



the QUARTERLY



October 2011

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Welcome to the October edition of our Clontarf Quarterly newsletter.



clontarf foundation

Dylan Haynes received the NAIDOC Apprentice of the Year Award from his employer and Clontarf Foundation partner Leighton Contractors

Apprentice of the Year

2010 Clontarf Academy graduate Dylan Haynes is thriving in his first year of full-time employment.

Dylan Haynes, from Darwin, was recently named Leighton Contractors' WA NAIDOC Apprentice of the Year at a ceremony at Perth's Novotel Langley Hotel in August.

He is now WA's candidate at the national finals to be held later in the year after proving he is a highly capable apprentice with an outstanding attitude to work.

Dylan started his employment journey with Leighton Contractors last year as an ASBA, a Year 12 pre-apprenticeship program, while finishing his studies at Clontarf Aboriginal College in Waterford.

After impressing his supervisors he was offered a boilermaker apprenticeship in January 2011 and has excelled in all aspects of his job while boarding in Perth for a third consecutive year.

Dylan said moving to Perth and enrolling in the Clontarf Academy as a Year 11 student in 2009 was a significant decision in his life.

"I was living in Darwin, hanging around the wrong crowd and got into trouble," Dylan said, adding: "I had to get away so I came down to Clontarf (Academy) and started again."

Dylan credits Clontarf Academy staff with helping him achieve secondary graduation and directing him to enrol in an ASBA with Leighton Contractors. Currently, Dylan is mentoring Year 12 students undertaking the program and is aiming to be a supervisor with Leighton's after his apprenticeship.

At a recent Employment Forum in Perth, Dylan attended and advised Year 12 Clontarf students about the transition from school to employment.

The value of
Community Interaction

Clontarf hits the streets
in Perth

Yule Brook Academy host
WA Governor

Clontarf Employment
Forums

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Your questions answered

How do we involve the community in our programs?

Part of our "Statement of Purpose" requires us to equip our boys "so that they can participate more meaningfully in society."

This means that in order to satisfy the requirements of our Charter our boys, when they graduate, must not only possess the skills needed to interact with a wide range of people in different social settings but also feel confident in doing so. The Clontarf program develops the skills and self-esteem needed for this in a number of distinct stages.

Firstly each member of our staff works hard to create a climate of trust and mutual respect between themselves and Academy participants. Having achieved this they then work with each boy to encourage him to improve his sense of self-worth, confidence and social skills.

As each boy grows in confidence he is progressively exposed to a range of new social situations that provide him with opportunities to interact with the broader community. At a very basic level this can involve activities such as travelling in groups to carnivals, dining out in groups at restaurants or learning to play golf on public courses.

All young men are encouraged to join community sporting teams and play community sport on weekends; Clontarf staff members support them and help them achieve this. Community sport not only extends the range of people with whom they interact but also provides an opportunity for them to showcase their skills, experience success and as a consequence become more confident.

All of our Academies become involved in projects and activities that are designed to benefit the community in which they operate. Some examples of the numerous community programs we embrace are presented (pictured right) as part of this article.

Our Academies also interact extensively with our partners and their employees. Examples of the many forms that this interaction can take include:

- Attendance at formal luncheons hosted by partners' staffs on their business premises and in certain instances, even in their board rooms;
- Playing football or other games against our partners' staff or against their teachers or, in several instances, against the local policemen;
- Inviting guests to visit their Academies then cooking and serving meals for them;
- Acting as masters of ceremony at public events such as concerts, sporting events, openings of new Academies; and
- Welcoming VIP visitors to their Academies, acting as hosts and publicly thanking visitors for their visits.

Through all of the above means and many more we aim to produce confident, well rounded citizens who are not only capable of contributing to the communities in which they live but also of experiencing and enjoying the many good things that their communities have on offer.

Clontarf students participate in community activities promoting a sense of connection and leadership in their local community.



A group of enthusiastic Bairnsdale Academy students (Victoria) transformed an East Gippsland Water Station into a mural with local artist Brendon Sims



Sanderson Academy students volunteer their morning to assist St Vincent de Paul Society to provide breakfast for less fortunate people in Darwin, NT



Tennant Creek Academy (NT) students participate in a community triathlon during the Barkly Region Australia Day celebrations

Nightcliff Journey Begins

The Nightcliff Academy opened its doors at Darwin's Nightcliff Middle School in July and is already having a positive impact on Academy members.

