

Tumut Clontarf Academy

# Clontarf Newsletter

Term 4 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 36 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  
Tumut NSW 2720  
02 6947 0600

## STAFF CONTACTS

Mat Chapman : 0408 471 129  
Leon Douglas : 0429 000 977



# Message from the Director

This year marks a milestone for the Tumut Academy as it has been five years since we started in 2019. In typical Clontarf fashion, the year has flown by with our calendar filled with many valuable experiences as we work alongside the boys, supporting them in their school journey. As we reflect on the year that has been, we would like to highlight some of the achievements of our Academy in 2023.

- Community involvement: We have participated in numerous events this year, supporting and giving back to the community. Some of these events include Anzac Day, Brungle Public School's Stem Expo, NAIDOC events, Elder's Morning Tea, Yarning Circle Openings, Mother's Day Coffee Run, International Women's Day, Cultural Day at Snowy Valleys School, and Clean Up Australia Day. Additionally, we have supported our feeder primary schools, with our boys demonstrating leadership and initiative by running activities for the younger generation.
- Morning training: This is an important part of our program, helping to improve the boys' sleeping patterns while building their confidence and well-being. We trained for a total of over 60 mornings this year, with the boys up and ready for the bus from 6.00 am on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Employment: We are gaining momentum in this area, with 11 boys in our program now employed part-time. Many other boys are seeking support in building their resumes and navigating the job application process.

- Licensing: We are proud to announce that two boys have obtained their Provisional Licences and five boys from Years 10-11 have obtained their Learners Licences. Many boys are gaining driving experience with the help of professional lessons from Phil Hayes from B Safe Driver School each term.
- Camps: We had a total of 12 camps throughout 2023. The purpose of these camps is to build important life skills, boost confidence, and foster relationships among the boys. We had some amazing camps this year, including the Year 7 Induction Camp in Talbingo, the Year 9 and 10 Camp to Canberra and the War Memorial, two top trainers trips to Sydney for the NRL and AFL, two trips to Jamberoo Waterpark, Ross Kelly Cup Sydney, and our Year 11 Major Trip to Sydney.
- Home and away series: This has been a major highlight for the Koorungal, Mount Austin, and James Fallon Academies. Each term, we have a day of sports competitions against each other, fostering friendships and creating lasting memories with boys from other areas.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported or contributed to our program in 2023. We hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all again in 2024!

Cheers,  
Chappy



# Clontarf Awards Night

After hosting the awards ceremony off-site for the previous three years, returning back to the school hall for a community event was incredibly well received by families and community members. "It is great to be back here at the school. I have had a number of parents say that it is nice to see the school in such a positive setting. I think this will lock us in for the future," said operations officer Leon Douglas.

The night was kicked off with a Welcome to Country from Uncle Pat Connolly, who also presented the community awards later in the evening. He was so happy and proud that the winner of that award was his young nephew, Jonny Minogue.

Jonny was one of eight academy members who graced the stage to deliver a recipient speech once he received his major award. Something that impressed a number of spectators, including a large number of Tumut High teachers that were in attendance.

"It was wonderful to see the boys be so grateful and speak so well on the

microphone when they got their awards. It is a big thing to speak to a large crowd like that," said Tumut High careers advisor Jo-Ann Stroud.

Foundation partners Snowy Hydro, VISY, and Woolworths were in attendance to share in the celebration and assist with presenting awards, with Peter Symons from the Tumut 3Power station on hand to assist in giving Jai Crampton the coveted Academy Member of the Year award. Jai had a very successful night capping off a great year by winning not only the major award but also the Principal's Award and the Academic Award.

Other major winners were Cordell Coe and Daniel Korn winning Clontarf Spirit Awards, Konrad Tybussek for his almost perfect attendance, Haydyn Damm winning the Top Trainers Award, and Linkin Fell collecting the Encouragement Award from Academy staff. The ceremony was followed by a very popular serving of slow-cooked meals, giving community members the opportunity to chat with Clontarf staff and students.



# Kings of the Table

Term 4 saw some carnivals differing from the usual Footy and Basketball. In week two, the boys headed off to Wagga for the Annual Regional Cricket Carnival. This year, it was an Indoor Cricket format, and the boys played brilliantly indoors. They won all their heat games against Mt Austin and Griffith, only to be narrowly beaten by Koorungal in the final. It is developing into quite the cricketing rivalry, with the Koorungal boys just beating the Noths two years in a row now. Maybe next year, the result can be turned around. All of the boys played with great Clontarf spirit on the day. Will Baker, Jonny Minogue, and Daniel Korn all provided moments of brilliance on the pitch, as well as a classic catch from Jai Crampton.

The second carnival was the first regional Ping Pong competition. For those who haven't visited a Clontarf Academy Room across Australia, Ping Pong is a staple of the program, with a table being available for the boys in every Academy room at just over 130 sites nationally.

The Tumut boys acquitted themselves brilliantly, with all boys winning at least one pool game. An amazing achievement was that three out of the four semi-finalists were Tumut Academy Members. The most improved player in the Academy would be Zain Brewer, who made it to the semis.

The other semi-finalist who was unlucky not to make the final was Brock Russell, who has come a long way from the little fella that could not hit a ball in Year 7.

But the King of the Table on the day was Year 10 Member Daniel Korn. Daniel won the final comfortably and showed his skills that he tunes up in the Batlow competition every Thursday night.

"It was heaps of fun, the lads formed a tunnel for us to run out and everything, heaps of laughs and great fun. It was good to win, but the best thing was just catching up with all the other Clontarf lads from around the region," said Daniel.





