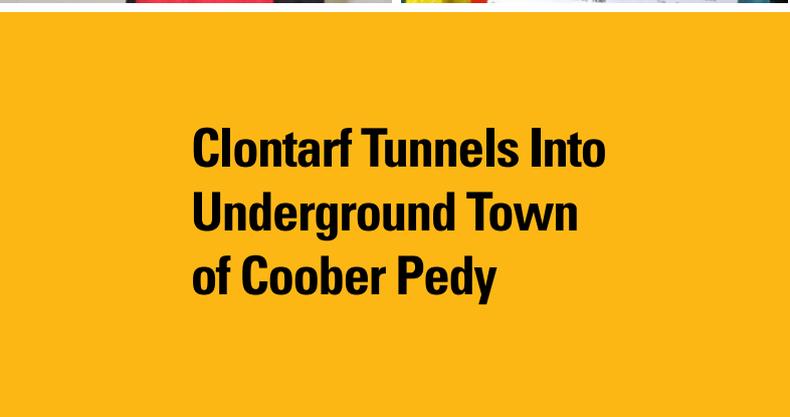


COVID No Match For Clontarf



Clontarf's First Olympian a Hit at Tokyo Games



Clontarf Tunnels Into Underground Town of Coober Pedy





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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.



Belmont Academy (WA) officially opened to great fanfare in early September.

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the third Clontarf Quarterly for 2021. It was an exceptionally tough quarter for Clontarf and indeed the country, with all states and territories dealing with lockdowns and restrictions relating to the pandemic.



The outbreak continues to be most keenly felt in NSW where, tragically, the virus has spread into regional and remote communities and placed people living there at great risk.

All 47 NSW academies and their host schools returned to remote engagement for most of the term. I'm proud to say that, as has been the case each time the pandemic has reared its head, Clontarf staff responded immediately.

With the firm support of our host schools, our academies continued to run a diverse programme of remote activity and by all accounts, academy members participated with great enthusiasm and continued to engage in their schooling. The senior boys in particular showed tremendous resilience and demonstrated their understanding of the value of a good, well-rounded education. I encourage you to read the feature article on page 5 which looks at some of the activities the boys in NSW are participating in.

Despite the pandemic, Clontarf continues to expand rapidly and to cater for this growth, we've had to make several structural changes. With that in mind, I'm thrilled to announce that Craig Brierty has been appointed to the newly created role of Deputy CEO. Craig joined the Foundation in 2003 and has been an integral team member since. In his capacity as Chief Operations Officer (COO), Craig has ensured our programme has continued to evolve and become more sophisticated, all while maintaining strong results. Craig will also join the Clontarf Board where his experience in programme development and strategy will be invaluable to the Foundation's ongoing governance.

Craig's former role will now be split into two roles - COO West, responsible for WA, the NT, SA and VIC - and COO East, responsible for NSW and QLD. I'm very happy to announce that senior Clontarf staff member Brendan Maher has been appointed to the COO East role. Since 2016, Brendan has led the team in NSW in his capacity as Zone Manager and was instrumental in Clontarf's growth in the state to 47 academies and more than 3,000 participants.

The COO West role is yet to be appointed but we anticipate this decision being made soon and an announcement will be made at the appropriate time. Congratulations to both Craig and Brendan and I look forward to working with them more closely over the coming years.

I'm also pleased to announce that we recently opened a new academy in the remote town of Coober Pedy, which is situated roughly 850km north of Adelaide in South Australia. The new programme is the third new Clontarf academy to open in SA this year. It's a truly unique town and I can't wait to see the activities the boys engage in and the outcomes they achieve.

Looking ahead to Term 4, the situation facing the country remains uncertain. While not being able to mandate compulsory vaccination for Clontarf staff, I have encouraged our team members to receive the vaccination where possible to ensure we can continue to run our programme at its fullest and maintain the safest possible environment for ourselves and the boys we support.

As always, thank you for supporting Clontarf and I look forward to speaking with you again soon.

- Gerard Neesham, CEO



Dripstone Academy (NT) boys trained with members of both the men's and women's wheelchair basketball teams before the Paralympic Games in August.

