

clontarffoundation

the QUARTERLY

August 2023



clontarf
foundation



Celebrating Our 6,000 Alumni



**NSW and QLD
Clash in Clontarf
State of Origin**

**Bush Run Makes
Triumphant
Return**





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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.



Gerard with new Clontarf staff who were recently inducted at the Foundation's central office in Perth.

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the latest Clontarf Quarterly for the year. It was another huge term for the Foundation with several key highlights, including the Federal Government's announcement it would fund Clontarf's growth to 12,500 boys in 2024.



This is a tremendous affirmation for our programme and shows the significant, genuine impact it is having in communities right around the country. It is also recognition of the significant demand from schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities for more Clontarf academies.

I want to thank Education Minister Hon Jason Clare MP and the staff at the Education Department for this vote of confidence. I also want to thank Indigenous Australians Minister Hon Linda Burney MP and the staff at the NIAA for working with the Education Department during Clontarf's transition between departments.

To achieve our goal of reaching 12,500 boys next year, we need the support of corporate/philanthropic organisations and individuals. Clontarf currently partners with a wide range of organisations, all of which share our goal of improving the education, employment and life outcomes of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. To grow our reach, we need to bring more likeminded companies and people along with us on our journey.

Helping us in this endeavour is a group of passionate and dedicated advocates who work tirelessly to introduce us to people of influence and key decision makers. Throughout the term, our advocates hosted several key events, including:

- a Clontarf Celebration Dinner at WA Parliament House, attended by Clontarf Patron and WA Governor His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM

and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson

- a luncheon in Brisbane hosted by Foxtel Group Chief Executive Patrick Delany and News Corporation Community Ambassador Penny Fowler
- a luncheon in Sydney hosted by Blackwoods' Indigenous Engagement Manager Barry Hoare.

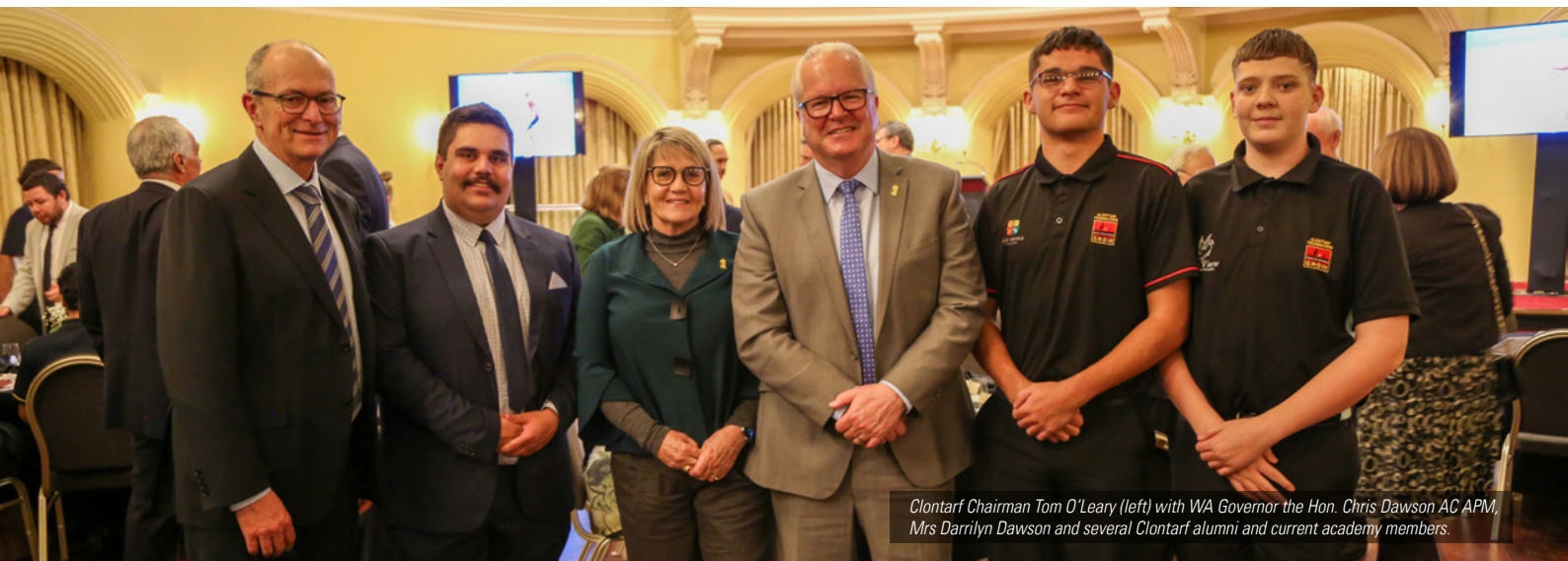
I had the opportunity to attend each of these events and was humbled by the genuine interest and passion of the people who attended. I want to thank our advocates for making these introductions and furthering our cause in doing so.

