



Couple ditch good life for a worthy cause

A CITY banker and asset manager have decided to chuck it all in and set off on a mammoth bike ride to Australia.

Tom Hudson and girlfriend Jodie Burton, both 28, of Highbury Grange, Highbury, have decided to quit their comfortable lives for the next year or more to seek adventure and raise money for charity by cycling more than 10,000 miles from London to Melbourne via France, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and Thailand.

Jodie said: "We both like cycling but have never done more than just a weekend away on the bikes, so this will be something completely new and different to us. We needed a challenge and came up with this.

"We anticipate that the most difficult of

the journey will be through Iran and Pakistan and we are worried that getting visas could be a problem. The weather could also pose a real threat to our success."

The couple are set to leave on May 1 from Footscray Rugby Club in south east London, where Tom plays, to Footscray Rugby Club in Melbourne, where a party awaits them.

They are raising money for English charity Rays of Sunshine, for children with terminal or serious illnesses, and Australian charity David Bland, raising organ donation awareness.

To sponsor the cycling duo and keep up with their progress visit www.pushbikediaries.com

Picture: Dieter Perry