As part of Epworth’s commitment to delivering enhanced and expanded services for our patients, doctors, visitors and staff, the new Corrie Heath Day Oncology Unit and Day Medical Unit opened for patients on Monday 25 February. This is an exciting time and an important milestone, particularly given that it is the first new clinical area completed and opened as part of the major redevelopment at Epworth Richmond.

The specialised unit features state-of-the-art medical facilities and enhanced amenities for our patients, staff and doctors. There are 24 oncology and haematology chairs and 16 dialysis chairs in this purpose-built facility. A further six beds for oncology and renal day procedures, sleep analysis and child allergy testing are also included. The increased capacity within contemporary facilities will also improve the functional relationship between departments and operational efficiency of Epworth’s people. Importantly, it will enable our staff to provide world-class treatment for our patients, improving the overall patient experience.

A tremendous amount of work has been done to ensure the smooth transition and relocation of these two key services, led by the Richmond Redevelopment Project team.

Continued Page 3 >

1. GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALAN KINKADE WITH MAJOR DONOR CORRIE HEATH AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CORRIE HEATH DAY ONCOLOGY UNIT AND DAY MEDICAL UNIT

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EPWORTH RICHMOND EILEEN HANNAGAN SHOWS CORRIE HEATH AND HER FAMILY AROUND THE IMPRESSIVE NEW UNIT

3. THE CORRIE HEATH DAY ONCOLOGY AND DAY MEDICAL UNIT
Message from the Group Chief Executive

I would like to welcome you all back from the summer break. We are now well into the midst of 2013 which is already shaping up to be a very exciting year. Many significant milestones have been achieved in these first few months.

Major progress has been made with the Richmond redevelopment project and in March we officially opened the Corrie Heath Day Oncology and Day Medical Unit which is the first clinical area completed as part of the major redevelopment at Epworth Richmond. More than 90 guests attended a function held to honour major donor Corrie Heath, after whom the centre is named.

The unit comprises 24 oncology chairs and 16 dialysis stations. There are a further six beds for oncology and renal day procedures, sleep analysis and child allergy testing.

Our commitment to improving the experience for Epworth patients is unrelenting. As well as providing the latest, efficient treatments and access to the latest radiotherapy equipment, we committed some time ago to improving the comfort of patients and their families.

As part of Epworth’s commitment to excellence in clinical education, an impressive new space has opened on level 5 of the Cato wing (formerly Leigh Place). The Clinical Education and Simulation Centre delivers direct support for all education, research and clinical information activities. The Library has also moved to this space.

I would like to thank the major redevelopment project team, the nurses, doctors, staff and patients for your ongoing support and for enduring the inconvenience and trials of a major renovation.

Inpatient rehabilitation for multi trauma orthopaedic patients commenced at Epworth Hawthorn on Monday 25 March 2013 and outpatient programs commenced on Tuesday 2 April 2013. A celebration to formally commission Epworth Hawthorn will be planned and communicated shortly.

Stage 2 of the redevelopment of Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell is in its final stages, with handover of the lower ground and basement level 1 taking place in early March. It is anticipated the redeveloped hospital will be fully operational in July 2013.

On 4 February, Professor John Catford officially joined us in his role as Executive Director, Medical Services. John brings with him an extensive wealth of executive, academic, government, clinical and research experience and insights into the delivery of health services both nationally and internationally. Please join me in welcoming John to Epworth.

The Epworth Medical Foundation are hosting a number of fundraising events over the coming months including Friends of Epworth Race Day and the first ever Men’s Health Lunch. I encourage you to support these events which help raise funds towards purchasing much needed equipment, develop patient-support programs and assist further research at Epworth.

In December last year we had a record nine educational scholarships awarded that were made possible through individual and corporate donations made through the EMF. Congratulations to the recipients who were successful in receiving a scholarship to pursue their specific area of study this year.

Thank you to our wonderful donors, whose generous support makes these awards possible.

I am really looking forward to us all working together to achieve many great things in the year ahead. There is a lot of activity happening around the organisation and I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Epwords to find out more!

Alan R Kinkade
Group Chief Executive
Transforming Epworth Hawthorn

Following the acquisition of Hawthorn Healthbridge Hospital in December last year, work immediately began to transform Epworth Hawthorn into a trauma rehabilitation centre of excellence; and to continue the outstanding work of Epworth Hawthorn’s day surgery unit.

Inpatient rehabilitation for multi trauma orthopaedic patients successfully commenced at Epworth Hawthorn on Monday 25 March 2013. Outpatient programs will commence from Tuesday 2 April 2013.

