

clontarffoundation

the QUARTERLY

April 2019



clontarf
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The Great Expansion: Clontarf Surpasses 8,000 Boys!



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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.

Through a diverse mix of activities, the full-time, local Clontarf staff mentor and counsel students while the school caters for the educational needs of each student.

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the first edition of the Clontarf Quarterly for 2019. The start to the year was undoubtedly one of the most significant in our 20 year history and saw many momentous milestones reached and important projects completed. Firstly, I'm excited to announce that our Term 1 enrolment exceeded 8,000 boys, up from 6,125 at the conclusion of 2018.

This number includes more than 700 Year 12 students who will complete their secondary studies in 2019. I'm extremely proud of this achievement as it brings us ever closer to reaching our commitment of supporting 10,500 young men by the end of 2020.

While enrolment numbers at our existing programmes have been as strong as ever, enrolments at our new academies have been particularly encouraging. This term we opened 23 new programmes - the most we've opened in a single year - and welcomed more than 1,000 boys into them.

To cater for this substantial increase in enrolments, we engaged in an extensive recruitment drive at the end of 2018. I had the opportunity to meet many of our new staff members during their induction in Perth in January and I was pleased to see that the entire group was extremely enthusiastic and raring to get to work in the academies.

As always, our Development Team has sourced and recruited the right people for the job. In particular, I want to acknowledge our General Manager for Development, Liam Toner and our Human Resources Officer, Lee Stewart, for the tremendous job they've done over the past year. Their efforts, combined with so many others, have been fundamental in ensuring the smooth opening of our new programmes. Looking forward, they have a big job ahead of them in terms of identifying and scoping the next stage of expansion for our ever growing organisation, though I am more than confident they are up to the task.

The recent expansion included the commencement of South Australian operations, comprised of three academies located in Adelaide, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln. Initial reports from teaching staff, the community and Clontarf staff members are all very positive and I look forward to sharing their stories in future Quarterlies.

I'm excited to announce that the fourth programme of our South Australian expansion, located in Whyalla, will open in the first week of Term 2, rounding out our official launch in the state.

Another new academy located at South Grafton High School in New South Wales will also open in Term 2, taking the total number of academies in the state to 46. With more than 2,800 boys enrolled in NSW, the state has quickly become our largest by number of participants - an outstanding achievement.

I want to thank all of our supporters, partners and advocates who have made this expansion possible and for allowing our programme to reach as many young men as possible.

Enjoy the fantastic stories in this edition of the Quarterly and I look forward to sharing an update on our new academies with you at the conclusion of the semester.



Gerard Neesham
Clontarf Foundation CEO





The NRL Youth Leadership Summit was a chance for four of our boys to demonstrate the leadership skills they've developed while in the Clontarf programme.

East Coast Achievers Shine in Melbourne at NRL Youth Summit

As reward for excellent attendance, engagement and performance at both school and Clontarf, four boys from Chatham (Taree, NSW), Coonamble (NSW), Trinity Bay (Cairns, QLD) and Mildura (VIC) Academies were selected to attend the NRL Indigenous Youth Leadership Summit in Melbourne in February.

The week-long experience saw the boys take part in an intensive programme of culture, education and leadership-building workshops.

The boys also had the opportunity to meet and speak with members of the NRL Indigenous All Stars team who were in town to play the Maori All Stars from New Zealand.

Trinity Bay Academy (Cairns, QLD) member Ronald Lewis, who had never visited Melbourne before, said he was very appreciative of the opportunity to see new places and make new friends.

"It was an amazing experience meeting new people with similar aspirations," Ronald said. "It was an uplifting experience."

Clontarf would like to thank our partner the NRL for providing such a valuable opportunity for our young men.



Broome Boys Commit to Part-Time Employment

The Broome Academy in WA's Kimberley region has seen a significant rise in the number of academy members applying for and gaining part-time employment since the start of the year.

To celebrate this encouraging outcome, the academy invited 10 students who had recently gained part-time employment as well as members of the school teaching staff to the academy's inaugural 'Workers Lunch'.

The lunch provided an opportunity to celebrate the boys' achievements and to share as a group their experiences in employment so far.

The boys provided the attending school staff with a tour of the academy room and showcased their individual 'Work-Ready Documents' - important folios which contain each student's resume, birth certificate, examples of work and any qualifications they've achieved.

Kimberley Clontarf Employment Officer Xavier Ennis said he expects many more boys from the academy to join the lunch as they build their work-ready skills and start applying for jobs.

