

DANDENONG

Door opening on porn room

Melissa Townsend

COUNCIL INVESTIGATES WHETHER SHOP SHOULD SHOW FILMS

GREATER Dandenong Council will investigate whether an adult shop with an erotic cinema is operating within its permit.

City planning, design and amenity director Jody Bosman said Club X in Dandenong was issued a permit for an "adult sex bookshop including a theatre" in 2005.

According to the Club X website, they offer "continuous erotic films, comfortable cinema seating, air-conditioning and digital quality pictures". Periodic film festivals featuring "famous performers", various themes and movie marathons are also on offer.

Their website invites customers to use their internet arcades, offering access to adult website Global Cybersex - a site containing "short movies, full length feature films, pictures, games and unusual, bizarre and kinky content from all around the globe."

Shoppers who cannot decide on a DVD can also watch before they buy in a coin-operated preview arcade.

"Stay for a few minutes, or stay for hours - it's up to you," the website states.

Mr Bosman said council was currently investigating

whether the alleged activities fell within its permit and would take appropriate action if any offences were detected.

"Recently council received a complaint about the premises," he said. "On investigation, no offences were detected. If any offen-

ces are detected, council will take appropriate action."

Club X spokesman David Ross said, "our position is one of 'no comment', except to say that Club X has all necessary permits required to operate in Dandenong".

Should sex shops be allowed to show movies?
Tell us at dandenongleader.com.au

DANDENONG SOUTH

Man fights for his life after blaze

A MAN in his 70s is in a serious but stable condition after a fire in Dandenong South last Wednesday.

The CFA was called to a property in Tarene St just before 8pm where they found two vehicles in a carport alight.

It is believed the man had been trying to extinguish the fire and move the vehicles when he suffered smoke inhalation and minor burns.

He was treated at the scene by paramedics and firefighters before being taken to Dandenong Hospital.

Dandenong Fire Brigade operations officer Paul Carrigg said the man's condition deteriorated throughout the night.

"Unfortunately at midnight last night, it appears he had cardiac arrest and has been transferred to The Alfred hospital in a critical condition," he said.

The Alfred's public affairs senior officer Brendan Carroll said on Friday the man was critical but stable.

Four trucks from Dandenong and Springvale attended the fire and it took about 10 minutes to bring the blaze under control. Investigations are continuing, but it is believed the fire may have started from a wood heater inside the carport.

GREATER DANDENONG



With One Voice choir members Sera Elmasri, Julian Jacotine, Helen Lui and Andrew Cumming.

Picture: SUSAN WINDMILLER

Choir group is music to community's ears

GREATER Dandenong residents are using song to unite and build a sense of community.

The With One Voice choir has grown in recent times, with more than 60 members in Greater Dandenong, ranging in age from teenagers to people in their 70s.

They come from a tapestry of cultural backgrounds and meet each week to sing.

Launched by charity Creativity Australia in 2008, the idea behind the With One Voice initiative was to empower people who felt silenced to release their creative power.

"Singing in a choir is also proven to be really good for your mental health, as it releases endorphins and oxytocin, so it's great for people suffering from depression or

bipolar to use as part of their treatment plan," Creativity Australia community and partnerships manager Matthew Jamieson said.

The choir includes a "Wish List" program, whereby participants can ask other members to help grant a wish for them, anything from helping with CV-writing to moving a fridge.

Mr Jamieson said the

choir had been extremely successful in Greater Dandenong. "The growth of the choir is testament to that," he said.

"The Dandenong choir is renowned for having one of the strongest male sections of all our choirs."

The choir meets weekly at 5.30pm on Wednesdays in Noble Park. To find out about joining, call 8679 6088.

fast lane

Hi-tech grant

Dandenong manufacturing company Polyem Pty Ltd has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to buy \$1.2 million worth of new hi-tech technology from Germany. South Eastern Metropolitan Region Liberal MP Inga Peulich said the upgrade would enable the company to create up to three new jobs and enable many of its client companies to open up new export markets.

Tougher fines

Greater Dandenong commuters be warned - 70 new officers are patrolling Melbourne trains, trams and buses and slapping fare evaders with new \$75 on-the-spot fines. Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder said fare evaders cost taxpayers about \$60 million each year. In 2013-14, 158,607 infringements were issued. Details: ptv.vic.gov.au/penaltyfares

Driving boost

Migrants and refugees in Dandenong will receive a boost to their driving skills, thanks to a \$6000 grant from RACV's Good Citizen Program. The Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre received the grant for its driver education program.

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