

Gruelling tribute to dad

Colin Kerr

SOME time last night, 20-year-old Brianna Shaw walked into Newcastle, having completed a 12-day, 238km hike that raised a total of \$6735.

It was not so much for exercise or leisure, but as a gesture of appreciation for the way in which the Royal Rehabilitation Centre at Ryde has cared for her father, Steve.

Her adventurous “thank you” began from the steps

of the centre’s Brain Injury Unit, with her father, mother Lorene, staff and well-wishers seeing her and hiking companion Rashika Julte, 23, load up and set off.

Her father, 52, has spent 10 months in the unit after falling from his bicycle and smacking his head on the pavement.

“I have been inspired by the courageous journey dad has been on,” said Brianna, pictured on the trail.

“The 238km of the Great North Walk is my challenge, as a tribute to the incredible recovery dad is making, and to draw awareness to the vital role the rehab centre played in restoring his independence.”

Brain injury medical directors Dr Clayton King and Dr Stuart Browne expressed gratitude for their support for the unit – and wished them a safe journey.

