

clontarffoundation

the QUARTERLY

December 2022



clontarf
foundation



No Experience Quite Like Clontarf



**Academy Awards
Nights Celebrate
Success**

**Boys and Partners
Light Up New
Allianz Stadium**



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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.



Clontarf central office welcomed Patron and WA Governor His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM in December.

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the final Clontarf Quarterly for the year. 2022 was one for the Clontarf history books as the Foundation reached new heights in enrolments, Year 12 completions and alumni post-school engagement, all while navigating the pandemic.



After a COVID-interrupted first term, the programme kicked into gear with the return of a complete calendar of activity. By the end of the year, Clontarf had held over 11,000 morning training sessions, hundreds of sports carnivals, over 30 employment forums, hundreds of worksite visits to the Foundation's partners and supporters, and more community events than can be counted. It was reinvigorating for Clontarf staff and academy members alike to shake off the shackles of remote engagement and return to face-to-face activities.

Also making a return were the ever-popular, money-can't-buy Clontarf Experiences. These executive immersions allowed senior people from the Foundation's partners to spend time with Clontarf boys in their local environments while taking in some of the most beautiful terrain Australia has to offer. Most importantly, the young academy men were exposed to people who are the top of their respective professions and very keen to share with the boys their own life experiences, wisdom and advice. You can read more about these special camps and why they're an important part of the Clontarf programme on pages 4 and 5.

During the year, we reached the 10,000 participant milestone which included over 800 Year 12 boys who recently completed their studies. We were able to reach these significant numbers through strong enrolment growth within our existing academies and by opening four new academies across WA and NSW. Our operations team worked tremendously hard to make their academies as

attractive and welcoming to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men as possible, and I want to congratulate them on persevering through challenging circumstances.

Looking ahead to Term 1 of next year, the Foundation will continue to grow with the opening of several new academies in WA, SA, NSW and VIC. Our ultimate goal is to reach 12,500 boys by the end of the year; a monumental mission to be sure but one I'm more than confident of completing.

Helping us in this endeavour are our many advocates, partners and supporters, some of whom I had the pleasure of meeting with or who visited our academies during the quarter. In particular, I want to acknowledge Clontarf Patron and WA Governor His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM, Rio Tinto CEO - Iron Ore Simon Trott, BHP CEO Mike Henry and BHP President Australia Geraldine Slatery who all took time out of their busy schedules to show their support.

Joining them were the thousands of partner representatives, community supporters and politicians who attended our academy end of year awards nights or hosted our senior boys who were visiting during their interstate trips. I want to thank you all for being such passionate supporters of the programme and the thousands of young men enrolled across the country.

As always, that's all from me for the year. I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I look forward to giving you an update on all things Clontarf in April.

- Gerard Neesham OAM, CEO



All smiles: Year 12 boys from Kirwan Academy with QLD Premier Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Aaron Harper MP, Education Minister Hon Grace Grace MP and Les Walker MP.

Kirwan Academy Graduates Shine at Parliament House

28 Year 12 boys from Kirwan Academy (Townsville, QLD) descended on Queensland Parliament House in Brisbane as part of their end of year major trip in early December.

The whirlwind visit to the State's Legislative Assembly included a special breakfast for Members and Ministers hosted by the boys, a visit to the Public Gallery for a session of Question Time, and a meet and greet with Premier Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Education Minister Hon Grace Grace MP and several other Members.

Kirwan Academy Director Adam McCormack said the visit acknowledged the group for working hard throughout the year and acted to inspire younger boys coming through the Clontarf programme.

"For a lot of these boys, they're the first to ever finish high school in their family," he said. "If it hasn't been the norm, that's a challenge in itself.

"At Clontarf we try to remove those challenges -

we pick them up, make sure they've got a uniform, give them a good feed, build relationships, things that help make them want to come to school.

"By being acknowledged by senior public figures like our state politicians, the boys begin to understand just how important they are to their local communities and future generations of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men."

