Epworth honours long serving staff

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Welcome to our final edition of Epwords for 2014.

I am grateful for the recent support of the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation, with Richmond’s Emergency Department the sole beneficiary of the Foundation’s recent charity ball. The Foundation has pledged $200,000 over two years, to assist the continued development of emergency medicine at Epworth and I would like to express my sincere gratitude for their generosity.

Congratulations to the successful applicants for the 2014/15 Epworth scholarships. The number and value of these scholarships has risen to more than $282,000 since last year, thanks to the generosity of our donors, their families and our corporate sponsors. This program provides staff with the opportunity to be and give their best.

In November, we honoured our long serving members of staff with ceremonies across the organisation. Many of those involved were employees for more than 20 years and in this time have made an invaluable contribution to our growth and reputation. I would like to thank each honouree for the incredible commitment these milestones represent.

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported Epworth in the week long accreditation survey in October. We welcomed the extremely positive feedback from surveyors. Congratulations to all our staff and doctors for this tremendous assessment of Epworth.

During the past few months, we have built upon our already advanced patient services and care with investments in the latest equipment and a number of clinical milestones. Epworth Medical Imaging recently completed the installation of the most advanced MRI technology at Epworth Freemasons, delivering advanced diagnostic imagery to our patients.

The recent installation of radiation oncology system, Calypso, at Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Richmond provides our patients with access to the latest localised treatment technology. Epworth is now the single largest Australian provider for this treatment system.

I was pleased with the announcement of our collaboration with Barwon Health and the Victorian Government to provide public health services from our Epworth Geelong site. This partnership will make available important additional services for the local community and reaffirms our commitment to providing excellence in patient care.

The ongoing expansion of our reach and services achieved a further milestone following our successful tender to build and operate a regional cancer centre in Warrnambool. The centre will provide much-needed access to critical oncology services to patients in the local Victorian and South Australian communities and I am excited to confirm Epworth’s involvement.

Good progress is being made on our major development projects at Epworth Richmond and Epworth Geelong. We are also making great progress in expanding theatre capacity at Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Eastern. These additional theatres will be available in early 2014.

The Epworth Annual Report is now available for staff to view via the Epworth website. I encourage all staff to take a moment to view the publication.

I would like to wish all staff a safe and merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year, best wishes to you and your family.

I look forward to another productive year ahead in 2015.

Alan R Kinkade
Group Chief Executive
Epworth long service awards are held annually, to recognise staff who have contributed many years of dedicated service to the organisation. Ceremonies honouring staff who have been a part of the Epworth team for five or more years were held at Epworth Freemasons on 13 November, Epworth Richmond on 14 and 21 November and Epworth Eastern on 1 December. Long serving members of staff from Epworth’s Rehabilitation & Mental Health services were also honoured on 1 December.

Epworth’s longest serving employee, Marg Sims, marked 50 years with the organisation in January this year. For the past twelve years, Marg has been a valuable member of the Level 4 oncology team at Epworth Richmond. She says her early life experiences enabled her to recognise the vulnerability of sick patients and better anticipate their needs.

Her love of babies and children brought Marg to Epworth in 1964, back to her chosen career as a mothercraft nurse. She remained in the children’s ward at Epworth for the next 22 years until the ward’s closure. Marg then took the opportunity to work as a ward clerk for the oncology and dialysis units.

“I was always proud to say I worked at Epworth and I am very happy that it has continued to have a good reputation in the community,” Marg said.

American academic surgeon, who noted that the data from Melbourne would convince even the most sceptical surgeon that arterial grafts are superior and essential. The follow-on presentation in Italy showed that even when arterial grafts cannot be solely used, the greater the proportion of arterial grafts and the fewer the veins (for example two arteries and one vein in a patient having a triple bypass), the better the short and long-term outcome, even in the elderly. This has challenged traditional thinking in this field and was among the conference highlights released to the media by the conference organisers.

Over the past 50 years, improvements in patient survival rates have been achieved through the combined development of coronary artery bypass surgery, percutaneous catheter “balloon” or “stent” therapies and advances in drugs and medications.

Continued on page 13
Rehabilitation in the Home pilot program launches

Epworth’s Rehabilitation in the Home (RITH) program, a 10-month pilot program targeting BUPA patients who have undergone a hip or knee joint replacement, commenced in late September.

The program is an initiative of the rehabilitation team at Epworth Richmond and allows patients to be discharged early from hospital, with rehabilitation continuing in their home. Some patients may be appropriate for RITH following a short burst of inpatient rehabilitation therapy. Patients will be in the RITH program for a maximum of six weeks, dependent on clinical need.

RITH Team Leader, Laura Davidson, says, “What is great about Epworth’s Rehabilitation in the Home Program is that the patients receive excellent continuity of care. We visit the patient before they leave hospital, discuss their expectations and goals and then continue that treatment at home.”

The program has received great support from many orthopaedic surgeons as well as from the Richmond acute treating team, and an expansion to include more health funds and potential case mixes will now be considered. This would not be possible without the encouragement and engagement received from all members of the steering and working groups as well as the staff who are involved with the day to day management of these patients. Thank you to all involved for their commitment to the continued success of this program.

Referrals can be made by contacting: EHA-RITH@epworth.org.au or Laura Davidson, RITH Team Leader. For all enquiries regarding the RITH program, please contact Laura ph: 0427 552 611.

Accreditation – Periodic Review now complete

Well done to everyone who participated and supported Epworth in the week long accreditation survey. On Friday 24 October the accreditation final summation for Periodic Review was presented to Epworth staff by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards survey team.

The 133 actions from National Standards 1, 2 and 3 and mandatory actions from EQiP Standards 11 – 15 were reviewed and all were assessed as being achieved. An indication has been given that some of these will achieve a higher rating of Met with Merit, which will become evident when the draft report is received early 2015.

On top of this, all 17 recommendations from the previous accreditation survey in 2012 were closed. This is a fantastic achievement of which all staff should be extremely proud.

“The feedback from the survey team was very complimentary and this is a testament to the commitment and passion Epworth staff show in their every day work. They commented on the innovation and creativity of the organisation, the obvious patient-centred care and the robust audit and feedback process in place”, said Group Chief Executive, Alan Kinkade.

We are yet to see any formal recommendations from the current survey, but all indications are there will be very few. We welcome this feedback and the opportunity to build on these already excellent results in the future. Thank you to all staff for the enthusiasm and passion shown throughout the week, which has been commented on by the surveyors. The dedication shown to patient care has been well represented, allowing Epworth to showcase the work we do so well each day. In particular, Sharon Donovan, Executive Director of Clinical Services; Lisa Edwards, Group Quality Manager, and the Quality Coordinators within each division are to be acknowledged for their hard work and guidance in the months leading up to accreditation.

“It was great to hear the surveyors speak so highly of our culture, enthusiasm, professionalism and desire to always do better,” Alan said.
Epworth introduces rare surgical technique

Epworth is now one of the only centres in Australia to offer patients a new technique for treating achalasia, an uncommon condition resulting in swallowing difficulties due to a non-functioning oesophageal muscle. Treatment is aimed at improving swallowing by dividing the lower oesophageal sphincter muscle. This is commonly done laparoscopically (with key hole surgery), allowing food to pass more freely into the stomach.

The new Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) technique allows the same operation to be done using a conventional gastroscope, thereby avoiding incisions.

So far a small number of POEM procedures have been performed at Epworth Richmond with excellent results by Mr Gary Crosthwaite, Director of the Clinical Institute of General Surgery and Gastroenterology, who undertook training for the technique in both the United States and Germany.

“This is an exciting new development in the treatment of achalasia, which allows an even more non-invasive way of treating this condition than we had previously. Treatment has progressed from open surgery where the recovery was lengthy to laparoscopic surgery which reduced pain and shortened recovery to a procedure that has no incisions at all.

“Preliminary procedures around the world have been shown to be very safe and effective in allowing patients much better or even normal swallowing. Epworth has been important in encouraging development of innovative techniques across many disciplines to bring world leading treatment to patients,” Mr Crosthwaite said.

Donor aids ultrasound upgrade

Epworth Medical Foundation (EMF) benefactor, Bill Boerkamp, visited the Non-Invasive Cardiac Unit (NICU) in September with his family to see the difference his gift had made to the ultrasound imaging equipment.

Thanks to the major gift of $50,000, the Xcelera echocardiographic diagnostic imaging system was upgraded in July with new ‘strain imaging’ software. The benefits of the new imaging software include:

- Improved assessment of changes in ventricular function
- Early detection of potential cardiotoxicity induced by chemotherapy
- Diagnosis of early sub-clinical changes in all forms of cardiomyopathy

We are grateful to Bill for this fabulous gift which will enhance the accuracy of diagnostic imaging in patients with incipient myocardial dysfunction.

