



# New sponsor to help SWAS

WESTPAC Banking Corporation has joined a growing list of sponsors dedicated to helping young South West athletes achieve their potential.

Westpac Banking Corporation recently donated \$5000 to the South West Academy of Sport and pledged to support the not-for-profit organisation through a variety of initiatives.

Bunbury bank manager Scott Buchanan said the sponsorship was part of a wider commitment to supporting the community.

"We are excited and honoured to be associated with the South West Academy of Sport," he said.

"Through this partnership we look forward to being able to support the academy and build upon the solid foundations already laid."

SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butlion welcomed the opportunity to be associated with one of Australia's leading banks.

"During these financially testing times, Westpac is showing their commitment to projects where they believe the bank can offer assistance to the community and it is indeed an honour to receive this support."



Westpac Banking Corporation South West regional banking relationship manager Paul Keenan, South West Academy of Sport deputy chairman Rolf Stene, South West Academy of Sport chief executive officer Bernice Butlion and Westpac Banking Corporation Bunbury bank manager Scott Buchanan.

## Rowing star AIS bound

WITH around 1000 days to prepare for the next Olympic Games, local rower Alexandra Hagan has stepped up efforts to represent Australia in London.

The teenager recently accepted a scholarship with the Australian Institute of Sport and will relocate to the ACT in November.

Access to skilled coaches, world-class facilities and cutting-edge support programs at the country's premiere sports training institute will help prepare her for the London Olympic Games in 2012.

"The South West Academy of Sport has been great and so has my coach Jamie Jones, but the scholarship gives me a huge opportunity," she said.

"Although I will be away from home and probably get homesick, the offer of being developed for the next Olympics is too good to turn down."

South West Academy of Sport chief executive officer Bernice Butlion congratulated Hagan, one of the academy's inaugural scholarship holders.

"The academy was set up to train up-and-coming champions in the region and act as a stepping stone to more elite sporting programs provided by the West Australian and Australian institutes of sport," she said.

"Alex has worked hard for her achievements which have included a silver medal at this year's World Rowing Junior Championships in France."



In a year brimming with achievements, 14-year-old Paris Duffield can count earning a second scholarship with the SWAS.

## Star signed up for new scholarship

DALYELLUP teenager Paris Duffield will pull on the South West Academy of Sport uniform for another year after securing her second scholarship with the academy.

The talented 14-year-old is one of a handful of the academy's original basketball players returning to hone their skills during the 2009-10 season.

The Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School student said she was looking forward to getting back on the court and continuing her basketball development through SWAS.

"During my first year with SWAS, I found the academy's training program and coaches were of a high standard," she said.

"I had the opportunity to take part in extra one-on-one sessions with Treena Worthington where we focused on technique and skills.

"That session at 6am on Friday mornings was on top of my normal SWAS training schedule.

"If you work hard, it really pays off."

In the past year, Duffield was named by WABL as an under-15s All Star and the Most Valued Player by her Junior Slammers team.

She said receiving a second scholarship with SWAS was the highlight of the recent basketball season.

"Basketball is one of my passions in life. I really enjoy it."

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