Dripstone Boys Train With National Heroes

The boys from Dripstone Academy (Darwin, NT) were lucky enough to take to the court with members of Australia's men's and women's wheelchair basketball teams in the lead up to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in August.

The Rollers (men's team) and Gliders (women's team) were in town to train before their trip to Tokyo later that month.

The young Clontarf men jumped at the chance to see the aspiring gold medallists in action.

After watching the teams train from the sidelines, the Clontarf boys were provided with wheelchairs of their own and invited onto the court to test out their own skills against some of the world's best.

The boys developed newfound respect for the Paralympians after finding it difficult to control their wheelchairs while trying to bounce, pass and shoot the ball. Despite the challenge, the boys enjoyed plenty of laughter and worked up a sweat.

"It was special to see one of our boys who has a disability to get the opportunity to not only participate, but to also thrive against the other Clontarf boys," said Dripstone Academy Operations Officer Jeff Cameron.

At the end of the session the boys thanked the Paralympians for giving up their time and wished them well at the Games.

In Tokyo, both teams did Australia proud, with the Rollers finishing 5th amongst an incredibly competitive field.

Congratulations to both teams for representing our country and thank you for inspiring our young men with your resilience, determination and positive attitudes.



Clontarf Tunnels Into Underground Town of Coober Pedy

Famous for being the 'opal capital of the world' and for its broad network of underground dwellings, South Australia's remote town of Coober Pedy is now the host of Clontarf's newest academy.

Located at Coober Pedy Area School, Coober Pedy Academy commenced in early Term 3 and is projected to support 20 boys by the end of the year. This number will grow significantly in the new year once the academy has become entrenched in the school and local community.

The programme is led by experienced Academy Director Michael Hall who made the ultimate seachange, moving from WA's Coral Coast town of Carnarvon to take up the role. He is supported by Operations Officer Nathan Nistico who moved from another of SA's iconic towns in Whyalla.

During the term, the boys hosted their first visit from a fellow Clontarf academy with members from Whyalla Academy making the 600km trip north

through the desert to meet their newest peers. The trip was a veritable smorgasboard of activity for the group and included indoor sports, morning training, a game of basketball, a tour through Coober Pedy's most iconic locations, a visit to Old Timer's Mine, a short drive to Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park, a game of golf, dinner with members of Clontarf partner Peak Iron Mines and the Department of Education, and a tour of Tom's Working Opal Mine. More importantly, many new friends were made.

Term 4 looks set to be even bigger for the academy with plans for a major trip to Adelaide and Kangaroo Island, a camp to Port Augusta, an inter-academy cricket carnival and the academy's inaugural awards night.





COVID No Match

It's a familiar sight for many - video conferencing has become synonymous with the pandemic and during Term 3, Clontarf and it's participants made good use of it once again.

For Clontarf

The COVID-19 pandemic sent much of the country into lockdown in Term 3 and caused significant disruption to schools, academies, businesses and the general community.

Worst of the effects were felt in New South Wales where an outbreak spread from Sydney into the regions, causing the whole state to be locked down.

Having dealt with the pandemic for the last 18 months, Clontarf staff were well prepared and, in close consultation with staff from our host schools,

swiftly implemented a modified programme of activity to ensure academy members remained engaged in their schooling.

Where physical contact wasn't possible, engagement switched to online contact and included virtual cooking lessons, quizmaster sessions, creative writing challenges, worksite visits and employment forums. Clontarf staff were well supported by partners and local supporters including charities, sports stars and health professionals.

Through it all, Clontarf academy members displayed tremendous resilience and resolve in the face of adversity.

Here are just a few of the inspiring ways Clontarf boys are engaging in school, staying healthy and giving back to their local communities.

Greater Sydney Employment Forum

In August, senior boys from across the Greater Sydney region logged onto the region's virtual version of the annual Clontarf Employment Forum.

85 boys heard about opportunities from representatives from Clontarf partners including Coates, Compass Group, DHL Express, Hitachi, John Holland Rail, St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney, Suez Australia & New Zealand and Thales Australia.

Following the presentations, Clontarf staff delivered lunch to the door of each of the boys who participated. Where there's a will there's a way!



Clontarf COVID Cookbook

Endeavour Academy (Caringbah) staff have been hosting virtual cooking lessons aimed at helping the boys to learn new skills in the kitchen.