Twilight Leadership Series

On Thursday 23 October, Epworth held its tenth Twilight Leadership Series, hosted by Janet Latchford, President of the Board and Alan Kinkade, Group Chief Executive. The purpose of the Twilight Leadership Series is for leaders at Epworth to draw inspiration from significant leaders in the community, share challenges and discuss ideas with their colleagues.

The guest of honour was The Hon. Jeff Kennett AC who shared highlights of his distinguished career both in and out of politics. Thoughtful questions were asked by the interviewer, Dr Peter Larkins, to learn about Mr Kennett’s views on leadership including the importance of having a vision, being able to articulate it and taking people along for the ride. He also shared his views on the importance of supporting a mentally fit workforce by assisting employee’s reaction to change and of course views on the future of Australia Rules Football.

Thanks to all who contributed to the successful evening, especially Dr Peter Larkins and the Richmond Functions Team for assisting with the offsite event.

Pictured Above: From left, Dr Peter Larkins, Janet Latchford, President, Epworth Board of Management; the Hon. Jeff Kennett and Alan Kinkade, Group Chief Executive.

Pictured below: Director of the Clinical Institute of General Surgery and Gastroenterology, Mr Gary Crosthwaite.
Epworth – Australia’s largest provider of advanced oncology treatment

Epworth is now the single largest Australian provider for advanced radiation oncology treatment system, Calypso, following installation at Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Richmond in September.

The first patient to be treated with the new motion management system underwent treatment in December at Epworth Radiation Oncology under Dr Pat Bowden.

Radiation Oncologist, Dr Andrew See, performed the insertion procedure, which involves using radiofrequency transponders, surgically placed in tumours to actively track and adjust the radiation beams if there is patient movement or due to breathing. This allows radiation therapy to be delivered to a smaller treatment area when breathing would traditionally have to be compensated by treating with larger radiation beams.

Epworth is now the single largest Australian provider of Calypso, following installation at Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Richmond.

“This is the first time this technology will be available to Victorians, allowing Epworth to improve cancer outcomes for our patients. Studies indicate the use of Calypso can allow for a more accurate radiation beam, which translates into treating with higher, curative radiation doses with less associated toxicity,” Paul Fenton, Director of Operations, Radiation Oncology, said.

Epworth oncology patients will also be the first in the country to benefit from a new treatment system, to become operational at Epworth Freemasons early next year. The second generation small footprint Varian Medical Systems TrueBeam STx linear accelerator has recently been installed, with treatments to begin from February 2015. The system is expected to double the number of patients who can be treated at Epworth Radiation Oncology at Epworth Freemasons.

The system has stereotactic radiosurgery capability, which allows for sub-millimetre accuracy for the treatment of many cancer types. The system also has the potential to be used for non-cancer related, functional conditions such as epilepsy, Parkinson’s Disease and tremors when traditional surgery is not applicable.

Nurse Unit Manager Project launch

The Nurse Unit Manager (NUM) Project was officially launched on 21 August, with nurse unit managers from across Epworth attending the event at Epworth Richmond and teleconferencing in from Epworth Eastern.

Group Chief Executive, Alan Kinkade, opened the launch by confirming his commitment in this major initiative that will be made up of four separate projects.

The four projects are designed to ensure Epworth is supporting and investing in our current and future NUMs, so they can be their best and give their best and take pride in the significant contribution they make to Epworth’s continued success.

The projects include:

Job design – A review of current, future and best practice to inform a job re-design for a NUM role

2NUM development – Identifying skills and capabilities NUMs need to be set up for future success

ANUM talent – How can we ensure we are identifying and developing our next generation of NUMs.

Value proposition – Ensuring the NUM role at Epworth is an aspirational career destination.

Starting with the job design project, all NUMs will have an opportunity to individually contribute to this project through surveys and focus groups over the next few weeks.

This is an exciting and important opportunity for us to ensure we are setting our NUMs up for future success.

“We already have one stereotactic machine at Epworth Richmond, and through this new machine type, can now offer complex and precise treatment to our patients at Epworth Freemasons,” Paul said.
Epworth Medical Imaging introduces latest MRI technology

Epworth Medical Imaging has recently completed the installation of the most advanced MRI technology, the Siemens Skyra 3T, at Epworth Freemasons. MRI is the imaging modality of choice for neurological and musculoskeletal studies and the Siemens Skyra 3T MRI will deliver advanced image quality for the brain, spine, musculoskeletal, abdomen and pelvis. The 3T scanner has twice the imaging capabilities of a conventional MRI and is capable of producing images of unparalleled quality and resolution.

It has the unique ability to differentiate between body tissues, enabling excellent visualisation of the grey and white matter in the brain, cartilage, tendons, ligaments in the joints of the body. Epworth Medical Imaging offers an MRI service with subspecialist reporting of all parts of the body including musculoskeletal, head and neck, cardiac, breast, abdomen and the male and female pelvis.

Musculoskeletal MRI examinations reach new levels of resolution with the use of higher definition matrices and ultra-short echo times which result in visibility of the substructure of articular cartilage and other joint structures.

The Siemens Skyra is a wide bore scanner providing improved patient comfort. The wider and shorter bore reduces patient claustrophobia, allows functional assessment of the musculoskeletal system and accommodates larger patients previously unable to access MRI scans.

Epworth Medical Imaging will also offer sedation services for patients.

Siemens Skyra 3T scanner at Epworth Freemasons allows Epworth Medical Imaging to continue to provide a complete and comprehensive imaging service for its patients. For more information or to book an appointment, please contact 03 9483 3377.

Blue Ribbon event supports Epworth Emergency

The Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation Charity Ball was held on 24 October at Crown with Epworth Richmond’s Emergency Department being the sole beneficiary of the gala event.

1000 guests attended the black tie ball which was hosted by the Chair of the Foundation, Bill Noonan OAM, and Victoria Police Chief Commissioner, Ken Lay, with John Deeks as Master of Ceremonies, and entertainment including the popular local band Babba.

The urgent care area within the new Emergency Department at Epworth Richmond was the project chosen to benefit from this year’s Blue Ribbon ball with a total donation of $200,000 pledged over two years.

The Blue Ribbon Foundation was established to honour and perpetuate the memory of members of the state police force who have died during service. In total, 157 Victoria Police members have been killed in the line of duty. The foundation raises funds to support worthwhile community related projects within Victoria.

View Epworth’s thank you video, screened for guests during the ball at www.epworth.org.au.
Executive leaders update

Group Facilities and Procurement

The Group Facilities and Procurement team are actively working behind the scenes on daily operations and projects.

The team is providing ongoing project management services for a number of key Epworth greenfield and brownfield developments, including working closely with the Victorian Government to build the cancer treatment service in Warrnambool. The supply team recently recruited Melanie Valentini as FF&E (Furnishings, Fixtures & Equipment) and Capital Equipment Category Lead, to facilitate many of the capital purchases required for these ongoing projects.

Within the Facilities team, Group Redevelopment Engineering Manager, Neil Caughey, who has been very active in supporting the business for both operational and project-related matters has taken on the task of working solely on the redevelopment projects across the group.

Group Facilities Manager, Tom Hartelt, has joined the team to provide support and guidance to the engineering and maintenance operating divisions. Recently, Tom spent time with the Engineering team at Epworth Richmond in an acting capacity while a new Director of Services is recruited.

The Supply team, headed by Paul Callahan, has been active in renegotiating existing agreements with suppliers and has generated $660K in savings this financial year, with a goal to hit $1m in savings for 2014.

The Prosthesis team have been working with theatre staff, surgeons and suppliers to ensure all prosthesis items are recorded and billed correctly – contributing to the savings target of $1m. Working with Hospital in the Home, a new revenue stream has been developed providing patients with new antibiotic infusion pumps, ensuring the most up to date technology is being used.

James Piplios,
Executive Director,
Procurement and Facilities

Human Resources

This year, the Epworth Human Resources team have delivered on a number of exciting and innovative organisation-wide people and culture initiatives.

Epworth recognises that leadership capability is critical to the success of our strategic goals. Over the last 12 months, 45 people have participated in the Emerging Leaders program and 15 in the Operational Leaders program.

A number of talent programs have also been established to prepare leaders for future roles including Executive Directors, Director of Clinical Services, Business Managers and Nurse Unit Managers.

As an organisation we are continuing to strengthen engagement by monitoring and reporting on the action plans developed as a result of the feedback received from the organisation wide staff engagement survey in late 2013.

This year Epworth is proud to award 57 Scholarships to staff across the organisation for further education and study opportunities, thanks to the generosity of valued donors and sponsors.

The eLearning Plan has been developed and this charts a course to ensure that Epworth achieves leadership in eLearning practices and adoption.

Embedding Epworth’s Workplace Safety and Wellbeing strategy has continued to be a focus including the launch of the safety and wellbeing campaign and the safety selfies initiative.

The Health Professionals and Health & Allied Services Enterprise Agreements were re-negotiated and Epworth transitioned to the new Workforce Gender Equality reporting and has been assessed as compliant.

