still given a good degree of independence at Epworth. I was allocated patients to clerk and examine, to select appropriate investigations, and formulate a management plan. The best aspect of this was that the consultant would actively listen to me and give me real feedback. For the first time in this course, I began to have confidence in myself.

As the doctors placed their trust in my skills and judgement, I gained new confidence in my abilities. I was also lucky enough to be involved in a wide variety of other skills in cooperation with more senior staff. This included basic airway management, joint relocations, abscess drainage and anaesthetic field blocks.

This elective isn’t for people who want to spend four weeks lounging on a tropical island. It was hard work, but it was rewarding work both professionally and personally. I had many opportunities to practice my clinical skills, and I learnt a lot about myself and my ability to cope in a variety of situations. And, for the most part, it was a lot of fun too!
**Gulf of Thailand cycle challenge**

Want to get your pulse racing in Thailand? Why not join Epworth’s Gulf of Thailand Cycling Challenge. The 10 day trip takes you off the beaten track to where the jungle meets the white sand of the gulf. Be amazed by the beauty of the scenery and the hospitality of the locals as you ride through coastal villages and down country roads lined by palms.

As well as taking in the beautiful scenery you will be raising money to help improve Epworth’s cardiac services. The money raised will be used to purchase cardiac care equipment and support rehabilitation at Epworth including the HeartSmart program.

For more information about the Gulf of Thailand Cycling Challenge call Jayne Coates at the Epworth Medical Foundation on 03 9426 6131.

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**Building a learning environment**

Epworth will soon be introducing exciting new leadership and learning and development initiatives that will be introduced across the Group. The aim of these initiatives is to ensure all staff have the right skills, abilities and desired behaviours required to perform in their role, both now and into the future. This is fundamental to enable us to attract and retain the best people, so that we continue to remain an Employer of Choice and to be known as a teaching and learning organisation.

The Organisational Development team has developed a range of initiatives to support these goals, including:

- **Online learning**

  A new program, Learning Seat will provide Epworth employees with a customised, web based Learning Centre to access one of Australia’s largest collections of online courses, training tools and e-learning resources, including a suite of OH&S, compliance and soft skill course ware.

  Courses will be rolled out in accordance with organisational needs – immediately addressing OH&S priorities and gradually introducing others over the next 12 months.

- **New Orientation**

  A new orientation program will be rolled out in October. It will provide new employees with an engaging start to Epworth. The program has been designed with four key elements which include: online introductory information, an Epworth passport, mandatory assessments and corporate orientation.

- **New leadership program for emerging and operational leaders**

  Epworth is piloting a new leadership program with 60 participants that is accredited to a Diploma in Business through Swinburne University. The curriculum is designed to ensure that emerging and operational leaders develop the behaviours and competencies for leadership that will set them up for success.

- **Executive development**

  Leadership development has been a key priority area for Epworth over the last few years, with a range of programs offered to emerging and operational leaders. A pilot program – designed to ensure Epworth develops sufficient leaders for future Executive Director, Director of Clinical Services and Business Manager roles – will soon commence.

- **Review of the Performance Development Plan (PDP) process**

  A small team has been formed to work on reviewing and improving the PDP process. A PDP is aimed to help people form clear goals that link to the strategic and operational plans as well as an individual development plan.

  Epworth is committed to ensuring we offer the most exciting career destination for health care practitioners and these initiatives underpin this strategy.

  For further information, please contact the Group Organisational Development team via email leadershipdevelopment@epworth.org.au
Robotic Surgery expanding across Epworth

An Epworth patient credits the Australian Government’s free bowel screening program for the clean bill of health she received, following colorectal robotic surgery in July.

After receiving a faecal occult blood test (FOBT) in the mail, Marie Turner visited Epworth gastroenterologist Professor Geoffrey Metz, who then referred her to Colorectal Surgeon Mr Paul Sitzler.

Mr Sitzler has joined a growing list of surgeons employing the revolutionary ‘da Vinci robot’ for surgery at Epworth. Robotic surgery is termed ‘minimally invasive’ because smaller incisions are required, leading to lower blood loss; less pain; a reduced risk of infection and overall, a speedier recovery. Patients are often well-enough to be discharged on the second or third day after surgery and are able to return to normal activities within a few weeks.

The first surgical robot was introduced to Australia by Epworth in 2003. The latest robot technology, which has been installed at Epworth Freemasons, Epworth Eastern and Epworth Richmond, has full high-definition, an advanced 3D vision system and four robotic arms.

Epworth surgeons have performed more than 4000 robotic procedures in the disciplines of urology, cardiology, gynaecology, and endoscopy. It is anticipated that other disciplines will embrace the technique in future.

DIRECTOR ROBOTIC SURGERY MR DANIEL MOON PERFORMS USING THE ROBOT.

Record numbers attend O&G Symposium

The Third Annual Obstetrics & Gynaecology Clinical Institute Symposium was held at the Park Hyatt on Friday, 24 August 2012.

Associate Professor Robert Rome, Dr Len Kliman and the O&G Organising Committee coordinated an interesting and exciting program which included 17 Obstetrics & Gynaecology specialists. Among them was international key note speaker Professor Colm O’Herlihy, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist from Ireland and Dr Rhonda Farrell, Gynaecological Oncologist from Sydney.

The program attracted a record number 183 guests from all over Australia and New Zealand who heard a range presentations about current areas of interest in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROBERT ROME AND PROFESSOR COLM O’HERLIHY
Bringing our values and behaviours to life

The Epworth Excellence initiative is about bringing to life Epworth HealthCare’s values and behaviours, to ensure we continuously provide exceptional quality and care to our patients. As an organisation, there is a strong commitment to ensure that our values and behaviours underpin everything that we do.

A true demonstration of Epworth’s values and behaviours coming to life recently came across Group Chief Executive Alan Kinkade’s desk. Addressed to him was a letter of thanks from the wife of a patient who had spent some weeks at Epworth Richmond. Along with the letter was a poster, titled ‘URGENT’ with a very gratuitous message of thanks to the staff of 3LP so kindly referred to as their “family”. And if the touching words in the letter and poster were not enough, an ‘Award of Merit’ was also created for the 3LP staff for their excellent and compassionate caring.

Well done to those staff involved for not just acknowledging the values and behaviours but for bringing them to life and giving the term ‘Epworth Excellence’ true meaning.

AFL boss addresses Epworth leaders

Epworth was proud to host AFL Chief Executive Andrew Demetriou as the sixth speaker in the Twilight Leadership Series on Tuesday 11 September.

The Twilight Series provide senior leaders within the organisation the opportunity to draw on the experience and knowledge of other leaders. Andrew Demetriou is currently the CEO of the AFL and has had a very successful career as a football player and business leader.

During his time with the AFL, Andrew has been involved in negotiating significant commercial agreements as well as growing the game to include two new AFL clubs. Andrew spoke passionately about the importance of values in an organisation as well as discussing his leadership experiences, philosophies and challenges.

We were proud to have the event opened by Janet Latchford, President of the Board and the question and answer facilitated by Epworth’s Dr Peter Larkins providing the audience an opportunity to ask questions of Andrew.