

Tumut Clontarf Academy

Clontarf Newsletter

Term 1 2024



clontarf
foundation



ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Tumut Clontarf Academy was founded in 2019 and operates out of Tumut High School. It caters for students in Years 7 to 12 and currently has 43 boys engaged in the programme.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Clontarf Foundation exists to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and by doing so equips them to participate meaningfully in society.

SCHOOL DETAILS

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Message from the Staff

The Tumut Academy has hit the ground running in 2024 after what would certainly be considered by staff and students a well-earned break. Record numbers already at morning training and afternoon activities and high student engagement, certainly gives everyone involved high confidence of 2024 being a very special year for the Tumut Clontarf Academy. Whilst mentioning records, we certainly have to mention that this year we have record registration numbers with a total of 43 boys registered in the program, largely thanks to great numbers in our fresh Year 7 cohort of 11 registered lads with a possible two more in the wings.

Already after 11 weeks there have been many highlights and special moments, from volunteering at swimming carnivals, to meeting Rugby League Legend, Greg Inglis. Term 1 certainly has not disappointed. As we already look forward to the following terms, the rest of 2024 is jam packed with not only heaps of fun, but also rewarding life experiences and teachings that will ensure the impact of the program on the boys will last a lifetime.

Looking ahead we can mention, Albury Rugby League Carnival, Special National Clontarf Partners Experience, Employment Forum,

Snowy 2.0 tour, Ross Kelly Cup (Sydney), Year 12 trip to Darwin (or possibly Cairns and Thursday Island) First Aid Courses, White Card Courses, Work Experience, Part Time Workers Dinners, Alumni Catch Ups and the list goes on and on with what is in the Planners for the next three terms that lay ahead.

The impact of the program still is proving to be long lasting for our young men, in a catch up late last year staff were able to touch base with a number of our alumni and we are pleased to report great news on many fronts, former member Adam Beaver had received a fulltime apprenticeship with DME, Tay Crane currently working fulltime at AKD, Aidan Breed completing his traineeship in Logistics and Warehousing with Snowy Hydro (also a huge thank you to all the Tumut 3 staff of Snowy Hydro in assisting Aidan in getting his P's as well) and Thomas Hibbens finishing his apprenticeship to become a qualified chef (and currently part of the head chef team at the Royal Hotel Tumut). Well done lads, these are just a few stories of the boys that have completed the program. One final story from our Alumni is a congratulations to Reggie Coe and his beautiful partner Amelia Kerr on their engagement over the break.



Little Moths take flight....

After having the first attempt of the Year 7 induction camp postponed, last week our next batch of "Little Moths" took flight for their first ever Clontarf camp. The Year 7 group is our largest and already the boys have strong bonds with the program with as many as six of the boys participating in morning training sessions in Term 4 of 2023 as part of our transition program.

The boys set flight after a PLP goal setting session to head up the Snowy Mountains to stay in Talbingo. After dropping our gear off to great Academy supporters James and Di at the Talbingo Caravan Park, the group drove to the Yarangabilly Caves with also the obligatory group photo at the Balck Perry Lookout. The lookout sorted a few nerves out early for the lads not to keen on heights but the pic is a memorable one. Once at the Caves it was the hike down to the Thermal Pool and some lunch, this is a real "Clontarf" experience for the lads, lunch being chicken and salad wraps, a true staple of Clontarf Camp life. After the Dip at the Pool, It was back to Talbingo for our Boomerang session followed by some touch footy, the Clontarf spirit shown amongst the group was outstanding for a young group with not a full understanding of how we interact playing sport, so many laughs and smiles were shared amongst the group, including sharing prizes with Willie Thorpe winning the Boomerang throwing and sharing his prize with Aiden Moorehead. Other boys to shine at the throwing was Lucas Minogue and

Reece Gilchrist. Once the session led into football a few more lads really started to show their ability with our new bookends Khobi Bousfield and Jordyn Damm showing that they will really be a great pair for years to come at Clontarf Footy, also some magic play from Ashton Back and Bud Pieremont creating opportunity for the speedster Liam Fell to score plenty of tries.

