

clontarffoundation

the QUARTERLY

May 2023



clontarf
foundation



Record Number of Year 7s Welcomed



**Surf's Up at the New
Christies Beach
Academy**

**Year 12 Boys
Take the Lead in
the Top End**



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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 addresses Year 12s and Clontarf partners at the WA Central Year 12 Leadership Camp morning tea in March.

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the first Clontarf Quarterly for 2023. I am pleased to announce that Clontarf has achieved a significant milestone, surpassing 11,000 participant enrolments, including over 900 Year 12s for the first time in its 24-year history.



This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff who continue to provide attractive programmes and safe environments for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to thrive.

Included in this number is a record enrolment of Year 7 students, indicating that boys are transitioning from primary school to high school at a higher rate than we've seen before. It's evident that they've witnessed their older peers and siblings participating in the programme and want to be involved themselves. Clontarf's primary school academies have also played a significant role in successfully transitioning boys into high school.

Many of the Year 7s who joined the programme for the first time this year participated in their first Clontarf camps during the term. These camps were an opportunity to officially induct them into the programme and give them a chance to learn more about the journey before them.

I am also delighted to announce that Clontarf opened several new academies across Australia in Term 1:

- New South Wales - Gunnedah High School, Lake Cargelligo Central School, Tweed River High School (Tweed Heads South).
- South Australia - Ceduna Area School, Christies Beach High School, Murray Bridge High School, Wirreanda Secondary School (Morphett Vale).
- Western Australia - Kiara College, Edmund Rice College (Bindoon).

- Victoria - St Patrick's College (Ballarat).

We've already seen strong enrolments in each of the academies and expect this interest to continue to build throughout the year.

The demand for additional academies in all mainland states and territories continues to be strong, and we acknowledge and thank the many schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders across the country who continue to voice their support for the programme and ask for academies to be opened in their local communities.

Looking ahead to Term 2, our Employment team will be hosting the ever-popular Clontarf Employment Forums where our senior boys have the chance to rub shoulders with representatives from our partners and introduce themselves to prospective employers. There will also be plenty of sports games and carnivals, community activities, worksite visits and camps throughout the term. If you have the opportunity, I encourage you to head down to an event near you and show your support.

That's all from me. As always, we thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to helping the young men in our programme achieve their full potential.

- Gerard Neesham OAM, CEO

Key stats from Term 1 2023

Participants	11,190
Year 12s	903
Academies	148
Staff	585



Six boys from Christies Beach Academy (SA) participated in the state's Year 12 Leadership Camp at Port Elliot in February.

Surf's Up at the New Christies Beach Academy

The new Clontarf Academy at Christies Beach High School in South Australia is off to an incredible start, with students showing great enthusiasm for the programme in its first term.

The academy achieved an enrolment of 47 academy members, including seven Year 12s at the end of Term 1 - a tremendous result.

One of the most popular activities in the academy so far has been table tennis, with students showing great sportsmanship and skill as they compete against each other. The academy has also hosted a range of other games, including Connect Four, Uno and Jenga, and members have been quick to take advantage of the opportunity to hang out in the academy room before school, during lunch and at recess.

In its second week, the academy held its first good bunch lunch, with loaded hot dogs drawing a wave of excitement throughout the school. Around 40 students came down to enjoy the food and socialise,

and the event was a great success, with everyone pitching in to keep the academy room tidy.

A junior and senior table tennis competition was also held, with prizes drawing in keen participation. The activity was a great opportunity for academy staff to hand out academy registration forms to prospective members with many returned the next day.

There is a great sense of excitement and energy around the academy with students eager to get involved and make the most of this unique opportunity. The programme is off to a strong start and it is clear that it will have a significant positive impact on the lives of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in the area.

Christies Beach Academy is one of several new

academies to open in South Australia in 2023, and is joined by Murray Bridge Academy and Ceduna Academy. Now 10 academies strong, the Foundation's SA operations have grown swiftly since first opening in four academies in 2019. The states enrolment has also grown, with 458 boys participating in academies across the state.



Year 12 Boys Take the Lead in the Top End

Year 12 Clontarf boys from across the Top End of the Northern Territory buzzed with excitement during this year's leadership camp breakfast, a highly anticipated event on the Clontarf Foundation calendar.

This year's event kicked off at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, where the First Nations Precinct provided a warm welcome to academy members, Clontarf partners and supporters alike.

Regional staff greeted the boys with a delicious breakfast, setting the tone for a day filled with inspiring talks and workshops. The boys were honoured to hear from influential figures such as Chief Minister Hon Natasha Fyles MLA, NT Minister for Education Hon Eva Lawler MLA, Luke Gosling MP and Senator Hon Malarndirri McCarthy. Their messages on leadership, goal-setting and supporting each other in the final year of school truly resonated with the Year 12s.

