On 24 January 2012 Victorian Minister for Planning the Hon. Matthew Guy approved the planning application for Epworth Geelong at Waurn Ponds — developed by Epworth HealthCare in partnership with Deakin University.

Following consultation with local residents and strong support from Councillors of the City of Greater Geelong, the new 394 bed private hospital will be built on rezoned land that was part of the Marcus Oldham Agricultural College site.

Epworth purchased the land from Marcus Oldham College last year and implemented a series of community consultation sessions about the project.

Deakin Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jane den Hollander and Epworth’s Group Chief Executive Alan Kinkade are both delighted that regional Victoria will benefit from world-class health training facilities adjacent to the University in Waurn Ponds.

“Epworth Geelong will combine the best of new private health facilities including state of the art operating theatres; delivery suites; cancer and renal dialysis units integrated with Deakin’s training and research activities”.

continued page 3 >>

1: ALAN KINKADE, PROFESSOR JOHN CATFORD PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR FACULTY OF HEALTH, DEAKIN UNIVERSITY, TONY MCMEELE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, MARCUS OLDHAM COLLEGE, THE HON MATTHEW GUY, MINISTER FOR PLANNING

2: ARTIST IMPRESSION OF MAIN ENTRY TO EPWORTH GEELOONG
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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I would like to welcome you all back from the summer break. I look forward to working with everyone in this new year and trust the same momentum and enthusiasm that saw Epworth achieve great things last year will take us even further in 2012.

Indeed, 2012 is already shaping up to be a very exciting year. Epworth’s planning application to establish Epworth Geelong, a teaching hospital in partnership with Deakin University, was formally approved by Victorian Minister for Planning the Hon. Matthew Guy in January. We are well on our way to realising our vision to develop a world-class teaching and research precinct in the City of Greater Geelong.

Epworth Geelong will combine the best of new private health facilities with state of the art operating theatres; delivery suites; cancer and renal dialysis units integrated with Deakin’s training and research activities.

Established as a fundraiser for Epworth’s Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) unit, this year’s ABI Cup was again played as a curtain-raiser to the A-League game between Melbourne Victory and Central Coast Mariners. I am very proud to say that the Epworth team narrowly held on to the Cup and defended their title by beating Victoria Police in a penalty shoot out 3–2.

Importantly, a fundraising breakfast, held prior to the match, raised in excess of $20,000 for equipment in our ABI unit. Well done and thank you to all those involved for making it such a great success.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who contributed to the Wesley Mission’s Food For Families Appeal in 2011. Your generosity and support enabled Wesley Mission to collect more than 40 tonne of food and toiletries as well as more than $20,000 of monetary donations.

In November last year, 11 departments across Epworth Freemasons, Epworth Eastern and the corporate division participated in a Best Practice Australia (BPA) Employee Engagement Progress Survey. This shortened version of the full survey provides a snapshot of the areas Epworth has improved in and other opportunities for development.

Key findings included that 75 per cent of the departments surveyed have made significant improvements since the November 2010 survey, with employee engagement improving by an impressive average of 20 per cent. Importantly, this progress survey has provided managers with valuable information on which initiatives are working and the areas that still need further improvement.

Epworth Freemasons specialist endocrine surgeon Dr Julie Miller has introduced a new procedure in Victoria, posterior retroperitoneoscopic adrenalectomy (PRA). The technique can result in less post-operative pain for patients and a faster recovery than traditional laparoscopic adrenalectomy. Importantly, for the patient, there is no increase in operative time, cost or complications. I am proud to say that Epworth Freemasons is currently the only Victorian private hospital where PRA is available.

I am very pleased to advise that work is progressing well with the establishment of our own radiation oncology service, Epworth Radiation Oncology. It is anticipated that the service will commence in late March 2012.

The next step for Epworth Radiation Oncology is to take on the operation of the Tattersall’s Cancer Centre at Epworth Richmond. While Epworth has owned the centre and the equipment, the operation of the centre has been leased to Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre since its inception in 2003.

Peter Mac has operated this service to the very highest of standards and will continue to support the service in the future. The transition is planned to occur at the end of March 2012, with new equipment arriving in May 2012.

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
The partnership between Epworth Geelong and Deakin University will deliver new health services to Geelong and provide clinically-based teaching for medical, nursing and allied health students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels”, said Mr Kinkade.

