



the QUARTERLY

FROM LITTLE THINGS
BIG THINGS
GROW

May 2010

Welcome to the first edition of our Clontarf Quarterly newsletter for 2010. It's been a busy start to the year with some great achievements already.

- We welcomed students and staff at new Academies in Karratha and Derby (WA), Gunbalanya and Jabiru (NT), Bairnsdale, Mildura, Robinvale, Swan Hill and Warrnambool (VIC);
- We have moved to new offices in Perth;
- The annual Broome to Bicton concert was held at Quarantine Park in Bicton with almost 5,000 attendees;
- The 2010 BHP Billiton Nickel West Cup was held in Kalgoorlie with 10 teams competing from around WA; and

- The Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Julia Gillard MP visited the West Kimberley Academy at Broome (WA).

In this edition of the Clontarf Quarterly, we provide you with an update on our growth, our thoughts on the benefits of hostel accommodation, profiles of a couple of our boys achieving great things and we answer some more of your questions.

For more great information of what is happening around our Academies, check out www.clontarf.org.au

We continue to Grow

The benefits of Hostels

Broome to Bicton 2010

A Bran Nue Dae for Rocky

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Gilmore Academy (Kwinana, WA) students met WA Premier, the Hon. Colin Barnett at the opening of Sculptures by the Sea at Cottesloe Beach

clontarf foundation



We continue to grow

Again in 2010, our program is growing rapidly. The Foundation commenced operating with 25 boys in February 2000 and we now cater for 2,207 boys in 36 schools across WA, NT and Victoria.

The Foundation has been successful in achieving its aims and as a consequence we continue to receive numerous requests to expand our existing operations as well as to extend to other states.

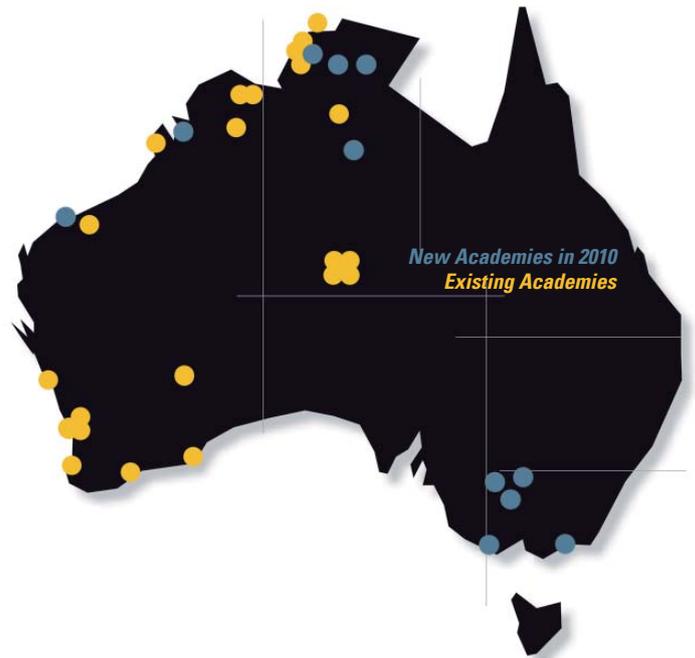
Our Academies are funded in equal amounts by the Federal Government, State Governments and the private sector.

New Academies opened this year in Victoria at Bairnsdale, Mildura/Robinvale, Swan Hill and Warrnambool. The Clontarf staff teams have established themselves in these schools and are already an integral and valued part of the school community.

We are delighted that the students have embraced the program. Anecdotal feedback from teachers and the early data has shown some improvements in attendance and engagement, with our students actively participating in the Clontarf program, training and activities.

Particular thanks go to the Deputy Premier and Attorney General the Hon. Rob Hulls; Minister for Education, Skills and Workforce Participation Bronwyn Pike; staff at the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association; John Sullivan, Tim Fitzgerald and the Wannik team at DEECD; Principals and staff at each of our partner schools and in particular, the Koorie education teams.

In Western Australia, the Foundation made a submission to the State government late in 2008 for support of six new Academies in WA. The Department for Indigenous Affairs has provided us with interim funding for the Roebourne, Karratha and Derby Academies, and pending a decision on our funding submission (which is being considered through the Royalties for Regions Scheme), we will be looking to open three more Academies in WA this year.



Due to the success of our current programs, we are now in discussion with the Northern Territory Government regarding a number of additional locations for new Academies in the NT.

Finally, there have been persistent rumours that recently our CEO, Gerard Neesham has been spotted in regional NSW – and we don't think he was there on holidays. Gerard has been meeting with local communities and government ministers to explore the potential for expansion of our programs into the eastern states.

