Activities build new life skills

It is a busy life as a boarder at Prince Alfred College. From the minute the boys wake up to the school week on a Monday morning to the final bell of the day on Friday afternoon, there is little time in between for anything but school, homework and the vast co-curricular commitments they enjoy.

Back in 2011, Prince Alfred College introduced a revamped Boarding Activities program to provide greater opportunities to have fun, develop life skills and in some instances, gain non-school based qualifications.

Deputy Director of Boarding and Recreation Co-ordinator Phil Noble is responsible for the Boarding Activities program and is very proud of the activities offered to PAC boarding students.

Phil Noble,
Deputy Director of Boarding and Recreation Co-ordinator

The activities program at Prince Alfred College has been to many students to ensure that activities such as international cricket at Adelaide Oval, following all the Adelaide’s: United, Bite and Biers, and the Clipsal 500. As a boarding student I valued the boys who want to catch a movie can walk up the Parade to the Norwood Cinema. We have also offered an extension of the outdoor education program with excursions to Middleton for surfing, stand-up paddle boarding at Seafilf and scuba diving at Rapid Bay. As we move into term 2, focus will turn to winter sports with AFL at Norwood Oval, and for a different experience, ice hockey and roller derby.

Boarders also use their time away from home to achieve qualifications such as a boat licence, driving licence or their Senior First Aid Certificate, providing them with useful skills they can employ in their local community or in value-adding on the family property.

We also know that boys need to develop relationships outside the boarding house, and so some of our activities are organised with girls’ boarding schools such as Seymour, Wilderness and Wallorl.

The boys enjoy the traditional socials at the various schools and we also have mixed events such as ten-pin bowling and team trampoline.

The boarding activities program works in conjunction with the school’s aim to develop the concept of the ‘Princes Man’ – a young man who is compassionate, confident and a competent risk-taker – to make a difference in the world and have a positive impact on his future and that of others by broadening his cultural and community awareness.

This is achieved through students attending the theatre, a lifestyle lecture, or participating in cooking classes.

The strong commitment to community and service see boarders support programs such as Relay for Life, Clean Up Australia Day, fundraising activities for the Red Cross and the creation of Christmas Goodies boxes for distribution by the Uniting Church to a different regional area from one year to the next.

Darren Roylett,
Director of Boarding

The activities program run by Mr Noble is definitely one of the highlights each year and sets apart the boarding experience offered by Prince Alfred College.

Phil brings many years’ experience in outdoor education, a high level of enthusiasm, a wide range of contacts and has utilized these elements to create term-based programs of great appeal to the boys.

The program is extremely popular with parents who value that their son is participating in quality activities.

Not only do we provide the boys with a range of fun activities that will encourage them to be involved and interact with their peers in the boarding house and in other Adelaide boarding houses, but we have also deliberately set out to develop the boys’ leadership skills and create a greater awareness and recognition of the importance of community in the world in which we live.

Giving boys the tools to make a positive contribution to their local and wider community on leaving Princes is integral to the activities program we run and to the college’s commitment to service.

Philip McBride,
PAC 2010-14, Lucindale

Princes has one of the best activities programs in Australia, including surfing at Middleton to a game of paintball, which always seems to end up with the boarders trying to paintball the staff.

Other activities include socials or networking nights where boys and girls from neighbouring schools get together.

As a boarding student I valued the work Mr Noble did in developing this program and encouraging boarders to get involved. As Captain of Boarding in 2014, I could see through my leadership role the positive impact the many opportunities offered had on boarders of all ages.