

# Little things meant so much

## TRIVIA NIGHT

- **What:** Banksia Palliative Care Service Trivia Night
- **Where:** Bundoora Community Hall, 20 Noorung Ave, Bundoora
- **When:** Sunday, October 25, 7pm.
- **Entry:** \$15
- **Details:** 9497 2100

THE last year of Joan Over's life was one of her best, says daughter Jane.

It was the "little things" that meant so much for mother and daughter.

Joan, 68, died two months ago after battling breast cancer.

"The main thing for my mum was that she really wanted to be able to stay at home," Ms Over said.

And with help from Banksia Palliative Care Service, the pair visited galleries, went out for lunch every Tuesday and enjoyed a two-day getaway in Lorne.

"I thought it was pretty special that people would be able to get the help to do that," Ms Over said.

"One of the things you realise is that even if someone has a terminal illness, they can still have fun and get out and participate in community events and I think that was really import-



Jane Over was happy with her mum's care.

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ant. My mum told me it was one of the best years of her life. It was a chance to do things, and not delay your plans to the next year."

Joan died in her Banyule home after a year in palliative care.

A trivia night will help raise money for Banksia, a non-profit service that provides free help to terminally ill patients and their families in Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea.

About 15 per cent of its clients are under 60.

Banksia community development manager Timothy Paul said palliative care was sometimes misunderstood as simply being about "dispensing medication for a very short term to elderly people". He said the service continually evolved and gave an opportunity for children and adults with a terminal illness to live at home with family and friends.