



MARRYATVILLE

On pathway to success

COACH HELPS AT OLD SCHOOL

Nick Twinch

THEADORA Kotsiou is helping young athletes ace their sporting dreams.

Kotsiou, 24, of Prospect, is a junior tennis coach and the South Australian agent for Aussie Athletes Agency (AAA), a national company which creates opportunities for young Australian athletes in the US college system.

She spent four years on a tennis scholarship at the University of Evansville, Indiana. "It was an absolutely amazing experience," Kotsiou says.

"I played competitively in the Missouri Valley Conference and completed a degree in sports management."

Kotsiou's work with AAA gives promising young athletes the chance to compete in their sport at a high level while gaining a college education.

"It's not just about your sporting ability," she says.

"You need to make sure that you can cope with the

academic demands, but it's the kind of experience that can set you up for a great career."

AAA was created by former ATP professional and Australian Davis Cup player Sandon Stolle, who recognised the raft of opportunities for talented young Australians in the US.

"I was trying to create a pathway for kids in sport," Stolle says. "With my background in tennis I know that it's pretty difficult if you don't get picked up in the national academies."

Kotsiou recently returned to her former high school, Marryatville High, in a junior coaching role.

Georgia, 14, is one of her students and has been playing tennis for five years.

"I love the competition but also the social side of tennis," she says.

For more information about college sporting scholarships, contact Kotsiou on 0478 411 589 or dora@aussieathletesagency.com



Marryatville students Connor and Georgia, both 14, with tennis coach Theadora Kotsiou. Picture: ROGER WYMAN