

That sinking feeling

• Right — The Riv received a tip-off on Friday that council workers had backed a truck into a hole they had just finished digging to repair a pipe.

And we found the council workers had done just that — in Ogilvie Avenue near the corner of Haverfield St.

The workers were reversing a tip-truck up to the deep hole to refill it with sand when they backed a little too far. Subsequently the council workers actually had to shovel the sand out and obtain a tractor to extricate the truck, much to the amusement of passers-by.

We believe council reinforcements were soon on the scene and by late afternoon the hole was eventually refilled and both traffic lanes open.



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INSIDE — VALENTINE FEATURE

• It's St. Valentine's Day on Thursday, and there's a special feature about it on Pages 12 and 13 of today's Riverine Herald.

Hospital land transfer OK

The Governor-in-Council has approved an agreement to transfer land from Echuca District Hospital to the Echuca Physically Disabled Persons' Association.

The transferred land will be used as a site for a centre for the disabled, a project for which the association and its auxiliary have been enthusiastically fund-raising.

The transfer decision was made following a recommendation by the State Health Minister, Mr Roper.

Mr Roper said there had been considerable correspondence to him concerning this transfer and he had been pleased to make the recommendation.

"The co-operation of the hospital in assisting the physically disabled is a very good demonstration of

closer relationships between health services," he said.

"It is important that the various parts of the State's health services work closely together for all the community, not just for a hospital or a mental health service, or whatever.

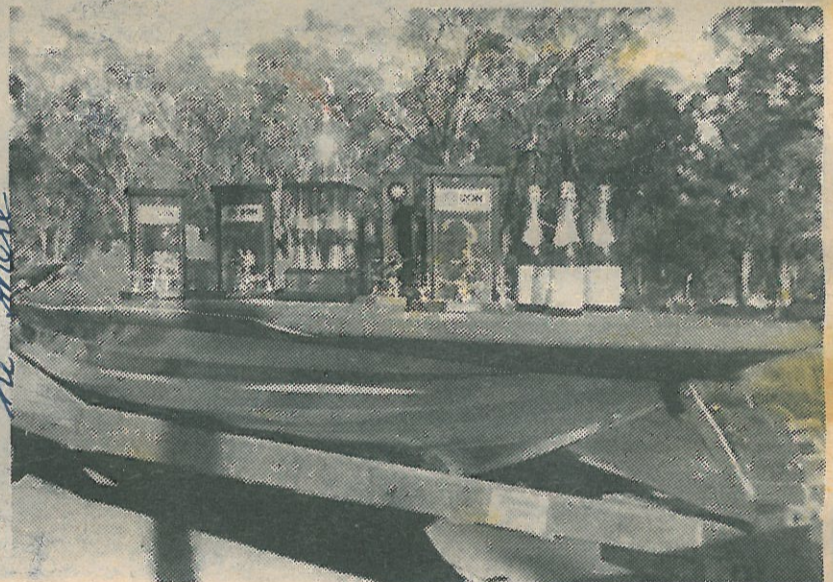
"The initiative taken in Echuca will be repeated throughout the State with the regionalisation of the Health Commission.

The manager of Echuca District Hospital, Mr Stuart Rowley, said the board had always tried to assist the association wherever possible.

"Making the land available was a positive gesture of support," he said.

"The hospital has been in favor of the transfer right from the start and building should commence in June or July."

TOWN WAS BUZZING



• Above—Moonshot is pictured boasting its impressive collection of trophies which include the Moama Water Ski Club Leigh Johnson Memorial Trophy.

• Left — The outright winners of yesterday's Southern 80 ski race proudly pose with their boat Moonshot and her newly acquired trophies. From left are owner-driver Lester Freemantle, crewman Bill Kelly and skiers David Tarry and Linc Kelly.

Echuca was abuzz over the weekend as visitors packed into the town.

Perfect weather ensured good support for the weekend's main attraction — the Southern 80 ski race from Torrumbarry to Echuca.

The crowds saw a win in the event to the Melbourne boat Moonshot (see story this page).

Many boats failed to finish the course, but race organisers reported good conditions, calm water and no serious problems.

There was plenty of other interest for the sporting enthusiast over the weekend.

Fiery Fiend won the main event at Echuca races on Saturday and Echuca's representative cricket team became the district's one-day champions with a win over Deniliquin in the final of the W and T Tanks 45-over competition at Rochester yesterday.

District bowlers finished their home-and-away games on Saturday, and there was the usual local cricket and hardcourt tennis. Details of all these events are on the sports pages today.

Despite all the activity Echuca and Moama's emergency services reported a quiet weekend.

Moonshot wins big ski race

Melbourne boat "Moonshot" won the Southern 80 Ski Race yesterday, 46 seconds short of the record.

Moonshot, competing in the unlimited class, was the outright fastest boat with a time of 39 minutes, 11 seconds.

It was the third year in a row the record of 38 minutes, 25 seconds, set by Rolco in 1982, has stood.

Moonshot took the Leigh Johnson Memorial Trophy as outright winner with crewmen Lester Freemantle of Melbourne, owner and driver; Bill Kelly of Bendigo, and skiers David Tarry of Adelaide and Linc Kelly of Bendigo. Observer was G. O'Brien.

Second fastest boat was Surewood in 40 minutes, 51 seconds, followed by previous winners, the Rolco crew.

Second in the 1984 Southern 80 by just .06 of a second, Aquaholic, had overheating problems yesterday and finished the course much later than expected.

Bullet Mercury was the fastest novice boat with a time of 47 minutes, 54 seconds, followed by Sum Toy in 49 minutes, four seconds.

It was the second win in a row for Bullet Mercury which also slashed the novice record of 49 minutes, 12 seconds, set by Mr Ace.

Fastest local boat was once again Barrie Beehag's "BBB" with son Tony observing and daughter-in-law Sue skiing with her sister Caren Robinson.

The last boat left Torrumbarry at 2.17 and an hour later the 20 crash boats dotted along the course were sent looking for 52 boats

which had failed to reach the finish.

Seventeen of those were known to have broken down.

Moama Water Sports Club president Mr Jeff Connell said it was usual for about one third of the entries to break down, but added that the conditions were good and the water calm.

More than 200 boats entered the Southern 80 this year, beating last year's record number of 194.

Spectators were also as numerous as usual with several thousand taking up vantage points along the 80-kilometre course to watch the boats and skiers pass by.

Details of results of other classes will appear in Wednesday's edition.