Successful World NeuroRehabilitation Conference chaired by our Professor John Olver

Leading international experts gathered in Melbourne in May this year for the 7th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation (WCNR) held at the Melbourne Convention centre in Docklands over four days from 16–19 May. There were more than 1800 people from 54 countries and people from all over Australia in attendance.

Epworth Rehabilitation’s Professor John Olver, who is also Chairman of this Conference said it was a marvellous opportunity for Australian healthcare professionals to learn about the latest global advances in patient treatment across a broad spectrum of illness and injury.

The WCNR represents a crucial step in bringing together the foremost experts to discuss the latest clinical advances and research in neuro-rehabilitation.

“The Conference is a focal point for local, national and international discussion or debate on the latest developments in areas such as traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, stroke, spasticity management and neuro-oncology,” Professor Olver said.

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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.

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As we move into the second half of the year it’s clear that the winter months are well and truly upon us! The cold weather hasn’t slowed things down here though – many great achievements and goals have been met in the first half of 2012.

The 7th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation (WCNR), which was held over four days between 16–19 May was a tremendous success. It was an honour and a privilege for Melbourne to be chosen as host city for this world-renowned event and it’s the first time it has been held in Australia. After playing an instrumental role in helping bring the conference to Melbourne, Professor John Olver Medical Director Epworth Rehabilitation and Victor Smorgon Chair of Rehabilitation Medicine were given the prestigious role of chairing the conference.

Leading international experts gathered to discuss the latest clinical advances and research in neuro-rehabilitation to the 1800 strong crowd. It proved a focal point for local, national and international discussions on the latest developments in a number of neuro-rehabilitation areas.

An event of this scale would not be possible without the enormous efforts of a number of key people. I would like to thank and congratulate in particular, Professor John Olver and his team, for ensuring the success of the conference. All those involved should be extremely proud.

It proved a wonderful opportunity for our leaders when Gail Kelly, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Westpac Group, visited Epworth in March to speak at the most recent Twilight Leadership Session.

Gail spoke passionately about the lessons she has learnt as a leader – which has seen her progress to being Australia’s first female CEO of a major banking corporation – as well as balancing family commitments. Her warm personality and generous approach made her an inspirational speaker. At the end of her presentation, guests were given the opportunity to ask questions which were responded to openly and constructively. With an outstanding attendance of more than 100 in the Epworth Richmond auditorium, the session was a huge success.

Record numbers attended this year’s Friends of Epworth Race Day lunch function with many staff, doctors, volunteers, supporters and suppliers involved. More than 400 guests helped raise record funds on the day, to support much-needed equipment purchases at Epworth.

Accreditation is fast approaching, with Epworth scheduled for an Organisation-Wide Survey in the week commencing 22 October 2012. Staff are preparing for this phase of the Accreditation Program by assessing how we currently measure up against the updated Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) – EQuIP5. It is a framework for managing health services to ensure quality and safe care practices are maintained. This is done by reviewing and improving practices to benefit patients and improve their clinical outcomes. Any areas where standards are identified as not being met, will be addressed as a priority.

We have once again achieved the prestigious Employer of Choice for Women citation for the 11th consecutive year. We have been an Employer of Choice for Women since the citation first began in 2000–2001 and we are the only health care provider to have achieved this!

Epworth continues to position itself as an Employer of Choice for Women to attract and retain the best female staff in a highly competitive market for skilled employees. We continue to demonstrate our commitment to equality in the workplace by meeting stringent criteria that differentiates us from our competitors, and through maintaining a workplace that values men and women equally.

It is with much sadness that I advise that Peter Dohrmann, Executive Medical Director, has tendered his resignation which will take effect as at 30 June 2012. Peter has done a great job during his time at Epworth and is a fantastic colleague to many Epworth staff and doctors. After recently completing ten years as Epworth’s first Executive Medical Director, he believes the time is right for change both for him and for Epworth. He is confident that Epworth’s teaching hospital agenda will be further developed under new leadership.

There is a lot of activity happening around the organisation and the remaining six months of the year are sure to be as exciting as the first. I encourage all of you to take the same levels of momentum and enthusiasm into the second half of 2012, to ensure we continue to achieve many more great things together.

Alan R Kinkade
Group Chief Executive
Epworth leaders enjoy visit from Westpac CEO

The fifth in a series of Twilight Leadership Development forums was held on Tuesday 27 March 2012. The series is designed to provide an opportunity for leaders across Epworth HealthCare to learn from significant business leaders about their journey and experiences, as well as providing a networking opportunity.

It was an honour and privilege to have Gail Kelly, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Westpac Group, speak at this forum. With an extensive record of achievement in financial services, Gail shared her own career and leadership journey, which has seen her progress to being Australia’s first female CEO of a major banking corporation.

Gail spoke passionately about the lessons she has learnt as a leader and balancing family commitments.

Gail believes that we need to choose to be positive, have the courage to make difficult decisions and always be ‘in the moment’. At the end of her presentation Epworth Leaders were given the opportunity to ask questions which were responded to openly and constructively. This was followed by a gathering where people across divisions came together to share challenges, discuss ideas and talk about what they learnt.

Gail’s warm personality and generous approach made her an inspirational speaker. With an outstanding attendance of 100, the Twilight Leadership session was a great success.

Please keep an eye out for information relating to the next Twilight Leadership Session.

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALAN KINKADE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER WESTPAC GROUP GAIL KELLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FINANCE LIZ CAMILLERI, EPWORTH PRESIDENT JANET LATCHFORD AND WESTPAC’S ADAM CARROLL

Epworth welcomes new Director of Robotic Surgery

Urologist Mr Daniel Moon has been appointed to the inaugural role of Director of Robotic Surgery. Daniel has an exciting vision for the growth and development of robotic surgery at Epworth and officially took up the role on 16 April.

Daniel will play a leading role in the expansion of robotic surgery at Epworth and will ensure comprehensive integration of robotics with our clinical governance systems and with our academic strategy.

