

Fund-raiser a marathon effort for Jack **Wheelie great idea**

ASHLEY ARGOON

IF you thought the 24-hour walking marathon Relay For Life was tough, what about a 24-hour wheelchair marathon?

That's exactly what went down at Lockhart Central School last week, and much like Relay For Life, it was all for a good cause.

Almost 100 students took part in the wheelchair relay, 42 of them staying overnight, to raise money for their friend Jack Horne, a 17-year-old student who has cerebral palsy.

The aim: raise enough money, perhaps \$1000, to get Jack to Sydney for his first ever AFL game, to watch his beloved Sydney Swans battle it out against Hawthorn.

But with such a strong commitment from the community and the

students, who walked the streets rattling tins, they have raised \$3600, and the donations are still rolling in.

"This thing has grown in to something we never imagined," head teacher Darron Watt said.

"We just wanted to get Jack to the footy.

"Now every time my phone rings it's a call from someone else wanting to help out."

At the relay, one boy pushed almost 40km in a wheelchair.

"We've had two floods go through this place, there's plenty of reasons to be down," Mr Watt said.

"But the kids have let their hair down for 24 hours and got to spend some time doing what Jack does every day."

Jack went to the Sydney Swans

versus Hawthorn match at the SCG on Saturday.

Earlier in the week, Mr Watt said Jack's beloved team had planned for a few former Swans players to present Jack with some of the team's memorabilia.

Mr Watt credited many people in the community with the success of the fund-raiser, but said there were a few key participants he had to thank:

Jeff Nimmo, a former AFL development officer who now works at Junee Jail, raised \$2000 through the support of inmates, while Phil Pellow supplied five wheelchairs for the relay.

"It started off as a crazy idea, but we're just amazed with how it's turned out," Mr Watt said.



● Lockhart Central School students took part in a 24-hour wheelchair marathon to raise money for cerebral palsy sufferer Jack Horne, 17, to get him to his first AFL game. Picture: LES SMITH