

clontarffoundation

the QUARTERLY

April 2024



Diving into 2024



18th Clontarf Cup contested in the City of Perth

Governor-General visits Northern Territory Academy





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About us

The Clontarf Foundation exists to improve the education, discipline, self-esteem, life skills and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and by doing so, equips them to participate more meaningfully in society.

Using the passion that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys have for football allows the Foundation to attract the boys to school. But it is not a sporting programme.

Each Clontarf academy, formed in partnership with the local school, is focused on encouraging behavioural change, developing positive attitudes, assisting students to complete school and secure employment.

Fundamental to this, is the development of values, skills and abilities that will help the boys to achieve better life outcomes.

Since commencing with 25 participants in 2000, the Clontarf approach has proven to be very successful, not only in attracting young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to school and retaining them, but also in having them embrace more disciplined, purposeful and healthy lifestyles.



Clontarf Foundation Patrons, Mrs Darrilyn Dawson and Governor of WA His Excellency Hon Chris Dawson AC APM with Premier Hon Roger Cook MP and Gerard Neesham at the Clontarf Cup celebration breakfast in March.

Message From the CEO

Welcome to the first Quarterly for 2024. The year started with a bang, with new academies opening in NSW, Year 12 leadership camps and Year 7 induction camps occurring across the country, and significant sports carnivals all kicking off the new year in style.



We ran our participant census in early March and I'm proud to announce that over 11,400 young men, including over 1,000 Year 12s were enrolled in our programme. Both these numbers are records and demonstrate the tremendous demand for the Clontarf programme from schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the country.

In addition to strong growth in our existing academies, we welcomed close to 200 boys across four new academies on the Central Coast of New South Wales. These new programmes are Berkeley Vale Academy (Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College - Berkeley Vale Campus), Tumby Umbi Academy (Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College - Tumby Umbi Campus), Wadalba Academy (Wadalba Community School) and Wyong Academy (Wyong High School). The Central Coast is a new region for the Foundation with a significant amount of potential growth in the future.

Additionally, the Foundation's second ever programme, Kalgoorlie Academy, split into two academies - Kalgoorlie Boulder Academy (Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community High School) and Eastern Goldfields Academy (Eastern Goldfields College) - at the start of the year. Strong results and enrolment growth across both school sites necessitated the split and I'm excited to see what the two academies can achieve independently.

One of the highlights of Term 1 was undoubtedly the 200 young Clontarf men playing in the annual Clontarf Cup carnival in Perth.

This year the carnival was held at the iconic Langley Park, situated on the Esplanade of Perth CBD. The site was made available thanks to a new partnership between the Foundation and the City of Perth, and proved to be the perfect setting for two days of quality football.

To celebrate the commencement of the carnival, the Foundation hosted a breakfast which featured the Governor of WA, the Hon. Chris Dawson AC APM and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, WA Premier the Hon. Roger Cook MP and many Ministers and Members from WA Parliament. Joining them were senior representatives from several Clontarf partners as well as alumni and current academy members. The whole event was a tremendous success and we've included it as our feature article in this publication.

Looking ahead to Term 2, our annual Employment Forums will commence. With a record number of Year 12s currently enrolled and working towards the completion of their studies, we anticipate this year's forums to be our biggest ever. As always, our partners will be there in force to meet the young men and inform them about potential employment pathways and opportunities for when they finish school.

- Gerard Neesham OAM, CEO

Key stats from Term 1, 2024

Participants	11,439
Year 12s	1,074
Academies	155
Staff	600



Record Number of Year 12s Involved in Leadership Camps Across Australia

Over 1,000 Year 12 academy members have been connecting within their regions to commit to completing their secondary schooling journey successfully this year.

These camps have been well supported by academic staff from partner schools, experts from partner organisations and members of government. This kind of collaboration and coalition-building speaks to the way Clontarf seeks to operate within the communities where an academy is present.

An integral part of the leadership camp is the formation of a pledge, designed by academy members, which serves to guide them through the final year of school. The pledge can also serve as a reference point for any conversations or re-alignments that are required through the year as challenges mount.

As well as committing to academic achievement, academies also set a heavy focus on career aspirations and post-school options.

