

clontarffoundation

the QUARTERLY

July 2019



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Giving Back: Clontarf in the Community

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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 Term 2 edition of the Clontarf Quarterly. It is with great pleasure that I can announce the Federal Government has extended our existing agreement to fund 10,500 boys out to 2022, ensuring the continuity of our programme for the foreseeable future. Additionally, our health programme funded by the Federal Government has been extended for another year, allowing us to continue delivering vital health checks and awareness sessions for our boys.

Both of these agreement extensions are testament to the efficacy of our programme and I want to thank Prime Minister the Hon. Scott Morrison, Minister for Indigenous Australians the Hon. Ken Wyatt and their respective teams for their ongoing support.

Speaking of Minister Wyatt, I want to use this opportunity to congratulate him on his appointment as the first Aboriginal man to the Minister of Indigenous Australians portfolio. Ken has been a long-time friend and supporter of the Foundation and I look forward to working with him as we strive towards our goal of improving the education and life outcomes of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.

In Term 1 we undertook our largest expansion in the twenty year history of the Foundation and I'm pleased to report that all of our new academies are already having an impact on their respective communities. We continued our momentum into Term 2 with the opening of two more academies, located in Whyalla in SA and South Grafton in NSW. Whyalla is the fourth academy to open in SA this year while South Grafton represents the 20th new NSW academy in 2019 - a staggering achievement. Welcome to all of our new participants and staff and I look forward to visiting your academies in the near future.

Looking ahead to next term, we are set to open another two academies which will take

us to a total of 116 academies in 128 schools across the country.

Located at Toronto High School in NSW, Toronto Academy is expected to support 80 Year 7-12 students once it has embedded itself into the school.

The second new academy represents something of a first for the Foundation. Palmerston Primary Academy, supporting students from both Driver Primary School and Moulden Park Primary School in Palmerston NT, will be our very first standalone primary school programme. The academy will feature a familiar but tailored activity plan designed to better prepare younger boys for their eventual transition into secondary school. I'm excited for what this academy could achieve for the Palmerston community and wish the team all the best.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the tremendous support we received from our partners and individual donors in the first half of this year. Whether it's a financial partnership or a donation via our website, your support, big or small, allows us to keep doing what we do. I know our boys appreciate your generosity and on behalf of all 8,000 of them, thank you.



Gerard Neesham
Clontarf Foundation CEO





18 Year 12 boys from across the Perth metropolitan area met with representatives from a number of Clontarf partners in early June to discuss trade and apprenticeship opportunities.

Trades and Apprenticeships on Offer in Perth

Clontarf's WA Zone Office played host to the very first Clontarf Trades and Apprenticeships Employment Forum in early June.

18 Year 12 boys from Cecil Andrews (Armadale), Clontarf (Waterford), Fremantle, Sevenoaks (Cannington) and Swan View had the chance to meet with representatives from Clontarf partners including Rio Tinto, Woodside, FMG, Qantas, UGL and Camco Engineering.

The Forum was designed to introduce boys who were interested in pursuing a trade post-school with local employers who were offering apprenticeships and other opportunities.

The group engaged in a number of interactive activities including round table discussions, presentations and one on one interviews.

Clontarf Employment Officer Andrew McGovern said the Forum had already paid dividends for a number of the young men who attended.

"Two boys have been offered jobs and several others have been encouraged to apply for positions thanks to the Forum," he said.

"Because the Forum was targeted at pairing up interested boys

with companies that are genuinely keen on bringing on young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men as apprentices, we had some immediate outcomes which is a fantastic achievement."



Port Lincoln Gets First Taste of Clontarf Morning Training

Boys from the new Port Lincoln Academy in South Australia were put through their paces during the academy's very first Clontarf morning training session held in mid-June.

11 young men leapt out of bed at the crack of dawn (some as early as 5am!) in time to be picked up by academy staff.

Port Lincoln Academy Director Matthew Stokes said the boys were initially quiet when they first boarded the bus but were positively raucous by the time they arrived at Port Lincoln High.

"The boys' eyes lit up when they received their training guernseys and shorts, and they frantically searched for their favourite playing numbers," he said.

The wet weather forced the group to move inside the school gym but this in no way prevented them from making the most of the early start. The boys were put through their paces during modified training drills and a fun game of 'footy basketball' to lighten the mood.

"There were plenty of laughs throughout the session but what really stood out was how the boys demonstrated the values and expectations of the academy. They showed real leadership by supporting and encouraging each other, particularly when they were initially feeling flat so early in the morning.

