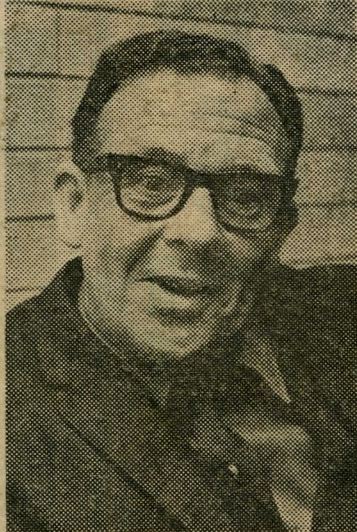
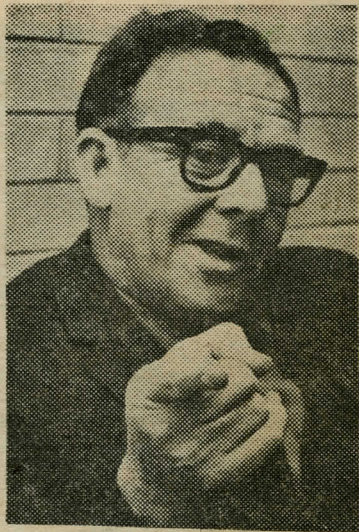


# INTRODUCING WODONGA'S NEW SHIRE LEADER



"I am looking forward with a great deal of excitement."

"What Wodonga needs is a balanced development."

"We've got a dynamic and progressive council."

## To the top in four years

By JEFF STEPHENSON

Wodonga's new shire president, Cr. L. Stone, a State school teacher, considers himself an enthusiastic pupil of the Local Government scene.

And he has turned into a very adept student in his short but eventful history in local government politics so far.

He's been a member of the Wodonga Shire Council for only a month short of four years.

In that time he has had a meteoric rise to become number one citizen of the shire — a position he has given much thought to for the past three years.

Cr. Stone was elected, unopposed to the Western Riding, in 1967.

"As a teacher I felt I could make a contribution to local government, because, at the time, there were certain academic questions which had come before council," he said yesterday.

Even before being elected, he took a vital interest in the affairs of council.

Then came the election and a year later, to his astonishment, he was elected deputy shire president.

### A sense of pride

Cr. Stone maintained this position with the council for three years until Monday, when he graduated that final step.

Of his appointment as shire president, Cr. Stone says: "Only those who have preceded me could appreciate the sense of pride."

What has Wodonga gained by the election of this man to the presidency?

For a start it has a man vitally concerned with the advancement of education in the shire.

He refers to industrial development in the town as entering into an exciting and vital time.

Cr. Stone is anxious for further housing development and appreciates the problem of high costs involved for young couples, wishing to own land and homes.

He wants shire development to proceed at a balanced level and will work towards this.

Wealth still

That is the development of Wodonga-Albury.

"We would all love to see the day when the complex could be developed to the extent that was in view when the idea was first mooted," he said.

"But there is a lot of hard work involved."

Education facilities in Wodonga were reaching the stage where more planning for expansion should be seriously considered.

Primary school facilities were adequate but there was room for another secondary school.

Cr. Stone said he was also looking forward to a decision on Victoria's third university, which he hoped could be established in Wodonga.

"Many country children have to leave home to continue their education which at times can prove arduous."

Cr. Stone understands a lot of this problem as his eldest son, Shane (21) is a second-year student at Toorak Teachers' College.

### Excited by year ahead

Cr. Stone said he was looking forward to the next year with a great deal of excitement.

"No one could be more fortunate than me with the band of councillors representing the ratepayers of Wodonga Shire," he stated.