

Servo signs off

United's price board is gone after VCAT upheld the shire's ruling it was illegally placed and too bright

September 2010

The United Petroleum service station at Red Hill has finally lost its dazzle. Its price board has not only been turned off but uprooted and taken away.

This came after VCAT upheld Mornington Peninsula Shire's February 2010 order to United to remove the board because it was illegally on the road reserve and its LED lighting was too bright.

Its replacement is two small easy-to-read non-illuminated signs.

United has a current application to erect LED price boards where the replacements now stand. We believe they will be as bright as the old sign.

The shire will investigate the lighting intensity of the new signs. RHCA will encourage it to

have a lighting consultant evaluate the United proposal, and will seek to have included in the design a variable brightness controller and timer.

- A United official said a new air compressor will soon be installed so patrons can check tyre pressure.

Fuel depot backed

RHCA decided at its meeting on 20 September to support an objection to a solid fuel depot being set up at 191 Point Leo Road – unless stringent conditions are placed on the property and then enforced.

A letter has been sent to the shire detailing RHCA's concerns,

including the potential for noise and other nuisance to neighbours from the property, which is in a quiet Green Wedge zone.

The nose knows

That pong in the Red Hill post office car park area is caused not by human waste but by yeast from the bakery, according to repair persons recently at the site. Oh, really?



Gone ... the spot where the dazzling price board once stood could become a beautiful garden bed.

Do you think it stinks? Tell the EPA on its Pollution Watchline, 9695 2777.

The shops' landlord apparently decided to install a new system but found it a pricey proposition.

T'Gallant repeats

Foster's-owned T'Gallant restaurant is preparing to have another go at increasing its size from the currently permitted 60 patrons and 41 parking spaces. It appears extensive negotiations have been held with shire staff, who apparently support its application.

Councillors voted unanimously to reject the previous bid to boost



the restaurant's size to 274 patrons and 171 car spaces. VCAT agreed with them, saying the proposed expansion was excessive.

VCAT also ruled that properties with existing use rights (as T'Gallant had) can apply to amend their permits.

New restaurants must be on 40ha-plus and can have a maximum of 150 seats. T'Gallant is on less than 17ha. We await developments. Hope, it would appear, springs eternal in the business breast.

Op shop vote

The fate of the iconic Red Hill Op Shop will be decided within weeks by councillors, not by staff under delegation.

The charity store's future is in doubt because it is on Green Wedge land. It is asking to stay where it is, opposite the Red Hill Recreation Reserve, for several more years so it can find a new home.

Natives return

The luck of some people. RHCA committee members David Maddocks (president) and Felicity Jackson (secretary) are back on the Hill after pleasant sojourns away.

David had a working holiday in Canada, helping his son build a house. Felicity and spouse Donald headed north for a fortnight.

The Canadians have a wonderful building approvals process: anyone can do anything, but then it must pass inspection. Oh, for such a system here!