Epworth's got talent: celebrating our staff

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Epworth’s got talent
Welcome to the Spring 2013 issue of Epwords, marking our move into the latter half of the year. I congratulate you all on your continued momentum and enthusiasm over the last few months which have seen many great achievements made, of which I am very proud. It is thanks to our great people that we are able to remain a leader in health care.

Our annual gala ball was once again a great success, with fantastic entertainment and fun, celebrating the many achievements of Epworth. I am very grateful for the amount of support shown on the night. We had a record attendance of more than 1300 guests, with many staff and doctors attending. More than $1 million was raised, which is extraordinary and will be used to add to the Epworth Research Institute corpus which in turn will foster important research initiatives for Epworth. This will enable Epworth to continue to provide the best possible treatment and care to its patients now and in the future.

I would like to thank the generous support from our major partners ConMed Linvatec, Gallay Medical and Scientific, Merlon Technologies as well as our associate sponsors Brainlab Australia, Lifehealthcare, Medownick Laser Clinic, Slade Pharmacy, Technology One, Westpac Institutional Bank and Zouki. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the generous people who made over $200,000 in pledges on the night. We are very grateful for their generosity towards Epworth and thank everyone for their support.

In other exciting news, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Federal Minister for Health and Medical Research, announced a $12 million funding boost for a specialised Complex Care Unit inside the new Epworth Geelong hospital to be built at Waurn Ponds. The development of Epworth Geelong, in partnership with Deakin University, will be a first for regional Victoria, bringing together the experience and skills of Epworth and Deakin to deliver a new approach to health care, teaching and research.

The Epworth Revue was held on 20 June and was a huge success. There was certainly a lot of talent on display and everyone had a ball. Thanks to everyone who participated and to the organising committee for putting on such a fantastic night of fun.

During July I visited each site to share with staff the achievements made over the last financial year and to discuss the strategic direction we are taking for the next few years and beyond. One of the important areas of ours in the next four years will be to improve our performance in OH&S.

I am very proud of each and every one of you for making Epworth a truly great place to work and for your passion in delivering excellence in care for our patients.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many achievements we have made over the last few months. Thank you all for your support and dedication.
This year’s Gala Ball, held on Saturday 3 August at the Crown Palladium, proved to be a great success with fantastic entertainment and fun, celebrating the many achievements of Epworth. There was a record attendance of more than 1300 guests, with many staff and doctors attending.

More than $1 million was raised on the night to be used to add to the Epworth Research Institute corpus which in turn will foster important research initiatives for Epworth. This will enable Epworth to continue to provide the best possible treatment and care to its patients now and in the future.

Guests were treated to an evening of entertainment from acclaimed presenter and singer Tim Campbell, as well as a musical tribute to ABBA and dance band Déjà Vu.

The record breaking auctions, which included a brand new JEEP, signed sporting memorabilia and a host of exclusive dining experiences, along with the raffle and pledges of support, contributed more than $200,000 on the night.

An event such as this would not be possible without the tremendous support from our major partners ConMed Linvatec, Gallay Medical and Scientific, Merlon Technologies as well as our associate sponsors Brainlab Australia, Lifehealthcare, Medownick Laser Clinic, Slade Pharmacy, Technology One, Westpac Institutional Bank and Zouki.

Particular thanks go to the members of the Special Events Committee led by Robyn Beddison OAM for their fantastic support in putting on the event, the staff of the Epworth Medical Foundation along with the Epworth volunteers who donated their time and helped make it such a memorable night.

Turn to pages eight to thirteen for the gala ball photo gallery.
The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Federal Minister for Health and Medical Research, announced on Monday 12 August a $12 million funding boost for a specialised Complex Care Unit inside the new Epworth Geelong hospital to be built at Waurn Ponds.

The funding is a substantial proportion of the projected $16 million cost to construct, fit-out and equip the Complex Care Unit as part of the first stage of the hospital development. The unit will be a first for this region – where neuroscience and cardiothoracic wards co-exist and are connected to a high-dependency area within the same floor.

Supported by an emergency department, the unit will incorporate dedicated stroke and cardiac care areas to provide timely management of patients requiring specialised multi-disciplinary treatment.

Our analysis indicates that where stroke rates over the next 10 years are anticipated to rise by 24 per cent in the city, the expected rise in the Barwon and SW Victoria region is as high as 30 percent.