Epworth Salutes Motown

This year’s Epworth Gala Ball will be held on Saturday 8 September at the Palladium at Crown. Titled Epworth Salutes Motown, entertainment will include a tribute to The Supremes, vocalist Matt Hetherington – a finalist in The Voice – and dance band Beyond Belief.

Tickets to the black tie event are being offered to staff at the heavily discounted price of $170 per person (normally $245 each) through salary sacrifice representing a further $50 saving when deducted from staff members’ gross salary.

Bookings can be made in tables of ten providing each staff members’ name, payroll number and number of tickets required. Please contact Kathryn Johnston in the EMF on 9426 6359 to reserve a staff table.

Table booking forms are also available on the intranet.
The WCNR was hosted by the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM) of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), the World Federation of NeuroRehabilitation and the Australian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment. More than 1,800 delegates fill the Convention Centre which ran lectures, symposia and workshops on the full spectrum of neuro-rehabilitation topics, including advances in clinical practice and research across neurology, molecular and integrative physiology and rehabilitation in the aged care setting.

Leading the discussions and presentations were various national and international speakers including:

- Professor Bruce Dobkin (Professor of Neurology and Director of the Neurologic Rehabilitation Program at the University of California)
- Dr Tessa Hart (Institute Scientist at Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute in Philadelphia)
- Professor Jurg Kesselring (Head of the Department of Neurology at the Rehabilitation Centre in Valens, Switzerland)
- Dr Klemens Fheodoroff (assistant medical director in the Department of Neurorehabilitation Gaital-Klinik)
- Dr Maurizio Corbetta (Norman J. Stupp Professor of Neurology, and Professor of Radiology and Anatomy and Neurobiology at the Washington University School of Medicine in Saint Louis).

Professor Dobkin, who was sponsored by Epworth, is known for his research into Neural Repair, gait learning, functional neuro-imaging and sensors for monitoring interventions and outcome measures. He delivered the George Burniston Oration.

The program included 600 sessions with some of the highlights covering:

- Stroke/treatments/early intervention/physical rehab
- Community Integration and Caregivers experiences/families resilience
- Childhood ABI and subsequent parental responsibility
- Soldier-related brain injuries
- Spinal cord injuries/Neuroplasticity and neural repair
- Parkinsons Disease
- Neuro Oncology
- Rehabilitation of sportsmen with robotic reconstruction, walk after spinal cord injury.

Professor John Olver asked his audience whether stroke rehabilitation units are offering different treatment than they were 20 years ago while UK expert Marion Walker put the challenge to her audience: Is a bill of rights for stroke patients necessary to ensure they receive up to date treatments in stroke rehabilitation?
Thank you and farewell

Peter Dohrmann

First female surgeon to perform robotic surgery

Epworth Gynaecologist Dr Catarina Ang made history in March when she became the first female surgeon in Australia to perform surgery using the da Vinci robot.

More than 40 Epworth HealthCare surgeons — all male — have used this advanced surgical technology for cardiac, urological, gynaecological, and colorectal surgeries, since the robot was introduced to Australia by Epworth in 2003.

Dr Ang who works at Epworth Freemasons has a specialised interest in gynaecology, laparoscopic surgery and infertility issues. Both surgeries performed by Dr Ang on 31 March 2012 were a great success.

New hope for diabetes sufferers

Eleven patients at Epworth HealthCare became the first people in Australia to receive a new device that has successfully treated Type 2 Diabetes in Europe and South America — helping patients lower their blood sugar levels and achieve a weight loss of more than 20 per cent.

EndoBarrier® Therapy includes implantation of a new device — the EndoBarrier® Gastrointestinal Liner — a thin, flexible, tube-shaped Teflon liner that forms a physical barrier between food and a portion of the wall of the intestine.

The surgical procedures were performed at Epworth on 31 March by Dr Harry Frydenberg, who said that the device has been intensely studied in 13 clinical trials and in more than 500 patients. Epworth is the first hospital in Australia to introduce this technology and treatment.

DR HARRY FRYDENBERG AND HIS SURGICAL TEAM WITH NURSES FROM 7ES WHO CELEBRATED THE FIRST FOR EPWORTH PATIENTS

After 26 years at Epworth, first as a neurosurgeon and, for the last decade as Executive Medical Director, we are sad to bid Peter Dohrmann farewell as he steps down from his role on 30 June 2012. Peter has done a great job during his time at Epworth and is a much-liked and respected colleague to many Epworth staff and doctors.

Peter commenced with Epworth in 1986 as a neurosurgeon, having completed his training in Dallas and London. In 2002 he was appointed our first Executive Medical Director, a role he combined with his surgery until 2010 when he took up the management role full-time. Having seen many changes over this long period, and having been a part of our teaching hospital developments, Peter believes the time is right for change both for him and for Epworth. He is confident that Epworth’s growth and development will be further developed under new medical leadership.

We wish Peter well in the next stage of his career.
Tenders were called for in May for two major projects at Epworth Richmond including Day Oncology, Renal Dialysis and Prototype Rooms on Level 4 of the Bridge Road Tower; and the Education and Simulation Precinct on Level 5, Leigh Place. Tenders have been assessed and Kane Constructions have been engaged as builders for these two projects.

These works will provide additional Day Oncology Chairs (increasing from 6 to 24) and additional Renal Dialysis chairs, (increasing from 7 to 16). Both of these areas are anticipated for completion in December 2012 and to be operational in early 2013.

A further two prototype rooms are also being developed that will be utilised as normal patient rooms whereby the users i.e. nurses, patients, staff and visitors can provide feedback on the functionality of the room. The outcomes of this feedback will help determine the layout of future patient rooms within the redevelopment.

The Education and Simulation Centre – on Level 5 Leigh Place is anticipated to be operational in early 2013. The Executive has relocated from this area to the Ground Floor in the Pelaco Building, to allow for this redevelopment.

Epworth is also investigating the feasibility of refurbishing the Main Theatres on Level 3 that will provide an additional 3 Theatres, to be operational in mid 2013.