Once operational, Epworth Geelong is expected to provide around 1100EFT positions and around 1,000 direct construction jobs, created throughout the building stages and subsequent operation.

“The partnership between Epworth and Deakin has developed significantly over ten years, particularly in the field of nursing education and research, and I look forward to a diverse, fulfilling collaboration in this important project as well”, Mr Kinkade said.

Professor den Hollander said that Deakin was pleased to see plans for the Epworth Deakin Teaching Hospital coming to fruition.

“The teaching hospital adjacent to our health and research precinct would certainly enhance undergraduate and postgraduate training in medicine, nursing and other health professions in Geelong and the region. It will also lead to a significant expansion of research in Geelong and provide excellent health care choices for the region,” she said.

“We have just graduated our first cohort of medical students, a significant milestone not only for Deakin, but also for rural and regional communities across Australia and most particularly for Geelong where many of our graduates will be practising,” Professor den Hollander said.
Epworth dialysis unit

From 1 February 2012, the Epworth dialysis unit transferred from the management of Baxter Healthcare to Epworth HealthCare, which has seen the return of the dialysis unit management and operation back to Epworth Richmond.

The dialysis unit has a proud history. When it opened on 4 October 1989, the centre was the first private haemodialysis centre in Australia. It accommodates up to 36 patients in three shifts per day, seven days a week. Epworth partnered with Baxter Healthcare in 2006 to continue operating this service at its Richmond site.

This next phase of its development will provide exciting opportunities for Epworth to grow its service provision and continue its excellent care of patients undergoing renal dialysis for kidney failure in the private sector.
Delicate operation saves young girl’s life

Many of you may have read in the Herald Sun about plastic surgeon Dr Sian Fairbank who played an instrumental role in the life-saving surgery of a four year old girl. Dr Fairbank is well known for her work at Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Cliveden.

Katie Strickland was viciously attacked by a family friend’s Rhodesian ridgeback and had to undergo a 7½ hour delicate operation led by Dr Fairbank and her team at the Royal Children’s Hospital.

Katie’s scalp had been shredded at multiple levels, damaging arteries and blood vessels, leaving the little girl in a bloodied mess when paramedics arrived. She had a severe injury going from her scalp all the way down to the back of her neck. The surgery involved cleaning and reattaching the sensitive scalp area. Four vein grafts from Katie’s arms were used to reconnect blood supply and to save the tissue.

This is just another example of the medical expertise across Victoria, that is harnessed at Epworth HealthCare.

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Food for families

Epworth staff generously donated to Wesley Mission’s Food For Families Appeal in 2011 which enabled Wesley Mission to collect more than 40 tonne of much needed food and toiletries, along with over $20,000 of monetary donations that will be used to purchase more food and toiletries throughout 2012.

Food for Families continues to provide much needed support to Victorian families throughout the year and their Crisis & Homelessness Services will assist disadvantaged people during 2012 with these generous donations. The program has been running for 20 years and 2011 was the most successful year ever for the Wesley Food for Families Appeal.

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Epworth Radiation Oncology

Work is progressing well with the establishment Epworth’s own radiation oncology service, Epworth Radiation Oncology. This service will initially commence in the Basement Clinic at Epworth Freemasons’ Clarendon Street Hospital on 19th March 2012.

The next step for Epworth Radiation Oncology is to assume responsibility for the operation of the Tattersall’s Cancer Centre at Epworth Richmond. While Epworth has always owned the centre and the equipment, the operation of the centre has been leased to Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre since its inception in 2003. The changeover is planned to occur from 1st April 2012 with Peter Mac staff remaining on-site and supporting the service for up to six months. Two new Varian linear accelerators have been purchased and will be installed during the changeover period.

Radiation therapy services will be available at the Tattersall’s Centre throughout the changeover and no interruption to patient treatment is expected.
Doctors’ Christmas party

The 2011 Epworth HealthCare Doctors’ Christmas Party was held on Thursday 15 December at Fox’s Car Museum. More than 200 doctors and their partners along with staff enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the year with their colleagues. Fox’s Car Museum is not just for car enthusiasts; located in the historic Queen’s Warehouse Building at Docklands, the Museum is a truly impressive function venue and proved to be a great choice for the Doctors’ Christmas Party.

