



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 1985

## MUNICIPAL 'RESTRUCTURING':

### The Greatest-ever Threat to Democratic Local Government.



## Message From Shire President

As I sit down to write this message to you today I am very conscious of how fast this year is slipping by and how soon Christmas is approaching.

Firstly, I feel I must reflect on the past five months since I was elected Shire President. The good news is that Metcalfe is growing and building in the Shire is booming. Last month a record number of Building Permits were issued, representing \$1 million of construction work. There is every indication that this month is also high.

Amalgamation proposals are foremost in the mind of the people in Local Government and we need your support if you want to keep Metcalfe the independent council it is.

Councillors of the Shire of Metcalfe, with an area of 580 square kilometres and a population of 2,500, reject the restructuring of its boundaries. We believe there will be no social or economic benefits for residents and ratepayers from such a change.

Geographically, we are one of the largest shires in Victoria, which means a lot of roads, bridges etc., so by amalgamating with other shires I believe we would see less of our rates at work.

The intimacy and community involvement which is unique to our present system of local government would also be reduced.

However, any establishment is only as good as each individual can make it. Those who make the decisions and those who are your 'rates in action', all make up the Council.

Our Council's efficient staff carry out the continual administrative tasks as our dedicated councillors resolve problems, providing more and more services to you, the ratepayers.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank each member of the indoor and outdoor staff for ensuring work as usual is achieved, and wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

## PROFILE - Shire President



**Cr. Shirley Archbold is the first woman to be elected as Shire President in the 125 years of Metcalfe's Municipality.**

Cr. Archbold grew up on a dairy farm in Mildura, becoming yet another member of her family with a strong sense of community involvement and political aspirations.

Her paternal Grandfather was Mayor of Dunolly in the early 1920's and one of her cousins more recently was the Mayor of Mildura.

Her father-in-law was President of the Shire of Metcalfe in 1944.

Shirley lives with her husband, Harry, and their two children on the original 1860's Archbold property in Chewton.

Shirley Archbold is a former nursing sister who received her general training at Mildura, then completed Post Graduate Midwifery and Infant Welfare at Bendigo and South Australia. Whilst a Sister at Alexander she was involved in setting up the community's original meals on wheels service.

The State government has quite plainly stated it will change the face of local government by wiping out the smaller municipalities which it sees as uneconomic and inefficient. The Shire of Metcalfe, your Shire, with a population of 2,500 and a rate revenue of \$500,000, is an obvious target for the government's unwelcome attentions.

The government's intention is to abolish the present pattern of municipalities and replace it with another of its own devising. Under the proposed system there would be a much reduced number of municipal districts, each with bigger population and revenue.

Restructuring in this part of the State could be expected to have a number of effects, including the following:

1. The Shire of Metcalfe would cease to exist as a separate entity.
2. This Shire would be combined with all or parts of several other municipal districts to form a much larger municipality.
3. The people of this Shire would lose the ability to control their own affairs.
4. The administrative centre of the new municipality probably would be a considerable distance away. Contact with the municipal offices would be less convenient, and more costly because of the extra distances involved.
5. The number of councillors representing the Shire on the new council would be reduced to perhaps two or three.
6. Because it may be an outlying part of the new municipality, it would be difficult to obtain the same priority for works programs and other services for the Metcalfe area as at present.
7. The new council may provide additional services, not needed here, but for which people in this area would have to pay.
8. Most staff would continue to be employed by the new council but would have to travel longer distances. A few may be declared redundant.
9. Costs overall, and therefore rates, would rise.
10. The new municipality would be more bureaucratic, and less responsive to the needs of the people of the present Shire of Metcalfe.
11. The service provided would be much more impersonal.

After promising an independent review of local government, the State government has given the job of Chairman of the Local Government Commission to a known pre-amalgamationist, apparently with instructions to drastically reduce the number of councils.

No doubt he will do his best to be impartial, but no matter what the Commission's findings may be the final decisions will rest with the Minister.

There is no certainty whatever that the Minister will be swayed by the results of polls of ratepayers. The Local Government Act requires him to "have regard to" the result of any poll, but having regarded it he is quite at liberty to ignore it when making his decision.

Although the Commission has not yet heard one word of evidence, the Minister for (against?) Local Government has apparently had no trouble in convincing himself that -

- small councils are neither efficient nor effective;
- by amalgamating two or more such councils they somehow become more efficient, more effective, attract more highly skilled staff, and provide a wider range of services, while at the same time costing less to run;
- bigger councils are more accountable, but the Minister doesn't say to whom; and
- ratepayers are eagerly awaiting even more social services for which they will quite willingly pay, but only if their municipality is scrapped and incorporated in a bigger one.