Also during the term, in what can only be described as a bittersweet moment, was the retirement of our inaugural Board Chairman, Ross Kelly AM. Ross was absolutely central to the design and structure of the Foundation, and has led Clontarf to become the success it is today. Ross has become a very good friend and mentor to many across Clontarf, and I want to thank him for his tireless service.

Stepping into the role of Chairman is longtime Clontarf Board Director, Tom O'Leary. Tom is Managing Director and CEO of Iluka Resources and has been a Clontarf Board Member for the last 15 years. I'm excited about working more closely with Tom and I congratulate him on his appointment.

As always, I want to thank you all for supporting Clontarf and the thousands of young men enrolled around the country. Be sure to get along to a local Clontarf event and show your support.

- Gerard Neesham OAM, CEO



Clontarf Chairman Tom O'Leary (left) with WA Governor the Hon. Chris Dawson AC APM, Mrs Darrilyn Dawson and several Clontarf alumni and current academy members.

Clontarf New and Old Celebrated at WA Government House

A night of jubilation and recognition shone brightly at the iconic Parliament House in WA in June as Clontarf alumni, current members, partners, supporters and staff came together to celebrate Clontarf's remarkable journey of growth since 2000.

His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson were the guests of honour and were joined by over 100 guests to commemorate 24 years of Clontarf in WA.

The Governor praised the Clontarf alumni and academy members who were present in the room, and highlighted that they were future leaders for young generations.

"This is really about you, about what you have achieved, what you are yet to achieve," the Governor said.

"Go forward, young men, because you've got a fantastic opportunity before you. Continue to do

yourselves and your families proud."

Jeffrey Farrell, a member of the Clontarf Academy Graduating Class of 2002 shared his inspiring journey, from a young teenager on a couch in Geraldton to becoming Principal Indigenous Policy at Fortescue, a Clontarf partner.

"One day, I'm in school and Gerard Neesham (Clontarf CEO) walks in and has a bit of a yarn (about Clontarf) and, two weeks later, it was decided that was my path," Jeff told the audience.

"He took us into the school library and asked us, 'What do you want in life? What is it you want to be remembered for as young Aboriginal men?'"

"This year, back home in Geraldton, it's the first time ever that at three of the four schools, the Year 12 head boy position was held by Indigenous men. That's the ripple effect of what we're doing here, and I say we, because everyone here has a role to play."

Jeff's story was echoed by Clontarf staff member Kevin Dalgetty, who is Operations Officer at the Coodanup Academy in Mandurah and has had a son complete the programme and graduate from school.

"The Clontarf programme has actually molded me, not only as a dad but as someone in the community," Kevin said.

"If you haven't been to an academy, I urge you to come and meet the boys to see how positive it is."

New Ceduna Academy Hits the Ground Running

Amid much anticipation and following the support of Clontarf partner Iluka Resources, Ceduna Academy has joyfully opened its doors to eager students and the programme is now in full swing.

Clontarf Regional Manager Graeme Twaddle said the academy had proven to be instantly popular among the school's students.

"In just over a week, 36 completed registration forms were returned from the boys and their families, which is a remarkable achievement," Graeme said.

"The table tennis table and toastie machine have quickly become favoured fixtures with academy members enthusiastically gathering before school, during recess and at lunch to avoid the crowds.

"The most heartening aspect, beyond witnessing the boys relishing their new space, is the respect shown within the room and towards each other. All students diligently adhere to the academy rules and responsibly clean up after themselves. They've quickly

understood the expected values and attitudes."