Significant work has also been undertaken on workforce planning and a new Nurse Unit Manager Program to ensure Epworth’s workforce is dynamically and directly linked to Epworth’s future direction.

Maree Feery,
Executive Director,
Human Resources

Marketing and Business Development

Over the past 12 months the team have been involved in a number of major achievements including the redevelopment of the data Warehouse group to the team this year. This group has delivered on the business plans and objectives for the data warehouse.

A number of key initiatives have also been delivered to provide support and guidance to the engineering and maintenance operating divisions. The team is involved in Epworth's major redevelopment projects and continues to support the organisation.

The team has also continued to support the organisation wide staff updates. We also assisted with applications for and announcements of the workplace health and safety awards, and has supported the organisation wide wellbeing and culture initiatives.

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Human Resources
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As an organisation we are continuing to strengthen engagement survey in late 2013.

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A number of exciting developments are underway in the Academic and Medical Portfolio which stretches across the whole Epworth Group.

These support our aim to be the leading academic healthcare organisation in the not for profit sector in Australia, by integrating education and research with clinical practice.

Undergraduate clinical education continues to grow with total placements in Nursing, Medicine and Allied Health up by 10 per cent on 2013. We now have partnerships with 16 Universities, TAFE’s and training providers to deliver innovative clinical education, including simulation across all of Epworth’s sites. Our Doctors in Training program continues to develop with 26 Registrar posts in 2014, half of these supported by Commonwealth funding through the Medical Colleges.

The Epworth Prostate Centre is an inclusive, whole of Epworth initiative which seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of men with prostate cancer through research, education and service innovation. The Policy Board includes a broad range of Epworth and external experts including Urology, Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology, Population Health as well as the Clinical Institutes for Cancer Services and Uro Renal Vascular.

The medical appointments system is being improved to help create a supportive professional environment that attracts excellent and productive specialists who are committed and aligned to Epworth. Revised Epworth By-Laws are close to release after extensive consultation. A Medical Activity Profile is also shortly to be provided to each doctor, which will give information on activity, quality, audit, productivity, documentation and engagement.

Professor John Catford, Executive Director, Academic and Medical

Marketing and Business Development

Over the past 12 months, the Marketing and Business Development team has continued to support Epworth’s patients, people, services and sites.

The team covers a range of areas including branding, communications, marketing and advertising, digital strategy, GP Liaison and education, business development, business intelligence, media, strategic and business planning.

A number of successful advertising campaigns have been run this year to promote areas of the organisation, most recently Epworth Clinic and Epworth’s Emergency Department. These campaigns included radio, social media, newspapers and the highly praised Fingerprint Ad which received 5000 likes through social media—ten times the average.

The digital marketing team has continued to expand Epworth’s online presence through Twitter, Facebook and the Epworth website and is continuing to look at further opportunities throughout the coming year.

This year, the GP Liaison team delivered 105 education sessions to over 2000 GPs, including full day and evening sessions, webinars and GP clinic meetings. This allows over 160 of Epworth’s specialists to present to GPs on topics of interest and increase the presence of Epworth.

The Communications team recently delivered the 2013-14 Annual Report, and throughout the year continued to provide regular e-news bulletins and quarterly editions of Epwords. This year also saw the roll-out of the enhanced Epworth brand, consisting of an updated logo, colour pallet and templates for branded materials which are now available online.

The team is also involved in Epworth’s major redevelopment projects through stakeholder communication, wayfinding support and regular staff updates. We also assisted with applications for and announcements of the public health contracts at Epworth Geelong and the Cancer Centre in Warrnambool.

Our department also welcomed the Business Intelligence and Data Warehouse group to the team this year. This group has delivered on many major achievements including the redevelopment of the data warehouse and streamlining reporting on key metrics for the organisation.

Susan Wardle, Executive Director, Marketing and Business Development
Breast Cancer Rehabilitation Program launches at Epworth Hawthorn

The Breast Cancer Rehabilitation Program will launch at Epworth Hawthorn in January 2015, following a successful pilot program undertaken at Epworth Camberwell.

Since its commencement, six groups have completed the program, which has provided over 1300 allied health sessions and received more than 75 referrals.

Specialist Breast Care Nurse, Trish Calder, and Pain and Oncology Services Manager in Rehabilitation, Catherine Carracher, in collaboration with Epworth Richmond, Epworth Camberwell and Deakin University, have been the driving forces behind the development and implementation of the tailored program.

“One of the biggest gauges is patient satisfaction. In the most recent group cohort, two patients who participated did so as a result of positive feedback from past patients.

“The success of the program at Camberwell and increasing referrals from central and north eastern suburbs of Melbourne, has resulted in plans to extend the service to Epworth Hawthorn,” said Catherine

“In time, we hope this model can be replicated with other tumour streams and reach more patients.”

The program involves eight weekly two hour sessions, to assist Epworth patients with the residual effects of their diagnosis and treatment that includes an hour of individualised exercise and an hour of supportive education.

Trish also recently organised The Benefits of Exercise in Cancer Care event, held on 30 October, with keynote speaker Dr Bridie O’Donnell discussing strategies to combat the toxic effects of anticancer therapy.

“I was very pleased with the calibre of attendees, ranging from breast cancer rehabilitation pilot program participants to representatives from all oncology areas. It demonstrated the level of interest in the topic and it was a great promotion of the rehabilitation program,” Trish said.

Dr Bronwyn King named ‘Woman of Influence’

Congratulations to Radiation Oncologist, Dr Bronwyn King, named one of the Australian Financial Review/Westpac 100 Women of Influence in 2014.

The recognition follows Dr King’s significant contribution to anti-tobacco lobbying, as Founder of the ‘Tobacco-Free Investment Initiative’.

The initiative involves engaging with Australian superannuation funds to encourage tobacco divestment. Dr King’s work has contributed to 21 major funds implementing completely tobacco-free investment mandates, with a total tobacco divestment to date of $1.3 billion.

Dr King’s initiative is endorsed by many Australian health groups, including Cancer Council Australia, Quit Victoria, VicHealth, Heart Foundation, Diabetes Australia and Lung Foundation Australia.

The 100 Women of Influence Awards, now in its third year, celebrates outstanding women from a wide variety of sectors across Australia. There are ten categories: Board/Management, Public Policy, Young Leader, Social Enterprise and Not-for-profit, Philanthropy, Global Influence, Innovation, Local/Regional, Community, Diversity and Business Enterprise.

Entrants were assessed based on their outstanding ability to demonstrate vision, leadership, innovation and action in and beyond their fields.

Pictured above: Dr King receives the 2014 President’s Award from the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Improving our services and facilities

A number of Epworth HealthCare sites are undergoing redevelopment and expansion works to provide a better experience for our patients, visitors, staff and doctors and ensure we are providing the best clinical care in the best facilities today and well into the future.
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Epworth Richmond

What a change we have seen in our new wing in Erin Street, Richmond throughout 2014. Following demolition works and excavation to five basement levels, a structure has now formed well above street level. We expect to be at the full height of the building by very early in the new year when works will commence on fitting-out the shell.

In other works at Epworth Richmond, we’re building a medical oxygen enclosure at 29 Erin Street, between the car park and hydrotherapy pool complex of the Elim building.

On completion by February 2014, this will supply medical oxygen to the existing Epworth Richmond hospital and the redevelopment along Erin Street.

While we undergo these works, we are also:

• Installing improved lighting to pedestrian walkways
• Improving the landscaping and pedestrian access into the building
• Restoring the condition of the heritage-listed stables, located at the rear of the oxygen vessel enclosure.

In January 2015, the existing level 3 theatre complex at Epworth Richmond will undergo some work to increase storage and office space and improve security around the area, with new swipe-card security doors and CCTV cameras to be installed. We anticipate this project to reach completion by March.

Epworth Freemasons

In addition to the recently installed MRI machine on Albert Street, Epworth Freemason’s has constructed a new waiting area, change room, nurse set-up area and bathroom adjacent to the MRI exam room to support the new function modality.

At Epworth Freemasons on Clarendon Street construction of the first of our additional two theatres is well underway along with new male change room, loans area and Day of Surgery Admissions. Construction of the second additional theatre will commence soon as will the refurbishment of existing theatres on level 3.

At Victoria Parade, the Day Procedure Centre is also undergoing a refurbishment to the reception and waiting area to improve the patient experience and journey. With four operating theatres, an endoscopy room and a 22-bay recovery room, the Epworth Freemasons day procedure centre is one of the largest and busiest of its kind in Melbourne.

The Victoria Parade special care nursery has also recently introduced high-flow equipment for infants with respiratory distress syndrome in the newborn period.

This will help reduce the incidence of transfers to neonatal intensive care and minimise the need to separate mother and baby.

Pictured above: Works on the PS Lee Wing are progressing on schedule.