"It sets a high standard straight off of the bat and we expect more boys to take part regularly as the year progresses."

As per tradition, the training session was complemented by a hot Clontarf breakfast made up of bacon and egg wraps and juice. What a great way to start the school day!



The boys from Port Lincoln Academy (SA) enjoyed their first official Clontarf training session in June.

Giving Back: Clontarf in the Community

Every day around the country, our academies engage with people, businesses and services within their local communities. Whether it's helping to take a customer's shopping to their car, collecting rubbish at the local park or taking part in large events like ANZAC Day, our boys relish the opportunity to engage with other people and to show that they play a big part in their community. Equally, it's a chance for them to assist in breaking down stigmas and stereotypes.

The following stories are a small selection of examples of Clontarf boys doing their bit to make their local communities happier, healthier and more harmonious places to live.



Dalby (QLD) PCYC Garden Refurbishment

During Term 2, the senior boys from Dalby Academy joined local community members and businesses for the the PCYC Garden Refurbishment Initiative.

The boys were able to use a wide range of landscaping machinery and tools which provided them with some valuable skills and knowledge that they'll be able to utilise when they graduate Year 12.

Having completed the project, the boys have developed a strong sense of achievement and should be very proud of their efforts.



Swan Hill (VIC) Community Dinner

The Swan Hill boys kicked off Term 2 with a special dinner for local community members at the academy room.

More than 30 locals attended and included representatives from Swan Hill Lions Club, Bunnings, Mallee Cruisers Club, school staff and the local police.

Prepared by the academy boys (with the help of teachers of course), the two-course menu consisted of a creamy crocodile fettuccini and a sizzling camel stirfry with plum sauce.

Swan Hill Academy is a big hit with the local community - it's easy to see why!



Palmerston 7-9 (NT) Easter Family Day at Bunnings

During the April break, boys from Palmerston 7-9 Academy volunteered their time to help staff at the local Bunnings during their Easter Family Day.

The boys assisted the Bunnings team in a range of engaging activities including cooking the community barbecue (a first for some of the boys), serving food and refreshments to eager customers, and entertaining excited children at an arts and crafts stall.

The Bunnings staff members and customers were very appreciative of the boys' efforts and spoke highly of their attitude throughout the day. Well done boys!

Tumut (NSW) Youth Colour Explosion Fun Run

The boys from the new Tumut Academy got into the community spirit during the Tumut Youth Council Colour Explosion Fun Run in April.

The event saw more than 400 local community members run through clouds of coloured chalk thrown by volunteers over a challenging 4.5km track. The Tumut boys manned one of the chalk stations, provided some music via a trusty boom box and, needless to say, had an absolute blast.

Plans are underway for the 2020 event and the Tumut boys have already put their hands up to be part of it.



Sanderson (NT) Biggest Morning Tea

The boys at Sanderson Academy held a Biggest Morning Tea for the Sanderson Middle School teaching staff in May. The event was a way for the boys to show their appreciation of the efforts of their teachers and to raise some money for charity at the same time.

The Year 9 boys assisted by setting up tasty treats, serving them to hungry attendees and collecting donations.

Their fundraising efforts were rewarded with the boys raising a total of \$225 for the Cancer Council.



Geraldton (WA) Primary School Footy Clinic

Early in Term 2, the Geraldton Academy boys headed inland to the small town of Mullewa where they ran football clinics for local kindergarten, pre-primary and primary school students.

Whether it was acting as human ladders for 'speccies', evading incoming footballs during dodgeball or running fun handball drills, the boys did their utmost to provide the young boys and girls with fun, engaging activities.

The boys showed tremendous leadership during the visit and have undoubtedly inspired the young students of Mullewa to follow in their footsteps.



Cairns (QLD) Healthy Mother's Day Breakfast

The Cairns Academy boys showed their appreciation to their mums on Mother's Day by inviting them into the academy room for a healthy breakfast spread.

Under the watchful guidance of the school's teaching staff, the boys whipped up a delectable array of healthy treats composed of scones, muffins and yoghurt granola cups, topped off with a regular supply of coffee.

The boys took turns to cook, prepare and even pulled on the boots for a spot of footy training. Needless to say, all of the attendees enjoyed the morning and left the academy with big smiles and full bellies.



Robinvale (VIC) ANZAC Day Commemoration

Year 12 Robinvale Academy students Andrew Baxter Mannix and Peter Marks showed their respect for the country's fallen during local ANZAC Day commemorations in April.

