

# swas south west academy of sport

## Sports lovers invest in emerging athletes

BUNBURY deputy mayor Brendan Kelly is the latest supporter to sign up as a member of Friend of SWAS.

The passionate cricket fan and umpire said he was keen to show his support of the academy which would play a crucial role in continuing the region's sporting success.

"The South West has a great tradition of producing sporting champions and I am confident that will continue into the future," Kelly said.

"We need to do everything we can to ensure it does continue.

"We need to maintain the edge in the South West and SWAS will help us to do that."

Kelly said sport also played a major role in

building happy and healthy communities.

"Sport is a way of keeping everyone engaged and is a great outlet for people of all ages — active people are happy people," he said.

Friends of SWAS has been established to allow South West people to play a direct role in supporting the work the academy does in training our future sports stars.

Members will receive a SWAS supporter's pack and be kept up to date on the progress of athletes in the four partner sports as well as individual scholarship holders.

People can join for as little as a donation of \$50 each year.

There is also a \$264 Friends of SWAS package, based on 12 monthly payments of

\$22. South West Academy of Sport chief executive officer Bernice Butlion was thrilled to have the deputy mayor on board.

"The City of Bunbury has been right behind our project and Brendan was very keen to get involved personally," Butlion said.

"Brendan is passionate about sport in the South West, is an active supporter as a cricket umpire and it is great to see him involved as a Friend of SWAS."

International golfing champion Shani Waugh was the first person to come on board as a Friend of SWAS as the group's number one ticket holder.

To become a Friend of SWAS call 9795 4504.



Gifted athlete Shenae Peterson was one of 20 young athletes officially inducted into the SWAS last month.

## No let up on road to Olympics

AFTER winning a record 10th State title in February, BMX star Lauren Reynolds would have been forgiven for taking a well-earned break from the track to celebrate her amazing achievement.

But instead of putting her feet up, the hard-working 2012 London Olympics hopeful spent the weeks after her triumphant turn at the State championships preparing for the first World Cup round of the year.

The Clifton Park resident and South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder met up with the Australian team in Sydney on Friday before flying out to Spain on Sunday for the first leg of the 2010 BMX Supercross World Cup.

The event will see Reynolds go up against some of the world's top riders — and her recent form has shown she is on course for a successful race.

She beat Beijing Olympic athlete Nicole Callisto to the finish line at the recent State championships and notched up an array of feats in 2009. Her accomplishments last year included achieving a seventh world ranking, being named the 2009 Australian Junior BMX Cyclist of the Year and crowned the 2009 Australian Probike series winner.

Following the event in Madrid, Reynolds will travel to Switzerland for training at the World Cycling Centre, then drive to France for a UCI event.

Speaking in Bunbury last week, Reynolds said she was looking forward to competing at a high level of competition overseas.

"I've been training for a while now and I'm ready to get out and race against some of the top riders," she said.

"This time around I've got a bit more experience at this level and I'm well prepared, so I'm hoping for some good results."



South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder Lauren Reynolds will slip on the green and gold when she represents Australia at upcoming events in Spain and France.

## SWAS doubles scholarship help

TWENTY of the region's most outstanding young athletes were given a golden opportunity to develop their talents when they were officially inducted into the South West Academy of Sport last month.

During the function at Bunbury's Edith Cowan University, the promising young sports men and women were introduced to the academy and presented with a certificate by SWAS board member and *South Western Times* group editor Wayne Vitali.

The night included talks from 2009 SWAS Sports Star of the Year Lauren Reynolds and Western Australian Institute of Sport executive director Steve Lawrence.

SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butlion said the academy had offered 20 scholarships this year, double the number it had in 2009.

"The number of scholarships offered is an indication of the depth of talent present in the South West region," she said.

"Sports represented in the academy's individual scholarship program are cricket, cycling, equestrian, athletics, mountain biking, BMX, netball, rowing, surfing, swimming, tae kwon do and triathlon.

"It will be exciting to watch the athletes develop their sporting careers in the year ahead.

"Last year's scholarship recipients achieved success in a number of areas. For instance, rower Alex Hagan was selected for Olympic development and accepted a scholarship with the Australian Institute of Sport."

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