

Swan Hill man Sean Ewart set to ride from Perth to Melbourne in 25-day fundraiser after surviving cancer twice

A Swan Hill cancer survivor is planning a 3500km ride from Perth to Melbourne, to raise \$50,000 for Make-A-Wish.



[Stuart Kavanagh](#) Journalist

February 24, 2026

The Mildura News



Swan Hill man Sean Ewart is riding his push bike from Perth to Melbourne to raise money for Make-A-Wish foundation. Picture: Supplied.

A Swan Hill cancer survivor is preparing to ride almost 3500km from Perth to Melbourne in a gruelling fundraiser for Make-A-Wish.

Sean Ewart, 33, was set to take on the challenge in November, with plans to spend about 25 days on the bike, covering roughly 170km a day.

The ride is personal for Mr Ewart, who says Make-A-Wish has helped him through one of the hardest periods of his life after he being diagnosed with cancer as a teenager.

“Yeah. I’m a cancer survivor. I had cancer when I was 16, and again at 17,” he said.

Mr Ewart said he had AML and spent months in Melbourne during treatment, away from home in Swan Hill and largely cut off from the community while his immune system was badly compromised.

"It was a strange period of my life because when I first got diagnosed, I didn't know what was going on," he said.

"I didn't know anything about chemo or anything like that. Being a teenager at the time, I didn't know what I was doing.



*Swan Hill man Sean Ewart during his first fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish foundation where he raised \$11,000.
Picture: Supplied*

"It didn't really hit me until I got it the second time. That's when I knew the battles I had to go through to beat it again."

He said his parents Wes and Michelle Ewart had carried the load while he was in treatment, rotating shifts to stay by his side.

"They did an amazing job," he said.

"My old man's a paramedic and Mum was working at Coles. She was a manager at Coles at the time.

"They just rotated and looked after me. Took shifts, sort of thing."

Mr Ewart said Make-A-Wish first stepped in during his initial battle with cancer and granted a wish that stayed with his family long after treatment.

"I got a spa, so everyone in my family could enjoy it," he said.

"That wish took my mind off things while I was there."

Now, Mr Ewart said he was trying to pay it forward.

He said he had already raised more than \$1000 in the first few weeks of fundraising and had set an ambitious target of \$50,000 for the latest campaign, which he described as “Part Two” after a 2019 fundraiser raised just over \$11,000.



Sean Ewart meeting Nathan Buckley while receiving treatment at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Mr Ewart said plans for the ride were still being finalised, with the team aiming to travel through towns for meet-and-greets along the way.

Training, he said, was simple but relentless.

“Just getting on the bike every day,” he said.

“Just getting the legs ticking over and getting the butt used to the seat. That’s a big one.”

He said his father, 63, had been riding with him in training and aimed to do most of the trip, while his mother would drive the support car.

“It means a lot that they want to support me,” he said.

“It’s going to be a big challenge, but it’s a challenge. Kids are going through worse challenges than I am.”



Swan Hill cancer survivor Sean Ewart is set to attempt to ride from Perth to Melbourne in order to raise money for the Make-A-Wish foundation. Picture: Supplied

Mr Ewart said another major motivation was the memory of friends he met in hospital while he was battling cancer who later died.

He said his website would also allow people to share stories of loved ones they had lost, which he planned to use as fuel during the ride.

"I can read their stories, which will motivate me and their legacy lives on," he said.

Mr Ewart was expected to ride from November 3 to 27, with final route details and stop locations still being locked in.

Donations, sponsorship support and story submissions were being sought through his fundraising campaign and [website](#).