



● John Woodland



● Sam Parker



● Bill Twomey



● Charlie Pollard



● Ken Watson



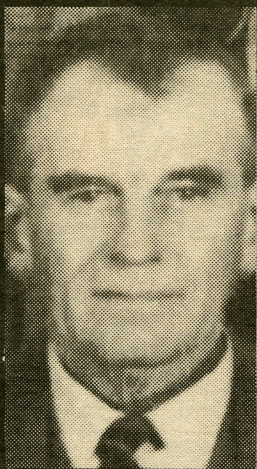
● Mick Martin



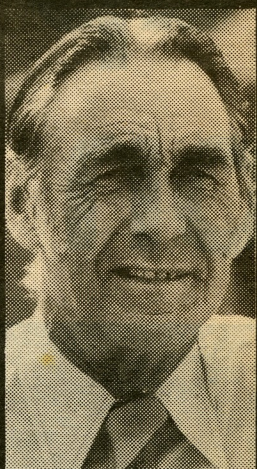
● Bob Richardson



● Jack Hore



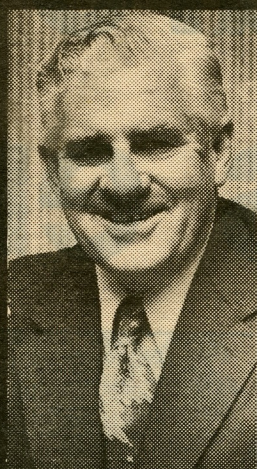
● Tom Snowdon



● John Schubert



● Bill Richardson



● Albie Terrill



● Harold Draper



● Les Stone



● Ken Riley



● Rex Chamberlain



● John Macaulay



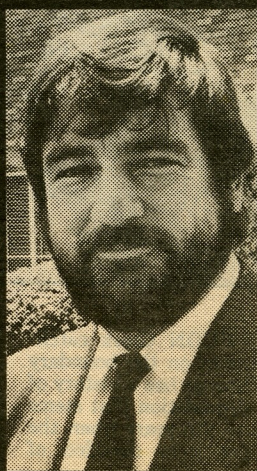
● Les Boyes



● Pam Stone



● Malcolm McEachern



● Ian Deegan

# At the forefront of local government

● **MUNICIPAL** elections will be held in Wodonga's Belvoir Ward and at Yarrawonga, Bright, Rutherglen and Wangaratta City today. **HOWARD JONES** looks at some of the councillors who led local government in Wodonga.

**J**OHN Woodland used to walk from Wodonga to attend meetings of the Yackandandah Shire Council before Wodonga was made a separate shire.

Mr Woodland was made the inaugural Wodonga shire president in 1876.

He was one of the first six councillors elected at the old courthouse, now the Shankhouse restaurant.

A big issue of the day was putting wooden bridges across the many creeks, and seeing the North-East Railway linked to Albury, which happened in 1883.

A publican, James Bambrick, took over the chair next and Mr Woodland became shire secretary, a post he held until his death in 1913.

Other early presidents were Tom Reidy, licensee of the Carriers Arms, and a merchant, Albert Schlink, whose store was located where Coles New World now is.

Henry Harkin, president in 1887 and 1893, had no trouble keeping order in the chamber, having been a sergeant at Wodonga police station in the Kelly Gang era.

Henry Beardmore, first elected president in 1903, later became a member of Parliament and is commemorated in Wodonga's Beardmore Library.

Samuel Parker, president when World War I ended, lived at Parkshall in West Wodonga and is honored by Parkers Rd.

Bill Twomey, a hairdresser, was one of three men who chose the location of the Water Tower in 1923.

He was president five times in the twenties. He died in 1931, aged 54.

It was said of him that "nothing was too big or too small for him to attempt".

Mr Twomey's daughters, Mrs Beryl Tindale and Mrs Mavis Chapple, still live in Wodonga.

Charlie Pollard, president in 1926, 1945 and 1946, was a Bonegilla dairyfarmer who served the shire council 40 years.

His father was a councillor before him, and his son, Ray, is a present city councillor.

Charlie Pollard was founder president of the Wodonga Show Society in 1947 and convened the first meeting that led to the Wodonga District Hospital being built.

The Pollard Arch was erected on the Lincoln Causeway in 1959, seven years before his death, and is now located at his beloved Showgrounds.

Bob Richardson, president 1933-36, was a noted overland cattle dealer and presided over the Wodonga Turf Club for many years, and the Show Society.

He captained the Wodonga Football Club team in the early twenties.

Another footballer, Jack Hore, was president several times between 1949 and 1965.

Mr Hore came off the land at Bungil in 1919 and started Wodonga's first taxi service, later providing a bus to Bonegilla and the soldiers' camps.

Ken Watson, of de Kerilleau, another Show Society stalwart, was president in 1929 and 1943.

Mick Martin, father of Des, was president in 1930 and 1938 at a time when the leading councillors included Tom Ryan and Clarrie

Street. Des Martin recalls in his book, "A Tale of Twin Cities", hearing through an open window these great characters arguing in the old council chambers at the corner of Elgin and High Sts.

Tom Snowdon headed the council in 1948 between terms of Cliff Sheather and Jack Hore.

John Schubert, of Baranduda, president in 1952-54 and 1960-61, was the man credited with the concept of creating a rural city out of Wodonga shire.

Bill Richardson, a former World War II soldier and son of Bob, took the chair in 1962, and Harold Draper in 1967, and Albie Terrill in 1968.

Mr Draper and Les Stone were the only men to be both shire president and mayor.

Mr Stone, a teacher, was Wodonga's last shire president and inaugural mayor, handling the changeover to the rural city in 1973 and signing the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation agreement.

After his unexpected death in office, his wife, Pam, was elected to the council and was Wodonga's first woman mayor in 1985-85.

Other mayors have been Ken Riley, Rex Chamberlain, Malcolm McEachern, Les Boyes, John Macaulay and Ian Deegan.

Cr Valentina Gillard will be elected mayor on Monday.

● Pictures not available in Border Mail files were provided by Mrs Mavis Chapple, Des Martin, Bon Phefley, Cr Ray Pollard, Bill Richardson and Cr Pam Stone.