

COPY

**The Honourable Shane L. Stone** *AC, PGDK, QC*

Councillor John Mahony  
Chairman  
Place Names Committee  
City of Wodonga  
PO Box 923  
Wodonga. Vic 3689

18 March 2008

Dear Councillor Mahony,

You wrote to my mother Pam Stone *OAM* on June 1, 2007 in relation to a suitable acknowledgement of her role in local government and community affairs in the Albury Wodonga area.

I specify Albury Wodonga by reason that her contribution to the post secondary education sector was all encompassing both sides of the Border a fact recognized by the universities (La Trobe and Charles Sturt) at the time.

I was very pleased to obtain a copy of your correspondence from my mother as I have lived in expectation that the Wodonga City Council would make a suitable acknowledgement of my mother at some point in time; preferably before her demise. It was a matter I have raised with Graham Crapp over many years and until your very welcome letter we were uncertain as to progress. I hasten to point out that Graham was always supportive and encouraged the acknowledgement.

I am sure you agree that I don't have to make the case on behalf of Pam Stone since the Council has made its decision but it is worth recapping her remarkable achievements.

The simple facts are that Pam Stone is a Wodonga Pioneer on any measure.



She was the first Lady Mayoress of Wodonga (serving long side my late father Les Stone the last Shire President and first Mayor of what was then called the Rural City of Wodonga), some years later the first woman ever elected to the Wodonga City Council, Deputy Mayor and then Mayor; the first woman to have achieved that distinction.

Having regard to the fact that we are referring to the mid 1970's and beyond it beggars belief that a woman had never been able to break through until relatively recent times.

In the year marking the Centennary of Federation both Les and Pam Stone were selected as among the 10 most significant pioneers of the Border in the last 100 years. That one should be selected was an achievement, that both were selected was truly remarkable (I have had our company archivist retrieve the media coverage at that time).

You would also be aware that my mother is the recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia conferred for her contribution to local government and the community (Australia Day 1994)

My father's contribution (as referred to in your letter) has been acknowledged through the naming of the Les Stone Park in West Wodonga which is in close proximity to our former family home at 225 Lawrence Street.

It was suggested to me by Jean Whitla that the park be renamed the Les and Pam Stone Park. I have discussed that option with my mother and we agreed as a family we are opposed to that suggestion. Both Les and Pam made their own contributions in their own way and their contributions were quite distinct and different. As proud as I am of my father and his achievements my mothers were the more remarkable.

We thank you for your advice that a separate adjoining park will bear my mother's name.

My mother will turn 80 years in January 2009. It will be a special occasion for us as a family and we will return to Wodonga to mark the occasion.

I would request that the Wodonga City Council progress the matter in the intervening period. If the Council was disposed to name the adjoining park as suggested in your letter we would meet the costs of the memorial stone and plaque if required.



I would be more than happy to discuss the matter if you deemed that appropriate.  
My mobile number is 0419 80 6121 and email  
[slselect@ozemail.com.au](mailto:slselect@ozemail.com.au)

My kind regards and best wishes.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Shane L. Stone

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