



the QUARTERLY

FROM LITTLE THINGS
BIG THINGS
GROW

December 2010

Welcome to the December edition of our Clontarf Quarterly newsletter.

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Clontarf celebrates

Clontarf Foundation WA Year 12 Leavers are acknowledged at the Leaving for Work dinner in Perth on October 19

The Clontarf Foundation is celebrating the achievements of 169 young men who completed their Year 12 studies in 2010 as members of Academies across Australia.

Apprentice of the year:
Jesse Simpson

Clontarf's marathon men
in New York

The importance of camps
for our boys

2010 Wadjemup Cup
a success

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This year's result is an outstanding accomplishment for the young men, their families, Academy staff and teachers at our host schools.

These graduates reinforce the trend for many younger Academy members to strive for secondary school graduation in communities where such a feat, historically, has often been unattainable.

In the process, graduation benchmarks for Indigenous male students at many of our host schools were raised significantly.

The success has come from hard work and dedication by students who have spent up to five years in Academies and most

have overcome challenges, set backs and distractions along the journey.

The next important step for these graduates is to secure meaningful employment or further training next year with ongoing assistance from Clontarf staff.

In Geraldton, WA, 15 of the 17 Midwest Academy Year 12s graduated with their Western Australian Certificate of Education, the highest number on record.

Midwest Academy Director Tony Cogan believes the remarkable number is a great reflection of the Clontarf Foundation's ability to re-engage young Indigenous men in education.

clontarf foundation

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Ray Dhu, Casseas Smith, Josh Cooper and Duncan Aubrey
with Western Regional Manager Marcus Harrold

Roebourne pioneers

For the first time in recorded history at Roebourne District High School in WA's Pilbara region, a male Aboriginal student has completed Year 12 and met the academic requirements.

In fact, there were five students who achieved this feat and all are members of Clontarf's Roebourne Academy, which started in February 2009.

Duncan Aubrey, Ray Dhu, Josh Cooper, Casseas Smith and Billy Lockyer have become a special group that will have their names engraved on the Roebourne Academy Honour Board to inspire their peers for years to come.

They have shown the way for young Indigenous men in Roebourne and surrounding communities to commit to education and enjoy the benefits associated with completing Year 12.

The five graduates are preparing to take different employment paths next year. Most pleasing for the Clontarf Academy staff who worked with these young men over the past two years, is that they are all actively taking steps towards achieving their goals.

Everyone involved with the Roebourne and Karratha Academies are particularly proud of the achievements that the young men have made and will continue their mentorship in the future.

Clontarf Alumni is born

The Clontarf Foundation Alumni held their inaugural get together on December 3 where 'Old-Boys' from WA Academies reminisced about their school years and good times with Clontarf.

For Clontarf Foundation staff it was tremendous to learn the majority of the Old-Boys are entrenched in rewarding employment and successfully bringing up their own young families.

It will now become a regular event open to alumni from Academies Australia-wide. The Old-Boys will co-ordinate future activities and are already planning to assist younger members in employment, business opportunities and mentoring.

It was one of the Clontarf Foundation's most historic moments when men who have benefitted from the program committed to giving something back by building a strong alumni for the future.

Apprentice of the year

Jesse Simpson made a smart decision almost two years ago when he decided to take up a Mechanical Fitting apprenticeship with long standing Foundation partner BHP Billiton Nickel West in Kwinana.



The move continues to pay dividends for Jesse as he was named BHP Billiton Nickel West Apprentice of the Year at a presentation evening in Perth on November 18.

Jesse was selected from 11 finalists working at five Nickel Smelters across WA and also collected the Best 2nd Year Apprentice Award.

Bill Bradley, a BHP Billiton Nickel West training mentor, gave a glowing report of Jesse saying he was hard working, did everything he was asked and was a talented young man growing in stature and confidence.

In 2007, Jesse moved from his home town of Mt Magnet in WA's north, to join the Clontarf Academy and complete his school education at Clontarf Aboriginal College in Perth.

Jesse says the people he works with are great and he likes the engineering industry. About his time with Clontarf, Jesse said: "It is a good, family environment like a home away from home."

Jesse is a fine ambassador for the Clontarf Foundation as he excels in employment while playing football for WAFL club East Fremantle.



Taking a look at the Leavers

Meet four of our 169 Leavers who are celebrating Year 12 completion and preparing for employment. The establishment of Clontarf Foundation Academies in their home towns over the past two years has guided their journeys.



Dylan O'Connor-Mitchell



Aidan Grinham



Lyndon Perry



Duncan Aubrey

Dylan O'Connor-Mitchell has been an integral member of the Casuarina Academy in Darwin over the first two years of the program's existence.

In a great achievement, he graduated from Year 12 at Casuarina Senior College alongside ten other Academy members.

