



Recovering: Emma Gee with her dog Gilbert. Picture: NORM OORLOFF

Genius ideas online help stroke research

AFTER a stroke almost took her life, young Melbourne woman Emma Gee is slowly rebuilding it.

Every 10 minutes in Australia someone has a stroke and the former half-marathon runner's time came at the age of just 24.

Ms Gee is urging Australians to get behind the National Stroke Foundation's fundraising initiative, Stroke of Genius, to be launched today.

Ms Gee suffered her stroke while having risky surgery to remove a malformation of blood vessels in her brain. "I stroked, went into a coma and woke about nine days later ... and I couldn't do anything," she said.

The 29-year-old had to learn to walk and talk again from scratch.

National Stroke Foundation chief executive Erin Lalor said Stroke of Genius was an online competition that invited people to share ideas that need not be ground-breaking but which recognise the brain's creative ability.

Marianne Betts

health reporter

The public would then vote to determine Australia's favourite idea, making a \$1 donation a vote to support the foundation, Dr Lalor said.

Ideas so far have included:

ENTERTAINER Rhonda Burchmore's time machine to go back and "relive" a special moment.

BAD boy Brisbane Lions footballer Brendan Fevola suggested an iWatch, combining a phone with a wrist watch.

FRONT brake lights, suggested by Collingwood footballer Josh Fraser, so at intersections you know if a car was slowing down or going.

The person with the most votes will win the title "Australia's genius" and a trip for two to Thailand. The aim is to raise \$1 million.

Net link: www.strokeofgenius.com.au