

# Tigress earns stripes

## Graf hungry for more after picking up two world titles

### BOXING

By MIKE GANDON

NEWLY crowned world boxing champion Alesia "The Tigress" Graf will be chasing more title belts next year.

A delighted Graf, 31, is looking to the future after winning the WBU and WBF female world bantamweight titles at the Fraternity Club on Wednesday night.

Referee Mick Heafey crowned Graf (54.3kg) world champion when he stopped the fight against a courageous Jubjang Lookmakarmwan (52.6kg), of Thailand, in the fifth round of their scheduled 10-round bout.

The Belarus-born and German-educated Graf has trained at the University of Wollongong gymnasium under the guidance of head boxing coach Lee Murray for the past six months.

All that hard work paid handsome dividends when she outclassed Lookmakarmwan, taking control from the opening bell.

Graf utilised her significant advantage in height, reach and experience as she broke down her opponent with a variety of combinations to the head and body.

By round four Graf's balanced technique and body

shots began to take their toll as her power-laden punches continued to find their mark.

At the end of the fourth, referee Heafey asked Lookmakarmwan if she could continue and the brave Thai woman nodded her head.

Much as Lookmakarmwan tried to stay in the contest, Graf continued to clinically dish out more punishment before referee Heafey called a halt 55 seconds into round five.

"I love the Gong. I feel at home here," an excited Graf said.

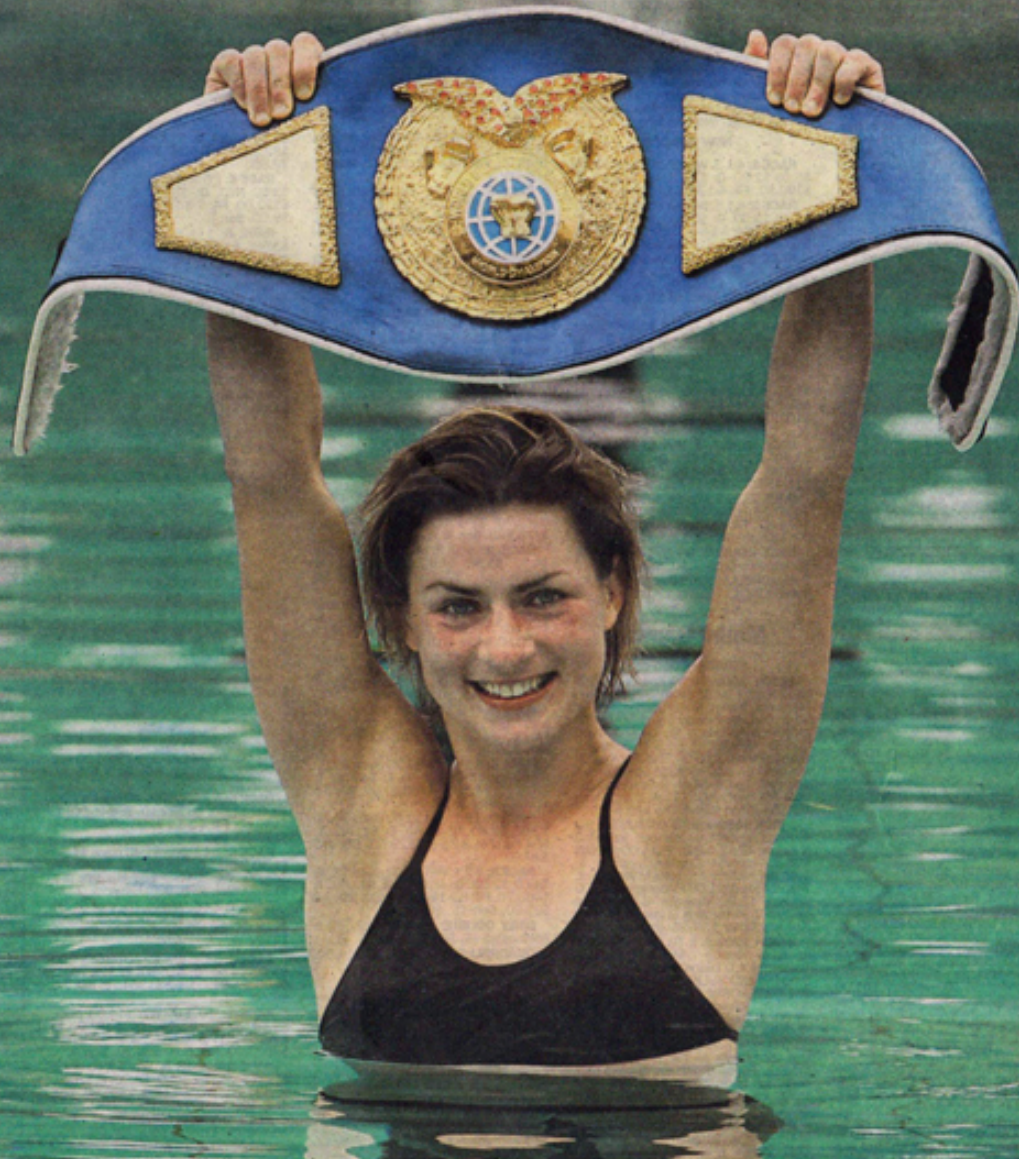
A former world champion in a lower division, Graf said her dream of winning two title belts on the same night had become a reality.

Although she never contemplated losing, anything's possible in boxing and had that happened she would have retired.

Instead she will now have a short break before getting back into training and chasing more world belts possibly in the IBF, WBC and WBA organisations as well as defending her WBF and WBU titles.

"She was a class above tonight," Murray said after the fight.

"Now for the rest of the belts."



**Triumphant:** Alesia Graf well and truly earned her WBU and WBF female world bantamweight titles on Wednesday against Thai boxer Jubjang Lookmakarmwan.

Picture: ORLANDO CHIODO