As we move into the second half of 2012, the redevelopment at Epworth Richmond continues to progress well.

Level 6 of the Bridge Road Tower (BRT) is now fully tenanted as specialist consulting suites and Level 5 is fully occupied by OrthoSport Victoria and they are enjoying their brand new surroundings.

The handover of levels 7–9 took place late last year and the final defects on levels 7–9 of the Bridge Road Tower are currently being rectified. The receipt from Council for the plan of subdivision is imminent. Once the plan is received, the new levels can begin to become occupied.

The new driveway and drop off zone is nearing completion with the final car park closure having occurred in May. The installation of the final pieces of the feature stone is nearing completion. The hospital entrance is easily found with the grand façade clearly identifying the area.

The new lift within the Bridge Road building is coming along well with the lift lobbies to the upper levels currently being fitted out and the railings being installed within the lift shaft.

The Management and Executive of Epworth would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their ongoing support while we go through this redevelopment phase.
Excavation of the basement levels is now largely completed along with the pad footings, in preparation to pour the ground slabs for the basement in July. The tower crane has been commissioned following its recent installation which occurred in two stages across consecutive weekends.

Construction Engineering (CE) continues to work well to keep the site operational, however Melbourne’s winter has hampered progress with a number of days lost to inclement weather. This situation is expected to improve once the ground slabs are poured.

The first major handover is still scheduled for late-January 2013. This includes basement car park and part of the lower ground level including main reception, consulting and administration. This will allow CE to access the internal spaces for refurbishment and completion of support spaces, including the new kitchen.

At completion in 2013, Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell will comprise a total of 146 beds, 68 being new, for rehabilitation and psychiatry patients. Together with this the Camberwell site will also have new consulting suites, therapy rooms, ancillary retail and support services, a new purpose built kitchen and 98 extra car spaces taking the capacity onsite to 154.
Record breaking race day

A record 420 guests attended the Friends of Epworth Race Day at Moonee Valley Racing Club on Saturday 31 March. Guests enjoyed a great day of racing, fashion prizes and even taking home some winnings from the Punters’ Club!

MC and guest tipster Rob Gaylard led the proceedings whilst Network Seven’s Lynda Kinkade presided over the judging in the Fashions on the Field.

The highlight of the day was hearing from guest jockeys Danny Brereton and Lonny Milham speaking positively about their experiences at Epworth Rehabilitation following their tragic falls during racing.

President of the Friends of Epworth Committee Jenny Henderson thanked everyone for attending and making the day such a great success. Chief Executive Alan Kinkade made particular mention of the major donors Construction Engineering, Device Technologies, Johnstaff, Medtronic, Medownick Laser Surgery, Silver Thomas Hanley, Slade Pharmacy and table sponsors Aurecon, Bidvest, Bonacci, Communications Australia, Embassy, Gallagher Bassett Services, Health Super, In VitroTechnologies, LGI, Melbourne Pathology, MIA, GWA, Ourtel, Schneider Electric, Telstra, VNS and Vital Healthcare. Altogether the event raised $65K towards much-needed equipment across Epworth.
1: PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF EPWORTH
JENNY HENDERSON (CENTRE) WITH
BEVERLEY SHERREN & SHERRYN DOVE

2: SPONSORS BIDVEST

3: NURSES FROM GROUND EAST AT
EPWORTH FREEMasons: (L–R) LUCY
SCHULZ, MICHELLE KIRRANE, AOIFE
RYAN, MICHELLE LAING, EMMA
GLEADON, MELISSA FAKHRI, SARAH
BRADY, LOUISE CALY & JACQUI SINFOTT

4: TOP ROW: ANITA & DAMIAN ARMOUR,
GREG ALLEN, MICHELLE & ROSS
HULTGREN; BOTTOM ROW: SANDY
MORRISON, JOHN & ANNE MULDER,
KYLIE MASON & BERNADETTE MORRISON

5: ALAN AND DENISE KINKADE

6: MC & GUEST TIPSTER ROB GAYLARD
AND NETWORK 7’S LYNDA KINKADE
JUDGE THE FASHIONS ON THE
FIELD COMPETITION

7: SPONSORS JOHNSTAFF

8: SPONSORS DEVICE TECHNOLOGIES

9: MC ROB GAYLARD (CENTRE) INTERVIEWS
INJURED JOCKEYS LONNY MILHAM AND
DANNY BRERETON

10: FARAI MUFUKA, LEANNE STELLA,
SHEILA DALY, GARRY FEHRING,
SUZY MCLEAN, ANDREA HUNTER &
CRISTINA MARGUCCIO

11: SPONSORS GWA GROUP
Celebrating our nurses

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth. The theme for 2012 was: Closing the Gap, from Evidence to Action.

International Nurses Day is an opportunity to celebrate nursing and the contribution that all nurses make, improving the lives of individuals and their families, the health and wellbeing of whole communities and the wider population.

Executive and Management at Epworth took the opportunity to recognise and thank all of our nurses for the enormous contribution that they make every day.

Epworth prides itself on having a committed, dedicated and caring nursing workforce.

Each division celebrated the day with balloons, cup cakes, lollies, pizza, tea and coffee and even masseurs!

International Nurses Day is a time of celebration and to reflect and recognise the outstanding care that our nurses provide.

We thank all of our nurses for the professionalism and dedication and for the valued contribution they make every day to patient care, service excellence, teamwork and innovation at Epworth.

Our Run Melbourne heroes!

The Epworth Freemasons Endometriosis Support Group and Vascular Health Group are both walking/running in this year’s Run Melbourne to increase health awareness and raise much-needed funds for Epworth.

Together they have raised more than $3,500 which is fantastic! You can help our heroes reach their targets by visiting www.emf.org.au and donating to their online fundraising pages.

Entries are filling fast for Run Melbourne (Sunday 15 July). If you would like to set yourself your own challenge by entering a 5 km, 10 km or half-marathon run/walk whilst raising critical funds for medical equipment and research at Epworth, visit www.runmelbourne.com.au and choose Epworth Medical Foundation as your nominated charity.