Your Council completely rejects these assumptions. It is totally opposed to enforced amalgamations or restructuring, and is strongly committed to resisting the process, by whatever means are at its disposal.

The Local Government Commission Chairman, who intends to make public early in 1986 a plan showing the proposed boundary changes, has invited councils to get together with their neighbours and decide how they would like to be restructured. Not only that, but co-operating municipalities have been virtually promised a choice of weapons and a quick, honourable death.

The Metcalfe Shire Council is one of which will not fall into the trap of conniving at its own destruction. It does not accept that the smaller councils are non-viable, or that they cannot properly handle their own affairs in the best interests of their ratepayers. In fact they are by far the best equipped to do just that. Generally speaking, it is the smaller councils which are able to squeeze the most value out of the ratepayer's (or the government's) dollar.

Of course, the government's restructuring proposals do have their supporters among councils. These include:

- (a) those which think the government can do no wrong;
- (b) those which naively think they won't be affected;
- (c) those which are looking beyond their own borders in the hope of gaining territory from their neighbours, expecting to increase their revenues and enhance their status.

Little do they realise that, except in cases of minor boundary adjustments (and that is not what the government is interested in), all the municipalities in a restructuring area will be wiped out, all councillors will go out of office, and a brand-new municipality will be created. The new body will most likely be subdivided into three wards or ridings, each returning three councillors, and each containing an approximately equal number of voters. Urban and rural ratepayers in many cases may find they have been lumped together in the one municipality against their wishes.

Moreover, the Local Government Bill now before State Parliament, if passed, will authorise the making of transitional arrangements for new councils, which would enable the Minister to appoint an interim council to function, simultaneously with the councils being "restructured", for some time until the successor council took office.

In that interim period, the Minister's appointees could arrange the election of the new councillors, establish the rating system to be used, even select the staff for the new council, and perform other duties as directed by the Minister. Such power could pave the way for political appointments in local government, and political control over local government.

Your Council believes such undemocratic powers should not exist, regardless of which political party happens to be in office, and is prepared to fight to have that provision deleted from the proposed legislation.

The Council recognises that not all ratepayers will share its views on municipal restructuring, but notes with interest that the attitude of the Shire of Metcalfe Residents and Ratepayers Association on this crucial issue is similar to its own.

If you wish to express your opinion on the restructuring question you are invited to complete and return this form or write to:

**The Shire Secretary,  
Metcalfe 3448**

I/we want my/our Council to -

- Continue to strongly oppose enforced amalgamations and/or restructuring of municipalities;
- Withdraw its opposition and give support to the government's restructuring proposals;
- Other .....

(Delete whichever does not apply)

(Name/s) .....

(Address) .....

(Leave blank if preferred)



## MOBILE LIBRARY

The long-awaited bookmobile began touring the Shire's countryside in October and within the first few weeks a total of 745 library cards were issued.

The mobile library service is proving to be extremely popular as an addition to the services

provided by the Nth. Central Goldfields Library at Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Gisborne and Kangaroo Flat.

Materials available for borrowing from the bookmobile include periodicals, paperbacks large print books and video tapes.

Books are loaned for up to three weeks and there is no limit

to the number which may be borrowed. Any material not found on the bookmobile can be ordered and received on the next run.

Music records and cassettes may be borrowed from the Listening Library. For these a \$10 annual subscription fee is required and no more than 2 items at a time can be taken.

Application cards for new members are available on the bookmobile and at the Shire Office.

### TIMETABLE

Wednesdays:	Redesdale	[opp store]	10.10 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.
	Metcalfe	[Shire Office]	11.20 a.m. - 12.20 p.m.
	Elphinstone	[opp. station]	2.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.
	Chewton	[Post Office]	3.20 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Thursdays:	Taradale	[Post Office]	9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.
Fridays:	Harcourt	[near motel]	3.10 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

## FIRE HAZARDS

The Shire of Metcalfe is generally in an area of High FIRE RISK. Residents are reminded that it is essential to keep their properties well protected. Hazards can be avoided by removing all long grass and debris from around buildings and cutting fire breaks around properties.

Fire Brigade facilities are limited and there will never be adequate equipment or manpower to control fires. Unfortunately fires will occur, and the best form of protection is to reduce the hazard.