The two marched proudly alongside other community members, active ADF personnel and retired veterans. During the service, the young men laid a wreath on behalf of the whole academy - an experience the boys will never forget.

ANZAC Day is always a significant event on the Clontarf calendar and many academies attend commemorative events across the country. Lest we forget.





Trinity Bay Academy (Cairns, QLD) alumnus Marcus Sevallos joined the team at Bank of Queensland Smithfield in early 2019 and has developed considerably since.

Marcus Excels with BOQ

After being out of school for only seven months, Marcus Sevallos has made a significant impact on his employer, family, community and academy peers.

The Trinity Bay Academy (Cairns, QLD) alumnus graduated from Year 12 in 2018 and went straight into employment as a Customer Sales Officer with Clontarf partner Bank of Queensland (BOQ).

The role has given him the opportunity to develop his skills and grow his knowledge within an industry he is passionate about.

"I've learned a variety of skills since I started, including cash handling, branch administration and customer service," he said.

"I have met a lot of new people and I'm learning new things every day."

Marcus cut his teeth in the industry as a Year 10 trainee at National Australia Bank (NAB). Through hard work, resilience and sheer determination, he completed his traineeship and received resounding praise from his colleagues and peers.

He was first introduced to BOQ during a 'speed networking' session at the 2018 Cairns Clontarf Employment Forum. The BOQ team members were particularly impressed by his ambition and encouraged him to apply for a position upon completion of school. Despite being exposed to an array of different industries during the Forum, his heart was set on the finance industry.

Later in the year, Marcus was interviewed by BOQ and much to his and his family's joy, he was offered a position at the bank's Smithfield branch where he works to this day.

Marcus credits Clontarf for helping him on his journey to sustainable and fulfilling employment.

"The Clontarf academy helped me to complete my certificate modules during my traineeship with NAB," he said.

"Since I've left school, the Clontarf Employment Officers have always kept in contact and are always checking up on me to see if I am doing well. I know that they are always there when I need them."

Marcus shared his post-school experience with the current crop of young men at Trinity Bay Academy when he visited the programme earlier this year. The boys were enthralled with his stories and were very receptive of his final message.

"Look for every opportunity to better your future pathway while you're in school and where you have the most support around you."

Health a Big Focus in Dubbo

With the cold and flu season in full swing, the staff at Dubbo Senior Academy (NSW) called in Dubbo Aboriginal Medical Service (Dubbo AMS) for the academy's annual student health checks in June.

Held in the school hall, Dubbo AMS staff operated six stations for the students to visit which covered general observations, dental, eye health, social well-being, diabetes, alcohol and other drugs, sexual health, emotional well-being, ear health and a doctor consultation.

Each student had a special 'passport' stamped at each station to show they'd spoken with each of the health providers. In total, 77 students (98%) were screened over three days which is an outstanding result.

Dubbo Senior Academy Director Ted Bates said the health check days were an excellent way to help break stigmas surrounding

health checks and to create a relationship between the academy boys and local health providers.

"These checks are designed to identify any concerns that practitioners might have and then book students in for follow up appointments," he said.

"They can then track their results from year to year to observe any changes.

"We also hope to identify prevalent health concerns so we can tailor future health sessions held at the academy to address these issues."

More than 7,000 Clontarf boys from around the country are expected to receive a health check by the end of 2019.



Dubbo Aboriginal Medical Service (Dubbo AMS) staff undertook health checks on Dubbo Senior Academy students in June.



Senior boys from Clontarf's WA Southern Region visited Premier Coal's Collie site in early June.

Southern Boys at the Coalface

Donned in high-vis and safety gear, 27 boys from Clontarf's WA Southern Region headed to Collie in early June to visit Premier Coal, a subsidiary of Clontarf partner Yancoal.

Boys from Newton Moore (Bunbury), Coodanup (Mandurah), Gilmore (Kwinana) and Katanning Academies were given a personalised tour of the facility's mobile workshop and open cut mine by three of Premier Coal's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team members.

Following the tour, the boys had the opportunity to ask questions about potential career pathways and to hear about Premier Coal's apprenticeship programme.

Newton Moore Academy Director Boyd Davey said the experience encouraged the boys to closely consider their post-school employment options.

"The visit was a great way for the boys to see what

employment opportunities are in the region and to build their social skills," he said.