Clontarf Employment Officer and renowned Adelaide Crows legend, Eddie Hocking, graced the academy for several days during the term. His visit featured several informative sessions that highlighted the various opportunities and support Clontarf offers its participants once they complete high school. Emphasis was placed on the commitment to attend school regularly, give their best effort and embody good character.

Academy members were officially inducted into the programme during a session which delved into what it means to be a person of integrity and collectively establish the values and commitments that will define the Ceduna Academy.

Ceduna also played its first ever game of Clontarf footy against Port Lincoln Academy. The build up to the match couldn't have been greater, with the game being dubbed the 'Battle of the Eyre'. Ceduna won the game by 11 points and set the stage for many future close contests between the academies.



Celebrating Our 6,000 Alumni

At the end of 2022, 834 Clontarf boys completed their Year 12 studies, and in doing so, became the latest batch of Clontarf alumni. They joined a rapidly growing group of young men who are participating in work, growing their skills through training or furthering their studies. This number has now grown to 6,300 young men since Clontarf's inception in 2000.

At the end of this year, a similar number of boys will complete Year 12, meaning the 7,000 milestone will soon be reached. With Clontarf's rapid growth, the Foundation will reach 10,000 alumni in the next few years, but we won't celebrate just yet - we've still got a long way to go.

Until then, we thought it was the perfect time to celebrate our 6,300 alumni, new and old, by looking at what some of them are up to now. Because it doesn't matter when you left - **once you're a Clontarf boy, you're always a Clontarf boy!**



Alumni Represent at Employment Forums Across Australia

Employment Forums are some of the biggest and most important events that Clontarf runs annually across the country, and alumni play a critical role at each of them.

Clontarf General Manager - Employment, Marcus Harrold, said academy members attending the forum benefit greatly from being exposed to their older peers who've completed Year 12 and started their post school journeys.

"Our alumni have so much collective experience and wisdom that they can share with the Year 11 and 12 men who are preparing to take the next step after school," Marcus said. "They have recent firsthand experience in transitioning into work or further study, and the younger boys get to see the proof in the pudding."

Kingsley Tilmouth - Centralian Senior Academy

In his first year out of school, Kingsley rapidly gained employment experience by working at his local supermarket in Alice Springs. He was thrilled to receive an email in March offering him the position of Aboriginal Liaison Officer with the Australian Federal Police.

Kingsley's training was led by 2010 Centralian Senior Academy alumnus, David Miles, and he officially graduated from the police academy in July.

With a smile on his face and a proud attitude, Kingsley expressed the most rewarding aspect of his job was engaging with the community and offering assistance wherever needed.



Vanden Davey - Broome Academy

Vanden Davey, originally from One Arm Point, moved to Broome for his primary and high school years, where he graduated from Broome Senior High School in 2022.

Prior to graduating, he was unsure about his post-graduation plans until a work site visit with Clontarf to Rio Tinto's West Angelas site changed everything. After this, Vanden was determined to join the Drill and Blast team.

After a successful interview in December, he found out in May this year that his application was successful. Now, Vanden loves his job at Rio Tinto and finds comfort working alongside other Clontarf alumni, making his transition even smoother.



Mason Grant - Karratha Academy

Mason worked hard in Year 12, completing a school based traineeship in engineering with Clontarf partner, Woodside. During the year, he was also able to obtain his driver's licence and held down a part-time job with Kmart.

This year, Mason has continued to work with Woodside, gaining full-time employment in the NETTS programme.

The feedback from his managers is that his work is outstanding and the way he conducts himself in public has been exceptional.



Alumni Reminisce At The Late Show

Recently, NSW alumni from several years came together in Sydney to be part of the studio audience of The Late Show with Matt Johns.

The catch up not only allowed the young men to tour the set and meet some of the high profile media personalities from the show, but it also gave them the chance to reminisce about the 'good old days' at school and share stories of their journeys since finishing Year 12. It was a terrific mix of young and old boys, with the more senior boys providing plenty of advice and guidance for the younger men.

This catch up was just the first of many for this group, with plans already under way for the next rendezvous.

Harman Rowe - Mackay Academy

When Harman first started with Hastings Deering earlier this year, he'd moved from Mackay down to Brisbane and was nervous to be starting something new. Despite the nerves, he felt very welcomed by Hastings Deering staff and quickly settled in. Before he knew it, he loved his job and was thriving.

