

# AUSTRALIA SNOW QUEEN



**ABOVE** Hameister travelled with her dad to Greenland. **RIGHT** "The trip wasn't glamorous," she says, adding that she hopes to empower other girls to shift their focus from how they look to what they can do.



Schoolgirl Jade Hameister had a blue-sky dream to journey to the ends of the earth – and came away with a new perspective

Locking in an interview with record-breaking adventurer Jade Hameister is difficult – not because she's off scaling snow-capped peaks, but because she has a maths assessment. The Melbourne schoolgirl just turned 17 – and recently became the youngest person in the world to complete the polar hat-trick.

"Adventuring is in my blood," says Hameister, who climbed Mount Kosciuszko with her family when she was six, followed by Everest Base Camp at 12. It was there she met an inspiring female venturer and had the crazy idea that she'd like to follow in her footsteps – literally.

Between April 2016 and January 2018 the teen completed three separate expeditions – skiing to the North and South poles and crossing Greenland. All up, the journeys took 75 days and she covered 1300 kilometres, "pulling a 90-kilogram sled through the snow, in temperatures of minus 50 with wind chill".

Hameister's skiing soundtrack of choice – Drake – speaks of a regular teenage girl, but the trip broadened her outlook. "I used to think school was everything, but an experience like this makes you contemplate how little you really are."