Epworth Geelong is planned to be developed in stages, with the first stage providing 262 inpatient beds – including 12 ICU beds; 20 emergency department cubicles; nine operating theatres; two endoscopy suites and two catheter laboratories. There will also be dedicated rehabilitation facilities and full maternity services. The hospital is proposed to provide clinical training for undergraduate and postgraduate medical, nursing and allied health students and will be an important centre for research in a range of health sciences.

In addition, great economic opportunities abound for the people of Geelong and surrounding communities with the number of jobs that will be created by this project.

During Stage 1, which subject to Board approval will hopefully start by the end of this year, we estimate 900 full-time equivalent construction jobs will be created, along with support for related local industries.

President of the Board of Management Ms Janet Latchford and Deputy President Mr Rod Fitzroy, together with Group CEO Alan Kinkade celebrated the funding with the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP.

Epworth is also working with the Victorian Government to secure support for the Epworth Geelong initiative.

Above: Professor John Catford, Professor Jane den Hollander, Deputy President Rod Fitzroy and President Janet Latchford, The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Group Chief Executive Alan Kinkade and Darren Cheeseman MP.

Below: Darren Cheeseman MP, The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP and Alan Kinkade.
A record number of doctors attended the Annual Doctor’s Dinner on 19 June at the Park Hyatt. With the theme of ‘New Horizons’, Alan Kinkade provided exciting overview of the ambitious directions Epworth is taking in line with its 2013–2017 Strategic Plan.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the inaugural Peter J Dohrmann Medal to gastrointestinal surgeon Dr Dhan Thiruchelvam. The Medal honours the significant contribution Dr Peter Dohrmann made to Epworth during his ten years as Executive Director Medical Services and twenty five years as a neurosurgeon. It has been established to support the professional development of Epworth medical practitioners with a travel and study grant of $10,000.

Medical research in Victoria was given a significant boost from the Victorian Government recently when The Hon David Davis, Minister for Health and Ageing officially launched the Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre at the Baker IDI on 23 July 2013.

The new Centre – one of two new major clinical research clusters in Melbourne – combines public and private healthcare providers with some of Australia’s leading biomedical research institutions. Member organisations include Epworth HealthCare, Monash University, Alfred Health, Baker IDI, Monash Health, Cabrini Health, Burnet Institute, and the Prince Henry Institute.

Melbourne is a world-leader in medical research, science and innovation and this further enhances the capacity for clinical research in Victoria.

The Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre, will undertake innovative research and speed up the translation of clinical research into practice that will directly improve healthcare for patients.

**Setting our direction**

There has been a significant contribution from all staff and doctors across the organisation over the last twelve months which has seen us continue to achieve great success across all our operations.

Group Chief Executive Alan Kinkade has visited each site to share the achievements made over the last financial year and the strategic direction we are taking for the next five years and beyond.

We continue to make significant improvements with patient satisfaction as a result of our commitment to delivering excellence in patient care.

Knowing that we are already a big part of Victoria’s health landscape and growing, means we have to face the challenge of maintaining our excellence, everywhere, everyday across all of our services as we expand, so that we position ourselves strongly for the future.

Providing great opportunities for staff and their continuing professional development is an important part of Epworth’s workplace culture, which has seen our staff engagement go from strength to strength.

The major redevelopment projects have progressed significantly.
A decade of leadership in robotic surgery

A world of robotic expertise is coming together in Melbourne this year to explore advances in robotic surgical procedures world-wide.

Epworth is convening the symposium on 15–16 November to celebrate 10 years of Robotic Surgery in Australia.

An audience of up to 120 health professionals is expected to attend the symposium to hear from local, national and international speakers in the areas of Urology, Gynaecology, Colorectal Surgery, Cardiothoracics, Ear Nose and Throat Surgery, and General Surgery.

The multidisciplinary symposium will feature live surgeries performed by three visiting experts in operating theatres across Epworth – Radical Prostatectomy, Anterior Resection and Radical Hysterectomy – with the broadcasts beamed back to an audience in the new Clinical Education and Simulation Centre at Richmond.

There will also be discussion and consensus on training and accreditation, an overview of the latest usage of robotic surgery in all specialties, and advanced surgical masterclasses including the first Australian masterclass in gynaecological robotic surgery.

Common health challenges facing today's modern woman

The annual Women in Healthcare lunch is being held on Thursday 10 October at Zinc, waterside at Federation Square where a discussion on the common health challenges facing modern women today will take place.

The lunch is hosted by the President of the Epworth Board of Management, Janet Latchford together with Master of Ceremonies Lynda Kinkade from Seven’s Today Tonight.

