

clontarffoundation

the QUARTERLY

April 2020



clontarf
foundation



Clontarf Needed Now More than Ever

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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.

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the first Clontarf Quarterly of 2020. Firstly, I want to say that I hope you and your family are safe and healthy during this tumultuous time.

Traditionally, my first message of the year is an opportunity to reflect on the results of the year just gone, to report on our current enrolment situation and to paint a picture of things to come. I first want to touch on why Clontarf is needed now more than ever.

Now more than ever, we need to deliver a programme that helps to keep young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men engaged in school, guides them towards Year 12 completion and transitions them into fulfilling employment. Many of our boys come from disadvantaged backgrounds and the risk posed by COVID-19, both to their health and their economic situation, increases their chances of disengaging from school and suffering the poor outcomes that result from not having a well-rounded education. Additionally, many of our alumni who are currently working face the prospect of losing their job due to the economic downturn.

This risk has been acknowledged by all State and Territory Governments and as a result, Clontarf has been identified as a vital service that is permitted to operate. Many of our academy rooms remain open and we encourage our boys to attend where possible. Due to strict social distancing and hygiene requirements, many of our traditional activities such as camps, sporting matches and morning training sessions are unable to run. Our programme has been modified to enable as many academy members as possible to access our mentors and each other. You can read about some of these activities later in this publication.

I want to make special mention of our 465 staff members who continue to work tirelessly to support our boys and their families. Throughout this challenging time, I

have been continually humbled by the efforts of the Clontarf team to find new, innovative ways to keep our boys safe, healthy and engaged. During the school holidays, many of our team members worked through the break to deliver care packages to families in need or simply visited the boys for a chat to make sure they were doing okay. My sincere thanks to each and every one of you.

In Term 1 of 2020, we opened three new academies in Queensland and the initial feedback received from the schools, parents and the community so far has been extremely encouraging. We ended the term with more than 9,000 boys across the country enrolled in the Clontarf programme. Remarkably, 850 of these young men are Year 12 students embarking on their final year of schooling. This year we also celebrate 20 full years of operation and I was delighted and equally as proud that 15 members of our Graduating Class of 2002 were able to join us in February to celebrate, along with representatives from many of our oldest and closest private sector partners and supporters.

Hopefully by the time the next Quarterly is issued, life will resemble some form of normality once again. Until then, please stay safe, adhere to the instructions from the Federal and State/Territory Governments and continue to be part of the Clontarf family. And remember, for the sake of the boys in our programme, our support is needed now more than ever!


Gerard Neesham
Clontarf Foundation CEO





The Governor of NSW Her Excellency the Hon. Margaret Beazley visited the South Grafton Academy in February.

NSW Governor Visits South Grafton Academy

Boys from the South Grafton Academy (NSW) had the honour of hosting the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency the Hon. Margaret Beazley AC QC and her husband Mr Dennis Wilson in February.

The visit was the Governor's first to a Clontarf academy and the boys were thrilled to have the opportunity to speak about the programme and how it was impacting them.

While some of the boys were initially shy to meet such high profile figures, they eventually warmed to the Governor and Mr Wilson and were able to speak about many of the activities they had engaged in.

Her Excellency said she was impressed by the impact that South Grafton Academy had had on the boys given the programme only opened in mid-2019.

"What is really fantastic is the improvement in school attendance,

just from the connection with the programme and with each other," Ms Beazley said. "I'm a great believer in the Australian education system. Anything I can do that might promote that, might even give the tiniest bit of inspiration to one person is something that we really like to do.

"It gives us a great opportunity to interact with kids from Year 7 through to Year 12. If we don't know how the young people are thinking we're obviously not going to be able to cater to their needs."

The boys and staff at South Grafton Academy would like to thank Her Excellency and Mr Wilson for visiting and look forward to hosting them again in the near future.

New Queensland Academies Hit the Ground Running

The start of Term 1, 2020 was marked by the opening of three new academies in Queensland, representing our first new programmes in the Sunshine State since 2017.

