

*From Chile to Bangladesh, Box Hill to Brighton – Epworth connects with communities around the world*

# Home & away

Epworth was built on a strong tradition of care and over the years this has extended to communities near and far. These are communities that have pulled at the heartstrings of doctors, nurses and staff across Epworth. Individuals, groups, Epworth divisions and Epworth as a whole have each chosen to donate time, skills, supplies or funding. The magic is that everyone reports that their commitment is a personal two-way privilege, which they intend to continue.

## Epworth Freemasons Maternity Unit

In 2013, Epworth Freemasons Maternity Unit donated birthing beds, incubators and hospital cots towards re-equipping four small regional hospitals in the earthquake-affected area of Chile's southern Andean region. These were collected through the Port Melbourne Rotary Club who organised the shipment of a 40-foot container packed with medical supplies and equipment. Consul-General of Chile, Diego Velasco von Pilgrimm, who is also a Rotarian, was very grateful to the Melbourne hospitals that took part in rebuilding Chile's essential health service.

## Epworth Eastern

Epworth Eastern committed to supply work experience for clients of Adult Migrant English Services (AMES) who co-ordinate training and employment to refugees and newly-arrived migrants. The hospital also supports Harrison Community Services, Community Options and Booroondara Community Outreach, helping young people and families in crisis – in particular adults with a dual diagnosis of a

mental health condition and disability.

Dr Dean White is among several Epworth specialists who volunteer their considerable skills to communities in developing countries. A Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at Epworth Eastern, Dr White is a volunteer with Interplast, and goes overseas annually to perform free reconstructive surgery to patients who would otherwise simply not receive it.

Interplast aims to provide both a surgical service and to train local surgeons to continue the work. In Papua New Guinea, Dr White reports operating on lots of children with cleft lip or palate, as well as working with burn patients, whose limbs may require a great deal of reconstructive surgery. He says the treatment for burns in third world countries is often very rudimentary at the start, whereas in countries like Australia, they are treated very quickly to minimise the amount of scarring and long-term complications, such as contracted limbs, fingers and hands which require a great deal of reconstructive surgery for the limbs to regain function.

He also travels to Bangladesh to teach surgeons there how to deal with more complex and specific reconstructive techniques.



Dr Dean White with his Bangladeshi colleagues



### Epworth Richmond

On a weekly basis, Epworth Richmond and Epworth Eastern donate surplus food to FareShare – an organisation that provides up to one million healthy, nutritious meals each year to people in Melbourne’s shelters, home and kitchens in need.

### Epworth Rehabilitation

Staff members from Epworth Rehabilitation’s Transitional Living Centre in Thornbury volunteer annually at Heads Together, a camp for families with a child who has suffered a brain injury. And to celebrate the memory of an 18-year-old rehabilitation patient whose life was tragically cut short by brain cancer, Epworth Brighton honoured his legacy by running in the inaugural *Connor’s Run 2013*, raising money for research into brain tumours in children and appropriate patient therapies.

Seven staff retraced the run that Connor took in 2011, finishing at the Yarra River boatsheds, which was the favourite place of this amazing young man. [PH](#)

By Colleen Cogliari



Dr Dean White

*“Dr White operates on children with cleft lip or palate, as well as working with burn patients, whose limbs may require a great deal of reconstructive surgery”*