

# Tabourie Memories: Tuckerbox

The Tabourie Tuckerbox has been an institution of Lake Tabourie since the early 70s and remains the hub of the Lake Tabourie community. It was started by Wayne Stephens and his family in 1973 when they purchased land and a derelict petrol station from the Wheatley family.

Wayne built the Tuckerbox in stages and as the petrol business was not able to be revived, the shop acted as the main business, with takeaway food and supplies for the people at the camping ground. Wayne reports many interesting stories about his time at the Tuckerbox, including being held up at gun point twice and being eaten out of house and home by drunk bikies who slept outside the shop in the rain!

Lesley and Kevin Desreaux, with their son Paul, owned the Tuckerbox from 1999 to 2014. The pies they made and sold there were legendary, as were the burgers and fish and chips! They further developed the business and built a brick residence next door where they lived.

Paul applied for a liquor licence after canvassing the community to determine if this was wanted by the majority of the residents. After overcoming objections from nearby liquor outlets Paul succeeded with this in 2005, and the licence remains to this day. When Kevin died in 2008 Lesley and Paul ran the business together and eventually sold it and the house next door in 2014.

Today “The Tuckerbox” is now a thriving Cellarbrations bottle shop, still with a takeaway food outlet, and offering many camping accessories and groceries – still servicing campers and locals alike!



2022: Tabourie Tuckerbox

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The legendary pies made by Lesley Desreaux. Photo supplied by Paul Desreaux



The original Tuckerbox when owned by the Stephens family in the 1970s  
Photo supplied Wayne Stephens

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Tuckerbox Breakfast menu during the Desreaux's reign. Photo supplied by Paul Desreaux