

clontarffoundation

the QUARTERLY

September 2020



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Clontarf gets behind Victoria



Ambrose Treacy Boys Get On Board with Surfing Legend Steph Gilmore

Employment Forums Back on Track Across the Country





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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.



Senior boys from Geraldton Academy (WA) were joined by representatives from several Clontarf partners during a visit to Perth in July.

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the latest Clontarf Quarterly for 2020. It was another big term for the Foundation with a significant amount of activity usually reserved for Term 2, such as Employment Forums and football carnivals, crammed into Term 3.



Of course, the situation in Victoria continues to be challenging, as it is across all sections of society within the state. I firstly want to pay tribute to our Clontarf staff members in Victoria who continue to work day-in-day-out to ensure the boys in their academies are receiving as much support as possible.

The experience we gained during the initial stages of the pandemic meant we were well prepared to implement a modified programme when the second wave of the pandemic hit and caused the state to be placed under further restrictions. The feature article in this publication explores some of the ways we are continuing to support our boys in Victoria; I encourage you to have a read.

As alluded to in my previous report, we will open three new academies in WA in Term 4. The new programmes are located at Collie Senior High School, Ellenbrook Secondary College and Narrogin Senior High School. Both Collie and Narrogin will join our WA Southern Region and represent the first new academies in the region since 2012, so it's very exciting to again be expanding our footprint south of Perth. We have appointed new staff members and commenced the preparation of the new academy rooms, and now look forward to welcoming students in October. I want to thank WA Minister for Education the Hon. Sue Ellery and her team for their support. I also want to thank the teaching staff at each

school for their enthusiasm in the lead up to opening. I'll provide an update on the progress of these new programmes at the end of the year.

Staying on the west coast, I recently had the chance to fly to Kununurra in WA's Kimberley region to visit our programme up there. While at the airport, I bumped into three East Kimberley Academy alumni who spotted me and came up to say hello. The three men - Marcus Cooper, Colen Nulgit and Joshua Davies - all work at the Kununurra airport and I'm pleased to say they are healthy, happy young men. They spoke to me about some of their favourite memories from their academy days, the lessons they learned while they were there and what they've been able to achieve since completing school. Having not had many opportunities to travel and see our programme abroad, it was a great reminder of the impact Clontarf is having on the lives of these young men and their communities.

Looking ahead, Term 4 will be another big quarter of activity with our academies engaging in end of year awards nights, Year 12 graduations, senior trips, outstanding Employment Forums, cricket carnivals and primary school transition clinics. None of these activities would be possible without your support, so I want to thank you for continuing to back the boys on their journey to becoming confident and capable young men.

- Gerard Neesham, CEO



The partnership between Clontarf and FMG was officially launched at Hedland Academy (Port Hedland, WA) in August.

Clontarf and FMG Launch Partnership in Port Hedland

The Clontarf Hedland Academy in WA's Pilbara Region played host to a partnership launch between the Clontarf Foundation and Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) in early August.

The event was attended by senior staff members from both Clontarf and FMG – including FMG's Greg Lillyman (COO), Ian Wells (CFO), Fernando Pereira (Director of Operations) and Andy Driscoll (GM Investor Relations), Hedland Senior High School staff, boys from Hedland Academy, and their families.

After an initial academy room tour from a group of current Clontarf students, Hedland Academy Year 8 student Jesse Tavo expertly MC'd the event and introduced a number of key stakeholders to address the group. Attendees heard about the immediate impact of the programme from Hedland Senior High School principal Bill Mann, the mothers of two academy boys and two (of four) Year 11 Clontarf

students who are currently undertaking school-based traineeships with FMG.

Clontarf General Manager of Partnerships and Communications Shane Kiely said the partnership would greatly benefit Clontarf academy members in the Pilbara and abroad.

"A partnership with FMG presents tremendous development and employment opportunities for our boys and we can't wait to increase the amount of interaction we're having with this great organisation who have been so supportive of our local programme since the outset," Shane said.

"There are already a number of Clontarf alumni employed by FMG and we know that through our partnership, many more

Clontarf boys, particularly in Port Hedland, will transition through Year 12 and into sustainable employment opportunities."

FMG COO Greg Lillyman said he was proud to be involved with Clontarf and attend the event.

"What a great day and to meet some wonderful young men at Hedland Academy," he said. "Keep up the great work!"

We would like to thank everyone involved in this visit and partnership launch – a genuine example of how outstanding outcomes can be achieved through collaborative partnerships with local Aboriginal families, industry, schools and the broader Port Hedland community.

Employment Forums Back on Track

Term 3 saw the rescheduling of many of Clontarf's Employment Forums which had been postponed due the pandemic.