When these academic and employment focuses are enhanced by life skills development, community events and team-building exercises, you know the foundations for a winning year have been laid for the Class of 2024.



Top End Boys Making the Move South to Board in Ballarat

St Patrick's Clontarf Academy, established in 2023 in the Victorian hamlet of Ballarat, has welcomed the arrival of several new faces from Academies across the Top End of Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Eleven young men from Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Darwin (NT) and Kununurra (WA) have made the move from their home academies to the famed halls of St Patrick's College, a private boarding school for boys with a rich history of academic and footballing excellence.

St Pat's, as it is affectionately known, has long hosted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarders from around the country, and its partnership with the Foundation has only served to enhance its attractiveness to students and their families.

The new academy members are connecting with and enhancing the strong and caring culture that the original cohort of St Pat's Academy members – boarders from afar and local residents alike – have established since its inception last year.

It is a big move to make for the young men and their families. Pauline Jones, mother of Tennant Creek's Requan Taylor, has felt well supported in helping her son transition.

"I would like to give a big thank you to the Clontarf team and St Pat's staff who all made it easy for my son to settle in at the College. As a mother, to know my child has all that support there really does take a lot of stress and worry away. Knowing they are being cared for makes life easier for us parents when the boys have to make their journey far away from home."

Academy Director, Dave Friebe, has been impressed with how the new arrivals have connected with staff and peers inside and outside the academy.

"The fellas have settled in really well and bring a really great energy to the academy. They are embedding themselves in the local community by playing footy in the local comp and are all putting their best foot forward in the classroom. They are a real credit to their families and the academies they have come from."



2024 Clontarf Cup Partnership Creates Opportunity for Success

The 18th Clontarf Cup was held in partnership with the City of Perth at Langley Park on Wednesday 20 March.

Perth Lord Mayor, Basil Zempilas was instrumental in making the dream a reality and stated, "Clontarf is an amazing organisation that invests in and provides opportunities and motivation for young men to attend school, finish Year 12 and enter the workforce".

The carnival featured 200 young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men from across Western Australia who were selected to compete based on their commitment to their education.

"Seeing our annual football carnival being played in such an iconic location was a real highlight for the boys and our staff," noted Shaun Cusack - Regional Manager WA Central North. "A special thanks goes to all our partners for their involvement on the day".

The Kalgoorlie Boulder Academy won the prestigious Clontarf Cup, and Kent Street /Esperance Academies were triumphant in the Division Two competition.



"Being in Clontarf requires dedication to yourself, to your school, to your footy and to your community. And it's not an easy path. Each of the young men competing this year are here because they want to reach their full potential. The young men here today deserve to be celebrated."

- WA Premier, Hon Roger Cook MP



Clontarf Cup Executive Brekfast

To officially open proceedings for the 2024 Clontarf Cup, an executive breakfast was held with 170 guests, including the Premier of Western Australia, Roger Cook, the Governor of Western Australia, Chris Dawson AC APM, Mrs. Darrilyn Dawson, and several Members of the WA Parliament.

A highlight of the event was the strong representation of Clontarf alumni who are working within partner organisations in the CBD.

Tyson McEwan - Geraldton Alumni now employed as a Solicitor at Herbert Smith Freehills - spoke on the day and commented, "Being able to give back to Clontarf and the young ones coming through is a priority for me."

Clontarf Alumni dating back to 2002 that attended the Clontarf Cup Executive Breakfast and Football Carnival.



NSW academy members participating in a road safe activity.

Alumni Quantrey Saunders



Quantrey Saunders is thriving in Melbourne after graduating from Mildura Academy in 2023, where he was part of the programme since Year 7.

His attendance improved significantly during his time in the senior academy, going from 30% in Year 10 to 84% in Year 12.

Quantrey secured part-time employment at Clontarf partner, Bunnings, and became a valuable member of the Bunnings Mildura team.

On a sporting front, Quantrey played local football in Mildura and was selected to represent the Victorian team at the inaugural Clontarf State of Origin Football Carnival held in Melbourne in November 2023.

In pursuit of an apprenticeship, Quantrey relocated to Melbourne after securing a transfer to Bunnings Preston. Having settled into the big smoke, he has recently taken up an apprenticeship in construction.