Employee engagement continues to rise

In 2010, Best Practice Australia (BPA) conducted an organisation-wide Employee Engagement Survey with results indicating a significant improvement in levels of staff engagement across Epworth HealthCare. BPA described the results as one of the most remarkable examples of cultural change they had seen in a large organisation over such a short period of time.

In November last year, 11 departments across Epworth Freemasons, Epworth Eastern and Epworth Corporate participated in a BPA Employee Engagement Progress Survey. This shortened version of the full survey is designed to provide a snapshot of the areas Epworth has improved in and the areas that still require some work.

The focus of this progress survey was on ‘Employee Engagement’, ‘Employee Expectations’, ‘Values & Behaviours in place in the Workplace’ and ‘Management Skills’.

Key findings included:
- 75 per cent of the departments surveyed have made significant improvements since the November 2010 survey, with employee engagement improving by an average of 20 per cent;
- 3 departments moved into a culture of ‘Consolidation’;
- 1 department moved into a culture of ‘Ambition’;
- 1 department moved into a culture of ‘Success’.

Importantly this progress survey has provided managers with valuable information on the impact that initiatives put in place over the past 12 months have made, as well as highlighting areas for further improvement.

Epworth Richmond will conduct the same progress survey for 6 of their units in March 2012 and the full BPA Employee Engagement Survey will be conducted for the whole of Epworth HealthCare in November 2012.
Solid progress in construction of the new facility at Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell

The demolition and piling works at Epworth Rehabilitation are complete and the excavation of the basement levels is imminent. Construction Engineering has made good progress since commencing onsite in October 2011. Despite some unforeseen challenges getting out of the ground, the builder and onsite staff have been working well at keeping the current facility operational, as construction of the new facility enters the second phase. At completion in 2013, Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell will comprise a total of 146 beds for rehabilitation and psychiatry patients. The significant works will deliver 68 new private patient rooms as well as new consulting suites, therapy rooms, ancillary retail and support services, as well as 98 extra car spaces.

This is necessary to allow the Builder to undertake internal refurbishment works in the zone currently occupied by the Main Reception and Consult Rooms. Works include the construction of a new purpose-built kitchen.

Workforce planning has already commenced for the new facility and associated services.

1: NEW EPWORTH BRANDED HOARDING IS ERECTED AROUND THE CONSTRUCTION SITE ON BURKE ROAD

2: THE RIG WHICH IS CONDUCTING THE PILING WORK AT EPWORTH REHABILITATION CAMBERWELL
The first ever group-wide staff Christmas Party held last year on 9 December was a tremendous success. With more than 1600 staff in attendance there was plenty of energy, excitement and fun to fill the entrance of the impressive Melbourne Museum.

Staff partied the night away dancing to music from band, The Baker Boys. The entertainment, the food, the spectacular venue and of course the company were what made this year’s first ever group-wide Christmas party such a great success.

A huge amount of work goes into organising such a large event so thank you to all those who attended and assisted on the night.
1: EPWORTH RICHMOND’S 7ES WARD STAFF GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

2: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EPWORTH EASTERN VINCENT BORG WITH EPWORTH EASTERN MEDICAL DIRECTOR DR JACK MACKAY

3: LEGAL COUNSEL ELIZABETH KENNEDY AND MEDIA MANAGER COLLEEN COGHLAN

4: HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES STAFF ENJOY THE NIGHT

5: STAFF ENJOY THE NIGHT

6: THE BAND KEEPS GUESTS ENTERTAINED ON THE NIGHT

7: MELBOURNE MUSEUM ENTRANCE

8: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EPWORTH RICHMOND EILEEN HANNAGAN, CRISTINA MARGUCCIO, SUZY MCLEAN AND KRISTINA GARLA

9: HARRY TINNEY, PHIL SMITH AND ROBERT MCKAY

10: EPWORTH EASTERN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER STEVE RUCLI AND HOSPITALITY SERVICES MANAGER WALTER SCHWAIGHOFER

11: EPWORTH REHABILITATION CAMBERWELL STAFF

12: EPWORTH BOARD OF MANAGEMENT PRESIDENT JANET LATCHFORD AND GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALAN KINKADE
Win for Epworth soccer team and ABI unit

Established as a fundraiser for Epworth’s Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) unit, this year’s ABI Cup was again played as a curtain-raiser to the A-League game between Melbourne Victory and Central Coast Mariners at Melbourne’s world class AAMI Park stadium on Friday 11 February.

