

Tumut Clontarf Academy

# Clontarf Newsletter

Term 3 2023



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 37 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

Tumut High School  
Bogong Place  
Ph : 0269470600

## STAFF CONTACTS

Mat Chapman : 0408471129

Leon Douglas : 0429000977



# Message from the Director

Another term bites the dust, and I must say, boy o boy it went fast. In saying that it seems like an eternity ago that some of our great activities took place.

For example all the way back in week one Lachlan Breed headed to the north coast with Chicka to play in the Senior Football grand final against Sydney. It was a great result for the Riverina boys finishing in the grand final for the state. Well done.

The term has had its challenges, but I must say that we have finished the final weeks with a flurry and the Academy attendance being at a higher rate than the previous term.

We also have spent the majority of the term working through our annual health checks. These checks are not only the one non-negotiable for our boys, but they also serve as a great tool to tailor the health sessions we put on offer for the following year. A massive thanks to Dr Tran and all of the support staff at the Connection Medical Centre for assisting the Tumut Clontarf Academy in rolling these out for 2023.

Another extremely pleasing factor in Term 3 has been our engagement of Year 6 students into the transition part of the program. We have boys from Tumut Public School and Franklin Public school attending morning training sessions already, and by the looks of the smiles each session, I can confidently say that the future looks bright for engagement at the Academy.

Planning is underway to further increase the engagement of our younger primary

school lads so watch this space for the future.

Looking forward to Term 4 there is plenty on the horizon, Awards Nights (save the date 15th November), Cricket Carnival, Worksite Visits, Health Sessions, Teachers Morning Tea's, Fishing, Golf, Jamberoo Camp, Wet and Wild Camp and a ping pong comp just to name a few. All of these things are hard to achieve without the support of the school staff and commitment of our hard working regional Clontarf Staff, and while I am at it I would like to take the time to thank especially our Operations Office Leon "Chicka" Douglas for all of his hard work throughout the this term in particular. Chicka is a no nonsense bloke who would hate me thanking him, but this term he has gone over and above to make sure the program has run smoothly and efficiently for our boys. Thanks mate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Trish Whitburn on her appointment as the coordinator of the "Stars" Program for Tumut High. This is an exciting time for the school to have a program in the school for the young ATSI ladies here, and the appointment of such a wonderfully community minded woman such as Trish is very exciting.

I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing break and look forward to an exciting Term 4 to finish off 2023.

Regards

Chappy





# Ross Kelly Cup 2023

The Ross Kelly Cup is a marquee event on the Clontarf Calendar and this year was no exception. It is a Rugby League Carnival for Year 9 and 10 Academy Members and like 2022 the Tumut Academy combined with the Karabar Academy from Queanbeyan. (Pictured in the Team Photo)

The carnival this year was held in Tuggerah on the central coast with the Tumut boys choosing to stay at accommodation in Parramatta meant plenty of time was spent on the bus.

Although the carnival was a successful one with the side advancing to the finals stages and the Tumut Moth reps showing moments of brilliance on the footy field, it was not all about the footy. The trip also included a visit to the Clontarf NSW head office at Moore Park and whilst there a bit of Go Karting with the boys from the Koorinal Academy from Wagga.

But the highlight would have been the Ross Kelly Cup Dinner held the night before the carnival held at "The Venue" in Alexandria, Sydney. The dinner hosted valued partners from all over Australia, and all of the teams participating in the Ross Kelly Cup.

There were several guest speakers on the night, one very special guest was former Tumut Academy Member and crowd favourite, Reggie Coe. Reggie and Chappy took the stage for a short chat on how life is traveling for Reg post school and Reggie took the opportunity to chat to the 800 odd boys in the room about staying motivated to finish school.

The chat was a pretty powerful one with all the boys really taking it in, no one more than the four Clontarf Tumut boys in the room in Konrad Tybussek, Linkin Fell, Jonny Minogue and Damien Anderson.





# Brungle Childrens Expo

In Week 4, our Year 7 and 8 boys headed to Brungle for the Brungle Public Schools "Naidoc Childrens Expo". The expo was an amazing event sponsored by Academy partners Snowy Hydro, and the boys were chosen to act as mentors for the groups of primary schools throughout the region that were in attendance. Hundreds of students were on hand from schools including Franklin, Tumut Public, Adelong, Gundaigai, Gundagai South and Bongongo Public.

It was a full day of various stalls from community including all emergency services, activities, workshops, with a focus on Local Aboriginal knowledge, Health and safety and Well Being.

Activities included other things like football games with Zach and Courtney from the NRL, Bush Tucker Sessions with Shane Herrington, Mental Health Sessions with Joe Williams and a special workshop from the team from Burbangana Taronga Zoo Sydney showcasing the "Gyak Dance".

The day also saw the official opening of the schools new Learnscape and Yarning circle which is absolutely magnificent, and once the sun went down the groups of children that were camping the night at the school got to take part in a special stargazing event where they were told

many interesting facts about the solar system as well as how it connects with dreamtime stories.