The footy got the blood pumping again and the sweat flowing so we headed to the Talbingo beach to cool off and have a closer look at the outside of the Tumut 3 Power Station.

The evening sessions included dinner and a chat from Chappy and Chicka about Clontarf, they were joined by Mitch Fennessy our employment officer for these sessions, this gave the lads a better understanding of the support that is available for them in and out of school.

Once up and cracking for the morning after a great nights sleep, the lads were disappointed to hear that the athletics carnival was cancelled, however the disappointment soon changed to excitement as the plans then changed to drive to Wagga for a game of laser tag. These Tag sessions were another great team building exercise with boys working together to achieve success. Ryly Brewer was a standout with his stealth like skills that earned him the nickname the smiling assassin.



Top Blokes Tour.....

The opportunity to head to the coast was the camp for the Year 8, 9 and 10 boys this term. "The Top Blokes Tour" was an overnighter down to Wollongong finishing with a day at the extremely popular Jamberoo Water Park to finish. Ten lads got to experience coastal weather before things cooled down, with the group getting to stay at Towradgi Surf Club, this club is an amazing setting and club president Paul Lumby welcomed the boys and also gave them a really valuable session on beach and water safety about the local beach. The Tumut Academy is extremely thankful for this session and very grateful of Paul and the members to have us use their great facility, and it will certainly be a place that is used again in the future.

Another great plus of the venue was its proximity to facilities such as the dining at the Towradgi Bowls Club where the lads enjoyed Pizzas to then settle in to watch

the Thursday night footy back at the Surf Club.

Much like the Year 7 camp, the huge highlight of the camp was how the boys all interacted with each other, given a large cross section of Year groups, the lads all mingled and played together perfectly, this even included in the pitching in at clean up and swag pack up time.

Jamberoo is an exciting fun place to visit and all boys had a crack at the rides, some needing a little encouragement (including Chicka) but in the end we all managed to get outside of our comfort zones. It was a great reward for a group of young men that had such high attendance and all of which had modelled "Clontarf Style" behavior's either in community or at school throughout the term. Well done lads. Plans are already underway for a term 4 visit when the sun comes out again.





Year 12 Regional Leadership Camp

The Tumut Clontarf Academy attended a highly successful Year 12 Leadership Camp in Sydney during the term. The camp was filled with a range of activities and opportunities that allowed our students to grow and bond in a meaningful way. One of the highlights of the camp was our visit to NSW HQ, where we kicked things off with an exciting game of touch football. The enthusiasm and sportsmanship displayed by the students was truly inspiring. We would like to acknowledge our special guest, Jono Wright, for sharing his knowledge during the camp, especially for leading the session in a powerful war dance. His encouragement for everyone to step out of their comfort zones was truly motivating. During the camp, we had the opportunity to hear a powerful story from the NRL on the impact of gambling, shedding light on an important issue that affects our community. This session provided valuable insights and lessons that we believe will stay with us for a long time. In addition, a round of golf was organized with over 25 partners joining us, providing a platform for our members to network with influential individuals. This experience was invaluable and allowed our boys to engage with a diverse group of people, fostering connections that will be beneficial for their personal and professional growth.

To unwind and have some fun, our Academy members also enjoyed testing their skills on boogie boards at Bondi Beach. It was a refreshing and enjoyable experience that added a touch of adventure to the camp. Overall, the Year 12 Leadership Camp was a rewarding and enriching experience for our attendees from throughout the region and obviously our boys Lachlan and Isaac. We are confident that the lessons learned, the bonds formed, and the memories created during this camp will have a lasting impact on our Academy. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this camp a success. Thank you once again to every one of you for your participation and dedication during the camp. Let us carry forward the lessons and memories from this experience as we continue to grow and support each other as a group.

Also Late in the Term Lachlan Breed gained selection into the Clontarf Riverina Senior Team (Pictured Below) at the time of printing the Team had won two of its first three games at the state knockout. Well done Lachy!