Bairnsdale Academy members enjoy the challenge of a leadership camp at Cape Conran on Victoria's South East coast

Our experience has shown that for every community with 3,000 Aboriginal people, an Academy of 75 boys can be supported. Given Australia's Aboriginal population of around 520,000 people, many Academies could be established around the country, increasing the reach of the Foundation and the positive impact of the outcomes for young Aboriginal men and their communities.

We currently cater for only 2,200 boys, or around 20% of this potential demand. The need for the Foundation's programs is huge and we would have to grow significantly to meet the demand. While such growth seems a big task, it is our long term objective.



Benefits for boys in hostels

Access to suitable accommodation is often a critical factor in enabling regular school attendance.

Many young Aboriginal people live in locations that are a significant distance from the nearest school and so they are faced with a long daily commute or a need to leave their local area to continue their education.

Without access to accommodation, this is a challenging situation for anyone and often a deterrent to attending school at all. Student hostels are an obvious solution that provide the primary benefit of young people being able to attend school regularly.

While our growth has been exponential, the Foundation cannot provide Academies for all locations. Many communities are just too small to support and maintain a local Academy, and so again, hostels are a fantastic solution to ensure an opportunity for more boys to attend school and participate in our programs in a centralised location.

The demand for hostel accommodation is extremely high. There are waiting lists at the hostels near the Foundation's Academies, with as many as 80 students waiting at Broome in WA, for example.

The small amount of hostel accommodation available is quickly booked out: if more was available, we could enable participation in our programs and school, by many more young Aboriginal men.

At the Clontarf Foundation, we learnt very early on that some of our most at-risk students come from high risk situations.

Living in a hostel means that the boys can receive holistic support based on a continuous relationship with the House Parents who guide the boys on health and wellbeing along with the day to day routine of school, training and after-hours activities.

Importantly, the boys who live in these hostels do so by choice. Their parents are supportive, acknowledging that their local home environment doesn't always meet the needs of the boys.

These boys thrive in an environment that provides routine, regular healthy meals, homework tutors at night and access to transport to and from school.

For Clontarf Academy staff, having the boys stay in hostels means it is easier to provide a well-rounded program of activities and personal development.

We started with a small group of boys at Noalimba in Perth in 2001, but quickly realised that we didn't have the capacity to run hostels as well as focus on the delivery of our core programs through the Academies.

So the Foundation worked with Clontarf Aboriginal College to access and manage two hostels around Perth which are now each home to 25 Clontarf students.

Other Clontarf students can reside in hostel accommodation in Broome, Kununurra and Albany in regional WA or in Alice Springs and Katherine in NT. Boys staying



A day in the life of hostel living...

- 6:30am Wake up, shower, clean uniform on
- 7:00am Breakfast
- 7:30am Bus to school
- 8:45am School starts
- 12.35pm Lunch with Academy staff
- 3:15pm Bus back to the hostel
- 3:45pm Take uniform to the laundry
- 4:00pm Afternoon tea
- 5:00pm Football training (local club)
- 7:00pm Dinner
- 7:30pm Homework with tutor
- 9:00pm TV and bed

Weekends are filled with plenty of sport and lots of activities including swimming at the beach in summer, movie nights on Saturdays, BBQ dinner on Sundays, club footy and a bit of shopping.

in hostels have the best school attendance and graduation performance of all of our students.

Principal of Clontarf Aboriginal College, Tony Chinnock, is a great supporter of group living in hostels. "We feel we make a big difference to the boys we have in our care for 100% of the school term – we would struggle without the hostel accommodation," he said.

The Foundation has opened discussions with the Federal and NT Governments on how hostels can be used to increase the effectiveness of some Academies. The initial responses were encouraging and for the sake of many boys from remote areas who want to participate, we hope our discussions produce results.



Broome to Bicton 2010

A perfect sunset backdrop combined with fabulous music from the Pigram Brothers of Broome and their special guests, made for a spectacular Broome to Bicton family picnic in the park in late February this year.



Quarantine Park in Bicton, along Perth's Swan River foreshore, came alive for the Foundation's eighth successful Broome to Bicton Concert. With an estimated crowd of five thousand people, everyone enjoyed the warm weather and a brilliant spectacle of colour and music.

Clontarf Academy graduate Quaylin MacAuley did a great job as MC for the night and brought the house down when he took the microphone and performed his rap solo "My Life".

Perth musician, Dave Regan, one of the Foundation's proudest supporters, opened the night's music and set the scene for the live acts to follow. Dave has performed at every Broome to Bicton concert since its inception in 2003.

The Pigram Brothers took to the stage with their world renowned tunes and delighted the crowd. Special guest singers - Bran Nue Dae actors Steven (Bamba) Albert and Ningali Lawford - stole the show with renditions of songs from the movie's soundtrack.

The Concert's history is one of an enjoyable, family-oriented event with friends of the Pigram Brothers - Paul Kelly and John Butler - performing for the Clontarf cause at previous events.