The week-long trip to Brisbane was planned in conjunction with the boys early in the year and was designed to be extra incentive for the group to finish the year strongly.

In addition to the visit to Parliament House, the group participated in cooking competitions, employment mentoring, a meet and greet with

Brisbane Broncos players and a comprehensive tour around the state's capital.

The Foundation would like to thank Aaron Harper MP for facilitating the event as well as all the Members and Ministers who attended and supported the boys.



Communities Come Together to Celebrate Boys at Awards Nights

Over 100 Clontarf Academy Awards Nights were held around the country during November and December, giving the Foundation the opportunity to showcase the impressive efforts of the 10,000 young men who participated in the programme in 2022.

These annual celebrations are among the most anticipated Clontarf events of the year for academy members, staff, teachers, family members, partners and supporters alike. They're a chance to reflect on the year just gone - the highs, the lows and all things in between - and to acknowledge the young men who went over and above at school and in the academy.

For Whyalla Academy (SA), their event was of particular significance, as it was the first awards night to be held at the brand new Whyalla Secondary College. The impressive facility hosted over 200 guests who had come from all over to celebrate the achievements of the young men.

Whyalla Academy Director Graeme Twaddle said the academy's Year 7 group had made significant

inroads during the year and were rightly recognised with a swathe of certificates.

"There were 15 awards won on the night and it was pleasing to see six Year 7 members as recipients, which clearly demonstrates the buy-in into Clontarf from these young men," Graeme said.

"They represented the largest year group to participate in our morning training and after school activities, which is especially encouraging."

Senior students were also lauded on the night, including Darryl Hallett who received the Employment Award for his continued success in juggling study and a school-based partnership with Clontarf partner, SA Water.

As always, the coveted Clontarf Spirit Awards were kept for last, with Peter Eades and Daniel Hall taking out the junior and senior awards respectively.

Clontarf would like to thank everyone who attended awards nights across the country.



No Experience Quite Like Clontarf

Each year, the Foundation offers corporate partners who make significant financial contributions the opportunity to participate in 'Clontarf Experiences' - executive immersion trips to some of the most remote locations in Australia.

These trips offer participants the chance to experience the day-to-day life of Clontarf academy members in their natural environments. From morning pick ups and training, to academy room engagement and in-class support, and afterschool activities and dinner under the stars - Clontarf Experiences are authentic 'snapshots' of the lives of the boys in the programme.

In turn, Clontarf academy members benefit from having the chance to interact with senior businesspeople at the top of their fields, learn about what makes them strive to succeed and gain insight into potential employment pathways within their respective industries.

In 2022, Clontarf ran seven Experiences across Australia which were attended by 45 representatives of Clontarf partners. The following provides a brief glimpse into these money-can't-buy adventures.

ADELAIDE/KANGAROO ISLAND (SA)

The inaugural South Australia Experience included participation in a Clontarf Employment Forum in Adelaide, a basketball game at Salisbury Academy and a two-night camp at the spectacular Kangaroo Island featuring boomerang making and traditional cooking.

"The Clontarf Experience was a fantastic opportunity for me to understand more about the driving factors behind the Foundation and see first hand the fantastic work they do in our communities. The better our understanding of the unique challenges faced, the more tailored our support can be."

- Shaun Curtis, State Operations Manager - QLD, Blackwoods

EAST ARNHEM (NT)

Hosted by boys from Yirrakala Academy and Nhulunbuy Academy, attendees joined in on local activities such as spear fishing, yabby hunting, mud mussel collecting and oyster picking, all against the backdrop of the breathtaking Cape Arnhem.

"What a privilege to be able to see the fantastic work of the Clontarf team up close and the care, support and encouragement they offer the young academy men in this region to complete school and gain employment."