The Foundation was privileged to have Quantrey as a guest speaker at the 2024 Victorian Employment Forum at La Trobe University, sharing his story with this year's group of Year 12s.

"I started with Clontarf in Year 7 back in 2018. I didn't really engage as I never went to school. I missed most of Year 8 and 9 but turned it around in Year 10 and 11. I graduated Year 12 in 2023 and am now an apprentice construction painter. I never would have done it without the Clontarf staff who helped me."

Safe Drivers Make Safe Roads

Education doesn't only happen inside the classroom. For senior academy members, some of their most valuable lessons will be learned as they develop their capabilities as drivers.

Given how vital a licence is to their chances of pursuing a career that is fulfilling and financially rewarding, it is no surprise that getting P-plates before graduation has such a high priority placed upon it by academy members and staff.

Academies in New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria are all making the most of road safety grants from state governments which help ensure that senior academy members can gain their L-plates and begin to build their road hours while still at school.

Further, academies are tapping into community resources to make sure that academy members are as well prepared as they can be for the road, such as when academy members from Victoria visited the TAC Road to Zero Interactive Experience at Melbourne Museum as part of their leadership camp.

Stuart James from the NSW Fire Service conducted a driver safety workshop with senior members of the South Coast region.

Drawing upon a wealth of personal stories, reinforced by some sobering statistics, Stuart's talk had an undeniable impact on all in the room.

His words were reinforced when his emergency team rolled up the doors on their fire trucks and enacted a practical demonstration of a vehicle being cut open.

It is without question that the academy members present, and the communities they hail from, will benefit from lessons learned during this session.

Tyler Sutherland from Lake Illawarra Academy (pictured wearing his Fire Service cap) said of the event: "I actually got quite emotional listening to the content. It was pretty raw hearing the impact that some of the accidents had on the families. I think it would be good for every young person to hear these stories."

Initiatives like these mean Clontarf academy members can enjoy all the benefits of holding a driver's licence while at the same time being conscious of the safety risks involved when they are on the road.





Hedland Primary Academy members taking part in an early morning training session in February.

Pilbara Academies Gaining Momentum

In the Pilbara region of WA, the Clontarf Foundation operates five academies in 11 schools, employs 26 staff and engages with 552 academy members.

Clontarf commenced its primary school programme in 2021 with the aim of exposing young men to the Clontarf programme in a primary school setting. The safe, supportive and structured environment that academies offer primary school students means they are starting early on building life skills and resilience. These inputs support a successful transition to secondary school which positively impacts educational outcomes.

Clontarf's model has been applied in eight primary schools in the Pilbara - Bayton West PS, Pegs Creek PS, Tambrey PS (Karratha), Baler PS, Cassia PS, South Hedland PS (Port Hedland), Newman PS and South Newman PS (Newman). These academies have delivered encouraging attendance outcomes.

Shiona Hobart, Principal of Tambrey Primary School, notes:

"The impact of the partnership with Clontarf on our school and the young boys it serves has been nothing short of exceptional. Clontarf has effectively engaged and motivated these students to actively participate in their educational journey.

"The guidance and encouragement they provided during our high school transition programme has helped instil self-confidence in our students and instigate a sense of personal pride as they become ambassadors for our school.

"One of the most tangible and encouraging results we have observed is the notable increase in attendance data among the boys involved with Clontarf, through their dedicated efforts and specialized approach."

Over the coming years, the outcomes that are being achieved in the Pilbara are expected to continue having a broad impact on local communities.

Steven Harding, Chief Executive Officer of Shire of East Pilbara, commented:

"The Clontarf Foundation outcomes clearly contributes to the Shire's ability to achieve its own strategic vision of creating a connected and cohesive community. The Clontarf Foundation outcomes equips the Newman youth to participate in a meaningful personal story."



Staff profile - Ian Taylor



It is ten years since we last checked in with Ian Taylor, who at that time was running the Midwest Clontarf Academy in Geraldton.

In the ensuing years, 'Tayls' worked as Development Officer in Cairns and Townsville when those regions were being established, before taking on the mantle of inaugural Regional Manager of South Australia in 2019.