Pictured below: Works progress on Clarendon Street.
New regional cancer centre to improve treatment access

The vision of Peter’s Project, a campaign to bring improved cancer care services to south-west Victoria, will soon become reality with plans underway to construct the new $30 million Southwest Regional Cancer Centre in Warrnambool, after Epworth HealthCare was recently awarded the tender to manage the project.

Construction of the long-awaited cancer facility, adjacent to the South West Healthcare – Warrnambool Base Hospital, is expected to start early next year with completion in mid-2016. The Southwest Regional Cancer Centre will provide radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment along with consulting rooms and in-house allied health and wellness services in order to provide comprehensive cancer care so that patients can avoid travelling to Geelong and Melbourne for treatment.

“Epworth is excited to have the opportunity to provide such a critical service to local Victorian and South Australian communities. It will save many patients from having to travel to Geelong or Melbourne to have radiotherapy,” said Executive Director, Diagnostics and Radiation Oncology, Damian Armour.

“At the heart of this important project is the cooperative spirit of several stakeholders, working together to jointly provide the very best in cancer care to the patients of South West Victoria. Thanks to the vision of Peter’s Project, a Community Support Centre will be built within the new facility,” Damian said.

When it opens, the centre will have one radiotherapy bunker, with capacity for a second as demand rises and we anticipate 200-250 patients will be treated in the first year. Epworth will operate the radiotherapy service on behalf of the government and treat patients at no cost to the patient.

The centre will also have capacity for 11 chemotherapy chairs located on the second floor with views over Lady Bay. The day oncology service will be operated by South West Healthcare.

It was the late Peter Jellie’s wish for Warrnambool to have its own cancer treatment facilities so that locals would not have to spend long periods of time away from their family and their daily lives while they were receiving treatment in larger cities.

Led by Peter’s wife Vicki, the Peter’s Project committee and community rallied together to raise funds towards a regional cancer centre and lobbied both State and Federal governments for a commitment towards the project.

Peter’s Project raised an amazing $5 million and successfully secured a commitment of $15 million from the state government and $10 million from the federal government to make this cancer facility possible.

Local community to benefit from new health contract

Former Victorian Health Minister, David Davis, announced in October the government’s commitment to a ten year contract of public health services for the Geelong community – provided by the new Epworth Geelong private hospital in Waurn Ponds, under a health contract managed by Barwon Health.

The public/private health contract will focus on services such as same day surgery, chemotherapy treatments, renal dialysis, related ancillary services and consultations when the new Epworth Geelong opens in 2016.

Making the announcement at University Hospital Geelong on 28 October, David Davis said these services will help manage waiting lists in Geelong for public patients in the wider Geelong and south west Victorian community.

“Combined with Geelong University Hospital’s record delivery and performance in elective surgery, this public/private health contract with Epworth Geelong means the people of this region will have available to them some of the best health facilities in the country,” Mr Davis said.

Alan Kinkade, Group Chief Executive, welcomed the announcement, saying that the growing populations of the south west corridor will also benefit from the extra services provided in Waurn Ponds.

“We see this contract as a logical and responsible decision made to procure extra services for the community within the new facility built by Epworth at Waurn Ponds,” Mr Kinkade said.

Pictured below: From left, Group Chief Executive, Alan Kinkade, former Minister for Health, David Davis and Professor David Ashbridge, CEO Barwon Health.
Epworth Geelong

Anyone driving along Pigdons Road in Waurn Ponds will now see the Epworth Geelong site bustling with activity, with the hospital taking shape well above ground.

Currently there are about 200 workers on site undertaking jobs such as concrete pours, installation of fire and water services and steel works.

Brookfield Multiplex expects to have completed the concrete pour for level 2 before the Christmas break. In total, there are seven levels to construct and we expect to have the structure of all floors completed, what’s known as “topping out,” by April 2015.

In the last week of October, the Epworth Geelong project team held open forums for people interested in employment. With the high level of interest shown by people wanting to work at the new hospital, this was an opportunity to provide an introduction to Epworth HealthCare and the new hospital, as well as an overview of the initial thinking around the recruitment process.

More than 350 people attended these forums, all eager to find out more about the hospital.

Question time at one of the Geelong events went for more than 30 minutes, with attendees wanting to know about which services will open on day one, staff car parking and specific roles we will be recruiting for. We are still finalising many of these details and will hold a second series of employment forums in mid-2015 with recruitment to commence soon after.

All Epworth staff interested in applying for a position at the new hospital are encouraged to register their interest online at epworth.org.au/geelong

Fifth Epworth Clinical Institute of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Symposium

The Fifth Annual Obstetrics & Gynaecology Clinical Institute Symposium was held at the Park Hyatt on 12 September.

O&G Clinical Institute Director, Professor Gab Kovacs, Deputy Director, Dr Len Kliman, and the O&G Organising Committee, coordinated an interesting and exciting program which included 15 Obstetrics & Gynaecology specialists from Melbourne.

Epworth welcomed from the United Kingdom internationally renowned special guest speaker, Professor Catherine Nelson-Piercy, who gave presentations on issues relating to obstetric medicine including cardiac disease, thyroidism and connective tissue diseases in pregnancy.

Professor Stephen Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences from the University of Melbourne, joined the dinner and gave a light-hearted after dinner talk about his experiences in O&G.

The program attracted a record number of delegates with 191 registrations from all over Australia and New Zealand and another 60 staff, sponsors and special guests attending on the day.

Thank you to sponsors, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, High Tech Laser, Melbourne IVF, Melbourne Pathology and Morash IVF for their support.

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Pictured above: An aerial view of the construction site in Waurn Ponds.
Epworth a world leader in coronary artery surgery

Continued from page 2...

The initial development of coronary artery surgery in the US involved the use of saphenous vein grafts to bypass blocked coronary arteries. Unfortunately, it became clear that vein grafts had a limited life expectancy with around half blocking within 12 years, and more recent studies suggest they may in fact contribute to the continued progression of coronary artery disease. The operation was subsequently improved with the development of coronary arterial grafts from the chest wall called internal mammary grafts.

In patients with extensive coronary artery disease this was a major advance but the role of arterial grafts has been limited in most parts of the world, with the standard bypass operation becoming one mammary artery and a variable set of vein grafts. From 1995-2010 surgeons at Epworth reduced the use of saphenous vein grafts and used internal thoracic or mammary and radial artery grafts; many abandoning the use of saphenous vein grafts.

Associate Professor Hayward said, “The challenge for the team now is to use this research, both to continue to derive the best outcomes for Epworth patients through our community expertise of all arterial grafting, and to use our international recognition as leaders in this field to highlight to physicians and patients alike that Epworth remains Australia’s leading centre for treatment for coronary disease.”

The final results of the randomised trial coordinated by Professor Buxton, Associate Professor Hayward and co-workers are expected to be published in early 2015.

Putting Epworth Richmond’s Emergency Department on the map

An advertising campaign has been launched across Melbourne promoting the location and services of the Epworth Richmond Emergency Department.

The campaign includes radio, newspaper and metrolite advertising, as well as direct mail to local residents, digital and social media.

Epworth Richmond’s Emergency Department is accessible from 34 Erin St, Richmond. It’s the largest private hospital emergency department in Victoria with on-call specialists, state of the art radiology, pathology and fully monitored cardiac bays.

It’s also attached to the largest private intensive care unit in the state so there’s no better place for comprehensive medical care, especially in life threatening situations such as cardiac arrest and serious illness.

Emergency services and facilities include resuscitation and diagnostic equipment for all emergencies, an x-ray room, fully monitored cardiac bays, and a fast-track area for minor injuries.

Bulk billing is available to all Epworth staff and their immediate family who visit the Epworth Emergency Department.

Epworth Richmond Emergency Department, 34 Erin Street, Richmond. Call 03 9426 6303 or visit epworth.org.au/emergency
Congratulations to our safety selfie competition winners!

Congratulations to the winners of the safety selfie competition. We received many wonderful and creative shots and the decision was a difficult one so we awarded joint first place winners, who split a $1000 prize, and included a number of special mentions, who received a double movie passes.

First place went to Epworth Richmond, 2LP and to Epworth Eastern, ICU. Second place was awarded to Epworth Eastern 2North – $500 towards a team activity, third place, Epworth Freemasons, Short Stay Unit – $300 toward a team activity. Special mentions went to John Savvidis in the Engineering Department; Patient Revenue and Epworth Eastern theatre staff.

As part of the competition, Epworth staff logged on to a purpose-built, mobile-friendly website where they were asked a series of questions on safety in the workplace, based on the area of Epworth they work in. Those who scored well were then able to take a ‘safety selfie’.

Epworth’s Executive Director, Human Resources, Maree Feery, said the initiative was about involving staff in safety education in a fun and relatable way.

“Workplace safety is such a broad and complex topic that often when safety messages are circulated within an organisation, staff can feel bombarded or disengaged from the message they are receiving”.

Well done and thank you to everyone who participated. Collages of all the submissions received for the competition were installed across Epworth during Health and Safety Week 20-30 October.