- Graham Cook, Chief Advisor Resource Development, Rio Tinto

CENTRAL WEST (NSW)

The three-day trip included a night camping under the stars of Australia's only 'Dark Sky Park', the Warrumbungles, a swim amongst local waterfalls and games of basketball with alumni and current members of the Coonamble and Dubbo Academies.

"It is a wonderful experience to interact with the boys and the incredibly passionate staff, and see firsthand how Clontarf makes a positive difference to the boys in an unscripted way."

- Chris Ware, Chief Advisor IOPS, Rio Tinto

EAST ARNHEM (NT)

"I have never experienced a warmer welcome to any place before. There are some heart-wrenching stories. There are some heart-warming stories. Nothing is simple, but I am glad of one thing. The Clontarf Foundation is working hard every day - issue by issue, kid by kid."

- Glenn Morgan, CEO, Deutsche Bank

ADELAIDE/KANGAROO ISLAND (SA)

"It was great to get to know the boys, their challenges and goals, and how we might better support them through relationship building and work opportunities."

- Ruth Solomon, HR Lead FSC, Ampol

JERVIS BAY (NSW)

"A life changing experience, where you get to bond with a talented group of young Aboriginal men who inspire and surprise you throughout the experience, with the Clontarf team doing an incredible job to make everyone feel an amazing sense of belonging."

- Stephen Pendergast, VP & GM Small and Mid Sized Enterprises, American Express

MURRAY RIVER (VIC)

"The Clontarf team do an amazing job working with the boys every day. They go above and beyond all expectations and there are so many wonderful examples of boys coming through the program and succeeding in their lives."

- Julian Taylor, Commercial Manager Loss Prevention, Bunnings





Gilmore Academy Alumni Josh Kickett Overcomes Adversity

Josh went through the Clontarf Academy at Gilmore College (Kwinana, WA) for all of his high school, from Year 7-12 between 2011 to 2016. He was an important member of the academy who always got involved in activities and demonstrated strong leadership qualities.

Like many young men, Josh encountered some challenges throughout his high school years, but Clontarf was a key pillar in helping him overcome those difficulties. When he delivered a powerful address to the audience at his Year 12 graduation ceremony, he gave the simple, heartfelt statement that he “would have left by Year 10 and not completed school if it wasn’t for Clontarf.”



Josh did a number of different casual jobs (general labouring, landscaping, plastering, decant/warehousing, retail) for a year as he adjusted to life post-school, before he found his feet working in community health and outreach, a field which suited his personable sunny disposition and giving nature.

Growing up Josh was also a great young footballer who went through junior South Fremantle development squads. Despite being very fit and strong (you don’t get the nickname “The Bull” for no reason!) and amongst the best players at his local community team, Kwinana Knights FC, tragically he collapsed at training in June 2019 after suffering a major stroke due to blot clotting, caused by a head knock during

an earlier game. It was touch and go for a while whether he would pull through, but after two weeks, Josh came out of an induced coma.

At first he couldn’t move or talk, and it was unclear how much of his capacities would be regained. The road to recovery began with Josh communicating via a screen linked to his eye movements. After that Josh started a long rehabilitation with physios and speech therapists to learn how to talk and walk again, a process he dedicated himself to for over two years.

Clontarf has been there to support Josh whenever needed since his life-threatening medical incident – organising hospital visits, messages of solidarity and encouragement from our broad network throughout his long six-month stay in hospital, having regular catch-ups during his extended rehabilitation and recovery process, celebrating the achievement of him walking again and regaining his drivers licence, and then when the time came, helping him return to employment.

The final step on the road back to employment started in May this year when, after plenty of gentle prodding, Josh confirmed he was ready to get stuck into work. Clontarf created a CV and cover letter which contextualised and highlighted what Josh had been able to overcome, including the many positives this would enable him to bring to a workplace. The Foundation then reached out to its network of partners and contacts, including a local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS), Moorditj Koort. This organisation expressed an interest in employing Josh, however there were still several hoops to jump through to convert a potential opportunity into reality. Clontarf

assisted Josh to obtain multiple security and health clearances, and arranged workplace assessments to clear the path for this to happen.