This starts with proper planning and the location of a residence and buildings. For example houses located in dry



scrubby bushland or steep country facing north or northwest are generally in much greater danger than houses on flat land at the base of a south facing slope. The layout of the house, outbuildings, yards, access tracks and water supply give the opportunity to establish permanent built-in fire protection measures. Areas and buildings to be protected should be initially decided.

An area of protection should be defined and should include the house, sheds, and possibly stockyards. The main fuel reduction activities should take place to the north and west of this area, with the flammable liquids and combustible materials located to the south and east.

A major cause of buildings igniting is by the entry of sparks into the roof voids, underfloor area, or interior, through unprotected openings. Because of this, houses of a conventional design do not have a high resistance to fire.

Advice on fire precautions may be obtained from Council Officers. They will be inspecting properties during the coming fire season, and owners will be required to clear away fire hazards.

### Home Help Service

The Council provides a Home Help service within the Shire for residents who are incapacitated through either illness or injury.

To qualify for this service a Doctor's Certificate is necessary and the cost is based on a means test. However, for pensioners the cost is \$2 per hour.

Specific Home Help is also available to families with a physically or intellectually handicapped child, at a cost of 50 cents per hour.

A Meals on Wheels service is provided to the aged and infirm, on production of a Doctor's Certificate, at a cost of \$1.20 per meal, and can be delivered anywhere in the Shire every day.

These services are subsidised by the Government and Council who employ a dedicated team of helpers.

If home help is required contact Supervisor Dot Pollard, 72 3297, or write to her at 76 Gingell St., Castlemaine.

## 1985/86 BUDGET

The Council has completed its annual task of preparing estimates of expenditure and income for financial year 1985/86.

Provision has been made for an increase of approximately 5% over the rates in the dollar for 1984/85. Increased building activity in the Shire is reflected in higher net annual valuations of some properties, resulting in a further marginal addition to the overall rate revenue. Government grants for roadworks and general purposes will also be higher than last year.

Rising costs will result in increased expenditure in most categories, compared with 1984/85.

More work will be carried out under the heading of roads, streets and bridges, due to increased grants received through the Road Construction Authority.

The Council is now required to have a plant replacement reserve, and \$30,000 of the accumulated surplus has been set aside to establish this fund.

Expenditure and income summaries are set out below. The detailed estimates may be seen at the Shire Office on request.

### Expenditure:

General Administration - salaries and overheads, insurances, printing, advertising, telephones, postage, power, cleaning, legal expenses, consultants' fees, etc.	\$306,000	17.7%
Law, Order & Public Safety - fire protection, dog registration expenses, stock ranger.	30,300	1.8%
Education, Health, Welfare, Housing - infant welfare, health administration, home help, meals-on-wheels, maintenance of council owned residences.	85,600	5.0%
Community Amenities - garbage collection, garbage depot improvements, town planning, public conveniences.	51,600	2.9%
Recreation and Culture - public halls, swimming pools, parks, sporting facilities, library service.	79,100	4.6%
Economic Services - Construction, reconstruction and maintenance of main roads, other roads and bridges: drainage works, traffic control, street lighting, building inspection, workshop and depot, private works, school crossing supervision.	973,000	56.4%
Capital Expenditure from Revenue - Plant, furniture and equipment, workshop and depot improvements, park improvements.	44,400	2.6%
Debt Services - loan redemption and interest, overdraft interest.	95,000	5.5%
Transfers to Other Council Funds - long service leave, annual leave, public open space, gravel pits restoration and plant replacement reserves.	44,000	2.6%
Unclassified Expenditure - youth employment grant works, subscriptions grants and contributions.	15,500	0.9%
	\$1,723,500	100.0%
<b>Sources of Income:</b>		
Accumulated surplus brought forward	\$135,000	7.7%
Rates - General, 15.75 c in \$ (minimum \$160) Farm, 10.5 c in \$ (minimum \$370)	502,850	28.7%
Grants Commission allocation	188,000	10.7%
Road Construction Authority grants	623,700	35.7%
Other Government grants	51,700	3.0%
Plant operating surplus	118,000	6.7%
Charges, fees, interest, etc.	130,350	7.5%
	\$1,749,600	100.0%

A \$26,100 surplus is expected to remain at 30.9.86, the end of the financial year.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

Early in 1985 a meeting was held by a few interested people to discuss the formation of a Senior Citizens' Club in the Shire of Metcalfe.

It was agreed that one be formed and named the Chewton Senior Citizens Club, although membership would come from throughout the Shire.

During the year the club has grown and today it has over 50 members.