In total, 27 forums were held across Australia and were attended by hundreds of academy members and representatives from Clontarf partners and local businesses.

With pandemic restrictions and social distancing impacting cities and towns differently, the forums were held in a mix of traditional face-to-face networking sessions and video conferences.

Clontarf General Manager of Employment Marcus Harrold said these events were essential to helping prepare senior Clontarf boys to enter employment or further study after graduation.

"We wanted to get our forums back up and running as soon as possible to ensure as many boys were able to benefit from them before the end of the year," Marcus said.

"The pandemic has required the Foundation to utilise more technology to deliver its programme so our newfound experience in this translated well to our forums.

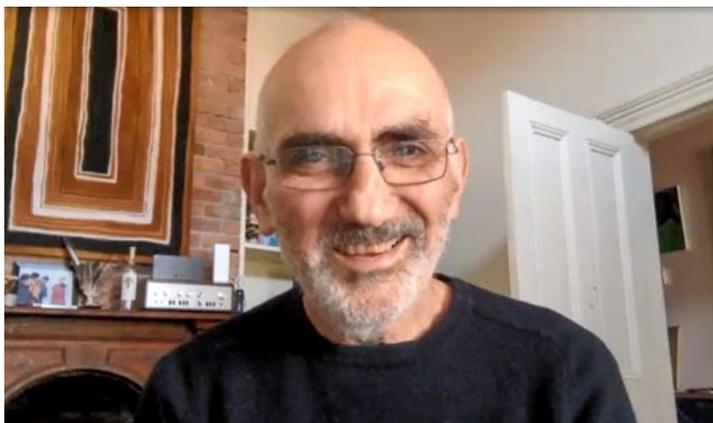
"I'm very pleased to say that all events ran well and our senior boys are primed for a big final term of school. On behalf of the Clontarf Employment Team and all the boys who attended, I want to thank all our partners and local supporters who took part."





Clontarf Gets Behind Victoria

Victoria continues to experience the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the boys in our programme are amongst the most vulnerable to its effects. With this in mind, our team in Victoria continues to provide as diverse a programme of activity as possible to ensure these young men remain engaged in their schooling, maintain their health and wellbeing, and continue their journey to completing Year 12. *Note: Some activities occurred prior to restrictions increasing.*



Paul Kelly Makes Gravy With VIC Academies

The Victorian boys were lucky enough to host an online Q&A session with iconic Australian musician Paul Kelly.

The 16-time ARIA Award winner spoke about his career and answered questions from the boys.

"Paul had so much fun with the boys and answered their questions with plenty of laughs in between," said Regional Manager Ben Djuve. "He really upped our spirits."

Of course, it wouldn't be a Paul Kelly event if a song wasn't involved, so the session ended with Paul playing his hit classic, 'How to Make Gravy'. Thanks, Paul!



New Yarning Circle in Warrnambool

The Warrnambool Academy boys teamed up with the girls from Kalay Academy to plant native plants and trees around a newly constructed yarning circle located at the front of Warrnambool College.

The group also worked closely with local Elder, Rob Lowe Snr and his son Robbie to create symbolic designs to be etched into the centre of the yarning circle.

The boys have taken great pride in being involved in the project and look forward to completing it in Term 4.



Robinvale Boys Learn Sustainable Lessons

Six boys from Robinvale Academy took part in an Agriculture and Horticulture Class project which required them to learn how to grow, sell and recycle everyone's favourite superfood, broccoli.

The boys used the money from the sale of the broccoli to buy fishing rods and hand reels so they could catch and reduce the population of carp in the Murray River - a pest that damages the local ecosystem.

"It was great to be involved and witness the process of planting broccoli, looking after and picking it, having a product to sell and then using the existing waste to put back into the soil," said academy member Coby Mitchell.



Swan Hill Senior Leaders Shine

Seven senior boys from the Swan Hill Academy headed bush for an overnight camp at Wood Wood on the Murray River in late July.

The boys enjoyed fishing, cooking, yarning and driving through the forest to visit important Aboriginal cultural sites.

The group was joined by Josh Cameron from Parks Victoria who spoke about some of the functions of his job.

Constable Andrew Downes from Victoria Police also visited and spoke about COVID-19 rules and safe decision making.

The camp was a great way to give the boys a break from the stress associated with the pandemic.

Bairnsdale Pancakes a Hit

One of the most popular activities for the Bairnsdale Academy boys during Term 2 was regular Friday home visits from academy and school staff who brought with them freshly made pancakes.

For Term 3, the boys decided they wanted to pay it forward. A group of boys headed to the academy room early on a frosty July morning morning to cook pancakes and deliver them to school teachers and staff, fresh with golden syrup and cream.

As you can imagine, the pancakes were a hit!