After the morning sessions, the boys convened at the Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre to continue

their leadership discussions. Through the creation of the Year 12 pledge, the group committed to keeping each other accountable throughout the year.

The day ended with plenty of fun and games as the boys enjoyed each other's company, engaging in friendly matches of table tennis, cricket, football and cards. As night fell, the group gathered around a campfire to share stories and music, bonding over their shared experiences.

The following day began with Clontarf-style morning training and a hearty breakfast, courtesy of the regional Employment Officers. As the group packed up to head home, they reflected on the enriching few days they had just experienced. They left with renewed motivation to finish the year strong,

immerse themselves in their studies and back each other along the way.

Thank you to the special guests and partners who attended and showed their support.

Well done, boys, and good luck with the year!



Despite their best efforts, the Year 7 boys from Shalvey Academy in Mount Druitt, NSW were unsuccessful in appearing on the latest episode of 'Home and Away' during a trip to the iconic Palm Beach.



Record Number of Year 7s Inducted on Leadership Camps

A record 2,230 Year 7 boys were enrolled in Clontarf academies across the country when Term 1 concluded in April.

To help prepare these men for their high school journeys, the Foundation holds induction camps in the first quarter of the year, providing participants with the opportunity to learn about the Foundation's values, expectations and goals.

The camps aim to create a positive and supportive environment for participants to learn, grow and build relationships. They also provide participants with the 'Clontarf 101', teaching them about the Foundation's pillars of education, leadership, employment, community and sport, as well as the importance of respect, responsibility and resilience.

The following two pages include examples of the camps that Clontarf academies ran across the country in Term 1.



Airds Academy (Campbelltown, NSW)

The Airds Academy Year 7s headed to Mount Kiera near Wollongong where they set up their swags at a local scout camp. The boys were excited to be wearing their fresh Clontarf shirts and caps, but were quick to dirty them during a rainforest walk and swim at Shell Cove.

At night, the boys gathered around a bonfire to speak about the history of the Clontarf Foundation, the values and expectations of being an academy member, and to learn about each other.

The next day, the group headed to Hang Dog in Wollongong where they conquered their fear of heights during rock climbing before spending the rest of the afternoon at Austimere Beach.



Wilosnton Academy (Toowoomba, QLD)

The Wilosnton Academy boys were joined by other Clontarf Year 7s from across the Darling Downs and South East QLD for a regional induction camp in Noosa. The camp featured academy flag and mascot designing, touch rugby, raft building and leadership/team building exercises. Throughout it all, the boys worked together and communicated as a team to strategise and complete each task.

There was also free time for the boys to engage in various activities such as table tennis, pickleball and watching the footy.

The camp ended with a Super Training session and a visit to Aqua Park Cooloom, which was a great way to finish off a big couple of days.

Whyalla Academy (SA)

The town of Whyalla played host to boys from both Whyalla Academy and Coober Pedy Academy, and was the perfect location to allow members to meet, share their experiences and learn more about community.

The group visited the Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre where they learned about local bush tucker, plants and medicine. The boys also made cuttings and planted seedlings before kicking the footy down the beach.

The following day, the group headed to Hummock Hill, where the boys were able to demonstrate what being a good academy member was all about.



East Kimberley Academy (Kununurra, WA)

The East Kimberley Academy boys kicked off their camp with an overnight stay at the academy room where they set three collective goals for 2023 - school, Clontarf and home. The boys then hiked up Kelly's Knob and each shared their individual goals by reading them aloud at the top of the climb. It was great to see the boys have the confidence to open up amongst their peers.

The following day, the group topped off the camp with a visit to the picturesque Molly Springs for team building games, a swim under the waterfall and a tasty Clontarf lunch.

Bairnsdale Academy (VIC)

The Bairnsdale Academy Year 7's headed to Marlo, where they explored the Snowy River and appreciated the beautiful coastline. The group worked together as a team to set up camp at Ocean View Caravan Park and the evening was spent with a barbecue, a presentation and goal setting session.

The next day, the boys enjoyed breakfast together and visited the surf school at Cape Conran, where they stepped out of their comfort zones and caught some of the local waves.



Katherine Academy (NT)

The Katherine Academy induction was a two-day event focusing on employment, partners, sports, wellbeing and leadership. Despite wet weather affecting their plans, the group visited the stunning Edith Falls and Nitmiluk Gorge before completing teambuilding and leadership activities at the Katherine Community Indoor Centre. The day concluded with a dinner cooked by the boys, guest speakers sharing their experiences and a movie.

On the second day, the group cooked breakfast and visited Wurli-Wurlinjang Aboriginal Health Service. They then visited Woolworths for a store tour, played indoor sports at The Y recreation centre, and ended the camp with swimming and inflatable challenges at the town pool.



