



## Inside this issue

- A Word from the Editor
- A Vision of PPM
- Update on NZ Conference
- Call for 2008 papers
- NSW state-wide costing
- PHS integration capabilities
- March sunset cruise
- Running tips
- Employee Profiles
- Did you know?
- Joke of the Quarter

## A Word from the Editor

Xmas has been and gone. New Year is just a memory, if you can remember it, that is! And Easter's travels & festivities, etc. are gone for another year. Wow. Must start looking at bargains for Xmas pressies again soon. "Time flies by so fast!" – I have heard people of a more mature age say that.

This issue of Power Points has a *return-to-the-beginning* article by Patrick Power. He passes on his original vision of how PPM would be used.

We welcome some new employees to the fold. As you will see they were not subjected to my stringent employment standards and as such we have even let in a man who does not like football. Good Grief!!!

We have plenty of the usual interesting articles about PHS products and some of the activities around the place.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition and if you have any suggestions for articles or even would like to contribute something then drop me a line.

Have a great day and many more. Keep smiling 😊

David Eades  
[david.eades@powerhealthsolutions.com](mailto:david.eades@powerhealthsolutions.com)



## A Vision of PPM

by Patrick Power



For the past month, I have been out meeting with as many clients as I can. Many thanks to everyone who had time to catch up.

From these meetings, I will be putting forward a series of initiatives in the next few months to help address the various issues identified. But more on this in the next newsletter.

Today, I would like to discuss the original vision for PPM.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

## Update on PPM New Zealand Conference



Conference delegates with some fierce New Zealanders

The 2-day 2007 PPM User Conference was held in Christchurch New Zealand in November, at a highland lake resort.

A big *thank you* to all our users who attended and made the event so worthwhile.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

## Call for papers – PPM 2008 Conference

The 2008 PPM User Conference will be held in *Queensland's Sunshine Coast, 13-14 October 2008* and it is going to be our biggest and best conference yet!

We are calling on users to present on the positive effects of PPM on their organisation – and all presenters will be rewarded!

Presenters can choose any of the following as a reward (each worth ~\$200) – iPod Nano, wine, digital photo frame, massage, David Jones gift card, or a free night's accommodation.



If you are interested, talk to one of our consultants to decide on your topic, email Theen ([theen.moy@powerhealthsolutions.com](mailto:theen.moy@powerhealthsolutions.com)) to tell her about it, and submit a 100-word abstract by 8 August 2008.

## PowerHealth wins state-wide costing in NSW



Patrick Power (Director, PowerHealth Solutions) and Glen Davis (Casemix Projects Manager, NSW Health)

The New South Wales Health Department has awarded PowerHealth Solutions the state-wide contract for performance management and costing software for all hospitals throughout its 8 area health services.

The NSW Health Department is serious about improving healthcare services, stating clear priorities and goals for the

next few years, in its Towards 2010 State Health Plan. The vision for health stipulates a system that makes smart choices about the costs and benefits of health services.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

## PowerHealth enhances integration capabilities



PowerHealth Solutions has added Sun Java CAPS and Oracle BPEL Process Manager skills to its integration consultancy services capability.

As a result, the company now offers end-to-end solutions utilising any mainstream EAI technology in the Australian healthcare marketplace, as part of implementing our products.

With these additional skills, PowerHealth provides integration services for Sun Java CAPS, Oracle BPEL Process Manager, HealthVision CloverLeaf, and Pervasive Data Integrator.

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## March Sunset Cruise

After a sweltering hot 40 C day in the middle of a heatwave, PowerHealth Solutions staff headed to Holdfast Shores Marina in Glenelg, and boarded a 58ft catamaran for a sunset cruise.



It was lovely – blue sky, fresh sea breeze, finger food, beer, birds, dolphins, happy children, conversation, good company, and of course ... a beautiful sunset.

Thanks to Bill for organising the event and Debbie for the food. Everyone enjoyed it and we are definitely doing this again.

## A Vision of PPM

... Continued from Page 1



PPM was originally conceived as a toolset that, whilst producing robust patient cost and revenue, could also be utilised to add value across the entire organisation.

Having worked with Trendstar and Transition for more than 15 years, I felt it was important that PPM not be a standalone system, like its predecessors, but rather became an integral part of an organisation's IT strategy.

If this could be accomplished, not only would it more add value to the licensing organisation but it would also facilitate the development of a robust datamart, a key component to producing accurate patient costs and revenue.

