



John Amenta, son murder victim Lucia Amenta.

## **Man quizzed over mum's body-in-barrel murder standing for Macedon Ranges Council**

ANDREW JEFFERSON, Exclusive, Herald Sun  
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A MAN questioned over the murder of his mother eight years ago is standing for council on an anti-corruption platform.

John Amenta, a candidate for Macedon Ranges council, was quizzed by police over the disappearance of Lucia Amenta, 70, whose remains were found in a barrel dumped in a Broadmeadows creek 21 months after she vanished.

Police investigated Mr Amenta and Mrs Amenta's husband, Paolo, but no charges were laid.

Mr Amenta has always denied any involvement in his mother's disappearance and murder.

The case remains an open homicide after then state coroner Judge Ian Gray ruled in 2014 that he could not take his probe any further. At the inquest, both men gave evidence that the coroner called "vague, unpersuasive and to a degree self-serving".

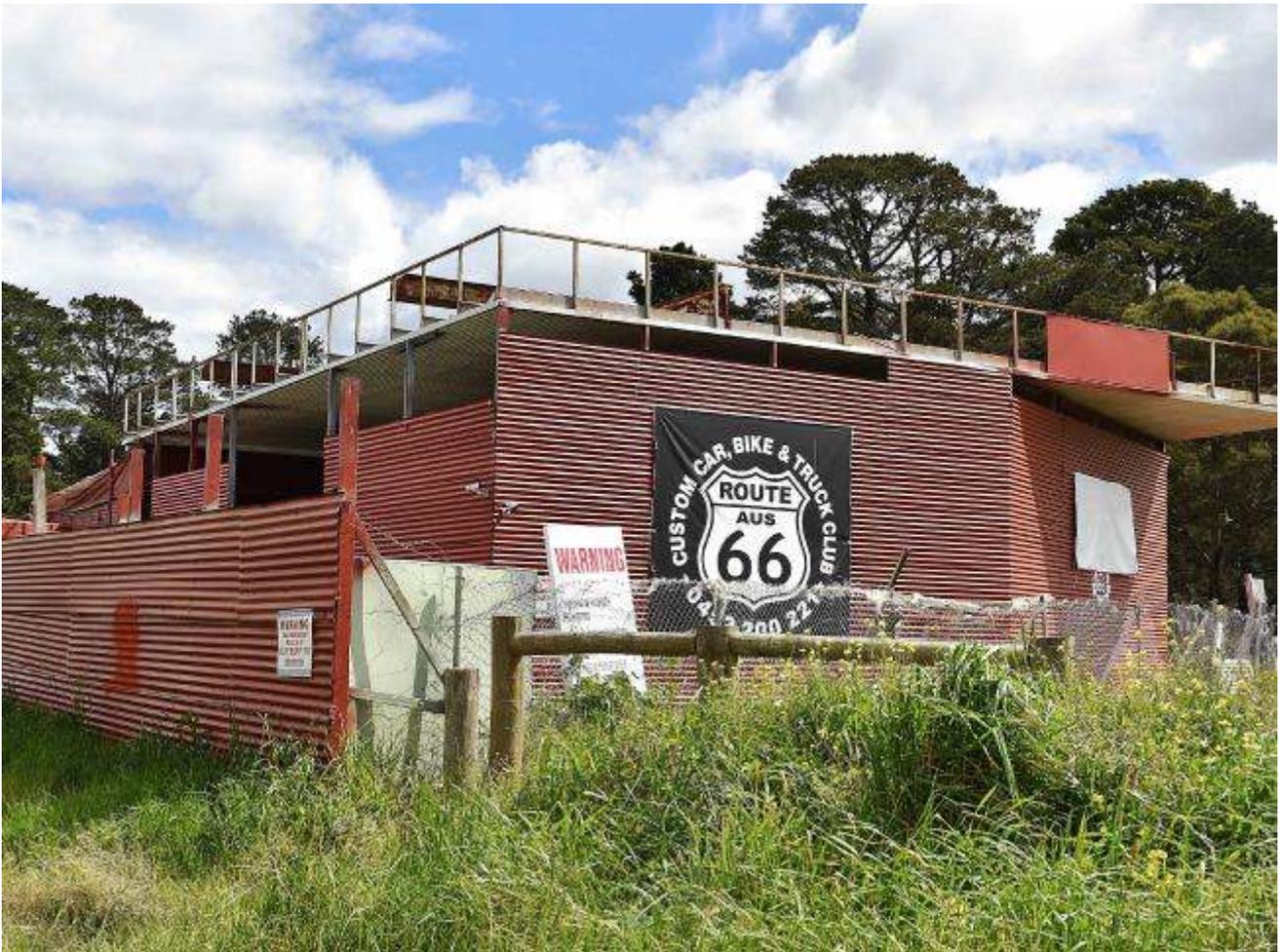
Announcing his candidacy on social media, Mr Amenta, president of the Route 66 Custom Car and Bike Club, said he had been urged to run by many members, friends and ratepayers who have had bad experiences with the council.

“The difference between me and all the other councillors is I’m actually going to walk the talk and do what I’m supposed to do,” Mr Amenta said.

“I’m not going to take bribes and have secret handshakes. I’m not going to waste your money by walking around kissing babies, planting trees, shaking people’s hands or having after-hours meetings and dinners at your expense.”



John Amenta, pictured with his father Jack, holds a photo of his mother Lucia Amenta. Picture: Rob Baird



The car club's property. Picture: Ellen Smith

Mr Amenta is understood to be unhappy with the council after his club purchased a derelict service station in Millet Rd near the Calder Freeway in Gisborne South to convert into a 1960s-style roadhouse/diner.

The council refused the application in May 2015 after VicRoads said the project posed “major road safety impacts on vehicular traffic on the Calder Freeway” as the site no longer had land-use rights or access to the freeway.

Mr Amenta, who did not return calls or texts, has vowed to be a straight talker if elected. “I will be straightforward in not being afraid to say the truth,” he said.

“As I have successfully ran my own businesses over the years, I am a strong advocate of small business and creating local jobs throughout our shire.

“I may not have spent many years in formal education; however, I know the difference between right and wrong.”



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