



● The Wodonga Youth Council meets in the city's council chambers.

# YOUTH COUNCIL GROWS UP

## Moves to help Asian child

**AFTER three years of service, the Wodonga Youth Council has come into its own right as an important form of local government.**

The council meets every six weeks in the Wodonga Council Chambers to discuss and form policies on a variety of subjects ranging from entertainment to sponsorship of an Asian child.

The 12 students from the four Wodonga secondary schools had little or nothing to do with local government until they were elected to the council.

Now, three years later, they are involved in community affairs at their own level as well as making important recommendations to the Wodonga City Council.

Cr Pam Stone, who chairs

each meeting, said yesterday that the youth council had come a long way since its first meeting.

The council was the idea of Cr Ken Coghill, who thought it would be an asset to Wodonga and give students an insight into local government and an opportunity to learn about the council's various functions.

But the recreation officer, Mrs Eitler, who also attends the meetings, said the aims of the council had become broader and more enriching.

Not only had the students gained confidence through public speaking and learned the practical points of meeting procedures and decision making, they had become involved with other people in the community, she said.

They had become aware of social problems and how

By  
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to deal with realities when faced with constant demands for financial assistance.

Cr Stone said the council had donated a lot of money.

The councillors had become more discerning about who deserved assistance.

A junior council meeting was told this week that during the past two months the council had donated more than \$2000 to Wodonga charitable organisations.

It decided to budget its finances, which are raised from regular discos at the Wodonga Civic Centre.

The move was carried unanimously, along with more decisions to donate money to worthy causes.

Councillors decided to sponsor two children at a cost of \$55 each for a holiday at the Lord Mayor's Children's Camp.

Information will be sought on the cost of sponsoring an Asian child.

One of the councillors said a number of the large organisations which provide relief to Third World countries used a high percentage of each donation to cover administration expenses.

The Town Clerk, Mr Rutkowski, said the junior councillors were becoming more critical and working out the correct way of doing things.

The idea of a budget had been raised several months ago, but at that time the councillors had not thought it was necessary.

During the general

business discussions Mr Rutkowski gave pamphlets to the students explaining the career opportunities available in local government.

Cr Stone said the youth councillors were realising there are two sides to every question.

Cr Stone said the students had also been involved in clean-up campaigns and poster competitions to suggest beautification programs.

The councillors had arranged a lot of extra curricular activities, which meant their involvement did not end with the meetings.

Cr Stone said it was very rewarding to see the co-operation between the students and that they responded well to the tasks before them.