The meeting place for the club is the old Chewton Town Hall which is a convenient location, however many improvements are needed before the building provides adequate clubroom facilities.

A subsidy of \$6,000 per annum from the Victorian Health dept. will go towards maintaining the Centre, renovating and adding facilities necessary to make the hall suitable.

The Club meets once a week on Thursdays, 1.30 - 3.30 p.m., and provides members with special guest speakers, outings, regular games and a relaxing, enjoyable social gathering.

Annual fee is \$2 per person, plus 60 cents each meeting.

Office bearers and contact numbers are:

President: Reg Rankins 72 2131  
(Vice Presidents - Silas Ellery, Harry Perry)  
Secretary - Dot Pollard 72 3297  
Treasurer - Edna Preece 72 2189  
Trustees - Mrs. O. Newman, Mr. F. Cole, Mr. W. Leslie, plus six committee members.

## Holiday Arrangements

The Shire Office will close at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24, and will re-open at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, January 2.

For emergency service call (054) 23 2326 or 23 2248.

Garbage normally collected on Wednesdays will be picked up on Thursday, December 26, instead of on Christmas Day.

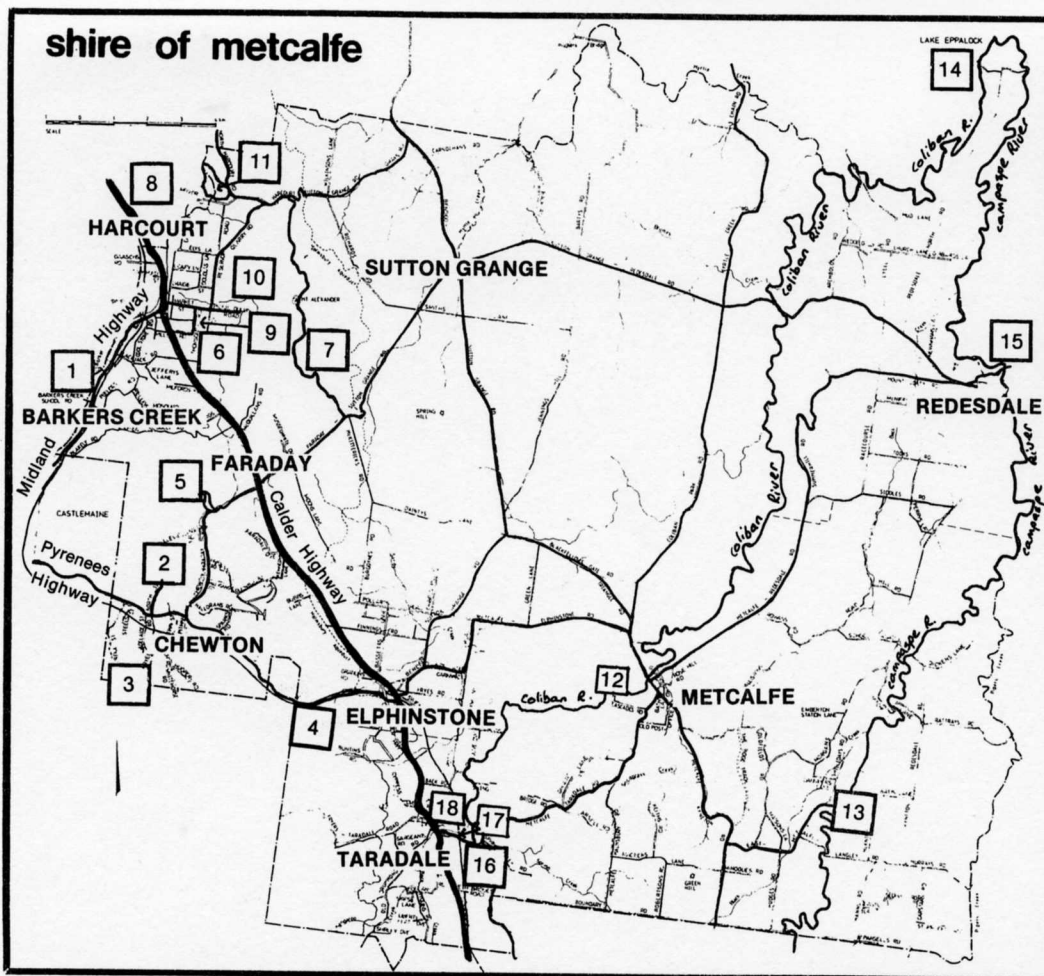
The bookmobile service will be suspended during the period 24.12.85 to 31.1.86 to allow mechanical repairs and other maintenance tasks to be carried out, and to allow staff to take annual leave. Bendigo City Library, and the branch Libraries at Kyneton and Castlemaine, will be closed between December 24 and January 1.

