



the QUARTERLY

Welcome to the July edition of our Clontarf Quarterly newsletter.



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Leading the way

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Meeting leaders and developing leadership qualities are highlights from our Academies around Australia.

Many prominent Australian people continue to visit and meet with the boys in our Academies around the country.

Recently we have welcomed visits from the Hon. Julia Gillard MP, Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, the Hon. Peter Garrett AM, MP and the NT Chief Minister the Hon. Paul Henderson MLA.

Taking time out from their busy schedules to talk with the boys and learn more about our programs makes a very positive impression on the staff and students in each Academy.

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, has recently accepted our invitation to be the Patron of the Clontarf Foundation. Ms Bryce has visited several of our Academies and continues to take an active interest in the impact of our programs.

The former WA Governor, Dr Ken Michael AC, has been a wonderful supporter of the Foundation for many years and we thank him for his involvement and wish him well in his retirement.

Some of our Academies have enjoyed recent training, games and talks with football stars including Paddy Ryder (Essendon) and Michael Johnson (Fremantle), who are both Clontarf graduates, Mark Harvey and Stephen Hill (Fremantle Football Club), and Shane Richardson (Rabbitohs Rugby League Club).

These men shared their insights into life in professional football but more importantly the need for setting goals, working hard, celebrating achievements and always having a back-up plan.

The sessions were topped off with games at Patersons Stadium in Perth and at Essendon's Windy Hill, along with watching the Rabbitohs play the Broncos at NIB Stadium in Perth.

High profile leaders set a great example for achievement, strength, courage and determination.

But leading the way and being a positive role model in your own community, family and circle of friends are important messages the Clontarf Foundation continually shares with our boys.

Everyone can develop and demonstrate the qualities of a good leader.

Just a few months ago, one of our young Academy members in Alice Springs, Moses Nelson, displayed great courage and compassion by assisting a woman in need in the local street. Moses showed that as a responsible and concerned community member, he made the right decision to help another.

In Geraldton WA, students from the Midwest Academy have been running a sporting program for children with disabilities in a local school. Our boys have loved every minute of the activities and have been inspired by these young children who retain such a positive outlook on life.

Every day we see examples of our young men putting others before themselves, showing commitment and dedication to their schooling, and building their dream for a positive future. With the support of government, the corporate sector and the community, the Clontarf Foundation can continue to assist and inspire these young men around the country.

Yirrkal Academy members enjoy meeting the Prime Minister in June



clontarf foundation

Learning about leadership

The traits and characteristics of good leaders are the skills that we aim to help all Clontarf participants to develop.

When people think about leadership, we often look at prominent public figures and suggest that we are trying to develop our young participants into one of them.

However, the Clontarf Foundation's aim is to look at the traits and characteristics of good leaders and work to instil these into all of the young men with whom we work. In doing this, we can develop strong young men who may build the capacity to become good leaders.

Leadership is one of the five core Learning Areas of the Foundation's program. It is also one area that we receive most questions about and often the areas which people find most confusing.

What are the traits of good leaders?

Everyone could develop their own list, but the Foundation believes some of the traits that contribute to leadership include respect, honesty, strong communication, organisational skills, consistency, responsibility, good values, thoughtful decision-making, openness, fairness, humour and the ability to assist and support others.

Clontarf's leadership program

People often think about one-off activities such as an adventure course to promote leadership. Within the Foundation we take a much broader approach to the establishment of leadership. We identify the traits we believe are important in good leaders and then design a series of strategies and activities to develop these particular traits for each and every one of our participants.

These activities are woven into the general Academy program and constantly reinforced through a range of experiences and social settings in which Academy members engage.

Some of the activities that promote leadership include:

- Public speaking experiences including presentations, acknowledging visiting groups or teams, giving instructions and conducting coaching clinics
- Planning and organising events and equipment
- Working with others less fortunate than ourselves
- Being a role model to younger students
- Assisting younger students within the school setting
- Conducting and participating in community service activities
- Carrying out roles such as umpire and coach

When we are able to assist students to develop these skills and traits, the Foundation believes that given the right environment and opportunity, our young men will be able to grow into leaders. This leadership may be demonstrated in a number of ways including, but not limited to, being a good parent, partner, coach or community leader.