"We've had a big focus on part-time employment in the Kimberley in the last few years and the boys in Broome have wholeheartedly

embraced it," Xavier said.

"Our senior men are leading the way and showing the younger boys the benefits of having a job, gaining an income and building on their skillsets."



Broome Academy (WA) boys celebrate their part-time employment with members of the school teaching staff.

The Great Expansion



February saw the culmination of over a year's work when 23 new Clontarf academies opened across New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia - the most new academy openings in a single year in our history. The new programmes have already seen tremendous uptake from the students and local communities, with more than 1,000 boys enrolling in Term 1. In this Quarterly, we provide you with a brief snapshot of where our new academies are located and some of the great activity they've already engaged in.

WA

1 New Academy
25 Total Academies
1,966 Total Participants
167 Year 12s
105 Staff

The new **Hedland Academy** located in the WA Pilbara town of Port Hedland has hit the ground running, with 113 boys already enrolled.

The academy has been very active, having engaged in a broad range of activities including regular morning training and breakfast, an overnight camp to Karratha (which included the academy's first Clontarf football game with Karratha Academy), a health and well-being session with Headspace, and a worksite visit to Clontarf partner Rio Tinto, to name just a few.

10 young men even completed a Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure - two weeks early!



It was an exciting time when we opened the doors to the boys at our new **Ocean View (Adelaide), Port Augusta** and **Port Lincoln Academies** for the first time at the start of the term.

The inaugural SA academies were treated to a programme full of exciting activity, including Port Augusta's pizza cooking challenge and family barbecue, Port Lincoln's table tennis tournament and Good Bunch Lunch, and Ocean View's visit to the Adelaide Crows training facility and basketball tournament.

Our next SA academy, located in Whyalla, will open at the start of Term 2 - the SA Clontarf journey continues!