Three fabulous speakers will present including Critical Care Clinical Institute Chair Associate Professor Nerina Harley, Radiation Oncologist Dr Bronwyn King and Respiratory and Sleep Disorder Physician Dr Michelle Caldecott. Topics include breast and gynaecological cancer, cardiac disease, sleep apnoea, obesity, anxiety, depression and other common concerns.

Tickets are available at $140 per person or at the discounted rate of $1320 for a table of ten. Tickets include a two-course lunch, beverages and interactive panel discussion.

For further information and bookings contact Jayne Coates in the Epworth Medical Foundation on 03 9426 6131 or email jayne.coates@epworth.org.au.

Remembering Brian Hamley AM

The Board of Management and the Trustees of Epworth HealthCare, along with doctors, staff and friends of Epworth are saddened to hear of the death of Brian Hamley AM.

We extend sincere condolences to Jean and the Hamley family on their great loss.

Brian was on the Board of Epworth for 20 years and president from 1994 to 2004. He was a visionary leader, remaining on the Board until his retirement in 2008 and contributing to Epworth’s robust growth and continued delivery of excellent patient care. He was a Trustee of the Epworth Medical Foundation from 2003 until now.

Brian will long be remembered and admired by everyone at Epworth.
The Epworth Revue was held on Thursday 20 June and what a night it was! There is certainly a lot of talent that was on display.

It was great to see our cleaners, catering staff, business managers, nurses, carpenters, allied health, doctors, students, administrative staff and executives taking part or enthusiastically participating in the audience.

It was great to see staff from all areas of the organisation embrace the event with such enthusiasm. The lyrics, humour and general fun of the night was wonderful to experience. An event like this would not have been possible without the many talented people who bravely performed on the night.

A special thank you to the Organising Committee led by Eileen Hannagan, Brandon Howard who was MC on the night and Mark Wilson and Jenny Rose for their direction. Also to be acknowledged for their efforts are the “movers and shakers” who made the night happen – Louise O’Connor and Melissa Lizza; and Tom Rose and his team for collecting the tickets and welcoming everyone so warmly at the door.

Staff enthusiastically take part in the inaugural Epworth Revue.
The Hon David Davis MP, Victoria’s Minister for Health and Ageing, officially launched Epworth Radiation Oncology at the Richmond site on 31 July 2013.

Operating from Epworth Richmond and Epworth Freemasons, Epworth Radiation Oncology services complement the existing medical and surgical facilities at Epworth – enabling the coordination of all cancer treatment within a comprehensive program for private patients.

Delivering exceptional patient care to an increasing numbers of Victorians with cancer was at the forefront of Epworth’s decision to assume responsibility for the control and operations of a hospital-based radiation service.

All modalities of cancer treatment – surgical, medical oncology, chemotherapy and radiation oncology are available within the one site. This provides greater comfort for patients, support for families and increased communication between clinicians.

Over the last fifteen months, Epworth has established its own radiation services and rebuilt, re-furbished, purchased the latest technology as well as recruited a team of dedicated professionals to work in the supportive and caring Epworth environment.

A comprehensive range of external beam radiation therapy treatments, including brachytherapy and Stereotactic Radiation is now available at Epworth Radiation Oncology.

Epworth is currently the only private hospital in Australia to have installed the Novalis® Tx™ stereotactic radiation machine – able to deliver higher doses of radiation in shorter treatment times – destroying cancerous cells while minimising exposure to the healthy tissues nearby.

Through Epworth Radiation Oncology, patients are able to participate and benefit in a range of clinical trials and research. Future training of oncologists and surgeons in the use of the Novalis® Tx™ machine will take place at Epworth under the teaching hospital model.

Donors through Epworth Medical Foundation have embraced the service and provided funds to support accommodation and transport needs for patients requiring assistance to have their radiation treatment at Epworth Freemasons or Richmond.

Nursing Care Guides

Following an extensive review and audit of documentation compliance and practices across the acute areas at Epworth, it has been decided to introduce Nursing Care Guides.

The urology specialty has been nominated as the first area to pilot the newly developed Nursing Care Guides which will gradually replace care paths in each specialty. The pilot program will be conducted at 5 North (Epworth Eastern), 1 East (Epworth Freemasons) and 7ES (Epworth Richmond), commencing next Monday 17 June.

Each Nursing Care Guide contains an educative component about the procedure or illness it pertains to. The guide will include definitions, aetiology, diagnosis options and complications to be aware of. The guides also include day by day care interventions set out under the banner of ISOBAR and can be used as a tool to assist with a comprehensive bedside handover.

