

DEPUTY'S A POPULAR CHOICE

By TREVOR HULM

WODONGA's new Deputy Mayor, Cr Pam Stone, received her first phone call at 8.30 am yesterday.

Three hours later she was still trying to get around to her morning cuppa.

It seemed that everyone in Wodonga wanted to offer their congratulations.

The reaction of the ratepayers was not surprising.

They are well aware that Cr Stone has done more than break the ice for women on Wodonga Council.

Her election on Wednesday to the deputy position was a tribute to her courage.

Cr Stone's whole world was shattered five years ago by the death of her husband, Les, a former Wodonga Mayor.

Two years later a group of friends and neighbors convinced her to stand for council.

Cr Stone wavered.

She had a young family to fend for alone and the

challenge of standing for council seemed formidable.

But her supporters kept giving the gentle nudge. They assured Cr Stone that they would help care for her young daughter, Susan, and assist wherever possible.

Cr Stone relented and became Wodonga's first woman councillor.

The deputy mayor at Wodonga traditionally moves on to become mayor.

But Cr Stone is shying off this prospect.

"It is foolish to make arrangements too far ahead," she said yesterday.

"Life is too uncertain."

But Cr Stone is certain that women have a role to play in local government.

In fact, she would like to see more women stand for council.

Cr Stone said women were able to bring a different viewpoint to council.

"They are not inferior; they are different," she said.

"They also have a distinct advantage in that

women prefer to approach a woman councillor."

Cr Stone said there were two drawbacks for future women councillors.

One was the amount of time local government absorbed.

Cr Stone said she spent between 20 and 30 hours a week on council business.

This meant that women with young families would find it difficult to serve on council.

The second factor was the expense involved.

"Contrary to popular belief, councillors do not receive a penny for their work," she said.

"We are not reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses, phone costs or petrol used on council business."

"These expenses cannot even be claimed as tax deductions."

But Cr Stone believes the personal sacrifices are more than compensated for.

"It is a most satisfying experience to be able to help other people," she said.

**Time
and
costs
are the
snags**

DEVELOPMENT 'TOO COSTLY'

Setback for resort plans

By DAVID GRAY

HOTEL convention centres and self-contained resorts at Lake Hume have been ruled out in an interim report on the lake's future.

The report rules them out because of high development costs, marginal travel costs and competition with existing facilities in Albury-Wodonga.

The report, on the recreational capacity of Lake Hume and its environs, has been partly completed by consultants Loder and Bayly.

'NO' TO BANK MERGER

THE Bank of Adelaide's scheme to merge with the ANZ banking group has been rejected.

The Supreme Court of South Australia handed down its judgement yesterday.

The Bank of Adelaide chairman, Sir Arthur Ramill, said later the bank would appeal to the Full Court.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Zelling said the proposed merger scheme was in effect a takeover.

It would therefore need to comply exclusively with part 6B of the Companies Act — the part covering takeovers and mergers.

The scheme was designed to suit a different part of the legislation, the section covering schemes of arrangement and compromises, Mr Justice Zelling said.

Its rejection could place the proposed takeover in jeopardy.

Sir Arthur said later that should the Full Court appeal be unsuccessful the ANZ offer would be made under alternative provisions of the Companies Act which would not be subject to any prior court order.

The study was financed by the River Murray Commission, the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation and several local councils for the Lake Hume recreational area joint committees of management.

The largest development recommended by the report is a licensed sports club with accommodation offering water sports, golf, riding and restaurant facilities.

The report suggests a club on the scale of the Lavington Sports Club as the largest, comprehensive type of project for the foreshore area.

This comes as a blow to the plans of Sydney solicitor Mr Peter Lucas, who intends building a large-scale leisure resort at the Hume Weir Village.

A lakeside hotel, with a good restaurant and incorporating a marina has been suggested as the most popular suitable facility.

The project director for Loder and Bayly, Mr Jan Martin, said yesterday the interim report covered future capacities of the lake area.

He said the final report, on the immediate facilities needed on and around the lake, would be drafted in the next six weeks.

The interim report has shown the lake as an underdeveloped tourist and recreational resource whose potential has only been partly realised.