Health Checks in Mildura

Mildura Academy have worked closely with the Malee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) Medical Clinic to ensure academy boys have received their annual health check.

Academy staff have accompanied the boys on their visits which has given them another opportunity to chat with them on how they are progressing with their schoolwork and check in on their wellbeing.

Robinvale COVID Couch

Robinvale Academy staff and students hosted an online catchup with local alumni in early September.

Jay Togo (2011), Tyrone Urquhart-Singh (2013) and Brendon Johnson (2013) reminisced about their time in the academy and provided an update on their lives since graduating from school. They also spoke about how they were coping with the pandemic restrictions.

Online Art Class

Boys from all five academies took part in an online art class with Swan Hill Academy Operations Officer Tobie Cameron in September.

Streaming via video conference, Tobie showed the boys how to paint a black cockatoo onto canvas.

The lesson was the first of a series of classes that Tobie will hold, with dot painting and boomerangs on the cards for Term 4.



Alumni Humbled

Kaelym O'Flaherty has had his eyes opened to a world of generosity through his international efforts with the Australian Defence Force.

The Lance Corporal found himself on a humanitarian mission when he went to Vanuatu with his 1RAR Company just 18 months after joining the Army.

He arrived on a naval boat to deliver food and water after the country was devastated by a volcanic blast.

"It was an eye opener," the 2015 Kingaroy Academy alumnus said. "When we got off the boats they all came down with their fruit and food and offered it to us, even though we were there to help them. It's one of those things you don't appreciate until you see it."

Kaelym then travelled to New Zealand, Malaysia and Thailand on training excursions with international forces. Everywhere he went, the same type of generosity was extended to him and his fellow soldiers.

He soon realised he could extend his own form of generosity by mentoring young men in his own community.

"A lot of them were running amuck because they didn't realise how important school was. I wanted them to know graduating from school is one of the most important things you can do. It lines you up with the world."

Kaelym is now married, based with the Army in Townsville and loves his job.



Surfing legend Steph Gilmore is flanked by members of the Ambrose Treacy Academy (Indooroopilly, QLD) during a surfing lesson off the Gold Coast in July.
Photos courtesy of Surfing Australia.

Brisbane Boys on Board With Surf Champ

Seven lucky boys from Ambrose Treacy Academy (Indooroopilly, QLD) travelled down to the Gold Coast for a once-in-a-lifetime surfing lesson with seven-time World Champion, Steph Gilmore.

The boys were selected to attend as reward for their excellent school attendance and in-class behaviour.

During the session, the world champ taught the boys how to paddle and stand before cutting them loose to carve up the waves on their own.

Year 12 academy member Ezra Mam, who had never surfed in his life, said the experience was incredible.

"To get some tips from Steph Gilmore was thrilling, and to ride some waves with her was even more so," he said. "Steph taught me to take the right waves, paddle and kick hard and push up with your arms and keep the knees bent."

Not only did Steph provide the boys with

surfing tips, she also told the boys of how she overcame some of the mental and physical challenges she faced after she was attacked by a stranger outside her apartment in 2011.

"She had to overcome so many challenges, including going back to her own apartment for the first time, recovering from the injuries she sustained, the media coverage, not being able to surf and the fear of this happening again," Ezra recalled.

"She was very humble and said to always keep positive during tough times, something I will use when I am faced with my own challenges."

The academy boys would like to thank Steph, Ambrose Treacy College, Palm Beach Currumbin High School and Surfing Australia for such an incredible experience.



The Ambrose Treacy Academy boys take their first steps before hitting the waves next to the world champ.



Clontarf Regional Manager Charlie Maher (2nd from right) is passionate about the health, fitness and the wellbeing of young Clontarf men.

Staff Profile: Charlie Maher

Charlie Maher is Clontarf's NSW Mid North Coast Regional Manager, responsible for the success of Kempsey, Melville (Kempsey), Orara, Port Macquarie and South Grafton academies.

Born and bred in Hermannsburg (Ntaria), located 125km west of Alice Springs (NT), Charlie is a proud Western Arrantia man who maintains a strong connection with his family, culture and language.

His career with Clontarf commenced in 2008 in Alice Springs where he spent time across Centralian Middle, Centralian Senior and Yirara academies before he headed to Dubbo in NSW. In 2016, he was appointed as the inaugural Academy Director at Port Macquarie Academy and in 2019, was appointed to the role of Regional Manager.

While Charlie represents the pinnacle of what Clontarf team members should aspire to be, it is perhaps his passion for health, wellbeing and running that are his most defining attributes.

"I have been committed to the Indigenous Marathon Foundation for the last 10 years and became the first of four Indigenous Australians to ever run the New York Marathon back in 2010," he said.