We would like to acknowledge Wayne Bradshaw and the West Australian Football Commission, as well as LotteryWest for their support of the event.

Bran Nue Dae for Rocky

If you are looking for a talented local Broome teenager for a lead role in an Australian movie where is your first port of call?
The West Kimberley Academy, of course!

This is where director Rachel Perkins discovered 15-year-old Phillip 'Rocky' McKenzie, a Year 10 student at Broome Senior High School, who made a stunning screen debut as Willie in *Bran Nue Dae*.

"The director, choreographer and producer came to the Football Academy to meet some boys for an audition," explains Rocky, "myself and 20 other boys went along and I got a call back to go to Sydney to do a workshop."

With no acting, dancing or singing experience, Rocky had to learn quickly and an outstanding attitude was crucial for his successful first-up acting experience.

"It was pretty full on at the start, 10-hour days, 6 days a week, but in the long run I was very proud of myself. I had Ernie Dingo as my acting mentor and Jess Mauboy as my singing mentor so they kept me busy all the time.



Courtesy: The West Australian Newspapers

As for the future, Rocky is prepared to pursue his acting career.

"I would not pass up on any more acting opportunities but until then it is just football, basketball and school," he said.

Rocky, now in Year 11, acknowledges Clontarf's West Kimberley Academy as playing a significant role in his life.

"Clontarf is great. I get to go on trips and I really enjoy it," he said, adding: "I don't know what I would do without it and it has been a really big help."



Your Questions Answered

WHAT ABOUT THE GIRLS?

The young men targeted by our programs, are considered one of the most at-risk groups of our contemporary Australian society.

The Foundation believes that the inadequate education of Aboriginal males, failure to experience achievement when young or develop an appropriate set of values, and being in a position of under-privilege can lead to alienation, anger and then to more serious consequences.

Young Aboriginal men drive this cycle of disadvantage with the secondary impacts on girls being significant.

Our work in many communities has revealed that it is the senior women who are often leading the drive to have a Clontarf Football Academy established and operating in their area.

Football has great pulling power to get the boys to attend school. However there is not a similar attractant to school for the girls, like football is for the boys. This is not to say that girls won't be attracted to school, just that our current focus remains on the boys who are most at-risk.

While it is obviously necessary to address the effects through investment in health, housing, welfare and justice systems etc, The Clontarf Foundation focuses on addressing the causes which perpetuate the cycle of disadvantage.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER SPORTS LIKE ATHLETICS?

The Clontarf Foundation's programs use the existing passion that Aboriginal boys have for football to attract them to attend an Academy. Students are not selected on football ability; although obviously most of them do have some aptitude for the game.

In most cases, amongst Aboriginal boys, football is valued extremely highly. We have observed it is more like a 'religion' than a sport.

Bringing a positive attitude to a past-time where they can achieve well, leads to a culture of success and ultimately increased self-esteem. This is the underlying foundation upon which all of our programs are developed and implemented.

We staff our Academies with full time, suitably trained, ex-AFL footballers and educators to capture the boys' attention, respect and trust. However, once the boys are attached to the Academy and regularly attending school, like other young men they participate in a range of sports.

As we have said before, this is not just about sport. Clontarf is an education, values and life skills program.

The Nickel West Cup in March featured 193 boys from nine Academies participating in a weekend of football in Kalgoorlie





www.clontarf.org.au



WE HAVE NEW PARTNERS

The Foundation is pleased to welcome new partners in 2010:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Midwest Auto Group | Golden West Resources |
| Decmil Australia | Emmerson Resources |
| Newsboys Foundation | OM (Manganese) Ltd. |
| Anglo Gold Ashanti | McKay Drilling |
| Bullion Drilling | Lycopodium Minerals |
| Crosslands Resources | |

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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 men and by doing so, equip them to participate more meaningfully in society.

These outcomes are achieved through the medium of football. Academies are formed in association with selected schools and colleges.

Each Academy's football program attracts young Aboriginal men to school and helps to retain them.

As well as coordinating the football program, Academy staff mentor and counsel Academy members on a range of behavioural and lifestyle issues while the school caters for their specific educational needs.

WE'VE MOVED

Dedicated office space and some great meeting areas are the highlights of our new central offices in Perth. In January 2010 we moved into a remodelled building on Thorogood Street, Burswood.

It's a great spot that provides quick and easy access to the city and local Academies as well as sufficient work spaces to accommodate our small yet hard working team of people.

We can now host our stakeholders and any important planning meetings in a dedicated Board Room, with space out the back for storage of our equipment and records.

Feel free to drop in and see us any time.
Our new contact details are:

22 Thorogood Street, Burswood WA 6100
Ph (08) 9472 1111
www.clontarf.org.au

clontarf snapshot

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| States | WA, NT, VIC |
| Schools | 36 |
| Participants | 2207 |
| Staff | 101 |

(April 2010)