

clontarffoundation

# the QUARTERLY

December 2020



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foundation



## Celebrating the Clontarf Graduating Class of 2020



**New Academies Open  
in Western Australia  
and Queensland**

**Bravery Awards for  
Girrawheen Academy  
Heroes**





## FEATURE

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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 final Clontarf Quarterly for 2020. Term 4 represented the conclusion of what has been one of the most challenging years in the history of the Foundation and the country, but Clontarf and our participants have emerged from it stronger than ever.*



**Despite the disruption to schools, the severe health risk posed by COVID-19, and the employment/economic impacts, I'm proud to say that close to 800 Year 12 Clontarf boys completed their studies this year.**

This is a significant achievement by these young men and each and every one of them should be proud to have stuck through it to the end. Year 12 is a challenging school year at the best of times; students juggle schoolwork, social lives, sport and in many cases, part-time work. COVID-19 added increased stress and complexity but due to the resilience of these boys and the support provided to them by dedicated Clontarf staff, they've taken their first step into a bigger world. We highlight the efforts of our Year 12s in this edition's feature article, so I encourage you to have a read.

However, there is no way to sugar coat it – many of these young men will face an exceptionally tough time as the economic impact of the pandemic continues to unfold. To help them through it, Clontarf Employment Officers will continue to work with them to ensure they have every possible chance to enter employment or further education, or access services that will help them to stay afloat during this challenging time. I ask all the Foundation's partners and supporters to consider employing Clontarf graduates and alumni wherever possible. These men are 'work-ready' and come armed with experience, discipline and desire. They wouldn't have completed Year 12

in the direst of circumstances without these vital traits.

More broadly, close to 9,000 young men were enrolled in the programme at the end of the year, thanks in part to the large scale expansion the Foundation undertook in 2019, as well as the new academies added in 2020.

I'm also excited to announce that mid way through the term, we opened a new academy in Mackay, QLD. While the academy was only open for six weeks of the year, it provided our staff with the opportunity to integrate into the school, meet prospective members and prepare the academy room for an official launch early in 2021. There is tremendous opportunity for further growth in the Sunshine State and our Development team continues to work with relevant stakeholders with the hopes of opening more programmes in 2021.

Finally, I want to thank you, our supporters, for standing with the Foundation throughout this tough year. I fully appreciate that you would have faced your own challenges and fought your own battles, but you've also continued to support Clontarf and our academy members, for which I'll be eternally grateful. The new year will bring new hurdles to overcome and mountains to climb, however I'm extremely bullish that together we will make 2021 our best year yet.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy New Year, and I'll speak with you again soon.

- Gerard Neesham, CEO



Jamison Ugle and Edward Lyndon (Girrawheen Academy, WA) proudly display their Royal Bravery Commendations.

## Award Recognises Bravery of Girrawheen Academy Boys

**Year 12 leavers Jamison Ugle and Edward Lyndon from Girrawheen Academy (WA) received Bravery Commendations at the Royal Surf Life Saving Bravery Awards in October.**

The two boys received the recognition following the first aid they administered to a man who had been bashed by a group of teenagers at Stirling Train Station in February this year.

Jamison, who finished Year 12 in late October, said he and Edward had learned first aid and were prepared to respond when they were needed most.

"The guy was laying there and me and Edward ran down to see if he was okay," Jamison said.

"We helped put him on his side as he started having seizures. I took my work shirt off as a pillow to protect his head."

Edward said he and Jamison's efforts had

been recognised by younger peers, which was an important part of being Year 12s and senior Clontarf academy members.

"It makes me feel like a leader, a role model for young kids," Edward said.

"I never thought I'd be in a situation where I had to save a life; it just came to me quick."

Both young men are now preparing to enter the workforce as plumbing apprentices. They'll continue to be guided and supported by Clontarf's Employment Officers for the next year to make sure they land on their feet and succeed straight out of school.

The entire Clontarf Foundation congratulates Jamison and Edward on their efforts and

wishes them the very best for their bright futures ahead!



## Port Macquarie Academy Veteran Named School Captain

**Ethan Schafer started his Clontarf journey as a Year 7 student when Port Macquarie Academy was established at Hastings Secondary College - Port Macquarie Campus in 2016.**

Fast forward to December 2020, and Ethan has been named School Captain for 2021 - a role he has worked towards since joining the academy.