The goal is to compile an assortment of different recipes from varied cuisines to produce a COVID cookbook - a resource for the boys to draw on at home during lockdowns and for when they move out of home.

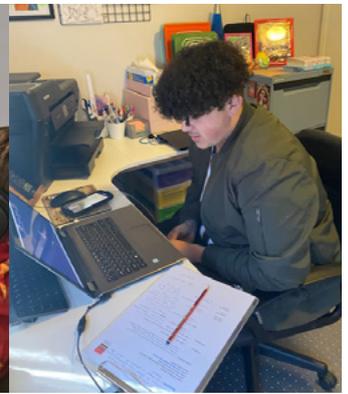
Year 12 student Jacob Gray and his family jumped at the opportunity to practice their culinary skills and were joined by Clontarf staff Arnold Woulf and Ryan Friend to create Birria tacos, pictured right. Yum!



Interviews and Workplace Interviews in Penrith

The boys from Cranebrook Academy in Penrith used their time to explore local employment opportunities with Clontarf partners Bunnings and Woolworths. Staff from the local Bunnings store hosted a virtual warehouse tour for several boys, showing them the various departments and talking about some of the part-time jobs that were available.

Five boys participated in job interviews with staff from Woolworths Cranebrook via video conference. The young men were confident and well prepared, and the feedback from the Woolworths staff was very positive.



COVID Care Packs in Bidwill

Bidwill Academy (Mount Druitt) partnered with local community group City Care Youth to deliver food hampers to Clontarf boys and their families throughout the term.

City Care Youth generously donated the bags which were filled with essentials and Clontarf staff delivered them to the front door of appreciative families.

The boys even ran a baking challenge using some of the contents of the hampers, with their kitchen creations uploaded onto the academy's internal forum for the boys to vote on the best.



Domestic Duties in Mount Druitt

With plenty of spare time on their hands, the boys from Shalvey Academy (Mount Druitt) were encouraged to put in extra effort with domestic duties at home. The boys stepped up to the mark by helping out with mowing the lawn, washing the dishes, hanging out the washing and sweeping up the backyard. Needless to say, the boys' parents/carers were very happy to see their sons starting to embrace cleaning as a fun activity!

The boys also enjoyed a 'visit' from former Sydney Kings NBL player Graeme Dann who gave the boys insight into his own mindset and stressed the importance of education.



Drop'n'Dash Deliveries in Toronto

Toronto Academy members were the lucky recipients of donated meals and other goods, courtesy of local charity Survivor's R Us - an organisation that supports the fight against domestic violence, homelessness and unemployment.

Swiftly distributed by Clontarf staff members, the deliveries included necessities like butter chicken meals, food hampers and cartons of milk.

The boys from Toronto Academy have committed to repaying the generosity shown by Survivor's R Us by volunteering at the charity's warehouse once the lockdown has ended.



Matraville MasterChefs

Traditional Clontarf camps are a no-go during COVID lockdowns, so the staff at Matraville Academy had to think up new ways to emulate some of the key experiences the boys would have on camp.

One of the most popular camping activities is the Clontarf Camp Cookup, so the academy staff encouraged the boys to light their backyard barbecues or fire up kitchen stoves and test their cooking skills with classic Clontarf recipes.

The boys jumped right in and cooked up fettuccine carbonara, crumbed lamb and veggies, chicken nuggets, lamb cutlets and salads, and san choy bow.





Profile: Andrew Zaro

Townsville (QLD) region Employment Officer
Andrew Zaro is driven by seeing others achieve success.

"Seeing a young man gain employment after graduating from school is such a rewarding feeling," he said.

"Having the ability to work with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and be given the opportunity to have a positive impact on their lives is incredible."

Andrew joined the Foundation in 2018 as an Operations Officer at Kirwan Academy in Townsville before his natural enthusiasm, positivity and dedication to the young men under his charge was recognised and he was elevated to the Employment Officer role.

Alongside fellow Employment Officer Kieran Willey, Andrew works with 70 Clontarf graduates from 2020 to help them find employment and support them during their first year out of school. They also work closely with the region's academies to run worksite visits for current members and prepare senior Clontarf boys to become 'work-ready'.

