

# Moulamein braced for floodwaters

THE State Emergency Service at Moulamein yesterday brought in another 50,000 sandbags as the district braced itself against rising floodwaters.

Moulamein SES controller Neil Whelan said 44,000 sandbags had already been stockpiled in potential trouble spots.

Mr Whelan said the main flood risk areas would be Cunninyeuk, Mellool and Mallan, with the Wakool River expected to cause more problems than the Edward.

Sandbag stockpiles have been created at:

Koraleigh, Wakool Council depot; Koraleigh, Alan Box's garage; Speewa Island, Paul Jager's property; Murray Downs, Jim Crowe's grain shed; Mellool, Rodney Dunn's property; Murrabit, Geoff McDonald; Barham, Wakool Council depot; Wakool, Wakool Council depot.

Yesterday further sandbag stockpiles were created at R.Glenn's Edward Park property at Dhuragoon and at W.Craig's Riversleigh property at Niemur.

Mr Whelan said if more sandbags were needed, there were about 300,000 at Deniliquin, which could be transported already filled on pallets to the Moulamein district.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Moulamein SES on

## Pyap is off river

THE *ps Pyap* will not be offering cruises until the flood danger on the Murray and Little Murray Rivers has passed.

Pioneer Settlement operations manager Perc Robinson said the Settlement was concerned the wake wash from the boat could damage levee banks.

The New South Wales Maritime Services Board had already closed the river between Barham and Swan Hill to recreational powered vessels, but this did not affect the *Pyap*, which is classed as a commercial vessel.

(058) 87-5105, or Mr Whelan at the Wakool Council office on (058) 87-5007.

Recent heavy rain in the Koraleigh, Mellool and Speewa areas of Wakool Council caused severe damage and inconvenience.

And high flood levels along the Wakool River and Merran and Coobool creeks have damaged roads and cut residents' access.

Roads in the areas which had rainfalls from 110mm to 135mm were cut by stormwater flowing over lower sections.

Substantial restoration work was carried out by Wakool Council works staff last week to re-open Prentice Road and Lake Poomah-Stony Crossing Road.

Work remains to be done to open other roads in the Koraleigh area.

Sustained pumping by landholders and in some

cases shire workmen was carried out on Speewa Island, Koraleigh and Goodnight.

Scouring of gravel roads was some of the most severe ever encountered.

Moulamein SES, assisted by landholders and council staff and in some instances by SES from Kerang and Swan Hill, have sandbagged levees, rescued 3000 sheep on a Cunninyeuk property and a smaller number from a Gee Gee property and inspected levees.

Flood levels on the Wakool River and Coobool Creek system have been similar to the 1975 level, but higher levels are expected with the next rise in the Murray River.

While Moulamein expects to experience little difficulty with the rise in the Edward River, due to relatively low levels in the Billabong Creek, both the Niemur and Wakool systems will have serious flooding.

# Pesticide link in breast milk

URGENT moves are under way to ban two widely-used pesticides in Australia after dangerously high levels were found in the breast milk of new mothers.

The shock findings have sent alarm bells ringing in Government circles after hazardous levels of the chemicals Dieldrin and Heptachlor were found in 100 percent of samples taken during a recent medical survey of breast-feeding mothers in Western Australia.

Australian Democrats Senator John Coulter wants the highly toxic pesticides banned in Australia and will take action to do so when Parliament resumes next week.

"The WA research, published in the Medical Journal of Australia, sampled more than 130 new mothers in hospitals across the State and found levels of both chemicals far in excess of accepted World Health Organisation limits," Senator Coulter said.

"It is widely known that both chemicals have been linked to cancer, birth defects and the development of tumors and should therefore be banned as a matter of urgency.

"The latest alarming results which form the second of two major studies conducted on these chemicals in recent years, clearly highlights a major problem in this country.

"The continued use of these dangerous pesticides in homes and buildings as a means of fighting termites is putting everyone, especially children, at an unacceptable risk."

Senator Coulter said that with such high levels found in the breast milk of mothers it appeared that many women were walking time bombs dispensing a chemical cocktail to their children.

"There are proven non-chemical alternatives to fighting termites that are completely safe and it is totally irresponsible for all Governments, State and Federal, to ignore the danger signs," he said.