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Council proposes to recognise the most outstanding contributions to the Shire community over the past 12 months by presenting awards to the Citizen of the Year and the Junior Citizen of the Year. Junior Citizen of the Year nominees must be not more than 25 years of age at 25.1.86.

Organisations and individuals are invited to submit, by Tuesday, January 21, 1986 nominations in writing of persons whose achievements they feel make them eligible for consideration.





## PROPOSED SHIRE OF METCALFE PLANNING SCHEME

More than 300 submissions were received from property owners and others in respect of the proposed planning scheme.

Many groups of submissions followed similar lines, and nearly all expressed concern about one or more aspects of the scheme. Just a few felt the scheme was all right as presented. One group even proposed that the minimum lot size for new subdivisions in the General Farming and Restrictive Farming Zones be reduced from 40 hectares to 1 ha. The Council found the possibility of most of the shire becoming, in effect, a vast Rural Residential zone, subdivided into one hectare lots, a bit too much to contemplate!

Some of the most common themes (not in order of frequency) were -

The unanimous resolution requirement should be deleted. A house should be allowed on any existing lot or land in a separate title.

There should be a right to rebuild in the event of destruction of buildings.

Minimum site requirements should be reduced.

The scheme should include a hardship or let-out clause. There should be a right of appeal from a Council decision.

Implied disparagement of hobby farm(ers) should be removed.

Retrospective operation of certain requirements should be deleted.

The Council has accepted most of these points, and the scheme will be modified accordingly. Submissions which the Council cannot accept will be referred to a panel to be appointed by the Minister for Planning, while others still require further examination by the Council. Final decisions on submissions and other matters in connection with the scheme are expected to be made early in the new year.

When the Minister's panel and the Council have completed their work arising from the submissions, the maps and ordinance will be altered to incorporate the changes, and the revised scheme presented to the Minister for approval.

Until such time as the scheme becomes law the Council will continue to exercise its planning responsibility under the Shire of Metcalfe Interim Development Order.

## Information & Co-Ordination Grant

The Council has applied for a grant of \$2,000 under the Family and Community Services Program. If approved, the Council will be required to contribute \$1,000. The money will meet the cost of this Newsletter and others to be produced during the next twelve months.

Produced by -  
**KES CREATIONS**  
Main Rd., Chewton  
72 4230  
Typesetting -  
**GOLDEN BANNER PRINTING SERVICE**  
Castlemaine.  
72 2714  
Printed by -  
**MULQUEEN PRINTERS**  
Kangaroo Flat  
47 8948

## PLACES OF INTEREST

### BARKERS CREEK

1. Old England Hotel (Museum)

### CHEWTON

2. Garfield Water Wheel
3. Dingo Park
4. Railway Tunnel
5. Expedition Pass Reservoir

### HARCOURT

6. Fish Hatchery
7. Mt. Alexander Koala Reserve
8. Cannie Ridge Pottery
9. Atherstone Cottage Garden
10. Oak and Pine Forest

11. Barkers Creek Reservoir

### METCALFE

12. Cascades
13. Turpins Falls

### REDESDALE

14. Lake Eppalock
15. Historic Bridge

### TARADALE

16. Mineral Springs
17. Railway Viaduct
18. Viaduct Gallery

## DISCOVER METCALFE SHIRE

When we plan our holidays or even go in the car for a leisurely Sunday drive we so often look further afield before getting to know the wonders of our own district.

How many of us have missed the pleasure of having explored and supported our own tourist attractions, simply because we thought it was something we could do anytime?

The fact is that the Shire of Metcalfe has so many places of interest, that it might just be worth re-discovering.

Within Metcalfe's 590 square kilometres the contrasting landscapes seem to challenge and yet complement one another. The areas of eucalypt forest form a backdrop to the exotic deciduous trees, the rugged, untamed mountains watch over tranquil, welcoming communities.

The bush-clad hills and rocky outcrops dominate but do not detract from the lush grazing pastures, the colourful patchwork of our orchards, and the almost mystical, meandering creek flats.

Throughout the changing seasons the Shire displays a distinctive scene where the artistic colours of the Australian setting and its European influence blend in unity. Compare the rich red of exposed earth in eroded gullies with the white sandy beaches of pebbled streams.

Explore the mineral springs, waterfalls, rivers and lakes.