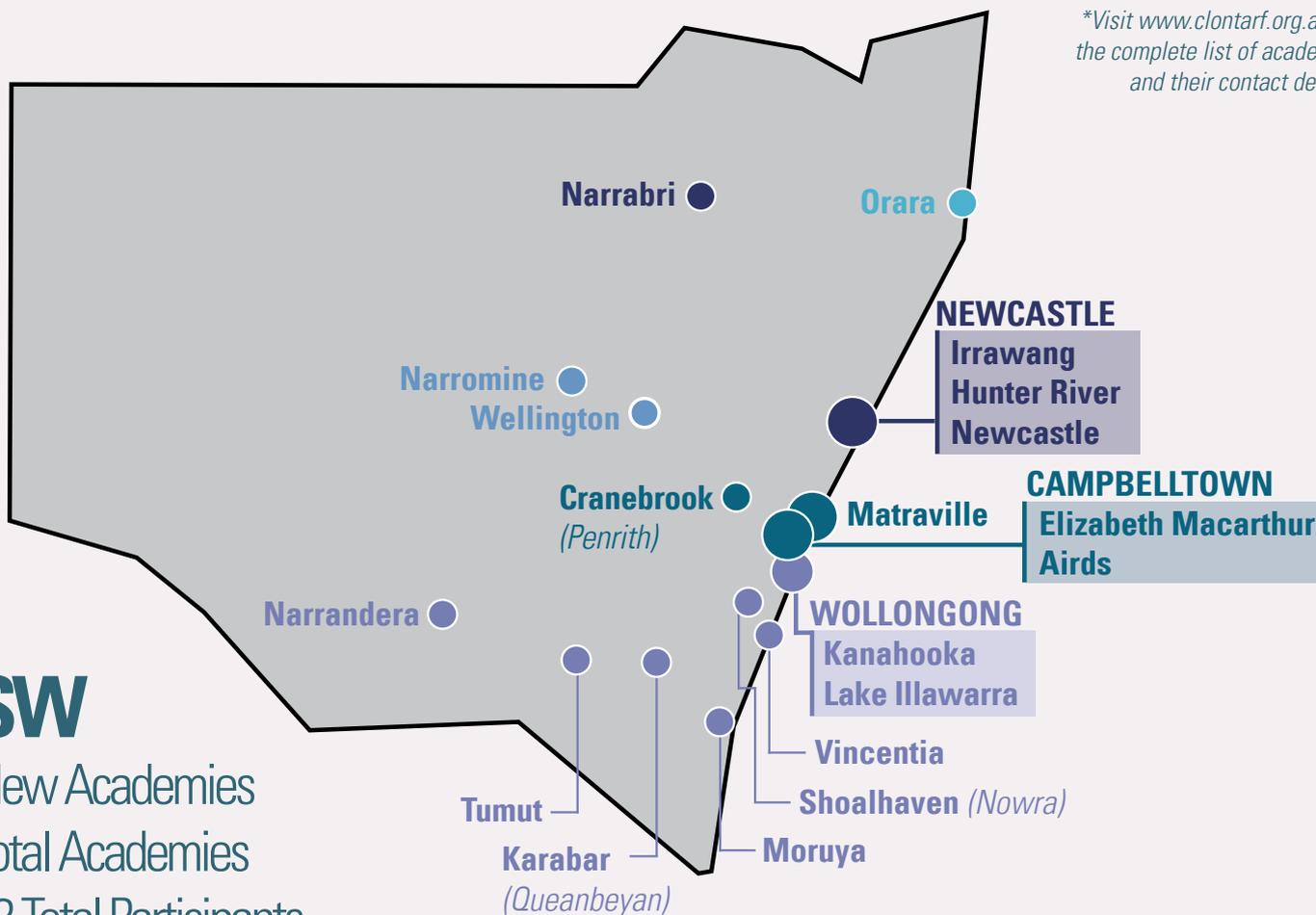
SA

3 New Academies
159 Total Participants
17 Year 12s
9 Staff





*Visit www.clontarf.org.au for the complete list of academies and their contact details.



NSW

19 New Academies
45 Total Academies
2,863 Total Participants
228 Year 12s
130 Staff

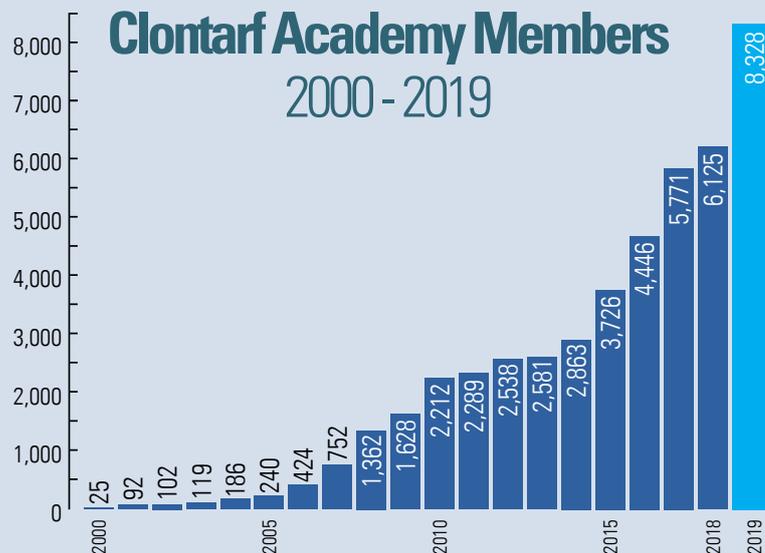
With 19 new academies, we couldn't list them all here, so you'll have to rely on the handy map above! Our new NSW academies welcomed close to 1,000 new boys, all of whom have been busy swimming and fishing in Wollongong, competing in table tennis comps in Campbelltown, treetop walking in Newcastle, cooking up a storm in Narrandera and visiting Google in Sydney. All this and it's only a quarter of the way through the year!

Clontarf in 2019

(Term 1):

Academies: 112
Schools: 121
Towns: 74
Participants: 8,328
Year 12s: 702
Staff: 420

Clontarf Academy Members 2000 - 2019





Inverell Academy alumnus Quentin 'Quinny' Williams (2nd from left) with members of the NSW Rural Fire Service and Member for Northern Tablelands the Hon. Adam Marshall.

Quinny Defends His Community

When his hometown of Tingha was threatened by horrific bushfires in February this year, Inverell Academy alumnus Quentin 'Quinny' Williams immediately sprang into action.

As a long-time volunteer at both the Tingha State Emergency Service and the NSW Rural Fire Service, Quinny knew he would best serve his community on the front line, and even took a week of unpaid leave from his job as a beekeeper to combat the inferno.

"My town was under threat," Quinny said. "It seemed like the right thing to do. Seeing flames the size of houses – it was unreal."

Quinny is a well-known and respected member of his tight knit community and has received many awards and accolades for his work locally, including Tingha Young Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day Awards and NAIDOC Young Person of the Year for Tingha. In 2016, he was selected to participate in Project Uplift where he had the opportunity to take part in a five-day trek through Kakadu National Park with then NSW Premier Mike Baird and a number of prominent business leaders.

