

Alert for 'dead' votes

PEOPLE suspected of casting an illegal vote in the Nunawading election will be challenged at the polling booth.

Illegal voting carries severe penalties and the State Electoral Office is taking every precaution to guard against it.

The Chief Electoral Officer for Victoria, Mr Eric Richardson, said that he did not expect to be faced with attempts at illegal voting, but the precautions were necessary.

People registered on the electoral roll for the March 2 election are the only ones eligible to vote in the re-election for the seat on Saturday, he said.

"While the law does not permit us to amend or alter the roll

which was used on March 2, a list of deceased people has been prepared and supplied to all polling officials.

"This will allow us to safeguard, at all polling places, against any attempt by someone to vote in the name of a person known to be deceased," Mr Richardson said.

The Electoral Office also moved this week to quell public debate over the number of candidates for the election.

Nine candidates are running in the re-election. Only three contested the seat at the March 2 state election.

Mr Richardson said the coming election was being conducted in accordance with the existing legislation. It provided

that any qualified person could nominate as a candidate in a by-election.

"If the legislation restricted nomination to only those candidates who previously contested the seat, it would have to take into account the possibilities of death of a candidate or candidates, or a candidate not wanting to re-run.

"If it was considered that there should be restrictions on the number of candidates contesting such an election, Government would need to legislate for the changes," he said.

The main change voters should be aware of is that the name of the political party, where applicable, appears after

each candidate's name on the ballot paper.

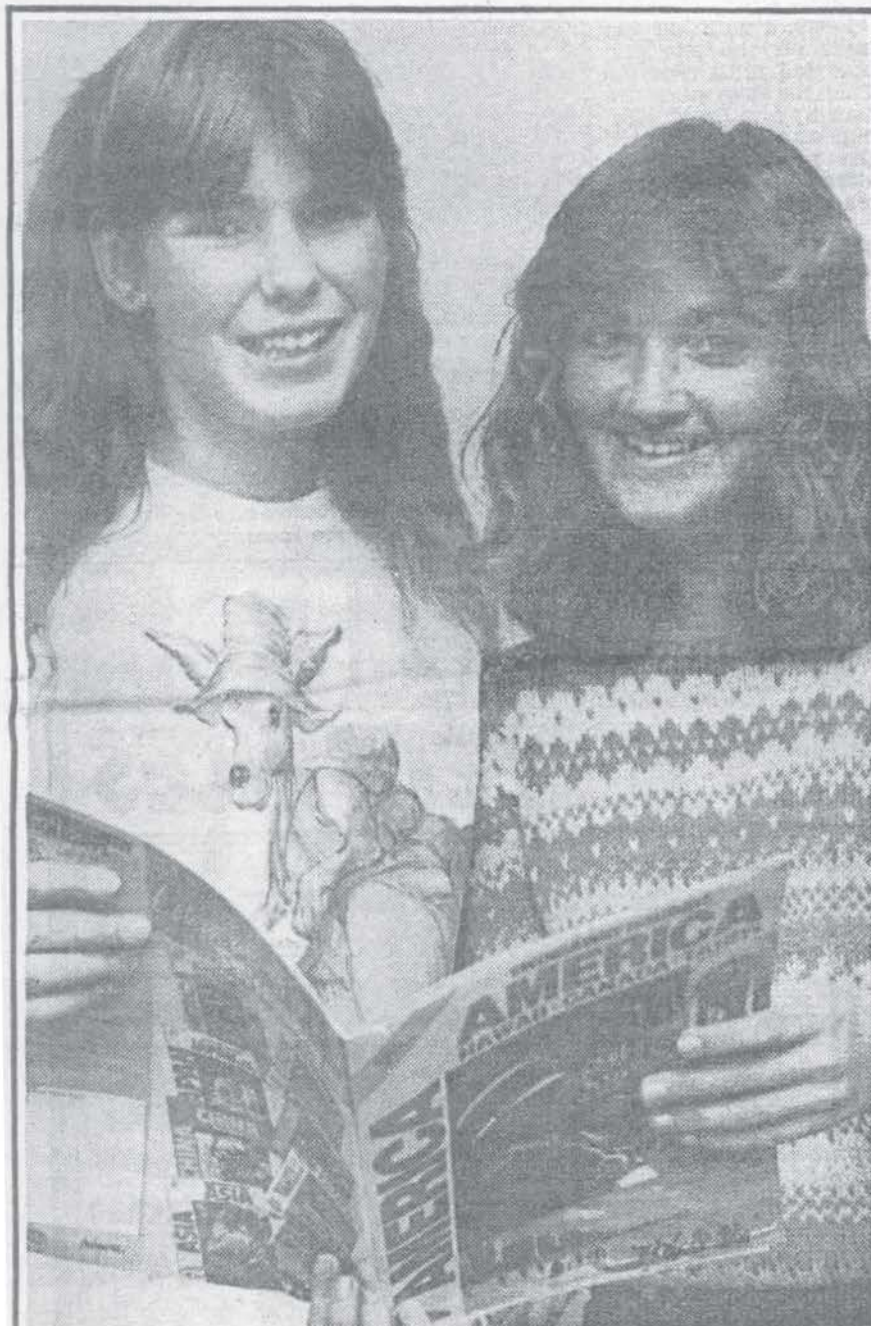
● Next Saturday's election will see the first use of radios by election officials.