Nightcliff Academy members



The boys started off their journey with an induction camp to get to know each other and to learn about what it means to be part of the Clontarf Foundation. Another highlight for the Academy was participating in the Northern Carnival held in Katherine on August 15.

The school staff have been extremely supportive of the program and feedback from the teachers suggest the boys are happier and more proactive in class. Attendance rates have already improved dramatically with a handful of students achieving 100% school attendance since the Academy opened.

The Nightcliff Academy continues to grow and develop as it cements an important place at Nightcliff Middle School.

WA Governor Impressed

Perth's Yule Brook Academy proudly hosted the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AO QC, in early September to provide an insight into a Clontarf Foundation program. In July, Mr McCusker accepted the offer to become the Clontarf Foundation's WA Patron.



Yule Brook Academy's Jermaine Lewis-Miller (Year 10), Brett Woods (Year 9) and Tyren Maclou (Year 8) with Mr McCusker at Yule Brook College

Mr McCusker, accompanied by Mrs Tonya McCusker and three-year-old daughter Mary, were given a tour of the Academy room before students from three year groups outlined some of the daily operations and activities of the Academy. Mr McCusker followed with a brief presentation to the students about his role as Governor of WA and shared some of his life experiences.

Later, four Clontarf graduates who attended Yule Brook Academy in 2008 explained their journey from school graduation to engagement in employment and university. Mr McCusker was very impressed that Yule Brook College was a semi-finalist in two WA Educational Awards in 2010.

The Academy has had a significant positive impact on the College since opening in July 2005 and continues to develop the skills and abilities of young men that assists with their education, self-confidence and employment prospects.

Governor-General visits Pilbara

The Karratha Academy had the honour of hosting Australia's Governor-General and National Clontarf Foundation Patron, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, in August.

RIGHT: The Governor-General speaks with senior students from the Karratha Academy



Ms Bryce, accompanied by Mr Michael Bryce AM AE, toured the Karratha Senior High School grounds greeting and talking with students before arriving at the Academy room.

The visitors were welcomed by Year 12 student Jono Brown who answered some questions about the Karratha Academy and later thanked Ms Bryce for her visit. Ms Bryce spoke to Academy members about her values on education and her support for the Clontarf Foundation and the positive outcomes being achieved, locally and nationally.

"Education is the key to everything," Ms Bryce said, adding: "The key to all the things young people aspire for in their lives such as getting a job, opportunities to travel or just hanging in there."

Feedback has reinforced the significance of the Governor-General's visit with all the boys very appreciative of such a significant Australian leader, spending some quality time with them in their home town and taking an interest in their achievements.



Karratha Academy Director Darren Rigby and Clontarf Foundation CEO Gerard Neesham with the Governor-General



Clontarf Foundation students with Santos staff at the 2011 City to Surf in Perth, WA

Clontarf hits the streets for the City to Surf

An important part of our philosophy is to provide opportunities for our students to interact with new people, places and situations.

Clontarf is always looking for new avenues of interaction and Perth's City to Surf fun run held on Sunday, August 26, was a fantastic opportunity to connect our students with one of our partners, Santos.

In the month leading up to the event, Clontarf Academy participants joined Santos staff twice a week for training sessions. The Foundation had two Academies participate in the four and 12km sections of the event as staff and students from the Carnarvon and Clontarf Academies joined a record 42,000 participants to complete the run.

Following the race, Academy members were invited to join the Santos team in their tent. This was a great experience for students, providing them with an environment to interact with community members and practice social skills being modelled in the Academy.

The City to Surf was a wonderful day and the first of which we hope will become an annual event with Santos. We look forward to more students from different Academies becoming involved in the future.



Travis Philp with Minister Dixon

Minister in Mildura

The Mildura Academy received a special visit from the Victorian Education Minister, the Hon Martin Dixon MLA, in late August.

While touring Mildura, Mr Dixon made time to visit the Academy and speak with some of the young men in the program. He gained a greater insight into how a Clontarf program operates by discussing first-hand experiences with the boys.

Following a barbeque dinner, Year 12 Academy member Travis Philp thanked Mr Dixon for his visit and presented him with a Mildura Academy shirt. Mr Dixon responded with some kind words about how impressed he was with the boys and the Clontarf program in Victoria.

Warrdongs New Nest

It took three years to come to fruition, however the Gilmore Academy moved into their new Academy building. The Academy, nicknamed the Warrdongs (*Noongar word for crow*), is located 40km south of Perth in Kwinana.

