

# World peace theme for school's timber totem

The Hills Montessori School's beliefs and values have been carved into a stringybark tree on the school's site as a permanent reminder for its staff, students and community.

The Peace Pole, created by Hills sculptor Geoff Bromilow, was created to celebrate the school's 30th anniversary and reads "may peace prevail on Earth" in English, Indonesian and Italian.

Principal Cathy France said the Peace Pole was considered an appropriate 30th anniversary marker as it had strong links to the school's philosophy and values.

"A Peace Pole depicts many of the values that our school holds dear such as tolerance, compassion, understanding, empathy, resilience, responsibility, dignity, respect and creativity," she said.

The school uses the philosophies of Italian Dr Maria Montessori, who was born in the late 1800s, for its education which involves treating and teaching a child as an individual and developing their physical, emotional and academic selves when work is respected and not interrupted.

It took more than 100 hours for Mr Bromilow, whose work has been displayed both locally and internationally, to create the sculpture which depicts leaves,



*Sculptor Geoff Bromilow, left, talks with Hills Montessori students Tara O'Brien and Alexander Adamson about the significance of the school's Peace Pole.*

the earth and seedlings growing into trees.

Mr Bromilow said the design of the pole took a while to decide on as he wanted to make sure the school's vision was included in what he had pictured in his mind.

"I wanted to create something which would represent the true essence of the school but also represent what peace is and means," he said.

"If you think about the peace and the three languages on the pole, they must join as one for peace to exist.

"On this pole they represent the three cultures the school values coming together."

At the official launch of the pole last week the school's choir performed and students from each class read out a poem discussing what peace meant to them.