

Second for Marchant

Mount Isa paddler John Marchant finished second in his class behind former Olympic canoeist Tom Dooney in the 400km Red Cross Murray River Marathon last week.

Marchant, whose previous best result in the canoe classic was second last year behind fellow Mount Isa veteran Ron Snow, finished 1 minute, 16 seconds behind Dooney after leading for the first three days of the five-day event.

Ron Snow, who smashed the Veteran TK1 (single-man touring kayak) record last year, was in top form prior to the race and was favored to win.

However, he was forced to withdraw after the first day due to illness.

Another North West Canoe Club member in the race, David Jaques, paddled extremely well to be placed fourth out of 73 entrants in the men's Open TK1 class.

Jaques has been paddling competitively only for about one year and it was his first entry in the event.

Mount Isans Greg van Ryt and Phil Gee Kee teamed up for the Open K2 (two-man racing kayak) and were placed fifth.

The race is fast becoming the major event on the Australian canoeing calendar.

It attracted a record 600 entrants this year and went truly international for the first time.

Entrants from New Zealand competed as in pre-



John Marchant

vious years but, for the first time, canoeists from the US made special trips to compete.

The race is also a major fund-raising drive for the Red Cross Society, contributing more than \$60,000 this year.

Mount Isa canoeists will contest the State Selection Regatta at Sandy Hook, Bundaberg, on January 16 and 17.

Selections will be made at the regatta for the Queensland Racing Championships to be held at Stanthorpe in February and the Australian Championships to be held in Adelaide during March.

Ron Snow and David Jaques will team up in K2 and TK2s (two-man touring kayak) over the 500m, 1000m and 10km distances, as will Greg van Ryt and Phil Gee Kee.

The four paddlers will also contest the same distances separately.

Jan van Ryt will race a K1 and a TK1 in the veterans' class over 500m and 1000m.

A strong Mount Isa junior contingent will join the seniors in Bundaberg.

John and Paul van Ryt will race K2s and TK2s over 500m, 2500m and 5000m.

With Mark Hughes, they will contest the same distances separately in K1s.