

Explorers with pole position

GENEVIEVE ALISON

SIDE by side, father and daughter Paul and Jade Hameister have faced some of the world's most challenging expeditions.

And today, they were each recognised for their adventures with a Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia (OAM).

Last year, Jade, now 18, smashed world records to become the first Australian woman to ski to the South Pole unassisted and unsupported.

It was the final step in a three-year challenge to become the youngest person to complete the polar hat-trick — the North Pole, Greenland crossing and South Pole.

She tackled all three expeditions alongside her dad, Paul.

And while it's never been about awards or titles, the recognition gave her a platform to spread her message, Jade said.

"This gives me a stronger voice to inspire and share my story," she said.

Jade is a passionate climbing advocate and champions young women "celebrating what their bodies can do, not how they appear".

Ask where her thirst for adventure comes from and her answer is always the same: "My dad — he inspires me every day."

Paul, a property developer, was the first Australian to climb the world's Seven Summits and last year spent weeks travelling the Amazon jungle with his 14-year-old son, Kane.

"Life is a gift to be lived fully — each of us defines full in our own way," he said.



Jade and Paul Hameister