"The visit certainly opened up their eyes to the scope of operations like the one at Premier Coal and the myriad opportunities available to them if they finish off their schooling and learn the skills required to succeed.

"There are already a number of boys from the group who are considering work experience with the hopes of landing a position in the resources sector once they complete Year 12."

All of the boys and staff in attendance would like to thank Premier Coal and Yancoal for hosting them during this highly valuable employment experience.

Staff Profile: Kriston Thompson

With the first Semester of the year done and dusted, now is the perfect time to check in on one of our inaugural South Australian academies, and what better way to do it than by hearing from Port Augusta Academy Director Kriston Thompson.



Born and bred in the town known as the 'crossroads of Australia', Kriston gained extensive experience in the fields of education, training and employment after spending close to a decade working with the SA Government.

He came to the Foundation in February this year and, under the guidance of experienced Clontarf regional support staff, has quickly learned the 'Clontarf way'.

"It feels special and involves some nervous excitement," he said. "The Port Augusta boys love having us around their school. The fun activities we've done so far makes school attractive for them and they have embraced the values and expectations.

"As an academy, I hope we make a positive impact on the lives of the boys we're working with as well as their families."

Kriston loves his footy and plays and coaches locally which certainly helps him in his role with Clontarf. He also enjoys spending time with his wife and three daughters as well as camping, hunting and learning about his Aboriginal culture.



Andrew Davidson (Premier Coal) with Denzel Thorne from Gilmore Academy (Kwinana, WA).



Academy boys from across the Top End of the NT gathered at Casuarina Beach for an epic day of beach, sun and cricket.

Top End Beach Cricket Carnival a Smash Hit

Year 10-12 boys from Casuarina (Darwin), Gunbalanya, Haileybury (Darwin), Katherine and Palmerston descended on Casuarina Beach for the region's inaugural Top End Beach Cricket Carnival in June.

Making the most of the beautiful dry weather, the boys put on a cricket clinic that would have impressed The Don. Sixes, classic catches, inswinging yorkers, direct hit runouts and plenty of smiles and laughs - the day had it all.

Katherine Academy were the eventual winners with students Zach Motlap, Waylon Campbell and Tommy Cameron proving too strong with the bat.

Katherine Academy Director David Friebel said the boys were excited to play with bat and ball on the beach.

"Where the rest of the country are

slipping and sliding around on the footy field, our boys are using the dry conditions to get in games of cricket," he said.

"They've really embraced the game and are having a lot of fun, which is what it is all about."



New Academies Clash in the Silver City

In what is swiftly becoming a major event on the Clontarf calendar, the Silver City Shield carnival saw academies cross borders and deserts to take part in June.

The Australian Rules carnival held in Broken Hill in NSW's far west attracted boys from all across NSW including new academies Cranebrook, Narromine and Wellington, as well as Ocean View, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln from the new SA region.

The carnival provided an excellent way for boys to try their hand at a new sport (save for the SA boys, who were more than handy with an Aussie Rules ball) while experiencing the best sights, tastes and sounds the region has to offer.

The contingent from Narromine made the most of the eight hour bus ride to Broken Hill by spending three days in the town and its remarkable surrounds.

The group headed to the renowned

Mutawintji National Park where they were welcomed by local Elders, sampled traditional bush tucker and toured the ancient rock art sites scattered throughout the park's spectacular gorges.

The boys are already talking about next year which is sure to be even bigger and better!



The Narromine Academy boys looked sharp during dinner celebrating the Silver City Shield in Broken Hill in June.

Thank you for your support

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

- Wesfarmers
- Sodexo
- SUEZ Water
- SUEZ Recycling & Recovery
- National Rugby League
- Fortescue Metal Group
- Huawei Technologies
- Dalara Foundation
- Spotless
- The Argyle Family
- Cadia Holdings (Newcrest Mining)
- ConocoPhillips
- The Gillam Family
- Fuelfix
- Clough Foundation
- AngloGold Ashanti
- CITIC Pacific Mining
- Kingfam Foundation
- W&K Property Trust
- Bunzl Australasia
- TIMG
- Australian Gas Infrastructure Group
- NDD Family Trust
- Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation
- Sundberg Family Foundation
- Ducas Paul Foundation
- Fell Foundation
- Jasper Farms
- Jerry & Ann Ellis
- Evans Family Foundation
- Delroy Orchards
- Steve Parsons & Clare Saunders Family
- The Corio Foundation
- Bass Family Foundation
- John Taylor
- Rob Meree Foundation
- Bluesand Foundation

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