



John Kirk, 14, and Emily Sharp, 15, recently won the Metropolitan Championships in Perth.
PICTURE: NORMAN BAILEY

Practice pays off

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THE glitz and glamour of ballroom dancing could not outshine the brilliant future destined for the local dancing couple that wowed judges at the Metropolitan Championships last Sunday.

Emily Sharp, 15, of Bunbury, and her 14-year-old partner John Kirk, of Manjimup, proudly took out first place for their Latin routine and second place in the New Vogue and Modern categories.

Emily said although the competition was tough, with 10 people joining them in the semi-final and only six making it to the final, their hard work and practice paid off.

"Training can be tough and sometimes our feet really burn but it's worth it when we get great results," Emily said.

"We won first place in the Cha Cha which is my favourite style because it's a really fun dance and you get to let loose," she said.

John, who was an ice-skater before switching to dance, is also a fan of Latin.

"I don't get as nervous as I used to and now it's really exciting," John said.

"On Sunday we performed really well, we concentrated like we practised and just tried our best," he said.

Sunday's win follows their success at the Great Western Championships two weeks earlier, where they managed to score first place in the Latin and second for Ballroom.

"It's an amazing feeling to get a place, it brings everything all together and feels like floating on a cloud," Emily said.

John and Emily have been dancing together for two months after changing to local dance school Down South Dance.

Emily said they worked really well together, sharing a drive to be the best they can.

"We are going to continue to train hard and we are determined to get to the top level," Emily said.

"From there we will be able to compete in the Eastern States and hopefully, when we get really good, travel overseas to England," she said.

The next competition will be held in Perth in six weeks.