Dear Parents / Carers of Year 10 Students,

Your intrepid Yr 10 student has been successful in joining the River Wild experience for this year’s Significant Experience. We are very pleased to welcome your young adventurer to our group for 2013. The enclosed documents provide information about the forthcoming River Wild Experience and several items to return.

This information bulletin contains:

- Details of the expedition
- Permission Form [to be returned no later than Tuesday 10 September to the Help Desk]
- Medical Form [to be returned no later than Tuesday 10 September to the Help Desk]
- Medication letter [if needed, returned on day of departure with medication]
- Essential personal equipment list [This is very explicit for this trip]

RIVER WILD DETAILS

Dates:

Monday 14th to Friday 18th October 2012 [Term 4, Week 2]

Venue

This year the students will travel by bus from the College to the Clarence Valley Wilderness Lodge at Tabulam in northern NSW. The expedition will be on the Clarence River, commencing at the Lodge. Over the next four days we will paddle down river, exiting at Paddy's Flat. We will pass through wilderness country along one of Australia's finest rivers for paddling. Our plan has to remain somewhat fluid as weather conditions sometimes intervene. In 2010 for instance, heavy rain forced us to relocate to another more suitable river in the region at very short notice. This is always a possibility for an expedition of this nature as we will not compromise safety. We rely on local River Guides to make this assessment.

Educational Objectives:

This activity is all about the Great Outdoors and the recreational sport of canoeing. It is an excellent opportunity to experience new outdoor challenges and develop expertise in planning, sustained organisation, cooperation, problem solving and collaborative decision making for real life situations, in this case in a pristine, National Park river environment.

Students will have the opportunity to learn:

- Planning and packing for a low impact river trip
- Food storage, preparation, cooking and clean up of all meals
- Canoeing skills for moving water, including capsize and rescue techniques
- Responsibilities for low impact overnight camping in a pristine environment

Students will have the opportunity to develop:

- College spirit and enhance relationships with peers
- Positive relationships with staff
- Insights into their own strengths and weaknesses
- The ability to challenge peer pressure
- A sense of unity
- Collective responsibility for action

Activities and processes during this experience will reinforce a number of aspects of the curriculum at St Augustine’s as well as the personal attributes that are continually promoted, such as “You can do it!”
Staff Attending:  
Leon Capra and Libby Lee and 2 qualified river guides from Clarence River Wilderness Lodge

Transport:  
Mini bus

Catering:  
During this experience our students will be cooking and preparing their own meals in groups of 3 or 4. Any special dietary requirements should be outlined on the medical form. **Students should bring morning tea and lunch for the first day including drinks. [packed in disposable containers].** All other meals are provided in the River Wild fee.

Cost per student:  
$450 (the first $200 of which has been included in the 2013 all inclusive fees and balance has already been invoiced to parents). This includes all canoe and camping equipment, food and drinks from Monday night onwards, transport, and instruction from River Guides and StAC staff.

Activities:  

**Monday:**  
- Assemble at StAC at 7.30 am. Pack equipment, secure canoes, PFDs and other river equipment.  
- Lunch Urbanville, travel to Tabulam, set up camp at the Clarence Valley Wilderness Lodge  
- Training session in water safety on still water at camp

**Tuesday/ Wednesday**  
- Break camp each morning  
- Continue canoeing [some white water] down Clarence River camping overnight at suitable locations  

**Thursday**  
- Break camp and continue canoeing expedition down Clarence River to Paddy’s Flat for final overnight camp in established camping ground with facilities.

**Friday**  
- Pack up tents, equipment and all personal gear for return bus trip to StAC.  
- Clean and return all equipment

Students and staff will carry all personal gear and group allocations of food, sleeping gear and tent on their canoes in drums. For this reason **explicit attention** should be paid to the equipment list. No ‘extras’ will be allowed.

Departure and Return Times:  

- Students need to arrive at the college by **7.30 am on Monday 14th October** for packing gear onto bus etc  
- Depart St Augustine’s by 8.00 am  
- Return to St Augustine’s by 3pm Friday 18th October for unpacking. We will let the College know if our return is likely to be delayed by traffic or other reasons on Friday.

Safety and First Aid:  

Staff from St Augustine’s College hold Senior First Aid Certificates. First Aid kits are carried by staff. River Guides have Remote Regions First Aid qualifications and carry a satellite phone which can be used for emergencies. StAC staff will carry mobile phones, although there is limited coverage in this region. Urgent emergency contact can be made to our group through Clarence River Wilderness Lodge [NSW], who would make contact with the River Guides. Full risk assessments have been completed for all activities.

Further Information:  

If you have any questions about any of the information provided or any other issues related to the camp, please feel free to contact Libby Lee or Leon Capra [erlee@bne.catholic.edu.au; lcapra@bne.catholic.edu.au] or phone Libby 0430 392 699 or Leon 0439 998 959.  

We need to have the **Medical Form and Consent Form returned** no later than **Tuesday 10 September**.

Please leave these forms at the Student Help desk with Mrs Casey. All the information in this bulletin will be uploaded on our website. We strongly suggest not leaving packing until the weekend before. The approaching holiday time is a good time to consider what specific equipment is required.

Regards,

Libby Lee and Leon Capra