Delroy Academy (Dubbo, NSW)

The Year 7 boys from Delroy Academy kicked off their induction camp and by making the most of the perfect weather with a dip at Hickeys Falls. They had a yabbie competition to see who could net the biggest catch, and used the downtime to relax and swim. After showing the boys how to put together a classic Clontarf lunch (chicken and salad wraps), the group went for a game of tenpin bowling where the boys knocked over the staff. For dinner, they prepared and cooked their own homemade pizzas and watched an NRL game before sleeping in swags.

The next morning, the boys joined in on a training session at the pool and headed to school, now prepared to start their high school journeys!





Haileybury Academy (Darwin, NT) always attracts a large number of visitors to its varied morning training sessions.

Cleaning Up Vincentia



The Vincentia Academy (NSW) boys demonstrated their commitment to their local community and the environment by dedicating their Sunday morning to tidying their town on Clean Up Australia Day.

Eager to contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment, the boys gathered at Huskisson Beach, joining forces with the Clean Up Australia team to pick up rubbish and support their organised event.

Stuart Young, a Year 12 academy member, was astonished by the amount of hidden rubbish in the sand dunes. Inspired by this eye-opening experience, Stuart proposed the idea of conducting regular rubbish pick-up missions at the end of their Friday morning training sessions, ensuring a litter-free environment every week. What a brilliant suggestion, Stew!

Clean Up Australia Day, which has relied on the support of volunteers across the nation since 1990, has been an incredible initiative. Numerous Clontarf academies nationwide have actively participated over the years, and Vincentia has joyfully contributed in recent times.

Congratulations to all the boys for their remarkable teamwork and leadership. They have set a commendable example and will be at the forefront of community efforts for years to come.

Morning Training a Great Way to Start the Day

The Clontarf programme emphasises the significance of morning training in shaping the academy members' routines and promoting their overall wellbeing.

Training plays a vital role in instilling healthy sleep habits, encouraging early rising and engaging in regular exercise.

Furthermore, training provides an excellent opportunity for meaningful interactions among academy members, as well as with other Clontarf academies, Clontarf partners and school staff. These interactions and shared meals contribute to setting the boys up for success in their daily classroom activities.

Haileybury Academy in Darwin, NT uses its morning training sessions to provide as much variety for the boys as possible, and are constantly mixing up which activities they run.

Tuesday mornings are dedicated to a wide range of off-site activities, including basketball, beach volleyball, swimming, Oz Tag, 'footy tennis' and group runs. These activities not only add value to the training sessions but also offer the boys a chance to immerse themselves in the Darwin community.

Following these invigorating sessions, everyone enjoys a nutritious breakfast before embarking on their school day.

Friday mornings are particularly special as they mark the culmination of the week with the highly anticipated 'Friday Footy.' The day starts early at 6:00am with warm-up games at 6:30am and kick off at 6:45am. To conclude the morning on a high note, a barbecue breakfast is served to all participants.

Friday Footy goes beyond academy members, extending an open invitation to all Haileybury Rendall School staff. This inclusive approach fosters positive relationships between staff and students outside of the classroom, breaking down barriers and overcoming challenges.

Moreover, throughout the term, other Darwin-based Clontarf academies join in, further enriching the experience and strengthening the bond among the boys across the entire programme. Friday Footy also offers an excellent opportunity for Clontarf partners to actively participate, interact with the boys and develop connections with them.

Haileybury Academy would like to thank all its morning training visitors for helping the boys to make a great start to the day.





Western Cape Academy (Weipa, QLD) graduates Jyren Whap, Wilfred Jacksonia and Duncan Madua kicked off their employment journeys with Clontarf partner Rio Tinto.

Work Experience Pathways with Rio Tinto

Three graduates of Western Cape Academy in Weipa, QLD have kickstarted their mining industry careers with Clontarf partner Rio Tinto in 2023.

Jyren Whap, Wilfred Jacksonia and Duncan Madua were all part of the Pathways to Success and Leadership Program (PSLP), a work experience programme run by Rio Tinto and designed to prepare students for work in the mining industry by providing them with intensive and careful stewardship throughout their high school education.

The programme provides wrap-around support that helps participants to achieve the necessary qualifications and develop the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the competitive industry.

During 2022, the three students were interviewed and undertook worksite visits with the mentorship of staff at Rio Tinto and Western Cape Academy. They were given an opportunity to see various career pathways within the industry and were mentored to develop communication skills, confidence and a teamwork mentality to ensure their success.

After completing the three-month programme, all three young men were offered further employment in their chosen fields at Rio Tinto.

Duncan, who undertook a traineeship in land rehabilitation and will soon commence his traineeship as plant operator, said he was thrilled to be working for Rio Tinto.

"The support I have received from Marvin, Sascha and Rosselle at Rio Tinto has been amazing," he said.