Prior to Clontarf, Andrew completed his trade as a painter before transitioning into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health work, where he delivered the Deadly Choices programme for five years in South East QLD before taking up a role at QLD Health as a Men's Health Worker.

If was here that Andrew found he discovered his passion for working with young men who have experienced disadvantage during their early lives.

"The barriers these young men face during their adolescent years has an impact on their confidence coming out of school. The challenge for us at Clontarf is to help them believe in themselves."

In his spare time, Andrew loves travelling, but since becoming a father, he equally enjoys spending time at home with his daughter and partner.



Now and then: Alex Winwood on his way to the Tokyo Olympics (left) and throwing some of his first punches at the Coodanup Academy in 2013.

Olympic Dream Come True For Alex Winwood

Coodanup Academy alumnus Alex Winwood made history this August as he became the first Clontarf alumni to compete in the Olympic Games for Australia.

The Mandurah (WA) man, who took up boxing after a local boxing instructor visited the school and academy, represented the nation in the Men's Boxing Fly event at the Tokyo Olympics.

As one of 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the team, Alex said it was a dream come true to represent his country and culture.

"I had a vision and long term goal seven years ago, when I was 16 years old, that I wanted to go to the Olympics," Alex said.

"To not only represent Australia but also Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was a great honour. I am very proud of my culture and people, and I wanted to represent them with respect and honour."

While Alex may have missed out on gold, going down in his first bout against Zambia's Patrick Chinyemba, his passion for the sport remains undeterred and he plans to become a professional boxer within the next 12 to 18 months. He also hopes to once again don the

green and gold during the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham (UK) next year and the Paris Olympics in 2024.

Reflecting back on his time at Coodanup Academy, Alex said the Clontarf programme helped him to significantly lift his school attendance rates, develop discipline and manage his time effectively.

"Clontarf gave me the motivation to keep coming to school and finish Year 12. We did worksite visits, life skills sessions and camps that helped to prepare for life after school.

"Clontarf and Callas (Employment Officer Craig Callaghan) are always there to support me when needed."

Alex's advice is to other young people is to "find what you passion is and give 100% effort to achieve it. Set yourself goals in life, such as finish Year 12, get a driver's licence, get a job and buy a car. And always treat people the way you want to be treated!"

Well said, Alex!



Alex bumped into many of his Olympic heroes while in Tokyo, including Ash Barty (pictured) and Patty Mills (left, bottom).



Tennant Creek (NT) played host to over 200 Clontarf boys from across the NT during the Battle in the Barkly camp and carnival in September.

Boys Battle in the Barkly

Over 200 Clontarf boys from across the Northern Territory converged on the central town of Tennant Creek for the inaugural Battle in the Barkly football carnival in September.

The boys and staff at Tennant Creek Academy hosted the event which saw Clontarf members from 11 academies participate.

Boys were selected to attend the five-day camp and carnival based on excellent school attendance, in class behaviour and engagement with the academy.

Academy members relished the opportunity to test their skills against their peers during a series of games played during the day and night.

Each team battled hard, but final bragging rights went to Palmerston 7-9 Academy after winning all of their games.

The carnival culminated in an All-Star match which saw each academy select three students to participate. The boys who qualified had achieved exemplary school attendance during the term and displayed outstanding leadership during the camp.

In true Clontarf tradition, the camp and carnival included much more than just football; the boys also had the chance to participate in a range of

worthwhile activities which included:

- a substance abuse awareness session provided by the health promotion team at Anyinginyi Aboriginal Health Corporation.
- a visit to Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre where the boys learned about the history of the region and how to make handcrafted tools.
- a tour of the underground Battery Hill Mine.
- a worksite visit to the Coolalinga Fire Station.
- a dip in the hot springs of Elsey National Park in Mataranka.
- a stop at Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve in Warumungu.

Congratulations to Tennant Creek Academy on running such a memorable event. It certainly set the bar for many more Battles in the Barkly to come!



Careers at Cairns Police

A group of Year 7 boys from Trinity Bay Academy (Cairns, QLD) were treated to a behind the scenes look at Queensland Police Service's Smithfield Station during an engagement camp in late August.

20 young men toured the station and met several officers including members of the Highway Patrol and Dog Squad.

