Elmslie is dedicated to living her dream

Teenager makes sacrifices for swimming

The life of a teenage swimming talent can have its perks and its drawbacks - just ask Noosa's Brittany Elmslie.

She won't be able to join her Good Shepherd Lutheran College Year 10 classmates when they're slogging it out at a month-long survival camp in Blackbutt in the South Burnett later in the year. However, her competitive schedule did take her to Paris on her birthday.

Elmslie has just returned from a European jaunt where she took to the blocks at the Paris Open, celebrated her 15th birthday and also checked out the site of the London 2012 Olympics.

She said maintaining a sense of normalcy amid her busy timetable was one of the greatest obstacles to her lofty ambitions.

While still in the fledgling stages of her career, she said her drive and passion were still burning strong, despite sometimes missing out on some of the things her friends were able to enjoy. "I'm going to miss Googa ... it's this camp that my school does," she said.

"It's in Blackbutt, which is about four hours from Noosa. They go for a month, it's like a survival camp. There's no electricity, no phones, no anything, no parents."

"My sister went and she said it's a really good experience, but I can't go because there's no way I can take a month off swimming, so I miss out.

"But that's alright. I had my birthday in Paris."

Elmslie described her European trip as a success, despite missing the finals of her pet event, the 50m freestyle, at the Paris Open.

Her next assignment will be the trans-Tasman series in Melbourne, Wodonga and Canberra this weekend before turning her attention to the Commonwealth Games.

"The next big thing is the Commonwealth Games," she said.

"For that I'll have to make the open Australian team. I'm only on the junior Australian team, so the next step is the open team."