

Crossing that line



AS if a 39km race wasn't gruelling enough, Northern Beaches Dragonboat team skipper Terry Jones put on some extra pressure.

The team was on the river at the beautiful Three Gorges area of China for the 39km Three Gorges event.

Terry, Manly Council's ranger services manager, had kept the team's spirits and stroke rate up for around two hours before he noticed distance markers on the river bank - 10, 9.5, 9, 9.5 - so he called to the crew that they must be within the last 10 kilometres.

Suddenly the boat was alongside a large

sign written in Chinese. An official's boat was circling them, barking instructions in Chinese until somebody said: "Say it in English!"

The reply came, "Please stop your boat, you have finished!"

Overall they came third, against 21 other teams and all were ecstatic.

Pictured are Ann Moulston, Alex Guth, Geoff and Sue Taken, Cassandra Natrass, Terry and Bev Jones, Maree Germon, Gabby Sproat, Sam Bradley and Gustav Daroczy. The guy in the white T-shirt is an unnamed Canadian tourist who just wanted to be part of the picture!