

Diabetes Tasmania benefits from pollies' annual pedal

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PAST and present politicians pushed themselves to the limit in the weekend's extreme heat in the annual Pollie Pedal to raise a record amount for Diabetes Tasmania.

Twenty riders left Four Mile Creek on Friday morning, tackling the hilly St Marys Pass and Elephant Pass, and heading down the East Coast, detouring via Maria Island, before finishing yesterday afternoon at Richmond.

Legislative councillors Greg Hall and Vanessa Goodwin, former Tasmanian Senator Guy Barnett and Hobart City Council Alderman Helen Burnet completed the difficult ride. Glamorgan Spring Bay Mayor Bertrand Cadart also made the 246-kilometre journey, but opted for a less tiring mode of transport, taking his "mayoral scooter".

Western Tiers MLC Greg Hall said riding up big hills as temperatures climbed to the high 30s was "character building".

"I have done the whole seven Pollie Pedals and that was the most arduous conditions," Mr Hall said.

Diabetes Tasmania chief executive Caroline Wells said more than \$47,000 had been raised, but she was still hoping to crack the \$50,000 mark.

"I have to say all the riders just gave it 110 per cent, it was really inspiring," Ms Wells said.

She encouraged more Tasmanian politicians to give it a go next year.

"I think they should all start training now."