The Epworth HealthCare team narrowly held on to the Cup to defend their title by defeating the Victorian Police in a penalty shoot out 3–2.

A fundraising breakfast was held the day before the game which featured a panel of speakers including A-League Coaches and Captains discussing the important match ahead and their support for the Epworth ABI Unit. The aim of the breakfast and the ABI Cup is to increase awareness of the risk of life and injury on our roads as well as raise critical funds for the rehabilitation service provided by Epworth’s ABI Unit. With the breakfast raising in excess of $20,000 for equipment in our ABI unit and the media coverage gained on Channel 10 news, the event was a great success.

Special thanks go to all staff who attended, and contributed to the events’ success.

1: THE EPWORTH HEALTHCARE SOCCER TEAM

2: THE ABI CUP

Vitrectomy service a first at Epworth Freemasons

New equipment for retinal detachment, diabetic retinopathy and other causes of vision loss is being trialled at Epworth Freemasons for a six month period.

Vitrectomy, which involves the surgical removal of the vitreous gel from the middle of the eye, is performed for a number of different reasons, including to:

- repair or prevent traction retinal detachment
- repair very large tears in the retina
- reduce vision loss caused by bleeding in the vitreous gel
- treat severe proliferative retinopathy that causes severe scar tissue formation.

Leading Epworth Freemasons’ Ophthalmologist Dr Saf Bassilli will have access to this new equipment which enables a prompt response time for retinal detachment with emergency cases generally able to be accepted and overnight stays available if required.

Vitrectomy has been shown to greatly improve visual acuity in many people requiring the procedure.

EPWORTH FREEMASONS’ STAFF SAFIWAT BASSILLI, MURRAY BOURKE, CARMAN DANG AND AYUMI NAKAMURA WITH THE NEW EQUIPMENT
Furthering significant research

The 5th Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA) Conference, “Research to Practice 2012”, will be held at Juniper’s Casino on the Gold Coast from 19–21 April 2012. Epworth Rehabilitation Allied Health Assistant/Exercise Physiologist Tash Weragoda has been selected to present her abstract submission at this year’s conference.

In 2009, while in her post graduate year at university, Tash assisted Epworth Rehabilitation Physiotherapist Dr Gavin Williams with his research that examined the relationship between mobility and cardiovascular fitness in individuals following traumatic brain injury. Tash used some of this data to prepare her findings and abstract submission.

Through her research which took more than 18 months, Tash discovered that a person’s mobility is in fact not related to their level of cardiovascular fitness. The ESSA Conference, which is designed to link the theory of exercise, sport and nutrition sciences with practice in the field, attracts a large number of practitioners who benefit directly from the latest technical information, current research, new products and equipment.

ESSA is again partnering with Sports Dietitians Australia (SDA) for the 2012 conference and will bring together the very best industry professionals, providing a program that promises to deliver quality information including topics on chronic disease management, rehabilitation, sports nutrition and athlete performance.

Congratulations must be extended to Tash for the wonderful contribution she has made to furthering some very important research. Being invited to present at the ESSA Conference is a great honour – well done and good luck!

Melbourne Victory visits Epworth Rehabilitation

Leading players from Melbourne Victory Football Club met patients from the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) unit at Epworth Rehabilitation in the lead-up to the Epworth ABI Cup at AAMI Park in February.

Key Melbourne Victory players; Harry Kewell, Grant Brebner, Danny Allsopp, Leigh Broxham and Captain Adrian Leijer visited the Epworth Rehabilitation gym, where they joined a unique running group led by Epworth Neurological Physiotherapist, Dr Gavin Williams.

A leader in his field, Dr Williams developed the first running group for neurological patients in Australia. An athlete himself, he is renowned for helping patients strive to achieve their highest potential, and has introduced a high-level mobility scale that is now used internationally.

The Melbourne Victory players were able to see first-hand, the enormous efforts made by patients trying to get their lives back on track after road trauma. There are currently more than 1,200 Victorians living with an acquired brain injury resulting from road trauma.

Melbourne Victory players gather with Epworth’s Dr Michael Ponsford, Dr Gavin Williams, Chris Byrne and Garry Fehring.
2012 Grant applications

The Epworth Research Institute (ERI) was founded in 2009 to promote health care research across the Epworth organisation and to provide competitive grant funding for research proposals to be conducted at Epworth HealthCare. All Epworth HealthCare staff, students and affiliates are encouraged to apply.