EMF is happy to provide a free EMF t-shirt to all those taking part. For assistance with setting up your fundraising page or to find our more information, please contact Louise Bajada – EMF Communications Coordinator on 03 9426 6169.

New procedure a huge success

In May 2012 the first drug eluting balloon was used in a percutaneous cardiac intervention (PCI) procedure at Epworth Eastern.

The patient being treated had had a reoccurring abnormal narrowing of the vessel, medically referred to as a stenosis. This would normally require either a repeat stent procedure—which would entail overlapping layers of stent metal—or open heart coronary bypass graft surgery.

Dr Chris Lim decided that repeat PCI using drug eluting balloon technology, was preferable to both as it would give a result as good as a repeat stent, while avoiding an additional layer of stent metal and its accompanying complications.

The drug eluting balloon was delivered past the restenosed stent and inflated to high pressure. The blocked stent was successfully re-opened, and delivery of the anti-restenosis drug at the site of the blockage will prevent future re-narrowing from plaque regrowth.

This is the first time one of these cases has been performed at Epworth Eastern’s Cath Lab.

A huge congratulations must be extended to the Epworth Eastern Cath lab staff and in particular, to Dr Chris Lim, for the success this new procedure.

DR CHRIS LIM PERFORMS THE PROCEDURE AT THE EPWORTH EASTERN CATH LAB
The 5th annual Women in HealthCare Luncheon was held at Zinc, Federation Square on Thursday 17 May to raise awareness about issues faced by women carrying the breast cancer gene. The lunch, attracting 300 guests also helped raise vital funds towards improving patient care within the Epworth Breast Service.

Guest speakers and Breast Surgeons, Miss Jane O’Brien and Dr Chantel Thornton, delivered an informative and fascinating presentation on “When Cancer is in your DNA Facing the Breast Cancer Gene and Making Life Changing Decisions”.

Patient, Nicky Carp shared her courageous journey after being diagnosed with the BRCA gene, and how her decision to have a double mastectomy changed her life.

Channel 7 Today Tonight Presenter, Lynda Kinkade, was the MC of the event and certainly added to the glamour of the day along with Jane and Chantel (pictured).

President of the Epworth Healthcare Board of Management, Janet Latchford, welcomed guests and thanked sponsors for their support, particularly Advantage Salary Packaging as major sponsor of the event.
The Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) ‘Nursing and Health Expo’ will be held this year on Sunday 8 July at the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton. Established in 1999, the RCNA’s annual Nursing and Health Expo provides the only dedicated event specifically designed to enhance the profile of nursing as a profession.

The event hosts exhibitors from around the country, including educational providers, hospitals and area health services. Epworth HealthCare will have a presence at the expo providing visitors with information on all aspects of what to expect from a nursing career with Epworth.

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

More information on the Graduate Nurse Program at Epworth can be found at www.epworth.org.au/graduateprograms

The Cancer Unit Auxiliary celebrated its 10–year anniversary recently at a brunch held riverside at Master Chef Gary Mehigan’s restaurant, Fenix.

Sixty people enjoyed a magnificent breakfast with guest speaker Elizabeth Cross, Curator from the National Gallery of Victoria and vocalist Robyn Mills.

President, Mary Cole established the auxiliary ten years ago after a family member suffered cancer and was treated at Epworth Richmond. “It is my way of giving something back. The doctors and nurses were just so wonderful,” said Mary.

The auxiliary raises funds for equipment for the cancer unit at Epworth Richmond through stalls, raffles and events throughout the year.

President of the Epworth Board of Management, Janet Latchford and Group Chief Executive, Alan Kinkade praised Mary and her team for their generous efforts over the years assisting to equip the unit caring for cancer patients.

“We look forward to working together in the next ten years!” said Janet.

The Cancer Unit Auxiliary notches up a decade

Attracting our future nurses
$53K raised from golf day for foetal heart monitors

Twenty four golf teams braved Monday’s challenging weather at the Epworth Medical Foundation’s annual charity golf day at Yarra Yarra golf club. Though lightning suspended play for a period, a fun day was had by all. Highlights of the day were the Johnnie Walker tasting tipple on the 6th hole (the perfect elixir!) and the winning teams’ prizes of blue, yellow and black label bottles of whiskey for each team member. $10,000 was also raised from the ‘round of golf for four’ at the exclusive Capital Golf Club.

Money raised from the event will go towards funding new foetal heart monitors at our maternity ward at Freemasons. The new monitoring system will allow doctors to access patient information remotely and midwives to view vital information from anywhere in the ward. This provides greater flexibility, comfort, clinical efficiency and accurate reporting. This wireless and water proof system also allows mothers in labour to move freely, while being closely monitored anywhere in the ward. With more than 3700 babies delivered at our maternity unity each year having advanced monitoring equipment available will help ensure the best outcomes for all babies and mothers during childbirth.

The Chairman of the golf committee, Warwick Brown of Princes Laundry, and event organiser, Jayne Coates were thrilled with the result and would like to thank everyone involved.

Epworth Cliveden welcomes second pain specialist

Epworth Cliveden is developing a new specialty interest with the recent addition of a second pain specialist, Dr Andrew Muir from the Pain Group.

Dr Muir is in fulltime Pain Management practice in both the private and in public hospital system. His interests are in the use of interventional techniques in the control of chronic non-cancer pain, as well multidisciplinary program-based techniques. He joins Dr Richard Sullivan, who also operates at Epworth Cliveden.

Epworth Cliveden is excited about further developing the pain speciality and warmly welcomes Dr Muir.

Prestigious award for 11th consecutive year!

Epworth HealthCare has achieved the prestigious Employer of Choice for Women (EOCFW) citation for the 11th consecutive year. Indeed we have been an Employer of Choice for Women since the citation first began in 2000-2001, and are the only health care provider to have achieved this!