"They are good people to work with and I feel comfortable going to work each day. I

feel a sense of belonging with the crew and I've been able to experience a wide variety of work during the traineeship."

Jyren and Wilfred secured long-term traineeships in the Heavy Equipment workshop in a dual qualification, Service Person and Tyre Fitting. This opportunity can lead to further employment in a Diesel Fitter Apprenticeship, given they have excellent qualifications and experience.

Regional Clontarf Employment Officer Mark Harland said the three young men were excelling after graduating because of the way they had applied themselves while at school and in the PSLP.

"Their success is directly attributed to maintaining high attendance while at school, being work ready with licences, listening to instructions and guidance from their mentors, and maintaining healthy lifestyles," Mark said.

Congratulations to Jyren, Wilfred and Duncan for their achievements. We will watch their careers with keen interest.



Staff Profile: Troy Gordon

As Regional Manager for the Greater Sydney Region in NSW, Troy Gordon leads multiple academies and a team of dedicated staff members.



He started with the Foundation in 2017 as Operations Officer at Dunheved Academy in Mount Druitt, NSW. Soon after he took on the role of Academy Director at Mount Druitt Academy. Following a successful stint there, Troy stepped up to the Regional Manager role in 2021.

Before joining Clontarf, Troy worked for the Department of Education's Connected Communities Strategy at Bourke Public School as Senior Leader Community Engagement. He was later promoted to lead this team before moving over to Clontarf.

Troy's passion for helping young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys is what drew him to the Foundation, and he finds the most rewarding aspect of his job to be witnessing the positive impact that the programme has on the boys' lives.

"I'm proud to see the boys grow into confident young adults who are achieving their goals and making positive changes for themselves, their families, and communities," Troy said.

He said he loves leading a close knit team who are all dedicated to helping the young men in their academies to achieve their full potential.

"I enjoy the camaraderie amongst our team because we get stuck into our work, and because we enjoy what we do, we have plenty of laughs along the way."

Outside of work, Troy enjoys spending time with his family and supporting his kids' sports activities. He also likes to play golf when he gets the chance and is an avid fan of the NRL.



The Mildura Academy (VIC) boys point to the water level of a recent flood which devastated the community's local golf course and surrounds.



Mildura Academy to the Rescue

The boys from Mildura Academy (VIC) lent a helping hand during the school term to the local Riverside Golf Club which was devastated by recent record floods.

The golf club, which has a special connection with the Clontarf boys, was chosen as the first community group to receive help from the academy.

The floods, which have been described as a one in 100 year event, completely covered the golf course, leaving it covered in mud and dust. Some parts of the course were covered by up to 15 feet of water, equalling the infamous 1956 flood.

The boys gave up their Wednesday morning sessions to assist in the clean up and rebuilding of the course. The boys started their work by cleaning up the 7th green, which

was completely destroyed, and had it ready for re-seeding later in the term. The job would have taken one staff member many hours to complete, but with the help of the Clontarf boys, the job was completed in no time.

It will be a great feeling for the boys to know that they played a part in bringing the golf course back to its former glory.

They've shown the true Clontarf spirit of their academy by giving back to their local community in their time of need. The Riverside Golf Club is just one of the many community groups that the Clontarf boys will be helping in the coming months.

Celebrating International Women's Day

In celebration of International Women's Day in March, the Clontarf Foundation collaborated with Woolworths to host events across all seven Clontarf regions in NSW.

Boys from Orara (Coffs Harbour), Mount Druitt, Tumut, Canobolas (Orange), Moruya, Hunter River (Newcastle) and Moree were invited to bake special treats at their local Woolworths stores as an after school activity.

The boys were given expert advice by in-store bakers on how to decorate cupcakes and muffins, and how to present their finished products.

On the day of the event, the boys welcomed female teachers and family members to their Clontarf academies, offering them the baked goods, fruit platters and complementary sweet, and delivering heartfelt speeches.

According to NSW Zone Manager Ryan Woolfe, the boys not only showed their appreciation for the significant women in their lives, but also learned new skills in the kitchen that they can use at home and when they're living independently post school.

"The collaboration between Clontarf and Woolworths is an excellent partnership that enables our boys to connect with their community," Ryan said.

"The boys are learning valuable skills in the kitchen, which will be important for their future independence. They're also learning gratitude and the importance of giving back to those who support you through life."



Thank you for your support

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

- Emmerson Resources
- Flinders Port Holdings
- Followmont
- Freudenberg Household Products
- Glencore Coal Assets Australia
- Goodman Foundation
- Haigh's Chocolates
- Max Services
- Monford Group
- New Hope Group
- Newcrest Mining's Cadia Valley Operations
- Pilbara Ports Authority
- Santos Ltd
- Serco
- State Street
- TLA Worldwide

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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