In 2012, the ERI will be providing funding in two categories:

**Major Grants** of up to $50,000
**Small Grants** of up to $10,000

Research proposals for funding consideration should be appropriately designed and structured to enable valid outcomes of the projects. Each research proposal must be able to demonstrate that it will add to health care related knowledge and may lead to improved patient care and/or outcomes either directly or indirectly.

Applications for ERI funding close on **Friday 30 March 2012**. Requests for research funding must be received electronically by the Clinical Trials and Research Centre (zoe.campbell@epworth.org.au) by 5pm on the closing date to be considered for funding. No late applications will be considered.

Baby care video tutorials

Epworth Freemasons understands new parents have a lot to remember and learn when caring for their newborn. It can be a very stressful time and many parents can be left feeling a little unsure of what to do, without having the right information at hand.

To assist new parents with some of these basic techniques, a range of educational video tutorials have been produced, featuring Epworth Freemasons’ highly qualified maternity staff. The videos, which include—how to swaddle a baby, how to change a baby’s nappy and how to bath a baby—are all on YouTube and can be accessed through the Epworth website or directly via YouTube.

The videos have been online for four months and are already proving to be hugely successful and very popular with both new and expectant parents.

Some of the comments viewers have left include:

“indeed very informative :) 16 weeks to go till my little one is here :D”

“Great video, very informative.. :D”

YouTube provides access to an interactive worldwide community and is a very powerful marketing tool. Epworth is currently exploring other ways it can maximise the benefits of YouTube as well as other social media platforms including mobile Apps, Facebook and Twitter.

The videos can be viewed at www.epworth.org.au/babycare

12
Breast cancer gene to be addressed at Women in Healthcare lunch

The breast cancer gene will lead the discussion at the Epworth Medical Foundation’s fifth Women in Healthcare lunch on Thursday 17 May. The topic for discussion is ‘When Cancer is in your DNA: Facing the breast cancer gene and making life changing decisions’.

Epworth breast surgeons Dr Jane O’Brien and Dr Chantel Thornton have a special interest in these genetic issues and breast cancer in young women. They will explore some of the challenges involved such as how to identify if you are at risk of carrying the abnormal gene, as well as the options available to women who test positive.

Guests will also hear the personal experience of a woman who has been touched by the breast cancer gene and her life-changing decision to have both breasts removed.

The Epworth Medical Foundation expects to attract 300 people from across Victoria to gather for lunch and learn about this important women’s health issue.

If you are interested in purchasing a table of ten or individual tickets please contact Jayne Coates on 03 9426 6131 or email on jayne.coates@epworth.org.au

Inaugural Cardiology Fun Run

Epworth Richmond’s Cardiology Department held an inaugural Cardiology Fun Run on Sunday 5 February 2012. Nurse Unit Manager Sanjee De Silva played an instrumental role in ensuring the run could take place. It was held to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle—particularly coming out of the festive season—to reduce the risks of heart disease and other cardiac-related health issues.

Epworth Cardiologist, Associate Professor Ron Dick, supported the event by promoting it within the cardiology team. The marketing department supplied Epworth HealthCare tops and water bottles for the participants. There were 48 in total who registered for the event, which involved running or walking two laps of The Tan (just under 8kms).

Global leader in cardiac and vascular care products, Abbott Vascular, generously supported the event by providing a breakfast for everyone at the conclusion of the run.

The event was a tremendous success and it is hoped that this is just the start of many more cardiology fun runs in the future!
Media update

Since the Christmas Holiday period, Epworth has appeared in either print or electronic media on an almost daily basis. Many of these are then repeated in daily news bulletins and syndicated to other stations, print media and websites.

Features and interviews include:
- Channel Seven Sunday night program on music industry celebrity Molly Meldrum following his injuries from a fall in December 2011
- Channel Ten feature on Epworth Breast surgeon Dr Chantel Thornton
- 774 radio interview on Red Symons ‘Diseases I could Get’ segment where Epworth’s Dr Michelle Caldecott discussed symptoms and prevalence of Tuberculosis
- 774 radio interview on the DRIVE program where Epworth Plastic Surgeon Dr Jane Patterson explained the current advice being given to Australian women who may have received faulty breast implants manufactured in France by PIPS
- Epworth Breast surgeon Jane O’Brien featured in a multi-page feature in the Sunday Herald-Sun about advances in diagnoses and treatment of all cancers
- Epworth GP Dr Luke Dunne was interviewed about the Freemasons Men’s clinic for an article in the Police Association Journal
- Melbourne Victory visited ABI patients at Elim to help promote the Epworth ABI Cup, played before their game against the Gold Coast Mariners.