Many types of rock formation and vegetation exist within the Shire and some of the flora and fauna are unique to central Victoria.

The townships created by the rush of goldminers to the district in the early 1850's are full of interesting architecture and monuments.

We are fortunate that a large number of structures from last century remain to remind us of our heritage. Not only are our buildings important but so is the railway line, the water courses and early mining remnants.

Visit the animal reserves, plan a picnic in a park, fossick or pan for gold, relax while fishing or swimming, tour the plant nurseries, galleries or museums, and when you have visitors from "less fortunate" areas you can feel proud of showing them around, because as you will find, there is so much to show off, so close to home.

## TRUST COMMENDS SHIRE

The National Trust of Victoria recently commended the Shire of Metcalfe for its effort and initiative in preparing and exhibiting planning controls to protect heritage features.

The Shire was amongst a number of municipalities during 1984/85 which introduced planning controls to protect areas of historical importance, of natural beauty, trees, buildings, works, objects and other significant sites.

## SPORTS DIRECTORY

Tennis Courts are located at Metcalfe, Chewton, Harcourt, Taradale, Barkers Creek, Elphinstone, Sutton Grange, Redesdale and Barfold.

Cricket and/or football grounds are located at Chewton, Harcourt, Taradale, Barkers Creek and Elphinstone.

Green Bowls in the summer are held at Harcourt and Carpet Bowls in the winter are held at Elphinstone.

## BICENTENNIAL NEWS

**The Shire of Metcalfe was one of the first in Victoria to establish a Bicentennial Community Committee in conjunction with the Australian Bicentennial Authority.**

To encourage local involvement in the celebrations the Authority has allocated funding to the Shire of \$2,000 plus \$1 per head of population which means Metcalfe Municipality is eligible for a grant of up to \$4,400.

Council is then required to match this grant on a \$1 for \$1 basis.

Bicentennial activities may also be assisted by other Commonwealth or State grants, supplemented further by additional funds applied for under the Authority's National Programmes.

The 26 member committee is widely representative of organizations throughout the Shire. Shire President, Cr. Shirley Archbold, is Committee President, Helen McGeachin, Secretary, and Katherine Seppings, Publicity Officer.

The Committee has plans for the best use of allocated funds, keeping in mind the involvement of as many people in the community as possible and so that they receive something of lasting benefit.

The main grant of \$8,800 is to be spent on collecting and publishing the Shire's history.

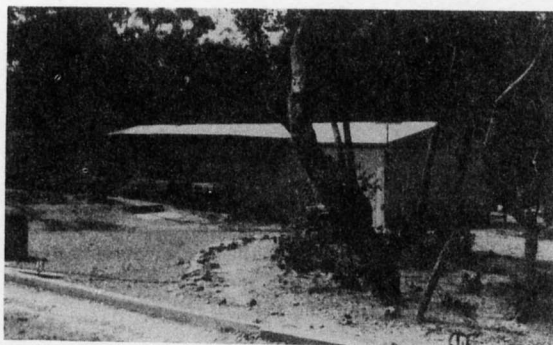
\$7,800 will contribute to the costs of the Publisher and the remaining \$1,000 will enable all relevant historical material to be stored for community use in the Shire Offices.

Applications made to the Bicentennial Heritage Grant will enable copying of old photographs and documents, photographing of architecture and landscapes for historical purposes and the recording of oral histories.

The Bicentennial Heritage Grant may also provide funds for a sign-posted walking track through the Shire following the steps of Major Mitchell.

A special sporting and recreational event is planned, to be held at Taradale's picturesque sporting grounds. Ideas have been put forward of a one-day International Cricket Match at the sports ground; having the steam train stop at the Taradale station; and a competition to see who can throw a cricket ball over the enormous Taradale viaduct.

For further information contact Katherine Seppings, 72 4230, or write to her C/- Chewton Post Office.



## CHEWTON BOWMEN

Over the past three years, Chewton Bowmen have produced some of Victoria's top archers, including five juniors and one senior selected for the State team.

Now two more, Fiona Donovan and Bernard Baker, have been selected to represent Victoria in the Australian Junior Nationals held in Brisbane this January.

The Metcalfe Annual Target Tournament, the largest one-day tournament held in Victoria, is hosted at the Chewton range which is regarded as one of the best in Australia.

A lot of time, work and effort by club members has gone into establishing the high standard of the split level range, with assistance from Council.

Shire funding enabled earth-moving to be carried out, a further grant from the shire allowed a dam to be built, grass to be grown and a sprinkler system set up.

