

## SENIOR SCHOOL: DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD PROGRAM

Moreton Bay Boys' College proudly offers boys from 14 years of age the opportunity to be part of the Duke of Edinburgh award program.

The aim of this major international program is to motivate young people to become involved in a balanced program of voluntary self development activities from adolescence through to early adulthood. It is designed to encourage growth of the "whole person", allowing students to develop new skills, connect with others and encourage initiative, independence and personal growth. It is not a competition, but a personal challenge, in which boys can choose activities which reflect their interests and passions.

As well as being fulfilling in itself, the program is also a valuable addition to a boy's resume, demonstrating to employers a student's level of reliability, commitment and maturity.

The program comprises the following four elements:

**Skills** – Boys have the opportunity to extend their existing abilities and also try something entirely new. This may include such activities as playing in a band, cooking, air cadets, fashion design and film and video making.

**Volunteering/service** – Boys choose their area of interest in the community, such as work with youth or the elderly, the environment, or a charity.

**Physical recreation** – A huge range of options is available, such as cycling, running, water sports, ball sports, martial arts and adventure sports.

**Adventurous journey** – Boys explore a unfamiliar, challenging environment with a group. Training expeditions and camps are incorporated in these activities. In 2008, Year 10 students undertook a trip to Woodford which incorporated a challenging combination of hiking, mountain bike riding and a 24 hour "solo".

Boys are eligible for three awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold, with increasing commitment required at each level. Efforts are recognised over time, with achievements based on personal improvements rather than being benchmarked against others. Mentors are available to assist and support across the four components that make up an award:

MBBC is a licenced operator of the Duke of Edinburgh program, with students fully supported through the College's Student Care program. The Bronze award is an integral part of the Year 10 student core program and assists the boys in the transition to the more demanding nature of senior school. Having completed the Bronze award, the boys have the option to progress to Silver and Gold should they wish.

For more information go to <http://www.dukeofed.org.au>