Dylan's efforts were rewarded at the Academy's Awards Night where he won Year 12 Best Attendee, Year 12 Academic Award and was named 2010 Casuarina Colt of the Year.

He recently toured Victoria on an end of year trip with the Academy visiting Melbourne and Warrnambool, a fitting way to finish his two years at Casuarina Academy.

Next year Dylan plans to move to Brisbane to play semi-professional rugby league and begin an apprenticeship as a bricklayer.

Victoria's Swan Hill Academy celebrated a fantastic inaugural year as two young men completed Year 12 with flying colours at Swan Hill College.

Aidan Grinham finished with a 98% school attendance and Lyndon Perry was not far behind with 90%. Swan Hill Academy Director Jason Kreuger said both students are fantastic role models for younger students at the Academy.

Both Aidan and Lyndon participated in Academy activities and have set a standard of excellence in education at one of Clontarf Foundation's seven Victorian host schools.

This is extremely important in the first year of an Academy as it reinforces the Clontarf Foundation's ability to work in partnership with schools and colleges to achieve educational outcomes.

Aidan earned a Certificate III in Electronics, represented the school in football and has aspirations to join the building industry. Lyndon completed his work placement in hospitality, gained Level 1 Hospitality and Automotive certificates and is hoping for a traineeship in land resource management.

As a steady flow of young men graduate from the Academy in the coming years, the Swan Hill community will continue to reap the benefits of young Indigenous men entering the workforce.

Duncan Aubrey is a young man from Roebourne, WA, who is already achieving great things.

This year he was one of a group of five who were the first Aboriginal men at Roebourne District High School to complete Year 12. Duncan also received the Roebourne Academy's Most Outstanding Award.

Throughout 2010, Duncan consistently achieved a high attendance rate and was the first Year 12 male student to complete all of his assigned academic tasks.

Duncan has been eligible to participate in all Clontarf games and camps this year by making significant efforts to maintain his impressive school and Academy attendance.

He recently visited the Gold Coast for the Roebourne Academy's end of year camp where he gained valuable experience about life on Australia's east coast.

Duncan is exploring employment for next year in administration or tourism.

Passionate about maintaining his cultural responsibilities, Duncan has an ambition to start his own tourism venture where he can showcase his land and culture in the Pilbara region.





Ned Clinch leads the peloton out of Norseman

Riding for charity

Eight South East Academy students rode 200km in extreme conditions to raise money for less fortunate children this festive season.

The young men, in Years 8-10, committed to riding from Norseman to Esperance in WA over two days in early December with the sole motive of giving underprivileged children a better Christmas.

At the Awards Night on December 9 the South East Academy donated just over \$7,000 to three Esperance charities.

It was a team building exercise with the workload shared by riding in groups of three boys for 10km legs. All the boys gained a great sense of accomplishment and had some fun along the way.

The group camped in Norseman and commenced the cycle at 7am the following morning. By noon the temperature soared to 39 degrees but this didn't deter any of the participants.

The exhausted cyclists reached Salmon Gums by early afternoon and camped at Salmon Gums District School. On the second day a thunder storm brought difficult conditions when the boys arrived at Museum Park, on Esperance's foreshore, just after 3pm.

South East Academy Director Glen Symonds said the boys suggested the idea and were very proud to be helping out their local community. The ride will become an annual event and students from other Clontarf Foundation Academies will be invited to participate.



Clontarf's marathon men

Clontarf Foundation staff member Charlie Maher became the first Indigenous Australian to run a marathon when he crossed the line in New York City on November 8.



PHOTO: LAURA NASH

Joseph Davies, Caleb Hart, Juan Darwin, Charlie Maher and Robert de Castella after the race.

Charlie finished the 42km run in 3 hours and 32 minutes, finishing ahead of two thirds of the 45,000 participants on a very cold New York day.

Working as a Football Operations Officer at Mparntwe Academy in Alice Springs, Charlie ran as part of a four-man team with the support of GoodOil Films and The Marathon Project.

Joseph Davies from Kununurra (East Kimberley Academy 2009), Caleb Hart from Alice Springs (Centralian Academy 2009) and Juan Darwin from Maningrida also completed the marathon. The young men were coached and mentored by Australian running legend Robert de Castella and local marathon champion John Bell, for 10 months prior to the event.

"It was a great opportunity to go overseas for the first time," Charlie said, adding: "I knew it was going to be tough and hard, not many people get to run marathons and if I did get a chance to finish it I could inspire young Indigenous people".

Charlie's marathon journey started back in 2008 when he was working at Alice Spring's Anzac Academy and John Bell asked if he knew of any Indigenous students interested, or capable, of running a marathon for a documentary film idea. As the students were too young, Charlie immediately became interested and two years later he has completed his first marathon.

