

clontarffoundation

the QUARTERLY

October 2022



clontarf
foundation



Clontarf Healthy, Happy and Strong



**Face-to-Face
Employment Forums
Return**

**Ross Kelly
Cup Carnival a
Clontarf Record**





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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 boys from Driver Primary Academy in Darwin, NT.

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the latest Quarterly for 2022. It has been another enormous term for Clontarf and I'm thrilled to share with you some of the exciting activity the Foundation engaged in during the quarter.

After a two year hiatus due to the pandemic, the annual Clontarf Professional Development Conference returned for 2022. Over 500 Clontarf staff members gathered at Stanwell Tops, south of Sydney, for a weekend of learning, inspiration and collaboration.

The three-day event included presentations from several keynote speakers who spoke about the importance of leadership, team-building and relationships. Attendees also broke out into groups to discuss the successful activities and events they've run in their academies.

The Foundation has grown substantially since our last PD in 2019, so for many of our people, it was their first Clontarf PD and the first chance to meet many of their colleagues. The feedback we received from our staff was overwhelmingly positive with all attendees indicating they'd learned a lot and were keen to implement new ideas and activities in their own academies.

During the school holidays, we welcomed our Patron-in-Chief, His Excellency General the Hon. David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs Hurley to our central office in Perth. They had the opportunity to

meet some of our local alumni who shared inspiring stories of their time in the programme and what they'd accomplished since finishing school. It was a heartwarming experience and on behalf of everyone who attended, I want to thank Their Excellencies for taking the time out of their very busy schedules to meet our people.

During Term 3, we opened two new academies in New South Wales, located at Koorinal High School in Wagga Wagga and Kurri Kurri High School in Kurri Kurri, taking the total number of new academies opened during the year to four. These two new programmes are part of a much larger expansion that will occur within the state following a commitment by Premier the Hon. Dominic Perrottet earlier in the year to fund Clontarf's expansion from 3,500 boys in NSW in 2022 to over 7,000 in the coming years.

The final term of the year is such an important quarter for the young men in our academies and if you have the chance, I thoroughly recommend you get along to a local Clontarf sports carnival or awards night to cheer on our boys as they reach the finish line. As always, thank you for your support and I'll speak with you again at the end of the year.

- Gerard Neesham, CEO



Over 500 Clontarf men and women gathered in Sydney for the Foundation's first PD conference since 2019.



Senior Wesfarmers staff joined Clontarf alumni and current academy members at Clontarf's Perth office to celebrate the renewal of the partnership between the two organisations.

Clontarf Alumni and Wesfarmers Leaders Celebrate Renewed Partnership

A special event was held at Clontarf's central office in Perth in August to celebrate the renewal of its partnership with Wesfarmers - the Foundation's longest corporate partnership.

Clontarf staff, alumni and current academy members were joined for morning tea by Wesfarmers Chairman Michael Chaney AO, Managing Director Rob Scott, Executive General Manager - Corporate Affairs Naomi Flutter and other leaders from across Wesfarmers' businesses.

The group heard inspiring stories from several Clontarf alumni who had completed their schooling and gone on to enjoy successful careers at several of Wesfarmers' businesses.

The event was MC'd by North Albany Academy alumnus and current Kmart Broome Home Manager, Anthony Turner, who spoke about how the partnership between Clontarf and Wesfarmers had helped him to

get to where he was today.

"The real stable thing for me at school was Clontarf," Anthony said. "With Clontarf's support, I was able to get into a good, working routine.

"In 2015, I was able to get my first job in Kmart and I'm still here seven years later. In 2019, I was given the opportunity to go to Perth to participate in a loss prevention conference and I was really excited to see that part of the business.

"In 2020, I applied for the line manager in training program and was successful. I started the program in Albany at my home store, and then later that year, I was asked to move up to Broome to be part of the Target-Kmart conversion, and I'm very thankful of

Kmart and Wesfarmers for that opportunity."

In 2022, Wesfarmers is the biggest employer of Clontarf alumni and current students across the country, with 32 Year 12 graduates from 2021 and 243 current academy members participating in part-time work at Wesfarmers businesses.



Remote Programme in the NT's Red Centre Bears Fruit

A pilot programme targeting young men from the remote Northern Territory communities of Ntaria (Hermannsburg) and Yuendumu has started to produce results after a group of boys moved to Alice Springs and enrolled at Yirara College and Yirara Academy during Term 3.

Seven boys made the transition to the NT's iconic town voluntarily and now live at the College's boarding house during the school term.

The boys were initially exposed to Clontarf and the Yirara College as part of the Foundation's remote pilot programme which was designed to attract young men from surrounding remote communities to the education and employment opportunities within the town. The pilot kicked off in 2019 and despite several interruptions resulting from the pandemic, it ran several successful engagement activities which included overnight camps at the academy, tours of the college and several Clontarf-run football games and carnivals.