The February edition of Private Hospital – the national magazine of Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA) – featured two articles about Epworth:
- Renal denervation introduced at Epworth Richmond by Dr Anthony Walton
- International Stroke Intervention trial implemented at Epworth under Professor Richard Gerraty.

Copies of all news stories, features and media alerts are available from the Marketing Office.

On 1 February a celebratory afternoon tea was held for the 2011 Graduate Midwifery Program. In 2011 Epworth Freemasons commenced its largest Midwifery Graduate Program – with thirteen new midwives from both the Bachelor of Midwifery and Postgraduate Diploma streams.

The graduates are now approaching the end of the program with twelve choosing to remain with Epworth Freemasons for their future career growth.

Congratulations were in order for Samantha Nicholson who was named the Epworth HealthCare Graduate Midwife of the year at a recent ceremony. Samantha was recognised for the quality of care she demonstrated to her patients throughout her graduate year.

1: THE 2011 GRADUATE MIDWIVES

2: GRADUATE MIDWIFE OF THE YEAR

SAMANTHA NICHOLSON
Graduate of the Year

Epworth provides a dynamic and supportive environment where Graduate Nurses and Midwives can transition to become independent practitioners and strive for excellence in their clinical practice.

On Tuesday 7 February more than 75 students graduated from the 2011 Graduate Nurse program. Each graduate was presented with a certificate of completion to acknowledge their time and achievements in the graduate program at Epworth.

This year as part of the ceremony, an inaugural ‘Registered Nurse Graduate of the Year’ award was presented to the grad who had consistently and positively demonstrated Epworth’s Values and Behaviours. Jaimie Lee was the recipient of this prestigious award. Jaimie has always provided excellence in nursing care with respect and a great sense of community. She received more nominations than any other candidate, highlighting just how respected she is by her peers.

Jaimie is now working in the Emergency Department and undertaking the Introduction to Critical Care Program.

“Excellence really shines through in the area of education at Epworth”

“Epworth really supports your needs as a grad. You feel emotionally supported and there is always someone there to offer help when it’s needed”
Applications are now open for the 2012 RACV Edmund Herring Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship aims to assist health professionals, by funding important research projects that help prevent road trauma and improve the quality of care delivered to road trauma victims.

Applicants must be health professionals who are resident and working in the state of Victoria. Successful applicant(s) receive up to $50,000 to undertake a project that will lead to improved care in the area of road trauma.

Applications for the 2012 RACV Scholarship close on Friday 1 June 2012.

For more information and full application details, please contact Heather Shanhun, RACV Community Relations Manager on 9790 2994 or email heather_shanhun@racv.com.au or go to www.racv.com.au

Remembering Audrey Anderson OAM

The staff and specialists at Epworth HealthCare regret the passing of Audrey Anderson OAM, who was Director of Nursing at Epworth Freemasons Hospital from 1975–1988.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are extended to Audrey’s family at this difficult time.

Audrey will be fondly remembered as a dedicated nurse who made a significant and valued contribution to the Freemasons Hospital.
A whole lot of heart!

Last financial year Heartbeat Epworth raised a huge $100,000 to purchase essential equipment for the cardiac units at Epworth Richmond.

Since its inception in 1984, Heartbeat Epworth has been a mutual support group of ex-cardiac patients and their carers who aim to support Epworth HealthCare as a leader in providing cardiac care.

Heartbeat volunteers are an integral part of Epworth, not only raising funds through the sale of Entertainment Books, raffle tickets, book stalls and Christmas cards but also providing support, advice and directions to patients and their families who are unfamiliar with the hospital.

Epworth is so fortunate to have such a dedicated team of volunteers who work extremely hard throughout the year. Next time you see our Epworth Heartbeat volunteers in the hallway be sure to say ‘hi’ and congratulate them on their outstanding efforts.

Heartbeat membership is not confined to cardiac patients so if you wish to become a member the joining fee is $20 for an individual or $30 for a couple.