As the senior member of the team, and running with two former Clontarf Foundation students, Charlie found his achievement most memorable.

"It was awesome to run with some younger guys from Clontarf and especially Caleb, who I have mentored," Charlie said. "We have very strong relationships as we achieved this in New York as a group, which was the most important thing."

Your questions answered

Why are camps important for our boys?

Students in our Clontarf Academies are exposed to a broad range of life experiences to enable the development of skills and abilities that can be transferred into all aspects of their lives.

Camps away from home are a vehicle to extend the boys beyond their comfort zones and provide opportunities for them to grow socially and emotionally. They are one of many strategies for developing positive behaviours.

Well-planned camps are used to connect with boys who have low school attendance. Camps create an attractive, fun, safe and supportive environment for participants.

Being 'on camp' helps to enhance relationships with peers and Academy staff, develop a sense of belonging, and allow for the building of confidence and self-esteem that will assist the boys to re-engage into the school and classroom environment.

An important principle of these types of trips away is that they are not always a reward for 'good' behaviour. Regular and varied camps are an important engagement tool used to attract students to the Clontarf program. Some students that would not otherwise attend school, will maintain acceptable school attendance levels in order to participate in the camps and other activities provided by Clontarf.

The boys are often involved in many aspects of planning the camps and trips away which helps to develop their organisational, communication and leadership skills. Some camps are in local areas close to home, while other camps take the boys to new places and new experiences.

For students who have consistently displayed positive behaviour, strong school attendance, commitment to their studies and good contributions to the Academy activities, end of year trips can include visits to other cities and states to enjoy a range of educational and recreational activities.

Along with sight-seeing and meeting various role models, a popular event is visiting the corporate offices of the many companies who support our programs.

The boys like to share photos and information about their home town and Academy activities as well as enjoy the views of the city. These visits provide the opportunity for the boys to meet new people, develop their social and communication skills, and to proudly represent the Clontarf Foundation.



The West Kimberley Academy Year 12s were hosted by new Clontarf Foundation partners Caltex Australia at their Sydney office. The boys toured the building, had lunch with Caltex staff and shared their experiences about life at the Academy which is located in Broome, WA.



Staff at Leighton Contractors were happy to meet senior students from NT's Katherine Academy in Sydney. While the boys learned about the company and how they operate, the Leighton Contractors staff enjoyed a slideshow and presentation about the Katherine Academy and their community.



Casuarina Academy Year 12s spent a morning at St Marys House of Welcome in Melbourne assisting the organisation that works with homeless people. The boys enjoyed serving breakfast, working in the garden and interacting with those present.



Thank you

Clontarf would like to acknowledge our new partners and the ongoing contributions from those who have recently renewed their commitment to support the Foundation.

- Caltex Australia
- Carr Civil Constructing Pty Ltd
- Jus Burgers - David Mack
- Ngarluma Trust
- Tropical Forestry Services
- Transfield Foundation
- Verve Energy

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Wadjemup Cup a success

The 4th Annual Wadjemup Cup was held on Rottnest Island, WA on Saturday, November 13. This year, ten WA Academies participated in a fantastic two-day carnival.

Nearly 100 partners and supporters of the Clontarf Foundation, along with guests of the Rottnest Island Authority, were treated to a lunch at the Rottnest Island Country Club before the grand final.

The event started on Friday afternoon when the boys arrived on the ferry from Fremantle. Following a BBQ dinner on Thompson Bay everyone enjoyed a concert featuring Dave 'Tiger' Regan and the Doorum Dancers on Heritage Oval.

The behaviour of the Year 8, 9 and 10 boys was exemplary and the standard of football was outstanding. For the first time Academies mixed teams which encouraged positive social interaction between young men from all over the state.

All Clontarf Foundation staff and students stayed at Kingston Barracks and enjoyed a relaxing Sunday on the Island with plenty of activity before returning to Fremantle later in the day.

Five drafted into AFL

Five Clontarf Foundation graduates have just been drafted to eastern states AFL clubs; three as senior list selections and two on rookie lists, raising the tally to 19 Clontarf graduates employed as AFL players.

In the National Draft, Kirk Ugle, from Bunbury (South West Academy) was picked by Collingwood, Zephaniah Skinner, from Nookenhah (Clontarf Academy) will join the Western Bulldogs and Alice Springs' Curtly Hampton (Mparntwe Academy) was selected as a Northern Territory priority pick by Greater Western Sydney.

In the Rookie Draft, Rhys Cooyou from Carnarvon (Clontarf and Midwest Academies) and Isiah Stevens from South Hedland (Clontarf Academy) were both selected by Greater Western Sydney.

The result is pleasing for the Clontarf Foundation as these five graduates have a great opportunity to pursue a successful career in football.

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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.



Clontarf Foundation Alumni