

Bikers, black dogs do their bit for depression

By CAINE EDWARDS

MOTORCYCLE riders from across the Top End came together yesterday to support a cause which will touch the lives of many Territorians.

About 100 riders and pillionists rode 83 motorbikes from Darwin to Adelaide River to raise funds and awareness for depression and suicide prevention.

Darwin ride co-ordinator Andrew Prescott said it was important to open the lines of communication about these issues in the community.

"We need to raise the profile of (depression and suicide) in the community, so that people start talking about it and there's not so much of a stigma attached to it," he said.

Accompanying each rider was the event mascot, a soft toy dog named Winston.

Mr Prescott said the dog was named after the resilient former British prime minister Winston Churchill who suffered from depression.

"He used to call depression The Black Dog," he said.

Mr Prescott said this year's event was a success, raising nearly \$3500 for Lifeline. He expects an even bigger turnout next year.

"This is seven times bigger than it was last year.

"If it's seven times bigger next year then we could have a bit of a problem on our hands," he said.



Andrew Prescott and Winston the black dog were among 100 motorcycle riders heading to Adelaide River to raise awareness of depression and suicide prevention. The event was a success, raising almost \$3500 for Lifeline

Picture: KATRINA BRIDGEFORD