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Border Morning Mail

ALBURY-WODONGA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1974

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Phew!
take
five,
Scott

Wrestling with an over-size piano accordion for half an hour can just become too much for one man to handle . . .

. . . take six-year-old Scott Davy, of Noble Park, who was photographed taking a well-deserved rest at Lake Hume yesterday.

Scott was attending a series of programs held by The Children's Special Service Mission at the lake when he decided to take up the bulky squeezebox.

RESCUE LAUNCH

JETS THE LIFT



The biggest rescue operation ever mounted in Australia was under way yesterday as 2500 women and children were airlifted south from Darwin.

A lack of aircraft slowed the evacuation yesterday, but authorities hope about 5500 people will be flown out today.

The chief of relief operations, Maj.-Gen. A. Stretton, said the threat of a disease outbreak was still a major problem.

Water soon

However, water supplies possibly could be restored within two days.

Gen. Stretton said reports of a dysentery outbreak at a refugees hostel were "garbage". Reports in Sydney said several hundred children in Darwin were ill with gastro infections.

The Sydney reports also said the Darwin death toll had risen to 47 with the discovery of more bodies under rubble.

The Minister for the Northern Territory, Dr Patterson, said the cyclone death toll could soar if disease broke out.

He said the immediate problem facing residents was survival.

Almost every building in the city was destroyed or damaged when Cyclone Tracy savaged Darwin early on Christmas Day.

Gen. Stretton also denied there had been large-scale looting and people shot.

Armed police were on patrol in Darwin to prevent looting.

They are reported to have warned the city: "We will shout one warning, then shoot."

Gen. Stretton said the rescue operation was much better than expected and getting better all the time.

"Darwin is pulling itself out by its bootstraps," he told a packed news conference.

Authorities still cannot issue a full list of the known dead and injured.

Police in Darwin say some of the dead are unidentifiable and they have been fully occupied providing relief for the injured and homeless.

Last night NSW police had an up-to-date list of the injured who had been flown to Sydney for attention.

● Continued on Page 2; national challenge

—Page 2

**Cr Les
Stone
dies**

—REPORT PAGE 5

FORECAST: Fine. South-westerly breeze. TEMPERATURES: Albury 34.8/9.9, Bonegilla 35.2/12.1; today's expected highest temperature 27 deg. (details P. 24)

Border Morning Mail

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1974

A teacher who taught by example

LESLIE EDWIN STONE, the inaugural Mayor of the Rural City of Wodonga, is dead.

This is a sad day for his family, his friends, his city and the people of the district he loved.

For Les Stone, in public and in private life, was a man of the people. He lived life fully and closely with them. He worked with them, relaxed with them and laughed with them. He shared their problems. And he served them — and served them well.

Les Stone was not born and bred a Border district man. He became one by choice.

Schoolteaching was his calling and, as in everything, he applied himself and made his mark. But Les Stone believed he could, and should, do more. He became a public servant in the broadest sense.

He will best be remembered by most of us for the part he played in local government: first with the Shire of Wodonga and then, following the elevation of the municipality to city status, with the new rural city.

Les Stone acquitted himself on the public platform with distinction. His leadership was imaginative. He was a fair and impartial chairman. His values were sound and his judgment was beyond reproach.

And he had those rare qualities: candor and integrity.

In his years as Mayor he wore the robes of office with a simple dignity and pride. It was not the personal pride of vanity, but the pride of a man proud to lead his people.

Les Stone knew the agony that is cancer. He saw it out stoically. For some time after doctors had told him the tragic truth he continued to receive ratepayers at his hospital bed. They pressed him with their problems, often until late at night.

They didn't, of course, know what Les Stone knew. But he never complained of his problem. He didn't even mention it.

Such was the measure of the man.

Les Stone has gone. Those who knew him, or knew of him, will remember him as the teacher — the teacher who taught by example.



● MR FRASER

FRASER'S BACKERS TAKE AIM AGAIN

Liberal head switch in '75

The Liberal Party can be expected to change leaders after Parliament resumes in February.

The forces which supported Mr Malcolm Fraser in the challenge knew that they came within a hairsbreadth of carrying their motion, in the last week of November, to declare all positions in the party vacant.