Event organizer Brodie McDonald was impressed with the efforts from our young leaders on the day, "We would love to thank you for attending our Brungle Children's NAIDOC Expo. We would not have had such a successful day without your attendance. Thank you for strengthening community connections and allowing students and staff the opportunity to interact with your service.

The young lads were complemented by many people all day for their engagement and leadership amongst the younger students. The future is bright with these generous and kind leaders in our community. They should be very proud of themselves and know that we appreciate them. Thanks lads.

Your vibrant contributions enriched our event, adding a joyful and diverse atmosphere that enhanced the enjoyment of all attendees. Your creativity and dedication are greatly appreciated." She wrote in a glowing email after the event.

Well done to all of the boys in attendance for being such great young community leaders.







## Moth's Host Oz Tag Day

As part of our Home and Away series with the Mt Austin, Koorungal and James Fallon (Albury) Academies, the Tumut Academy hosted an Oz Tag day in Week 9 of the Term at Jarrah Oval in Tumut.

The day was action packed with all four Academies displaying "Clontarf Spirit" throughout the day by celebrating tries from any sides that were scoring and helping teams that were short on numbers for some games. A huge thanks to Regional Employment Officer Mitch Fennessy who kept the food and drink up to the boys throughout the day including a massive sausage sizzle that ensured everyone headed home after presentations with a full stomach. Although

everyone from the Tumut side excelled in some way on the day, three boys really stood out both on and off the field. Cordell and Ryan Coe, and Zain Brewer all received massive praise from the staff from the other Academies. Zain went on to win the Clontarf Spirit Award for the day.

These days have been a success throughout 2023 with earlier in the term James Fallon (Albury) hosting an AFL Nines carnival for our Year 9 and 10 Academy members, on that day our two stars were Damien Anderson and Liam Starr both showing great skills in a game that is not always regularly played in our region. We may have a couple of budding AFL stars amongst the boys.





# Clontarf is Working.....

The Tumut Academy has a high amount of members currently employed throughout the community working part time or in school based traineeships. From National Parks, Pie in the Sky, McDonalds Tumut, KFC Tumut and Tumut Exhaust and Brake to name a few, plenty of the boys are learning the importance of having their own financial independence.

Plenty as well have also started upskilling and gaining certificates to further their employment prospects after school. One classic example of this is a recent white card course that was held in Wagga courtesy of Inland Rail. Members from throughout the region took part in the course including four members from the Tumut Academy (Pictured on the right)



## Employment Forum

We held our Annual Riverina Employment forum on the 30th of August at the RSL Club Wagga.

This was the biggest forum we have held in the Riverina with 17 partners/supporters of our program in attendance and over 50 boys from our 8 Riverina Academies.

Kmart, Essential Energy, Woolworths, UGL, Squad, Sunrice, QUBE, Snowy Hydro, VISY, Downer, CPB, TransGrid, ARTC, Inland Rail, Clubs NSW, Coates, Defence were in attendance and spoke to the boys about career opportunities and path ways into employment post school.

Tumut Academy Members Nate Jackson, Lachlan Breed, Seth Post, Isaac Castles, Jonathon Minogue and Daniel Korn all attended the forum and came away with some great insights into careers.

“The guys from VISY were really great to chat with, there seems so many opportunities for work out there” said Year 11 student Isaac Castles.

The event also included a Q and A session with two Alumni, one of which was former Tumut Academy Member and current Woolworths Marketplace Customer Service Manager Daniel Hibbens.

Hibbo answered several questions from the crowd and also spoke to the boys about his Clontarf journey.





# Upcoming Events

## Week 1

- Training Commences

## Week 2

- Taco Tuesday
- Cricket Carnival

## Week 3

- Year 11 Camp

## Week 5

- Health Sessions
- Worksite Visit

## Week 6

- Awards Night  
(15th Nov)

## Week 7

- Teachers Morning Tea

## Week 8

- Year 7 & 8 Camp

## Week 9

- Year 9 & 10 Camp

## Week 10

- Tumut Tokens Shop Up

# Yarning Circle

It seems like forever ago, but all the way back in Week 2, Tumut High hosted a special Naidoc event for visitors at our new Yarning Circle at the rear of the Well Being hub, joined by Local Elders Uncle Pat Connolly and Aunty Sue and Winne Bulger, all of the ATSI students attended the session which included a special smoking ceremony from Shane Herrington, with didge being played by Clontarf Academy members Jarbi Billon and Max Howarth. Both these boys have completed term long blocks at the Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre, and the knowledge they had gained was certainly on show with both boys playing the Yidaki with Shane at the commencement of the event. After the smoking ceremony all of the students, special guest and school staff headed to the Clontarf Academy Room for a special morning tea. A big thanks to canteen staff and Linda from 4 Chicka catering for assisting in making sure everyone was well fed.





# Photos from Term 3