A celebration to formally commission Epworth Hawthorn will be planned and communicated to staff shortly.

The Executive extends its thanks to all rehabilitation staff for their hard work in preparing for rehabilitation services at Epworth Hawthorn; particularly the Multi Trauma Rehabilitation team.

Works on track at Camberwell

Stage 2 of the redevelopment of Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell is in its final stages, with handover of the lower ground and basement level 1 having taken place in early March.

External works to the canopy and main entrance (Burke Road) are also nearing completion. The central courtyard is currently being paved and the Café tenancy commenced fit out works on 11 March 2013, with opening of the Café scheduled for mid-April 2013. The other retail spaces are expected to commence fit out works soon after.

Works have been undertaken within the existing ground floor ward to upgrade patient en suites. These works have now been completed.

Renovation works to the existing level 1 ward will commence in June 2013.

It is anticipated that the redeveloped hospital will be fully operational in July 2013. Once complete, Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell will provide an additional 68 hospital beds, resulting in a total of 148 beds for both psychiatry and rehabilitation.

Land settled for Epworth Geelong teaching hospital

The total land package purchased by Epworth HealthCare from Marcus Oldham College for the new Epworth Geelong teaching hospital was settled on 8 March.

An extra parcel of land of approximately one hectare was recently purchased by Epworth, taking the total site to approximately ten hectares.

Epworth is strongly committed to its future in Greater Geelong. Currently more than 1000 patients from the Geelong region are treated annually in Epworth’s Melbourne hospitals and Epworth looks forward to providing the same excellence in healthcare for the wider community of Western Victoria.

A tremendous amount of local support has been received from health practitioners, and a Medical Establishment Advisory Committee has been formed, comprising more than 30 local specialists to help guide the development of the new teaching hospital in line with community needs.

Delivering excellence in clinical education

Epworth is committed to making a substantial contribution to the next generation of health care professionals, through undergraduate and postgraduate training and the ongoing professional development of our staff.

As part of that commitment to excellence in clinical education, an impressive new space has opened on level 6 of the Cato Wing (formally Leigh Place). The Clinical Education and Simulation Centre is an impressive new space delivering direct support for all education, research and clinical information activities.

The Centre includes eight tutorial rooms, a clinical skills laboratory, fully-equipped simulated operating theatre, a multipurpose four-bed area and a single bedroom and en suite. The space is further supported by tutorial and debriefing rooms, anatomical models and manikins, as well as the open library space.

The Library is co-located within this space and both formally opened to staff on Tuesday 26 February. This key milestone forms an important part of the overall redevelopment project at Epworth Richmond.
A record nine educational scholarships were awarded at a ceremony held on 14 December. The scholarships were made possible through individual and corporate donations made through the Epworth Medical Foundation.

Staff applied for the scholarship giving details about the work related course or conference they wished to attend or the investigation they wished to undertake. An expert panel reviewed the applications and selected the winners with at least four clinical awards and two non-clinical awards.

Maree Feery, Executive Director of Human Resources said she was overwhelmed with the quality of applications received and thanked the sponsors for their generous support. Acting Group Chief Executive Officer Liz Camilleri presented the awards to the recipients congratulating them on their success and wishing them well in their future study.

Congratulations to the recipients below who were successful in receiving a scholarship to pursue their specific area of study this year as a result of the generous support from their sponsor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DIVISION</th>
<th>SPONSOR</th>
<th>RESEARCH/STUDY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sally Morison</td>
<td>Freemasons</td>
<td>Covidien</td>
<td>Masters of Clinical Leadership at Deakin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therese Abeykoon-Rahayak</td>
<td>Freemasons</td>
<td>Baxter Healthcare</td>
<td>Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education at Mayfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melita Reis</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Baxter Healthcare</td>
<td>Masters of Professional Education and Training at Deakin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilan Foger</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>St Jude Medical</td>
<td>Graduate Certificate in Health Services Management at Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Graan</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>St Jude Medical</td>
<td>Evaluate the clinical handover process when patient transferred from ICU to the ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo-anne Crowther</td>
<td>Freemasons</td>
<td>Abbott Vascular</td>
<td>Masters in Health Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Freemasons</td>
<td>Health Supar</td>
<td>Course by the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liz Moore</td>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Advantage Salary</td>
<td>Study to investigate the influence of adjunctive therapy following botox treatment for spasticity in adults with a brain injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloe Jackson</td>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Tony &amp; Virginia Brown</td>
<td>Project to investigate Group Therapy in Speech Therapy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest ever Cycling Challenge group has just returned from an amazing journey covering some 289 kilometres from just below Bangkok to Koh Samui. There were 32 participants who took part in what was the most successful ride ever raising close to $120,000, a staggering result.

