



Hard training: Tom and Angus Watson in the Wanda Beach dunes
Picture: Kristi Miller

Brotherly love drives desert trek

Richard Noone

IT IS a fundraiser that takes a charity walk to the extreme.

Ten days, 320km and more than 1000 sand dunes await 25 adventurers as they prepare to cross one of Australia's harshest environments.

The inaugural Simpson Desert Challenge hopes to

raise almost \$500,000 for the Youngcare charity, which helps young people in need of constant care who are forced to reside in nursing homes.

Each participant in the walk followed an intensive four-month training regime to tackle a route only walked by a handful of adventurers.

Ted Colson was the first white person to cross it in

1936. But Sydney brothers Tom and Angus Watson have a very personal motivation to complete the gruelling trek – their older brother Jock, 28, suffered a severe brain injury in a car accident in 2003.

"He has been in an aged care nursing home ever since," Angus said.

"He's the only one in his 20s."