

# BMX star happy to receive helping hand

By HANNELORE HEPBURN

YOUNG BMX star Lauren Reynolds is delighted to be among the 10 inaugural recipients of the South West Academy of Sport's scholarship program.

The 17-year-old Australind teenager, who is attending a training camp in Queensland, has set her goals on representing Australia at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

After finishing school at the end of last year, Lauren now concentrates fulltime on her sporting career.

She said the scholarship capped a few successful years where she won the State and Australian junior women championships last year and finished with silver at the world championships in China last July.

"Winning the scholarship is a massive achievement and a great honour for me," Lauren said.

"BMX racing is an individual sport that suits me well as I am

very competitive and enjoy travelling the world."

Lauren said the inclusion of BMX at the last Olympic Games has raised the sport's profile and she would like to be a role model for younger girls taking up the sport.

South West Academy of Sport chief executive Bernice Butlion said the scholarships were made available to young South West athletes who were excelling in sport, but whose code was not covered by the academy's partner sports of Australian Rules football, soccer, basketball and hockey.

"The scholarship program will help participants attain success in sport and life by providing a high level of support, including access to athlete services such as sports medicine and career development," she said.

"Athletes will have the opportunity to achieve optimal sporting performance and achieve their goals of competing at elite levels of competition."



**Australind teenager Lauren Reynolds is one of the South West Academy of Sport's scholarship winners.** PICTURE: JOHN MCBAIN/FLASHSHOTS