

EFL loses its appeal for change

Echuca Football League's appeal against the refusal of its application to switch districts has also been refused. The investigation committee of the Victorian Country Football League has upheld the earlier decision. As a result the EFL will see out season 1980 in the Bendigo District and not the Northern District as it had hoped. The appeal was refused at a hearing of the VCFL committee on Thursday night. EFL president, Mr Jack Cahr, and his secretary, Mr Don Hicks, represented the league at the Melbourne hearing. The EFL took its case to the VCFL after its clearance application was refused by the Bendigo district administrators.

Mr Hicks said he and Mr Cahr were asked to be at the Melbourne hearing by 9 p.m. on Thursday, but waited until 12.10 a.m. before their case was discussed. He said it took about 15 minutes for the committee to reach a decision. According to Mr Hicks neither the Bendigo administrators nor the VCFL committee gave reasons for their decisions. But discussions with the Bendigo District VCFL councillors, Mr Ken Medlin, brought a promise of the reconstruction of the district during 1980. It is understood the Bendigo officials were eager to see the EFL remain in the district and be part of the reconstruction. Mr Hicks is not enthusiastic about any

reconstruction plans as he sees the EFL as having little or no relationship with football activities in Bendigo. Despite the plans of Bendigo District and VCFL officials, Mr Hicks is confident the EFL will be part of the Northern District in 1981. He believes a further application from the Bendigo District to the Northern District late this year in time for the 1981 season would be approved. The EFL has been part of the Bendigo District since 1952. But Mr Hicks argues that the Northern District has more in common with the wants and needs of the EFL and such a change would ultimately mean better football for all.

He says the EFL already has many similarities with the Northern District, the most important being the maintenance of identical age groups for four competitions, distances between grounds and a large number of players and administrators involved with dairy farming. Mr Hicks says the point about dairying is important as starting times for games must relate to the demands faced by farmers. The Northern District has two major leagues and one minor competition. The Northern District League, based on Coluna, and Mid Murray League, based at Swan Hill, are the two major leagues while the Kerang and District League is the minor league.

PEOPLE WIN A SAY ON RIVER LAND

A committee of management has finally been set up to administer an important section of Echuca Village waterfront.

Concession of power over the Crown Land to a locally based committee follows more than a year of lobbying by concerned villagers.

Mr Eddie Hann, M.L.A., Echuca Regional Development Society and Deakin Shire Council backed the residents in their bid to become bush landlords.

The committee now has control over five kilometres of Murray River frontage from Yarraby Caravan Park just east of Echuca. Their belt of bush country stretches upstream taking in the popular Horseshoe Bend.



• Mr Gordon Kruss

Tongala man dies

Tongala man George Morris was killed in a car crash near Bendigo yesterday.

Morris, 64, was a passenger in the rear of a car driven by Trevor Williams, of Tongala.

Their vehicle collided with another at the Lockwood Crossing eight kilometres from Kanaroo Flat.

Morris was killed instantly in the 6.20 pm accident. He was one of four killed on the State's roads over the weekend.

This brings the total deaths for 1980 to 81, 16 fewer than at the same time last year.

Skier hurt

Keith Hinton, of Keyborough, was the only casualty of yesterday's Southern 80 speed ski trial from Torrumbarry to Echuca.

Hinton, 34, skied with K. Graham behind the powerful "Flighcraft". He fell at high speed and was later taken by ambulance to Echuca District Hospital, suffering suspected broken ribs.

Started last year

The strip varies in width from 20 to several hundred metres. Gordon Kruss, of Echuca Village, started the move last year to protect neighborhood river frontage from human abuse.

Gordon and other residents of the Village felt that litterers and recreational vehicle users threatened the ecological balance there.

They set out "to stop permanent damage of the area and its environment and to beautify banks and sandbars, which are adjacent to State Forests."

About 30 residents of Echuca Village attended a public meeting on the issue last year and voted unanimously to support the protection group. On Thursday last, Deakin Shire President Cr George Kellett chaired another meeting in the Village Hall. This meeting formally set up a committee of management for the area in question. The committee consists of one Deakin councillor (Oliver Brown), representatives of the Crown Lands Department and Forests Commission plus three community men — Gordon Kruss, Bill Vickers and Geoff Lynch. Mr Kruss told The Riverine Herald the committee would work to save its section of river and bush for future generations of tourists and residents. He said Echuca-Moama's great river deserved as much conservation care as Australia's coastal and

mountain areas had received for years now — or in a few years it could become unattractive and even unusable. The littered Horseshoe beach referred to in The Riverine Herald last Monday is in the committee's new area of control.

Concerned community groups like Apex will be contacted for help in maintaining this and other precious sandbars in future.

Just last month Echuca Apex club launched a summer community service program to clean up river beaches around here.

Its plan included the placement of more riverside rubbish bins.

Violator top boat in '80'

"Cinders", which also won the expert six litre class with a time of 42:06.73.

Moama Water Sports Club staged yesterday's event and club president, Mr Barry Beehag, described the day as "great".

He said yesterday's event had plenty of incidents, but fortunately no accidents. One skier, Keith Hinton, hurt his ribs in a fall — that according

to Mr Beehag, being the only injury for the day.

Full results from the annual event will appear in Wednesday's Riverine Herald.

Above — "Violator" with its crew on board returns to the Victoria Park boat ramp after winning the Southern 80 outright and setting a new record time for the distance.