"I'm learning different things every day," he said. "Working with Hastings will open up a lot of opportunities for me."



Port Augusta Alumni Catch Up Over Dinner

Four years of Year 12 graduates recently attended an inaugural dinner event for alumni from 2019 to 2022, marking their first official get together since completing Year 12.

Among the attendees were notable alumni such as Dylan Muscat-Gaston, the academy's very first member, who went on to pursue a diesel mechanic apprenticeship in 2022. The event also featured various award winners, including Izack Haines, Lachlan Shephard, Dennis Grantham, Michael Dadleh-Peake, Wade Fielding and William Scharenberg, each recognised for their achievements during their time at the school.

The event welcomed special guests including Port Augusta Mayor Linley Shine, representatives from BIG W, Port Augusta Secondary School Principal Simon Owens, Year 11/12 Principal Sandy Glamuzina and Aboriginal Education and Special Education Principal Angela Hancock.

Throughout the evening, interviews were conducted with several graduates, such as Jake Strangways, who shared his further study journey after completing Year 12, and Mitchell Collins, who discussed his employment journey since graduating in 2020. Additionally, Tyrese Fielding, who is currently undergoing a fitter and turner apprenticeship, and Andre McIvor, an Encouragement Award winner in 2019 who now works at BIG W, were also interviewed.

The event provided a chance for the attendees to catch up, reminisce about the fun times over the past four years, and hear about their achievements since leaving school.

Big Bunnings Bonanza in Cairns

Bunnings has been a transformative opportunity for many young Clontarf men, offering their first steps into the workforce.

Arama Marama, a Bentley Park Academy alumnus, joined Bunnings during his final year of school, starting with tasks like collecting trolleys and handling gas bottles. His dedication led to customer service and restocking roles, eventually earning a full-time position as a paint specialist.

Logan Horsberg (Trinity Bay Academy) began his Bunnings journey in 2019, becoming a customer favourite at the main entrance due to his positive attitude. Recognising his efforts, Logan was promoted to the tools and trade department.

Israel Savage (Trinity Bay Academy) prioritised immediate employment after school. With the guidance of Clontarf Employment Officers, he secured a position at Bunnings and his strong work ethic has bode him well.

Like Arama, Zorro Wigness (Cairns Academy) started as a trolley collector and gas bottle handler at Bunnings. He briefly tried his hand in another field but ultimately returned to Bunnings due to the supportive environment.





10 Years of Support



For a decade, Clontarf has been the grateful recipient of generous support from prominent businessman and philanthropist, Alex Waislitz OAM.

Mr Waislitz founded the Waislitz Foundation in 2014 and Clontarf was chosen as one of the first charities to receive a 10-year funding pledge.

The support of Mr Waislitz and his foundation has allowed hundreds of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to enrol in the Clontarf programme in that time.

In acknowledgement of his philanthropic pursuits, which included his support of the Clontarf Foundation, Mr Waislitz was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia in this year's King's Birthday Honours.

Clontarf Foundation CEO Gerard Neesham said Mr Waislitz's contribution, both financial and experiential, has had a significant impact on Clontarf and young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and their families right around the country.

"On behalf of the entire Foundation and the young men who are enrolled in our programme because of his support, I want to thank Mr Waislitz for his generous contributions," he said.

NSW and QLD Clontarf State of Origin Clash

"Unforgettable." "Fun." "Amazing." "Fantastic." "Once-in-a-lifetime." "Great opportunity." "It felt good." "Something I'll never forget."

These were just a few of the words the boys had to say after playing in the NSW v QLD Clontarf State of Origin rugby league match in May.

Played at Country Bank Stadium in Townsville as a NRL curtain raiser, 45 young men from Clontarf academies across NSW and QLD came together for the inaugural clash. Participation in the game was reward for boys who had shown commitment to their schooling and their academies, and had consistently demonstrated the values and attitudes of Clontarf.

Clontarf Foundation CEO Gerard Neesham was at the event and drew on his years of experience as an Australian Rules coach to pump up the players before the game.

"We're looking at the leaders of Australia in this room," Gerard said. "You are such positive influences on your younger brothers, sisters and cousins. You're saying to them that we need to go to school, and we need to be exposed to all the benefits and fun of being at school. To get to Year 12, be helped into the workforce, and get on and have a magnificent life. You're the pioneers, setting the standard."

