



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**JULY 22, 2010**

## **SPRING FEST 2010 IN THE DANDENONG RANGES**

The Villages of Mount Dandenong are pleased to announce the launch of **Spring Fest 2010**, an event launched as part of the annual Dandenong Ranges Garden Festival.

The event which will be launched on **September 9, 2010** at SkyHigh Mt Dandenong will be officially opened by **Wes Fleming**, who will talk about winning Gold again at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show this year, in London.

The event will be held from **September 11 – October 31, 2010** and will offer visitors a range of activities to get involved in, including:-

- *Tesselaar Tulip Festival: September 16- October 13, 2010*
- *Hancocks Daffodil Garden Show: August 20 – September 26, 2010*
- *National Rhododendron Gardens Spring Floral Festival: October 16- November 2, 2010*
- *Gardening Roadshow: September 26, October 3, 10 & 17, 2010*
- *Open Gardens, Garden Walks and Tours and Garden Lectures: held throughout Spring 2010*

With Open Gardens visitors will discover some stunning private secret gardens not normally open to the public. Visitors will also be taken on guided walking tours of some of the Dandenong Ranges grand gardens. Learn more about your favourite garden topics from the gardeners and local experts such as Phillip Johnson.

There will also be a wide range of food and wine events on in the region with restaurants throughout the Dandenong Ranges joining in with special menus and cooking schools based

[www.villagesofmtdandenong.com.au](http://www.villagesofmtdandenong.com.au)



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on the theme of *'The Edible Garden'* with dishes made with flowers, herbs and other home grown produce.

Family friendly activities and entertainment will be held across the villages and at key attractions for all the family. The Dandenong Ranges is the perfect destination for kids with a full week of children activities held daily at SkyHigh. Thomas the Tank Engine will also be making an appearance at Puffing Billy Railway which is sure to excite the kids!

For art lovers, more than 70 artists in 56 studios across the **Yarra Valley** will also be opening their doors to the public on the weekend of **September 17-19, 2010** for the second annual **Open Studios**. Visitors are invited to visit local artists in their personal studios and immerse themselves in the creative environments that nurture some of the finest artistic talent in the country.

A combined exhibition of work from all artists involved will also take place at **Sticks Winery** in **Yarra Glen** over a two-week period from **September 5-19, 2010**, with styles and media throughout the event ranging from oils and pastels through to jewellery, glassblowing and much more. The **Dandenong Ranges** will also have Open Studios in the first week of October.

Held for six weeks from **mid September to the end of October** visitors can experience the natural beauty of the Dandenong Ranges at its best this spring with a festival of gorgeous gardens, delightful villages, cosy cottages, delectable dishes and amazing artwork.

**A full schedule of events can be viewed at: [www.villagesofmtdandenong.com.au](http://www.villagesofmtdandenong.com.au)**

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