



Our Values: Respect Compassion Partnership Excellence Innovation Integrity



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Website:
www.banksiapalliative.com.au

Banksia is exploring ways
to increase awareness.

Increasing awareness should result in
more appropriate and timely access to
our free 24 hour services. It is a
challenge when we receive feedback,
for example;
“If I only knew about you earlier”.

Help us, help patients, carers and
their families, who do not need to be
alone, in what is a very challenging
time of their lives.

If you are a community group,
business, shop, restaurant, factory or
transport company who would like to
display a sign showing your support of
Banksia to create more awareness,
please contact our Community Liaison
Coordinator on 9455 0822
or via email at
timp@banksiapalliative.com.au

Inside this issue is an article about 4 lovely children who have taken it upon themselves to create awareness of Banksia, by making some “fairy lanterns” for fundraising. I was very touched by the children known as “Ardys Angels” due to their genuine kindness to create an everlasting memory of one of their close family friends, Arthur “Ardy” Acott, who was recently cared for by Banksia. To me, they exemplify the meaning of community engagement and we are extremely appreciative of them, their proud parents and their network of friends who have supported their efforts. The Whittlesea Leader kindly published a story about them. This publicity will hopefully lead to more people in the City of Whittlesea knowing about the free specialist services Banksia offers.

On the 18 and 19 March, a community group known as the Patchwork Gallery Quilt Group, held a Quilt Exhibition in Lower Plenty with all proceeds going to Banksia. This group have done a wonderful job of supporting Banksia for many years. The Patchwork Gallery Quilt Group also exemplify community engagement, as they do all their activities for charities. They are well known for their fantastic support for people who experienced the Kinglake District Fires. We are humbled to have maintained this groups support.

Up until a few years ago we had a group of our own tireless, dedicated volunteers, some in excess of 80 years young, running a street stall in Main Street Greensborough. The items sold were beautiful hand knitted items, coming mainly from our network of support from our Country Women's Association (CWA) groups within our catchment area. CWA items are displayed in the foyer of Banksia. We were fortunate to have two very genuine community minded people, a husband and wife from Freemasons, to drop off and pick up the items to be sold and help set up the stall.

Unfortunately the group of volunteers running the street stall retired. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to run a street stall once a month, please contact our Community Liaison Coordinator on telephone number 94550822.

Kind Regards,
Julie Paul — Executive Officer

Visit by State Government Health Minister Jill Hennessy



On the 1 March 2017 Banksia was chosen as the venue for the State Government Health Minister, the Honourable Jill Hennessy to announce an increase in equipment funding for community palliative care.

It was a great opportunity for patients, carers, volunteers, supporters and staff to mingle with Minister Hennessey, the Member for Ivanhoe, Anthony Carbines, MP and CEO of Palliative Care Victoria Odette Waanders, over an informal morning tea.

The new fund will provide grants for equipment and information technology that will support our team to provide care in people's homes.

*"This fund will make sure our palliative care agencies have the support and the equipment they need to enable Victorians with terminal illness to be cared for, and die, surrounded by their family and loved ones."
(Minister Jill Hennessy)*



It was a privilege for Banksia to have patient Kim Walker attend with her partner Ben Cook. (Kim and Ben are pictured top with Minister Hennessy and MP Anthony Carbines).

Pictured middle are Minister Hennessy with Banksia volunteers and staff and MP Anthony Carbines. Pictured bottom from left: are Rhonda Bavington of City Mission, Minister Hennessy, Odette Waanders CEO Palliative Care Victoria and Julie Paul EO of Banksia.



Banksia continues to make inroads into Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities.



Banksia is extending its multicultural project to seek a better understanding of Indian, Chinese and Macedonian cultures and to enhance their understanding of community palliative care available to them. Banksia recently presented to the Northern Region Indian Senior's Association (Vic.) about the services of home based community palliative care and is liaising with them as to whether written material is culturally appropriate. There was limited knowledge within the Indian Seniors Association of the availability of free home based community palliative care services.

Ardy's Angels

A gift of kindness to make a difference.



Our Community Liaison Coordinator was contacted by Amy Burgess of Whittlesea, asking whether they could fundraise for Banksia. Amy and her sister Clair Holmes each have two children who wished to help make a difference for others, whilst honouring the memory of Arthur "Ardy" Acott. Ardy recently died and was cared for by Banksia. Ardy and Judy are very good friends of the Burgess and Holmes families. The children Kalani Holmes 8 years, Brydie Holmes 6 years, Molly Burgess 13 years and Chace Burgess 11 years, came up with their own idea of making fairy lanterns for sale. They setup a facebook page called Ardys Angels and received publicity on the Channel 9 Today Show facebook page. Amy, Clair and the children know that they are creating awareness which may lead to more timely and appropriate access to Banksia's free services.

Ardy's angels are pictured top with State Health Minister Jill Hennessy and MP Anthony Carbinis and below they are pictured with Judy Acott and a framed photo of Ardy Acott.

Middle insert shows Brydie, Kalani, Molly and Chace making their lanterns to create awareness and to raise funds for Banksia.



Banksia EO Julie Paul said, "Their support of Arthurs wife Judy Acott is amazing. Their mothers, Amy and Clair are great examples to their children of sharing and giving. We cannot express our thanks enough".

Banksia fully embraces family members and supporters who want to create awareness of our free 24 hour services.

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ARDY'S ANGELS BRIGHTEN LIVES

FOUR children are raising money for Banksia Palliative Care after the organisation assisted their family friend before he died from cancer.

Cousins Kalani, 8, Brydie, 6, Molly, 13, and Chace, 11, told their mums, sisters Amy Burgess and Claire Holmes, they wanted to do something to remember their friend Arthur "Ardy" Acott.

The family, from Whittlesea township, made fairy lanterns to sell and raise money for the non-profit organisation that cares for people with terminal illness.

"We are proud beyond words. They loved Ardy and wanted to do something in his memory," Ms Burgess said.

Banksia Palliative Care chief executive Julie Paul said it was a lovely gesture.

"This is a wonderful initiative of Ardy's Angels, they are beautiful children," Ms Paul said.

Details: facebook.com/Ardys.angels



Judy Acott, wife of "Ardy" (in photo), with Ardy's Angels - Chace, Molly, Kalani and Brydie. Picture: ANDREW HENSHAW

Bequests

Banksia is a government funded, not for profit organisation and registered charity. Each year Banksia provides free 24 hour, specialist health care and practical support to approximately 600 children and adults.

We also provide education, counselling and support to carers, partners and family members. Our patients have been diagnosed with a progressive terminal illness and have chosen to live at home, being in the municipalities of Banyule, Whittlesea and Nillumbik.

If you would like to know more about becoming a "Bequest Donor", please contact our Executive Officer Julie Paul.

Donations

Banksia is extremely grateful for all donations. Every cent donated to Banksia assists our services and programs.

All donations of or above two dollars are tax deductible. Many families donate to Banksia in lieu of flowers via our donation envelopes.

We thank all families for thinking of Banksia and for their many kind comments, letters and cards which are greatly appreciated by our staff and volunteers.

We are seeking a sponsor of our newsletter.

All inquiries to our Community Liaison Coordinator, email timp@banksiapalliative.com.au

Thankyou to our Major Donors



Directly opposite Banksia

**The intersection of Burgundy
and Cape Streets, Heidelberg.**

Banksia Palliative Care Service Inc.

472 Lower Heidelberg Road,

Heidelberg 3084 - Phone 9455 0822

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