Nunawading returning officer, Mr Kevin Findlay, said polling booth officials would be in radio contact with a base to be set up in Station St., Mitcham.

"The intention is to continuously monitor activities at the polling booths and to enable supervising officers to quickly reach any booth if required," he said.

More than 670 staff will be on duty at 51 polling centres from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Rolls at all centres will be identical and absentee voting will not apply.



AMERICA is a pretty exciting place.

Lyn Cadman, 17, right, knows all about it as she has just returned from California as an American Field Service exchange student.

She is pictured with Tracey Robillard, 16, who is about to set off for a 12-month stay in Shelbina, Missouri with an American family.

Both girls are part of the Waverley chapter of the AFS.

Rowdy forum jeers ALP man as poll issues 'bite'

By BRIAN WALSH

THE ALP candidate for Nunawading Province, Mr Bob Ives, was jeered and heckled at a public forum last Wednesday night.

Mr Ives was speaking with Liberal Party candidate Mrs Rosemary Varty and Democrat candidate Mr Michael Nardella at a forum organised by the Nunawading Jaycees.

The forum was designed to give voters a chance to assess the policies of the three candidates who stood at the March 2 Nunawading Province election.

Mr Ives said he would direct his speech to the swinging or uncommitted voters in the audience. But as the night wore on there didn't appear to be too many there.

During his speech, Mr Ives was repeatedly interrupted by interjections from the predominantly Liberal audience.

The interjections became louder when Mr Ives and the other two candidates had to answer written questions from the audience.

Mr Ives apologised because he could not raise his voice due to a bout of the flu — and was promptly shouted down by hecklers.

He said it was not his fault the facilities in the

And once again he was heckled.

After the forum, which ran for about two hours, Mr Ives said he was not surprised by the reaction.

"In 20 years of these types of meetings I have never yet seen one with a predominance of uncommitted voters because quite obviously the party stormtroopers come along," Mr Ives said.

"They do tend to be meetings for the committed, the partisan, and I doubt if one vote is influenced. But still it is important in terms of the democratic process that even if such functions are not taken advantage of, they are held.

Mr Ives believed that the ALP was ahead in the re-election race.

"We think we are in front and we think our organisation is superior.

"We also think that the John Cain versus Jeff Kennett issue is biting hard."

Mr Ives said the "sheer ferocity" of the interruptions to him at the forum reflected the fact that the campaign was beginning to bite.

Mrs Varty was given a rousing reception while Mr Nardella's comments to the forum were heard