Twelve cardiac patients were accompanied by family, friends, Epworth supporting staff and several other riders to cycle the Gulf of Thailand visiting rubber and coconut plantations along the way, stopping regularly at stunning locations on the beach to refresh and recharge the batteries. The group were accompanied by a team of support vehicles, mechanics and local guides who showed the group the ‘real’ Thailand by visiting places way off the beaten track.

There were thrills and spills along the way but the Epworth medical team did a magnificent job of patching up and administering medication when needed. The trip ended with a ferry ride to the beautiful island of Koh Samui for a couple of days rest and relaxation before returning back home with many happy memories and a promise that what happened in Thailand must stay in Thailand!

Such was the success of the trip that several riders have already signed up again for next year! Well done to all those who took part and congratulations on being a part of what was the most successful Cycle Challenge ever.
Epworth plays lead role in world-first trial

Using a new technique that further advances the process of renal denervation, three patients participated in a world-first trial at Epworth Richmond in February 2013.

Interventional Cardiologist Dr Tony Walton said the three patients had uncontrolled hypertension which was successfully treated using the new, faster, technique — multi-electrode renal denervation (MERD).

Treatment-resistant hypertension means patients have persistently high blood pressure despite taking three or more medications including a diuretic. The condition puts millions of people worldwide at risk of premature death from kidney disease and stroke, heart attack and heart failure.

Epworth (through Epworth Research Institute) is the only private hospital involved in this trial in its early stages. Melbourne public hospitals — The Alfred under Dr Walton and St Vincent’s under Dr Rob Whitbourn — are part of the first-in-man trial for Medtronic’s next generation catheter.

The advanced system is capable of delivering radiofrequency energy simultaneously with its four-electrode catheter, making the technique faster and more comfortable for the patient. The procedure does not involve a permanent implant and does not involve the risks of invasive surgery. It generally takes around 40–60 minutes, so if a patient is done in the morning, they can go home in the afternoon.

The trial is sponsored commercially by Medtronic.

Making it possible for more people to receive cancer treatments at Epworth

Thanks to the generous donation of $50,000 made by Freemasons Victoria, a SONOS system was recently installed at Epworth Freemasons that will enable patients to listen to music while receiving radiation therapy. Particular emphasis was on patient choice according to both genre and artist. In addition, large screens are being installed on the ceiling to create a sense of space within the treatment area.

As well as funding this new equipment and refurbishments in the treatment areas, Freemasons Victoria is making it possible for more people to receive cancer treatments at Epworth.

It recently became apparent that a number of cancer patients living in country areas were missing out on receiving much-needed radiation therapy, because they couldn’t afford to stay in Melbourne for their treatment.

In response, the Foundation launched an Accommodation Grants scheme, which pays patients’ accommodation while they receive cancer treatment at Epworth. Freemasons Victoria has generously donated toward this fund, making it possible for more cancer patients in country Victoria to receive treatments.

“We believe strongly in the importance of ensuring that everyone who needs cancer treatment receives it,” says Paul. “And when our patients do access these treatments, they should be able to do so in the peace of mind that they are receiving the best possible care, in the best equipped and most comfortable environment possible. I am proud that Epworth can make this a reality.”

IMAGE: GRAND MASTER BOB JONES, DIRECTOR EPWORTH MEDICAL FOUNDATION SCOTT BULGER

Come on let’s celebrate!

The inaugural Epworth Revue is being held to celebrate the work of Epworth and your commitment to the wonderful patient care that we provide. The theme is “Come on let’s celebrate” and it is a great opportunity for you and your colleagues to be involved in this fun-filled event.

MARK THIS IN YOUR DIARY!

WHEN: Thursday 20 June 2013 at 6:30pm
WHERE: The Forum, Flinders Street Melbourne
TICKETS: $25 per person (includes finger food, beer, wine, soft drink and entertainment)

No matter your talent, ability or skill, funny or serious; whether its dance, song or a touch of theatre we are looking for performances on the night.

As we will be limited to about 20 performances on the night, there is a preference for group performances, so that more people can be involved. Auditions will be held in late April and more information on auditions will be released soon.

Should you require any further information, please contact Cristina Marguccio on 9426 8821, email Cristina.Marguccio@epworth.org.au or follow us on Facebook (Epworth Revue).
Supporting staff through improved processes

My Epworth is the name chosen as best representing our new Employee Manager Self Service (EMSS).