We’re for safety
Epworth Safety Selfie
Life’s better in a safer workplace.
Epworth. Better.

A piece of Epworth history
During a recent stay at Epworth, patient Stephen Dobney shared with staff these images of his mother. The amazing gallery shows midwife Jean McLaughlin during her time with Epworth in the 1930s.

Jean spent much of that decade training and working at Epworth, eventually rising to head of department.

Staff may visit the news and events section of the Epworth intranet to view the full gallery.

Pictured right: Midwife Jean McLaughlin
A first for Epworth Cath Labs

The first non-surgical closure of the heart’s left atrial appendage (LAA) at Epworth was performed at the Epworth Richmond Catheter Lab in August.

The left atrial appendage (LAA) is a muscular pouch connected to the left atrium of the heart. In patients with atrial fibrillation, which causes an irregular and rapid heartbeat, this rapid beating can put patients at increased risk of blood clots. These blood clots tend to form in the LAA, increasing the risk of stroke should clots be pumped out of the heart.

Closure of the LAA involves insertion of a catheter through a small incision, usually in the groin. Once the catheter reaches the heart, a closure device is guided through the catheter to seal the LAA entrance.

Catheter Lab staff underwent training in the procedure with Cardiologist, Dr Vince Paul, from the Royal Perth Hospital.

Epworth Richmond Catheter Lab Manager, Letch Nadaison Krishnan, said, “Four patients have so far undergone the procedure by Associate Professor Tony Walton with proctoring by Cardiologist, Dr Vince Paul.

“The procedures went very well and Dr Paul complimented the team for its efficiency and good result.”

Pictured above: Assoc Prof Tony Walton and Dr Vince Paul preparing the device for implantation.

Epworth Annual Report 2013/14 now available

The Epworth HealthCare Annual Report 2013/14 is now available to view at epworth.org.au, following its presentation to the Board of Management in November.

The Annual Report highlights Epworth’s many achievements during the last financial year and the numerous ways our staff and doctors contribute to excellence in patient care across the organisation.

Requests for a hard copy of the Annual Report can be sent directly to the Marketing & Communications team by emailing ec.communications@epworth.org.au.

Further detail on research at Epworth is also now available to view as a supplementary document on the website.

Celebrating 25 years of dialysis at Epworth

In October, Epworth’s dialysis unit turned 25 – having been established as the first private dialysis unit in Australia on 4 October 1989. Since then the service, based at Epworth Richmond, has experienced many changes and considerable growth.

The dialysis unit was established by Professor Gavin Becker with Lee Douglas (Dialysis co-ordinator at Royal Melbourne Hospital at the time) providing the groundwork and helping to acquire staff with dialysis training and experience.

The service began humbly, with just three outpatients referred from the Royal Melbourne Hospital and receiving treatment in a single room.

Today Epworth is able to treat patients with different needs including those commencing dialysis, acute inpatients, and people who need ongoing dialysis while holidaying in Melbourne.

Unchanged is the excellent standard of care delivered to patients and the friendly rapport between staff, patients and their families.

A celebratory barbecue held at Epworth Richmond on 10 October to celebrate the anniversary raised over $600 for Kidney Health Australia.

Pictured above: Dialysis staff and friends celebrate the unit’s anniversary in October.

Patient journeys to Epworth for reconstructive surgery

Thanks to in-kind support from Epworth and the pro bono work of maxillo-facial surgeon Professor Andrew Heggie, 17 year-old Bradley Bola from Papua New Guinea underwent major surgery at Epworth Richmond in November.

Bradley was born in 1996 with Crouzon’s Syndrome – a disease where some bones of the skull and face fuse and therefore do not grow normally during foetal development.

Bradley was first brought to Melbourne by Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) for treatment in 1998 and then again in 2007.

During this second visit, Prof Heggie performed major craniofacial reconstruction during six hours of surgery at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, to enlarge and realign Bradley’s skull and facial bones.

Bradley’s mother Nellie stayed with him in his room for four days and afterward with hosts from Rotary for four weeks.

ROMAC is very grateful to Prof Heggie and to Epworth for donating the hospital bed and theatre costs. They are also very thankful to the kind staff across Epworth – on the ward, in the medical imaging departments where Bradley has had multiple CT scans and X-Rays and in the bistro.
Doctors hold ‘The Epworth Conversation’

The inaugural Medical Leaders Dinner: ‘The Epworth Conversation’ was held on 2 October at Carousel in Albert Park. Hosted by Executive Director, Academic and Medical, Prof John Catford, and entertainingly led by ABC presenter Virginia Trioli, the evening was a great step forward in doctor engagement.

The Epworth Conversation brought together 120 of Epworth’s medical leaders from all sites and Clinical Institutes. Eight Epworth Board members and twelve Epworth Executives also participated in a lively discussion with a frank and fearless exploration of The Epworth Conversation themes: ‘What’s working well’, ‘What’s not working so well’ and ‘Where should we go from here?’ This built on the lessons gained from the recent Dr Satisfaction survey, enabling a more detailed exploration of the key topics.

All of the messages from the tables were collated on the evening with some key areas emerging:

- IT support: access to clinical information
- Local engagement: practice and cultural change
- Facilities: new services and expansion

An action plan derived from the feedback will be circulated as a guide for future initiatives.

The dinner also provided an opportunity to present this year’s winner of the Peter J Dohrmann Medal. A/Prof Craig Lynch will use the travel and study grant (valued at up to $10,000) to develop advanced skills and techniques in robotic rectal cancer surgery. Advancements in robotic surgery are helping to improve patient recovery and cancer outcomes and Epworth is now considered a leader in this field.

Influential leaders within medical technologies visit Epworth

On November 10, the Epworth Research team hosted a visit of two Japanese influential leaders within medical technologies, Dr Yoshiyuki Taenaka, Deputy Director of the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Centre, Osaka, and Mr Junichi Azuma, Assistant Manager, Life Science Group, Osaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

The purpose of this visit was to provide the Japanese guests with an opportunity to experience Victoria’s leading edge medical technologies and to explore opportunities to further progress Japanese healthcare in the areas of medical training, research and education. Together with Dr Antonio Rajic of the Victorian Department of State Development, Business and Innovation, the Japanese visitors met with Associate Professor Ron Dick and Associate Professor Tony Walton to observe a CoreValve procedure. This procedure has not yet been performed in Japan.

Director of Clinical Education and Simulation, Tess Vawser, followed this with a comprehensive tour of Epworth’s Clinical Education and Simulation Centre. Our visitors were impressed and grateful to our cardiologists and staff for their time. They certainly left feeling that Epworth is a leading provider of quality healthcare for its patients through the integration of clinical practice with education and research.

A first for Epworth Cath Labs

The first non-surgical closure of the heart’s left atrial appendage (LAA) at Epworth was performed at the Epworth Richmond Catheter Lab in August.

The left atrial appendage (LAA) is a muscular pouch connected to the left atrium of the heart. In patients with atrial fibrillation, which causes an irregular and rapid heartbeat, this rapid beating can put patients at increased risk of blood clots. These blood clots tend to form in the LAA, increasing the risk of stroke should clots be pumped out of the heart.

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“The procedures went very well and Dr Paul complimented the team for its efficiency and good result.”

Pictured above: Assoc Prof Tony Walton and Dr Vince Paul preparing the device for implantation.
Leadership Graduation

On 25 November, 31 individuals who participated in the Epworth emerging and operational leadership program graduated with a Swinburne University Diploma of Management.

Epworth recognises that leadership development is critical to the achievement of organisational goals and objectives.

Epworth’s Leadership Development opportunities focus on enhancing the leadership capabilities of the leader to ensure they effectively lead and manage their staff and to prepare them for future career opportunities.

All of the individuals who graduated have worked extremely hard and should be proud of their achievement.

Executive and leaders across the organisation came to the graduation ceremony to honour graduates’ achievement and success.

Another group of leadership participants are due to graduate in early March 2015.

Hand massage program a comfort to patients

Research has shown patient wellbeing benefits from complimentary care such as massage, in addition to medical treatment. Benefits can include a reduction in fatigue, nausea, anxiety, depression and pain. Patients can also benefit from improvements in sleep, quality of life and mental alertness.

Epworth Eastern launched a hand massage service for patients in October 2013, following the success of the Epworth Richmond program and at the suggestion of Registered Nurse, Sharada Rumi. The service is staffed by volunteers, Jill Segan, Susanne Smith, Elizabeth Voce and Julie Maddock, and supported by Volunteer Services Program Manager, Frances Yucedag. Full training was provided for those who expressed interest in the program.

“The role in this has been very rewarding as I observe patients relaxing, appreciating a hand touch, the time to chat and many times sharing their problems and sometimes loneliness,” Elizabeth said.

“It’s useful to understand how the patient may be feeling on that day. Patients often express feelings of anxiety and fear of the unknown. They are concerned about procedures and the results of tests. Sometimes they are worried about partners and children at home.

