

22 Aug 1974 WODONGA

THE  
**MAYOR'S  
REPORT**



# **Prepare for the challenge**

**As my term of office as Mayor of the Rural City of Wodonga terminates at midnight on Tuesday, August 27, I want to use my final report to you to thank a large number of people who have helped me during the three years in which I have been chairman of our municipality.**

First, of course, must come my wife and members of my family who have stood so closely and solidly beside me, especially in times when I needed them most.

Any chairman of an organisation knows that any success attached to his term of office is governed largely by the dedication and enthusiasm of the members of that organisation and, in this regard I must pay tribute to my fellow councillors and employees of the council who have given so generously of their time in the service of Wodonga ratepayers.

To the many citizens and organisations of Wodonga that have extended their courtesy, support and hospitality to the Mayoress and I, we want to express our grateful appreciation.

To those who have exercised their democratic rights to disagree with the manner in which I have carried out my mayoral responsibilities I can indicate only that I find it most difficult to prescribe a general formula for success; but this I know from experience — the proven formula for failure is to try to please everybody.

I read recently that gracious giving requires no special talent, nor large amounts of money. It is compounded of the heart and the head acting together to achieve

the perfect means of expressing one's feelings.

It is love sharpened with imagination.

For, as Emerson once said, "The only gift is a portion of yourself" and as another author writing on the same subject expressed it: "The greatest gift any man can give is the best that is within him."

The City of Wodonga has a wonderful future and a large number of people are working very hard to provide an entirely new concept of living, not only for those of us who already live here, but for the hundreds of people who will soon be attracted to the area.

Changes in the structure and function of local government are inevitable and we must begin preparing ourselves to meet the exciting challenge that will be ours.

This final report would be incomplete if I did not express my sincere thanks to the editor of the Border Morning Mail for extending to me this weekly facility, which has enabled me to communicate my ideas on a large number of topics during the time in which I have been privileged to serve you as the Mayor of the Rural City of Wodonga.

—LES STONE