We believe the Nursing Care Guides will support our evolving nursing workforce to produce improved patient outcomes.
Churchill Fellowship – Congratulations Nataliya!

Epworth was proudly represented at Government House on 26 July when the Honorable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria, awarded Dr Nataliya Shkuratova the prestigious Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation Churchill Fellowship.

Nataliya is a Senior Neurological Physiotherapist working with the Epworth Rehabilitation Team. As one of only 23 Victorian recipients, Nataliya will use the Fellowship funding to visit the UK and the Netherlands. Her field of study is multidisciplinary falls prevention interventions that can effectively protect older Australians from falls after discharge from hospital.

Nataliya is particularly grateful to a number of people within Epworth who have played an instrumental role in her success; Marg Jack, Adam Turnbull, Mari Botti, Sharon Howell, Bronwyn Mace, John Olver, Alan Kinkade and Jen O’Brien.

We are all extremely thrilled for Nataliya and commend her project which reflects Epworth’s pursuit of excellence and commitment to safety and quality of care.

Making a point of care

The Private Hospitals Association of Queensland hosted the 10th Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference on Monday 17 June to showcase innovations in the private hospital sector.

Epworth Eastern Quality Coordinator Jacqui Smith and Nurse Coordinator Duncan Palmer presented their ‘Point of Care’ submission – which had been selected as a finalist. Awards were then given at the end of the day for the best innovations in clinical and non-clinical areas.

Epworth Eastern’s presentation was very well received, dominating question time, and with a lot of interest from executives from other hospitals. This resulted in it being one of two winners in the Clinical Innovations section.

Jacqui and Duncan would like to thank Clinical Information Specialist, Andy Fodor, who played a key role in the development of the Point of Care system and all the executive and nursing staff who have contributed to making Point of Care the success it is.
Tribute to Abba
Kate & Angus Galati (Ansell)

Maree Feery & Chris O’Neill

Matt & Nicole Waldron

Ken & Janet Latchford

Tribute to Abba

Peter Sheppard makes a pledge

Peter McCrinn, Eileen Hannagan & Megan Robertson

Paul & Sharon Fenton

Peter McKinna, Eileen Hannagan & Megan Robertson

Epworth staff hit the dance floor

Paul & Deb Stephenson

Maryann McCusker & Gary Thwaites

Nick & Tricia MacLean (Special Events Committee)

Nathan Bibby & Melissa Bodycoat (Health Super)

Paul & Sharon Fenton

Maryann McCusker & Gary Thwaites

Paul & Deb Stephenson

Nick & Tricia MacLean (Special Events Committee)

Tribute to Abba

Louise O’Connor and Isobel Smith

Kate & Angus Galati (Ansell)
Megan Robertson, Bronwyn Mace, Eileen Hanagan, Lyndsey Crowhurst, Scott Bulger

Volunteer Melita Brown helps out on the cashiers desk

Staff from Epworth Radiation Oncology

Ted & Robyn Baillieu

Susan Wardle & John Wool

Megan Robertson, Bronwyn Mace, Eileen Hanagan, Lyndsey Crowhurst, Scott Bulger

Tracey Scott, Kathryn Johnston & Vanessa Dannock

Peter Jones & Alison Kinkade

Robyn Beddison & Alan Kinkade

Srecko Lorbek & colleagues

Epworth Corporate staff

Simon & Tania Reilly

Epworth Corporate staff

Epworth Corporate staff

Ted & Robyn Baillieu

Volunteer Melita Brown helps out on the cashiers desk
The Rotary Club of Port Melbourne were very grateful for the recent donation of birthing beds, incubators and hospital cots from Epworth Freemasons’ Maternity Unit.

Epworth’s contribution made up a significant part of Port Melbourne Rotary club’s recent shipment of medical equipment destined to re-equip four small regional hospitals in the earthquake affected area of Chile’s southern Andean region.

Epworth Freemasons, along with several other Melbourne-based hospitals, got behind the project and in a space of four to five months, were able to fill a 40 foot container with medical supplies and equipment which made its way across the Pacific Ocean to Chile.

The goods which weighed in excess of 11 tonne arrived on 8 August 2013 and were transported, stored and distributed by more than 20 local Rotary club members.

The project started with a request for help from Mr. Diego Velasco von Pilgrimm, the Consul-General of Chile, who is based in Melbourne and is himself a Rotarian. Velasco von Pilgrimm’s request was picked up by the Rotary Club of Port Melbourne and Rotary’s ‘Donations in Kind’.