If that wasn't impressive enough, Charlie has also completed the Berlin, Boston, Chicago, Gold Coast and Tokyo marathons. He now hopes to complete the London Marathon once the pandemic subsides.

As an Academy Director, Charlie used this passion for health and fitness to inspire and drive the young men under in his charge.

"I have always maintained a passion to

make a positive difference and to continue to make an impact and inspire the next generation in whatever they want to do in life."

Charlie said the success of the Clontarf programme is clearly evident from the boys who face challenging circumstances but develop resilience and grow into strong, positive young men.

"There was one particular young man from Alice Springs who I think of often. He joined Clontarf in Year 7 and had lost his mum to cancer. It was a massive trauma for him as they were extremely close. His behaviour was aggressive and at times negative, and it looked like his life would be going down a dark path.

"Being a part of Clontarf gave him purpose and positive role models to help challenge him on these behaviours and also to be there for him through that difficult grieving he needed to go through. The consistency of always having mentors there for him completely changed him. He just turned into this lovely young man - resilient, kind, motivated, confident. I am just so proud of him along with many others."

Charlie's work with Clontarf was recently recognised by Clontarf Patron-in-Chief and the Governor-General of Australia His Excellency General the Hon. David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) on International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.



Uni Bound

Current Year 12 Sevenoaks Academy (Cannington, WA) member Matthew Harris has always set himself the goal of attending university - now this goal has become a reality.

Matthew recently accepted an early offer from the University of Western Australia (UWA) to study a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History and Politics, starting in 2021.

An avid learner, Matthew has always shown an interest in the events of the past and utilised this knowledge to navigate the modern world.

Through his involvement with the Sevenoaks (Cannington, WA) and Yule Brook (Maddington, WA) academies, he has been able to access a wide variety of learning opportunities, such as worksite visits, guest speakers and open days at various tertiary educational institutions.

He is currently completing his ATAR studies and is excited to see what 2021 brings. Good luck, Matthew!



More than 80 Clontarf partners and community members braved the wet weather to help the boys from Ocean View Academy raise money for the Hutt Street Centre in Adelaide.

Walk a Mile in My Boots

Young men from the Ocean View Academy (Adelaide, SA) raised close to \$4,000 for The Hutt Street Centre community group during a walking event in August.

Close to 80 people took part in the 6km walk including boys and staff from the academy, representatives from Clontarf partners BMD, Bunnings, Kmart, Officeworks, OZ Minerals and Suez, and members of the local council including City of Port Adelaide Enfield Mayor Claire Boan.

As well as the walk, the group took part in an Acknowledgement of Country and shared a healthy breakfast. Attendees and other supporters were able to make small donations with all proceeds going directly to the Hutt Street Centre, a local organisation that aims to end homelessness.

Nigel Downes from OZ Minerals said he and his colleagues were thrilled to be invited

to join the academy boys in the activity.

“The event was a great way to support the homeless and it gave OZ Minerals staff the opportunity to get to know the students better and how Clontarf is making a tangible difference on their lives. A truly enjoyable morning and it was great to see the poor weather forecast didn’t deter the enthusiasm,” he said.

Mayor Boan said: “The Clontarf lads and leaders are amongst the best, demonstrating how support can go such a long way in creating a positive future.”

Ocean View Academy would like to thank all participants for attending and supporting this fantastic cause.

Thank you for your support

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

- Wright Prospecting
- Mick & Lyndall McCormack
- Sodexo Australia
- Alkane Resources
- Sutherland District Trade Union Club
- Waislitz Foundation
- Santos
- Boeing Defence Australia
- Swinburne University of Technology
- American Express
- The Phillips Foundation
- The Wests Group
- Queanbeyan Leagues Club
- The Road Safety Community Grants Program
- Harvey Norman Commercial
- Top Drill
- The Red Boxes Foundation
- Taren Point Bowling Club
- Pipeline Technics
- Odyssey Marine

Endeavour Boys Share Stage With Legend

14 young men from Endeavour Academy in Caringbah (NSW) shared the stage with Aboriginal guitar legend Col Hardy for a special Acknowledgement of Country ceremony held during the NRL Indigenous Round in July.

The boys were invited to participate in the pre-game event by the St. George Illawarra Dragons.

Golden Guitar winner, father of Endeavour Academy Director and NRL champion Jeff Hardy and long-time Clontarf supporter Col Hardy performed on stage and was flanked by academy members.

Academy members Anthony Jones (didgeridoo) and Isaac Hooper (clap sticks) also had the chance to play traditional music on stage next to Jeff.

The Endeavour Academy boys would like to thank the St. George Illawarra Dragons for the amazing opportunity.



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](#)

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