Shared adventures for mums, sons

TEENAGE boys and their parents often struggle with communication, but for a group of Year 11 boys and their mothers it’s an opportunity to know and understand one another a little better. At Armidale School’s recent mother and son weekend, held at Nymboida Canoe Centre near Grafton, 15 boys, their mothers and TAS staff enjoyed each other’s company as they competed in games, shared meals, kayaked in pairs and learned more about each other’s values and expectations.

At 16 to 17, boys are moving out of middle adolescence and wanting to know more about building relationships, so it’s an opportunity to help start a conversation between boys and their mothers at this important transitional stage in their lives,” co-ordinator Martin Levi said.

For Sally MacDougall, the weekend was an important opportunity to spend more special time with her son Ben.

“We all had lots of laughs and played numerous fun games on Saturday afternoon, followed by a fabulous trivia night after being served a dinner prepared by Mr Levens and our boys,” she said.

“The highlight of the weekend for me was a kayak trip down the Nymboida River on Sunday morning.”

“It was such a beneficial weekend for a mother and son to experience away from our everyday distraction.”

The event reflects a strong focus on student wellbeing at TAS, with a Year 9 Father and Son weekend to be held next month.

Workmate Poker Rally

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For more information, registration forms are available from the website www.workmatepokerrally2.weebly.com. For further details, contact Greg Keene on 0428 206 698 or email workmatepokerrally@gmail.com

Boarder fees start to grip

WITH the severity of the drought high on the national agenda, fees are a concern for families across NSW as they struggle to keep up with the cost of living. The New England Gorge School principal Closes Logan said her drought-affected families were cutting their food, clothing, and school fees.

With farmers facing some of the worst conditions on record, Mr Logan revealed that NEG has seen an unprecedented number of parents requesting payment plans and financial assistance.

“The school is doing everything in its power to enable boarders to continue their education with minimal disruption,” he said.

“We don’t want to see any students out of work. We have a number of students who are seeing this here at NEG and their welfare is our absolute priority.”

“I encourage those affected parents to pick up the phone and consider what we can do to help. Their financial problems come first and foremost.”

Last year NEG offered more than 50 scholarships to students, and while some schools across Australia have increased their fees by as much as 10 per cent, the 2014 NEG fees reflect a net increase of 3.3 per cent.

NEG has assisted families in past droughts and their support levels had no choice but to increase fees due to the rising cost of living.

“This year we have tried to keep our prices as low as possible, but we have had to increase our fees due to the cost of living. We are doing all we can to support our families,” he said.