

December 2010

# T'Gallant back with bold plan



Less than a year after having its huge expansion plans rejected at VCAT, the T'Gallant restaurant is back with a new application.

It is asking Mornington Peninsula councillors to approve 150 patrons in its dining areas and a further 40 in the wine tasting area.

RHCA opposes any growth from the current 60 patrons, arguing a more than threefold increase is an over-intensive use of the 15.8 hectare site.

We also argue that its application to waive parking requirements – it now has a permit for 41 car spaces – could result in it continuing to exceed its permitted patron numbers.

T'Gallant's previous application, to expand to 314 patrons and 171 car spaces, was thrown out as an over-intensive use of Green Wedge land.

Its latest bid to grow may face the same fate at council – a unanimous “no” vote – and at VCAT, as did its last ambitious sally.

New restaurants in the Green Wedge require a minimum 40 ha of land and cannot have more than 150 patrons.

## Unhappy campers

A riveting two days was had by all at the Panel Hearing into the shire's plan to restrict caravan/camping parks to land 40 ha or bigger.

The caravan lobby hated it

because they said the limit of 100 camp sites, of which only 15% could contain permanent buildings such as cabins, was unviable.

RHCA and other objectors said the policy could create de facto villages across the Green Wedge-zoned countryside rather than prevent them, as the policy intends.

The policy could also adversely affect farming, the Panel was told.

The Panel will present its findings

precedent such signage might set for other local businesses.

## Bad net result

RHCA has written to the shire regarding an application to extend permanent netting of fruit trees opposite the Red Hill supermarket.

We sought to ensure the nets – which are not opposed – be in a colour other than white. We suggested that the black netting over the cherry orchard in White Hill Road was vastly preferable to white.

We also supplied an Adelaide Hills council's policy on netting aimed at minimising its impact on scenic views.

The shire has stated that its planning control “does not extend to a requirement to obtain a

permit to erect netting and there is no ‘Council preferred colour’”.

Strange then that the landowner sought a permit for the netting. It's Application Number P10/2447, lodged on November 18.

## Rain now, fires later

Your broly-wielding committee, between bouts of lawn mowing, is watching the rapid growth of fine fuel along roadsides and elsewhere.

Be assured the rains will stop and the grass will turn brown. Be ready to leave home if a Code Red danger day is declared.



*The pines are almost gone, and so was the operator of this machine removing them, when a tree fell on it during felling. The trees are being removed at no cost to the landowner. This, according to a shire official, is an “urban myth”. But the tree-falls-on-machine mishap was a hit, a palpable hit. No myth about it.*

to the shire by late January. They will then be released to the public.

## Bright on the Hill

United Petroleum has lodged its application for two huge internally lit price boards at its Arthurs Seat Road service station – one 6 metres tall, the other 4 metres.

It also wants internally lit signs across the front of the building.

RHCA believes the signage is excessive and out of character with our quiet rural environment, and a danger to motorists.

We are also concerned by the