Yirara Academy Director Dan Toner said the boys

were settling in well and had become important members of the academy.

"The boys absolutely love their footy and have completely immersed themselves in the academy and its activities," Dan said.

"It can be particularly difficult for young people living in the region's most remote communities to achieve Year 12 completion, but by enrolling at Yirara College and participating in the lifeskills and employment opportunities presented by the Clontarf programme, these boys now have a real shot at getting a well-rounded education and staying on through to graduation."

The term was rounded out for the remote academy

members with an overnight orientation experience and a footy game against the Tennant Creek Primary Academy at Yirara College. The combined remote team (five boys from Yuendumu and seven from Ntaria) just got over the top of the Young Blazers in a cracking match played with plenty of 'Clontarf Spirit.'





Clontarf Healthy, Happy and Strong

Clontarf introduced its health programme in 2012 in response to the widening gap in health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Since that time, the Foundation's understanding of the scope and range of health issues facing young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men has grown significantly.

Clontarf's health programme has three key deliverables:

- Facilitate annual health checks with qualified, external health providers for Clontarf participants.
- Facilitate follow up appointments for participants in need of further treatments.
- Run and facilitate health awareness sessions for Clontarf participants with internal staff and external providers.

This approach has been very successful, with the boys and their families embracing the activities run by Clontarf academies and trusting the network of local providers engaged by the Foundation.

In addition to the formal health programme, it has been identified that Clontarf's routine activities, such as its engagement camps and sports programme, have tremendous positive impacts on the physical and emotional health of academy members.

The following provides insight into how the Foundation is working to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of all its participants across the country.

Health checks

The key component of Clontarf's health programme is to provide academy members with access to health checks.

Known as the 715 Health Check, the check is available to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person and is designed to identify risk factors for chronic disease. Participation is completely voluntary and there is no charge to academy members or Clontarf.

Where possible, Clontarf partners with local health providers to undertake these checks on an annual basis. The Foundation also partners with Sonic Healthcare who provide hundreds of checks across the country.

"In 2021, 6,602 conditions requiring monitoring or further treatment were identified across the 4,631 who received a check, which clearly demonstrates the need for and value of these checks," said Clontarf Chief Operations Officer Dan McNamee.

"Typically we see 80% of our academy members receive a check each year, but the pandemic has had an impact on this percentage over the last two and a half years. With restrictions lifting and health providers becoming more available, we hope to build momentum in the last quarter of the year and a return to normal in 2023."



Health awareness sessions

Clontarf academies regularly invite external health providers and community organisations to present on important health topics, such as physical health, sexual health, substance abuse, social and emotional wellbeing, hygiene, respectful relationships, bullying, healthy eating, driver safety and swimming safety.

These sessions are always highly interactive and encourage the boys to make better, more informed decisions when considering their health. Academy members who are more proactive with their health and wellbeing will have a healthier approach to life and encounter health issues less often when they're older.



Wellbeing and re-engagement camps

Clontarf camps are used as incentive and reward to encourage boys to strive for success at school, at the academy and in their communities. They're also used to re-engage boys who are facing challenges in their lives and at risk of disengaging from school.

Wellbeing and re-engagement camps include activities designed to encourage participants to work as a team, build their resilience and develop their leadership skills. They provide the boys with opportunities to open up in safe, non-judgemental environments where they can break down stereotypes, reflect on their past attitudes and behaviours, and return to school and the academy with a more positive outlook.



Healthy eating and cooking

Learning to cook is an important life skill to be able to live independently. Luckily for the Clontarf boys, every academy comes equipped with a fully functioning kitchen that staff and academy members can use to prepare healthy meals throughout the day.

The kitchen comes in especially handy during cooking classes run by academy staff or external cooks, where the boys can learn safe knife skills, different cooking techniques and various healthy recipes.

Boys are encouraged to implement their new skills at their kitchens at home, where they can impress their parents/guardians and pass on their newfound knowledge to their younger siblings and family members.



Sports training, games and carnivals

Every academy runs at least two morning sports training sessions every school week, meaning Clontarf runs more than 11,000 training sessions per year!

Morning training is such an important part of the Clontarf programme because it gets the boys out of bed early and into school, ready to seize the day. Every training session is followed by breakfast to ensure the boys are fuelled up and ready for learning.

All that training is put to use against fellow Clontarf academies during carnivals and inter-academy games. Carnivals always include participation in extra activities such as first aid sessions, fitness tests and healthy lunches.





Narromine and Wellington Academies clash in a game of rugby league during the 10th annual Ross Kelly Cup in Sydney in September.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Eight hardworking Clontarf boys from the Northern Territory and New South Wales were the worthy recipients of scholarships provided by the Duke of Edinburgh Awards in September.