To register your interest in becoming a member and/or showing your support for cardiac care please phone Epworth Heartbeat on 03 9426 6258 or email President John Thurkle at john.thurkle@epworth.org.au

A wedding to remember

Staff of Epworth Eastern Day Oncology, Pastoral Care, 4 South and Catering had a day to remember on Wednesday, 1 February when they helped put on a wedding at very short notice.

The day began when the daughter of a patient in the oncology ward, Allison, and her fiancée, Rasmus, approached staff to say they wanted to get married, that day, while Allison’s very ill father could still participate.

Pastoral Care Coordinator Harriet Ziegler began the legal paperwork while Allison and Raz went home to find their identity documents.

With the help of sympathetic staff at the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, the usual time for the legal notice of intention to marry was shortened from 30 days to about four hours!

Clinical Nurse Specialist Judy Varrenti and Nurse Unit Manager Siew Tan beautifully decorated the Day Oncology unit to make the day even more special. Catering staff prepared a wedding cake, and 4 South staff helped Howard and his wife, Rosemary, to get ready.

The end result was a truly beautiful service, taken by Harriet and the Reverend Derek Jones. When the question was asked, “Who gives this woman to be married to this man?” Allison’s father, Howard was there and proudly answered loud and clear, “I do”.

The family’s gratitude to Epworth Eastern staff was enormous. Sadly, Howard died on Friday morning, 3 February, but the family was convinced that he died at peace, knowing that Allison and Raz were married. Well done, to all those involved in such a special occasion.

1: EPWORTH EASTERN PASTORAL CARE COORDINATOR HARRIET ZIEGLER, RAMUS HANSEN (GROOM), ALLISON EGAN (BRIDE) AND REVEREND DEРЕК JONES

2: THE HAPPY COUPLE CUT THE CAKE
Dear Peta,

Even though it is many weeks since I returned home from Epworth Cliveden I hope it is not too late to express my thanks to you and everyone for the wonderful care I received throughout my recuperation there. What a dedicated and professional staff, Epworth Management should be very proud. Quite apart from all the wonderful nurses and aides, I do include all the staff who contributed to make my staff at Cliveden go so well.

I do especially want to mention Christiana, who accompanied me to have X-rays and cast changes on two occasions where I learned of her extraordinary experiences and talents as well as her care of me at those times. And a special mention for Dr Grant Flanagan, for his care and support throughout my time at Cliveden. Warmest regards.

These people are the ones who I want to speak highly of - some I had more to do with than others but they deserve praise. Chemi - so caring and lovely. Lee - you're brilliant. I would also like to mention Jocelyn, Jodie, Elaine, Caitlin, Eung, Prabha and Jessica.

I have had 7 major operations at many different hospitals and these staff members are the best you should be very proud of them.

Acknowledging outstanding customer service

The Epworth Excellence initiative is about bringing to life Epworth’s values and behaviours, ensuring staff continuously provide exceptional quality of care and customer service to our visitors, patients and each other. There is a strong commitment to ensure our values and behaviours underpin everything we do.

Patient feedback is just one way we can recognise and acknowledge outstanding levels of customer service provided by our staff.
Epworth Freemasons

Hi Robyn,

I just wanted to say thank you very much to all the staff in the Maternity ward at Epworth Freemasons.

Our little boy was born on Sunday, 8 January and I could not have been happier with the experience that we had and the service and care that we received.

After our original plans were turned upside down with The Cradle shutting down 2 months before he was due, I could not have been happier with everything at Freemasons!

There are too many people to thank and name as all the midwives were just fantastic.

I will mention Barb Smith though who was there with us through the delivery and was just wonderful and a great support.

Kindest Regards

Epworth Eastern

Dear Mr Borg,

I was recently an in-patient in Ward 5 North under Mr Dennis King. I cannot speak too highly of the medical, nursing and ancillary services provided.

Having been a consultant at many of the public and private hospitals in Melbourne this is my first experience on the receiving end.

I completely endorse Epworth Eastern’s motto “Excellence, Everywhere, Everyday”. Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely

Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell

I was a patient in Room 22 at Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell and was discharged on 30 November 2011.

I would like to thank everyone in Lower Level for helping me on my way to what I hope will be a pain-free lower back.

