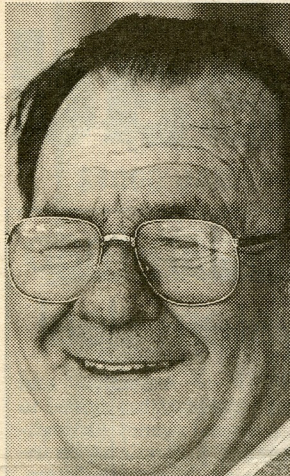


COUNCILS GO TO THE POLLS

Election switch sparks big field



● Mr Sugars

A STARTLING 19 candidates will contest Bright's Shire Council's 11 seats in the August 1 municipal elections.

Beechworth, Myrtleford and Upper Murray will all have polls, though not for all voters.

In most North-East shires, many retiring councillors have been returned unopposed.

Wangaratta Shire is still one councillor short.

Bright's big interest is sparked by a decision to hold triennial elections — there won't be another election until 1995.

Nine nominated for the five seats in Kiewa riding, created this year through boundary changes.

There also will be elections in the Ovens and Bright ridings.

The only Bright councillor not renominating is Cr Patrick Dickens.

In Kiewa, Crs Alan Roadknight, Heinz Weissenboeck, Brian Goff, Steve Svarc and Graham Cooper are challenged by Mrs Susan Mero, Mr Erroll Dunn and Mr Alan Mull.

In Ovens, Crs Rosslyn Moore, Sid Dalbosco, Andrew Steiner and Gerry Vandinter are opposed by Porepunkah general store proprietor Mr Barry Spiers.

In Bright riding, Mr Stuart Hargraves, who left council two years ago, will stand against Cr Bill West, Mr Martyn Paterson, Ms Marlene Deering and Mr Robert Prissman.

● Salvation Army identity Mr

By ANDREW WALTERS

Harry Sugars is making another bid to get back on Beechworth council after losing his seat in controversial circumstances last year.

Mr Sugars was elected in 1991 on the casting vote of the shire president, Mr Graeme Gray, but this was later ruled out of order and Mr Sugars was ousted.

Mr Sugars is opposing Cr Max Suter in West riding.

Also at Beechworth, veteran councillor Mr Robert Voight has stood down and builder Fred Jensen and prison worker Janelle Morgan are contesting his seat.

Cr Jim Kiley has been returned

unopposed in East, but South's Cr David Ferguson is opposed by vehicle repairer Mr Mick Snoey.

● Wangaratta Shire's unfilled vacancy is in Tarrawingee riding.

Mr Ross Morrison, who retired from the council last year, has got back in unopposed in Killawarra riding.

● Myrtleford's former shire president, Cr Len Ablett, is stepping down after 18 years and there are five nominations for three seats.

Crs Bill Rayner and Kevin Dinneen are opposed by former councillor David Cummins, a teacher, as well as nutgrower Mr Don Arden and the general manager of the Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board, Mr Courtney Ansley.

● Upper Murray's Cr Lois Jeph-

cott is returned unopposed but there are elections at Cudgey and Tintaldra.

At Cudgey, farmer Mr Linton Vogel is opposing Cr Maurie Johnston.

Tintaldra's Cr John Whitsed is opposed by farmer Mr Philip Coysh.

● The Wangaratta Mayor, Cr Ken Gleeson, is among councillors returned unopposed.

No elections are needed at Benalla city or shire, Chiltern, Oxley or Yarranwonga shires where there were unopposed returns.

And there are no elections at Rutherglen, Tallangatta or Yack-andandah this year because they had triennial elections in 1990 or last year.

FULL LIST OF NOMINATIONS

WODONGA CITY: Belvoir, Rosslyn Murtagh, Graham Barnes; Greenhill, Rob Mulqueeney, Peter White; Bonegilla, Ian Deegan, Neville Clow; Baranduda, Bruce Morrison, Chris Stewart.

BENALLA CITY: (three seats) Brian Greed, Neville Melgaard and Geoffrey Oliver. All unopposed.

WANGARATTA CITY: (three seats) Kevin Gleeson, Bill Morris and Ray Lawford. All unopposed.

