



Running dogs

BY VANESSA CHIRCOP

THIS weekend St Kilda resident Sharyn Thompson and her beloved dog Schaefer will be frequenting the other side of the bridge to take part in an endurance test in Altona.

Schaefer, which is German for shepherd is a three-year-old German Shepherd who Sharyn rescued from an animal shelter.

Sharyn said this is the first endurance test the pair will be taking part in and she decided to enter after joining the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria.

"I've always had dogs but

because I got him from a shelter he needed a bit of professional training," she said.

After joining the club she heard about the endurance test.

"It seemed like a wonderful thing to do with him," she said.

The test which is taking place at Cherry Lake this Saturday is set up over three different surfaces and competitors can run or ride a bike with their dog.

Sharyn said Schaefer loves running alongside her while she rides her bike.

"There's a 16 week training program so you're very well pre-

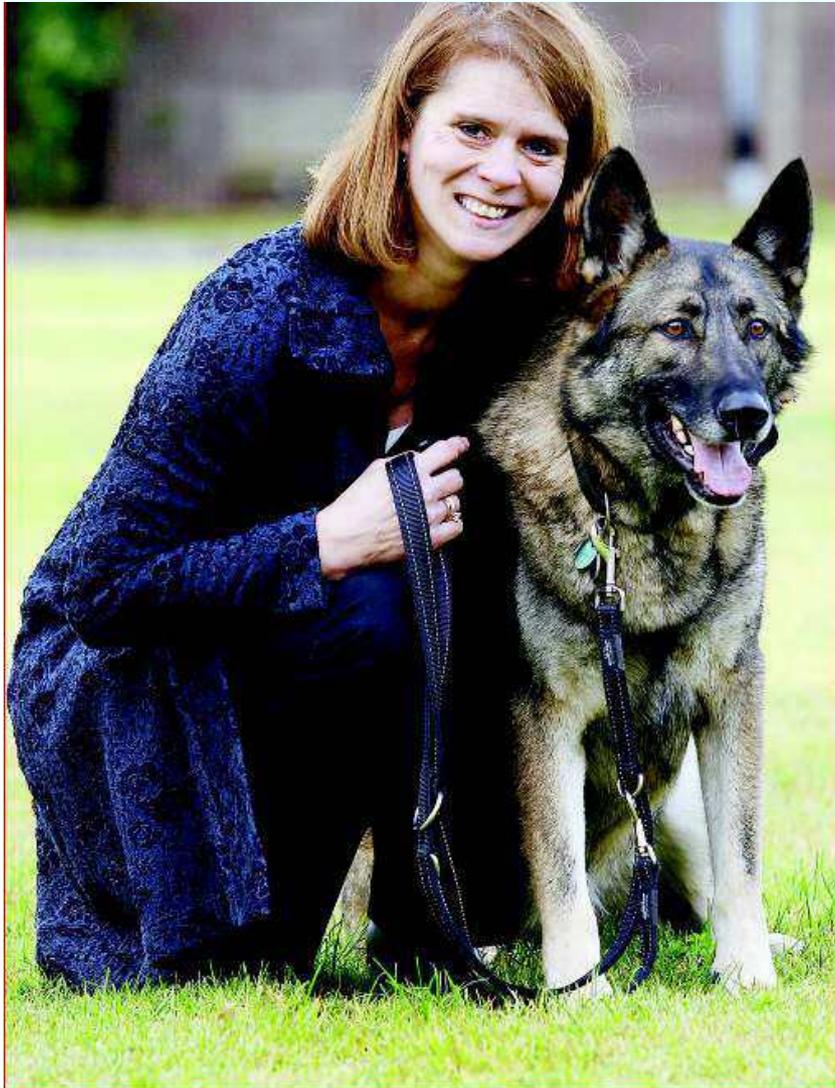
pared for the event – he actually gets upset when it's over and you take the bike away."

The Executive Director of the University of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital in Werribee said her house is extremely animal friendly with Schaefer, two cats and a Irish Wolfhound cross – who was also adopted from a shelter.

"The cats rule the roost," she said.

Sharyn expects Schaefer will do well for his first endurance test.

"He ran 16kms the other day without batting an eyelid."



Dog's day ... Schaefer hopes to prove himself to Sharyn at this weekend's endurance test. 65974

Picture: SARAH MATRAY