Working together

The relationship between Academy and school staff is critical to maximising the attendance, behaviour and graduation outcomes for Clontarf participants. The schools in which the Clontarf Academy is discretely immersed, are our most productive programs.

In each Academy, the school's successes are our successes and vice versa. Academy staff work hard and are diligent about developing relationships with all school staff.

Brad Puls, Regional Manager of Central Academies in NT, has worked for the Clontarf Foundation since 2001. Brad was the Director of the Clontarf Academy in Perth before moving to Alice Springs, NT in 2007.

A former school principal, Brad says: "A great school-Academy relationship provides the base for a great program. Never underestimate the importance of the front office staff, cleaners, groundsman and canteen staff, as well as the teachers and senior administrators."

Brad also realises there are occasional differences in opinion, "Clontarf staff come across situations within the school that need working through, this is part of the job. By working together, we can achieve so much more for the Clontarf participants."

Father-Son a First

Mark McLean is about to start work as the Director of the Nightcliff Academy in Darwin after spending three years at Dripstone Academy as an Operations Officer.



Mark's father, Michael McLean, is currently the Director of Clontarf's Palmerston Academy, also located in Darwin. This is the first father-son staff combination in the Clontarf Foundation and we know that Michael is a wonderful role model and leader for his family as well as our Academy members.

Victorian Academies hit Melbourne for a weekend of leadership activities including a dinner at the Essendon Football Club with former Clontarf student Paddy Ryder and other Indigenous sportsmen and women. The annual camp coincides with the AFL's Dreamtime at the G game at the MCG between Essendon and Richmond, where the boys were part of the crowd.





Raven Marika (left) and Gudalum Mununggurr enjoy life outside their comfort zone in Victoria

Crossing Borders

Two Year 10 Yirrkala Academy students had the privilege of spending six weeks in Geelong, Victoria, living with a host family and attending Geelong College in Term 2.

Gudalum Mununggurr and Raven Marika were selected to participate in this cross cultural experience due to their commitment to school and the Clontarf Foundation program at Yirrkala College in East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

During the six-week visit Gudalam and Raven took part in a range of educational, leadership, and sport-based activities, all of which aimed to build new skills and expose the boys to life outside their home community.

Activities included spending a week at the Geelong College outdoor education campus at Mokboree, playing in the school football team, attending surfing lessons and making excursions into Melbourne.

Participating in this visit has given the two young men an important insight into life outside of Yirrkala and is a great platform for developing leadership skills for the future at the Yirrkala Academy.

Leading Ladies

Carnarvon Academy students celebrated the important role played by the women in their lives at a morning tea on May 17.



Acknowledging the effort and dedication of family members is an important aspect of the Clontarf program. With the support of the strong women in their lives, the boys are assisted to reach positive education, behaviour and health outcomes while being part of the Academy.

Mums, Aunties, grandmothers and sisters were welcomed for a tour of the school and Academy room before enjoying a morning tea with Academy staff, students and teachers.

The proud Mums and guardians were presented with a framed photograph of their boy as recognition for their son attending 10 training sessions during Term 1. The boys are now looking forward to the next family day; a father-son football match.

A New Door Opens

The Kormilda Academy has had a successful first term and quickly become a positive part of daily life at Kormilda College in Darwin.

The Academy, which opened in April, includes a few 'day' school students, however the great majority of the new Clontarf members are boarding students from communities around the Northern Territory, as well as Western Australia and Queensland.

Almost 120 students joined up in the first 11 weeks and induction camps to Katherine and Jabiru have given the great majority of those students a taste of Academy life.

The focus of the Academy this term has been on staff and members getting to know each other, putting together an Academy room and getting out and visiting other Academies. But there has still been plenty of time for training and games, as well as other sporting activities.