Apple picking was just one method of raising enough money to erect Permanent Target Butts, a Club House and Toilet block.

The club has a playground for children and barbecue facilities.

New members are always welcome on any Sunday at the Range, situated at the 113km. post on the Melbourne Road, at Chewton.

For further information write to P.O. Box 281, Castlemaine. 3450.

## FUNDING FOR ATHLETES

If your club is a recognised State Sporting Association and any member demonstrates an ability to perform at State and/or National competition level as a finalist or a member of a State team, here is some good news.

The Department of Sport and Recreation has a number of schemes to provide financial assistance to individual high performance athletes.

These schemes are: 1. Victorian Sports Aid Foundation. 2. Junior Sports Aid Foundation. 3. Veterans' Sports Aid Foundation. 4. Country Athlete Assistance Scheme.

The objectives of these schemes are to provide sports participants with funds to encourage the development of their sporting abilities to their highest potential; to increase the participation level of Victorians in national and international competition; to achieve a feeling of public pride amongst sports participants and identify with the State of Victoria through the achievement of higher national and international rankings.

For interested clubs, application forms are available from Jane E. Sharwood, Recreation Consultant for the Bendigo regional office of the Department of Sport and Recreation at 37 View St., Bendigo, phone 42 1999.



## The Smallest Town Hall?

No one seems to know for certain whether the Chewton Town Hall qualifies as the smallest town hall in Australia, but it must certainly come close.

The size of the building, however, is no measure of the richness of its history, but both justify its recognition.

The Town Hall is recorded by the National Trust and is listed on the National Estate Register as a public building of historic significance and worthy of preservation.

Unfortunately, over the years this unique remnant of our past has been sadly neglected. The front section of the building, built in 1860 as the town hall, was also used as the court house, and although still very solid, does need a lot of restoration.

The rear timber section was once the Mechanics Institute, which is possibly the smallest of its kind. Today it seems only to be standing by a prayer.

When Chewton was declared a municipality in 1860 twenty eight councillors were elected, one of whom was J.B. Patterson. This local pioneer, who became Mayor of Chewton, was a prominent Federationist, an M.L.A. and Premier of Victoria. Sir James Patterson's portrait still hangs above the fire place in the Town Hall.

Many other enthusiastic men and women contributed to our local history and the town hall's glory, but by early this century the population had dwindled from the many thousands in 1860 to only a few hundred and on the 31st May 1916 the Borough of Chewton united with the Shire of Metcalfe.

The greatest threat loomed over the tiny town hall during the mid-1970's when the

proposed re-alignment of the main road meant the demolition of a number of historical buildings including the Chewton Post Office. However, in conjunction with a Council-funded conservation study local residents rallied to save some of their heritage.

The town hall was then leased to the Castlemaine Seventh Day Adventist Church who carried out extensive renovation work to the inside front section.

Early in 1985 a new Committee of Management was elected, with office bearers Cr. Silas Ellery, President; Helen McGeachin, Secretary; and Katherine Seppings, Treasurer.

Together with the Chewton Development Committee the battle is now on to fully restore the Town Hall to its former grandeur and make it a functional meeting place for wide community use.

Apart from the structural restoration work, the inclusion of kitchen and toilet facilities, tastefully designed in complementary style to the existing building, are of major importance.

Council is supporting this project and seeking funds from Government sources to ensure that the property remains a valuable asset to the Shire.

## DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS

When buildings are erected or there is a change of use of the property there are two processes to go through, namely planning approval and building approval.

### PLANNING APPROVAL

The Planning Approval is the first step, and this should be sought prior to any building application being made. A permit is not required in all cases, however clarification should be sought from the Council. A planning approval is approval of the development or use in principle. Detailed plans

## SWIMMING

Although the Shire of Metcalfe is miles from the Australian coastline, this doesn't mean we can't go for a cool dip this summer whilst enjoying central Victorian sunshine.

There are many favourite swimming holes within easy reach including the Shire's pools at Harcourt and Chewton.

These two excellent facilities are open to the public throughout the summer season daily.

Chewton 2 - 6 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m.  
Harcourt 2 - 9 p.m.

Seasonal tickets may be obtained from the ticket office at each pool. Costs: Chewton, Families \$27, single \$17; Harcourt, Families \$30, Single \$15. Casual visits at both pools, 80 cents per adult, 40 cents per child, with concessional passes available.

These swimming pools are regularly used by local schools. During school holidays Harcourt pool provides 'Learn to Swim' classes from December 30 - January 10. For further information contact Judith Hughes on 74 2142.

