

SPORT

New coach tumbles in for gymnastics club

Kathy Forsyth
Chief reporter

PATIENCE has paid off for EBOP Gymnastics Club, which has landed itself a star new coach.

Angela Ives started with the club in May as the head recreational coach after relocating from Thailand, where she had been teaching English and gymnastics to kindergarten students. She joins Jordan Biggs, who is head competitive coach, at the club.

Her arrival means the club will be able to increase its membership because it will now offer more classes and reduce its huge waiting list for youngsters keen to join up.

She told the *BEACON* she had been travelling for the past five years, to the United States, Canada, Australia and Thailand, but was ready to come back home.

At EBOP Gymnastics Club, Ives is coaching the preschool classes and the after-school recreation classes, with students aged five all the way through to adults, plus the school groups that come in daily.

Twenty-nine-year-old Ives, who grew up in the South Island, has been involved in gymnastics for the past 20 years, as a gymnast, coach and judge. She competed as a teen to level 8 while in Blenheim.

"I went to senior nationals as part of the top of the South Island team and then after that I moved into coaching and have coached ever since."

Ives also has a New Zealand Women's Artistic Junior Advanced Coach qualification. She also obtained Advanced Gymnastics Coach Certification and Intermediate WAG Judge Certification in Australia. Ives also coached gymnastics in Australia, Vancouver and the US.

She competed herself until year 11 at school. "I just loved it so much I had to coach and then when I went to university,



FLIPPIN' GREAT: Angela Ives has joined EBOP Gymnastics Club as its head recreational coach.

Photo Troy Baker D8564-08

I did part-time coaching while I studied physical education at Otago University."

"After uni I coached at Dunedin Gymnastic Academy for two years. I was their recreational co-ordinator. Then I went to summer camp in America teaching gymnastics and circus. That was in Henryville, Pennsylvania."

Ives then went on to coach in Vancouver, Canada, where she took the pre-competitive and level 8 and 9 competitive gymnasts. She also coached in Australia for two years – taking classes from preschool to level 6.

Her last stint was in Thailand working with preschool children.

"I just thought it was a good time to come back. I have always been in the South Island so I thought I would give the North Island a go and I wanted to be by the beach, somewhere warm."

"And then I saw they had this job going and thought it would be fun to do."

"It is great fun," she said of her job. "I love gymnastics and I am getting used to the Kiwi pace of life again."

Ives said she had no favourite apparatus but enjoyed the challenges that each one offered. "I think I like it because of the variety; you have the speed of vault, beam is all about posture and dance and the floor with the tumbling and strength on

the bars, so just a good combo, four sports in one."

EBOP Gymnastics operations manager Anne Gould said they were very fortunate to have a recreational coach of Ives' calibre and who was so passionate about her sport.

"She is really good and very passionate. She is introducing new things, and you always want to have new input."

The club has been looking for a new recreational coach for a while, with a growing membership and waiting list

"We had to get a new coach because membership is growing, and Jordan couldn't do competitive and recreational coaching."

"So, we have now split this

so Jordan is head competitive coach and Angela is head recreational coach."

Mrs Gould said this meant they would now be opening classes on Saturdays, which they hadn't been able to do before because she and Jordan were both away with the competitive squad at competitions on weekends.

"Now we have got someone permanently here so we will be opening more classes to reduce our waiting list."

In total, they were expecting to offer about six new recreational gym classes, including some new after-school classes, as well as a new tumbling class. Ives will also be overseeing the once-a-week cheerleading class.



Toi's online registrations are open

REGISTRATIONS for this year's Julian's Berry Farm and Café Toi's Challenge are now online.

The event will be held on Sunday, November 24, and entries are already coming in for the Toi's Challenge and 1XX walk and Robertson Law 6km, with people

UP TO THE CHALLENGE: Runners take on the Hillcrest steps during last year's Toi's Challenge.

wanting to enter from all over New Zealand.

This year's competitors can look forward to rejuvenation from free strawberries for all finishers, courtesy of sponsors Julian's Berry Farm and Café. All finishers will also be receiving medals.

This year, there has been a change to an 8am start because of hot conditions.

Whakatane Harriers Club members will be receiving a 20 percent discount on entries.

Once again, the harriers club is supporting the Kiwi Trust and there will also be newly-designed T-shirts for the event.

Toi's Challenge has been running for 27 years the harriers club says a big thank you to the many local businesses for their support of the event.

You can enter online on the Toi's Challenge homepage on Facebook or contact race director William Doney on 0274981986 or Dianne Bullied on dbullied@xtra.co.nz.