



# *The Paddling Quartet*

**by Marg Cook**

I paddled the last-ever Red Cross Murray Marathon, from December 27 to 31, in a K4 with Merridy and Warren Huxley and Bernie Craggs. We had a ball.

Every morning we started at 8.30, after everyone else had gone, with another K4, a couple of K2s and some K1s. All except 2 of the K1s left us behind and it would be half an hour to an hour before we passed anyone. Then we counted them off. We passed 150 to 200 boats a day and we talked to every single person we passed.

It was a very social race.

We developed a song and we sang it to everyone we passed. As we came up to them we would ask their name, and we would include it in the song. For instance, if their name was David, the song would go like this:

*We love you David,  
Yes, we do  
We love you, David  
And we'll be true.  
When we're not with you  
We're blue,  
Oh David, we love you.*



Everyone loved it and we felt it gave them a boost to their morale.

We had no-one to washride and we had to make our own entertainment. In that sense, having 4 of us was great.



**The K4 camp on the bank of the Murray**



**The paddling minstrels: Bernie Craggs, Warren Huxley, Merridy Huxley, Marg Cook**