The scholarships recognise senior academy members who have consistently demonstrated a high level of dedication and commitment to their schooling and Clontarf, and who were preparing to transition into the workforce.

Award recipients included:

- Connor Hopkins - Casuarina Academy (NT)
- Jakeb Mitchell - Casuarina Academy (NT)
- Matthew Morris - Dubbo Senior Academy (NSW)
- Max Milkins - Casuarina Academy (NT)
- Ralph Nadjamerrek - Jabiru Academy (NT)
- Walter Bell - Jabiru Academy (NT)
- Xavier Paterson - Jabiru Academy (NT)
- Zac Blight - Dubbo Senior Academy (NSW)

As part of the scholarship, each young man received \$1,000 to spend on useful items that they could use in their chosen vocation.

The three Jabiru Academy boys made the most of their grants immediately with a visit to Clontarf partner Blackwoods, where they picked out a selection of tools, PPE and other work essentials.

Congratulations to the award recipients and good luck. The Foundation would like to thank the Duke of Edinburgh Awards for their generous support.



Ross Kelly Cup a Clontarf Record

A record number of Clontarf boys descended on Sydney in September for the 10th anniversary of the Foundation's marquee annual sporting event, the Ross Kelly Cup.

Over 600 Year 9-10 boys from 47 out of 51 NSW-based academies gathered in the state's capital to participate in Clontarf's premier rugby league carnival and celebrate the momentous milestone.

The carnival was part of a four-day camp which included Clontarf partner visits, sightseeing in and around Sydney, a celebration dinner, a 'State of Origin' clash and a farewell breakfast generously hosted by Woolworths.

NSW Zone Manager Ryan Woolfe said the carnival was an ideal salve after over two years of adversity for many of the boys.

"This is the first time we've run the Ross Kelly Cup since 2019, so the young men who participated this year were only starting their high school journeys when the pandemic hit," Ryan said.

"The carnival was the perfect chance to reward them for staying on track at school during a few tough years. It also allowed them to meet many of their Clontarf peers, which is something they haven't been able to do much of due to restrictions and event cancellations.

"The anticipation building up to carnival was palpable and when the camp finally came, the

boys were champing at the bit to get out on the pitch and give it their all."

The carnival itself was won by Singleton Academy after they fended off some stiff competition.

In addition to the cup final, the day featured a NSW vs QLD State of Origin match which saw boys travel from as far away as Weipa in QLD's far north to participate. The NSW team won comfortably but the game itself it was a tremendous spectacle and the perfect way to close out the carnival.

The celebration dinner held before the big day saw representatives from over 50 Clontarf partners in attendance. The event was expertly MC'd by Clontarf alumni Ilzayah Tuigamala (Endeavour, 2021), Jay Moy (Chifley Senior, 2016) and current Endeavour Academy Year 12, Cooper Thompson. The night also included an on stage discussion between Andrew Ryan (Clontarf staff member and ex-NRL player) and Brad 'Freddy' Fittler (NSW State of Origin coach), and an awe-inspiring performance by Golden Guitar winning Aboriginal musician, Col Hardy OAM.

Congratulations to all boys who participated - bring on 2023!





The University of Sydney hosted this year's Greater Sydney Employment Forum in September.

Face-to-Face Employment Forums Return

Following two years of disruptions, face-to-face Clontarf Employment Forums returned across the country in 2022, much to the delight of senior academy boys and prospective employers.

Employment Forums are the marquee events on the Clontarf employment calendar and provide boys in Year 11 and 12 with the opportunity to meet and network with representatives from Clontarf partners and local businesses. Through these interactions, the boys develop a greater understanding of the different roles they could pursue across the various industries, strengthen relationships with Clontarf partners, and grow the knowledge and skills they'll need to possess to be successful in their job applications.

Clontarf's General Manager of Employment, Marcus Harrold, said the return of in-person forums would have significant positive impacts on the young men completing their secondary studies this year.

"While it was encouraging that we were able to continue to run our forums during the pandemic by utilising various forms of technology, and the Foundation was well supported in this endeavour by its partners, nothing beats face-to-face interaction with potential employers," Marcus said.

"To be able to sit down with industry experts to hear about post-school opportunities is a

tremendous learning experience for senior boys. They get to ask questions and talk about themselves, like what their interests and future aspirations are.

"Job interviews are incredibly daunting, especially the first time, so many of our forums feature mock interview sessions where Clontarf partners put the boys through their paces in an interview setting, and then talk about what they did well and what they can improve on. These interactions provide them with a lot of confidence and prepare them for future interviews once they leave school."

Glen Rokic from Clontarf partner Hitachi, who attended the Mackay Employment Forum in QLD, said the event was an uplifting experience.