"During all my high school years so far, I've wanted to be able to put myself in a position to one day be given this opportunity," Ethan said.

"I've always wanted to be the best version of me for myself, my peers and my family. I've always wanted to be a role model to the other boys at school and in the Clontarf academy."

Ethan said his family were thrilled when they found out about his appointment.

"I spoke to mum and sent a photo to her once

we found out the results. Once I got home she was so excited and couldn't believe it. My dad was very proud as well. They're all very proud of me."

Even though the 2020 school year has only just finished, Ethan is already thinking about what kind of leader he wants to be once school starts again in the new year.

"I want my peers to feel comfortable around me; someone they could approach and discuss any concerns or issues that they have at school or in general. I'd like them to know that they have my ear and will listen. To be given the opportunity for my peers to trust me and know

that I will listen and pass on any concerns to the school executives is a great responsibility."

Congratulations, Ethan! We look forward to seeing you thrive as a leader at your school and in the academy.





Year 12 boys from Centralian Senior and Yirara (Alice Springs, NT) academies celebrate their successful completion of Year 12 during a special ceremony in Term 4.

# Celebrating the Clontarf Graduating Class of 2020

**The year began with bushfires which devastated large swathes of the east coast of Australia and directly impacted a number of Clontarf academy members and staff. Then, the pandemic hit and many schools were forced to deliver their curriculum via remote learning. Now at the end of 2020, and after enduring some of the most challenging economic and social conditions since World War II, close to 800 Year 12 Clontarf boys have completed high school. In this article, Clontarf Chief Operations Officer Craig Brierty acknowledges the efforts of these young men and looks toward their bright futures and the challenges they'll face in the years ahead.**

It is widely accepted that young people who complete Year 12 are more likely to go on to further training or study, be employed, earn more in their jobs and ultimately experience better life outcomes. The evidence is compelling and it's a big reason why Clontarf's mission is to retain as many boys in education and through to the completion of Year 12 as possible.

Year 12 is a time of focused study, especially for those who are working towards tertiary education or job roles that require certain qualifications or school results. It's also a time when students start to develop key life skills such as driving, cooking, managing money and expanding their social networks. It can be a lot to balance at the best of times.

The Graduating Class of 2020 also had to factor in one of the most unprecedented events in recent history. COVID-19 caused the closure of many schools, the cancellation of many practical classes and the shift to remote learning - all during the most critical year for senior students.

Initially, we were unsure how we would deliver our traditional Clontarf programme. I'm

proud to say that our entire team dug deep, stayed in the game and worked hard to develop a bespoke programme tailored to the local needs of the 9,000 young men enrolled in our academies.

At the end of this year, close to 800 Year 12 Clontarf boys finished their secondary schooling. This is an incredible achievement by these young men. They've shown tremendous resilience to weather the storm and are now ready to seize the exciting opportunities laid before them.

In particular, I want to congratulate the Victorian academy members and their Clontarf mentors. Their circumstances were the most challenging of all. In fact, despite everything, 22 of a possible 24 boys completed Year 12 - the most Year 12 Clontarf completions in Victoria since the Foundation commenced operations in the state in 2010. 18 of these men have already been placed into post-school roles, including apprenticeships, traineeships, youth work, retail positions and hospitality. I'm also excited to say that three boys will attend university in 2021. Congratulations to you all.

The coming years are not going to be easy for many of these young men. Navigating the employment market post-COVID will continue to be challenging and the full ramifications of this enormous disruption will likely not be felt for several years to come. No matter what, Clontarf will be here for these men.

The Foundation has 26 Employment Officers across the country who will help them to find suitable and sustainable work and assist them to access the right services and networks to ensure they stay afloat when things are particularly tough.

I know I speak for everyone in the Foundation when I say, to all our Year 12s, congratulations on your achievements this year. You've completed your secondary studies under extraordinary conditions and should be rightfully proud.

To parents, guardians and families, thank you for supporting and encouraging your young men to work hard at school. They've proven they can achieve success in the direst of circumstances - imagine what they can achieve now.

- Craig Brierty, Clontarf COO



Despite the pandemic, 34 boys from Trinity Bay Academy (Cairns, QLD) completed Year 12 in 2020.