The EOCFW citation is awarded to non-government organisations with more than 100 employees that have demonstrated they have policies and practices supporting women across the organisation, achieving positive outcomes for both women and the business.

Epworth continues to position itself to attract and retain the best female staff in a highly competitive market for skilled employees; and has again demonstrated its commitment to equality in the workplace by meeting stringent criteria and through maintaining a workplace that values men and women equally.
Mariella Salita is an international graduate currently completing her Bachelor of Nursing. On 3 May 2012, Mariella was presented with an award for achieving the highest academic and clinical performance.

Mariella, a student from Deakin University, successfully completed the Collaborative Clinical Education Epworth-Deakin program (CEED) at Epworth Richmond. The CEED program is designed to optimise the clinical learning experience of student nurses at Epworth.

Mariella commenced her graduate year at Epworth in 2012 and is currently working on the cardiac ward, 6ES.

Congratulations to Mariella for achieving great success in the CEED program.

Epworth staff star in triathlon

The Nissan Corporate Triathlon (formally BRW Triathlon) was held on Sunday 4 March 2012. It was another great day out for all Epworth teams who competed in the event. The event was changed to a duathlon (run – bike – run) with the swim leg being replaced by an additional run on Elwood beach due to poor water quality from all of the rain.

Epworth Rehabilitation Richmond had two teams competing with Bern Dornom, Liz Moore and Adrian Sexton making up one team and Sean Smea, Sara Aldous and Jemma Keeves making the second. Epworth Rehabilitation Camberwell had their own team made up of Suzie and Rob Jamieson and Cath Carracher.

A special mention must go to Sean Smea who completed the race in a very quick time and also to Rob Jamieson who was forced to run half the bike course after an unfortunate puncture to the wheel of his bike!

And it was a superb effort to all the first time triathletes – Jemma, Sara and Susie.

A great day had by all with plenty of friendly rivalry and support – well done!

THE EPWORTH TEAM GATHERS BEFORE THE RACE
A number of exciting and interesting research forums took place throughout Epworth Research Week. And, thanks to our new teleconference facilities, several key forums were beamed across to Epworth Eastern and Epworth Freemasons’ ensuring that all staff had access to the presentations.

A large research poster display was held in and around the auditorium for the entire week.

Some of the highlights of the week included:

- The “Medical Statistics Made Easy” Workshop with Sean McGuigan from Biostatistician;
- The Cardiac Sciences Session presented by Professor Paul Myles; and
- The Grand Round which focussed on 100 years of Aspirin and its use in prevention.

The research breakfast, held on Thursday morning, proved to be another great highlight of the week. Associate Professor Silvana Marasco one of our leading cardiothoracic surgeons presented her flail chest study, “Operative Fixation of Fractured Ribs in Flail Chest Injury”, including some early study results. Associate Professor Ron Dick, head of Cardiac Research presented on “Clots in Cardiology: Epworth’s Contribution to International Multi-centre Trials”, which provided an overview of local and international cardiology trials and the use of anti clotting agents.

The Epworth Research Institute (ERI) dinner, held on Thursday 7 June at the Park Hyatt, completed the week’s activities. The ERI grants were announced at the dinner to successful applicants. Well done and congratulations to those who were acknowledged on the night!

ERI GRANT RECIPIENTS 2012

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RESEARCH POSTER AWARDS

38 Poster abstracts submitted

Early Career Researcher: Mr Menino Cotta

Advanced Researcher: Dr Gavin Williams

The week was a tremendous success and would not have been made possible without the hard work from the Epworth Research Institute team, led by Dr Megan Robertson. A special thank you to those organisations who so generously supported the week and that continue to support research at Epworth including Abbott Vascular, Air Liquide, Amgen Australia, Covidien, Ebos Healthcare, Lima Orthopaedics, Mayo Healthcare and Synthes Australia.
The Internet Redevelopment Project is close to finishing with all features and functionality of the new website thoroughly tested. The next major step for this project is populating the website with content. This is an enormous effort, which involves a range of people from all areas of Epworth HealthCare and we are very appreciative of everyone’s input and time.

The new site is expected to go live in early July. The new website has a dynamic visual design and improved features not previously included in our old website. Some of the features are: an online admissions form, intuitive doctor search functionality, online booking for maternity tours, video display and search, an event calendar which can be filtered by event type, robust content search, a news rollup, promo boxes, research projects listing, quick links and an online donation form.

The website launch date will be communicated to all staff, providing an opportunity to promote the new site to patients and doctors.

Please contact Kristina Garla, Internet Redevelopment Project Manager at kristina.garla@epworth.org.au if you have any questions.

Celebrating our volunteers

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who give their precious time to others. The theme for 2012 is ‘Volunteers–Every One Counts’

On Friday 18 May, Volunteer Services Manager Frances Yucedag hosted a lunchtime event in the Epworth Richmond Auditorium to acknowledge and thank our volunteers. There are more than 130 people who volunteer at Epworth. At the lunch, the volunteers were treated to a music trio who performed many classic hits.

The lunch was a fabulous opportunity to pay tribute to our Epworth volunteers, who donate so much time and energy to helping others.

The volunteers at Epworth HealthCare play a vital role in our hospitals by providing information and a friendly face for patients, families and visitors and are valued members of the Epworth community.

Each of our volunteers at Epworth have their own story and their own reasons for volunteering but they all have one thing in common – their selfless commitment to helping others.

1: THE MUSICIANS ENTERTAIN THE GUEST WITH SOME CLASSIC NUMBERS

2: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HUMAN RESOURCES MARIEE FEEFY, VOLUNTEER JIM WADE, GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALAN KINKADE AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES MANAGER FRANCES YUCEDAG

3: VOLUNTEERS EMMA AND LAUREN ENJOY THE CELEBRATIONS
Research presented in Kuala Lumpur

The 2012 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress was held in Kuala Lumpur from 6–10 May. The theme of the meeting was “The Making of a Surgeon”. Throughout the congress all aspects of surgical practice were explored.