Maternity Services Manager Robyn Ackland, Engineering Manager John Hines, Engineering Team Leader Greg Hansen, and midwife Kerry Eacott, were the key drivers from Epworth Freemasons, responsible for getting the project going.

The total value of the donations is estimated at more than $80,000 and was entirely donated by Melbourne hospitals and companies, including Epworth Freemasons.

On Thursday 18 July, Group Safe Moves Coordinator Coral White celebrated her retirement after 33 years with Epworth. Coral was joined by her husband Bruce, and many past and current colleagues.

Coral commenced at Epworth in March 1980 and over the years has held a number of senior clinical positions including Nurse Coordinator, Clinical Nurse Consultant for Care Paths, Acting Nurse Director and Acting Associate Operations Director. Coral also trialled and evaluated the Day Hospital Coordinator position which was then implemented in 2001, before joining the Occupational Health and Safety team in 2004 as the Group No Lift Coordinator.

Coral’s integrity and commitment to Epworth over the last 33 years is a true credit to her. In more recent years she has been a respected member of the OHS/Human Resources Team.

WE WISH CORAL WELL IN HER RETIREMENT AND FUTURE ENDEAVOURS AND TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK HER FOR THE WONDERFUL CONTRIBUTION SHE HAS MADE TO EPWORTH, WHAT A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT!

Joining forces with Rotary to help earthquake victims

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Pre-pregnancy planning classes a huge success

Epworth Freemasons initiated a new program designed to connect early with couples thinking about having a baby and planning for pregnancy. With experts in fertility, exercise, diet, nutrition, genetic counselling and a GP from the Epworth Freemasons Women’s Health Clinic, the night attracted a much larger audience than originally anticipated. Close to 200 people attended what was a very successful event with more than 75% of attendees rating the evening ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’.

The response from both the participants and the enthusiasm of the speakers has ensured the continuation of the program with another workshop scheduled for October 2013.

Facebook for pregnant mums

The Epworth Freemasons Facebook Page is gathering momentum as the impact of social media continues to rise. With two to three new posts each week the page is generating some real interest with new mums and their families.

There are two pathways through to the page, one with a focus for couples thinking about having a baby and the second for those already pregnant but wanting to connect with the Epworth Freemasons page. So far most of the messages and commentary has been very positive! Go onto facebook and ‘Like’ the page to show your support.

Improving staff services

Successfully rolled out across the organisation this year, My Epworth is live and available to all staff, providing 24/7 online access to:

- view personal details and maintain contact details
- view pay details and view and print pay slips
- view leave entitlements, leave taken once approved and project leave balances.

Made viable by the completion of the My Epworth roll out, Epworth has taken the ‘green’ mission a step further by ceasing printed pay slips during September 2013.

Further information about My Epworth can be found on the My Epworth intranet page. Should you require further assistance, please email the My Epworth Team at: EC.MyEpworth@epworth.org.au
Epworth Eastern

Just a note to thank all the AMAZING staff at Epworth Eastern. I recently had a procedure and I could not have received better care. Even before I reached the hospital, I spoke to two wonderful ladies who were extremely professional and thorough. On the day, EVERY nurse, doctor and staff member I encountered was attentive, friendly and meticulous in their duties. I was made to feel incredibly comfortable and was so relaxed knowing that I was putting my health in the hands of this group of capable, confident and good natured individuals. I sincerely hope you get this kind of feedback regularly as it is much deserved.

I even heard a fellow patient expressing that exact sentiment even before we went in to our respective procedures. I just had to make sure I sent my thanks and utmost respect to the staff and this fantastic hospital.

Thank you so much!

Epworth Radiation Oncology

Dear Hannah, Emma, Louis, Lloyd, Ethan, Sedd and all the Epworth Freemasons Radiation Oncology team,

Your wonderful smiles, professionalism, compassion and care have truly helped make what has been a difficult time, that bit more bearable and given me a reason to smile when I arrived and left each day. That is truly remarkable when you consider not only my circumstances but also the many other people you are faced with, all day every day, who are going through a difficult time in their lives. The fact that you are all consistently so friendly and upbeat is a testament to you all. Thank you for being so wonderful to me. I will miss your smiling faces but will smile knowing how many other people are having their journey made that little bit easier because of you.

Wishing you all the very best for the future – I know you will go far!

Epworth Richmond

Dear Sir,

In recent weeks I have had a number of visits to Epworth, two as a day patient and one as an inpatient for a few days.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks for the attention and assistance I was provided by the hospital staff. From the ward, cleaners, to the nurses, I cannot thank them all enough for their kindness and professionalism. The way they all looked after me made my times in hospital that much easier.

