

Young rower snares world bronze medal



Bunbury rower Alex Hagan is delighted with her bronze medal from the Under 23 World Championships.

THE Under 23 World Rowing Championships may have wrapped up for another year, but Alexandra Hagan has a special memento to ensure she never forgets the international regatta — a bronze medal.

The Bunbury rower was a member of the Australian women's quad scull which finished third at the event in Amsterdam.

During the championships, Hagan and her teammates powered across the man-made Bosbaan rowing course, battling rough waters and overcoming a last-minute technical hitch to claim the medal.

"In the end it was stroke for stroke," Hagan said.

"In the final 20 metres someone in our crew 'caught a crab', meaning their oar got stuck in the water.

"It pretty much stopped the boat."

But the foursome recovered to finish behind Germany and Italy.

"It was an awesome feeling, the Australians there were cheering," Hagan said.

"To represent Australia is one of the best things to do at this age.

"My goal is to represent Australia at the 2016 Olympics, but everything is a milestone along the way."

A graduate of the South West Academy of Sport's individual scholarship program, Hagan now rows for the West Australian Institute of Sport after her return home from the Australian Institute of Sport.

SWAS chief executive Bernice Butlion congratulated the 20-year-old on her success at the championships.

"Alexandra always tries hard and gives her very best in her sport of rowing," she said.

"Her dedication and commitment to the sport are an inspiration to all other athletes."