Because PPM is required to interface with the majority of an organisation's financial and non-financial systems, in order to produce robust patient costs, it is an excellent starting point for any hospital datamart. Furthermore, PPM's extraction tool (ETVL), Scheduler and suite of reporting products add additional functionality and automation to the processes required to create an enterprise-wide datamart and/or reporting toolset.

But unfortunately, not many organisations are using this functionality to their advantage.

When I query IT departments from client hospitals, as to why they did not go down this path, the usual answer is that they have either never heard of PPM, which generally sits outside of IT, or they had a look at the data in PPM, but it was either not current enough or did not include all the data they required.

The point they are missing however is that the expense required re-extracting all this information into a new datamart is more than the cost of simply increasing the frequency or the amount of data collected in PPM. In fact I would say significantly more.

The other obvious benefit of integrating PPM into an organisation's IT strategy, of course, is that there is less duplication of effort required to centralise the data and the results are consistent for reporting purposes because they are derived from a single source.

To close, whilst PPM can deliver an end-to-end strategy for an organisation's datamart and reporting strategy, its open architecture and various automated tools allows an organisation to use PPM to add value on a limited or broad basis while at the same time making efficient use of existing costing resources that are required to perform these data processing tasks for the organisation regardless.

## Update on PPM New Zealand Conference

... Continued from page 1.

The networking opportunity provided by this conference was what delegates liked best, followed by the keynote speech by Wayne Bennett (Central Maine Healthcare CFO).

This year we introduced concurrent training sessions, with hands-on exercises. Although the feedback has been positive, we are already planning improvements for 2008.

The conference entertainment had a very kiwi flavour with a wildlife tour including ... er ... kiwis, with dinner followed by an energetic Maori performance – a night which was unanimously voted *really enjoyable*.

The Canterbury District Health Board held a on-site visit at The Princess Margaret Hospital on the third day, which was very well received. Thank you very much to Warren Holmes and Megan Griffiths for hosting this excellent event.

Michelline Hanna from The Children's Hospital at Westmead was among many who found the conference – "Fun, relevant, worthwhile, interesting, helpful, and relaxing".

The 2008 PPM User Conference will be held **13-14 October 2008** in **Queensland's Sunshine Coast**, and we expect it to be even bigger and better!

## PowerHealth wins state-wide costing in NSW

... Continued from Page 1

PowerHealth Solutions' software is the preferred choice of Australian hospitals, as it consolidates hospital financial, clinical and operational information into business intelligence, to deliver the evidence base required by hospital executives for decisions on how to spend available funds wisely.

Mr Glen Davis, Casemix Projects Manager from NSW Health Department said, "Our prior experiences with PowerHealth Solutions have been very positive, and we are impressed with their expertise in the health industry. The tender evaluation process was very competitive, and PowerHealth Solutions offers good value for money.

"With PowerHealth Solutions, we will standardise costing and reporting across the state, using an already proven system. In addition, we can be more efficient with funding standards, data quality and internal auditing."

PowerHealth Solutions Senior Consultant Nigel Michell said, "This is a real vote of confidence from the industry for PowerHealth Solutions, and we are rising to the challenge of completing the implementations across NSW hospitals within the next 12 months."



## PowerHealth enhances integration capabilities

... Continued from Page 1

PowerHealth Solutions provides enterprise level hospital management software – costing, reporting, patient billing – in an environment which has historically used a multiplicity of diverse computer systems.

PowerHealth has developed its strong integration skills out of necessity in order to implement its software products which rely on successful live data exchange with other hospital systems.

PowerHealth Solutions Integration Manager, Bill May said, "At PowerHealth Solutions, we are committed to offering our customers quality integration solutions.

"With these new integration capabilities, we are now ideally placed to quickly and easily integrate our solutions into any healthcare environment in Australia."



## Running tips from Speedy Gonzales

By Simon Del-Fabbro

Many people do running for fitness and there are a number things to consider getting right, otherwise you may end up doing more harm than good.

The first thing to get right is *footwear*. Buying a pair of cheap sneakers is no good. They typically are not designed for running and do not provide enough cushioning. The build quality is poor and they tend to fall apart fairly quickly.



Bad running shoes can lead to problems such as knee, back and ankle soreness. If you *pronate* (ankles bend in), then running with bad shoes could exacerbate the problem, which in turn would affect your running gait and lead to injury. There are probably more conditions related to bad footwear and they are best explained by a podiatrist.

So, go to a specialised running store, and get a pair fitted to your feet, running style and expected performance level.