So now does the rest of the party, including the powerful and pragmatic Senator Reginald Withers, the Opposition Leader in the Upper House.

Mr Fraser's supporters reasoned that the vote must have been at least 26 of the 62 Liberals present when the spill motion was put to a secret ballot.

Only three persons in the party formally should know what the real result was. If the strongest of information is as strong as it purports to be, then the result was 29 votes for the spill, and thus for Mr Fraser, against 33 against the spill and thus for the present Liberal leader, Mr Bill Snedden.

If two Liberals had voted for Mr Fraser Mr Snedden would have been forced to cast as chairman of the meeting a deciding vote, which in the tradition set by Mr John Gorton on a similar occasion would have been for a spill and thus against himself.

Even last month such a vote would almost inevitably have resulted in a win for Mr Fraser.

In November there

was a crucial segment of the party which did not want to rock the boat. Once the spill motion had been carried, and the boat rocked they could have been expected to vote on the merits of the candidates as they saw them.

The powerbrokers in the party are now inclined to agree with the youthful member for Chisholm, Mr Tony Staley, who declared after the November party poll that he regarded Mr Fraser as the inevitable leader and that he would continue to work for his support.

Mr Snedden was asked at his press conference after he survived the spill motion whether he would discipline Mr Fraser by dropping him from the front bench.

He told the Liberals after the vote that there would be no blood spilt, and he told journalists that he said that position of a member in the executive depended on ability, and that Mr Fraser stayed on the front bench.

Instead the recrimination was being directed towards the men who fought off the challenge.

Most especially there were suggestions that there might now be a challenge against Senator Withers, the West Australian son of a State Labor parliamentarian, who so unexpectedly became the Senate Liberal leader two years ago.

This emphatically is something that the party power brokers do not want.

Nor in fact do powerful forces in the party — such as the Liberal Party president, Mr Bob Southey — want to see Mr Phillip Lynch fall victim to a general convulsion when the Fraser forces make another run in the autumn session.

Senator Withers now knows that his own position is no longer impregnable, as it had seemed a short while ago.

He also knows that the Fraser supporters are more, rather than less, determined and that they are coming into the open.

One of them rounded on him during the last few days of parliament and another one, Andrew Peacock, whose support for Mr Snedden and whose opposition to Mr Fraser is qualified by his

own ambition.

If Mr Snedden stays leader Mr Peacock might eventually succeed him. If Mr Fraser becomes leader he will probably be around for as long as Sir Robert Menzies.

The former Prime Minister, Mr Gorton, has, according to party sources, put forward a ticket for the leadership with Mr Peacock's name on it.

So the summer recess has become for Mr Peacock a time for reflection. One element to reflect on is that Mr Peacock's personal following appears on the basis of the November vote to be fairly small.

The party is turning away from small "I" liberalism.

Sir Robert Menzies in his 80th birthday newspaper articles has reminded the party how well it has been served in the past by tub thumping on defence and by kicking the Communist can.

Although Mr Peacock has made the appropriate shift in his stand on foreign affairs, the image is trendy, even more so than that of Mr Snedden.



● MR SNEDDEN... a new challenge in the autumn.

CANBERRA COMMENT

by
DAVID BARNETT

Whatever Mr Fraser stands for on specific issues, his image is authoritarian and far from trendy.

There is bitterness between Mr Gorton and Mr Fraser over the part played by Mr Fraser in the downfall of Mr Gorton as prime minister.

But the divisions over that affair are turning out to be much smaller than they were thought to be. Whenever the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, taunts the Liberals over Mr Snedden's parliamentary style, they shrink further.

On November 27, when the Liberals took their vote on Mr Staley's spill motion, Mr Whitlam decided the Opposition, declaring Labor's delight that Mr Snedden had survived as leader.

The acid-tongued Minister for Services and Property, Mr Fred Daly, said he sent Mr Snedden a postal vote.

Mr Whitlam said nothing would suit the Government better than for Snedden to remain leader.

Mr Fraser does not have the rapport with the press which Mr Whitlam has, nor the friendships with individual members which Mr William McMahon and Mr Snedden have had.

Such relations are significant in getting off to a good start, and in buying time when things begin to go wrong.

But with a general shift in the electorate to the right, and as the economy turns sour and the Government's trouble pile up, Mr Fraser is coming into fashion more and more.