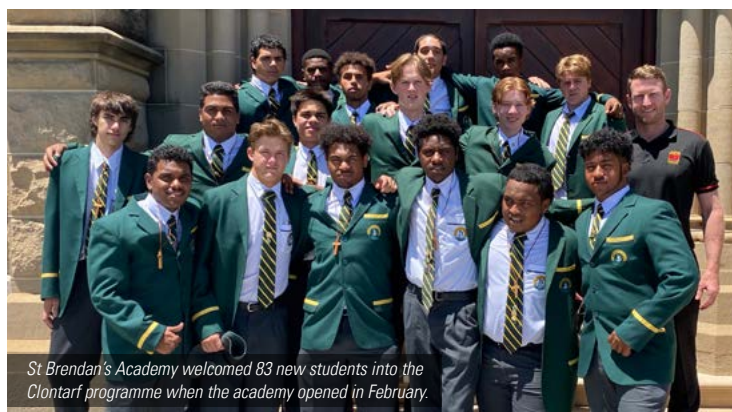
The new academies - Ambrose Treacy (Ambrose Treacy College, Indooroopilly), Palm Beach Currumbin (Palm Beach Currumbin State High School, Palm Beach) and St Brendan's (St Brendan's College, Yepoon) attracted an initial total of 180 enrolments across the three locations when the Foundation's student census was held in mid February - an outstanding result for new programmes.

Prior to social distancing measures, all three academies engaged in activities designed to educate the boys, school teaching staff and the local community about Clontarf, including:

- A parent/family information night held at Ambrose Treacy Academy which was attended by a large number of family and community members who were keen to learn more about the programme.
- Morning training sessions at Palm Beach Currumbin Academy which have grown to involve more than 30 boys on a regular basis.
- A morning tea celebrating International Women's Day held at St Brendan's Academy which was well attended by the school's teaching and boarding staff.

St Brendan's Academy is set to host students from all 21 QLD-based Clontarf academies later in the year (following the hopeful lifting of social gathering restrictions) for the annual Clontarf QLD Cup rugby league carnival.

We'd like to thank the teaching staff from all three schools for welcoming our staff and boys. But most importantly, welcome to our newest academy members!



St Brendan's Academy welcomed 83 new students into the Clontarf programme when the academy opened in February.

Now More Than Ever



Clontarf staff across the country are working harder than ever to ensure the 9,000 boys enrolled in our programme are receiving the support they need to gain an education and stay healthy. Our team is constantly finding new ways to reach our boys, whether it's delivering food hampers to their homes, setting up online training resources, setting challenging home cooking tasks, or simply phoning to make sure they are okay. The following is just a small selection of stories on how our academies are staying in the lives of our boys during this challenging time.



Broome, WA

The Broome Academy has been using restrictions resulting from the pandemic as an opportunity to develop the work-ready documents and skills of academy members.

Academy staff are working closely with the boys to develop their resumes, obtain their Learner's Permits and increase the log books hours for those young men working towards their P-Plates.

"Given so many of our traditional activities such as camps and sporting events are not currently possible, we've had a really strong focus on preparing our boys to become work-ready," said Jack Reagan, Broome Academy Director.

"Developing work-ready skills is already a significant component of the Clontarf programme, but this gives us a chance to get even further ahead and ensure the boys are as prepared as possible for when they start part-time work during school or full-time once they finish Year 12."

Port Macquarie, NSW

The young men at Port Macquarie are putting their culinary skills to the test during the 'Clontarf Stay at Home Challenge.'

As part of the exercise, academy members are required to prepare and cook a healthy meal for their families and then send through photographic evidence of their efforts to academy staff.

Judges award points on nutritional value, creativity and feedback from family members. These points are accumulated during the term and can be used by the boys to collect a prize. Academy member Cy Swift was an early winner for his san choi bow lettuce cups, with special mention to Tyren Reeve for his fish wraps!



Darwin, NT

The staff at Sanderson Academy have been busy compiling and delivering food hampers and work packs to programme participants studying from home.

Many of the boys rely on breakfast after training at the academy so it was imperative for Sanderson staff to source and deliver food to the boys to maintain their morning routines.

Our staff approached both local Woolworths and Coles stores to ask for additional supplies and both generously donated goods to pass on to families in need.

Dalby, QLD

Dalby Academy (QLD) joined forces with Dalby State High School staff to bring some cheer to academy members by delivering special Easter hampers in the lead up to the long weekend.

