

No problem

The big crowd at yesterday's Southern 80 was no problem for local police.

Police enjoyed one of their quietest weekends this year and not one charge was laid.

An estimated 2000 people watched the race from Echuca boat ramp.



Monday, Wednesday and Friday

PHONE: ECHUCA 821111

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Recommended Price 15c

RECORD FALLS TO WINNERS OF BEST "80" YET

Below: Youngest competitor in yesterday's Southern 80 was local skier Aaron Johnson.

Aaron, (left) skied with Brett Sands, 11, behind Kangaroo. The six-year-old wonder didn't fall during the 80km race.



WORKERS REMAIN DEFIANT

Rebuff to union's call for strike

Plumrose workers at Echuca have stuck by their decision not to strike in support of sacked workmate Ken Lowrie.

A second vote on the issue was forced on Friday following pressure to strike from union organisers and colleagues at the Moorabbin Plumrose factory.

Despite the Echuca stand, Moorabbin workers struck on Thursday and say they will stay out until Mr Lowrie is reinstated here.

Echuca Plumrose factory employees held a stop work meeting last Monday over the November sacking of Mr Lowrie.

Union organiser Mr Peter Van Veen recommended that they strike today for Mr Lowrie's reinstatement.

They were to demand full pay during the indefinite strike.

However, the 107 Food Preservers' Union members voted by a majority of 21 to stay at work.

On Thursday Mr Van Veen took his proposal to the union's 75 members at the Moorabbin factory where Plumrose cans meat.

There he got a warmer reception. Instead of agreeing to a strike from Monday the workers: "No, stuff the company we're going home now," according to one union man.

Union general secretary Mr Tom Ryan told the Riverine Herald on Friday that a Moorabbin strike would mean an Echuca strike too.

The Moorabbin vote overruled the Echuca one — so all Plumrose employees would be on strike from today.

However Echuca workers, apparently angered by the Moorabbin decision, voted on Friday to ignore the union order to strike.

One observer of the 15-minute stop work meeting on Friday said the decision to stay at work "overwhelming" was

It is believed Plumrose management remains firm on the Lowrie sacking despite the latest Moorabbin pressure to give him his job back.

Echuca executives will be in on Melbourne talks this week to try to settle the situation.

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Arts centre plan denied

Echuca's Town Clerk, Mr Kevin McCartney, has said there is no chance of civic centre office staff being removed "holubolus" to the Paramount Arts Activity Centre.

Mr McCartney was commenting on reports that the civic centre would be used as Government offices, and council staff moved to the Paramount.

He said it was true that council was considering leasing the top floor of the civic centre building to the Education Department.

But this would not mean that staff would have to leave the ground floor offices — just a few officers from the upper floor would have to be found space downstairs.

But as there was no chance of the Government using both floors at the civic centre the question did not arise.

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"WATCHDOG" COMMITTEE TO VISIT: 3

He took his 308-powered boat across the finish line in 56 mins 14 secs to win the Class 2 Novice section.

Moama Water Sports Club president Harley Nicholls finished in 57 mins 8 secs.

One hundred and three boats started the race at Torrumbury but only 80 made it to the Echuca boat ramp.

Many were forced to pull out after hitting logs and having mechanical problems.

Race organiser Barry Beahag says the biggest crowd every watched yesterday's Southern 80.

He estimated the Echuca boat ramp crowd at 2000 and says

another 1000 people watched the boats along the route.

He was "more than pleased with the result" and looking forward to making the race bigger and better next year.

Barefoot drags in the afternoon were won by Shepparton skier John Brain.

He took home the \$60 prizemoney after skilling behind Mr Ace.

Local champion Mark O'Mahoney made it to the second round before being beaten by a faster boat.

• A full list of results from yesterday's race will appear in Wednesday's paper.

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