

## Teacher tops class with saving tips

An innovative class project that educates students about money management skills has won a local schoolteacher a national teaching award.

Rohan Mills, a teacher at Genesis Christian College at Bray Park, won a Commonwealth Bank Foundation Teaching Award after helping students in his Business Studies class become more money savvy.

The teacher asked the Year 8 students to develop creative ways of planning a trip to a theme park – all on a budget of \$120.

"They had to make their own way there with public transport, organise any food they wanted for the day, the entry fees, any additional things like souvenirs or extra activities at the park they wanted to do," Mr Mills explained.

"Also presuming that it was Mum or Dad who had given them the money, some kind of a thank-you gift to recognise them (was in the budget) as well."

Students had to justify their financial decisions through a comprehensive essay, with a follow-up assignment to analyse how their budgeting impacted on the day's activities at the theme park.

Mr Mills was one of 15 teachers from across Australia selected from hundreds

of applications exploring innovative and engaging ways to build financial understanding in the classroom.

"Financial literacy is really what it (the project) is about and what the award is for," Mr Mills said.

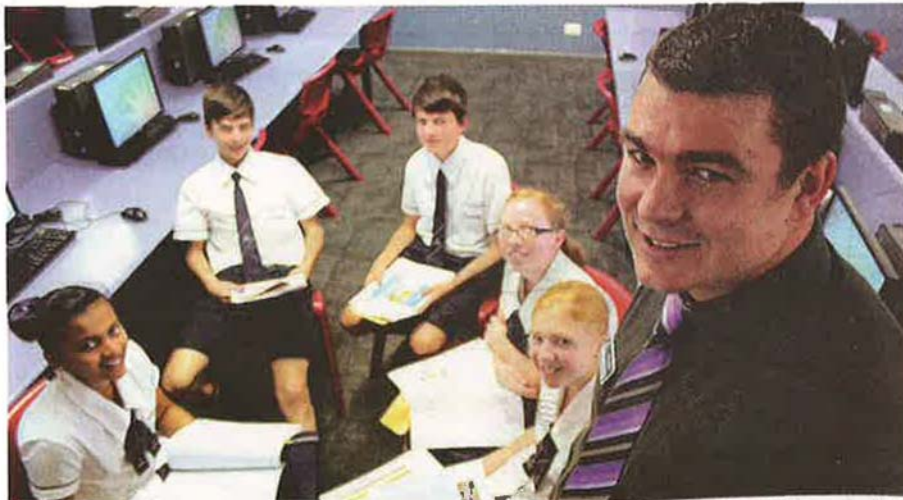
"The award is something new and exciting for the department and there's a lot of other teachers that have put work into this subject as well, so it's recognition of a team effort."

The \$10,000 prize will help more Genesis Christian College students put their financial planning into action during a field trip to a theme park next year.

Mr Mills received his award and participated in workshops in Sydney earlier this month.

"One of the incredible things was seeing all the different schools that won awards, and some of the really touching ones were from remote Aboriginal and indigenous communities and the different challenges that they're facing," he said.

"What we would love to do is maybe have a component of some of the money that students are saving from this (project), and give some of that to support financial literacy in schools in remote areas."



Genesis Christian College students Shweta Baad, Connor Broad, Joshua Schoenmaker, Sarah Peet and Megan Robinson with teacher Rohan Mills, whose business class project has won a national teaching award.