I would also like to thank the various medical professionals involved, Dr Peter, Dr Dundee and the numerous others who I cannot name, all had my interests at heart.

I have heard the long standing jokes about hospital food but let me say that every meal I had while at the hospital was tasty, of good quality and plenty of it.

I know that it is hard to thank individuals in such a large organisation and particularly when so many people are involved but I am truly thankful.

Yours faithfully,

Patient

Epworth Radiation Oncology

I am writing this to express my utmost satisfaction with the Epworth Radiation Oncology team at Clarendon Street. Everyone in the department has been very friendly and caring beyond my expectations and past experiences. I have been to a few healthcare centres in Melbourne and none has been on par to your team.

Without a doubt the leadership shown has played a great part in achieving this as well as dedication, team work, spirit and above all, a sense of “care” for patients.

Well done and congratulations to you and the Epworth Radiation Oncology team!

Regards
Emergency Department

Dear Alan,

This is a follow up letter of thanks one week after I was allowed to return home from Epworth after a bout of salmonella poisoning.

From the moment I arrived at your Emergency Department on the evening of 5 June to be admitted almost immediately and attended to by doctors, nurses and support staff in a most timely and professional manner, as sick as I was, I knew I was in good hands.

I stayed in the Emergency Department all night and was transferred to 7ES the next day. At that stage I realised after only missing two days of work in 40 years that I was going to break my record and was told firmly by Professor Richards and the various doctors and Epworth personnel that there was no quick fix to my problem.

The first class care continued through until my discharge. The professionalism in a medical sense was first class, the facility for when one is so ill, comforting and spotlessly clean and dignified.

The staff and by that I mean the Professor, the doctors, nurses and the many unacknowledged heroes from the cleaning area, maintenance, pharmacy, catering and even the accounting department, all showed to me why Epworth is one of the leading hospitals in the world.

Thank you again.

Epworth Eastern

On Thursday 4 July, I had surgery on my leg at Epworth Eastern. I was very impressed by the high quality of care provided to me by the nursing staff during my overnight stay, and I thought it was important to provide some feedback.

The recovery ward nursing staff are amazing. Due to my slow recovery from surgery I spent a longer than average amount of time in the recovery ward, but I noticed an amazing team of nursing staff who probably receive little acknowledgement for the extremely important work that they perform.

The recovery ward nursing staff are a team of dedicated professionals who were focused on helping me experience a fast and smooth recovery. In particular, Tracey kept me informed, calm, and comfortable, and also took the time to share a few laughs with me - which I truly appreciated. She helped me relax during a time which would have otherwise been quite stressful. Additionally, Bronwyn also went out of her way to ensure that I was comfortable and well cared for.

The nursing staff on 5 South are also an amazing team of nurses. In particular nurses Rachel, Shelley, Valerie, Maggie, and the student nurse Katie, all provided me with excellent, high quality care. They each took the time to get to know me, and understand my needs, and how to best assist my recovery. Without their help and dedicated support I would not have been able to leave the hospital after only one night.

I hope that these nurses are commended for the high quality care that they provided me.

Kind regards,

Epworth Richmond

Hi,

I was admitted to Epworth Richmond on Thursday 20 June 2013 for a coronary angiogram with A/Prof Dr Ronald Dick. I would like to take this opportunity to Sincerely thank all the staff at Epworth Richmond, from reception and admissions to discharge, for being so attentive and caring during my stay in your hospital. Altogether, it was a very positive experience.

Your management team Should be proud of the people they are choosing for their team and the culture they have engendered in your hospital. Of course my thanks goes to Dr Dick for performing what I’m sure is a complicated procedure, flawlessly, and from my perspective making it seem so straight forward. Special thanks to the nurses in the prep and recovery sections and in theatre.

Kind regards,
Epworth Richmond – redevelopment update

The redevelopment at Epworth Richmond continues to make excellent progress, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of medical treatment in Australia.

A key component of the redevelopment is the refurbishment and expansion of the main theatre complex and recovery area on level three. Handover and subsequent commissioning of the 26-bed post anaesthetic care unit (PACU) occurred in July.

Two new endoscopy suites are expected to be completed in the coming months. Stage four of these works is also underway, which includes a further 14 beds for recovery and two new theatres. Completion of these works is scheduled for early 2014.

The internal staircase which extends from the ground floor to level three was unveiled in August, along with an impressive chandelier giving a great first impression to visitors.