My Epworth will allow all staff to:
- View personal information and make changes to contact details;
- View payslips, pay history and apply for most types of leave on line;
- View Training and PDP records as well as HR and OH&S Policy;

Additional access for Managers will provide the ability to:
- Approve Leave Requests;
- Update Probationary and PDP records;
- Report against Leave Balances, Employee Length of Service and Upcoming PDPs to name a few

‘Employee Information’ and ‘Manager Drop-In Sessions’ will be held at each division in readiness to go live and a comprehensive user manual will be available for referencing. Staff who don’t use a computer on a daily basis will be able to access My Epworth using one of the privacy kiosks currently being installed at each division.

Further information regarding My Epworth can be obtained by emailing the Project Team at: ideas@epworth.org.au

Raising awareness of men’s health

Epworth will be holding its very first Men’s Health Lunch on Thursday 9 May from 12 noon in the Members Dining Room of the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The topic under discussion will be cardiac disease, the leading cause of death for men in Australia, accounting for almost one in five male deaths each year.

Former ABC presenter Peter Couchman will lead an entertaining and informative panel discussion, with members including Associate Professor Ron Dick, Chair of Cardiac Sciences at Epworth HealthCare, cardiologist Dr Tony Walton and a high-profile patient who will share his personal experience.

The goal of this lunch is to raise awareness of health issues specific to men and raise funds to purchase equipment, develop patient-support programs and assist research at Epworth HealthCare.

Tickets are available at $160 per person or $1500 a table of ten. To reserve your table please contact the Epworth Medical Foundation on 03 9426 6359.

Congratulations to our graduate nurses

The Epworth HealthCare Registered Nurse Graduate Nurse Program held a graduation ceremony on 31 January for 73 participants who graduated from the 2013 program. The awards program was sponsored by Health Super, through the Epworth Medical Foundation.

The ceremony was highlighted by graduates from each division sharing a light-hearted personal experience from their graduate year.

Nominations were received from senior nursing staff from each division and then an overall winner for each of the Divisional Graduate of the Year awards were selected. These four winners were then put to a panel which included a representative from Health Super to decide the overall Epworth HealthCare Registered Nurse Graduate Nurse of the Year.

Congratulations to the Divisional Graduate of the Year award winners Mark Clarke-Wakeling (Epworth Richmond), Katalina Popocatepetl (Epworth Freemasons) and Monica Barczynski (Epworth Rehabilitation) with the overall winner of the Epworth HealthCare Registered Graduate Nurse of the Year being awarded to Sarah Morrison (Epworth Eastern).

Divisional winners each received $150 prize money while the overall winner received $500 from Health Super towards their ongoing professional development.

Congratulations to the Divisional Graduate of the Year award winners Mark Clarke-Wakeling (Epworth Richmond), Katalina Popocatepetl (Epworth Freemasons) and Monica Barczynski (Epworth Rehabilitation) with the overall winner of the Epworth HealthCare Registered Graduate Nurse of the Year being awarded to Sarah Morrison (Epworth Eastern).
Endocrine Surgical Centre opens at Epworth Freemasons

A new Endocrine Surgical Centre has commenced operations at Epworth Freemasons. The centre provides a coordinated point of care for patients with endocrine problems that require surgery. It is a multidisciplinary group of specialists comprising of Endocrine Surgeons, Endocrinologists, Radiologists and a consultant Dietician. The team approach at the centre makes it more efficient and provides patients with improved care. An overall understanding of both the surgical and hormone issues is required for the best assessment and management of the patient’s condition.

For more information on the new Endocrine Surgical Centre, please phone 9418 8162 or email endocrine@epworth.org.au

Records made at Golf Day

The Epworth HealthCare Corporate Charity Golf Day was held in near perfect conditions at Yarra Yarra on Monday 25 March 2013. A record field of 124 players took part in an 18 hole 4 ball Ambrose event followed by an informal barbeque and presentations in the Member’s Bar.

The day was well supported by major sponsors and several specialists from all Epworth campuses and Epworth Executive participated in what was a great day of good sport, camaraderie, networking and fun. Outright winners were UBs (Epworth’s Dean Alex and Pat McKenna’s magnificent golf contributing to the win!), followed by Lehr and Brookfield Multiplex. Prizes were awarded for nearest the pin, longest and straightest drive and Grant Flanagan won the “Beat the Pro!” award.

The Golf Committee and the EMF team are to be congratulated on an outstanding day raising around $70k to support Hip Arthroscopy at Epworth Eastern.

Three Epworth doctors honoured on Australia Day

In this year’s Australia Day Honours, three Epworth doctors were honoured for their valuable contributions to the healthcare sector.

Dr James (Jim) Ernest Breheny, Medical Director of Epworth Freemasons until 2010, was honoured for his extraordinary contribution to both the public and private health sector in Australia for more than fifty years.