Year 11 Dinner

A key annual event on the Tumut Academy calendar is the Year 11 dinner held in Term 1 every year, with the intention of linking the school supports with the Clontarf supports to the families of the Year 11 boys.

This year was an exceptional roll up with all boys and families in attendance as well as Mr Taylor (Principal), Ms Whyte (Year Advisor), Mrs Stroud (Careers Advisor) and Ms Dean (Head Teacher of Learning and Support) joining Clontarf Academy staff Chappy and Chicka as well as Regional Manager Pat Edmunds and Employment Officer Mitch Fennessy. The group all enjoyed a lovely meal prepared by Head Chef and Clontarf Alumni Thomas Hibbens with the assistance of his twin brother and fellow alumni Jamie Hibbens.

Both Mr Taylor and Chappy addressed the group outlining the willingness of all school and Clontarf staff wanting to assist the boys as they transition into senior study and also making sure that parents felt comfortable in reaching out for supports or information over the next two years of schooling for their child.



Giving back to Community

A key element of the program is giving back to the community, and this is something that the Tumut Academy prides itself on. This Term we have been lucky enough to have a number of community events to be a part of, including hosting two morning tea's, the first being our termly "Teachers Morning Tea", and the next being a special farewell to Tumut High's AEO, Aunty Winnie Bulger. Aunty Win has played an important role not only at Tumut High over the last 24 years but also in assisting Clontarf Mentors Chicka and Chappy in settling into the education world. We are extremely grateful.

Other great community events have included lads giving back to their primary schools through volunteering at the swimming carnivals, former Tumut Public Students Haydyn Damm, Jai Crampton and Will Baker jumped at the opportunity to give back to their old stomping ground by keeping time for events and assisting teaching staff for the day. The lads are pictured below with some Tumut Public students who appreciated seeing the Clontarf Tumut boys involved at the swimming carnival. Also pictured is Haydyn Damm and Noah Buckmaster cooking the BBQ at the Snowy Valleys School swimming carnival. Well done lads.

The term 2 planner is already filling up with lots of community events from cultural burns, athletics carnivals and Naidoc celebrations all on the agenda.



Upcoming Events

Week 1

- Training commences
- Hunter Academy Visit

Week 2

- Didge Sessions with Lotter Commence
- Health Checks Commence

Week 3

- Health Session (nutrition)
- Year 9 & 10 Camp

Week 4

- Monday Fishing
- Year 7 & 8 Camp

Week 5

- Overnight Fishing Trip
- Hosting Oz Tag

Week 6

- Staff National PD

Week 7

- Teachers Morning Tea

Week 8

- Year 11 & 12 Camp
- Employment Forum

Week 9

- AKD worksite visit
- Special Training Session with Snowy Hydro, Visy, Tumut Blues and Tumut Bulls

Week 10

- Taco Tuesday
- Cultural Day at Snowy Valleys School

Employment.....

The employment space is always a busy one in any Clontarf Academy and at Tumut it certainly is no different. We now have four lads with their Learners Permit and a further two more with their P's. The learners lads have driving lessons booked for term 2 thanks to our regional employment officer and local driving teacher Phil Hayes from B Safe Driving school, so with a bit of luck we will have a few more P Platers to report with next newsletter.

On the actual job front the term has been an exciting one with Daniel Korn (Pictured Below) kicking off his School Based Apprenticeship at Tumut Exhaust and Brake, Seth Post continuing his SBAT with National Parks, and a series of lads doing work experience including Liam Starr at Land Care and Damien Anderson at Geoff Whitbread Mechanical. We encourage all our members to try and get work experience as they progress through school and we thank Tumut High Careers advisor Mrs Jo Stroud for all her ongoing work and support with the boys.

Another great session this term was the Graduation Employment plans sessions held by Mitch with the older members of the Academy, this has given both staff and boys a chance to look at career paths and what may be required on a study and part time employment path of the future. These sessions were well attended, as to where the resume sessions with Mitch in Week 4.



Photos from Term