Kormilda students are happy to have Clontarf on-site

One of the really positive aspects of the Kormilda Academy in its opening months has been the focus on getting young men from different communities to mix in and work together. There has been plenty of feedback from school staff, who have noted the calmness that has developed across the school grounds during Term 2.



Kormilda players at the 2011 Territory Cup

The presence of four dedicated Clontarf staff members has been crucial to this change, along with the set up of a vibrant, well-run Academy room. For the senior students in particular, the chance to train for the Territory Cup before the holidays had a big impact on their focus in the second half of the term.

The school principal, David Shinkfield, has expressed his satisfaction with the impact the program has had, pointing to the disciplined approach the students have had to training and the increasingly settled environment of the College as evidence of the Kormilda Academy's early success.

Warrnambool's Emerging Leaders

The Warrnambool Academy's newly elected leadership group has embarked on their first local project.

Eighteen months on since its inception, the Warrnambool Academy now has a functioning and determined leadership group which was elected during Term 1.

The boys were chosen for their leadership potential, excellent attitude towards school and Academy activities, and the way in which they each demonstrate what 'Clontarf' represents.

The leadership group has been providing a guiding hand and support especially to our new members finding their way. They have been able to help with delivering and upholding the 'Clontarf Code of Conduct' that was established earlier this year on their Induction Camp.

The most recent activity that the boys have taken on is a Primary School 'buddy program' with the Year 1 class at West Warrnambool Primary School. The sessions have seen a positive relationship and a sense of trust develop between our boys and their little buddies. The Clontarf students are on-hand to help in the classroom with reading, maths and literacy activities.



Warrnambool Academy members reading to their Year 1 'buddies'

West Warrnambool has really embraced Clontarf, and the involvement of our boys. It has been very pleasing to watch the buddy program grow and develop, and pave the way for other Primary schools to participate.

Principal Gavin Arnott believes the early stages of the program have been successful, saying: "We are very pleased with Clontarf and are excited about the prospect of developing that relationship further."

"The buddy program put in place will greatly benefit our students and it's fantastic to witness the leadership roles that the Clontarf boys are modelling. This is an absolute win-win for everyone," he said.

Getting an Early Start

In many locations, Clontarf programs engage Primary School students to give future Academy members a taste of what they can expect. The engagement varies from full-time programs in a handful of schools to weekly visits by senior Academy members. The benefits for our existing Academy boys' leadership development is significant.



A group of enthusiastic Gunbalanya Academy Primary students (West Arnhem Land, NT) enjoyed a day-trip to Darwin for their first excursion for the year



Midwest Academy students (Geraldton, WA) work with local children with disabilities in a sporting engagement program



At the Gilmore Academy (Kwinana, WA) senior students make weekly visits to local Primary Schools and mentor Indigenous students in the classroom

Full Circle

Two Clontarf graduates now enjoy the responsibility and challenge of working for the Foundation and leading Academy students in the right direction.

One of the key goals of any Clontarf program is to assist young men to secure meaningful employment. Graduates with the necessary dedication and skills to become a Clontarf staff member, are welcomed with open arms.

Calib Jones (2005) and Rodney Corbett (2006) completed Year 12 at Geraldton Senior College in the Midwest Academy in WA and are both now in their third year of working for Clontarf. Calib is based at the Midwest Academy in Geraldton and Rodney at the Roebourne Academy in the Pilbara, both in WA.

Calib spent two years at AFL club Fremantle in Perth before deciding to return home. He admits having great relationships with families and friends in and around the Geraldton community was the main factor in his decision to return home.

Calib with Primary students from Mullewa, WA



Respect and leadership were important life skills that Calib learnt at the Academy which he uses today in his role as Operations Officer. "I enjoy being a positive role model, showing initiative and being respected by showing respect," he said.

Rodney has spent time at the Midwest and Karratha Academies before taking his position at Roebourne this year. He believes showing commitment - whether it's to school, football or family life - is the key to getting the most out of a Clontarf program.