Cardiologist Associate Professor Andrew Cochran was honoured for significant service to adolescent and adult congenital heart disease as a clinician, researcher and educator, and through humanitarian and philanthropic contributions.

Cardiologist Associate Professor Jitendra Vohra was honoured for significant service to medicine in the field of cardiology. Both Professor Cochran and Professor Vohra are members of Epworth’s Cardiac Sciences Clinical Institute.

Epworth extends its congratulations to all three for this public recognition of their achievements.

Honouring a very special friend of Epworth

The Jenny Bentley Medal has been established to celebrate the life of Jenny Bentley who lost her short battle with cancer in October last year. The Medal honours and recognises the valuable contribution Jenny made to Epworth HealthCare and will ensure her memory continues to live on.

The recipient of the Jenny Bentley Medal will receive a $10,000 scholarship towards further training or research in the area of emergency medicine or critical care.

Device Technologies has generously committed to donate $10,000 per annum in perpetuity to fund the medal and accompanying scholarship.

Applications closed on Thursday 28 March. Nominations will be considered by an independent panel led by Louise O’Connor, Executive Director of Clinical Services. The medal will be awarded in International Nurses Week. A guest speaker will talk on a prominent issue in clinical service. An afternoon ceremony will allow family and friends of Jenny to be invited as well as staff from across the organisation.

Epworth staff challenged again

Following the success in 2012, where Epworth was ranked as Australia’s 7th most active ‘Healthcare Organisation’, Epworth staff have again signed up to become fitter, leaner and healthier.

With obesity and sedentary jobs on the rise, people all over the world are gathering their seven-member teams to participate in this year’s Global Corporate Challenge – a 16 week-program that starts on 23 May.

In 2012, Epworth enrolled 175 staff in 25 teams who collectively crossed the USA 38 times walking 223,378,019 steps covering a total distance of 142,322km. The Epworth teams burned a combined 37,359,507 kilojoules and had three top teams who received medals.

This year, each employee receives a Global Corporate Challenge (GCC) Pulse which is a 3D accelerometer that uses the same motion-sensing technology found in smartphones to accurately track daily activity.

Think Safe, Act Safe, Stay Safe

Epworth is pleased to announce that following a recent staff safety naming competition, the new workplace safety slogan is ‘Think Safe, Act Safe, Stay Safe’. Congratulations and thank you to the winner of the workplace safety slogan competition – Saverina Renda from Epworth Rehabilitation for her nomination.

Thank you also to the many staff from across all divisions who participated and suggested more than 130 safety slogan names.

Epworth would like to thank Advantage Salary Packaging who generously sponsored the prize of an overnight stay for two at the Park Hyatt Hotel.

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Epworth shines at Australian Healthcare Week

Two Epworth HealthCare staff recently presented at the annual Australian Healthcare Week conference in Sydney. Epworth Eastern Nurse Coordinator Duncan Palmer and IT Clinical Informatics Specialist Andy Fodor discussed how bed-side Point of Care devices and associated clinical applications—e.g electronic prescribing, nurse rounding and electronic pathology and radiology results—have achieved significant improvements in patient safety and quality of care.

“Combining point-of-care with clinical IT systems, we found remarkable reductions in medication errors, patient falls, pressure ulcers and patient call bells while improving pain management, clinical workflows and patient satisfaction”, reports Andy Fodor.

This year’s theme of Healthcare Efficiency Through Technology aligned very well with the ongoing work of clinicians and staff at Epworth Eastern in using technology in their day-to-day practice.

The presentation was well received and generated enthusiastic discussion among attendees with many preparing to further improve their own programs and services.

Duncan and Andy would like to thank the many VMOs, nurses, Allied Health and IT staff who continue to utilise the system daily to achieve Epworth Excellence.

Innovation in cancer survivorship

Epworth HealthCare sponsored two staff members—Oncology Clinical Care Liaison Nurse, Jo-anne Crowther and Oncology Clinical Nurse Educator Trish Calder—to attend the inaugural Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer Survivorship Conference, held between the 1–3 February in Adelaide.

The conference was organised by the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer, and brought together clinicians, researchers and survivors to focus on understanding and addressing the issues facing cancer survivors. More than 280 people attended, representing a diverse background of cancer survivors, medical professionals, allied health staff, cancer researchers, advocates and others from around the world.

The Keynote Speakers were Professor Patricia Ganz from UCLA and Dr Lee Jones from Duke University Medical Centre USA.

Jo-anne and Trish will continue to strive for excellence in care for our cancer patients and they look forward to implementing strategies learnt at the conference.