Internal demolition works of the current 62 Erin Street building commenced in July to make way for the new Emergency Department, 26-bed Intensive Care Unit, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, consulting suites, new inpatient rooms, six new theatres and additional car parking.

The expansion of the hospital and improvement to existing services will assist in meeting the health needs of a growing population. By providing an increased capacity within contemporary facilities, it will enable us to improve the functional relationship between departments and operational efficiency of Epworth’s people.

Epworth Camberwell took a giant leap forward over the Queen’s birthday long weekend with the opening of a brand new rehabilitation area, comprising 34 new beds. Patients were transferred into new state-of-the-art patient rooms in a staged transition during the three days.

The $40 million redevelopment of Epworth Camberwell, which commenced in 2012, will result in a total number of 146 beds for rehabilitation and mental health patients.

When complete, the 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.

The redevelopment of our existing rehabilitation centre incorporates provision for mental health services and the development of a ‘wellness precinct’ for patients to access and have benefit from other services available to them onsite.

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The $40 million redevelopment of Epworth Camberwell, which commenced in 2012, will result in a total number of 146 beds for rehabilitation and mental health patients.

When complete, the 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.

The redevelopment of our existing rehabilitation centre incorporates provision for mental health services and the development of a ‘wellness precinct’ for patients to access and have benefit from other services available to them onsite.
Epworth recognises the importance of providing positive feedback to staff for a job well done. The quarterly CEO Dinners provide an opportunity for the organisation to say thank you to those staff who have made an outstanding contribution.

Epworth Eastern hosted the quarterly CEO Dinner on 26 July with a Christmas in July theme. On the night, 47 staff were presented with an award from Alan Kinkade and their Executive team.

As part of the festivities, each table had to create a Christmas decoration from art supplies which included pipe cleaners, coloured icy pole sticks and baubles.

The results of the quarterly Patient Satisfaction Survey have been released, with some very positive outcomes identified.

Over the past twelve months there has been a significant increase in Epworth’s percentile ranking which has seen a move from the 43rd to the 57th percentile since the last quarter. This increase in patient satisfaction is being driven predominantly by improvements in the Nursing Care scores across all acute sites, as a result of a continued focus on staff training and hourly rounding on patients.

There is work that still needs to be done across all divisions to ensure we not only maintain strong patient satisfaction results, but that each quarter we continue to improve in this area.
Superannuation Update
As you may have heard in the news, the Federal Government has increased the minimum employer superannuation guarantee contribution (SGC), in effect increasing all Epworth employees’ current salary packages. From 1 July 2013 you will notice your Superannuation contribution has now increased by 0.25%.

Salary Packaging Update – Meal Entertainment
In other good news for Epworth employees, the maximum amount staff can salary package in Meal Entertainment expenses has been increased by $20,000pa (up to a maximum of $22,000) and is still subject to a cap of 50% of the employee’s gross salary. For further information please review the salary packaging policy on the intranet.

Lease Motor Vehicles Update
For those who lease a vehicle there were also potential changes posed by the Government relating to how fringe benefits may be applied to new leases. This proposal is yet to become law and we understand discussions are still being had with the industry around these proposed changes. Nevertheless, as with all financial and packaging matters, Epworth HealthCare encourages all staff, especially those with leasing arrangements, to seek independent financial advice. Staff can also contact Advantage Salary Packaging on (03) 9822 3455 should they have any questions.

Have you heard…

BETWEEN 1 JULY 2013 AND 1 JULY 2019, YOUR EMPLOYER SUPER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EPWORTH WILL INCREASE FROM A MINIMUM OF 9% TO 12%

Father son team in ICU
Epworth’s Director of ICU Dr Benno Ihle gave a presentation alongside his Intensivist son, Dr Josh Ihle, at a recent Cardiac / ICU meeting held at Epworth.

This is the first father-son Intensivist combination in Australian ICU history. They presented to Doctors and staff on ‘Post Cardiac Resuscitation – the job is not done yet’.

Dr Ihle (junior) has recently commenced his first ICU consultant position at the Alfred after graduating from Newcastle University.

HDR brachytherapy success
On Wednesday 3 July Epworth Radiation Oncology treated its first high-dose-radiation (HDR) brachytherapy gynae vault patient. Everything went very smoothly and Epworth Radiation Oncology looks forward to many more great milestones.

 HDR brachytherapy uses a relatively intense source of radiation delivered through temporarily placed applicators.