It says the lake had little recognition in regional or State promotion and was not orientated to serving the needs of visitors from outside the district.

The report says the lake was used intensively by small groups of enthusiasts and intermittently by residents.

It was neither recognised nor planned as a key element in the leisure resources of the region.

The report suggests the need for various water-based developments.

These include marinas, boat storage, boat hire, houseboats, trailer sailers and increased water sports activities.

Pollution 'no threat'

Mr Martin said the report showed ways the River Murray Commission could hold the lake water levels without severe fluctuations.

He said this was important for recreational use.

Mr Martin said the study showed there were no

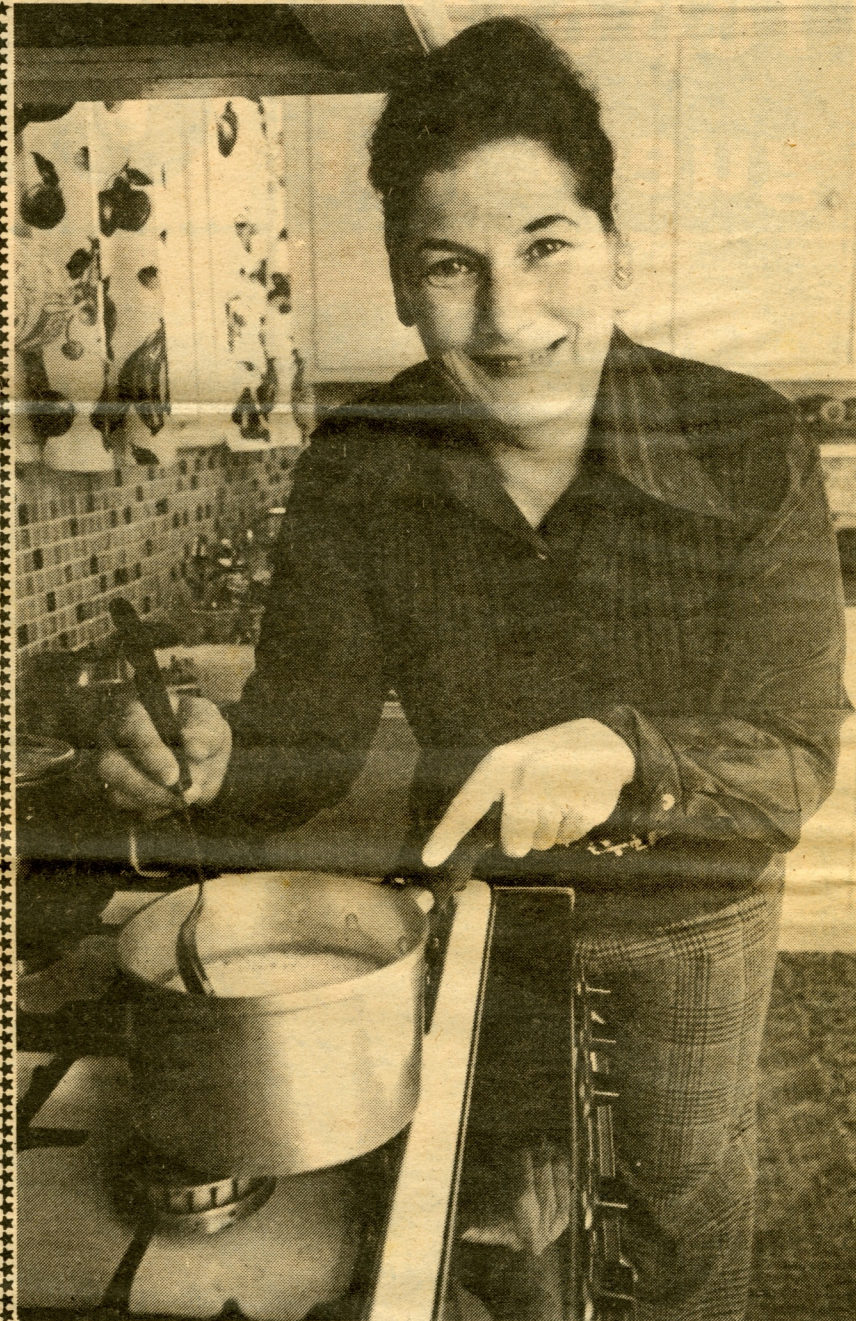
significant water quality dangers associated with the recommendations of the report.