In early September 2022, more than three years after his life changing event, Josh returned to work as an Aboriginal Disability Liaison Officer for Moorditj Koort. He is loving life, enjoying the routine and purpose that comes from having a job, not to mention earning some money.

For a 23-year-old man, Josh has already experienced lots of highs and lows in life. The journey he’s had with Clontarf for over a decade since he was a young boy has been rich. He’s gone to sporting carnivals and camps all over WA, travelled interstate to Sydney and Melbourne, developed and broadened his understanding of the different types of work and the importance of employment for building a successful life. He’s met with the Governor-General, and not only shared jokes with our Head of State but also talked openly about mental health challenges. Most importantly, Josh has created lifelong relationships with Clontarf staff and students, and knows he is part of something bigger that he can always reach out to.

This sense of belonging means that Josh is always happy to give back to the Foundation, get involved in events, and talk with students and staff. A recent example was his involvement as one of the alumni who shared their journey and gave advice at an induction for new Clontarf staff, where he was the highlight of the session and held the room with his honesty and humour.

Josh epitomises the motto – “Once a Clontarf boy, always a Clontarf boy”.



Northern Territory Chief Minister Hon Natasha Fyles MLA hosted Year 9 boys from Nightcliff Academy during their final camp of middle school in December.

Nightcliff Year 9s Prepare to Transition

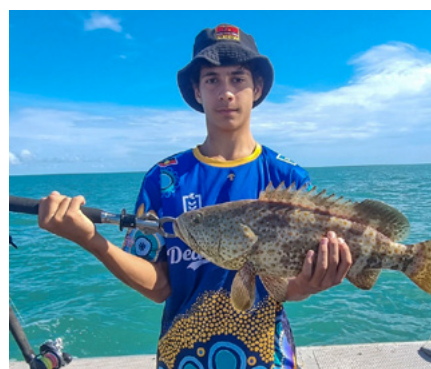
Leadership was the keyword of the final camp of 2022 for the Year 9 group at Nightcliff Academy (Darwin, NT) in December.

The young men are set to transition into senior school at Casuarina Senior College and Casuarina Academy in 2023 so the camp was structured around preparing them for the big step up.

It goes without saying that one of the best ways to grow is to learn from those at the top of their game. Therefore, a visit to NT Parliament House and the office of Chief Minister Hon Natasha Fyles MLA was the perfect place to kick off the camp.

The Chief Minister spoke with the boys about the challenges and opportunities of her role, and how she grew as a person to be elected to Parliament and then chosen to be Chief Minister. She also spoke at length about what she does for the Nightcliff community and the people of the NT as a whole.

After the discussion, the group toured her office to meet her support staff who all spoke about their respective roles. The boys were then treated to lunch with the Chief Minister which included plenty of laughs.



In typical Clontarf fashion, the camp also featured plenty of fun activities including go-kart race where, in safe conditions, the boys put their developing driving skills to the test. While the boys demonstrated some early signs of driving prowess, the collective experience of academy staff Phillip and Ashton and their absolute unwillingness to be shown up by the younger boys meant the older men went through the checkered flags first. Ashton made assurances that 'Clontarf Spirit' was on full display throughout the race.

The group also had the chance to try their hand at a spot of fishing with Dundee Beach Fishing Charters. While the group caught plenty of fish, it was Jamayne Braun and Charlie Johansen who proved to be the most successful anglers aboard.

After a busy few days, the group decided to slow things down with a relaxing day at Darwin waterfront which included a visit to the Aqua Park and Wave Pool.

Congratulations on reaching Year 10 boys, and good luck in 2023.



Swan Hill Boys Step In



When the Swan Hill community faced rising water levels and local flooding in late October, the Clontarf boys from Swan Hill Academy stepped in to help emergency services sandbag key locations around town.