Research undertaken by the Epworth Breast Service illustrated how altering the standard step-by-step procedure that takes women facing a mastectomy from diagnosis to surgery to reconstruction, can improve the process.

The research was presented by surgical registrar Dr Rhiannon Koirala, who worked closely with Specialist Breast and Oncoplastic Surgeon Miss Jane O’Brien during a rotation at Epworth Richmond as part of her surgical training.

This is a most significant achievement for a very junior surgical trainee and an indication of the ongoing success of the surgical training program at Epworth.

SURGICAL REGISTRAR DR RHIANNON KOIRALA AND BREAST SURGEON MISS JANE O’BRIEN

Preparations commence...

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) is dedicated to improving the quality of healthcare through continual review of performance, assessment and accreditation. Epworth is scheduled for an Organisation-Wide Survey (OWS) in the week commencing 22 October 2012.

Many staff have already commenced preparations for this phase of the accreditation program by assessing the ways Epworth currently measures up against the updated ACHS – EQuIP5 standards. It is a framework for managing health services to ensure high quality and safe care are delivered.

For further information on the accreditation process, please contact your site Quality Manager.

Inaugural nursing grand rounds

On Thursday 26 April as part of its ongoing commitment to clinical excellence, Epworth Richmond held its first Nursing Grand Rounds on Clinical Handover. Successful implementation of clinical handover provides a real-time exchange of information that increases patient safety, improves quality of care, increases accountability and strengthens teamwork.

Epworth Rehabilitation Richmond Director Clinical Services Garry Fehring hosted the event with more than 80 people attending. It was also video-conferenced live to Epworth Eastern and Epworth Freemasons.

Other key speakers included Bernice Redley who spoke about the national standards for clinical handover and Kim Tan who gave a passionate account of implementing nursing bedside handover from a ward perspective.

Corporate Council Elizabeth Kennedy spoke on privacy issues of bedside handover which generated lively discussion.

Special thanks and recognition to scenario participants Eileen Hannagan, Clare Lumley and Alan Kinkade! It was an educational and informative session, as well as being very entertaining!
Molly Meldrum smiling again!

Most of you would have read about the terrible accident involving music legend Molly Meldrum before Christmas last year. After a fall at his Richmond home in December 2011, Molly spent approximately eight weeks in hospital – the first four in the Alfred’s ICU – and four in Epworth Rehabilitation’s Post Traumatic Amnesia Unit.

The much-celebrated music identity shared his hospital experiences:

- I even received a card from Julia Gillard, so I wish her all the best. I hope she’s having a better time than I am!
- Believe it or not while I can’t say I like being in hospital, I know I have been very well supported, and I have enjoyed meeting other patients and their families. We all have a fair bit of rehab ahead of us and we encourage each other in the exercise programs.
- I have missed everybody, missed my work, missed having access to a phone and my laptop – but I know I can re-introduce these things gradually as I get better.
- I have been incredibly well-looked after at both the Alfred and Epworth hospitals. The staff have been tremendous and I am very grateful.

After deliberation by the Epworth Excellence Committee, Tony was awarded first prize, Andrea & Melita second and Rachel third. The prizes were a $250 voucher, $100 voucher and two movie tickets respectively.

Well done to all finalists and to all who have participated through suggestions put forward in the Ideas Centre, leader rounding or via quality projects.

Excellence, everywhere, everyday at Epworth Eastern

On Wednesday, 28 March Epworth Eastern held its third Epworth Excellence award ceremony.

The finalists were:

Rachel Marchenko (EN from 4 South)
For suggesting (via the Idea’s Centre) both the development and placement of signs within the wards to indicate the actual distance around the wards. Nursing staff often encourage patients to be active to aide in their recovery, the signs help them know how far they are walking each time.

Tony Li (Nurse Unit Manager, CSSD)
Tony initiated a waste collection initiative that ensures that kimguard is disposed of appropriately and not into general waste. One tonne of kimguard has already been recycled, without any complaints of cross contamination.

Andrea Kattula and Melita Reis (Educators)
Andrea Kattula and Melita Reis developed an Undergraduate Student Passport. During their time at Epworth Eastern, students can be assigned to a number of different staff. The Undergraduate Passport has been designed to assist clinical staff to handover student’s daily progress to the next staff member. We expect that nurses will find the student passport a beneficial tool that simplifies their role in mentoring students while documenting student progress and competency.

After deliberation by the Epworth Excellence Committee, Tony was awarded first prize, Andrea & Melita second and Rachel third. The prizes were a $250 voucher, $100 voucher and two movie tickets respectively.

Well done to all finalists and to all who have participated through suggestions put forward in the Ideas Centre, leader rounding or via quality projects.

All of us at Epworth wish Molly well as he continues his recovery.

MOLLY MELDRUM WITH HIS MUCH LOVED DOG, IZZY
Celebrating Private Hospital’s Week

The third national Australian Private Hospitals Week, which showcases the diversity of Australia’s private hospitals, took place between 26–30 March 2012. Focusing on community involvement, this year Epworth recognised that behind the scenes, many staff and doctors donate time, energy and money to help others.

Just some of the groups supported by individuals or by Epworth as a whole, include:

- Moira Kelly’s Children First Foundation through pro bono surgery and medical care
- Wesley Mission’s Annual Food for Families appeal
- Down Syndrome Victoria
- The Salvation Army’s Food Outreach Program in the Eastern Suburbs
- The Smith Family’s Learning for Life education program
- Lort Smith Animal Shelter, beyondblue, Medecins Sans Frontieres and Make a Wish Foundation under Epworth’s Workplace Giving Scheme
- Cancer Council’s – Biggest Morning Tea
- Taste of Harmony
- The Marsh Foundation, an Indian orphanage and Timor Leste school rooms.

Throughout the week Epworth took the time to reflect on its participation and support for community charities and groups.

Mekong Challenge raises $30k

The third cycling challenge took place earlier this year raising a tremendous $30,000 for Epworth HeartSmart, our cardiac rehabilitation program.