Consisting of tinned food, snacks, a newsletter and an all-important Easter egg, the hampers were delivered to the front doors of welcoming boys and their families.

"In these uncertain times it's really important that we let these families know that we are here to support them," said Academy Director Christian Philpot.



Darwin, NT

Thanks to a long standing relationship with Foodbank, the staff at Nightcliff Academy in Darwin have been able to make support hampers for academy members with resources provided by the food relief charity.

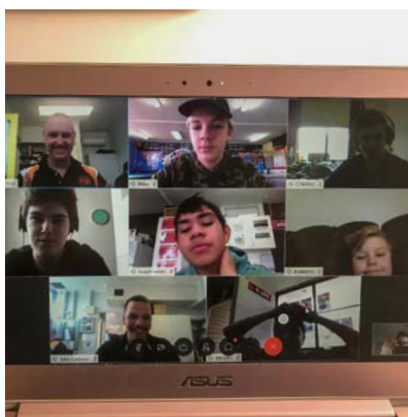
The academy has also leveraged its strong relationship with the local Headspace by working with their team to create well-being folders for the boys. These folders include a range of resources including mindfulness colouring books, academy worksheets, stationary and information on healthy eating and regular exercise. These hampers and well-being packs were delivered by academy staff to very appreciative families.



Swan Hill, VIC

The Swan Hill Academy has embraced technology to reach academy members on a daily basis, using programmes such as WebEx to run group catchups.

The team is also making regular phone calls, sending text messages, writing emails and keeping the academy room open for boys who are unable to access a computer or the internet.



Mount Druitt, NSW

The 'Good Bunch Lunch' is a popular weekly event across all Clontarf academies and rewards boys for excellent school attendance and behaviour.

Even though many boys are unable to attend school physically, the team at Mount Druitt Academy are making sure the activity remains a part of the boys' routine by preparing meals in the academy rooms and delivering them to boys across the Mount Druitt area.



Bunbury, WA

More than 20 boys from Newton Moore Academy in Bunbury took part in a home cooking challenge in April.

The boys were tasked with preparing either spaghetti bolognese or honey soy garlic chicken for their families. Academy staff provided the ingredient list and preparation instructions - the rest was up to the boys.

Feedback from the boys' families was very positive and is testament to the culinary skills the young men have honed in the academy room.

The next challenge is already being planned for early in Term 2 - keep practising your skills, boys!



15 members of the Graduating Class of 2002 re-enacted their famous photo from their Year 12 graduation day during a special reunion event in February.

Celebrating Clontarf New and Old

“Originally I just went there to go for a kick of the footy and ended up graduating from school.”

The statement by 2002 Clontarf Academy alumni Daniel Reardon elicited cheerful laughter from the 180 audience members at Clontarf central office in Perth.

The crowd, comprised of Clontarf partners, alumni, students and staff members had gathered to celebrate the latest group of Clontarf Year 12s from across the Perth metro area who were about to embark on their all-important leadership camp.

Daniel was joined by 14 other members of the Clontarf Academy Graduating Class of 2002 who were brought back together, scarcely a kilometre away from where they graduated, to celebrate their achievements and demonstrate to the current Year 12 students what they could achieve by graduating.

Many of the 2002 alumni joined the inaugural Clontarf Academy in Waterford, WA in 2000 as Year 10s and represented the very first group of alumni who went through three full years of the programme. 20 years on, they’ve since entered successful careers,

purchased properties, started families and travelled overseas.

One of the highlights of the event was the opportunity for the 2002 alumni to re-enact an iconic photo taken of them on the day of their graduation (photo above).





Current Clontarf Year 12s, alumni, partners and staff members gathered at Clontarf central office in Perth to celebrate the momentous occasion.

Clontarf Foundation CEO Gerard Neesham, who founded the inaugural programme at Clontarf Aboriginal College in Waterford in 2000, reflected back on the photo and its significance.

'I still remember what was so exciting about that photo on the day it was taken,' Gerard said.

"These boys were wearing leavers shirts, with their mates' names on the back. They were the first leavers of that school and they were excited because they knew they were going onto something really exceptional.