Bentley Park (Cairns, QLD)



Bourke (NSW)



Cairns (QLD)



Canobolas (Orange, NSW)



Clontarf (Waterford, WA)



Coodanup (Mandurah, WA)



Derby (WA)



East Kimberley (Kununurra, WA)



Gordonvale (Cairns, QLD)



Griffith (NSW)



Hedland (Port Hedland, WA)



Irrawang (Newcastle, NSW)



Narrandera (NSW)



Newton Moore (Bunbury, WA)



Port Lincoln (SA)



St Brendan's (Yeppoon, QLD)



Tennant Creek (NT)



Thuringowa (Townsville, QLD)



Toowoomba (QLD)



Warrnambool (VIC)



## Rodney Nagawalli

**Jabiru Academy (NT) alumnus Rodney Nagawalli completed Year 12 in 2015 and travelled to Darwin to commence a metal fabrication apprenticeship with Clontarf Partner Darwin Port (Landbridge) in 2018.**

Now in his third year, Rodney is turning heads. The young man was named Aboriginal Apprentice of the Year at the GTNT Awards in May. He also won three Darwin Port Improvement and Recognition awards due his professionalism, efficiency and willingness to continually develop his skills while completing his projects.

Rodney said he loved working at Darwin Port.

"I really enjoy working as an apprentice metal fabricator because I learn something new every day," Rodney said.

"This job is giving me good skills and I'm proud of where I've come from and what I've achieved."

Rodney said Clontarf were a big help to him when he decided to move on from being a ranger at Parks and Wildlife to commencing an apprenticeship in Darwin.

"Leith Waterbury (former Jabiru Academy Director) and Clontarf were able to provide support and guide me into relocating to Darwin to take on the apprenticeship.

As an alumnus, Rodney continues to be a regular guest speaker at Clontarf events such as employment forums and academy visits.

Congratulations on your success so far, Rodney!



*Collie Academy (WA) opened in Term 4, alongside new programmes in Ellenbrook and Narrogin in WA, and Mackay in QLD.*

## New Academies Open in WA and QLD

**We are thrilled to announce that Clontarf successfully commenced three new academies in WA and one in QLD during Term 4.**

The new academies are located in Collie (Collie Senior High School, WA), Ellenbrook (Ellenbrook Senior High School, WA), Narrogin (Narrogin Senior High School, WA) and Mackay (Mackay State High School, QLD), and are expected to support approximately 170 boys next year.

The academies were originally planned to open earlier in the year but were delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. With most restrictions eased by Term 4, the Foundation was able to continue its expansion to ensure it achieves its ambitious goal of reaching 12,500 boys by 2023.

While the official launches of the new programmes won't occur until early Term 1, WA Zone Manager Gavin Greaves said the new academy rooms had been set up, new staff appointed and a large number of

enthusiastic students already registered.

"The uptake we had at each academy was tremendous, despite being the end of the year," Gavin said.

"There were many boys who were keen to learn what Clontarf is about and to make some new friends before the start of the new year.

"The staff at each academy spent the last weeks of term planning exciting activities for the new school year to make sure the boys start the year off in as positive a way possible. We can't wait to show them the full programme and welcome even more young men into the Clontarf fold."

The Foundation would like to thank the principals and teaching staff at our new host schools for being so welcoming and accommodating.



*Matthew Hunt (Collie) adds four more pins to the map, taking the total number of Clontarf academies to 123.*



*Jason Tincknell (Narrogin) signs up a new academy member.*



Boys from the Delroy Academy (Dubbo, NSW) dance group entertained fellow students and teachers during a special NAIDOC/Remembrance Day event in November.

## NAIDOC Week Celebrated Nationwide

NAIDOC Week is an important cultural event traditionally celebrated by communities, schools and Clontarf academies in July, but due to the pandemic, events were postponed until November.

The delay didn't dent the spirit of our academy boys however, with many academies around the country holding their own celebrations or joining others in their local communities. Some of these activities included:

- a cooking lesson and community lunch with Aboriginal celebrity chef Mark Olive at Tumut (NSW).
- face painting at Trinity Bay (Cairns, QLD).
- didgeridoo playing at Geraldton (WA).
- interviewing and filming boys on what NAIDOC meant to them at Karabar (Queanbeyan, NSW).
- traditional painting at Swan Hill (VIC).
- a game of football against Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander students from a local school at Narrabri (NSW).

