

**TEMPERATURES**  
Monday minimum 11.2 degrees, maximum 18 degrees. Tuesday 8, 18.6. Wednesday 9.8, 21.1. Thursday 10.8.

**RAINFALL**  
Nil. Month to date 98.6 mm. Year to date 416.4 mm. (1992 to October 7, 406.6 mm).

**SALINITY**  
Loddon River at Kerang, unavailable. Kerang Weir daily from



October 1, 1150, 1200, 1260, 1270, 1414, 1476, 1380 EC. Barr Creek at Capel's Crossing, 5340, 5200, 5100, 4470, 4470, 4470, 4470 EC.

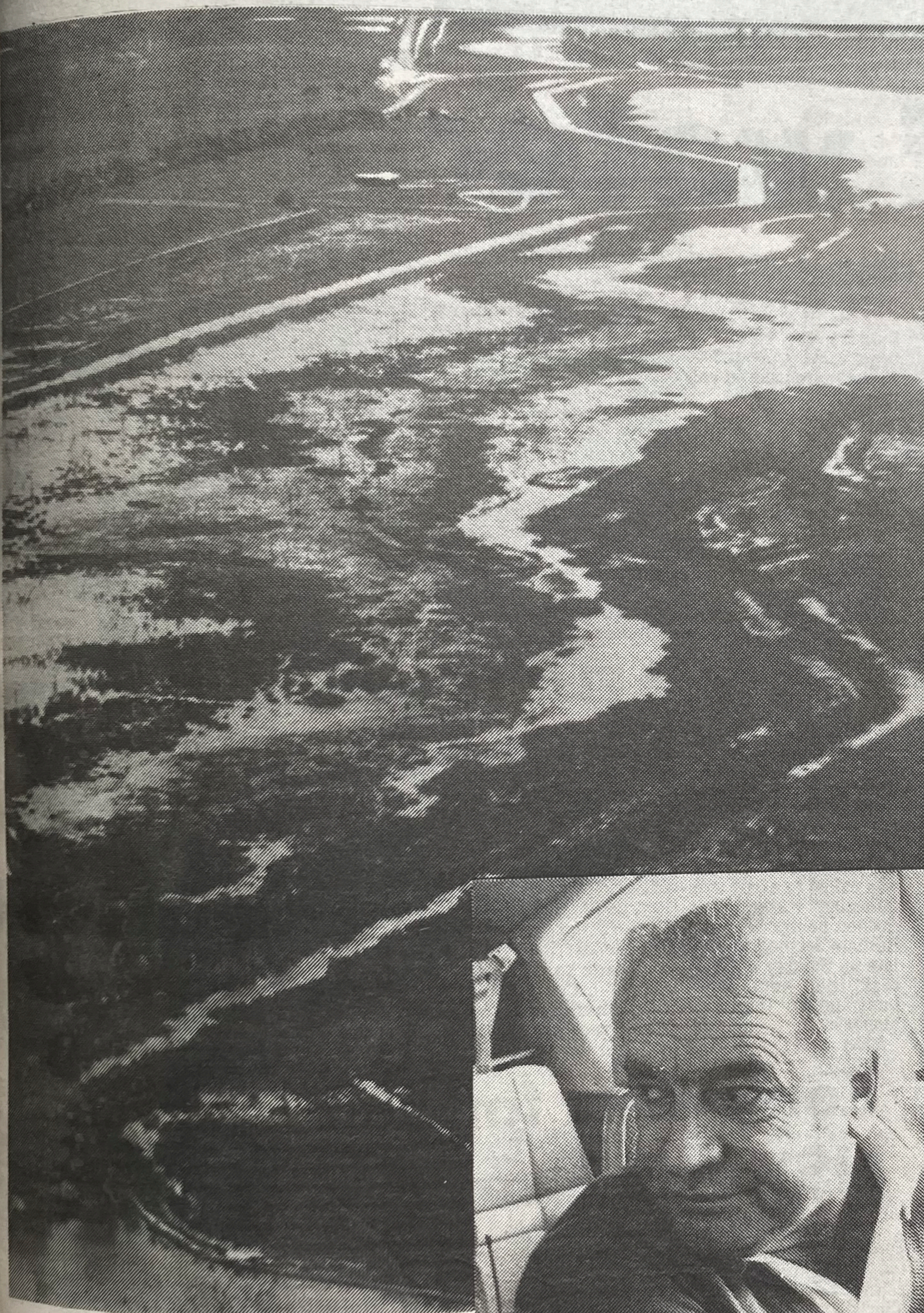
**FORECAST**  
Fine although cloud increasing. Mild to

warm day with a freshening north to north-westerly wind.

Warning of moderate flooding current for the Murray River from Echuca to Wakool Junction and minor flooding current for the Loddon River downstream of Laanecoorie Reservoir. Outlook Saturday: Scattered showers. Cold wind. Sunday: Fine. Cool.