“I have not had any patients who did not enjoy the feeling of the personal touch. I had one man who fell asleep, he felt so relaxed. Or sometimes patients will simply want to hold your hand and talk,” Susanne said.

Pictured above: Hand massage volunteers, from left Susanne Smith, Elizabeth Voce and Jill Segan.

Pictured below: Graduates during November’s graduation ceremony.
Chemotherapy Physician Order Entry at Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Richmond

Over recent months, a select number of lead oncologists have been working closely with a dedicated project pharmacy resource from Slade to review chemotherapy protocols in ARIA, in preparation for the initial implementation of electronic Chemotherapy Physician Order Entry (CPOE) in January 2015. Nursing resources from both the Day Oncology Unit at Epworth Freemasons and the Day Medical Unit at Epworth Richmond have also been seconded to the project since mid-October and are working closely with pharmacy and clinical informatics specialists to test the system, develop Nursing Treatment Summaries, identify workflow impacts and approve the system for clinical use. The project, to date, has developed a forum of positive collaboration amongst the Epworth referring oncologists as well as the participating nursing staff. This approach has promoted standardisation in prescribing practices, particularly related to supportive medications in chemotherapy regimens. The project has identified significant changes in how these staff groups will work in the future and includes moving from a paper based system to electronic with a greater reliance on the ability to use a computer at the point of care. The project has identified that effective training and change management will be a critical success factor. Some of the benefits of the advanced ARIA functionality are:

- Increased compliance of chemotherapy orders to the evIQ Guidelines or other approved published standard;
- Real time visibility of the chemotherapy drug order including any amendments;
- Standardisation of end to end processes and use of the ARIA application across the two sites;

Further oncologists and chemotherapy regimens will be added to the system as the project progresses. Project updates will be regularly communicated to doctors and staff however to seek further information about ARIA or the Medical Oncology project, please email: EC-MOISProjectTeam@epworth.org.au

Spotlight on... Department of Veteran Affairs Volunteer Visiting Program

The Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) Volunteer Visiting Program celebrated its second birthday in July this year. Program volunteers visit each DVA patient in the hospital, to provide support and to establish whether they will be returning home to a safe environment with all the required services in place. Patient Satisfaction Surveys are also distributed during visits, to ensure Epworth maintains its high standard of patient care. After the visit, the volunteer will meet with the Discharge Planners to give feedback about the visit. Dependent upon that feedback, the Discharge Planner will implement an appropriate discharge plan. If the patient is admitted and discharged prior to being seen in hospital the volunteer will telephone the patient to establish any care requirements.

“This program would be impossible to function without the input of these dedicated volunteers – they are valued members of the Epworth Eastern team,” said Complex Case Manager & Discharge Planner, Epworth Eastern, June Greaves. “The feedback from The Department of Veteran Affairs, patients, volunteers, their families and Epworth staff has been very positive.”

“I cannot speak highly enough of the volunteers who work at Epworth Eastern. We are all very proud of this program.”
Reasonable Cardiology' symposium

The Epworth Cardiac Sciences Clinical Institute "Reasonable Cardiology" Symposium was held at the Park Hyatt on Saturday, 18 October.

Epworth has been providing cardiology services and cardiac surgery for more than 33 years and many Victorians have benefitted from the skills and dedication of the team at Epworth. This year’s symposium was to celebrate the way things are done at Epworth.

Cardiac Sciences Clinical Institute Director, Associate Professor Ron Dick; Deputy Directors, Mr Aubrey Almeida and Mr Peter Skillington; and the Cardiac Sciences Executive coordinated an interesting program, which included a faculty of 23 specialists.

A lasting and precious memento for families

During the course of their duties, staff often observe the difficulties experienced by the family and friends of palliative care patients and staff have noted how important the preservation of memories becomes for loved ones. This feedback has led to the development of a memory book project, led by the Epworth Freemasons Pastoral Care Coordinator, Gillian Carmichael, with support from the Epworth Medical Foundation and Business Development Manager, Rachel Weston.

At such a difficult time for those involved, the book provides an opportunity for the patient and their loved ones to gather memories, observations, images and other personal information, to build a lasting memento. Working on the project together can alleviate the sense of helplessness and fear and move to an acceptance and focus on what is truly important. The project also provides a chance to focus on a positive activity while in hospital.

"The symbols used in the booklet beautifully capture the meaning of the book. The floral meaning of the Dandelion is that it is a gift."

Epworth doctors celebrate Christmas behind bars

The Epworth Doctors’ annual Christmas Cocktails was held on Saturday, 22 November at the Old Melbourne Goal. More than 180 guests enjoyed a prison themed evening that included prison officers on patrol and a photographer available to take a ‘mug shot’ of guests, complete with their own prison number. The ‘wacky prison band’ also embraced the theme, decked out in prison stripes. Prof John Catford kept the guests entertained with his ‘The Great Escape’ speech, props and all!

From left, Kyle Scott, Lyndsey Crowhurst and Judy Sharp.
Centre image from left, Mr Andrew Bui, Mr Gary Crosthwaite and Prof Michael Richards.

Pictured above: The Epworth Hawthorn choir warm up to perform for patients.

Staff at each Epworth site have enjoyed a Christmas celebration in recent weeks, marking the end of another busy and productive 12 months.

Epworth Eastern staff held an event at the Novotel, Glen Waverley on 28 November, Epworth Richmond and corporate staff at the Hawthorn Arts Centre on 12 December, and Epworth’s rehabilitation staff at the Spirit Station Pier in Port Melbourne on Friday 5 December. Epworth Cliveden held their staff event on 18 December, while Epworth Freemasons staff celebrated at the Carlton Brewhouse on 19 December.

In the lead up to the holiday period, Pastoral Care teams at each site coordinated performances by the Epworth Christmas Choir, now in its fourth year, and various community bands to entertain patients and staff.

The staff choir at Epworth Richmond visits units, the Emergency Department, ICU and waiting areas and patients are also treated to performances by the Salvation Army Band; Trinity Trebles and the Strathcona Choir; Organised Water and the Bill Brown Singers. Epworth Brighton’s newly formed choir also performed for staff and patients this year for the first time.

Epworth Freemasons enjoyed performances from the Salvation Army Band and at Epworth Eastern, volunteer Gill Bell led a choir of staff and volunteers, with Ensemble Q+ donating their time to entertain patients and staff.

Epworth continued its support of the Wesley Mission Melbourne’s Food for Families Appeal this year. Throughout November and December, staff donate non-perishable food items, toiletries, toys and games for children, for Wesley Mission to distribute to families in need during the festive season. Thank you to all staff for their generous contributions, enabling Epworth to provide a large donation to this year’s appeal.

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“The symbols used in the booklet beautifully capture the meaning of the book. The floral meaning of the Dandelion is that it is a gift to a loved one that will provide happiness and is a promise of total faithfulness. The magpie is a symbol of family, and the unwavering desire to protect it. The peacock symbolises eternal vision, past, present and future and the seasons are about the way in which life can mirror these natural events,” said Gillian.

“The key driver has been the emphasis at Epworth Freemasons on patient focused care and the recent very sad spate of deaths from cancer of a younger cohort of patients – dads and mums in their 30s and 40s and the need in the palliative stage to focus on the celebration of life.”

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The Institute was excited to welcome special guest speakers Professor Paul Bannon from Sydney, Dr Jamie Layland from Frankston and Dr Peter Larkins from Epworth.

The program attracted over 160 delegates on the day.

Thank you to the event’s sponsors for their generous support: St Jude Medical – Key Sponsor, Abbott Vascular, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Boston Scientific, Device Technologies, Epworth Medical Imaging, Johnson & Johnson, Melbourne Pathology, and Pfizer.
Introducing the new Mr and Mrs P S Lee Wing

The current redevelopment site at 64 Erin Street, 'Pod 4' will now be known as the 'Mr and Mrs P S Lee Wing'.

The Epworth Medical Foundation received a generous pledge from Mr Lee, Chairman of the Leesville Group of Companies, who is also the major sponsor of Epworth Healthcare’s Corporate Golf Day.

Mr & Mrs Lee have had a long association with Epworth which commenced in 1995 with the funding of Chinese cardiologists and surgeons to further their study in Australia under Professor Yan Lim.

The Lee family has also had associations with Mr Gary Crosthwaite, Professor Geoffrey Metz and Mr Ian Wang and are extremely appreciative of the excellent standard of care which has been provided to them.

Great Wall proves great experience

A group of nine participants raised $50,000 for cancer services at Epworth in October while taking part in a ten-day hike along the Great Wall of China.

The troupe included Radiation Oncologist, Dr Michael Dally; Nurse Unit Manager, Marnie Price; Cardiac Nurse, Kathryn Frawley; and Epworth Medical Foundation’s Kathleen Lambrick; along with members of Epworth’s community.

