



Tough lessons: (front, l-r) Ken Marslew and John Price, from MasoniCare, with Kirinari students (back, l-r) Tim Carter, Saige Masson and Alex Doolam.

Picture: Carlos Furtado

Bullies tackled head on

By **Caroline Marcus**

KEN Marslew never wanted to be a teacher.

Educating others was the dream of his son, Michael, who was shot dead during the armed robbery of a Jannali Pizza Hut in 1994, aged 18.

Yet Mr Marslew, of Menai, has spent the years since on a campaign to reform people's attitudes through his organisation Enough is Enough, "the anti-violence group that kicks bums".

Mr Marslew, 63, took his message to young indigenous students at Kirinari Hostel, Sylvania, talking to them about setting goals and building resilience.

He said bullying was a particular problem for indigenous communities.

"Being a minority group, there tends to be some discrimination against them – and they don't need to be stereotyped," Mr Marslew said.

There are 23 youth at the lodge, aged between 12 and 18, who come from Aboriginal communities across NSW, including Dubbo, Wagga Wagga and Yamba.

About half of the mostly male residents attend Endeavour Sports High School, in Caringbah, while the rest go to Gynea Public School.

They return home to see their families three times a year.

Mr Marslew said young Australian men, particularly athletes, were brought up to bottle their emotions and raised like "warriors", which was conducive to a violent society.

"It's what I call the 'macho bullshit factor'," he said.

"It's this walking around with the imaginary watermelons under their arms. When you think like a hammer, the whole world looks like a nail."

Tim Carter, 15, said Mr Marslew's talk changed his life.

"It made me think about what I was going to do with my life," Tim said.

The Endeavour Sports High School student said he had previously dreamed of a rugby league career but now planned to apply to the University of Newcastle to pursue the sport and gain back-up qualifications as a PE teacher.

Enough is Enough will hold a seminar, *The Age of Rage: Positive Solutions*, in Sydney in October.