

## Hugh McConnell is heading off to Trampoline World Championships in Birmingham later this month



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*Ben Kelly, Tuesday, 15 November 2011*

**CLIFTON Beach's Hugh McConnell might not have been trampolining since birth, but he was not far off.**

The 14-year-old is off to Birmingham, England, at the end of this week to compete in the Trampoline World Championships from November 24 to 30 in the under-15s.

Even at 14, he has been associated with the sport a long time.

"When I was younger, about two years old, I used to jump the neighbour's fence and jump on their trampoline," the Year 8 Clarence High School student said yesterday.

"Then when I was four, mum and dad took me to a class and I just kept going from there. I just love the sport, just flipping around in the air."

But with such an extreme sport, there are unique injury concerns that go along with the all the usual sprains and strains.

"I've sprained my ankle and smashed two teeth out," McConnell said.

"I had to have my two teeth replaced, it was quite painful. I came off to the side, landed awkwardly and kneed myself in the chin."

McConnell won silver medals in the individual and double mini trampoline and gold in the synchronised trampoline at the national championships and will compete in all three of the events at the world championships.

He will team up with his gold-medal-winning partner, West Australian Curtis Booth, in the worlds as they hope to repeat their national success.