“Climbing the wall was a great opportunity to put one foot in front of the other and take in amazing views but at the same time reflect on what can be done better in terms of support and innovation for our patients,” Michael said.

“This event has been about teamwork and camaraderie. I feel immensely proud of our achievements and know I have made lifelong friends. Knowing we have raised funds to help provide the best care possible to our patients makes it even better,” Marnie added.

The Hike for Health will be held again from 11-22 September 2015. We encourage staff, patients and family members to participate in this once in a lifetime experience to help raise funds to not only provide our patients with the best care possible, but also to continue the fight against cancer.

For further information please contact the Epworth Medical Foundation ph: 03 9426 6359.

Hot tips for women to age well

The seventh annual Women in Healthcare luncheon was held at Zinc, Federation Square in October with a record attendance of over 400 guests.

Master of Ceremonies and Specialist Breast Cancer Surgeon, Dr Chantel Thornton, introduced the topic of Ageing Well, which included hints on how to slow the ageing process by maintaining a healthy balanced diet, drinking water and less alcohol, exercising routinely, managing stress levels appropriately and having regular health screenings.

Cosmetic Plastic Surgeon, Dr Jane Paterson, addressed the issue of breast health and breast reduction surgery to improve posture and lifestyle and Specialist Endocrine Surgeon, Associate Professor Julie Miller, addressed the issue of bone health and primary hyperparathyroidism, a neglected but curable cause of osteoporosis.

The event was generously supported by Levantine Hill and Singapore Airlines together with corporate sponsors and a successful raffle and auction helped to raise $50,000.

Pictured below: Dr Chantel Thornton (centre), Vanessa Darnock and Scott Bulger (right) from the Epworth Medical Foundation with (L-R) Erin Olsen, Jill Henry, Mya Grayly and Sue Benedykt from Freemasons Victoria enjoy the Women in Healthcare luncheon.
Run for your Life fun run 2015

Epworth is holding its annual Run for your Life Fun Run on Sunday 15 March 2015 from 8.00am around the perimeter of Princes Park, North Carlton. The perimeter of the park is 3.2km.

The fun run includes an event for everyone! Participants can choose to walk or wheel one lap (with families and disabled participants welcome) or run three laps either as an individual or as a team relay. Staff, family and friends are welcome to join in the event as an individual or as a team which is expected to attract around 500 participants. There will be a warm up at 7.45am and light breakfast served afterwards.

The event helps raise awareness about the importance of keeping fit whilst raising funds for equipment, education and research at Epworth.

Registration is $40 per person which will be receipted as a tax-deductible donation. The cost includes entrance to the run, an event singlet or T-shirt, bacon and egg roll, coffee, bottle of water and participation medal. This year we encourage wards and departments to establish teams for a three lap relay. Opportunities are also available for participants to fundraise with prizes being awarded for the top fundraising team.

To register for the fun run go to epworth.org.au/runforyourlife. For further information, contact Kathryn Johnston in the Epworth Medical Foundation on 03 9426 6359.

Introducing the new Mr and Mrs P S Lee Wing

The current redevelopment site at 64 Erin Street, ‘Pod 4’ will now be known as the ‘Mr and Mrs P S Lee Wing’.

The Epworth Medical Foundation received a generous pledge from Mr Lee, Chairman of the Leesville Group of Companies, who is also the major sponsor of Epworth HealthCare’s Corporate Golf Day.

Mr & Mrs Lee have had a long association with Epworth which commenced in 1995 with the funding of Chinese cardiologists and surgeons to further their study in Australia under Professor Yan Lim.

The Lee family has also had associations with Mr Gary Crosthwaite, Professor Geoffrey Metz and Mr Ian Wang and are extremely appreciative of the excellent standard of care which has been provided to them at Epworth.

Mr and Mrs Lee were born in Singapore and moved to Australia in 1983. Since that time they have developed business interests in building development, investment and finance and have been generous supporters of Epworth.

The Mr and Mrs P S Lee Wing will house an expanded Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, additional operating theatres, Cardiac Unit, Orthopaedic and Neurology units and consulting suites. Mr and Mrs Lee will also have naming rights to one of the six new operating theatres in the new wing.

Members of the Epworth Board of Management toured the newly named development site in Erin Street on 1 December.

Correction:

We would like to apologise for an error in the September edition of Epwords. The article entitled ‘Epworth’s first bone anchored hearing aid implant’ named Otolaryngologist Mr Guillermo Hurtado based at the Epworth Specialist Centre in Berwick, as the surgeon who performed this operation in 2014. The first bone anchored hearing aid operation at Epworth was performed by Otolaryngologist, Sherryl Wagstaff at Epworth Eastern in 2011.
Congratulations to our successful scholarship recipients

Thanks to the generosity of donors and sponsors, the Epworth HealthCare scholarship program provides a unique opportunity to support staff in further education and research opportunities.

The program is aligned with our strategic plan – enabling our staff and doctors to be their best and give their best.

The growth in scholarship donations, from 12 last year valued at $71,000 to 58 scholarships valued at $283,200 in 2014, reflects the quality of care our patients and their families receive and their wish to continue to support Epworth and its staff, and the relationships and valued support of our Corporate Sponsors.

Some of our successful recipients will use the scholarship funding to travel to the US and UK to investigate best practice approaches in other hospitals to bring back to Epworth, attend conferences in their area of speciality, and conduct research projects to identify and implement best practice approaches.

Other recipients will undertake further studies to continue to develop themselves for their current and future roles at Epworth to continue to provide excellence in patient care and safety.

In addition to the 2014/2015 Scholarship Program, this is the first year that Epworth is offering a Cleveland Nursing Leadership Intern Program.

This program provides a fantastic opportunity for highly motivated nurses to complete a fully funded two week development experience in March/April 2015 at the pre-eminent Cleveland Clinic in the USA, thanks to the generosity of donors to the Epworth Medical Foundation.

Congratulations to all of the successful scholarship recipients.

Information about the next round of scholarships in 2015/2016 will be available early in the New Year.

Walk For Wellness 2014

By event participant Paige Fitzroy

On 21 November, a group of 11 patients, staff, family and friends of Epworth set off on the 2014 Walk for Wellness along Victoria's magnificent Great Ocean Walk, to raise funds to assist country patients to gain access to cancer treatment at Epworth. The three day hike, organised by the Epworth Medical Foundation, took in the highlights of the Great Ocean Walk from Apollo Bay to the Twelve Apostles.

After setting up base at Bimbi Park, the walk commenced at Blanket Bay where we got our first taste of the spectacular beaches, secluded bays and stunning coastline we were to enjoy for the next couple of days.

Highlights included seeing a number of koalas in their natural habitat, walking on pristine beaches, stumbling across breathtaking coastal views and a visit to the historic Cape Otway Lightstation, including a guided beach tour by Mark Brack (son of the last lighthouse keeper) whose knowledge of the area's ecology, prehistoric significance and more recent maritime history was very entertaining.

The hosts at Bimbi Park, Frank and Katrina, provided a welcome retreat at either ends of the day and we were grateful to the Raw Travel guides, Jo and Angela, who safely and expertly guided the group each day.

The trip concluded at the Twelve Apostles viewing deck on Sunday afternoon with a well-earned glass of champagne and many celebratory photos.

The event raised $15,000 towards the accommodation support scheme for rural Epworth Radiation Oncology patients.

Picture above: Greg Curzon-Siggers presents the Jo Curzon-Siggers Scholarship Award to Marisa Stevens with Epworth GCE Alan Kinkade.

Picture below: The group celebrate their achievement at the Twelve Apostles.
Epworth Medical Foundation challenge event calendar 2015/16

The Epworth Medical Foundation holds a broad range of challenge events throughout the year which provide a set of unique experiences for members of the public, staff, doctors and friends to experience some remote areas of our neighbouring countries far from the well-beaten tourist routes. These challenge events not only provide an inside view of the country but also provide physical and mental challenges and the chance to have fun with like-minded people while raising funds for a worthy cause.

The events have proven so popular that the program has now been expanded and is being promoted for next year so as interested people have plenty of time to prepare, plan and fundraise for the adventure.

Each challenge has a minimum fundraising target to cover both trip costs and a fundraising component. Participants are encouraged to fundraise in support of their challenge through online fundraising partner Everyday Hero or other fundraising activities.

Walk For Wellness – Great Ocean Walk, Victoria
Target: Minimum $2,500 includes $1,500 fundraising
Dates: 13-15 November 2015
Funds: Dedicated to Radiation Oncology Accommodation Support Scheme
A three-day walk along the Great Ocean Walk from Cape Otway to the Twelve Apostles including transfers to and from Melbourne, deluxe cabin accommodation, all meals and snacks, guides and support vehicle.

Heartsmart Cycling Challenge – Sri Lanka
Target: Minimum $6,450 includes $2,500 fundraising
Dates: 20 February to 3 March 2016
Funds: Dedicated to Heartsmart & Cardiac Services
A six-day walk and cycle in Sri Lanka including wild life safari, airfares, accommodation, fully-maintained mountain bikes, all meals and snacks, guides and support vehicle.