"Play with Clontarf spirit, which means playing with passion, but also with dignity. Play as hard as you can, accept the calls by the referee. Accept winning and losing. These are the things that happen in real life."

Adding extra excitement to the game was the live streaming broadcast and commentary by Clontarf partner Fox Sports.

NSW won the close fought battle 28-16, but the scoreline didn't matter to any of the players who were all smiles when they finally caught a breath after the final siren.

Zailen Campbell Cook from Melville Academy scored an inspiring try and said "I just wanted to get it for my mum, and for my pop who sadly passed away."

Preston Kelly from Kempsey Academy said, "The boys have something to look forward to, and it encourages me to stay in school. It teaches me responsibility, respect and discipline."

Aaron Hinch from Warwick Academy said, "Without Clontarf I wouldn't be in the position I'm in now, in Year 12. I wouldn't be able to finish school without them (the mentors). I'm grateful I've got them."





Over 100 people including Clontarf academy members, staff, partners, community members and politicians participated in the biannual Clontarf Bush Run in June.

Bush Run Makes Triumphant Return

The Clontarf Bush Run made a triumphant return to Lee Point and Casuarina Coastal Reserve in Darwin on a humid June afternoon after being on hiatus since 2017.

The historic Top End Clontarf event, first established in 2013, aims to improve the physical fitness, mental health, and self-esteem of boys while fostering positive communication and support among participants.

Over 100 people, including senior, middle and primary academy members, Foundation staff, Clontarf partners, community members and politicians gathered to partake in the unique experience of the run alongside the boys. The event featured three different start points to accommodate different age groups, culminating at Casuarina Beach, where participants shared their experiences over a sausage sizzle.

The presence of esteemed guests, including the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Hon Natasha Fyles and Joel Bowden - MLA for Johnston, added to the significance of the occasion.

Congratulations were in order for Quenton from Haileybury, Chaiden from Sanderson, and Hudson and Tatius from Driver, who emerged as winners in their respective age group runs. They were rewarded with

the Bush Run perpetual shield, proudly displayed in their academy rooms until the next event.

The event held even more significance as it marked the first time primary school Clontarf members participated. The 'Driver Dingoes' and the 'Moulden Mud Crabs' engaged in a thrilling 1.6km race through the harsh bush terrain of Casuarina Coastal Reserve. Tatius and Hudson from the Dingoes secured first place, warmly receiving medals and the inaugural Primary Clontarf Bush Run shield from Chief Minister Fyles.

The afternoon was filled with mingling, laughter and smiles as Clontarf partners joined in the celebration. The event concluded with a delicious sausage sizzle for all to enjoy, courtesy of Employment Officer Anthony Vallejo and the Moulden Primary Academy barbecue trailer.

The event showcased the commitment to physical and mental wellbeing and exemplified the spirit of camaraderie and support within the Clontarf community. It left everyone eagerly looking forward to the next edition!



Staff Profile: Danny Fraser



Clontarf stalwart Danny Fraser (pictured above, far right) said the most rewarding thing about working at Clontarf was seeing the young men in his academy complete Year 12.

"Watching the boys grow up into young men and then seeing them graduate from Year 12 is the best part of my job," Danny said.

Danny joined the Foundation in 2015 and has been Academy Director at Swan Hill Academy ever since. In that time, he has guided 33 young men to complete Year 12.

"If I had to pick one moment as the most memorable, it would be seeing Stuart Heritage giving his Year 12 farewell speech at our academy awards night in 2020. He had the audience in tears. He'd had a tough journey through school but through his perseverance, he was able to finish."