It wasn't always going so well for Quinny, however. During his early high school years, he admitted that school wasn't enjoyable for him and he never took it seriously. It wasn't until Inverell Academy commenced in 2012 and he was introduced to the Clontarf staff members did he turn things around.

Quinny became a regular and enthusiastic attendee at many of the activities the academy engaged in, which included rugby league carnivals, employment forums, worksite visits and reward camps. His regular engagement with the academy resulted in significantly improved school attendance and his overall outlook on the value of an education changed for the better.

"Clontarf supported me a lot," he said. "Every time I was in a bad situation Clontarf helped me out and gave me opportunities. I got to go places I would never thought I would visit in my life."

Quinny went on to complete Year 12 in 2014, the first in his family to do so. As for the future, Quinny said he will continue to volunteer in his local community and work as an apiarist.

"I'm going to keep working hard so I can get my own house and car. I just need to keep moving forward."

Swan Hill Embraces Harmony

The young men from Swan Hill Academy (VIC) used Harmony Week as an opportunity to share traditional culture with fellow Swan Hill students in March.

The boys hosted 11 one-hour sessions at Swan Hill College, Swan Hill Primary School and Swan Hill Specialist School which provided students with valuable insight into local Aboriginal tribes, artwork, stories, music and food.

Senior Clontarf students Stu Heritage and Hayden Hack proved to be particularly popular, with Stu filling rumbling bellies with a selection of cooked traditional meats including buffalo, camel, crocodile, kangaroo and wild boar, while Hayden captivated students with resonating rhythms and soothing tones from his didgeridoo.

Swan Hill Academy Director Danny Fraser said the boys thoroughly enjoyed the chance to share their culture with their

younger peers.

"The young men took great pride in sharing their culture and the audiences were all very attentive, respectful and appreciative of their efforts," Danny said.

"They were even given thank you cards by the other students who said they really enjoyed their Dreamtime stories and the traditional food they prepared."

The boys are now preparing to host more than 40 members of the Swan Hill Lions Club for a special dinner event, aptly titled 'In Harmony with the Lions'. The boys will once again put their cheffing abilities to the test, and plan to serve camel stirfry with plum sauce and creamy crocodile carbonara.

It might be time to book a trip to Swan Hill!



Art, music, food and history - Swan Hill Academy boys proudly shared their culture with other members of their school during Harmony Week.



The triumphant Tennant Creek Academy team proudly display the Imparja Cup Shield following their big win against Yirara Academy.

Alice Springs Hosts Imparja Cup

Cricket is a major part of the Clontarf programme during the summer months and one of the biggest events on the calendar is the Imparja Cup held annually in Alice Springs.

Budding cricketers from Centralian Middle, Yirara and Tennant Creek Academies padded up for the Clontarf Schools Division which saw teams battle it out over eight games across two pitches.

The games were played in typical Clontarf spirit and all boys demonstrated strong sportsmanship on the field and excellent behaviour off it.

The visiting Tennant Creek Academy team coasted through their regular games and were rewarded with a berth in the Division Grand Final against Alice Springs champions Yirara.

Both teams hit big shots and knocked over plenty of wickets, but it was Tennant Creek that ultimately claimed victory, going undefeated on the day.

Tennant Creek Academy member and team captain Boyd Cook said he and his team mates enjoyed the opportunity to test their cricketing skills against other boys.

“We really enjoyed travelling to Alice Springs to play cricket as we don’t get to play very much because there is no junior cricket in Tennant Creek,” Boyd said.

“We got to make some new friends and catch up with some old friends too who have moved to Alice Springs this year.”

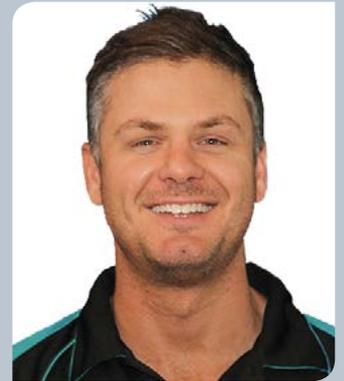
The Foundation would like to thank the NT Government as well as Clontarf partners Cricket Australia and Yeperenye for providing such a worthwhile opportunity for our boys to engage in the sport they enjoy.



A Tennant Creek Academy cricketer shows great athleticism during the Imparja Cup.

