Murrumbidgee Paddle

The Murrumbidgee River was the first of the inland rivers to be explored in Australia’s early history. Many of our boarding students live in its catchment.

7 day, 160 kilometre canoe journey along the iconic Murrumbidgee River starting at Sandy Falls, Coolac and ending at Wagga Wagga.

We employ the services of a professional company that provides two experienced guides, Canadian style canoes and personal safety equipment such as life jackets. Skill instruction and practice is also provided during a one-day “practice paddle” on the Nepean River at Douglas Park prior to the main trip.

The boys paddle the river taking their supplies/equipment for the day with them. They pull up each evening to set camp, cook their meals and sleep under the stars. A support vehicle and trailer transports the bulkier items to each overnight campsite. There are two boys in each canoe padding up to 30 km per day with time spent on reflection / fishing/ camp duties at the end of each day’s paddling.

Some purchases of equipment and personal clothing may be required – for paddling, a long sleeve shirt, paddling pants, broad-brimmed hat, wet shoes and a rain coat. For overnight camping – a cheap tent (boys often split the cost for a two-man version) sleeping bag, sleeping insulation mat, torch. The boys cook in small groups and so the food cost is shared. Larger items such as portable toilets, tables, bulk water containers etc. are supplied by the school. A full list of personal equipment required is provided during the preparation process which begins late term 3.

During the trip, the group ends up in some fairly isolated areas and we rely on each other for support and care. All participants are required to complete a Senior First Aid Course (organised here at school).

Tuesday, November 29  Depart via coach to Coolac
Tuesday, December 6  Depart Wagga Wagga for St. Greg’s via coach
Wednesday, December 7  All attend school for clean-up of equipment etc.

The paddle group will not be involved in the scheduled Work Experience Program.

Twenty boys are to be selected.

To provide an indication of cost, in 2015 this activity cost an extra $600 over and above the standard camp levy. This included the First Aid Course. Personal costs will need to be factored in as well.