Kumano Kodo Walk For Cancer
Target: Minimum $5,790 includes $2,500 fundraising
Dates: 1-10 April and 15-24 April 2016
Funds: Dedicated to Cancer Services
A six-day walk on Japan’s Kii Peninsula including airfares, accommodation, all meals and snacks, guides and support vehicle.

For Further Information
For a detailed itinerary and fundraising kit, please contact the Epworth Medical Foundation: Kathryn Johnston ph: 03 9426 6359 or Kathryn.johnston@epworth.org.au, Jayne Coates ph: 03 94266131 or jayne.coates@epworth.org.au

Hike for Health – Great Wall Of China
Target: Minimum $6,490 includes $2,500 fundraising
Dates: 11-22 September 2015
Funds: Dedicated to Cancer Services at Epworth Freemasons
A six-day walk along the Great Wall of China including airfares, transfers, accommodation, all meals and snacks, guides.

Heartsmart Cycling Challenge – Thailand
Target: Minimum $5,990 includes $2,500 fundraising
Dates: 6-15 February 2016
Funds: Dedicated to Heartsmart & Cardiac Services
A six-day cycle along the Gulf of Thailand from Bangkok to Phuket including airfares, accommodation, fully-maintained mountain bikes, all meals and snacks, guides and support vehicle.
Meet... Saskia Spijker – Medical Imaging Technician, Epworth Medical Imaging

How long have you been a radiographer?
I have been a radiographer for about 15 years. Before coming to Melbourne I worked as a radiographer in Adelaide, the Netherlands and Ghana. I have also worked as a radiographer with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) otherwise known as Doctors Without Borders.

When did you first volunteer with MSF and why?
I started working with MSF in 2010 as a radiographer. MSF is one of the most well respected medical humanitarian organisations and I wanted to challenge myself in a role that would help to improve both access and quality of medical imaging in parts of the world that are in hardship.

What did the role involve?
The role involved being a part of a response team to medical humanitarian emergencies. Sometimes they were natural disasters, political conflicts or providing medical care for epidemics in otherwise neglected communities. I was responsible for coordinating medical imaging, both x-ray and ultrasound. I developed an emergency kit of x-ray and ultrasound equipment that could be immediately deployed anywhere in the world where it was needed. I was then responsible for setting up the x-ray department and employing and training national staff.

How did you find the experience?
Working with MSF for four years was an amazing experience and one that challenged me in so many ways. It was hard going, but it was so important to be able to use my skills in areas where there were so few resources and often many operational restrictions due to serious security issues. Having the opportunity to work in and with communities that were suffering so much changes the way you see the world and your own place within it. The lessons I learnt about poverty and the enormous gap between rich and poor is truly valuable in my life and stays with me, continuing to shape the decisions that I make.

What does your role with Epworth involve?
I started working as a radiographer with Epworth in December 2013 with the opening of Epworth Medical Imaging. I work in general x-ray, CT and mobiles/theatre. I am also currently undergoing my training as a sonographer.

What do you enjoy about the role?
I enjoy being with Epworth because I have the opportunity to work again in a well equipped hospital with great staff. I also appreciate having the opportunity to train in ultrasound and develop a new skill set. Ultrasound is increasingly being used in resource-limited settings in point-of-care medicine and I hope to stay involved in providing imaging services in humanitarian emergencies in the future.

Secure printing at Epworth

Epworth is currently rolling out Utrack print management software that introduces secure printing for staff and allows Epworth to better manage printing, improve printer usage, and generate reports to help manage the costs of printing.

Some of the advantages of Utrack are:
- 20% cost saving across the 292 printer fleet
- 20% reduction to paper usage
- Cost centre costs can be charged by staff rather than the printer’s cost centre
- Confidential printing using FollowMePrint

Utrack has already been implemented across Epworth Brighton, Epworth Camberwell, Epworth Freemasons, Epworth Cliveden, Epworth Hawthorn, the Abbotsford warehouse and the corporate office at Pelaco with ongoing roll out in early 2015 across Epworth Eastern and Epworth Richmond.

The IT Department are briefing managers and staff at each site prior to the go-live as well as providing all instruction sheets and methods of support. Assistance with Utrack is available by contacting the IT Service Desk on 9426 6000.
CEO Dinners celebrate staff achievements

CEO Dinners were held in August and October, celebrating staff achievements during the past few months.

Epworth Eastern hosted a dinner on 14 August at Fountains Restaurant, Box Hill Institute, with a Highland Games theme. Guests took part in highland dancing, bagpipe playing (using balloons) and a haggis toss.

Epworth Freemasons hosted the next CEO Dinner on 16 October at GG’s restaurant in Clarendon Street. ‘Superheroes’ was the theme of the evening and the Epworth Freemasons Executive team, together with the more adventurous guests, wore full costumes.

Standouts were Executive Director, David Nowell, as Captain America; Director of Clinical Services, Leanne Rowlands, as Superwoman; and Divisional Business Manager, Greg Allen, as Spiderman.

The CEO Dinners are rotated throughout the year across the sites to recognise staff for their outstanding achievements and excellence in service.

Congratulations to all award recipients.

Pastoral Care team undertake spiritual immersion course

Four Epworth pastoral care workers recently took part in a six day pilot program to give spiritual care workers’ exposure to each of the Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jewish, Buddhist and Orthodox Christian communities over a six month period.

The group of 25 pastoral care workers from all around Victoria met at a main community facility, office or temple where talks were given about that particular community and tradition. Specific education was given regarding guidelines for health professionals in hospitals. Sharing of food, ritual and prayer also were part of the program. The groups also toured museums in the Jewish and Islamic communities, attended a Hindu community festival and in other ways learned about each community.

“We met with other pastoral care workers of all faiths and traditions across Victoria, which is helpful in meeting specific spiritual needs of patients,” said Nic Auenger, Epworth Freemasons.

“Participating in the program enhanced my knowledge and confidence in providing emotional and spiritual support to people of all faiths and recognising our universal need to find belief and meaning,” said Karen Ellis, Epworth Richmond.

“One of the challenges for us all now is sharing what we have learned. Respect for and sensitivity to different faith traditions has perhaps never been more important,” said Harriet Ziegler, Epworth Eastern.

Julie Young from rehabilitation services added: “In entering into each of the faith communities, we experienced such hospitality and affirmation that this dissolved any hesitation we felt and evoked a sense of communal belonging.”

The series was organised by Spiritual Health Victoria, the peak body for health-based spiritual care, with partial funding from the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

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Patient feedback

I just wanted to let you know about my experience with your team at Epworth Hawthorn. I spent about three and a half weeks as an inpatient and now just on two weeks as an outpatient, with my treatment ongoing for a little while.

The team at Hawthorn was just exceptional in providing me with a safe and caring environment to recover to good health, following my motorbike accident in mid-August.

Dr Kerry O’Meara, the nursing team, physiotherapist, occupational therapists and the support teams of transport, food, security and administration were totally professional in managing my stay.

Sometimes you only hear about how something did not work or a less than satisfactory process which impacts your organisation’s reputation. Well, I just wanted to let you know about a very positive experience and one that I am sharing with everyone who asks how I am recovering.

Yours sincerely,
Matthew

Recently I spent three days in hospital, having been admitted from emergency and I write now to express my gratitude for the wonderful care that was given.

The treating doctor in emergency was outstanding, quick to grasp the issue and reassuringly attentive. The three nurses in the ward, though busy, were all delightful and caring. Then, to my great delight, I found that contrary to my expectations of hospital food, the meals I was served were all really delicious and I thoroughly enjoyed them.

I have reflected many times since leaving on how wonderful it is to have such an impressive hospital in Melbourne and I would like to thank all who were in some way responsible for my wellbeing.

With good wishes,
Marian

I was admitted via emergency with asthma in October. I would like to commend all staff for their professionalism. Of special mention is John my nurse. He was incredibly kind, efficient and intuitive to my needs, important because my communication was poor and I was stressed & confused. The IV he put in my hand was painless and worked without any bruising for three days. Please pass on my thanks to John.

I want to congratulate you on your staff! I have spent the last eight days in your hospital and I am absolutely blown away by the care I was shown! The nursing staff from 3ES at Epworth Richmond and 3LP are wonderful ambassadors for your hospital. I couldn’t find fault with them (not that I wanted to but being an ‘old nurse’ one has certain expectations). They were at all time professional, caring, compassionate and ‘real’, with humour and encouragement overflowing. Even the staff who did not personally attend to me always greeted me with an encouraging word and a smile. The two nurses in emergency on Sunday evening deserve medals, Dr Rachel was so very kind and understanding and I am so very grateful she happened to be on duty that night.

I congratulate you on your staff selection and the standards you set. Epworth hospital stands high, VERY high!

With heartfelt sincerity and gratitude,
Jan

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