A number of people have been instrumental in getting the HDR program at Epworth Radiation Oncology up and running and it is due to their efforts and willingness to assist every step of the way, that the HDR programs have already seen such great success.
National pyjama day

The Patient Revenue team were forgiven for showing up to work in their pyjamas on Friday 21 June, as it was all done in support of The Pyjama Foundation’s National Pyjama Day.

It was founded by former Australian of the year Bronwyn Sheehan, to raise awareness of the disparity in educational outcomes experienced by Australian children in foster and alternative care.

The Patient Revenue team raised $70 on the day with all funds going towards a learning-based mentoring program for children in foster care.

Well done to all those who took part!

Introducing BOSSnet – Scanned Medical Record

Epworth HealthCare has commenced the implementation of Scanned Medical Records (SMR) throughout the organisation. The Project Team have demonstrated the system BOSSnet at Grand Rounds, Medical Advisory Committee meetings and other forums over recent months.

Upon discharge, a patient’s paper-based medical record will be scanned into BOSSnet which allows it to be accessed immediately from any location (both internal and external) and can be viewed by multiple clinical staff and doctors at the same time.

The initial go-live in early September has enabled real-time Pathology and Radiology Results for all Epworth users and an organisation wide roll out of the scanned medical record is being staged with completion planned for March 2014.

In preparation to go-live, the Project Team will be holding Information Sessions and specialised training for users. More information about the SMR Project can be found on the intranet via the BOSSnet Learning Centre or by contacting the team directly at SMRP@epworth.org.au

Epworth recently held open days across each site, inviting prospective graduates to tour our hospitals and learn more about our education program. The open days provide an opportunity to enhance the profile of nursing as a profession; and importantly highlight why new graduate nurses and midwives would want to commence their careers with Epworth.

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.

The open day at Epworth Richmond was a great opportunity to showcase the new Clinical Education and Simulation Centre and impressive library facilities. Different scenarios were set up in the labs to illustrate the benefits of learning in an interactive environment.

The open days are an important part of Epworth’s commitment to the future generation of healthcare professionals.

Above The Clinical Education and Simulation Centre at Richmond was showcased at the Open Day

Above The Patient Revenue team
Town planning approval for Epworth Hawthorn

Town planning amendments lodged by Epworth for the Hawthorn site have received council approval. Building works will include a new Functional and Work Retraining Centre.

The Functional and work retraining centre, managed by the Occupational Therapy team, is a unique therapy area. It is used to identify safety and competence to return to specific tasks and to gain an understanding of our patient’s physical and cognitive strengths and limitations.

This new service offering means that patients being treated at Epworth Hawthorn will no longer need to be transferred to Richmond to take part in the Functional and Work Retraining Centre.

Running for Connor

In September 2011, 17 year old Robert Connor Dawes ran from his home in Sandringham to the boatsheds on the Yarra as part of his training for the upcoming rowing season. Two months later, Connor was diagnosed with an anaplastic ependymoma, a type of malignant tumour.

Major surgery resulted in loss of movement to his right side, impaired vision and short term memory loss. Connor was determined to improve and spent hours each day at Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton working on his physical and mental rehabilitation. Throughout his ordeal, Connor never stopped smiling.

After leaving a lasting impression on the staff who cared for him at Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton, Connor sadly lost his battle with brain cancer. To continue his legacy, Connor’s family set up a fund to support brain cancer research.

Connor’s Run is a fundraising event that was held on Sunday 15 September to raise funds to further understand, and more completely treat brain tumours.

Members of Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton volunteered on the day and assisted with sponsorship for the event.

Kane Construction has recently been awarded a Master Builders Excellence in Construction award, recognising the work they completed as part of the Clinical Education and Simulation Centre at Epworth Richmond.

The award acknowledged Kane’s outstanding craftsmanship and commitment to excellence in construction, particularly within a complex working environment, and the strong collaborative approach between Kane, Epworth and the consultants.

The level 5 works include new teaching spaces, simulation rooms, operating theatres, a student library and various staff and student areas. In addition, Kane completed the new oncology department on level 4 of the Bridge Road tower that include a renal dialysis patient treatment area plus new staff bases, consulting suites and a welcome lounge.

The project was delivered not only at a very high quality, but on time and with almost zero defects.

Kane look forward to continuing the great working relationship with the redevelopment team and thank Epworth for the opportunity to work with such a great organisation.

Master builders in excellence

Top Day Medical and Day Oncology Unit Above Clinical Education and Simulation Centre

Robert Connor Dawes Fund Presents

Connor’s Run

Epworth HealthCare

Shore to Sheds