

THE showbag is the calling card of the local show, and the Dandenong Show is no different.

But many show-goers wouldn't realise the profits go back into the community thanks to Apex 40 Dandenong Valley.

The Dandenong Valley Apex 40 club had been involved with the Dandenong Show for over 40 years. This is our one and only fund raiser each year.

We are like one big family at show time and work closely together over a hard 4 days starting Friday getting the showbags delivered and come Monday returning unsold stock back to the suppliers. We obtained the sole rights to sell showbags at the Dandenong Show back in the 1960s.

We originally packed all the showbags ourselves, using families and friends. It was a really fun day seeing kids all working together making up showbags but eventually we had to let this go and now go directly to the showbag companies as our numbers wore thin.

Dandenong Valley Apex 40 had six showbag vans open on the weekend and were manned by local schools, girl guides and scout groups, who will use the profit from their van for fund-raising.

The Dandenong Valley Apex 40 group also man one of six stalls to raise funds for a charity of their choice and in the past have donated money to Dandenong Hospital, Dandenong Valley Special School, Dandenong Music Festival, Riding for the Disabled and Angel Flight. We are also the sponsor for and contribute a trophy for the handicapped student champion exhibit at the show.

We just try and raise as much as we can but the profits are really determined by weather and crowds and this can be frustrating when we all put in a lot of time and effort for sometimes little result.

We were overdue for good weather and a good crowd and it all worked out well for us in 2011. The Dandenong Show was held on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 November at the Dandenong Showgrounds, Greaves Reserve Dandenong.

Well done team.