- traditional dance at Chifley Senior (Mount Druitt, NSW) and Gilmore (Kwinana, WA).
- a combined NAIDOC Week/ Remembrance Day assembly at Delroy (Dubbo, NSW)

Delroy Academy Year 9 member Javen Gibbs (pictured bottom right), who performed dance and addressed the large crowd said he was thrilled to be able to express his pride in his culture in front of his peers.

"I felt pretty nervous to speak in front of people but I also felt very proud of my culture and I felt like the spirits were helping me as I spoke," Javen said.



## Staff Profile: Neil Stanley

**Neil Stanley was the only Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child in his class when he went to Murgon State School.**

"But it made me the man I am today," Neil said.

"I don't see people as black or white. My father (John) said 'education is the key to the future and when you walk down the street hold your head high'."

The 46-year-old now loves his work as a Clontarf Operations Officer at the school he used to attend.

"It allows me to show empathy to struggling children and empower them to be anything they want to be and be the best that they can be," Neil said.

Before coming to the role, Neil was a teacher aide at Chinchilla and Dalby for 11 years and played with 15 rugby league teams.

He has had many life experiences in the 27 years since he left Murgon and said it now felt good to be home. "To know other people you have to understand yourself first," Neil said.

"I've gone away and my experience, my life, and where I've been has brought me back here.

"It feels it's where I'm meant to be because working with these young men feels good and education is the key."

# WELCOME TO CARRAPATEENA PROCESSING

INDUCTED PERSONS ONLY BEYOND THIS POINT

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PROFITABILITY

INTEGRITY

A modern mining

Four Port Augusta Academy (SA) Year 12 boys visited the OZ Minerals Carrapateena minesite in November.

## Clontarf Boys Eye Careers at Carrapateena

Four Year 12 boys from Port Augusta Academy in South Australia visited the Carrapateena mine site north of Port Augusta in early November following an invitation from Clontarf partner, OZ Minerals.

The full-day activity included a plane flight to the Carrapateena site, safety induction, breakfast with local staff and visits to the camp rooms, recreation room, gym, gatehouse, lab, machinery work bays, office space and the Tjati decline mine entrance.

The tour sparked immediate interest in the mining industry for several of the boys who were considering applying for roles now that they'd finished high school.

"My dream is to become a diesel mechanic and this site visit made me want it even

more," said academy member Blake Cooper.

Fellow academy member Ronan McKenzie echoed Blake's words but saw opportunity in the hospitality sector.

"I would like to get a job as a kitchen hand and work my way up to a cook or even a chef," said Ronan.

The boys will now work closely with Clontarf's Employment Officer in South Australia to help them realise their employment dreams.

## Warrnambool Member Named VCAL Dux

Warrnambool Academy (VIC) Year 12 leaver Joel Campbell overcame multiple obstacles to complete Year 12 and be named the school's VCAL Dux in December.

Prior to 2020, Joel faced the prospect of dropping out following mental health challenges, troubles at home and disengagement at school.

Joel said his Clontarf mentors supported him regardless of his situation.

"From the first day in Year 7 they made me feel comfortable at school," Joel said.

"I had a number of issues along the way but have always been able to talk with Clontarf staff anytime. They have always encouraged me to be myself and gave me opportunities to become a leader in the academy and the community. My confidence has grown with these opportunities. During remote learning they would visit me regularly and just make things seem not as bad as I thought they were."

Joel said that being around older Clontarf members had helped to motivate him to complete school.

"I looked up to the boys who were older than me, I always wanted to finish Year 12 when I saw them graduate at awards nights."

He now plans to pursue photography after working and travelling in 2021. Well done, Joel and all the best!



Joel Campbell receives a leadership award from Warrnambool College Assistant Principal, Dan Lee.

## Thank you for your support

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

- Rio Tinto Board of Directors
- Coates Hire
- Fulton Hogan
- Google Australia
- Woolworths Group
- Iluka Resources
- Deutsche Bank
- Huawei Technologies
- DHL Express
- The University of Sydney
- Australian Gas Infrastructure Group
- WesCEF
- Horizon Power
- CITIC Pacific Mining, Sino Iron Ore project
- John Holland Rail
- Resource Strategies
- Skill Hire
- Legeneering
- Ormond Civil
- The Market Herald
- Mercer (Australia)
- Camco Engineering
- Lightsource bp
- RC Construction
- Northern Territory Government, Department of Education

### 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](mailto:contact@clontarffoundation.com.au)

[www.clontarf.org.au](http://www.clontarf.org.au)



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