

Ella Penn-Mitchell, Individual Leader, Team Member and Coach of JUMP JAM teams for Omanu School

My Name is Ella Penn-Mitchell and I want to share my JUMP JAM journey from a competing team student, to individual JUMP JAM Student Leader and now a coach of competing JUMP JAM teams.

It all began as a year 3 student at Omanu School in 2009. At the age of 8 all I did was live and breathe dance, and from the moment I first performed on a stage I was hooked. So, as soon as I heard about JUMP JAM (a fun fitness/dance programme for boys and girls) I just had to know more.

Once I was old enough to trial for the Omanu junior team, I did everything I could to make sure I had a spot in that team, and as trials began I found out I was not the only one who thought of JUMP JAM as 'the dream'. It was tough competition, but a couple of weeks later I was informed I had succeeded in making the Nationals team of 10 students. Our team put in ALOT of hard work and practise with a great result of third place at Nationals.

2011 and 2012, I competed in the JUMP JAM Challenge placing 2nd and 4th respectively. I loved the feeling of being in a team where everyone is there for the same reason... the love of performance. In 2012, my coach Mrs Laing invited me to be the coach the junior team, which was an amazing opportunity. We made Nationals and the team placed 4th.

Next on the list was JUMP JAM Idol! I competed in this division 2 years in a row, first time placing 5th at Nationals in 2011. After coming 5th I had to admit I was a little disappointed in myself as I knew I could have done better. So in 2012 going back into it gave me more of a point to prove. I trained really hard and was so in there from the word go..... Nothing was going to stop me! That day I came away with the National title. I was stoked! Achieving my goal was a really good feeling. That year I also competed in the open Senior Team section.

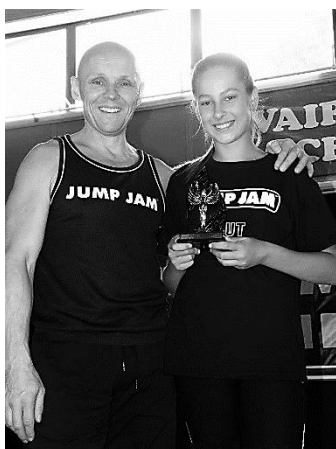
2012 gave me the National JUMP JAM Idol Title, my junior team came 4th and the team I was in came 5th. So with the 3 JUMP JAM routines and 3 placings it sure was a busy year!

Since I left Omanu School I decided I hadn't yet finished with JUMP JAM so in 2013 and 2014 I returned to coach the junior team. Each time we ended up with great results making nationals each year and placing 4th and 5th. I loved coaching the junior team, deciding on costumes, choreography and routines! Then on the final day watching everything come together for the performance. It is a really good feeling for the team and everyone who is involved with helping.

JUMP JAM was a great part of my Primary School years, helping me stay fit and active with something I loved doing and a little bit of healthy competition! Thanks to everyone who helped me achieve my goals!

I am proud to be the youngest ever JUMP JAM coach at 11 years old.

Ella Penn-Mitchell



Me with Brett Fairweather
Creator of JUMP JAM



My Team Costume 2012



My Team of Minions 2014