I would especially like to thank all the nursing staff for their expertise and care in looking after me. I’d like to thank them too, for taking the time to get to know me as a person, and not just as the L4/L5 spinal fusion in 22. Even when nursing staffed were rostered elsewhere, they would pop back in to see how I was getting along. Nurses like Precious and Ven and Rowena made me feel that my well-being was important.

I would also like to thank the food services staff. Those main courses were a highlight of every meal. Nutritious, tasty, and so well presented (and the morning scones were yummy).

Thank you to the room services staff. The room was always neat, and I appreciated the attention to fresh linen when it was needed.

The contribution of the Allied health staff will be what keeps me going. Chris has taught me a great deal about how and which muscles I need to know about and exercise to keep my back (and the rest of me) working as it should. It seems strange now that I have always expected my body to be fit, but apart from walking and swimming, I didn’t do much else to help it along. It has been a much-appreciated learning curve that will benefit me in the longer run. Gaby has offered her unique OT skills in making the mechanics of everyday life work for someone who needs help.

Once again, thanks to everyone, and if there is a noticeboard where this note could be displayed, I would appreciate it.

Kind regards

Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell

(cont)

I was a patient in Room 22 at Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell and was discharged on 30 November 2011.

I would like to thank everyone in Lower Level for helping me on my way to what I hope will be a pain-free lower back.

I would especially like to thank all the nursing staff for their expertise and care in looking after me. I’d like to thank them too, for taking the time to get to know me as a person, and not just as the L4/L5 spinal fusion in 22. Even when nursing staffed were rostered elsewhere, they would pop back in to see how I was getting along. Nurses like Precious and Ven and Rowena made me feel that my well-being was important.

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Once again, thanks to everyone, and if there is a noticeboard where this note could be displayed, I would appreciate it.

Kind regards

Epworth Eastern

Dear Mr Borg,

I was recently an in-patient in Ward 5 North under Mr Dennis King. I cannot speak too highly of the medical, nursing and ancillary services provided.

Having been a consultant at many of the public and private hospitals in Melbourne this is my first experience on the receiving end.

I completely endorse Epworth Eastern’s motto “Excellence, Everywhere, Everyday”. Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely
Project Evolution Update

Project Evolution (ERP Project) is now well into its third month of using TechnologyOne for all Finance, Supply and Biomedical processes. More than 350 end-users have been trained in requisitions, approvals and reports & enquiries.

Two of his former bosses had originally planned a big celebration to present him with the award but instead, on Wednesday 22 February, Chief Commissioner Ken Lay and Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe came to a small family gathering at Epworth Richmond, where Gerry is receiving treatment for secondary cancer. In the Peace Garden courtyard of the Oncology ward, the Police Chief Commissioner said the medal recognises the role that sworn officers have in protecting the community.

“This award acknowledges long and excellent service. It is testament to the high esteem in which Gerry is held, that he is the first Victorian Police Officer to be nominated. He has been an outstanding leader and mentor to his staff and I believe that this honour could not have gone to a better person. Congratulations Gerry and wear it proudly” Commissioner Lay said.

For the support of his Victoria Police family, his wife Kathy – also a Police Inspector – and his children Loretta and Christopher, Gerry gave his loving thanks. He added that while at Epworth over the last year, everyone on 4EW, from the nurses to cleaners to cooks had been fantastic.

“I’m receiving this award for doing a job that I’ve absolutely loved – there was never a day during all those years that I didn’t wake up and look forward to going to work, so I am truly honoured”.

1: WARD 4EW STAFF GATHER WITH INSPECTOR GERRY RUDKINS
2: CHIEF COMMISSIONER KEN LAY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KIERAN WALSH (STANDING) WITH INSPECTOR GERRY RUDKINS

Epworth Eastern ‘championed’ the new TechnologyOne Prosthesis module in December with subsequent rollouts to Epworth Richmond in January and Epworth Freemasons in March.

Phase 2 is still in progress and includes facilities management, budgeting and Customer Relationship Management. The budgeting module will be used in this year’s budget preparation, commencing in February. Facilities management is scheduled to go-live 5 March 2012 and this rollout will enable staff to submit facilities management and biomed work requests online for all sites via the Epworth Intranet.

Further information is located on the Project Evolution intranet page or may be obtained by contacting Jonathan Hollis via email: jonathan.hollis@epworth.org.au

[Image]