



Not the easiest option... Nathan Carter will ride for eight to 10 months on camels from Perth to Melbourne to raise awareness of drought-related depression.

d269367

Off into the rising sun



by **kate emery**
picture **matthew poon**

SUBIACO's Nathan Carter is packing his bags for a trip to Melbourne later this year. Unlike most other interstate travellers, however, Mr Carter will be riding a 'ship of the desert' to get there.

Mr Carter, formerly a Yokine resident, is preparing for an eight to 10-month trip from Perth to Melbourne on the back of a camel to raise awareness of drought-related depression and promote services available to sufferers.

The 3833km trip will take him through Kalgoorlie and Norseman, across the Nullarbor and a stop at his home town of Tocumwal.

Mr Carter, a volunteer at the Calamunnda Camel Farm, said he first conceived of what he calls the Into the Rising Sun project while in Morocco a few years ago.

He said drought-related depression was a timely issue that had directly affected him. "It (the journey) started as a dream and very quickly became more than that," he said.

"Growing up in the bush I've always taken a big interest in the environment."

Although he will be travelling mostly by himself, Mr Carter said he will be joined by friends along the way and encouraged anyone in the community to take part.

"It is intended to be a journey-based community," he said. "Join me for a day or a

stage of the trip or whatever."

He said he would be in training until his departure on October 1 to prepare himself for the arduous trip.

"There's a lot of physical and mental preparation involved," he said.

"I am working every day with the camels. But in the end, you can't prepare yourself for the unexpected."

For more information about Mr Carter's journey or Into the Rising Sun, see www.intotherisingsun.com.