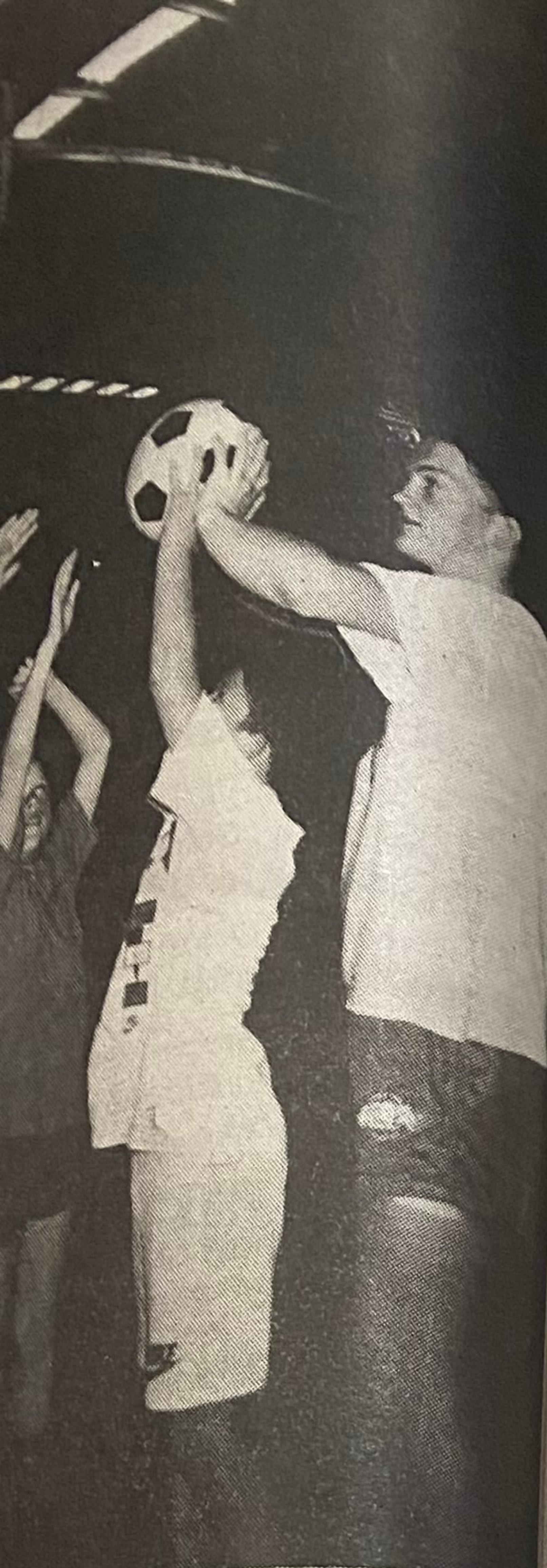




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## Flood sheep shift

Forty volunteers and a flotilla of boats yesterday completed evacuating almost 3000 sheep stranded by rising waters in the Cuninyeuk district.

Swan Hill, Moulamein and Kerang State Emergency Service units were swung into action on Friday morning in a dawn-to-dusk operation on Gordon Chilvers' property, "Wahronga", about 40km from Swan Hill, on the Deniliquin Road.

Mr Chilvers said the sheep had been cut off by the swollen Wyam Creek.

The sheep were loaded from temporary yards into four SES boats and a fleet of punts to be ferried about 3km along the Wyam Creek to safe ground.

Mr Chilvers said hardly a sheep was lost.

"I appreciate greatly the help that's been given by many people," he said.

"This is the first time I've had a problem of such magnitude."

Mr Chilvers said the Wyam Creek, which is fed by the Wakool River, was already at a record flood level and would rise further as the Murray River rose.

He said the sheep, in full wool, were due to be shorn.

Mr Chilvers said one of his neighbors also had about 100 sheep stranded by the rising waters and another evacuation was planned for tomorrow.

The Murray River has been closed to recreational powered vehicles from Barham to Swan Hill because of the high level and the danger of wake wash erosion of levee banks.

