

boats and to negotiate the river's hazards is usually more important than speed.

Competitors who complete the safari are awarded a traditional "River Rat" certificate.

The colorful Hastings Day celebrations — the biggest community festival on the Mornington Peninsula — are expected to attract about 50,000 people.



The crowded banks of the Murray River at Echuca for the end of the Southern 80 ski race.

ternationals. Mick Neville and Ge Carrington, of Queensland, and world jump record holder Glenn Thulow (Victoria) are back by the biggest crop of vastly improved young skiers seen for years. For instance, Bre Thurley, of Tasmania has now joined Neville Carrington and Thulow in sharing the Australia

Moonshot takes a shot and wins

LESTER Fremantle's Moonshot continued her triumphant progress through the water-ski racing season by winning the Southern 80 on the Murray River last Sunday.

Towing South Australian David Tarry and the brilliant young Bendigo skier, Linc Kelly, Moonshot completed the run from Torrumbarry Weir to Echuca in 39 min 11 sec — 46 seconds outside the race record set by Rolco VI last year.

The Southern 80, held by the Moama Water Ski Club, is now the second biggest ski race in the world, and unquestionably the toughest.

With 204 entries this year, it rates second only to the famous Bridge-to-Bridge on the Hawkesbury river.

The Gosford Bridge-to-Bridge is third; all three are ahead of the biggest event of this type in the United States, the Catalina Island race.

Moonshot's win follows four Australian championships in Perth recently, which is believed to be unprecedented in the history of the national titles.

But her unbeaten run on the Victorian ski racing circuit ended in the

fifth event of the VWSA Mariner Series on Lake Hume early this month.

Towing David Tarry in men's and unlimited inboard, and Linc Kelly in boys and super class, Moonshot contested three of the first four meetings and won all four classes at each.

Linc Kelly did not go to Albury — he was in Sydney winning the Lion Island race. Tarry won his usual double, but failed to finish in super class, won by David Whitehead's Kahlua.

The Southern 80 win might have had a touch of luck about it.

Rolco's new owner, Murray Price, made a determined effort to better the 38 min 25 sec race record set last year by Ted Hurley.

He imported two of New South Wales' best skiers, Mark Ward and Rory Brown, but one of them fell; to add insult to injury, the boat ran on seven cylinders for the last 20 minutes or so. His time was 41-45.

And Peter Waterhouse's Locomotion, that has been dominating the Victorian Ski Trial Club's syndicate series was an unlucky third in 46-35.

John Hardaker, skiing with John Gysberts, took a bad fall, and finished the day in hospital with a split blood vessel behind the eye.

Osprey, with Echuca champion Craig Beehag partnering Rod Johnston on the skis, was the fastest outboard.

It was the first time he had managed to finish in a Southern 80.

Osprey, Victoria's best outboard on the lake circuit, had failed to finish 13 times in river races until she completed the course in the 1984 Bridge-to-Bridge.

To round off a good result for Echuca, Sue Beehag (nee Hill) partnered by her sister (now Caren Robinson), won the women's open division behind Barry Beehag's BBB.

Bullet Mercury (D. Garrard), with skiers A. French and R. Chrisomaliotis, won the unlimited novice class for the second successive year.

Solong (D. Jennings, C. Jennings, M. Brown) also made it two wins in two years in the under 5.2-litre and 6-cylinder class.

A difficult race to run because of the nature of the course, the success of the Southern 80 was a credit to the Moama Water Ski Club.

A crowd of about 12,000 watched the finish at Echuca.

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