# 'Flood will prove reserve's fitness'

WAMBA WAMBA Aboriginal Reserve's levee bank suitability for further permanent housing would be tested by the flooded Murray River next Monday.

According to Wamba Wamba Local Aboriginal Lands Council co-ordinator Kim Peat, the record river level forecast for Monday would be the acid test that the reserve is not threatened by flood flows.

"If we can withstand this flood, it negates all the arguments in relation to this site," Mr Peat said.

The council desperately wants to start building another duplex on the reserve, but Wakool Council cannot grant building approval until the results of a Murray-Darling flood plain management strategy are released in 1995.

Mr Peat said Wamba Wamba had \$120,000 already set aside for the duplex by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

He said there were families still living in tin sheds at Wamba Wamba.

"They've got no cooking or toilet facilities and the tin sheds are overcrowded," he said.

Mr Peat said Wamba Wamba residents could not wait another two years for a further duplex.

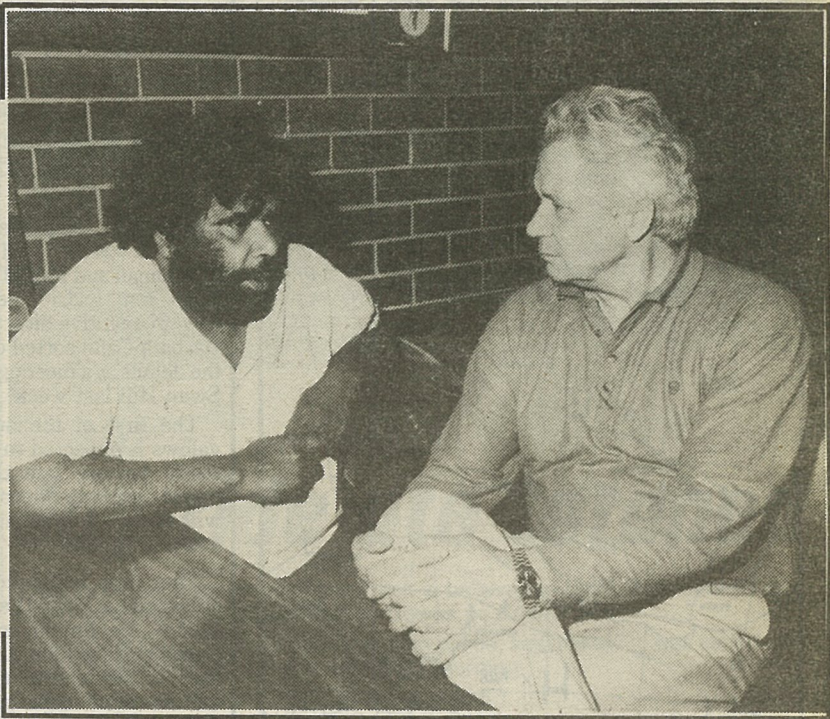
He said the council raised the issue strongly with Opposition Aboriginal Affairs spokesman Colin Markham when he visited the reserve last week.

He said Mr Markham was thoroughly briefed on every aspect of the housing development application.

"But he can only act within the constraints of his shadow portfolio," Mr Peat said.

He said he believed about \$5 million would be spent at the reserve in the long term to provide substantial infrastructure.

"We are looking at providing dormitory facilities for the 15-20-year-old group, so we can equip



WAMBA WAMBA Local Aboriginal Land Council chairperson Alf Moore (left) in a meeting with NSW Opposition Aboriginal Affairs spokesman Colin Markham last week.

## In brief . . . In brief . . . In brief

### Works delayed

Recent heavy rains seem certain to delay construction works proposed by Wakool Council.

Routine grading and bridge repairs will be carried out and preparation of stockpile sites for aggregate for forthcoming sealing projects.

### Mellool meeting off

A meeting of Mellool Rural Watch scheduled for Friday night has been cancelled.

This is due to farmers in the region battling to contain floodwaters on the Merran Creek and the Murray and Wakool Rivers.

The meeting has been re-scheduled for some time in December.

### Minister to visit

ACTING Victorian Premier and Minister for Police and Emergency Services Pat McNamara will visit Swan Hill tomorrow for discussions on the flood situation.

Mr McNamara will meet Swan Hill State Emergency Service personnel at their McCallum Street office at about 11am and then talk to Swan Hill shire and city councillors at the City of Swan Hill reception room before leaving at 12.30pm.

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