## Sun, Sand and Smiles.....

The Year 7 and 8 top attenders were treated to an end-of-year trip to remember this year with a three-day camp in Wollongong, highlighted by a day at Jamberoo Water Park. They stayed at the Woonona Surf Club, just above Wollongong, and had the opportunity to sleep on the beach each night in swags. A huge thank you to Troy at the Surf Club for being so accommodating to the boys and allowing us to use the club kitchen and BBQ for our meals each night.

The top ten group truly made the most of a great semester and bonded exceptionally well. Mat Chapman, Academy Director, said, "A highlight for me was how well the boys got along during the camp. Everyone mixed and laughed and there were no cliques. It was amazing. At Jamberoo, the boys were jumping on rides together, encouraging each other and having a great time. Seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter as they came off the slides together was really cool. The boys supported those who needed encouragement and I was probably the most frightened in the end!"

The group also had a session at the North Wollongong "Flip Out," which was a lot of fun and provided a special moment during the camp.

Upon returning to school, the Clontarf staff received an email forwarded by Mr. Taylor, the principal. It said, "Just a short note to say what a great group of students represented your school this afternoon (Tues 5th Dec) at Flip Out North Wollongong.

The boys were respectful towards younger children who were participating in a Ninja Class at the same time. It was fantastic to speak to the two gentlemen taking care of those kids, hear their story, and see the students looking so happy. I hope they have a fantastic visit to Jamberoo and a safe trip home. Well done lads for representing your school, the Academy, and yourselves so well."



# Employment Pathways

Plenty of employment opportunities have presented themselves in 2023, with boys doing work experience and part-time work throughout the shire.

Pictured on the right is Damien Anderson of Year 9, who was lucky enough to do one day a week with Snowy Service Centre for the first part of the term and then with Tumut Exhaust and Brake for the latter half of the term.

Tumut Exhaust and Brake have seen a few Clontarf lads in recent times, and while on the subject, we must congratulate Year 10 student Daniel Korn for gaining a school-based apprenticeship with the local shop. A massive thanks to Matt and the staff for their ongoing support, as well as the hard work of Jo Stroud, the Tumut High Careers Advisor.

We look to grow our part-time workers in 2024, with resume sessions already planned for Term 1 for boys interested in work.



## Year 11 Head to Big Smoke

With no Year 12 Academy Members this year, the Year 11 boys from the Tumut Clontarf Academy received a special camp at the completion of their Year 11 studies. The five boys and Clontarf staff headed off to Sydney for several days of adventure, which included various activities. The two most memorable experiences were the Jet Boat ride on Sydney Harbour and climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge the following day.

The Jet Boat ride was an adrenaline rush, with the high-powered boat zooming across the harbour at top speeds that made the boys envious of what could be done in fishing boats on Blowering. "I didn't think for a minute that it was going to be that fast," said Isaac Castles. "And we got absolutely drenched! You wouldn't want to do it on a cold day. The boat driver was absolutely crazy, throwing us into spins and getting water everywhere. It was so much fun," he added.

But it was the activities of the following day that really got Isaac's blood pumping. "I was terrified about climbing the bridge. I don't think I slept more than ten minutes the night before. But Chicka reassured me that he hates heights and has done it before," said Castles. "Once I got up there, it was absolutely breathtaking! Except it was a little windy, so that kept everyone on their toes, including Chappy and Chicka."

The bridge climb has been used in the past as a way to celebrate the completion of high school for the boys. However, planning and discussions are already underway for the major trip for the Year 12 students in 2024. It will be a special year as it is the first group of students to have joined the program in Year 7. "We are really looking forward to seeing these lads finish. They were tiny when Chappy and I first started," said Chicka Douglas, the Operations Officer of the Academy. "Hopefully, the remaining five boys will support each other and motivate themselves to get the job done," he added.

The boys will have a camp in Term 1, which will involve planning the trip and signing a pledge as a group to commit to reaching the finish line. Good luck, boys! We are all here to help you!



# Upcoming Events

## Week 1

- Rego Forms go out for 2024

## Week 2

- Full Academy Meeting
- Morning Training Starts

## Week 3

- Year 7 Parent Tour and BBQ
- Teachers Morning Tea

## Week 4

- Year 12 Leadership Camp

## Week 5

- Year 7 Induction Camp

## Week 6

- Snowy 2.0 Worksite Visit
- Health Sessions

## Week 7

- Year 11 Family Dinner
- Top Blokes Camp

## Week 8

- Health Sessions
- Senior Footy Trials

## Week 9

- Regional Staff PD

## Week 10

- Taco Tuesday

## Week 11

- Senior Footy Carnival in Newcastle

# Alumni Catch Up

Clontarf's support extends beyond high school graduation, and earlier this term, Clontarf staff invited all of the Tumut alumni out for a meal to catch up and check in on their progress. A few boys were unable to attend due to work commitments, and two no longer live in town. Despite this, the small group spent two hours reconnecting and discussing their lives. Staff members also shared stories about how the academy operates since they left school. We are pleased to report that all the boys are currently employed in various positions, including Snowy Hydro, AKD, ARMY, Woolworths, DME, Dominos Pizza, and The Royal Hotel Kitchen, just to name a few.

In 2022, Adam Beaver, an alumnus, shared the exciting news of being accepted for an apprenticeship with DME Engineering. The delicious meals were prepared by Thomas Hibbens, a 2021 alumnus and recently qualified chef at the Royal Hotel in Tumut.

Regional Employment Officer Mitch Fennessy was also present to address any questions the boys had about additional training or support they may need for their employment and study journeys. "We will try to catch up with the lads twice a year to check on their progress and provide mentoring to the current students, emphasizing the importance of completing Year 12," Fennessy added.



# Photos from Term 4

