

Moonshot and Lester Fremantle Take Southern 80 Outright

***David Tarry and Linc
Kelly show a clean
pair of skis down
the Murray River.***



The Southern 80 ski race, on the Murray River at Echuca, traces back twenty years or so to the efforts of a few Victorian enthusiasts to organise a ski race that might rival the Bridge-to-Bridge.

In 1975, it really began to look as if that objective might some day be achieved when the local Moama Water Sports Club took over the running of the event from the Victorian Water Ski Association, which had conducted it for the previous eight years as the

Southern 50.

In the early days, it had been bedevilled by the number of boats which came to grief on the snags which infest the river.

It still is, but not to the same extent.

The Moama club has made this gruelling race from Torrumbarry Weir to Echuca its major annual project, and the culmination of a year-long effort.

This has involved the production of a detailed chart of the course, with all the hazards marked, and getting out with chain saws when the river was low, and removing the most dangerous obstructions.

Race control and safety coverage are provided with the assistance of WICEN — the emergency radio network of the Wireless Institute of Australia — and the Northern Victoria Division of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, which have done the same job for the big