Fifteen participants cycled for seven days from Laos to Cambodia taking in the natural wonder of the Mekong River. Andrew Shannon was just one participant who took part in this year’s challenge after having had aortic valve surgery in July last year.

Here he shares his experience:

“The trip was a HUGE adventure and a challenge on many levels. Over seven days of cycling our group of 15 travelled through the south of Laos and parts of Cambodia.

Sweating, smiling and waving to the kids in the villages is what I remember most about the journey. There were people aged between 17 and 78 years of age in the group who all proved to be good company and a great part of the journey. Our local, smiling cycling guides were also fantastic.

The place that left the strongest visual impression on me was the bamboo bridge at Kampong Cham, in Cambodia. Sitting on the bridge, watching the sun set on fishing boats on the river and hearing the call to prayer drift on the warm breeze across the water was pretty special indeed.

Thanks to the generous support of friends and colleagues, I raised $3,800 which was well beyond my $2,500 target. I was so pleased to be able to contribute this to improve cardiac care at Epworth.”

Scheduled for 15–24 February 2013 next year’s trip will include nine days of moderate cycling from the hustle and bustle of Bangkok down to the beautiful southern beaches of Thailand. The trip includes airfares, tour leaders, fully maintained bikes, an accompanying support vehicle, most meals and twin-share accommodation. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months. In the meantime please don’t hesitate to contact Jayne Coates on 03 9426 6131 to find out more.

1: PARTICIPANTS ENJOY THE SPECTACULAR VIEWS
2: THE LONG RIDE IS VERY REWARDING
The 2012 Run for the Kids took place on Sunday 1 April 2012. Epworth Richmond Executive Director Eileen Hannagan and the Richmond executive team sponsored an Epworth team at this year’s event.

The run, which was 14.38 kilometres helps to raise vital funds for the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

Well done to the team members involved in the run and thank you to Epworth Richmond executive for their support.

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Epworth Eastern farewells Mr Timothy Pitt

Epworth Eastern farewells Plastic Surgeon Mr Tim Pitt, who retired from practice at the end of May this year.

Tim has been part of Epworth Eastern for a number of years, first working in the Box Hill Gardens Medical Centre and then from day one at Epworth Eastern. Tim’s focus was on delivering exceptional patient outcomes through his work as a plastic surgeon and to that end he built and sustained a successful practice for more than 25 years. Colleagues from both the medical and nursing side are universal in their praise for Tim and his work.

Tim has also been a long standing member of the Epworth Eastern Committee of Clinicians and his opinion was always well regarded by his peers.

We wish him well in his future endeavours.

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2012 Global Corporate Challenge

The Global Corporate Challenge (GCC) is the world’s largest and most exciting corporate health initiative and the only workplace health program of its kind. This year’s GCC is fast approaching. The GCC improves staff health and wellness and promotes strong teamwork.

Last year Epworth HealthCare was the 5th most active organisation in Australia (out of hundreds) which means the bar has been set high!

How does it work?

More than half a million corporate workers from around the world have participated in the GCC and been encouraged to take the World Health Organisation’s recommended 10,000 steps a day.

• Starting on May 24, the GCC is a 16 week virtual walking journey around the world
• Employees form teams of 7
• Organisations can enter as many teams as they like
• Every participant receives a GCC Starter Pack that includes 2 GCC pedometers, a walking backpack and lots of other goodies
• Each day they input their recorded pedometer steps into the GCC website with the goal of achieving at least 10,000 steps a day
• The more active a team, the further they progress along the course, the more amazing locations they visit and the healthier they become.

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Run for the Kids

EPWORTH TEAM MEMBERS GATHER BEFORE THE RUN
World Social Work Day

Tuesday 20 March marked World Social Work Day, which is a day to celebrate the work of social workers around the world!

This annual event focuses on social work contributions to society and is part of an ongoing challenge to improve social conditions worldwide. Themes for this year highlight social workers’ commitment to sustainable social development, human rights and social equity.

Within the Epworth Rehabilitation division, social workers provide assistance in all clinical areas by assessing the impact that a change in health status has on patients and their families. A key focus for social workers is on family support and community integration.

To help celebrate World Social Work Day, Epworth Rehabilitation displayed posters which outlined who the social workers at Epworth are and what they do.

A taste of harmony at Epworth

With one in four Australian workers coming from overseas, there has never been a more important time to acknowledge and celebrate Australia’s diverse workforce. A Taste of Harmony is an annual event that provides Australian workplaces with the opportunity to celebrate the diversity in their workforce.

This year A Taste of Harmony took place from 19–25 March 2012. Each of the divisions took part by preparing foods inspired from countries all over the world. There were plenty of great dishes introduced during the week from Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Throughout the week there were many great dishes to introduce and stories to share!

Epworth research institute breakfast

The Epworth Research Institute held a Research Breakfast on Tuesday 3 April in the Epworth Richmond Auditorium.

The first presenter Dr Gavin Williams, Neurological Physiotherapist at Epworth Rehabilitation and Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, presented on the “TBStrong” study which will compare task-specific strength training with usual care in participants who have experienced a traumatic brain injury.

Second presenter, Dr Megan Robertson, Executive Director of Research at Epworth Healthcare, provided an overview of two important studies that focussed on safety and appropriateness of medications at Epworth: The NHMRC funded Antimicrobial Stewardship program, and the WHO Medication Reconciliation program.

The breakfast proved to be an interesting and informative hour!
Outstanding customer service

To whom it may concern

Dear sir / madam

I would like to make a few comments regarding my stay at Epworth Eastern from the 8 – 11 March, in North Ward 4.

As your records will show I had a procedure done called T.U.R.P I am now at home recovering. As this procedure was arranged on day of admission by the urologist Mr Dennis King I agreed to have it done at once. To get to the point the treatment I got when I got there till my discharge was absolutely faultless from all the staff and I mean all staff who were friendly, helpful, nothing was too much trouble, the cleanliness, the food it seemed like I was in a five star hotel, I would like to mention although I am loath to pick one person as I only know her by her first name which is Jackie, I believe she is a unit manager as I had a couple of minor problems after the operation her knowledge and reassurance made me feel confident and relaxed.

