



WITH more than 500 paddlers on the river there are virtually hundreds of "stories" that develop over the five days of the Red Cross Murray River canoe marathon as it progresses downstream from the starting point at Yarrawonga. On this page is but a smattering of these picked up at the Swan Hill finish on New Year's Eve.

IT was all just a bit bewildering for young Hilton Snow, 5, of Mt. Isa.

Here he was, thousands of kms from home, sitting on a river bank, dressed in a garbag to protect him from the rain and being told to "look at the camera", "hold the flag up", "remember to shake hands with Dad", and even "try to smile"!

Even if he was 55, a bloke would have trouble with all these instructions.

But for Dad (Ron Snow, of Mt. Isa), none of that mattered.

Ron has just completed his sixth annual marathon to help the Red Cross. What's more, he had broken a record in the last leg of the 400 km course.

The Snow family, with their friends, the Wrights (also from Mt. Isa), made their Christmas revolve around the marathon.

Hilton is pictured (front right) next to his brother, Clayton, 11, and David Wright, 9. Standing are Alana Wright, 12 (right), and Melissa Snow, 13.

The Wrights' father, Jim, also completed the marathon.