The visit included a Q&A session which saw the boys ask many questions about the day in the life of an officer, the roles available at a local station and the pathway required to become a police cadet.

Trinity Bay Academy Operations Officer Brandon Valevou said the visit not only opened the eyes of the boys to potential employment opportunities after school, but it also served to breakdown some of the barriers between officers and young academy members.

"Some of the boys have had run-ins with the police before so they were a little unsure of what to expect with this tour," Brandon said.

"One of the boys, Nomis Fidow, mentioned the visit has inspired him to do better in his education, especially after hearing from Senior Constable Richie Manning who presented to the group about the importance of doing well in school.

"Now they have greater respect for officers and the jobs they do, and some are even inspired to pursue careers with the police."



Year 12 boys from Yirara Academy in Alice Springs, NT held a footy clinic for students from Ntaria School during an engagement camp in August.

Yirara Seniors Primed For Strong Finish

A group of Year 12 boys from Yirara Academy (Alice Springs, NT) headed out to Western Aranda country for a night under the stars in August.

The overnight camp was aimed at rewarding the young men for their efforts at school and to provide them with one final push towards the finish line.

The boys kicked off the trip by delivering a footy clinic for students at Ntaria School in Hermannsburg. Needless to say, the local boys were thrilled to test out their skills in front of their older Clontarf peers.

The group was then hosted by local legend Benji Kenny who helped the boys set up their camp at the local outstation. He took them for a tour of the Hermannsburg Historical Precinct which included a visit to the house of famous Aboriginal artist, Albert Namatjira.

After a big day, the boys lit a fire, cooked up beef

stew and kangaroo tails, and spent the evening playing music and yarning.

The next day, Benji took the group for a walking trip to the beautiful Glen Helen Gorge.

Yirara Academy Director Dan Toner said the boys were attentive and respectful.

"The fellas were amazing for the whole trip and took it all in," he said.

"They were completely committed to strengthening the bond that will help get them across the finish line."

Yirara Academy would like to thank Benji and Ntaria School for being such gracious hosts for our young men.

Thank you for your support

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

- Inland Rail
- Qantas Airways
- State Street Fund
- SUEZ Australia & New Zealand
- Sutherland District Trade Union Club
- Estate of the late Louis Kim Bartenstein
- Nacap
- Programmed Maintenance Services
- Joss Group
- Gilead Sciences
- Boeing Defence Australia
- The Wests Group
- Thiess
- Flinders Port Holdings
- Yeperenye Shopping Centre
- Warilla Bowls Club
- Berkshire Hathaway
- Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH)
- Bunzl Australasia
- McKay Drilling
- Evans Family Foundation
- Tronox
- Riverside Marine
- Barpa
- MAAS Group
- G4S

Victorian Employment Forum Goes Virtual

Rain, hail, shine, pupil-free day or pandemic - it didn't matter to the senior boys in Victoria who logged on in droves to take part in the annual Victorian Clontarf Employment Forum in August.

After being postponed several times due to the pandemic, the forum was moved into an online, video conference setting and involved 45 senior Clontarf boys and alumni.

They were joined by representatives from Clontarf partners including the ADF, AIG, BMD, Blackwoods, Coates, Crown Resorts Foundation, Fulton Hogan, Gilead Sciences, Kmart, Mitsubishi, Officeworks, Pinsent Masons, Programmed, Swinburne University, Thales and UGL who spoke about part-time work and post-school opportunities. Supporters from Melbourne University and Trinity College also logged on to speak with the boys about tertiary pathways.

Mildura Academy Year 12 student Coby Mitchell provided a warm Welcome to Country while Warrnambool Academy 2016 alumnus Taylam

Wason was interviewed 'on the couch' and spoke about his experiences since finishing Year 12.

Employment Officer Xavier Ennis said the boys were incredibly enthusiastic despite not being able to speak with potential employers face-to-face.

"The boys' ability to navigate the virtual employment forum created an interactive pioneering event," Xavier said.

"A big thanks must go to our academy staff for preparing the boys, borrowing laptops and driving around the towns and communities to set the boys up in a last-minute effort to ensure the forum went ahead.

"I also want to thank our partners for making the effort to log on and make a real difference for these boys who've battled through tough senior years."

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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