

HALF MARATHON

Loss sparks
interest in
charity race

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Heather Quinlan

FROM jelly wrestling to running a half marathon, university student Pippa Cunningham will do just about anything to raise money for a charity close to her heart.

The 22-year-old Glebe resident, a first-time entrant in *The Sydney Morning Herald* Half Marathon, is part of the Can Too fitness and cancer-research fund-raising team.

Cunningham was only 14 when her older sister Christie died of a brain tumour and this prompted her to join the team training for the half marathon last December.

"My sister's death was traumatic for my family and at school I did it tough, although I got a lot of support from CanTeen, the organisation for young people living with cancer," Cunningham said.

"When a friend at a barbecue mentioned about doing the half marathon with Can Too, I thought why not? I'm not a runner, but this is a good challenge and, of course, it's for a really good cause."

Now Cunningham and five friends are part of the 300-strong Can Too team. To help achieve their goal of raising \$1200 each for Can Too, they held a jelly-wrestling party at the weekend.

"It is kind of a fun thing to do and it gets everyone we know involved - our fund-raising is going pretty well and now we think we might actually raise \$2000 each," Cunningham said.

Thanks to team training she is fit enough to run 18 kilometres without stopping and is looking forward to the half-marathon on Sunday, May 16.

"I can't think about my sister when I run because I get too emotional, but it's so nice to know you can run that far," she said. "It's really an amazing feeling when you achieve something like that."

Participants in the half marathon and their supporters are encouraged to support the event's