

Getting Good Stuff Done



Riding for a good cause

CHARLES GEARY

THE Alice Springs Toy Run for 2024 will bring some joy to children at the Alice Springs Hospital this Christmas, with local bikers swapping the one-horse open sleigh for the one-seat roaring Harley to help raise funds.

Returning this Sunday, December 1, motorcyclists will take to the streets for the Toy Run in the fundraiser for The Butterfly Connection and the children's ward of the Alice Springs Hospital.

Departing from Anzac Oval, the riders will begin the drive around town, handing out lollies to onlookers, while also accepting donations and toys for those who need to be in hospital this Christmas.

The All For One Motorcycle Group will continue the legacy of the event, which was started about 30 years ago by the Northern Territory Motorcycle Association. All For One vice-president, Brad 'Hammer' Watts, said the importance of the cause was a big unifying factor for motorcyclists in the community.

He said the generosity of Centralian was on prime display during the event.

"It means a lot to all of us, and that's why we always get a big turnout," Mr Watts said.

"A lot of people just donate money, just hand it out.

"I know things are tight around Christmas, and people haven't got much money, but it's for the kids.

"So that's why everyone puts their hands in their pockets and digs deep."

With donated toys going to the children's ward, and money raised going to The Butterfly Connection, there are plenty of good reasons to get behind the day. Mr Watts said the displays of the roaring motorcycles through town also was a major drawcard for people to come out and watch the event.

"All the kids come out to the streets and wave to us, and we rev it up for them," Mr Watts said.

"It's great, the kids just love it.

"Hopefully we will see heaps of them on the side of the road this year as well."

Club president Damian 'Omad' Simms said onlookers could expect an early visit from Father Christmas as well this year, with the biker set to bring a unique look to the man in the red suit.

"I'm supposed to be Santa this year. I'm doing a bush Santa so it will be completely different," Mr Simms said.

"Everyone will get a surprise on the day."

Mr Simms encouraged people to come down and get behind the cause.

"If you're coming down, have a look at the bikes...help out, donate some money or donate some toys," Mr Simms said.

"The more donations we get the better it is for



BIKER: Brad 'Hammer' Watts is looking forward to hitting the streets for this year's Toy Run. (Charles Geary: 445502)



TOYS: Brad 'Hammer' Watts and Damian 'Omad' Simms are hoping for as many donations as possible. (445502)

the actual people it's going to, the kids that need it.

"That's exactly what it comes down to. It's for

all the kids."

The Alice Springs Toy Run 2024 kicks off at Anzac Oval at 9am, finishing at the Gapview Hotel.

For more information about the route and donating visit the All For One Motorcycle Group Facebook page.



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