Alisha’s sporty thirst is taking her places

A WANGARATTA local is off to university but she didn’t follow the common path to get there.

Alisha Knight decided to leave Wangaratta High School at the end of year 11 and she turned to GOTAFE to help further her thirst for knowledge in all things sport and exercise by studying a Diploma in Sports Development.

The 18 year old will be studying a Bachelor of Sport Science - Human Movement at Victoria University in Footscray in Melbourne’s west.

The GOTAFE diploma covered a certificate four in sports and recreation and through case studies, camps and assignments guided Knight and her classmates to a basis of knowledge leading to entry into university.

GOTAFE sport and recreation facilitator Sharlene Wohlers said to Knight’s work ethic and determination to achieve her educational goals.

“Alisha came to us as a shy, young girl, but she walked out as a well equipped, confident leader,” Wohlers said.

“Her knowledge and experience in sport science grew through the year and we are just so proud as a teaching for her acceptance into university.

“Because the class size is small, we are almost like a little family and there is a lot of support for everyone from a learning perspective.

“This support allows the students to be confident, learn and prepare either for university or get a job in the fitness industry and we are proud of what Alisha has achieved.”

Knight said that the Diploma course opened her mind to the idea of going to university.

“I never really thought about university as an option until I did this course at GOTAFE,” Knight said.

“I started off with no knowledge in the body or exercise area, but I was very keen on sport and when I started learning I realised what I wanted to do as a career.

“The practical work especially really pushed me forward in my thinking.

“Not doing year 12 didn’t hinder me, I wasn’t bothered in school work, so I did something that interested me and something I am passionate about and here I am.”

PHOTO: Supplied by GOTAFE

Knight admitted she was nervous heading into her first year at university.

“I am nervous, but I am very excited in what is to come,” she said.

“You meet a lot of people through the TAFE course, and with the confidence I gained through the TAFE program I am as prepared as I can be for uni.”

Proposed change to protect volunteers

A BILL to amend the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 was introduced to parliament last week, with the aim of protecting the rights of volunteers.

In the Legislative Council on Thursday, the Liberal Nationals moved an amendment to the Act to recognise the CFA as a volunteer-based organisation and recognise the authority’s requirement to have regard to the Volunteer Charter and the principles and commitment contained therein.

It also moved to restrict the authority entering any deed, agreement or arrangement that may adversely affect volunteers and or avoid the application of any Commonwealth or Victorian law.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Brad Battin, said the bill aims to strengthen the Volunteer Charter signed by then Liberal Nationals Government in 2011.

“The Liberal Nationals will continue to work to protect our 57,000hardworking volunteers who protect the lives and property of millions of Victorians,” he said.

“These brave women and men give up their time and risk their lives for us, and the Andrews Labor Government treats them with utter contempt.”

The CFA has been involved in long-running disputes with the United Firefighters’ Union and the State Government about a proposed EBA agreement for paid firefighters.

While most volunteers take no issue with paid firefighters receiving a long awaited pay rise, they disagree with what they say will be a “union takeover” of volunteer rights under the agreement.