Some show in the mud  
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# Sea of water



**FLOODING** has turned much of northern Victoria and southern New South Wales into a virtual inland sea.

Swollen streams have waterlogged thousands of hectares of paddocks and adversely affected the livelihood of farmers already contending with diminished returns.

Residents at Barham and Koondrook are bracing themselves for a major flood peak in the Murray River that may also aggravate the impact of flooding in the lower reaches of the Loddon River.

Federal Member for Murray, Mr Bruce Lloyd said after aerial and ground inspections on Wednesday that houses and farms have been inundated for over 200 km across the region.

"The great Goulburn and Murray Valley irrigation areas are almost a sea of water and that water has dramatically interfered with the lives of thousands of people", he said.

Mr Lloyd inspected areas near Kerang affected by the Loddon River and Pyramid

Creek floods and saw the aftermath of Sunday's 66 cm downpour in Kerang where water was still being pumped from streets after the wettest October day on record.

Borough engineer and local State Emergency Service controller, Mr Colin Campbell, led Mr Lloyd and State Member for Rodney, Mr Noel Maughan on a tour of the Loddon River area upstream and downstream of Kerang.

Mr Lloyd inspected the Barham-Koondrook area, the lower reaches of the Loddon River catchment and the lakes area from the air.

He also inspected flooding in the Shepparton region.

The inspection revealed thousands of hectares of waterlogged paddocks in the Kerang area, flood mitigation preparations at Barham and Koondrook and the swollen Loddon River.

Mr Lloyd said that the effect on the regional community was clearly evident.

"Unfortunately, none of these communities are yet secure if there is more heavy rain in the next week.

"For families, there is the despair and loss of a flooded home and for farmers the loss of crops and stock and fences just when a reasonable season seemed secure.

"The dairy industry, the major primary and food processing industry of the valley, the flooding of so much irrigated pasture is particularly galling as production will suffer at a time when there is good international demand for Australian dairy products", he said.

Mr Lloyd also said that much of the region's tomato crop is devastated and grain crops damaged.

The biggest impact of Murray River flooding in the Barham-Koondrook area will be moderate to major inundation of farms.

Local State Emergency Service controller, Mr Neil Whelan said that both towns should be able to withstand a flood peak of about 6.16 metres, expected about October 18.

The river height yesterday was 6.09 metres and rising gradually

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## Town pumping follows wettest October day

**COUNCIL** staff, firefighters and residents have pumped thousands of litres of water off Kerang properties this week in the wake of the wettest October day on record.

Sunday's 66.6 mm downpour left streets flooded and sewers blocked and pumping to alleviate the problems continued until late yesterday.

Residents were still reporting water under houses yesterday.

Borough engineer, Mr Colin Campbell said that the last major pumping operation on Wednesday involved removing water from the Tate drive industrial estate and adjoining residential area.

Half of the Airport road carriageway was closed to traffic at Boundary street to enable water to be pumped across the road to enter the stormwater drainage system.

Firefighters helped council staff late on Sunday night and early Monday morning and were busy again on

Monday and Tuesday.

Mr Brian Moore's entire house block at the corner of Victoria and Ninth streets was inundated and firefighters took four hours to clear the water.

Mr Campbell said that some flooding and sewerage overflows were aggravated by downpipes illegally entering sewerage vents and some manhole lids not being fitted tightly.

"It wasn't the amount of rain we had that caused the trouble, it was the intensity", he said.

Mr Campbell said that council had allocated nearly \$50,000 this financial year for drainage maintenance, an increase of \$20,000.

He said that council was investigating a number of options to assist drainage, including using the former railway dam as a retarding basin and more pumps.

Sunday's deluge has cost Cohuna Shire Council between \$30,000 and \$50,000 damage to road assets, according

to shire engineer, Mr George Payne.

Mr Payne said it was the worse devastation he had ever seen in the shire caused by rain-associated flooding.

He said the torrential rain created a lot of problems for the shire's road systems, with sections of at least 14 roads totally submerged.