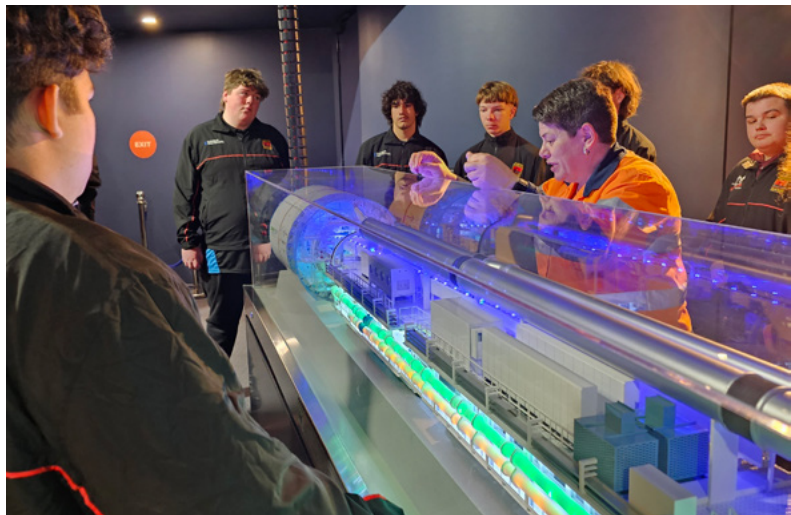
Prior to working with Clontarf, he spent 17 years as a physical education teacher across Centralian Middle School and Alice Springs High School in the Northern Territory.

Outside of work, Danny is passionate about marathon running, having run in several major marathons including the Paris Marathon, an event he completed after receiving treatment for cancer. He uses his passion and knowledge of the sport as a tool to help academy members to develop their patience and remain calm when challenged.

"I try to instil the mindset in the boys that every run is a new run and every day is a new day to reset and be at your best."



Senior boys from Chifley Senior Academy (Mount Druitt) and Karabar Academy (Queanbeyan) braved the frigid weather for a trip to Snowy Hydro in Tumut.



Putting the Snow in Snowy Hydro

After renewing its partnership with Clontarf for a further three years, Snowy Hydro hosted worksite visits for two academies at the end of the term.

The Chifley Senior Academy (Mount Druitt) boys made their way to Tumut where they received a comprehensive tour of Snowy Hydro's impressive facilities, including Talbingo Dam reservoir and the underground power stations.

Following the visit, their adventure continued with snow-filled fun with a trip down to Selwyn Snow Resort where the boys built snowmen, engaged in a few impromptu snowball fights and made obligatory snow angels. Following this, the group headed to the Yarrangobilly caves, where the boys warmed back up with a dip in the nearby thermal pool. The trip concluded with the sharing of scary stories, leading to all the boys huddled in one cabin for the night.

Meanwhile, Karabar Academy (Queanbeyan) Year 11 boys Kaylan, Wallace, Thomas and Jerome explored potential careers in the energy sector, learning about renewable energy, hydroelectric power and water management.

The group participated in a series of interactive workshops which were tailored to the students' interests and aspirations. The workshops covered a range of disciplines including engineering, environmental science, project management and community relations.

Boys from both academies thoroughly enjoyed the visits to Snowy Hydro with several boys now considering hydropower and renewable energy as potential employment opportunities when they complete Year 12.

Seizing Life's Opportunities the Focus of Forum

The Far North Queensland Region held its annual Clontarf Employment Forum at James Cook University in Cairns in May.

85 Year 12 students had the opportunity to meet and greet over 20 different employers and Clontarf partners from around the region.

The event showcased the students' impressive skills to potential employers, with hopes of leading to genuine job opportunities after graduating high school.

Kerry Williams, the Cairns Taipans Assistant Coach and a local Indigenous man, set the tone of the event during his keynote speech, emphasising the value of seizing opportunities in life.

The young men participated in group sessions throughout the day, engaging in meaningful discussions about employment and potential job prospects. A powerful Q&A session featured FNO

alumni, who shared their experiences transitioning from school into the workforce.

The day concluded with a raffle, granting three students driving lessons and future test bookings.

Over 20 Clontarf Employment Forums will run across the country in 2023 and feature hundreds of senior Clontarf boys, partners and local employers.



Thank you for your support

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

- AGL Energy
- Bank of Queensland
- Bass Family Foundation
- Bellevue Gold
- BGIS
- Boart Longyear
- Boeing Defence
- Centurion Transport
- Clough Foundation
- Elemara
- Freight Lines Group
- FuelFix
- Iluka Resources
- Linfox
- Mount Gibson Iron
- New Hope Group
- New Town Toyota
- Royal Australian Navy
- Snowy Hydro
- SRG Global
- Steel Blue
- Sutherland District Trade Union Club
- Svitzer
- TIMG
- Water Corporation
- WesCEF
- Western Power
- Western Rock Lobster
- W&K Property Trust

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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