Rodney with Roebourne Academy Year 12s in Perth, WA



Passionate about his culture, Rodney happily encourages young Academy members to speak up and be heard, saying, "Leadership is about standing out from the crowd, saying no when you have to and being an approachable person."

Ryder an Inspiration

Clontarf Academies in Victoria celebrated the AFL's Indigenous Round by competing for the Paddy Ryder Cup at Windy Hill, home of the Essendon Football Club.



Paddy Ryder (right) shares his story with Clontarf members at Windy Hill, Victoria

Activities over the weekend included attending the AFL's 'Dreamtime at the G' game at the MCG, joining The Long Walk with Michael Long, visiting the Victoria Markets in Melbourne, listening to Indigenous guest speakers and boarding at Camberwell Grammar School.

The highlight for many of the boys was being hosted by the Essendon Football Club where Clontarf Academy graduates Paddy Ryder (2005), Leroy Jetta (2005) and Mark Williams (2000) are currently playing. Paddy was also an inaugural member of the Midwest Academy in 2004.

After watching training, the boys were organised into four teams, mixing up the Clontarf Academies with students from Rumbalara Football Club and Camberwell Grammar School for the inaugural Paddy Ryder Cup. After the games, Paddy presented several awards and shared his personal story with the boys.

Later on, the boys were given a tour of the Essendon facilities and were guests at dinner alongside current players and famous Indigenous footballers, past and present.

The 42 Clontarf students who participated were selected from our Bairnsdale, Mildura, Robinvale, Swan Hill and Warrnambool Academies based on their attendance, commitment and positive attitude and behaviours during the term.



River of Dreams

Derek Rivers arrived in Albany, WA in July 2008 as a shy Year 10 student from Halls Creek. After overcoming homesickness he settled into the Great Southern Academy.

Derek has always been highly respected by fellow students at the Academy and has been a fantastic mentor to other Kimberley region students staying at the Albany Residential College, where he boards. Derek's preferred career option is to work in the Mining Industry as a Heavy Diesel Mechanic.

Last year, Derek graduated from North Albany Senior High School and currently he is less than 50 hours away from completing an Aboriginal School Based Traineeship Certificate II in Automotive. Upon completing his traineeship, Derek will be seeking full-time employment with his qualifications.

Derek's decision to return to school in 2011 to complete his traineeship showed great maturity and was influenced by advice from the Clontarf and teaching staff in Albany. He continues to be a terrific role model for younger Academy members.



Territory Cup 2011

The annual Territory Cup was a great success with 12 Clontarf Academies from NT and WA contesting a two-day football carnival in Darwin in June. Over 230 Clontarf Year 10-12 members were selected to participate in the event after meeting behaviour, attendance and school work criteria.

This year's Cup grew with the addition of two WA Academies, Halls Creek and East Kimberley, and featured new NT Academies Kormilda and Yirkala. The hosting of the carnival has been shared between Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Darwin in recent years.

The Clontarf Foundation is pleased to reward our senior Academy boys with an event that leads into the mid-year break in the NT. All the young men involved represented Clontarf and their school with excellence.

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.

Using the passion that Aboriginal boys have for football allows Clontarf to attract the boys to school. But it is not a sporting program.

Each Clontarf Academy, formed in partnership with the local school, is focussed 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 assist 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 Snapshot

States	WA, NT, VIC
Schools	45
Participants	2,568
Staff	137

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.

APA Group	Landcorp
BHP Billiton Nickel West	Lycopodium Minerals
Crosslands Resources	Miriuwung Gajerrong Corporation
Cridlands MB Lawyers	Piacentini & Son
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Galaxy Resources	Wesfarmers
Goldman Sachs & Partners Foundation Australia	

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A handful of our Clontarf graduates who are working, undertaking training or studying at University came to the Clontarf Foundation's office in Perth on May 18 to meet Senator the Hon. Mark Arbib, Minister for Sport; Indigenous Employment and Economic Development; Social Housing and Homelessness



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