

Three Mount Isa canoeists left their mark at the 403km Yarrowonga to Swan Hill Annual Red Cross Murray Marathon recently when they finished among the first home and set new records.

Ron Snow, John Marchant and Phil Gee Kee proved they were among Australia's best canoeists during the marathon attended by a record 530 canoeists with 320 canoes from throughout Australia.

Snow and Marchant competed in the veteran (over 40 years) touring kayak single class and Gee Kee in the men's open touring kayak single class.

Snow, who broke the marathon record for his class, finished the first day's run of 92km in a record time with Marchant not far behind in fourth place in the class of 14 canoeists.

Gee Kee also put in a good display for the day coming home 10th or 12th in his class of 60 canoeists.

Snow continued his fine form to complete the five day marathon and emerge as winner of the veteran class.

He broke records on day one, two, four and five. He said strong winds on day

three prevented him breaking the record.

Snow reduced the standing record by an hour and six minutes, creating a new record time of 34 hours, 40 minutes.

Marchant finished overall second in the same class, breaking the old marathon record by 33 minutes.

Gee Kee withdrew towards the end of the second day but was able to return and successfully complete the last three days.

A total of \$60,000 was raised during the marathon for the Red Cross. The entry fee was \$50.

Pictured (from left) are two of the successful canoeists John Marchant and Ron Snow

ISANS CONQUER THE MURRAY

