

Dandeno 'paradise of shops'

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Great day for Russian children

by LOUISE ALMOND

DANDENONG is a "paradise for shoppers", according to Moscow's deputy mayor, Mr Sergei Stankevitch.

After a tour of Myer, Dandenong Hub Shopping Centre and the Capital Centre, Mr Stankevitch said: "It's very impressive — a paradise for shoppers."

Mr Stankevitch was one of the Russian officials who accompanied 55 victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster to Australia.

Other visitors to tour Dandenong were the Consul-General, Mr Igor Shcherbakov, deputy ambassador to the USSR, Mr Vidim Kuznetsou, a member of the co-ordinating committee of Chernobyl helpers in Moscow, Mr Edward Klaktskin, a representative from the Chernobyl helpers in Kiev, Mrs Valentina Kloesnikov, Russian House Victims of Chernobyl National Relief Fund vice-president Nikolai Grigorovitch, and Dr Kostenko, who is looking after the children's medical needs.

Welcoming the visitors, the Mayor of Dandenong, Cr Ian McDonald said: "Because of the long-standing traditions of many years we should always be able to be good friends."

"Mr David Grant, Mr David Phillips and Mr Peter Taranto have organised for the children to be well looked after in Dandenong on 14 April and we intend to give the kids a very exciting day. We will look after these 55 children the best way we can so they enjoy their time in Dandenong."

Passing on a greeting from the Soviet Parliament, Mr Stankevitch said: "I am particularly pleased to be present here with people such as yourselves who are offering our children such humanitarian aid."

"It would seem that this humanitarian act conveyed by yourselves would see things take a better

turn, a turn to future cooperation amongst us. We could possibly unite in more ways than our concern for the children. I think it is the perfect basis for proper relations between countries.

"I would like once again to thank you for the wonderful reception and we would be honored to have you whenever possible in our fair city of Moscow. And I hope the fair city of Dandenong will flourish."

Speaking on behalf of the Chernobyl Helpers, Mrs Kloesnikov said more than one million people had been affected by the disaster. She said: "Our organisation unites a lot of people who have suffered as victims of the Chernobyl tragedy. This organisation is concerned with those people who were involved in putting out the fire, those who live in the ghost town of Chernobyl and people who live in radioactive affected areas."

Mrs Kloesnikov said her organisation was extremely grateful to the people of Dandenong for supporting the Chernobyl victims.

Deputy ambassador to the USSR, Mr Vidim Kuznetsou, praised Dandenong for supporting such "a noble cause." He said: "The children will have the chance to get away from the problems at home. The warmer climate and the full program of activities will also benefit them. It will be a good psychological diversion because they are aware of the fact that they have been exposed to a high level of radiation."

RUSSIAN children holidaying in the Dandenong district are set for a big day on Sunday 14 April, courtesy of local business houses and community groups.

The Dandenong community will play host to the youngsters, who will be billeted locally during their month-long stay, and at the same time raise money for the Russian House Victims of Chernobyl National Relief Fund.

As previously announced in The Journal, the day has been organised by David Grant, proprietor of the Dandenong Music Centre in Clow St, who has received great support from local business people and the Dandenong Chamber of Commerce and Industry in his efforts to make 14 April a day the young visitors will long remember.

The day will begin with a welcome by the Mayor of Dandenong, Cr Ian McDonald, in Palm Plaza (McCrae St), followed by a fun auction, the proceeds from which will aid the Russian House Victims of Chernobyl National Relief Fund (goods are being sought for the auction and can be left with Mr Grant). Entertainment will be provided by the bands of Dandenong and Koo-wee-rup High Schools and at 12.45 the Russian children will lunch at the Pancake Parlor, courtesy of proprietor Pe-



ONE of the Dandenong businesses which will host the Chernobyl children on 14 April is the Pancake Parlor whose proprietor Peter Glover (right) is pictured with the day's founder and organiser David Grant and the Dandenong representative of the Russian House Victims of Chernobyl National Relief Fund, Ms Ludmilla Bondarcev.

ter Gordon, and will be entertained by the Chilean dancing group Amancay and the Dandenong Choral Society.

Then it will be off to a free afternoon of fun at the Dandenong Oasis, where the youngsters will be entertained by the Dandenong Choral Society, organist Robert Grant and the Half Past Band. There will also be free pony and merry-go-round rides for the Soviets, courtesy of Darryl Comfort, of Camel Country.

Organisations which have promised to support the day are Dandenong Music Centre, Dandy Lotto, Favorite Flowers, Middel-dorps Electrical, AC Trophies, Fender Australia, Pancake Parlor, Dande-

nong Oasis, Dandenong Bowl, Cooledream Airconditioning Service, The Best Shop, Ultimate Menswear, Hairstyle By Maree, Marka-Tell, Ian Brown Cycles, Kingsize Male Fashion, Bob French Sports Store, Australasian Music Sales, Dandenong Hub Music Centre, Mind Games, Plaster Magicland, Maria Teresa Skin and Beauty Clinic, Tree Art, Hub Cards and Gifts, Priceman, Moore's Hub Pharmacy, Butterscotch Castle, Mind Games, Kellet's Top Carat Jewellers, Golf City, Phon-electronics, Golf City Pro Shop, Kite's Restaurant (Golf City), Myer Dandenong and

Any businesses or individuals wishing to support the project can contact Mr Grant on 706 8875.

1-9-91



THE Mayor of Dandenong, Cr Ian McDonald (right) talks to the deputy mayor of Moscow, Mr Sergei Stankevitch, as they walk through Palm Plaza, accompanied by the deputy Russian ambassador to Australia, Mr Vidim Kuznetsou, and Dandenong Chamber of Commerce and Industry executive member Mr David Grant.



Dandenong through Russian eyes. . .

ONE of Moscow's leading public officials has described Dandenong as "a shoppers' paradise."

The deputy mayor of Moscow, Mr Sergei Stankevitch, made the comment during a one-day visit to the municipality last Wednesday after arriving only hours earlier with 50 children from the nuclear disaster area of Chernobyl.

In a series of non-stop hurriedly-arranged engagements, Mr Stankevitch met city officials, walked through the city centre, visited Benga Oral History Centre and H.J. Heinz, lunched at Golf City at Keysborough, visited Dandenong High School, inspected the Dande-

nong Oasis, called on the Russian Welfare Society and toured Dandenong and District Hospital before being the guest of the hospital for dinner.

The full exclusive details of his visit are on Page 3.

● Several of the Chernobyl children who are spending four weeks' holiday in Australia are staying with families in the Dandenong area in a program arranged by the Russian House Victims of Chernobyl National Relief Fund.

The proprietor of the Dandenong Music Centre, Mr David Grant, has arranged a special day for the children in Dandenong on Sunday 14 April and the full details are on Page 3.



KARRYN Goode, the service supervisor of Safeway in the Capital Centre, accompanies Mr Stankevitch as he inspects the store. — Photos by SAM STIGLEC.

CHERNOBYL youngster Yuri Panchuk on his arrival at Tullamarine Airport. — Photo by ANDREW HENSHAW.