Mr Whitlam's wit-ticisms and those of Mr Daly, in retrospect, may turn out to be seeds of doubt in the hitherto unconverted.



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WODONGA FIRST MAYOR IS DEAD

Wodonga's first Mayor, Cr Leslie Edwin Stone, died in Albury's Mercy Hospital yesterday. He was 55.

He had been a patient in the hospital since mid-November.

Cr Stone was born and educated in Melbourne.

After a period teaching at the Christian Brothers' College at Wakefield St, Adelaide, he joined the Victorian Education Department.

At first he was teaching in secondary schools, but later, he transferred to primary education.

Cr Stone came to Wodonga in 1953 to take up a teaching appointment at Wodonga State School. He was transferred to Pakenham in 1962 and returned in 1965 to teach at Wodonga and Bandiana.

He was elected unopposed to the West Riding of Wodonga Shire Council in 1967, and after only one year in the council, was appointed deputy shire president.

In August 1971, he became shire president.

When the 35,500 hectare shire was proclaimed The Rural City of Wodonga by the then Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe, on March 30, 1973, Cr Les Stone became the first mayor.

He was re-elected mayor in 1973 and relinquished the position in August this year.

Member of Corporation

Cr Stone was a Wodonga City Council representative on the Interim Consultative Committee, which was later replaced by the Consultative Council for the Development of Albury-Wodonga.

In January this year Cr Stone was appointed Victoria's part-time member of the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation for a two-year term.

Soon afterwards he was relieved of teaching duties and devoted all his time to promoting Albury-Wodonga through the Department of Decentralisation and Development, while still remaining an employee of the Department of Education.

Even before he joined Wodonga Shire Council, Cr Stone took a keen interest in local government, and his participation in shire council affairs stimulated his interest further.

He became more involved in all aspects of council affairs, and had a great concern for people as individuals, but an even greater concern for the community as a whole.

Initially, his principal council activity was the advancement of education in the shire.

Then it was housing, with Cr Stone keen to ensure the shire did all it could to encourage development to cater for young married couples anxious to own their own homes.

Of Wodonga's potential industrial development, Cr Stone, never had doubts.

FUNERAL WILL BE ON MONDAY

Cr Stone's funeral will be held on Monday. A concelebrated Requiem Mass will start at 10.30 am in Sacred Heart Church, Wodonga.

The funeral cortege will move along Beechworth Road and High Street and turn into Elgin Street south of the railway crossing. Wodonga police will direct the traffic.

Soon after his election as shire president on August 31, 1971, he saw an exciting and vital time ahead for Wodonga in that field.

But he wanted to see balanced development, and pledged himself to work towards that end.

Cr Stone, with his wife Pam, sons Shane and Terry, and daughter, Susan, lived in an unpretentious, but comfortable, Housing Commission-built house in Lawrence St, Wodonga.

Sympathetic over land

He was sympathetic towards those people whose land is being acquired for the growth centre, particularly those whose land had belonged to the family for generations.

He was anxious that the land acquisition program should be watched carefully, and that his council should protect the interests of its ratepayers, who should be adequately compensated for land acquired.

But in later months, Cr Stone was saddened by the venom and greed that was developing in the community, and by a minority totally opposed to the planned development.

A man of high integrity, he was anxious that there should be continuing prosperity assured for existing and future residents of Wodonga, the town he loved so well, that he was willing to sacrifice promotion in his own profession to continue to live there.

Cr Stone was a devout Catholic, who carried Christianity into his everyday life in all his dealings with his fellow man, and he was never too busy to listen to other people's troubles.

Special study of mathematics

In the teaching field, he made a special study of new mathematics, and spent many Saturdays lecturing nuns and brothers from district Catholic schools in "new maths".

For a long period he was an active member of the Wodonga branch of the Good Neighbor Council, and was responsible for teaching English to many migrants who settled in Wodonga.

He was also a life governor of the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

Cr Stone was also chairman of the north-east region of municipalities, which comprises 13 councils, including the Rural City of Wodonga and the City of Wangaratta.

On the lighter side, he was a folk music enthusiast, and with his family, he went as often as possible to the annual Folk Festival at Narie.



