

# Western Gazette

## Herculean task for Jason's odyssey



**PEDAL POWER:** Jason Lewis of Bridport is the first man to cross the Pacific ocean in a pedal boat.

IN Greek legend the Odyssey was a journey that spanned ten years – now a Bridport man is emulating the heroics of Odysseus having crossed the world's largest ocean as part of his ten-year circumnavigation of the globe.

Adventurer Jason Lewis laid himself bare to the moods of Poseidon and pedal-boated 7,000 miles across the Pacific, arriving triumphantly in Queensland on Friday.

Jason, aged 32, of Bridport is the first person to have pedalled his way across the Pacific – and plans to follow this by roller-skating across Australia.

He and American colleague April Abril, 42, received a tumultuous welcome as they completed this stage of Jason's 35,000-mile, human-powered journey round the world.

Jason said: "We had a great reception on the final run in with every boat which passed us shouting, waving, honking horns and lobbing beers at the boat.

"It's so great to be off the boat. It is only just sinking in what has been achieved. It is a huge deal, we've just crossed the world's biggest ocean by human power."

The pair accepted an 11-mile tow through the Great Barrier Reef after stormy weather blew them 130-miles off course and April rejoined the boat for the last eight miles after being taken for a medical check-up.

She had joined Jason for the last leg, taking over from Chris Tipper who built the £26,000 boat.

Jason originally set off from Greenwich in London about six years ago and has so far completed 20,000 miles.

After making his way across Australia he will head across Asia towards Europe – and plans to finish off the last 15,000 miles in about four years time.