

Remembering Alby Collis



Alby Collis pictured with Actor Bud Tingwell celebrating the 2007 National Volunteer Week. Two true gentlemen.

The term "true gentleman" is used indiscriminately with phrases like "heroes" throughout today's society. However, it is a phrase that sits perfectly in describing the demeanour of Alby Collis. Alby died in December 2010, aged 82 years. Unassuming, respectful, quiet achiever, are all terms which readily roll off the tongue when remembering Alby. On the 17 March Banksia honoured Alby Collis for his dedicated service, by erecting a plaque in the volunteer workshop area. This is the first plaque of its type at Banksia. In the 1990's Banksia cared for his wife Alison whom he had been married to for over 40 years. As a result Alby decided to become a volunteer for Banksia. Alby initially was a client support volunteer and in 2002 became a fundraising volunteer. Alby resided in Montmorency. He had 3 children, Peter, Jane and Leanne. He worked for over 50 years at

Ensign / Spotless and also part time at the Melbourne Cricket Club for over 40 years. Alby was a devoted husband father and grandfather, who loved sport, comedy, movies, music, travel and the Collingwood Football Club. He was on many school and sporting club committees. He instigated the first of many valued community partnerships Banksia has with Masonic Lodges of Freemasons Victoria, in particular the Preston and Northcote Lodge of which he was a very long serving member. Banksia is very fortunate to have been supported by Alby Collis for many years.

Thinking of our Friends In Japan

Many of our supporters are aware from previous correspondence of our close links with our international partners in Japan. Our thoughts are with all of our friends and associates in Japan, in the wake of the tsunami and earthquake disasters. In October / November 2010 Banksia Staff were fortunate to visit Japan due to receiving a prestigious Australian Japan Foundation (AJF) Grant which is a part of the Department Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT). Banksia's Staff; Gillian Jackson-Massage Therapist, Kate Hewitt - Social Worker, Andrea Davy - Manager Clinical Services and Julie Paul

Executive Officer, spent one week with staff from Banksias' Sister Organisation, "Pallium" in Tokyo. In the week prior Julie conducted lectures in Nara, Osaka, Nagoya and Kobe prefectures. It was only last month in February 2011, when five visiting nurses from Japan came to visit Banksia for a one week study tour. The trip was also partly funded by an (AJF) Grant and assisted by the Japanese Educational Clinical Cardiology Society (JECCS). Banksia was very honoured to be recognised by the Australian Federal Government and looks forward to continuing to strengthen partnerships in Japan. It was a great opportunity for staff to explore cultural variations in palliative care practises.



Pictured: Top Right: Banksia Staff and Staff from the Sun Heart Nursing Home in Tokyo. Middle: Visiting Japanese Nurses at Healesville Sanctuary Right: Julie Paul presenting at a workshop for the Osaka Nursing Association.

Community Presentations

Banksia is available to provide a range of talks to community groups, businesses, schools and organisations about the free services Banksia provides. Our Staff are able to speak about specific topics of interest to groups. In March 2011 Banksia spoke to the members of the Diamond Valley Lions Club. We look forward to providing more talks to community groups or organisations to create awareness of the free services Banksia provides to the community.

Pictured Left: Committee Members of Diamond Valley Lions with Tim Paul Banksia Community Development Manager.

Diamond Valley Lions are actively seeking new members, please ring Secretary Trevor Kennett on 0458 687639.



Banksia Bereavement Walking Group - by Anne Doyle, Volunteer

The time is 10.05 on a very pleasant autumn morning at Banksia Park Heidelberg. Five people and a dog stand in the car park chatting happily over small talk. They do not know each other well, yet. They are the early comers. Banksia Park, aptly chosen for this group of bereaved clients of Banksia, is particularly beautiful on a sunny autumn morning, adding further encouragement to the walkers. The autumn colours delight and the trees and birds provide a mellow background to the varied conversations which ensue. Each of the Banksia clients is bereaved and each is willing to listen and to share, to encourage or simply to be. The Banksia volunteers, three of us, are there to accompany, to allow and to support. Knowing that others know how we feel makes it easier to share. Each week we follow the themes which come from members of the group. There is a sincere interest in each person's well being and an appreciation of that interest and caring. The Banksia Bereavement Walking Group has grown and flourished, nurtured by the warmth of conversation and the easy sharing of stories and lives. It has undoubtedly been a success judging by the enthusiasm to participate, the happy smiles that greet us every Wednesday morning and by the feedback in evaluations. We look forward to further opportunities to walk and talk with new friends in the months ahead.

If you would like to be involved in or require further information about the Banksia Bereavement Walking Group please contact our Bereavement Coordinator Margaret Haywood on 94550822.

National Cultural & Diversity Week 19-26 March 2011

Banksia celebrated National Cultural and Diversity Week with special guests from the Macedonian Community Welfare Association conducting presentations in relation to death, loss and grief, funerals and other topics relevant to community palliative care and Macedonian culture. The professionalism of the presentation by Slobodanka Trajkovski and Father Gavril was very well received by staff. At the end of the presentations staff and guests shared a variety of Macedonian food.