"I remember talking to Ross Kelly (Clontarf Foundation Chairman) at the start of 2001 about how exciting it was that we

had the opportunity to help these boys, who had just finished 40 weeks as Year 10s, to progress through another 80 weeks as seniors." Gerard praised the alumni group for their initial commitment to school and their capacity to act as role models for future generations of Clontarf academy members and young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men generally.

"If anyone deserves credit, it should be these young men who stayed at school and were determined to change attitudes towards schooling. They saw school not as a place to be dreaded, but a place to be enjoyed and a place to feel fulfillment. To challenge themselves, and to see it as something that once you complete it, your life can be anything."

A reunion dinner to honour the 2002 alumni was held later that night and was attended by a number of senior business people and representatives from Clontarf partners, including Wesfarmers Chairman Michael Chaney who was CEO when Wesfarmers became the Foundation's first ever corporate partner back in 2001.

We would like to thank our partners for attending both events and for continuing to show their support of Clontarf boys young and old. We would also like to thank our 2002 alumni for taking the time to come back to their place of graduation and for continuing to be role models for future generations of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.





Woolies Jobs a Silver Lining

Clontarf men from Mount Druitt, NSW eagerly put their hand up for casual and part-time work at their local Woolworths Supermarket to help counter the impact of increased demand resulting from the pandemic.

13 young men, ranging from Year 9 to 2018 alumni were provided the opportunity to be interviewed thanks to the relationship between Woolworths and Clontarf in the local area.

Group Manager Carmelo Bruno, who oversees 10 of the Woolworths stores in the boys' local area, said he was very impressed by the calibre of the Clontarf candidates during their interviews.

"I was blown away from the start," he said. "I thought the first interviewee, Jordan, was going to be a hard act to follow as he was confident, looking professional and showed he obviously cared and wanted a job. Then one after another the boys came

in and they were of the same quality."

As a result of the interviews, all 13 of the boys were employed and are thrilled to be working in their local communities and earning money.

Clontarf Employment Officer for the Mount Druitt area, Peter Ballard, said they'd paved the way for more local boys to enter vital retail roles in the area.

"Another four boys are currently going through the interview process and are hopeful to join their peers," he said.

"I want to thank Woolworths on behalf of the boys for giving them the opportunity to apply for work and serve their local communities in this great time of need."

Academy a Second Home for Senior Boys

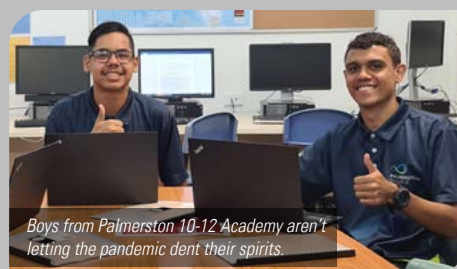
The staff at Palmerston 10-12 Academy in the NT are working hard to ensure all academy members have access to tools and a space to continue their studies.

The academy room is staffed by Clontarf mentors and has been transformed with the inclusion of 1.5m spacing markers and additional cleaning and hygiene stations.

While Clontarf members are typically encouraged to prepare their own food while in the academy, the Palmerston staff have taken it upon themselves to pre-prepare all food prior to morning tea and lunch to ensure the highest possible hygiene standards are maintained.

For those students who are unable to attend the academy room itself, Clontarf

staff have been making regular phone calls and home visits to ensure the boys remain engaged with the programme. Clontarf staff have also delivered schoolwork packs that were diligently compiled by the wonderful teaching staff at Palmerston College.



Thank you for your support

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

- Caltex Australia
- Qube Holdings
- Kellogg Australia Charitable Foundation
- Barmenco
- Servco Australia
- Orica Australia
- Minerals Council of Australia
- Huawei Technologies
- TLA Worldwide
- Thales
- Transport for NSW
- Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH)
- DHL Global Forwarding
- WorkPac
- Mercer (Australia)
- Sonic Healthcare
- BGIS
- Northern Star Resources
- Haigh's Chocolates
- Newtown Toyota
- United Equipment
- Camco Engineering
- The Woolgoolga to Ballina Workforce
- Margaret Dundas

Donations & Workplace Giving

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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