I sincerely hope that this email will shown to all staff involved during my stay at Epworth eastern

Thanking you

Epworth Eastern

Dear Emergency Department staff,

Particularly to those who helped my mother and I yesterday afternoon and evening and on Saturday evening, but also to the others in your team who support you in your work, I wish to give my thanks and let you know how things went after you saw us off.

So far, so good. Once Mum was back in her home last night, she was more amenable to suggestions, settled down to a full meal and then to a snug sleep in her own bed. Mum had the same helper this morning and this evening, who reported that by the evening she was moving better. We’re still not sure if she’ll be able to continue going on weekly bus outings with her day care centre, but the next is a week away and a lot can happen in that time.

I did so appreciate everyone’s willingness to listen to my experience of Mum’s condition, even when things were looking very wobbly. The fact that things went after you saw us off:

Epworth Richmond

Dear Special Care Nursery Nurses,

You are an incredible team of nurses! Thank you so very much for your care over the last two weeks. I have been amazed, inspired, warmed, heartened and comforted by your professionalism, knowledge, loving care, support and warmth shown to me and my baby. I have learnt so much from my time with each of you and I cannot tell you how grateful I am for your practical and spot on advice, endless encouragement and essential “mum training”.

I am going home with a healthy, growing and happy little boy confident and excited about our days, weeks, months and years ahead because I’ve been blessed by the wonderful head start as a result of my time in the Nursery.

I have learnt something each feed and have left my son in your care, confident and completely secure in the knowledge that he was in safe and loving hands. Time (and babies) has not diluted your evident love of babies! It’s a lovely sight to see each of you enjoying your job.

The past two weeks has been a wonderful, life changing experience - I am now a mum - Thank you for your role in helping me embrace this new and incredible relationship. I’m on the other side of the door and won’t look back. Hopefully I’ll see some of you again for round 2 (not hopefully in the Nursery but in the hospital! We’ll see!)

Warmest Regards,

Epworth Freemasons – Maternity Unit

Dear Special Care Nursery Nurses,

You are an incredible team of nurses! Thank you so very much for your care over the last two weeks. I have been amazed, inspired, warmed, heartened and comforted by your professionalism, knowledge, loving care, support and warmth shown to me and my baby. I have learnt so much from my time with each of you and I cannot tell you how grateful I am for your practical and spot on advice, endless encouragement and essential “mum training”.

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Warmest Regards,

Epworth Cliveden

Hello,

My name is Victoria Stewart, I attended your Cliveden Hill facility for a laparoscopy yesterday with Dr. Simon Gordon.

I just wanted to congratulate you on your lovely nursing staff who were all brilliant to deal with. I wanted to note particularly Emily who is an overnight nurse (sorry I don’t know her surname) who I have dealt with before at Cliveden Hill. She is a credit to your facility, please pass on my gratitude and thanks to her manager.

Also, the food was absolutely lovely, like a gorgeous east Melbourne B&B (if not for the holes in my tummy!) – please pass on my thanks to your chef / kitchen team.

Kindest Regards,
Dear Mr/Borg,

I am writing to you regarding my stay at Epworth Eastern (Ward 5S, Room 24) from 18-21 April. I am doing this because very often people don't think twice about firing off complaints, but very few folk send letters to congratulate an organisation on their operations.

Your staff truly do deserve accolades for their focus on providing a quality environment which is empathetic to the diverse needs of a diverse set of customers.

My experience is (sadly) certainly inconsistent with the experience I've had in other hospitals.

My experience clearly demonstrated that you have a workforce who truly cares, as evidenced by the enthusiasm and care in which your staff performed.

Indeed, I wish to record that the time I arrived, through admission processing, and prep for the operation, care and attention on the ward, to discharge, I could not have faulted the efficient and caring manner in which your staff performed.

Would you please ensure that my appreciation reaches the wonderful team concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Thomas.
Exciting developments for Epworth Radiation Oncology

Epworth Radiation Oncology has entered the second stage of its development with the delivery and installation of the first of two new linear accelerator treatment machines to the site in Richmond. These delicate but heavy machines were lifted into the building on the fourth floor by crane, on Saturday 16 June. It will now take a further 8 to 10 weeks to fully install and prepare the machines prior to commencement of patient treatments. The new equipment, known as a Varian Trilogy linear accelerator, is the first of its type in the private sector in Victoria and will offer a broader range of radiotherapy treatments including Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy.

The first stage of our radiotherapy service at Epworth Freemasons is now fully operational and in strong demand. Patient feedback regarding the new service has been particularly positive with many commendations for our new team. Dr Patrick Bowden has been appointed as Clinical Director of Epworth Radiation Oncology and the service is supported by a broad range of Radiation Oncologists from across Melbourne.

Important changes to the private health insurance rebate

Currently, anyone eligible for Medicare who has private health insurance is entitled to a rebate from the Federal Government of between 30% and 40% depending on their age. From 1 July 2012, the rebate percentage will depend on both age and income. Referred to as ‘income testing’, for some people this will result in a reduction in the rebate they receive from the Federal Government.

It is important to note that this won’t affect everyone. Single people with an income of less than $84,000 a year, and couples or families with an income of less than $168,000 are not likely to be affected. Those who have income over these limits, the rebate applied to your Private Hospital Insurance premium by the government may be reduced which means the cost of your private health insurance will increase.

Currently, if your income is over the threshold set by the Federal Government and you don’t have hospital cover, you will need to pay an additional 1% in tax (the Medicare Levy Surcharge).

From 1 July 2012, the new income threshold levels and tax percentages will apply and you may have to pay up to 1.5% in additional tax if you don’t have hospital cover for yourself and your dependants. For a single person earning $100,000 per annum this represents $1250 in extra tax contributions payable for 2012/13 which is more than the cost of basic hospital level health insurance cover.