He said a study recently released on the Eildon reservoir showed that even after use by 600 to 700 houseboats, there were no significant pollution problems.

Mr Martin said the popular suggestion for Lake Hume was the use of trailer sailers with portable toilet facilities.

The development corporation's representative on the Lake Hume Recreation Co-ordinating Committee, Mr Bill Steer, said last night the report had been discussed at a committee meeting yesterday.

Mr Steer said the most important issue to emerge, at the mid-point of the study, was the fluctuation of the water level.



● It was housework as usual yesterday for Cr Pam Stone.

TAA 'NOT FOR SALE'

THE Federal Government yesterday denied it intended selling TAA.



● Mr Nixon

The Transport Minister, Mr Nixon, said the Government had "no intention whatsoever" of selling the airline.

This news will be passed on to TAA's 8200 employees.

"To avoid any uncertainty or concern in the minds of TAA employees, I can state categorically that the Government has no intention whatsoever of selling TAA," he said.

Liberal Senator Peter Rae, who had advocated changing TAA from a statutory corporation to private enterprise, was undaunted.

"I haven't changed my views one iota," he said.

"I hope my plan will be discussed in the party room during Budget week or the week following."

Senator Rae, who chairs the Senate standing committee on finance and Government operations, wants TAA to be a publicly listed company with shareholding priority to employees.

"It would be possible to do it on a basis of 50 per cent of the shares to be held by the Government and rest by employees."

"At least it would start to get the two major airlines operating with some greater prospect of competition."

Many people seemed to think Ansett was a good investment so there was no

Nixon assures airline staff

reason TAA should not be the same, he said.

● A cross-Australia dash by Perth millionaire Robert Holmes a'Court took the Ansett Transport Industries drama out of the sharemarket yesterday.

Mr Holmes a'Court, chairman and managing director of Western Australia's Bell Group, talked with the Ansett chairman, Sir Reginald Ansett, yesterday.

He then went to Sydney and met Ampol Petroleum's managing director, Mr Ted Harris.

Mr Holmes a'Court described the talks as "courtesy visits" and said he had flown to the eastern States on a "quite disconnected matter."

The Bell Group's 12.5 per cent stake in Ansett could

be decisive if Ampol and Ansett decide to continue the massive struggle for control of both groups which has raged on national stock exchanges for the past 10 days.

Ampol owns 20 per cent of Ansett and Ansett 13.5 per cent of Ampol.

The Victorian Government was keeping a close eye on the Ansett-Ampol battle, acting Attorney General Mr Lieberman said yesterday.

Mr Lieberman, the member for Benambra, said it was not clear whether a takeover proposal for Ansett had been made.

A State Opposition call for a parliamentary inquiry was premature, and if any breaches of the Companies Act occurred they would be investigated and dealt with.

'No discount' in bulk deal

THE Victorian Housing Commission had not obtained the usual 20 per cent discount in a bulk land buy at Kyabram, it was claimed yesterday.

The commission had bought 70 lots, the Valuer General's department valuer, Mr L. J. Thomas,

told the Victorian Land Deal Royal Commission yesterday.

The \$280,000 purchase was made after a housing commission officer asked that the land be assessed as individual lots Mr Thomas said.

Mr Thomas said he first valued the land in June 1975, as two smaller sub-

divisions of 12 lots and 58 lots.

A 15 per cent discount had applied to the first lot and a 20 per cent to the second, he said.

The valuation had been made on the basis of a starting cash price of \$3750 a block.

The land was eventually bought for \$280,000 in February, 1976, from A. C.

and D. Nominees Pty Ltd, which had paid \$32,000 for the partly developed property in September 1973.

Mr Thomas said it was common practice for discounts to be offered in bulk purchases because the seller saved advertising expenses, legal costs and agents' commissions.