Some stores have a running machine on which they can video your running/walking action. This not only helps with the selection of the best shoe, but they can also spot problems which may require further attention.





In Australia, a good pair of running shoes can set you back between AUD \$150-180. If you live in the US or are flying via Honkers, you can get them for a lot cheaper.

A good pair should last about 1000kms or approximately 12-18 months for a fairly frequent runner (2-3 times a week). After that they lose their support and cushioning properties.

*More running tips from Simon in the next issue ...*

## Employee Profiles



### Andrew O'Callaghan

A warm welcome to Andrew, our Development Team Leader. Andrew has quite short hair now, unlike when he first started. Andrew was sporting long locks then, as he had just recovered from chicken pox, and his scalp was too spotty and sensitive for a haircut!



- Fav Food: Thai/Italian/Indian
- Fav Movie: Sci-fi: Blade Runner  
Quirky: The Graduate, or Hannah and her Sisters  
Chick-flick: A Room with a View  
Comedy: The 40 Year Old Virgin, Royal Tenenbaum  
Action: Driving Miss Daisy (the road rage scenes are amazing).
- Fav Band/Singer: Still going (mainly on reunion circuit): U2, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Police, Split Enz, Jamiroquai, The Cat Empire.  
Interred: The Beatles, Miles Davis, Bob Marley, Ray Charles
- Fav Holiday Destination: Summer: Folegandros, one of the Greek islands.  
Winter: Engelberg, Swiss Alps.
- Fav Football Team: What's your football?  
*ahh... poor delusional man. This also makes him a Port Adelaide Football Club fan! Ed.*
- Greatest Sporting Moment: 2000 Tuesday night B/C grade social basketball premiers at Wayville Stadium. Now if I can get out of bed to go for a run in the morning I consider this a great sporting moment, and I make my family wait for me with a banner across the driveway in case I make it home.
- Interests: Playing music, listening to music, watching movies, learning German and French, surfing, reading, eating good food, family time.
- Work Ambition: To successfully deliver on time the PBRC project, and then see it spread like a virus throughout the hospital billing world.



### Oliver Tatlow-Lord

Oliver is part of the ever growing Testing Team at PHS. Oliver is currently nursing a broken arm, forging on bravely. *That is the last time he will fail my code. Ed.*

- Fav Food: Spicy foods or pasta. Or spicy pasta if you want to kick it up a notch. Bam!
- Fav Movie: Seven Samurai
- Fav Band/Singer: Queens of the Stone Age, Rage Against The Machine, and Powderfinger
- Fav Holiday Destination: I haven't been to many places... Cradle Mountain in Tasmania is pretty nice.
- Fav Football Team: Essendon Bombers, although now Sheedy's spruiking dodgy hot water systems it's a bitter pill.

Greatest Sporting Moment:

I went to Port Power's first ever home game where the Bombers annihilated them. (Needless to say that I was not part of the interview process for Oliver. Ed.)

Interests:

Sport, music, video games, guitar

Work Ambition:

To one day make the fatal error dialog obsolete. Also to get into the development side - you know, see how the other half live...

## Did you know?



A house fly lives only 14 days.  
*Not if I get anywhere near it! Ed.*

In the 6th century BC Greek mathematician Pythagoras said that the earth was round – but few agreed with him. Greek astronomer Aristarchos said in the 3rd century BC that earth revolved around the sun – but the idea was not accepted. In the 2nd century BC Greek astronomer Eratosthenes accurately measured the distance around the earth at about 40,000 km (24,860 miles) – but nobody believed him. In the 2nd century AD Greek astronomer Ptolemy stated that earth was the centre of the universe – most people believed him for the next 1,400 years.



In 1943, Thomas Watson, the chairman of IBM forecast a world market for “maybe only five computers.” Years before IBM launched the personal computer in 1981, Xerox had already successfully designed and used PCs internally... but decided to concentrate on the production of photocopiers.



Perhaps the guy who got it wrong most was the commissioner of the US Office of Patents: in 1899, Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, assured President McKinley that “everything that can be invented has been invented.”



## Joke of the Quarter

### Women vs. Men ... No contest. We got big brains.

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

House for instance, is feminine: *la casa*. Pencil, however, is masculine: *el lápiz*.

A student asked what gender is *computer*? Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether *computer* should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.



The men's group decided that *computer* should definitely be of the feminine gender (*la computadora*), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval, and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine (*el computador*), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem, and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won. (*This is insulting. Why on earth did I put this in? Oh yeah... I'm male. Ed.*)