



It's bout time: Top female boxer Alesia Graf will fight for the vacant WBU super bantamweight title at the Fraternity Club next Wednesday night. Picture: ADAM McLEAN

Tigress poised to take on Thai

BOXING

By MIKE GANDON

WOLLONGONG will again play host to a world title boxing event when Germany's Alesia "The Tigress" Graf takes on Thailand's Jubjang Lookmakarmwan for the vacant World Boxing Union (WBU) super bantamweight title at the Fraternity Club next week.

Graf has twice previously been world super bantamweight champion.

She trains under the guidance of Lee Murray and boxed an impressive exhibition bout on the undercard of Shannan Taylor's successful WBF world middleweight title fight at the Snakepit in early October.

Murray said Graf was coming along perfectly and had improved her strength and balance in her four months in Australia and should prove hard to beat.

"She is hitting harder, moving better and recording impressive improvements in her strength work," Murray said.

"Added to this has been the competitive sparring she has been receiving from local wonder kid Michael Aaty who after defeating the No 1-ranked amateur in Australia in his last bout has

given Alesia the polish her game needed."

Murray said all signs were positive for Graf a week out from this important bout.

Among the Wollongong boxers who will fight on the undercard are Michael O'Donnell, Alex Ahtong, Brad Veigel and amateur female fighters Rebecca Hockey and Maria Pittiglio.

Former bull rider O'Donnell will box an exhibition with Nowra's Daniel Jones in his final preparation for his Oriental debut at the end of this month.

O'Donnell has put his New Year's Eve celebrations on hold as he heads to Japan for the opportunity of a lifetime.

O'Donnell has been sought out by Japanese promoters to go up against K1 superstar and boxing debutant Kaotaro in Osaka on December 31.

Renowned for his toughness and durability, O'Donnell has linked with the UOW Boxing Club for this latest chapter in his boxing career, hoping a change of base will bring a change of luck.

Tickets for next Wednesday's fight night are available at the Fraternity Club, UOW Sports Hub or by phoning 0422 431 303. Prices range from \$30 to \$60 and corporate tickets are \$150.