

Scooter couple's green epic ride

LAEA MEDLEY

AN SA couple on a 7 500km trek across the country to raise funds for an environmental organisation will be in Gauteng within the next few weeks.

Melissa Andrews and her husband, Christopher List, started their trip in Cape Town in June, riding on eco-friendly LML Vespa scooters through the Garden Route, the Eastern Cape, and the Transkei.

The couple recently passed through KZN and have now made their way to Joburg, but will be returning to St Lucia within the next few weeks.

By the end of the year, they aim to continue their trip through Swaziland, Mozambique, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng, North West, and then into the Northern Cape, before heading back to Cape Town.

The trip is a bid to raise money to support Food and



HILLS' ANGELS: SA couple Melissa Andrews and Christopher List ride their Vespas through the picturesque Western Cape landscape as part of their 7 500km trek across the country to raise funds for an environmental organisation.

Trees for Africa, an NGO that works to realise sustainable development through greening, climate change action, sustainable natural resource management and food security programmes.

Along the way, the couple has been trying to create awareness about food security and socio-economic sustainability by volunteering at permaculture projects and planting trees along the way.

Andrews said that they wanted to ensure their trip

was not only carbon-neutral, but beneficial to the environment and also the communities they visit.

"We'd both attended a permaculture design course in South Africa and Palestine, and we wanted to do something for the greater good," Andrews said.

"The idea of travelling through the country to spread awareness about sustainable lifestyles and travel was sound, but we just didn't have the resources to do it."

She said the plan came to a head when the couple returned to SA after four years in Dubai, and realised that as they were already "in transit", they should embrace their nomadic existence.

"We hope our trip will generate awareness about sustainable lifestyles and travel, and raise funds to help green Africa," she said.

For more information, or to sponsor the couple, visit the website www.eco-friendly-africa-travel.com