"What's pleasing is to see the progression of the boys, and that a lot of them have already secured school-based apprenticeships or traineeships," Glen said.

"It's testament to the time and effort Clontarf staff put in."

Clontarf held 30 Employment Forums in 2022 which were attended by over 1,000 senior Clontarf boys and alumni.



Staff Profile: Ant Mitchell

"It gives me goosebumps seeing a group of young, smiling Clontarf boys lined up, looking people in the eye, shaking hands and confidently introducing themselves."



That's what gets QLD Partnerships Manager Anthony Mitchell out of bed each and every morning.

Born in Brisbane and raised in Townsville, Ant has been a Clontarf stalwart since 2017 when he opened the Foundation's Townsville Academy and the nearby Kirwan Academy in northern QLD. Following the successful launch of both these academies, he was tasked with opening the Palm Beach Currumbin Academy on the Gold Coast in 2020.

"It was a huge honour to be given the responsibility to open those three academies," Ant said. "For me, being able to have a chance at creating real change and providing opportunities for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys in my hometown, as well as on the south coast, was a real privilege."

Ant took on the role of Partnerships Manager for QLD in 2021 and is responsible for working with Clontarf's corporate and philanthropic partners within the state. With the enormous demand for the Clontarf programme within QLD schools and communities, he's incredibly busy sourcing new partners who share the Foundation's mission.

Prior to working with Clontarf, he worked as a teachers' aide with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys and students on the spectrum at his old school, Ignatius Park College. He also played in the NRL with the Parramatta Eels, Sydney Roosters and North Queensland Cowboys, and was an Indigenous All Stars representative.

In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his young family at the beach, exercising, watching sport (NRL) and finding cheap eats around the Gold Coast.



Newman Academy (WA) members and staff were joined by alumni and staff from Fortescue Metals Group and the academy's host schools to celebrate the ongoing partnership.

Fortescue Partnership Continues in Newman

Newman Academy in WA's Pilbara region hosted a special lunch in September to recognise the ongoing partnership between Clontarf and Fortescue Metals Group.

Jay Natesean (General Manager, Chichester Hub), Damien Ardagh (Senior Manager, Next Gen Programs and Clontarf champion) and several other staff members from Fortescue flew up from Perth to attend the event and show their support for the academy.

They were joined by Clontarf alumni and Fortescue employees Cameron Kickett, Kane Stack, Tristan Cole and Neil Holthouse who spoke to the group about their individual Clontarf journeys and experiences since completing school.

Year 11 academy member Jalen Bonney MC'd the event and Justin Dorey delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

Newman Senior High School principal Charmaine Ford spoke on behalf of the three schools who host Newman Academy and highlighted the significant impact the programme has already had on the young men enrolled, the schools themselves and the broader Newman community.

Clontarf would like to thank Fortescue for continuing to partner with the Foundation and providing invaluable employment and development opportunities for its academy graduates. Clontarf would also like to thank all attendees who attended the lunch and showed their support for Newman Academy.

Thank you for your support

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

- Access Group
- Australia
- AGL Energy
- Bank of Queensland
- Bant Street Foundation
- Border Express
- Bunzl Australasia
- Estate of the late Louis Kim Bartenstein
- Evans Family Foundation
- Fortescue Metals Group
- FuelFix
- Hitachi Construction Machinery (Australia)
- OZ Minerals
- PSP Canada
- Sirron holdings
- Skill Hire
- The Bass Family Foundation
- The Corio Foundaiton
- UGL Limited
- United Forklift and Access Solutions
- Victor Fairfax Family Foundation
- W&K Property Trust
- Wesfarmers
- Western Rock Lobster Council

South Australian Academies Gather in the Gulf

In a Clontarf first, all South Australian academies gathered in Port Augusta to compete in the 'King of the Gulf' basketball carnival in August.

Boys from Coober Pedy, Ocean View, Paralowie, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Salisbury and Whyalla gathered at the picturesque Pichi Richi Park in the Flinders Ranges to determine which academy had the best handles, biggest hops and smoothest jump shot.

SA's newest academy, Coober Pedy, took home the honours in what was their first visit to Port Augusta. Congratulations, gentlemen!

While basketball was the primary drawcard for many of the boys, in traditional Clontarf style, the overnight camp included plenty of extra activity to keep the boys engaged and motivated, including:

- visits to Clontarf partners Big W and Woolworths
- volunteering at primary schools during Book Week

- treks through the Flinders Ranges to take in the beautiful flora and fauna
- dinner with Clontarf partners including Big W, Peak Iron Mines, SA Water and Woolworths
- a visit to the local cinema.

The camp was a tremendous success and the boys are already talking about the next opportunity to bring all the academies together.



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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