On Wednesday, September 21, staff and students of the Gilmore Academy were joined by a long list of special guests, partners and family members to officially open the new Academy room.

Through the hard work of many and the support of the WA Department of Education, the Academy has its own purpose built facility to operate the program.

Academy rooms provide a safe and supportive environment within the school. This is a vital part of a Clontarf program's strategy of engaging young men in education.

Speakers at the opening ceremony included the WA Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Minister Peter Collier, Clontarf Foundation CEO Gerard Neesham, Alcoa National Partnerships Manager Sarah Fordham, Gilmore College Principal Carolyn Cook and Director of the Gilmore Academy Brad Collard.



Katyn Culbong addressing the crowd at the ceremony

The ceremony was expertly facilitated by MC Katyn Culbong, a Year 11 Academy student, who ensured the morning ran smoothly.

At the completion of the formalities guests, students and parents enjoyed a morning tea that was prepared by the Gilmore College cooking students. A number of guests then undertook a tour of the facility conducted by Academy staff which provided further insight into how the Foundation and Academies operate.

The new building looks fantastic and includes a spacious Academy room, class room with computers, staff office space and a storage facility.

Feedback from Academy members has been very positive and students have mentioned how proud they are of their new building and feel very privileged to finally be in it.

2011 Employment Forums

The Clontarf Foundation continues to grow its Employment Forums with nine forums held this year throughout Western Australia and the Northern Territory involving over 250 young Indigenous men.

The Clontarf Employment Forums are an important strategy in linking our graduates with our partners. Clontarf partners are able to meet Academy members and discuss information on careers and employment opportunities.

A key focus of the Clontarf program is to create the expectation that all leavers will be employed, engaged in training or attending university when they complete school.

For our young men, it is very difficult to participate meaningfully in today's society and feel a sense of purpose if there is no prospect of employment. Being employed leads to improved income for families and communities, which in turn has a positive influence on the health and education of children.

It also enhances self-esteem, increases opportunities for self-development, influences interaction at the family and community levels and reduces social alienation. Therefore, it is an essential element of the Clontarf program.

The series of regional Employment Forums commenced in Broome where the West Kimberley and Derby Academies hosted 16 Clontarf partners and local businesses.

Following that, forums have been held in Karratha, Geraldton, Esperance, Darwin, Kalgoorlie, Kununurra and Alice Springs.

Employers have been able to provide an insight into the local job market and widen the career experiences of Clontarf senior students.

All forums were fortunate enough to have ex-graduates attend and address the boys about their experience in successfully making the transition to the world of work.

The largest and final Employment Forum was held in Perth on Friday, September 23. It was a great success with 18 tables of employers engaging with around 80 boys from seven Academies, including new programs in Northam and Katanning.

Lance Pickett, a 2010 Sevenoaks graduate, spoke well to those assembled about his first year out of school as a business administration trainee with Woodside. The process of supporting our students into employment occurs over many months and is a particular focus for Year 11 and Year 12 students.

Exposing the boys to a wide range of potential jobs and industries maximises the chance of a successful transition from school to the workplace. The next step is to continue working together to help these boys make a smooth transition to employment.

Clontarf staff seek to remain in the lives of these young men after they leave school, particularly in the transition year, where mentoring and support is critical.



West Kimberley Employment Forum, Broome



Pilbara Employment Forum, Karratha



East Kimberley Employment Forum, Kununurra



Top End Employment Forum, Darwin



Perth Employment Forum, Perth



The annual Clontarf Foundation Professional Development weekend was held on WA's Rottneest Island in early August. It was exciting to see a record number of staff come together, including 28 new members.

For the first time the Clontarf Foundation Board made the journey for the PD and Chairman Ross Kelly addressed the whole group about the roles and responsibilities of the board.

The Foundation was privileged to have Dave 'Tiger' Regan, Dr Richard Wally OAM and Mr Ernie Dingo AM volunteer their time as special guests during the weekend.

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	135

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.

DTMT Construction
Iluka Resources Ltd
Melville Rotary Club
Western Power
Yeperenye Pty Ltd

Workplace Giving donations

There is a significant number of individuals that support the Clontarf Foundation through their work place giving program.

We are very appreciative and thank you for your ongoing support. If you would like to know more about donating or work place giving, click in the box below:

Interested in supporting our Foundation?
[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

Casuarina Academy in Darwin hosted the Clontarf Foundation's first official Rugby League tournament, the Northern 10s, which featured four NT Academies



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