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# **'Rural city' not just a symbol—it honors all**

## **Shire President reports**

**This will be my last report to you as Wodonga Shire President because tomorrow is proclamation day and my title will automatically change to that of Mayor of the Rural City of Wodonga.**

I hope that our new status will be considered by you not as a mere status symbol from which councillors, the mayor and mayoress, the town clerk and city engineer alone receive benefit.

I hope it will be looked upon as an honor which has been bestowed upon every citizen of the new city and that it will be accepted as a challenge to all of us to ensure that our city will fulfil its great potential as a leading municipality of rural Victoria.

Tonight's function—"The Death of Struggle Town" dinner-dance—organised by the Wodonga Rotary Club, promises to provide a gay and fitting beginning to the celebrations.

Tomorrow night's "Birth of a City" ball, organised by St. Augustine's Mothers' Club, will ensure a festive conclusion to this historic day.

I am most grateful to both of these organisations for orientating their functions towards our most important civic event.

Tomorrow, at the conclusion of the official proclamation ceremony, the council will provide afternoon tea for all who are in attendance and I have pleasure in inviting you all to attend the function at Wodonga Civic Centre and to accept our hospitality.

Last Thursday I spent the day in discussions with Mr A. W. Hall, the European director of the Victorian Promotion Council, and Mr D. J. Anderson, the council's Melbourne director.

Both of these men have asked me to convey to the Wodonga people expressions of admiration and congratulation on the enthusiastic and confident spirit which exists in our community and the initiative of the council and ratepayers on having achieved so much excellent development already.

On Wednesday, April 4, at 8 pm, I shall be chairing a public meeting in Wodonga Civic Centre auditorium to consider the establishment of a new sporting complex.

This is a matter which should seriously concern all citizens of Wodonga.

I am looking forward to a good attendance and an expression of opinion on which council can be guided in its future deliberations on this matter.

—Les Stone.