

# Teen athlete tries hand at modelling

**EMMA JAMES**

A Cambridge athlete has swapped the running track for a catwalk.

Cambridge High School student Deigna Khamal, 15, recently competed in a beauty pageant, Miss Teen World Supermodel NZ.

She was photo-selected for the Auckland event as one of 20 contestants, and went on to win the Miss Charity title.

Entrants were tasked with raising money for the 'Look Good Feel Better' campaign, aimed at helping cancer survivors.

Deigna went around the local businesses getting donations for a

hamper which she then raffled.

Pageant entrants had to supply their own costumes, a range that included an evening gown, bikinis and an outfit suitable for an interview.

"I never really saw myself doing something like that.

"I decided it would be quite fun and good for my confidence."

Local businesses Rumor and Col's Collection sponsored Deigna for the \$500 entry fee, but she bought all of her own outfits.

Her proud mother Colette Noble said: "It was an awesome experience for her.

"It has given her first-hand experiences of how hard it is to raise awareness of an important

national cause within a local community, and then how to go about gaining the community's financial support.

"The actual pageant was also very challenging for her as a first-time contestant," she said.

"She is more comfortable sprinting on an athletics track as opposed to modelling on stage and speaking publicly to a panel of judges."

Deigna said she enjoyed the pageant experience but doesn't think she will do another one.

Her more immediate goal is to regain her national title as the winner of the junior girls 400m sprint.



**Deigna Khamal says sport is her main passion.** PHOTO: EMMA JAMES/FAIRFAX NZ