Image: Jo-anne Crowther and Trish Calder at the conference in Adelaide

Celebrating our midwives

The graduation ceremony for the 2012 Midwifery Graduate Program was held on 6 February at Epworth Freemasons. The awards were sponsored by Health Super through the Epworth Medical Foundation.

Eight graduates successfully completed the 2012 program with seven remaining on staff in the Maternity Unit.

The ceremony was attended by Leanne Rowlands (DCS Freemasons), Robyn Ackland (Maternity Services Manager), Catherine McKellar (Freemasons Education Manager) and Claude Savino (Health Super).

The Graduate Midwife of the Year was awarded to Belinda Valente. Belinda joined Epworth Freemasons in 2007 as one of the first Enrolled Nurses in the Postnatal Ward. Enjoying the experience, she decided to study midwifery.

Belinda was successful in obtaining a scholarship from Epworth Freemasons and commenced her Bachelor of Midwifery at the Australian Catholic University in 2009. Belinda completed rotations in Delivery Suite, Postnatal and the Special Care Nursery. Throughout the year staff commented on her professionalism, confidence and display of Epworth Excellence values and behaviours.

Image: Some of the 2013 Epworth Participants

Stellar effort at triathlon

The annual BFW Corporate Triathlon was held on Sunday 17 February in Elwood.

In what has become a tradition in recent years, Epworth had a great representation on the day and all made a stellar effort in the swim, ride and run event.

For many it was a debut performance completing their first ever triathlon. Conditions were favourable in the swim; little wind on the bike saw some fast times and the run along the foreshore, although picturesque, certainly got hot for the later competitors.

Well done to all for competing and finishing in such style – you have done Epworth and yourselves proud!
Legal team welcomes new additions

I have been Epworth’s Corporate Counsel for more than three years now, and have been extremely grateful for the support provided to me by Dr Fabian Purcell, FAnzCA, who undertook professional work experience with me, from August 2010 until December 2012.

I have now in 2013 taken on secondment with me, from August 2010 until December 2012.

I have now in 2013 taken on secondment Ms Jenny O’Brien, Chief Clinical Information Officer, who has completed her Masters in Law (Juris Doctor) and who has commenced at The College of Law (Victoria) to complete the necessary qualifications for admission to the Supreme Court of Victoria at the end of the year. Jenny will work in the legal office at Epworth one day a week to gain her professional work experience.

In addition, last year I recruited Ms Ivana Raspudic, BA (Hons) LL.B (Melb) who assisted me one day a week until she commenced work at Maurice Blackburn in Canberra as a first year graduate lawyer on 4 March. Congratulations Ivana for achieving this position and good luck as you start your brilliant career!

I trust that their exposure to the hospital legal office, and the complex matters it handles will give them some insight into some of the issues to be faced in professional practice.

Elizabeth Kennedy
Corporate Counsel

Running for heart health

On a picture-perfect autumn morning in March, 160 Epworth staff members and supporters met up at Princes Park in Carlton North for the annual Epworth Run for Your Life cardiac fun run. It was terrific to see so many staff from across the hospital, as well as patients, come together to enjoy a fun activity and promote healthy living.

Congratulations to Isabella de Castella who was the overall winner of the run, and to Kate Edwards, a former patient who raised almost $3000 for this event, which will be used to support cardiac care at Epworth. Kate recently underwent cardiac treatments with us, and showed just how far she has come by completing the course in the company of her husband and two children.

Special thanks to the Royal Flying Doctor Service who gave their time to provide first aid on the day. Other sponsors included TAC and the City of Melbourne.

Engaging in safe practices at work

The Safe Spine program is an initiative of the Occupational Health and Safety team which aims to promote a sense of wellbeing among staff. The program has had a great impact on staff morale and has provided participants with a better understanding of the benefits of physical activity and engaging in safe practices at work. Safe Spine workshops run for 15 minutes each day and involve safe and structured stretching exercises.

The Environmental Services and Engineering Services teams from Epworth Richmond have embraced the program with motivation and contagious enthusiasm and have seen the benefits of the program first hand.

Trauma rehabilitation experts do it again

Professor Jennie Ponsford – the Epworth Chair of Psychology at Monash University, along with co-authors Susan Sloan and Pamela Snow, launched the second edition of ‘Traumatic Brain Injury, Rehabilitation for Everyday Adaptive Living’ in December last year.

The three authors, who are internationally-recognised experts in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), with more than thirty years working in the field, say that this volume provides a comprehensive guide to assessment and treatment that emphasises practical, real-world approaches to patient and family needs.

