

Easing their passing

BY KRISTY MCDONALD

DEATH and dying are not topics for everyday conversation, but each year half a million Australians experience the impact of terminal illness.

National Palliative Care Week is an opportunity for the community to learn about issues like palliative care, where to find help when someone they know is dying and about grief.

It is also an opportunity to recognise the carers and volunteers who support and care for patients living with terminal illness and their carers.

Eden Park's Katrina Hutchison is a dedicated volunteer with Banksia Palliative Care who has taken on the roles of client support and fund-raising support for the past seven years.

Banksia community development manager Tim Paul said the organisation's fund-raising group was small, with around 10 members, but vital to its operation.

Locally, Banksia Palliative Care Services cares for and supports more than 500 clients and their families each year.

The service supports clients living with a progressive, terminal illness who wish to live at home.

Banksia is the only charity of its type in the region and actively recruits for its volunteer program.

Volunteers act in a range of roles including client, administration and fund-raising support and committee of management volunteers.

For more information phone Mr Paul on 9497 2100.



*Helping out ... Banksia Palliative Care
volunteer Katrina Hutchison. 30961*

Picture: EMILY LANE