Academy members Dakota Cordwell, Steven Polglase, Wade Hamilton and Xavier Johnson all put their hands up when the call went out, and the group headed to Riverside Park to assist members of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) with their sandbagging efforts.

Swan Hill Academy Director Danny Fraser said the boys fit seamlessly into the process.

"The RAAF team were extremely well structured and efficient, clearly a well oiled machine, but the Swan Hill boys stepped into the process line with ease and added real value to the important task they were undertaking," he said.

"Needless to say, the RAAF team were extremely appreciative of their help and offered for us to assist in the future."

Afterwards, the group headed over to Rapid Relief Team main base near Tower Hill where they assisted with filling and stacking sandbags onto pallets, where they were ready to be swiftly dispatched to where they were needed most.

Well done on helping to protect your local community, gentlemen!



Endeavour Academy (Caringbah, NSW) boys were joined by representatives from Clontarf partners for the Fox Sports Oz Tag Challenge in Sydney in November.



Boys and Partners Light Up New Allianz Stadium

Over 100 Clontarf boys from across New South Wales strapped on their footy boots for the annual Fox Sports Oz Tag Challenge in November.

The carnival, hosted by Clontarf partner Fox Sports, was played at the new, state-of-the-art Allianz Stadium and surrounding pitches in Moore Park.

The boys were joined on the field by 220 representatives from Ampol, the Department of Education, Deutsche Bank, Foxtel, Fulton Hogan, Goodman Foundation, GPT, Komatsu, News Corporation, TIMG, Qantas and Woolworths. Several prominent sportspeople and television presenters also added their support, with the boys clearly starstruck in their presence.

After a big day of footy which featured plenty of hardfought but well spirited games, the carnival culminated in a grand final played on

the Allianz Stadium field between Matraville Academy/Fox Sports and Bidwill Academy/Goodman. The game was a close encounter with Bidwill/Goodman eventually pulling away to take home the silverware.

Endeavour Academy (Caringbah) Year 12 member Cooper Thompson said his favourite part of the day was "the camaraderie spent with my younger Clontarf mates knowing I have recently graduated from school, and getting the opportunity to check out the new Allianz Stadium and watch the finals."

Congratulations to all boys who were selected to participate on the day activities.

Clontarf would like to thank Fox Sports for hosting such a fun and rewarding event.

Daylon Inspires With Dreamtime Art

Ellenbrook Academy (WA) Year 12 graduate Daylon Holst has wowed teachers, community members and professional designers after winning a school vending machine design competition this term.

The graduating class had gifted the vending machine to the school and held a design competition amongst Year 12s, which Daylon won.

"I wanted to design something that had meaning for myself and the Year 12s," he said. "Aboriginal culture is important to me and I wanted to recognise the diversity we have at Ellenbrook Senior College.

"The meaning pairs with how the Year 12s are setting an example for the Year 7s and is similar to how we operate ourselves at Clontarf with our values and attitudes towards the school and our peers. We strive to make everyone feel like they belong at school and give them the best chance at that by making it a safe place for all."

His design was so impressive that he was

offered a full-time position with a local design company.

The vending machine will be unveiled at the Year 12 graduation and canvas prints of his art will also hang at the school, Education Department and in the academy. Congratulations, Daylon!



Thank you for your support

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

- AKJ Services
- American Express
- Australia Post
- Berkshire Hathaway
- Deutsche Bank
- Goodman Foundation
- IGO Limited
- Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation
- John Holland Rail
- Komatsu Australia
- Linfox
- Lycopodium
- Macquarie Sports
- McKay Drilling
- Northern Star Resources
- Orica Australia
- Paynter Dixon
- Port Waratah Coal Services
- SA Water
- Stantec
- State Street Fund by Give2Asia
- SunRice
- Synergy Resources
- The University of Sydney
- UBS
- Wallis Drilling

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
www.clontarf.org.au