His establishment of a team culture which values positivity, optimism and hard work has helped grow South Australia from four academies to 14.

Raw passion and a focus on relationships – whether between academy staff and academy members, or between Clontarf and the many stakeholders we work with across government, community and corporate and philanthropic Australia – are the secrets to his success and longevity.

"Through the development and maintenance of respectful relationships we are able to undertake meaningful work with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

"Creating opportunity is one of the most important steps for our academy members as it helps enable an amazing future."

Thanks, Tayls, for your outstanding contribution to the communities you have worked in over nearly 20 years.



Four Clontarf academy members have recently been announced as the school leaders at Murgon State High School.

Empowering Murgon's Leaders

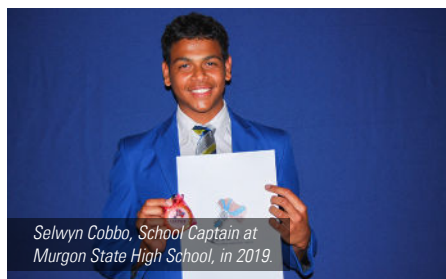
The fostering and encouragement of leadership at Clontarf in Murgon has always been a focus for this regional Academy.

Leadership is one of five key pillars that Clontarf activities are structured around. Opportunities to develop leadership are built in to camps, sport, academy room tours and any number of other activities that academy members undertake across their Clontarf journey. We know that these opportunities don't come from Clontarf alone, either – they will be reinforced by lessons from home, school and community.

It is also true that leaders beget leaders. In 2019, the first Clontarf academy member to become School Captain was Selwyn Cobbo. This was a significant achievement as it was the first time an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student had filled the position. Selwyn's leadership and role modelling demonstrated to the younger Clontarf boys that taking up a school leadership position is something to aspire to.

Since 2019, many of the younger Clontarf boys have followed in Selwyn's footsteps. Pharrell Chapman earned the top leadership position in 2021 and Girra Dahl Watson followed in 2022.

In 2024, four Clontarf academy members have filled the two School Captaincy positions and also the two Vice Captaincy positions. The student body at Murgon will be led by Thomas Noho and Kaleb Smith as School Captains, supported by Shamus Cobbo and Ziggy Pidgeon as Vice Captains.



Selwyn Cobbo, School Captain at Murgon State High School, in 2019.

Sanderson Hosts the Governor-General

On Friday 15 March, Sanderson Academy had the honour of welcoming and hosting their Excellencies the Governor-General, the Honourable David Hurley and Mrs Hurley.

During this incredible experience, three Year 9 Academy leaders shared some of their experiences.



Tyrell, Naythan, and Jaziah all excelled in articulating to the guests the significance and purpose of the academy room and its features.

"The experience was nerve-wracking, but they were really nice and interested in our lives and the academy," Jaziah explained.

At the end of the tour, an additional eight academy members participated in a Q&A with the Governor General and his team members. All the young leaders excelled in hosting the Governor General and his entourage and should take great pride in their efforts.

Thank you for your support

Clontarf would like to acknowledge the following organisations for their recent commitment to support the Foundation:

- AKJ Services
- Alcoa
- Ampol
- Austal
- Bellevue Gold
- CITIC Pacific Mining
- City of Perth
- ComfortDelGro
- Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH)
- Coates
- CPB Contractors
- DHL Global Forwarding
- Hakluyt
- Hitachi Construction Machinery (Australia)
- Jadestone Energy
- John Holland Rail
- Legeneering Australia
- Macquarie Sports
- McKay Drilling
- Packer & Co.
- Pelagic Marine
- Programmed
- Rob Meree Foundation
- Sims Metal Management
- Stan Perron Charitable Foundation
- Thales Australia
- UGL Limited
- Winc

Donations & Workplace Giving

There are a significant number of individuals who support the Clontarf Foundation through donations and workplace giving programmes.

We are very appreciative and thank you for your ongoing support. If you would like to donate directly please [follow this link](#)

Clontarf Foundation Central Office

McKay Street,
Bentley WA 6102
Ph (08) 9356 2500
Fax (08) 9356 2555
contact@clontarffoundation.com.au
www.clontarf.org.au



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foundation