

RIVERINE HOBARRAD



MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

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No. 26,377

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1980

Recommended Price 12c

GARDEN SUPERVISOR LEAVES HIS MARK

This sign graces a gum tree in the aquatic reserve behind Echuca city offices.

"Pate's Place" was named in honor of recently retired City gardens curator, who was responsible for landscaping and grassing the "place", just near Echuca Gem Club's pumprised clubhouse.

• Mr. Pate is today's Page Two Personality.

Pate's
Place

Record entry for "80"

A record 95 entries have been received for Sunday's 15th annual Southern 80 Ski Trial.

Hard work by members of Moama Water Sports Club over recent months has taken the entry list to new highs for the Torrumbarry-to-Echuca event.

At 9 a.m. on Sunday the first boat will leave Torrumbarry aiming to rush through the 80 kilometres of the twisting, turning river in the quickest time possible.

Behind that first boat — on Sunday it will be last year's winner. The Tack — will be 34 other boats all trying for an even better result.

This year the start time of the event has been shifted forward half an hour.

Moama Water Sports Club president, Mr Barry Beehag, said an excellent response by the entrants had allowed his club to plan for an earlier start.

People keen to see the quickest boats cross the finish line at the Victoria Park boatramp will need to be at their vantage point by 9.30 a.m.

Mr Beehag is predicting that the first boat, and probably the quickest, will cross the finish line just 40 minutes after the start. From then entrants will come across the line for at least another three hours.

But while spectators can enjoy a brief sleep in on Sunday Morning, boat crews and skiers will be up with the sun.

The first briefing for the day will be at 8.30 a.m. at the Torrumbarry launch site for the expert class, followed by a second briefing at 10.15 a.m. for the family.

Mr Beehag said all boats must be scrutineered by 10 a.m. and all boat crews must attend briefing sessions.

The first 20 boats, the fastest in the trial, leave each three minutes from Torrumbarry, followed by the remainder of the expert class at two-minute intervals.

Below — Sunday's Southern 80 ski trial from Torrumbarry to Echuca has attracted a record entry of 95 boats including many locals. These two Echuca men, Peter Pickens (left) and Gary Thorn, will ski behind Dr Hook and are pictured earlier this week preparing for a practice session.



The last of the expert boats will leave Torrumbarry at 10.32 a.m. and be followed by the first of the family class boats at 10.40 a.m.

Organisers have planned an eight minute rest break between the leaving of the last expert boat and the start of the family class.

While the high speed action is expected from the 20 boats in the expert class, much of the real fun of the day should come in the family class.

Mr Beehag says his club has been busy trying to emphasise the family aspect of the event, and this year has succeeded.

The record entry includes 56 family class boats, many of which have local participation.

HOPES HIGH FOR WELFARE BUREAU

Echuca may soon have a district welfare advisory centre based in its old Heygarth St tourist bureau.

A trust fund committee which administers the bureau is willing to put \$12,000 into converting it for welfare use.

Echuca City Council has backed the move and is trying to get State Government money for a full-time officer to run the new "welfare bureau".

Council and the Echuca Combined Welfare Services Group have been working on the project since the tourist bureau building became vacant last year.

Their plan is to have a welfare officer and a receptionist based there.

From the centre, welfare services like Meals on Wheels could be co-ordinated.

Truancy and parole officers could use it as a base.

The Salvation Army could offer some of its

social work services through the centre. A citizens' advice service could be set up, giving everything from information about benefits to drug and emergency accommodation help.

Or Ian Pryor has been promoting the "welfare bureau" idea from council's side.

He says Melbourne has similar welfare centres, but this would be a first for country Victoria.

Council has allowed cash to get the bureau started in its 1979-80 estimates, but the project's fruition depends on State Government backing.

In letters to Social Welfare Minister Mr Jona and local Members of Parliament, council has asked the State to contribute a welfare officer and half the salary of a receptionist, plus half telephone and rent costs.

Council would pay the remaining costs — amounting to a contribution of a few thousand dollars per year.

Cr Pryor: "It's the best welfare package we could get for the ratepayers' money."

Echuca district would then have "one-stop welfare shop — a great centre."

At a city offices on Wednesday, council tried to gain the support of surrounding municipalities for its welfare bureau idea. Representatives of Deakin, Rochester and Cohuna councils attended.

Murray and Gordon Shires were invited but did not attend. Those present seemed to support the idea and have now taken the proposal back to their council chambers for consideration.

Promoters of the planned centre hope it may be in operation later this year.

Above — Dr Hook at speed during a practice session this week for Sunday's 80 kilometre trial with owner-driver Jeff Cameron, of Moama, at the controls, Ross Bulley observing and skiers Peter Pickens and Gary Thorn lost in the wake.



Cyclists were disgusted

Echuca City Council has reacted sharply to a letter criticising accommodation it provided recently for a travelling youth group.

Echuca Apex Club wrote to Monday night's meeting of council condemning facilities granted to 20 young cyclists.

The club said it was disgusted at the totally unsatisfactory accommodation provided.

Twenty youngsters pedalling about Victoria under the banner of the Reach out for Kids Foundation stayed in Echuca overnight on January 8.

The group was accommodated in the old luncheon pavilion at Victoria Park.

The Apexians' letter said comments from the young people involved led them to believe that the Victoria Park accommodation was by far the worst they had been given on the round Victoria ride.

According to the club, Echuca earned a poor reputation in the estimation of the young people involved.

It urged that something be done to relieve the situation if and when Echuca is given another opportunity to host participants in the next round-Victoria ride.

Council objected to the criticism by the club and Cr Don Oberin argued that council had done its best for the visitors in the time available.

The Mayor, Cr Brian Wearne, reminded councillors that "another local group" had originally accepted responsibility for organising accommodation here, but had opted out only shortly before January 8.

He said the deputy Town Clerk, Mr Noel Noelker, had worked to ensure that at least some accommodation was available once this other group had backed out.

Supported by Cr Noel Murphy, Cr Oberin successfully moved that the Apex club be told that council did its best under the circumstances and, if it was unsatisfactory, "we are sorry."

Southern 80 feature P.12 and 13