● A proud day for Cr Stone, when he became mayor. He is seen with the then Victorian Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe.

Bunton pays tribute

Albury's Mayor, Ald Bunton, said he deeply valued his association with Les Stone.

"We were closely associated in many functions."

"He was always understanding and anxious to do the best in the interest of his fellows," Ald Bunton said.

The Development Corporation chairman, Mr Gordon Craig, said the entire corporation expressed great sadness to hear of his death.

"Cr Stone was greatly respected by all sections of the community, reflecting his dedication to community service."

The Mayor of Wodonga, Cr Ken Riley, is on holiday at Dargo and could not be contacted yesterday.

A former inspector of schools for the Beechworth inspectorate, Mr W. B. Frankling, described Cr Stone as one of the finest colleagues one could wish to have.

"He was an outstanding teacher who always put first the interests of the children in his care."

"As a leader among his teachers, he was highly respected and honored for what he was."

"He gave to the maximum, and his loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him."



● MR CAMERON... things to be looked into.

Stonehouse told 'quit as MP now'

The Labor leader in the British House of Commons has called for the resignation of Labor MP John Stonehouse.

The call came yesterday amid growing controversy over his alleged entry to Australia on a forged passport.

Mr Edward Short said in London that Mr Stonehouse's resignation would be the best way out of the extraordinary situation.

Another MP, Mr William Molloy, called for an inquiry into 49-year-old Mr Stonehouse's allegations that he was being blackmailed and under immense pressure.

In Mr Stonehouse's constituency of Walsall North, the widow of Mr Joseph Markham — the name Mr Stonehouse used to enter Australia — said a Member of Parliament, who did not give his name, visited her some months before Mr Stonehouse vanished and asked details about her husband.

"He asked what I thought were one or two funny questions about my husband's illness, the name of his doctor and where he died."

Australia's Immigration Minister, Mr Cameron, said yesterday that "a few things would need to be looked into" before there could be any ques-

tion of releasing Stonehouse from Melbourne's illegal immigrants' detention centre.

The Minister, who will have to make the final decision on whether the British MP can remain in Australia, refused to give any indication of the matters that would have to be investigated.

Make final decision

"I can't discuss them," he said from his Adelaide home.

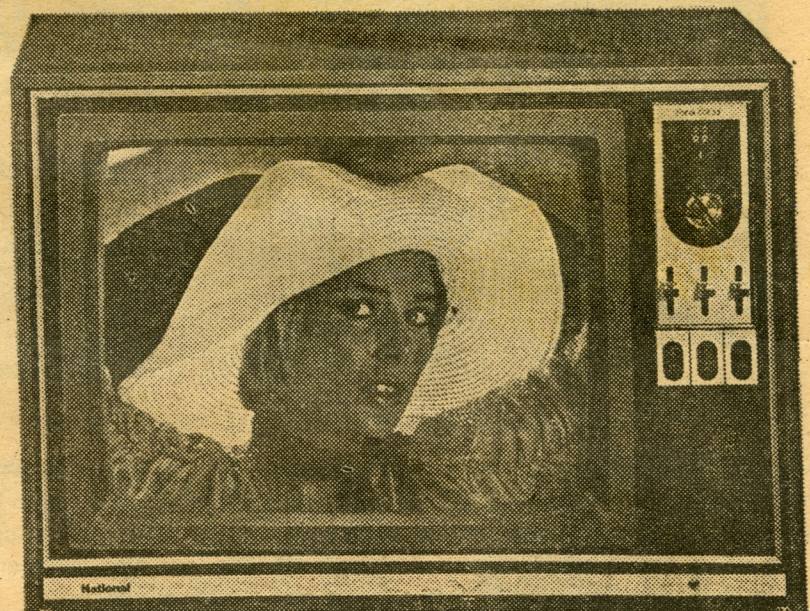
Mr Cameron emphasised that he had not officially established the identity of the man detained in Melbourne as being Mr Stonehouse.

"I am still waiting for confirmation," he said.

Mr Cameron stressed that even though Mr Stonehouse was a member of the British Parliament, his release from police detention would not be a mere formality.

Mr Stonehouse vanished from a beach in Florida in November and was rediscovered in Melbourne on Christmas Eve, living under a false name.

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