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foundation



Tumut Clontarf Academy

TERM 1 NEWS

Newsletter

It did not take long for the Tumut Clontarf Academy to get things rolling for 2022, with some great camps and activities on the calendar as soon as the school year commenced.

Since the pandemic commenced in 2020, camps and external activities have been all but non-existent for the program. With those restrictions changing, Clontarf staff have made the most of the opportunity and made sure that every year group had an overnight camp for the term.

Camps have included trips such as our Regional Leadership to Camp Hudson. This camp was really rewarding for the senior lads which had sessions on goal setting and the importance of finishing school as well as the all-important first planning session for the groups major trip for after completing their HSC. Then the Year 7 Induction in Talbingo which was a perfect introduction to Clontarf Camps for our latest new batch of "Moths", our Year 9 Regional Fishing Comp and Super Training at Gogeldrie Weir and Lake Talbot, the Year 10 RFS Cadet Training in Wagga (pictured below) and our Year 8 Adventure tour to Kiama.

Planning for the next batch of camps for Term 2 is well underway and will also include community engagement sessions and room tours, which have previously been restricted because of COVID 19.



Community and Activities



One of the more popular activities that has returned to the calendar is our “Teachers Morning Tea”, a previous regular fixture on the term planner. Teachers are invited once a term to a morning tea at recess where the Clontarf Boys host them in their space in the academy room. It was a great turn out with high numbers from both staff and Clontarf lads. Ping Pong, pool, chess and Uno all getting a run during the 30 minute break, plus of course some beautiful sandwiches courtesy of the ladies in the canteen and some baking from a few of the budding chefs in the Academy.

Highlights for the Term

Leadership

Completing Year 12 is an excellent example of showing leadership to your younger peers and this year we are lucky to have four lads working hard to complete their schooling. Our Regional Year 12 Leadership camp had two of those boys in attendance - Adam Beaver and Aidan Breed. These lads were joined by 16 other boys from the Clontarf Academies in the region and one thing that stuck out to their Clontarf mentors is their awareness of knowing the example they are setting. Pictured here are Aidan and Adam with fellow Clontarf Boys from the Canobolas Academy in Orange with Snowy Hydro staff Murray Barrett and Matt Richards.



Education



One of our early engagements of the year was an amazing day out for three of our Academy members and three of the girls from Tumut High’s “Burrabinya” program. These students were joined by the little ones from Brungle Public School and had the opportunity to work with Taronga Zoo, Dr Dave Hunter from the DPE and Shane Herrington our regions NRM officer, for the “Corroboree Frog In-Situ Project”. The group spent a day out on country at Micalong Swamp and got the opportunity to explore and learn in frog country; experiencing ‘calling the frogs’ before the season ends, and learn about cultural values and stories of

this place. Such an educational experience for all involved. A massive thanks to the stakeholders for all of their hard work in giving the kids the opportunity.

Wellbeing

As mentioned above, our Year 7 boys got their first camp in very early in the piece this term and it was one to remember. The overnight camp in Talbingo included, a boomerang throwing lesson with Chicka, touch footy, bike riding, bush walking and swimming. The swimming had three different venues, the pool at the Talbingo Tourist Park (massive thanks to James and Dianne for hosting us again this year), Jounama Creek and Blue Water Holes. We returned to Jounama for a second swim to “warm up” after the mountain water further up was a little chilly. Also a big thank you to Head Teacher of Well-Being at the school, Andrew Somerville for taking time after hours to come up and sit in on some great yarning sessions with the boys.



Employment

It would be impossible not to list the Year 10 Camp with the RFS as the highlight of our Employment Calendar for Term 1. Orchestrated by our employment officer Mitch Fennessy, the camp saw six of our Year 10 boys joined by four lads from Mt Austin where they were completed three days training at the RFS headquarters in Wagga Wagga. This was the first stage of training for the lads who will also complete their First Aid course in Term 2 and then complete a Cultural “Cool” Burn at the Wiradjuri Wetlands area in Wagga Wagga. Pictured on the right is Clontarf Member Nate Jackson on the RFS Mitigation Vehicle which is one of the several pieces of equipment that the boys had to learn all about.



Sport

Term 1 has seen a wide focus of sports take place in the program. Mountain Bike Riding, Canoeing, Tennis, Golf, AFL, Rugby League, Oz Tag, Swimming, Pool, Ping Pong, Frisbee, Circuit Training, Volleyball and Tennis all being played throughout the term. One fun sporting activity was the “Iron Man Challenge” as pictured to our right with Braido Freeman, Linkin Fell, Dylan Hodge and Damien Anderson on camp at Kiama. The boys were put through a series of challenges on the beach with Braiden coming out in front for the activity.



Term 2 sees the Rugby League “Clontarf Footy” ramp up. With the Senior State Carnival in Week 1, Year 7 and 8 Regional Carnival in Week 5, and a trial match for our Year 9 and 10 boys in Week 8.

Partners

Partner engagement slowly has begun to take flight again for 2022, the first stop being our regular interaction with our valued Partner, Snowy Hydro. Snowy Hydro hosted us again for a fantastic tour of the T3 station for our Year 12 boys on their Leadership Camp early in the term, which involved being guided around the facility by Peter Symons and Murray Barrett. The senior boys loved the in-depth look at the station, and also whilst on camp the lads managed to catch up with Clontarf Alumni, Jackson Hamson and Josh Cameron. Both boys are currently working for Snowy Hydro as apprentices and they gave up their time to have dinner with the Year 12 boys and also share stories of their final year of schooling as well as offer advice on remaining motivated to complete school.



Looking Ahead

Term 2 of 2022 will see us continue to focus on the return of all activities to the program :

Well Being - Leadership

- Brungle School Working Bee
- Academy Alumni Dinner
- Elders Morning Tea

Education - Employment

- Worksite Mystery Bus Tour
- Health Checks @ Connection
- Helping at Franklin Athletics

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