The book is aimed at helping clinicians and students in health disciplines relevant to neurorehabilitation, but is also enormously helpful to families of patients living with TBI.

Professor Ponsford said the past 15 years have seen many developments in the knowledge, research and rehabilitation of individuals following a TBI.

“This edition has a uniquely clinical focus which provides both comprehensive background information, and practical strategies for dealing with common problems around thinking, memory, communication, behaviour and emotional adjustment.

“The book addresses a wide range of challenges, from those which begin with impairment of consciousness, to those occurring many years after the initial injury.

“IT presents strategies for maximising participation in all aspects of community life, in both adults and children,” Professor Ponsford said.

Regards was in good hands. looked after and I felt confident that my care really can’t offer enough praise. I felt well and not the biopsy as the cause of the pain. on. The result pointed towards my gallbladder was having a CAT scan to determine what was going. Decisions were taken promptly. Within a relatively Nurses and a Doctor gathered quickly and worked well as a team to monitor the monitoring. I went up to a ward for continued overnight. The nurses were constantly monitoring my condition while I was under observation and they worked well as a team to provide this monitoring. I went up to a ward for continued overnight. Lauren was one of the nurses – and once again the care was absolutely first rate – staff did their jobs superbly and were not stalling in any way. I had a very bad onset of pain not long after I arrived in the ward and the staff coped excellently with that emergency. Nurses and a Doctor gathered quickly and decisions were taken promptly. Within a relatively short time I found myself in a hospital bed and was rapidly a CAT scan to determine what was going on. The result pointed towards my gallbladder and not the biopsy as the cause of the pain.

I really can’t offer enough praise. I felt well looked after and I felt confident that my care was in good hands.

Saying thanks and bringing our values and behaviours to life

Epworth Eastern

To whom it may concern,

I have just had a liver biopsy done – an unpleasant experience but a necessary one. The doctors, nurses and ultra sound technician were truly excellent. In the course of the procedure I fainted – my heart started to race and the team swung smoothly into action and gave me aspirin to overcome the problem. After the procedure the nurses were constantly monitoring my condition while I was under observation and they worked well as a team to provide this monitoring.

I went up to a ward for continued overnight observation. Lauren was one of the nurses – and once again the care was absolutely first rate – staff did their jobs superbly and were not stalling in any way. I had a very bad onset of pain not long after I arrived in the ward and the staff coped excellently with that emergency.

Nurses and a Doctor gathered quickly and decisions were taken promptly. Within a relatively short time I found myself in a hospital bed and was rapidly a CAT scan to determine what was going on. The result pointed towards my gallbladder and not the biopsy as the cause of the pain.

I really can’t offer enough praise. I felt well looked after and I felt confident that my care was in good hands.

Regards

Epworth Freemasons

I was operated on by Associate Professor Tom Jobling on 8 December 2012. The nursing staff were brilliant. I felt well informed, closely monitored and most importantly, I was in an environment I could recover in peace and quiet.

One suggestion – on discharge. I wasn’t provided any information on what to expect after discharge, diet, coughing / sneezing, getting out of bed / wheelchair without straining, exercises, wound care and what to look out for or avoid. I hope this feedback helps.

Kind regards

Epworth Freemasons

I gave birth to a little girl at Epworth Freemasons – it is our first child. Both my husband and I wanted to send through some feedback and a thank you to all the wonderful staff who helped us along the way – from our fantastic obstetrician Peter England (and his office staff), through to the delivery staff (special mention to Mary-Anne, the midwife who was with us for most of delivery day) and the midwives who attended to us post birth on the ward and afterwards at Pink Vally (special mention to Mary and Jasmine).

We didn’t get the chance to properly say thank you or note down people’s names in delivery as I was otherwise occupied!! We really felt supported and informed throughout the whole experience, both on the day, afterwards and even prior with the antenatal class which was great.

The hospital offers such a welcoming open-minded approach and all the staff and services were very professionally delivered (great meals and staff delivering the meals, and very helpful to have a setting and physio class available).

So a big thank you to all those who assisted us along the way. We wouldn’t hesitate to recommend Epworth Freemasons to others and if we were fortunate to have a second child we know what our choice of hospital and obstetrician will be!

I was in good hands. I felt included as part of the care team. I was asked my opinion and felt informed. All the staff were friendly, interested and yet so professional. I have never had a hospitalisation where I have been listened to and felt involved. All the staff were willing to spend time with me and discuss my case and I really felt I was in the best place for me to recover.

Thank you!

Epworth Rehabilitation

I would like to pass on my thanks to the physiotherapists and nurses who aided my recovery. Everyone was so great. Nothing was too much trouble and everyone was very friendly and professional to which I am very grateful.