Harcourt pool has the added benefit of a solar blanket which raises the temperature of the water by about 10°.

Other popular summer attractions are the Expedition Pass Reservoir near Faraday, Turpins Falls at Metcalfe and Lake Eppalock.

## MUSIC FOR METCALFE

At any time of the year sporting and recreational activities can be found happening in most areas of the Shire, but until mid-1985 music was very much a private affair.

Helen McGeachin, a talented local musician with many years' experience of organising the Maldon Folk Festival, has brought high class music to Metcalfe by forming the Chewton Folk Club.

The Club has grown with enormous success and has a country, city and even interstate audience.

It is drawn by the great variety of artists whom Helen arranges to perform. These have included Faye White, John Beavis, Meg McDonald, Roddy and Butler and many others.

The Folk Club is held in the Chewton Town Hall every 3rd Friday night of the month at 8 p.m. Enquiries to Helen McGeachin, 72 3990.

are not required, however sufficient information should be supplied to fully describe the proposal. Application forms are available at the Shire Office. No fee is charged for a planning permit.

### BUILDING APPROVAL

This is the second stage and involves the submission of detailed plans and specifications. All building applications are required to comply with the town planning permit issued. When the use of a building is changed it may be necessary to carry out additional structural works because of the different classification. Building approvals must be obtained prior to the commencement of construction. A fee is charged for each building approval, based on the extent of the proposal. The building work for a new dwelling is required to be commenced within 12 months and completed within 2 years from the date of issue of the permit.

Council officers are available to assist anyone with queries regarding these matters.

## COUNCILLOR DIRECTORY

### SHIRE OF METCALFE COUNCILLORS

#### TARADALE RIDING

Cr. A.J. Phillips ..... 232486  
Cr. F.D. Penno, J.P. .... 232280  
Cr. G.E. Warner ..... 232227

#### NORTH RIDING

Cr. J.M. Barty ..... 253127  
Cr. E.R. Mactier ..... 232265  
Cr. R.R. Barber ..... 733201

#### SOUTH RIDING

Cr. E.M. Murphy ..... 234156  
Cr. D. Cant ..... 234122  
Cr. H.R. Dettmann ..... 232212

#### WEST RIDING

Cr. G.R. Tiers ..... 733203  
Cr. R. Rice ..... 742453  
Cr. L.J. Ellery ..... 742196

#### CHEWTON RIDING

Cr. A.J. Elliott ..... 733278  
Cr. S.A. Archbold ..... 722825  
Cr. S.A. Ellery ..... 722583

#### SENIOR OFFICERS

M.B. Watson (Shire Secretary) ..... 232302  
B.D. Ross (Shire Engineer) ..... 232302

## WORKS

Some of the major Council works carried out during the past year were:

1. Bendigo-Sutton Grange Road widening.
2. Kyneton-Redesdale Road widening.
3. Morgans Road construction.
4. East Metcalfe-Langley Road construction.
5. Metcalfe-Taradale Road construction.
6. Lyal Road bridge construction.
7. Redesdale-Sutton Grange Road Reseal.
8. Repairs to Metcalfe-Taradale Road bridge (Todds)
9. Repairs to Metcalfe-Elphinstone Road bridge (Red Gum)
10. Replacement of Chewton-Faraday Road bridge.
11. Replacement of Sutton Grange-Faraday Road bridge (Masonite)
12. Repairs to the Kyneton-Metcalfe Road bridge (Doyle's)
13. Metcalfe-Elphinstone Road bridge (Red Gum) approaches.
14. Swimming Pool repairs and maintenance (Chewton & Harcourt).

Council is proposing to carry out the following works during the current 1985/86 year:

1. Bendigo-Sutton Grange Road widening (North of Blackfellows Gate Road).
2. Drainage Restoration along the Bendigo-Sutton Grange Road.
3. Resealing of the Kyneton-Redesdale Road.
4. Lyal Road widening - Completion.
5. Lyell Street, Taradale, construction.
6. Metcalfe-Kyneton Road - construction of bridge approaches.
7. Redesdale-Sutton Grange Road Reseal.
8. Rattrays Road reseal.
9. East Metcalfe-Langley Road construction.
10. Metcalfe-Elphinstone Road Bridge (Red Gum) - commencement of construction.
11. Metcalfe-Taradale Road Bridge (Todds) - construction of approaches.
12. Davey Street Bridge, Taradale-repair.
13. Harcourt North Road (Bridge Repair)
14. Kerb & Channel Construction, Harcourt and Chewton.