Staff Profile: Clint Ernst

Given our focus on the new academies we’ve opened in Term 1 this year, it’s only appropriate that we highlight one of the men pushing into the new frontier.



Rallying the troops at Hedland Academy (Port Hedland, WA) is inaugural Academy Director Clint Ernst.

Clint started with Clontarf as an Operations Officer at Swan View Academy in Perth, WA in 2015. Clint quickly showed his worth and was rewarded with an Academy Director appointment at the Gilmore Academy in Kwinana, in Perth’s south.

In 2017, he jumped at the chance for a sea change and headed north to Halls Creek in WA’s Kimberley region before the prospect of opening the new Hedland Academy drew him to the famous port town.

“The Hedland Academy has been a long time coming and the feedback from the boys, their parents, community members and the school has been very positive so far,” Clint said. “There’s a large number of boys who are engaging with the academy regularly after only one school term and there is very real potential to grow our enrolment as we continue to roll out the full programme in 2019 and beyond.

“Not only has the engagement from the boys been encouraging, I’ve thoroughly enjoyed watching the development of new Clontarf staff members Eldride Edwards, Dylan Ross and Barry Taylor, who all began their careers with Clontarf this year.”

Prior to working with Clontarf, Clint worked in a diverse range of managerial roles with a number of prominent organisations including OPSM, Laubman & Pank, Oakley, Serengeti Sunglasses and Veolia Environmental Services.

Outside of work, Clint loves to travel and enjoys a range of sport - something Clontarf has been able to give him in spades.

“Through Clontarf I’ve had the chance to work in some remote locations, which has definitely been a perk of the job.”



Sydney Kings players donned a special jersey designed by Bidwill Academy member Cliff Leveridge for their final regular game of the season.



A Basketball Experience Fit for Kings

Boys from the Endeavour (Caringbah), Mount Druitt and Dubbo Academies rubbed (very tall) shoulders with some of the NBLs best in February, thanks to Clontarf partner Gilead Sciences.

The boys joined 10,000 other cheering fans at Qudos Bank Arena as the Kings took on the Cairns Taipans in the final regular game of the season.

Prior to tipoff, the boys were presented to by Indigenous leader and former NRL player Preston Campbell, who spoke to them about pride, culture and resilience.

The jersey worn by Kings players during the game was designed by Bidwill Academy member Cliff Leveridge, who was understandably proud of his achievement.

“On the front is the kangaroo as the keeper of the land, highlighting the speed and agility of the basketball players,” Cliff said.

“On the back, with the turtle shell and spears, the turtle shell represents the people next to the coastal line.

“The spears represent the hunters and gatherers, and the waterholes represent people moving across the land.”

Following the game, the boys got to walk onto the court to meet players and snare jersey signings from some of their highest profile players, including ex-NBA superstar and NBL most valuable player Andrew Bogut.

Clontarf would like to thank Gilead Sciences and the Sydney Kings for providing an experience the boys will never forget!

Thank you for your support

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

- Caltex Australia
- AMP Foundation
- St Barbara
- Kellogg Australia Charitable Foundation
- Glencore Coal Assets Australia
- Suncorp
- Oz Minerals
- Whitehaven Coal
- Wests Group Macarthur
- Idemitsu Australia Resources
- David Mack
- Honeywell
- Mercer (Australia)
- Ashirwad Foundation
- The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia (CMEWA)
- CYP Design & Construction
- Austin Engineering
- Civeo

Perseverance the Message for Year 7s

More than 100 Year 7 Clontarf boys from the Darling Downs region in Queensland gathered at Lake Perseverance, north of Toowoomba, for an engagement camp in February.

For most of the boys, it was their first Clontarf camping experience and gave them an introduction to the diverse and rewarding activities they'd take part in as members of the programme.

Some of the activities the boys enjoyed included archery, canoeing, flag making and swimming relays - enough to whet their appetites and bring them back for more.

Darling Downs Regional Manager Andrew McDonagh said the camp was a great way to instil Clontarf values early.

“The first Year 7 camp is an exciting event for these young men because it effectively represents the very beginning of their

Clontarf journey,” Andrew said.

“They get a sample of what is on offer if they persevere at school, demonstrate excellent behaviour in their communities and at home, and embrace the Clontarf values and desired attitudes.”



Boys from the Dalby Academy 'Dingos' plant their team flag at Lake Perseverance in February.

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](#)

Qantas Frequent Flyer members can redeem their points for a cash donation to the Clontarf Foundation by [following this link](#)

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