# THE GUARDIAN

CIRCULATING IN SWAN HILL  
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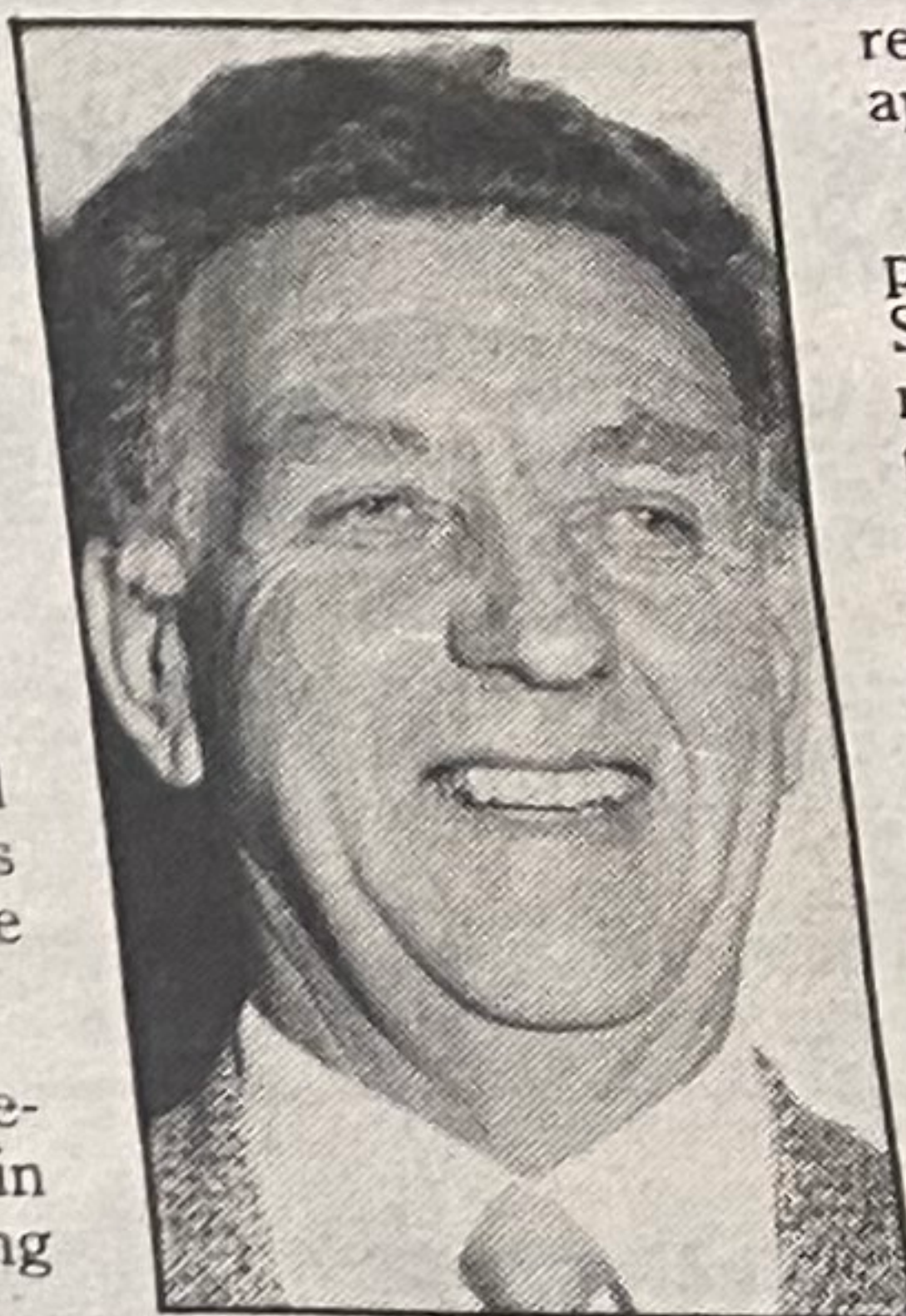
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A CITY councillor believes Swan Hill is entering a boom phase in its economic development.

Cr Albert Heslop said he based his prediction on a number of significant changes taking place at all levels of the community and positive, planned and determined attitudes which seemed to be emerging.

The economic improvement would be reflected in other regions surrounding Swan Hill, he said.



Cr Heslop

"Swan Hill City Council updated its corporate plan late last year with the major change towards a more direct and positive involvement in development towards a thriving and vibrant community.

"Previously council saw itself providing a sound infrastructure for private enterprise to build upon.

"The new policy goes further than this and directs councillors and staff to be much more involved in assisting and encouraging development," Cr Heslop said.

He said the recently-elected mayor, Cr Andy Millar, had built on the plan by altering councillors' portfolios to comply with community need and aspirations and to suit individual councillors' talents and interests.

Cr Heslop has been allocated the Economic Development portfolio.

To support his prediction of a boom phase, he has listed some of the changes and has invited the public to seek to make use of these opportunities or, if necessary, to contact

him for information or assistance.

Cr Heslop said he was aware of five new industries in Swan Hill with two of those initiated by the Murray Mallee 2000 group.

"Education and training are vital components of economic development and it is an industry in its own right.

"Groups including the local TAFE campus, Dowling House, Sk Share and Koori Education have been working together towards more effective and planned education and training.

"Further to this, Trevor Budge Report the needs of further education in the Swan Kerang area is soon released and is expected to recommend a

Insight

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TOP: It was a case of please don't rock the boat as floodbound sheep were coaxed onto the Swan Hill SES floodboat on the Chilvers property on the Wyam Creek at Cuninyeuk on Friday afternoon. Noel Baber, of Swan Hill unit, encourages another sheep on board with the assistance of local farmers.

ABOVE: Swan Hill unit cockswain Rob Merrett keeps a close watch on his passengers as he ferries them 3km to higher ground on the property, away from the flooded area. Merrett said the sheep's behavior was faultless.

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