

The Local Paper

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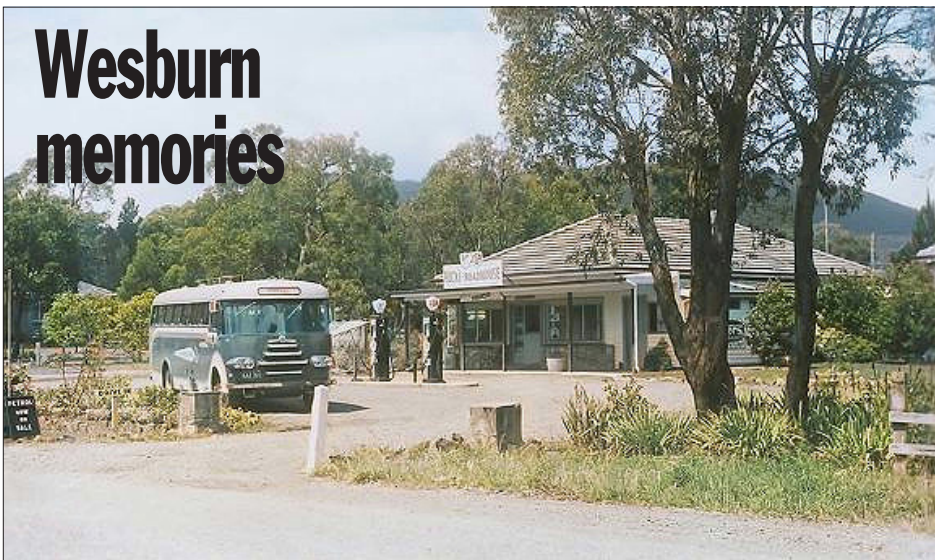
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Wesburn memories



● From the Rose Stereograph Series has emerged a photo of Ruck's Roadhouse, Wesburn, probably from the late 1950s. The photo, coloured by the Local Paer, features BP and COR petrol pumps outside the store.

SHIRE BLUNDERS OVER PENALTIES



● Tammi Rose, Shire CEO

Transparent: Mayor

■ Yarra Ranges Mayor Cr Jim Child has self-congratulated the Council over the way it has handled the fines fiasco.

"Good governance means owning our mistakes, acting transparently, and putting our community first - and that's exactly what we're doing here," Cr Child said.

"Residents can apply for a refund via a secure online form on Council's website from Wednesday, November 5.

Refunds can be claimed over the next 12 months, and applicants will need to provide basic details about their infringement and payment."

www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/InfringementRefundScheme

■ Mistakes made by Yarra Ranges Shire Council over several decades means that full refunds are being offered to a number of people who received animal-infringement notices from January 2014 to February 2023.

More mistakes relating to a number of parking infringements issued between July 2005 to July 2025 will mean partial refunds will be available.

Rather than automatically refund the money wrongly charged to the recipients of the incorrect infringement notices, those affected are being expected to apply to the Council for a refund.

Mayor Cr Jim Child says the Council is being transparent. The Council, however, has not revealed how many people have been wrongly charged, and how much the refunds are expected to total.

"Following an internal audit of all Council infringements, Yarra Ranges Council have identified some technical issues relating to a small number of parking and animal-related infringements, specifically parking infringements issued between July 2005 to July 2025 and animal-related infringements from January 2014 to February 2023," said a Council statement.

"Council is taking proactive steps to rectify the issue and ensure any affected residents are refunded appropriately. The audit found:

- Parking infringements issued since 2001 remain valid, but some were incorrectly charged due to how fine increases were documented.
- Animal-related infringements issued since 2013 are not valid due incorrect wording in public notices.

"As a result, Council is offering:

- Partial refunds for affected parking infringements.
- Full refunds for affected animal infringements.

"We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused," said Yarra Ranges CEO, Tammi Rose.

"This issue was identified through an internal audit and we will be contacting affected individuals directly where possible. We're also inviting residents who believe they may have been impacted to apply for a refund. Importantly, we are taking steps to ensure this doesn't happen again."

CALL FOR ROADSIDE RUBBISH CLEAN-UP



● Cindy McLeish, Eildon MLA

■ Eildon MLA Cindy McLeish has launched a survey to gather evidence of where rubbish is being dumped illegally roads and highways, in a bid to get things tidied up.

Ms McLeish said the State Government has failed at keeping roadsides rubbish-free and preventing illegal dumping.

"Roadside rubbish is dumped too often, along roads right across the state.

"Piles are left for many months at a time, with some rubbish being blown around and eventually into waterways, creek and rivers, causing danger to wildlife and polluting their natural habitat."

The Melba Hwy is a perfect example of large rubbish piles being left on the highway for well over six months.

"People consistently raise this concern with me. They are embarrassed about the state of our surrounds. It is unsightly and bad for the environment.

"This is the reason I launched the survey, so locals can voice their concerns to the State Government and let them know exactly where the worst spots are for rubbish dumping."

In Parliament, Ms McLeish directly called on Gabriell Williams, the Minister for Roads to ensure the Department of Transport and Planning receive the appropriate budget to make an ongoing effort to clean up our roadsides.

Ms Williams responded, "As there are many road maintenance demands at any time, work that has the greatest impact on improving public safety is given the highest priority."

"Rubbish causing obstruction is dealt with immediately. Rubbish that does not impact road safety is scheduled for removal in line with the strategic prioritisation system."

Ms McLeish said, "The Minister has made it clear that if it is not a hazard, it is not a priority for moving."

"This is not a once off, done and dusted job. DTP are doing what they can with Labor's allocated budget, yet it is clearly not enough."

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