Pictured Right: Special Guests Slobodanka Trajkovski and Father Gavril in centre of front row with Banksia Staff.

Thank you to all donors for helping Banksia make a difference to the lives of terminally ill children and adults living at home.

Banyule Festival

Banksia Volunteer Bev Boulter kindly represented Banksia at the 2011 Banyule Festival conducted in Burgundy Street, Heidelberg on Sunday 27 March. Tim Paul also spoke about Banksias' Services on 96.5 Inner FM Community Radio who were broadcasting from the Heidelberg Bendigo Bank Branch the day prior. Thank you Bev for this terrific gesture, two years in a row.

Pictured Right: Banksia Administration Support Volunteer Bev Boulter



Important Notice! STREET STALL

We wish to advise all of the wonderful community supporters of our street stall which is run by our Fundraising Support Volunteers, the first stall will not occur until Saturday 21 May 2011.

There are a variety of very good reasons for the stall not being able to begin until later this year but rest assured all items donated are ready to be sold by our volunteers. We thank all donors and supporters for their understanding.

Consumer Group

Banksia would like to hear from past carers who are interested in joining our Consumer Group. This group of past carers has been formed to provide valuable feedback from a consumers perspective, for Banksia to consider.

If you would like to inquire about this group please contact Julie Paul, Executive Officer or Robyn Wright, Quality Risk Coordinator.

Prospective Volunteers



On Tuesday 22 March, a group of prospective volunteers attended an Orientation Day to introduce them to a more comprehensive understanding of the team and work at Banksia.

If you would like to become a volunteer please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Jenny Skeels on 94550822 or visit our website <http://www.banksiapalliative.com.au>.

Pictured above: Prospective volunteers with Banksia Volunteer Coordinator Jenny Skeels. middle second row.



New Staff Member
Banksia Learning Centre

Lyndsay Cassidy

Lyndsay is from Ayr on the west coast of Scotland. She began her nursing life in Cambridge working within the oncology setting. It was within this time she formed a keen interest in palliative care. After taking some time off to travel, Lyndsay moved into the hospice setting, based in New Forrest, working both in the inpatient unit and in the day hospice. This gave her a great basis to move into community palliative care in Melbourne and later in the Sunshine Coast. Fortunately for Banksia Lyndsay returned to Melbourne and has backed up her experience with post graduate education. She looks forward to the challenge of a Clinical Educators role at Banksia. We welcome Lyndsay to the team at Banksia.

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Banksia Palliative Care Service

Newsletter — March 2011

Patron *Krista Vendy*



OUR VALUES: RESPECT COMPASSION PARTNERSHIP EXCELLENCE INNOVATION INTEGRITY



Message from the Executive Officer

It has been a busy time for all staff after moving into our new premises in October 2010. The new building has offered many opportunities for “first time” activities. For the first time Banksia was able to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at its own premises. We now have a garden for staff, volunteers, carers, visiting patients and family members to utilise. We have a strategically located large counselling room, sufficient meeting rooms located both upstairs and downstairs and a large well equipped training room.

We have internal storage areas, where previously we had to use a storage company for our archived files. We have a separate finance area and a large workshop area for our Administration Support Volunteers.

For the first time we have been able to erect plaques in our hallway, listing our Life Members and the Presidents and Vice Presidents of our Committee of Management. We hope to expand upon the history of the organisation as opportunities arise.

The 2010 November AGM was a very successful evening where the, former Minister for Health, Daniel Andrews, opened the new premises. Our President Paul Adcock, on behalf of the Committee of Management and myself, acknowledged the commitment of staff and volunteers to Banksia.

Three local citizens were honoured with Life Membership for their significant financial support. It was pleasing to see many of our supporters also attended the evening.

The following staff and volunteers were acknowledged for their dedicated service.

15 years—Eva Burns, John Richardson and Damian Neylon.

10 years—Gill Jackson

5 years—Jenny Skeels & Julianne Bryce

2 years—Jenny Cocks, Anne Doyle, Kathi Melnic, Linda Philip, Jane Ramsay, Karen Russell and Keli Spenner.

Congratulations to all staff, volunteers and Committee of Management members who received awards.

Our Patron Krista Vendy is still very busy overseas in the United States and has just landed a major role in a movie later this year. Krista is currently liaising with her Melbourne friends to assist Banksia in exploring opportunities to create awareness, in her absence.

Krista is very apologetic for being away for such a lengthy period and extends her best wishes to all Banksia staff, volunteers and supporters.

Julie Paul — Executive Officer

Bequests

Banksia is a government funded not for profit organisation and a registered charity.

Banksia has provided free specialist health care and practical support to over 6,000 child and adult patients and their families, and now has over 500 patients annually. If you would like to know more about becoming a “Bequest Donor” please contact our Executive Officer.

Donations

Banksia is extremely grateful for all families who choose to donate to Banksia in appreciation of the care and support provided by Banksia’s staff and volunteers.

East Ivanhoe and Heidelberg
Community Bank® branches



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