



Happy ending for a daring cycle

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AFTER months of endless pedalling through stifling heat and gruelling mountain ranges, a day of nude cycling was welcome relief to Jon Gourlay and Sean Smee.

Shedding their lycra to freewheel around Valencia in Spain was one of the highlights of the pair's cycling circuit of the Mediterranean.

The game Tasmanian cyclists finished an epic 13,225km journey in Tunisia on Sunday.

Their thigh-swelling efforts saw them raise \$5000 for the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Mr Gourlay, who lost 11kg during the trip, said the highlights included visiting Beirut in Lebanon, and Egypt's Siwa Oasis and Nile Valley.

But the nude cycle took the cake for the most memorable experience.

"We were in Valencia to watch some of the Americas Cup action and it turned out there was an alternative fair on there



THE ALTERNATIVE: Sean Smee gets extra exposure during the Valencia protest.

at the same time," Mr Gourlay said.

"Part of the festivities was a nude bicycle protest around the streets of Valencia — we thought it was too much of a coincidence for us not to get involved."

After the nude ride, the hits on their website medcycpaths.wordpress.com went through the roof.

Setting out from Tunisia on January 17, Mr Gourlay and Mr Smee rode through Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, France, Spain, Morocco and Algeria.

Mr Gourlay said the biggest hurdles were conquering mountainous terrain in

the Middle East, Turkey, The Balkans and Morocco and "unbearable" heat towards the end of their trip.

During their odyssey they repaired 20 punctures, and replaced two broken wheels, two broken chains, three busted gear shifters, a broken rack and four worn out tires.