Regards

Epworth Cliveden

Dear Epworth Cliveden staff,

I was admitted to Epworth Cliveden for a breast reduction and abdomenoplasty. I understood it was a “double whammy” surgery and was well prepared for it. I have nothing but praise for Epworth Cliveden and its staff.

Dr Jane Paterson is such a gifted person – her bedside manners, her skill as a surgeon and ability to have me the patient as part of my own recovery has been a fantastic experience. I am so thankful for her work, guidance and advice in my surgery experience.

The theatre staff and their explanations of the process put me at ease. I had no doubts I was in expert hands. I have no negative words to say about the ward staff. I loved the fact that they worked in teams of two and each partnership brought their own special skills to my recovery. I felt heard and respected to understand and included. All the staff were friendly, interested and yet so professional. I have never had a hospitalisation where I have felt included as part of the care team. I was asked my opinion and how I wanted to proceed. I believe this process/showed use by Epworth Cliveden is to be commended. I would recommend it for an example of “best practice” in patient care.

I was confident that I was in the best place for me to recover.

Thank you!

Epworth Richmond

Hi Epworth Richmond,

I would like to say a big thank you and pass on some positive feedback to a new patient, Troy we works with the Intensive Care team at Epworth Richmond. I arrived at Epworth Richmond for surgery to fix a new back disc prolapse. When I arrived at the hospital for admission I was in a bit of pain and distress – I didn’t know what to do and didn’t think I could walk the distance.

I had come through the car park and an area of the hospital that was being renovatorily with added to my confusion and concern. Troy appeared to see me and my partner and volunteered to help. He found a wheelchair and we helped as quickly as we could to the hospital to the right place. Thank you Troy for going well out of your way and taking the time and care to get us there where I needed to be. I was very well and able to sleep that night and I really appreciate the positive help and care you showed.

Thank you!
Celebrating the past, shaping the future

Professor John Catford commenced as the new Executive Director Medical Services in February. He talks about his first experiences and hopes for the future.

“Although I have only been in post for a short time I have been overwhelmed with the good will and positive attitude of staff across the whole Epworth group. This is an enormous asset which we need to safeguard and celebrate as we move forward into uncharted waters and times of great opportunity.

Epworth HealthCare is in an excellent position to respond with energy and innovation to the possibilities ahead. This requires clear vision and leadership; excellent clinical, professional and support staff resources; and a physical and cultural environment that gets the very best out of people.

My broad portfolio includes medical workforce, quality in health care, clinical institutes, health and medical research and education, and new growth and development initiatives. My initial task is to scope the challenges and opportunities and come up with a new approach which advances Epworth’s Strategic Plan 2013–2017. To achieve this I am looking forward to working with the whole Epworth community as co-authors and contributors.

Above all we need to be bold if Epworth HealthCare is to become the pre-eminent provider of quality health care for our patients through the integration of clinical practice with education and research.

International recognition for Epworth Eastern

In late 2012, Epworth Eastern became the first healthcare organisation outside the USA and Canada to be awarded the Crystal Flame Organisation of the Quarter by the internationally-renowned Studer Group®.

The Studer Group® works with more than 800 healthcare organisations in the USA teaching them how to achieve, sustain, and accelerate exceptional clinical, operational, and financial outcomes. They employ evidence-based leadership to encourage Healthcare Organisations to grow in times of continuous change.

The award was the result of an all-staff commitment to the Epworth values of Respect, Excellence, Community, Compassion, Integrity and Accountability.

Epworth Eastern received the award because overall patient satisfaction rates have increased as a result of three major improvements. These include: a significant reduction in the number of unplanned admissions; a major decrease in the number of falls in the hospital settings; and reaching an outstanding zero in the number of patients experiencing pressure sores for the previous 23 months.

In these areas, Epworth Eastern has strengthened communication with patients and their families, so their expectations of pain management and mobility both in hospital and home are better understood.

Generosity of spirit shines at Epworth Eastern

After the death in hospital of her husband, Gary Schober, Barbara Schober wanted to do something to benefit other patients and families on ward 4 South at Epworth Eastern. An accomplished artist, she donated one of her own paintings; one that tells an important part of Gary’s story. The still life depicts the good things of life that Gary very much enjoyed sharing with family and friends. Barb requested that the painting acknowledge the family’s gratitude for all the work and care of the nursing and medical staff of 4 South.

Barb recently visited with staff from 4 South and Pastoral Care, which gave us a chance to say thank you to Barb for her generosity to the patients and staff of Epworth Eastern.

Harriet Ziegler
Pastoral Care Coordinator/Chaplain

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