BEECHWORTH: North, Fred Jensen, Janelle Morgan; South, David Ferguson, Mick Snoey; East, Jim Kiley (unopposed); West, Max Suter, Harry Sugars.

BENALLA SHIRE: Devenish riding, Graeme Hooper; Mokoan, Ted Webb; Tatong, David Webster; Warrenbayne, John Davies. All unopposed.

BRIGHT: (total spill) Kiewa, (five seats) Graham Cooper, Erroll Dunn, Brian Goff, Mrs Susan Mero, Alan Mull, Les Peart, Alan Roadknight, Steve Svarc, Heinz Weissenboeck; Ovens (three seats), Sid Dalbosco, Rosslyn Moore, Barry Spiers, Andrew Steiner, Gerry Vandinter; Bright, (three

seats) Marlene Deering, Stuart Hargraves, Robert Prissman, Martyn Paterson, Bill West.

CHILTERN: Chiltern ward, Frank Smyth; Indigo, Don Higgins, Barnawatha, Paul McGowan. All unopposed.

MYRTLEFORD: (three seats) Bill Rayner, Kevin Dinneen, David Cummins, Courtney Ansley, Don Arden.

OXLEY: Central, Tony Judd; Eastern, Robin Gibb; Western, Kevin Shanley. All unopposed.

UPPER MURRAY: Corryong, Lois Jephcott (unopposed); Cudgey, Maurie Johnston, Linton Vogel; Tintaldra, John Whitsed, Philip Coysh.

WANGARATTA SHIRE: (total spill) Bonthar-ambo, Ed Duffus, Stewart Klugg, Russell Diffey, Harvey Benton; Killawarra, Paul Larkins, Helen Ward, Lew Wilson, Ross Morrison; Tarrawingee, Bill McCormack, Frank Keogh, Michael O'Sullivan. All unopposed.

YARRAWONGA: Eastern Town, Carmel Byham; Western Town, Peter O'Bryan; Eastern Rural, Geoffrey Campbell; Western Rural, John Dowling. All unopposed.



● Cr Pam Stone ... former mayor of Wodonga. Her retirement will end a 25-year civic association.

Council not the same without Pam Stone

By HOWARD JONES

WODONGA City Council will not be the same place after the departure of Cr Pam Stone, who made history in 1985 by becoming the city's first woman mayor.

It brings to a close a 25-year association with civic affairs.

The chamber will miss Pam Stone's outspoken comments, the compassion she felt for underprivileged electors and the need to encourage young people particularly.

Cr Stone, 63, first became involved in municipal affairs as the wife of Cr Les Stone, a teacher who was elected to the old shire council in 1967.

While still bringing up a young family, she was a capable first lady of Wodonga when her husband became shire president in 1971.

Two years later, she became first mayoress when Cr Les Stone presided over the creation of the Rural City of Wodonga in 1973.

Her husband's sudden death a few months after he retired as mayor left her in difficult financial circumstances with her children still at school.

But she overcame those and today one of her children, Shane, is a Minister in the Northern Territory Government, and Terry and Sue have made successful careers.

Cr Stone was persuaded to stand for the council in 1977 and has been a member ever since.

Her period as mayor in 1985 soon proved her to be an extremely capable civic leader.

She approached the job with zest and enthusiasm, and encouraged other women to stand, with the result that at present the council has five women.

"This is a vibrant and alive city," she said on her mayoral election.

"We are really moving and are continuing to do so."

Cr Stone served a year on the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation Board, but lately has become one of its strongest critics.

The Region Planning Committee was a special target and last year she made the classic comment that

"planning was too important to be left to the planners".

Last year she was defeated for the job of deputy mayor and gave up the role of planning spokeswoman.

Cr Stone continued to be practically a full-time councillor, attending all sorts of conferences and seminars with a seriousness matched by few others.

Cr Stone's mayoral salary in 1985 was only \$5500, a quarter of the present figure, and she complained often that councillors were poorly compensated.

She always insisted that Wodonga councillors were not in the job for the money and that few electors appreciated how much time they put into it.

Being in a minority of three or four in recent months never stopped her putting her point of view forcefully.

It is believed she was upset at a private council meeting three weeks ago, and left abruptly, saying she would not return.

Cr Stone was unavailable yesterday.

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