

# Banksia Palliative Care forms global relationships

LATE last month, Banksia Palliative Care Service formalised a sister-relationship with an American organisation, the Hawaii Hospice Honolulu.

The announcement was made by Executive Officer Julie Paul in Tokyo, Japan, where Banksia has been partners with another organisation, the Pallium Group, since 2006.

Community Development Manager Tim Paul said they have had approximately 100 Japanese students and visiting doctors and nurses attend workshops in palliative care and pain management at Banksia.

He said that the relationship among the three organisations would help Banksia to compare services and benchmark itself for best practice.

Although based in Ivanhoe, Banksia provides palliative care services to over 500 adults and children living with terminal illnesses in the municipalities of Whittlesea, Banyule and Nillumbik.

Mr Paul said they also teach palliative care and pain management in hospices across the state, including in Shepparton, Mildura and Wodonga.

Banksia workers also consult with nursing staff from major aged care facilities.

He added that they are available to



**Improving palliative care (l to r):** Dr. Koh Kawagoe of Pallium Group Japan, Banksia Executive Officer Julie Paul with Ken Zeri, President of Hawaii Hospice Honolulu, USA.

talk to any organisation about palliative care. They recently spoke at the Mernda Senior Citizens Club and Epping United Church.

Banksia is currently participating in an international research project along with Hawaii Hospice Honolulu and the Pallium Group, doing a study of volunteers in palliative care across Australia, the USA and Japan.

Mr Paul said that the funds raised from donations and income from the learning centre help the organisation maximise its services, and that they are always looking for business support.

For more information about Banksia's services or to buy tickets for its annual Christmas raffle, call 9497 2100.

## Birds, bats and bushfire recovery

AS part of Council's next Bushfire Recovery Community Meeting people will be able to learn about how birds and bats recover after bushfires.

Lindy Lumsden, a bat expert, will discuss how bats can contribute to farm productivity by controlling pest insects.

Stuart Dashper from Birds Australia will discuss how residents can help with Birds Australia surveys of the bush-

fire-affected areas and contribute to valuable research to help birds recover.

The meeting will be this Thursday, November 5, from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre (CAC).

Entry is free and to RSVP call James Booth on 9217 2437 or Holly Bennett on 9217 2323 by Wednesday.

## Diversity Forum

WHITTLESEA Council is hosting a *Valuing Cultural Diversity* community forum on Wednesday, November 4.

All community members are invited to come along and reflect on the way we value cultural diversity in our community and how we can build on what we are already doing as a community.

There will be guest speakers on the night.

Refreshments will be served before the forum.

The forum will take place tomorrow from 5.30pm to 9pm in the Fountain View Room at Council Offices in Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

Please RSVP by this Friday, October 30, to Frank Minutoli on 9217 2174 or email <frank.minutoli@whittlesea.vic.gov.au>.

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