

Hagan has London Olympic Games in sights

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."

"I'd like to her wish the best for her promising career in rowing."

Hagan's achievements have also seen her nominated for the *South Western Times* Sports Star of the Year awards.



Bunbury rower Alex Hagan with coach Jamie Jones.