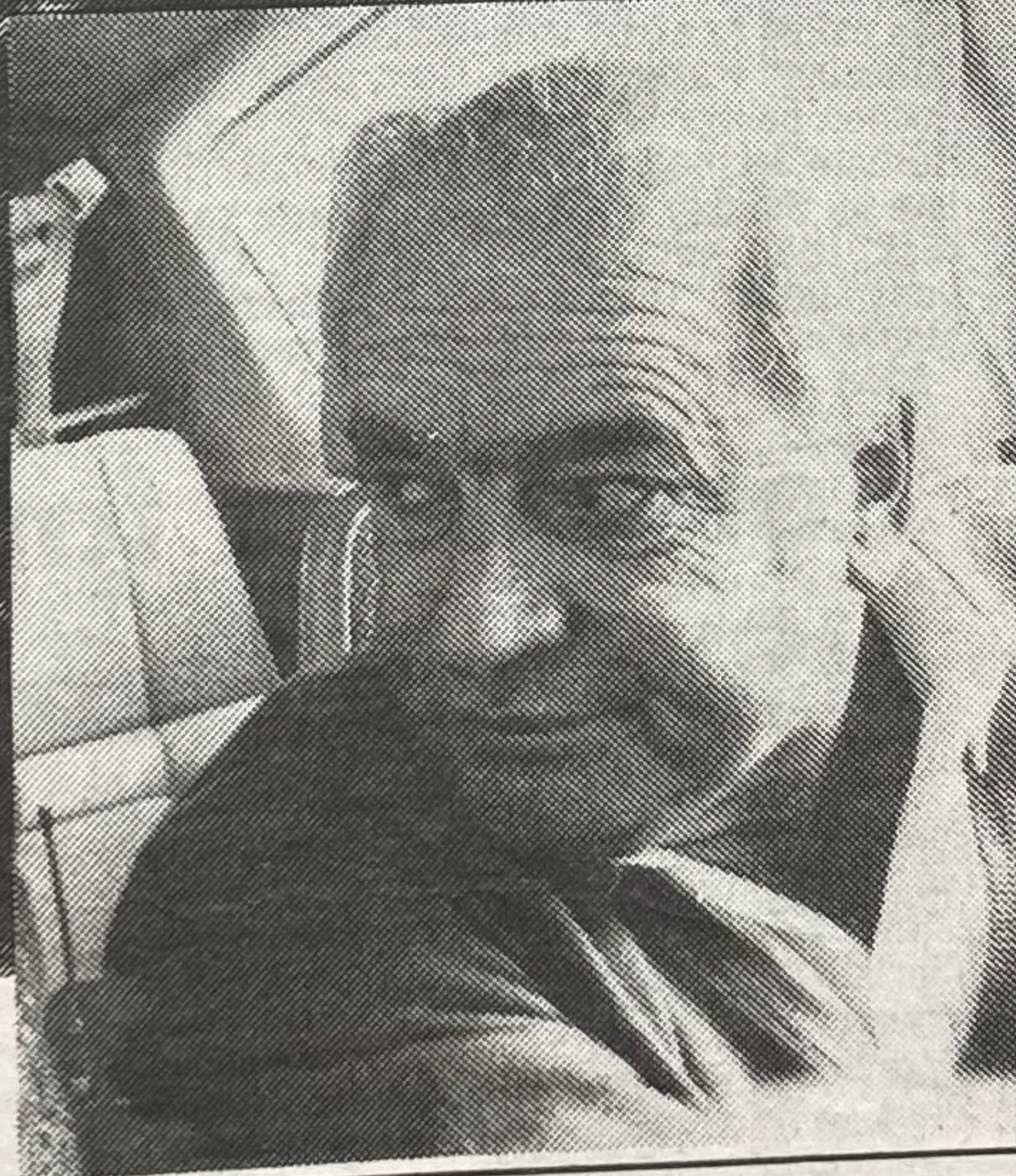
Mr Payne said immediate short-term damage involved scoured and pot-holed gravel road surfaces.

He said rain saturated pavements and sealed roads could lose their firm base and start breaking up, resulting in long term damage.

Some minor property damage was also incurred.

Shire staff and Leitchville Fire Brigade members helped sandbag a home in Leitchville on Sunday night.

Mr Payne said the town's drainage water had flooded along the drain system and had inundated the premises.



A concerned local Federal politician, Mr Bruce Lloyd, survey from the air a landscape dominated by swollen streams and waterlogged paddocks.

## Farmer wins extra shire riding poll

**KERANG** dairy farmer, Mrs Ruth Angel will serve as a Central Riding councillor on the Shire of Kerang for the next three years following her win in the extraordinary council election on Saturday.

She will be sworn in next Tuesday.

The election was called after no nominations were received for former councillor, Mr Drew English's seat at the August Local Government elections.

Mrs Angel polled 462 votes to defeat Fairley farmer and businessman, Mr Jim Treacy by

80 votes.

A former school teacher, Mrs Angel runs an irrigation dairy farm with her husband Sid at Peerman road near Kerang.

Mrs Angel said there were a lot of decisions to be made by council in the coming years,

including council amalgamation, Local Government re-structure, flooding of private land, the establishment of a modern waste disposal enterprise and desalination projects.

Mr Treacy offered his congratulations to Mrs Angel.

Football League final umpire, Tony... the VSL Golden... Award for field... under 25 with most... tial went to... Hunter, and the... Mathers... Award for... umpire with most... tial to Jason... Life member... Thies, presented... annual club... award to incoming... dent, "Butch" B... a Victorian... Football Umpire... association service... to 25-year... George Garner... Other awards... courage... Neville Woolhouse... David Lea (bound... Trevor Nicholson... best first year... Hunter (bound... Halliday... Greg Jackson... most improved... Robinson (bound... Burns (goal); best... Jones (field); Orr (field); Doyle... George Garner... Grand final... John... Garner... Peter Howden... Doyle; Reserves... gencies; Tony... David Lea... Paul Robinson... Johnson... emergency... Under... Douthat, Warren... Tara... Burns... Andrew Garner.