

Tumut Clontarf Academy

Clontarf Newsletter

December 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 42 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) 69470600

STAFF CONTACTS

Academy Director -
Mat Chapman: 0408471129

Operations Officer -
Leon Douglas: 0429000977

Employment Officer -
Mitchell Fennessy: 0400874515

Regional Manager -
Pat Edmunds: 0409295548



Message from the Team

Well another school year is approaching the finish line and we must say it has been an action packed one with plenty of great moments and also challenges.

All of the Clontarf staff want to take the opportunity to thank the community for supporting us throughout the year. To the young men in our program, well done, you are another step closer to graduating. To our 2024 Graduates, Isaac Castles, Nate Jackson and Lachlan Breed, congratulations on being the first "full graduates" Year 7 to Year 12 at the Tumut Academy.

As mentioned there has been plenty of highlights -

Term 1 : Year 7 induction camp, Leadership Camp, Cultural Burn with Wiradjuri Team, Senior Rugby League Carnival, Albury home game and meeting Greg Inglis. Jamberoo Camp at Towradgi

Term 2 : Year 7 and 8 Rugby League Carnival, Year 9 and 10 Golf Day in Albury Hosted Oz Tag Day, Employment Forum, Cultural Day and Snowy Valleys School.

Term 3 : Health Checks at Connection Medical Center, Volunteered with Food Bank,

Wagga Basketball Carnival (Winners), Ross Kelly Cup in Sydney and joined by Snowy Hydro staff, Snowy 2.0 Worksite Visit, Alan Tongue NRL Mental Health Session, Inland Rail Confined Space Courses.

Term 4 : Indoor Cricket Carnival, Ping Pong Comp in Wagga, Year 12 BBQ cooking, Lake Cargelligo fishing camp, Raging Waters Camp, Year 12 Major Trip to Thursday Island and Cairns. Awards Night.

We finished the year with 42 participants in the program and with 8 young men ready to start their High School journey in 2025 things are looking really positive for the opportunities for our young men.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday break and look forward to coming back in 2025 full of energy to keep providing our lads a quality, rewarding program.

Regards

Chappy, Chicka, Pat and Mitch



Trip of a Lifetime.....

Travelling with their Clontarf brothers from the Mount Austin Clontarf Academy and the Koorinal Clontarf Academy, the group undertook our Year 12 Major Trip to Thursday Island and Cairns as a celebration of graduating Year 12. What a week away it was with some experiences the boys will never forget. Ten boys in total took the trip and 8 of those had not been on an aircraft before.

The week was packed with adventure and once in a lifetime experience -

Day 1- We spent a long day of travel driving from Tumut, then flying from Wagga, Sydney, Cairns and catching a ferry from Horn Island to Thursday Island.

Day 2-3- Spent time on Prince of Wales Island fishing with nets and spears along with with swimming, drinking coconuts and cooking fish on the fire.

Day 4- We traveled to Cairns and then drove to the Yarrabah Community with the local rangers taking us into bush to show us traditional spear making, identifying bush medicines, fishing off the wharf, cooking mud crab on the fire,

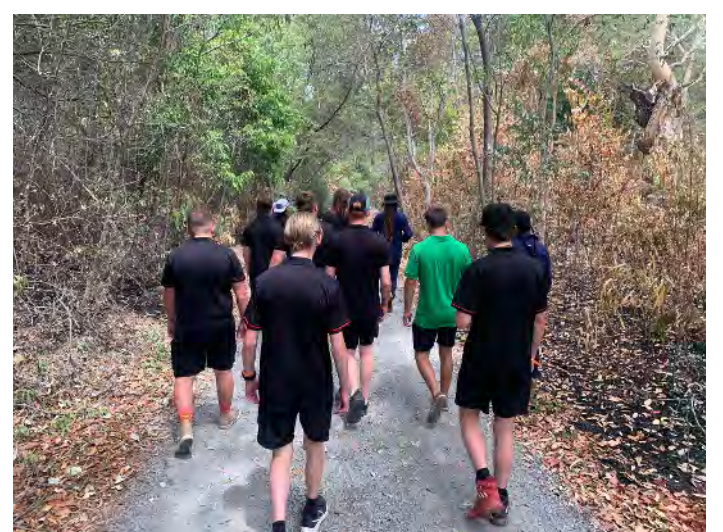
swimming at the local water hole and finishing off the day with a delicious hungi on the beach.

Day 5- We used day five to recharge the batteries after a few very busy days. We spent our time swimming and playing mini golf at our caravan park.

Day 6- We visited Hartley's Crocodile Farm for the day. We did a boat tour and got the chance to hold baby crocodiles and pythons. That evening was our final dinner together at Milky Lane in Cairns, enjoying burgers and a laugh together before checking out the night markets.

Day 7- We had an early start to make our way home to Tumut. It was certainly a trip to remember for our Year 12 graduates and we wish them all the best for the Future

The boys had some parting words of wisdom for the little Moths in the years below, "Just keep pushing yourself to get to school to complete, the feeling of graduating is amazing", said Lachy Breed. "Don't be scared to ask for help, Chappy and Chicka helped get me here (graduating) and then to get this trip is just so so cool," added Isaac.



Alumni Return for Awards

The Academy celebrated 2024 in style in Week 7 of this Term, hosting our 6th Annual Awards night. The event was hosted by senior student Jonathan Minogue who did a stellar job, he actually is the first student to host the night on his own. Well done mate.

The members were joined by families, school staff, and special guest including plenty of great supporters and partners of the foundation.

The year has been a special one as it is the first year that our graduates have completed the program at Tumut High from Year 7 to Year 12. Isaac Castles and Lachlan Breed (pictured right with Nate Jackson absent) were on hand to receive their Clontarf Folios and also get an emotional standing ovation. Also on hand for the evening were five of our Alumni. These lads have carved the path for future graduates and to see them in their special alumni shirts for the first time was truly special.

Adam Beaver, Tay Crane, Jamie Hibbens, Thomas Hibbens and Tana Scott (pictured below) all made themselves available to attend the evening. The way the young men presented themselves and then

mixed with the boys afterwards was a true highlight of the evening and showcases the impact of the program for future generations.

The Major award for the evening is the coveted Member of the Year Award and this year it was won by Year 9 member Cordell Coe. (Pictured on the right receiving his award from Snowy Hydro's Peter Symons)

Cordell was extremely humble in accepting the award and gave a speech that certainly put a lump in a few throats

Academy Member of the Year:
Cordell Coe

Top Attender:
Khobi Bousfield

Principals Award:
Haydyn Damm

Academic Award:
Jai Crampton

Top Trainer:
Mason Kell-Cox

Junior and Senior Clontarf Spirit:
Haydyn Damm and Konrad Tybussek





Back to Chicka's Country....

It was the second time in six years that Tumut Academy has ventured out to Lake Cargelligo, the first being the Year 12 Major Trip of 202. This trip was a little different from the last one, however, as it served as a great opportunity for Operations Officer, Leon "Chicka" Douglas, to show off his old stomping ground to the Tumut Academy members.

During the last visit, there was no Clontarf Academy in town, so the first stop was straight to the Academy room to gain some knowledge from Clontarf staff, Jaydo and Tooley. The boys were quick to show the mountain lads around and took them straight out to a fishing spot where they caught eight fish in the first forty minutes!

"The Lake lads were so good, sharing knowledge and giving us tips and tricks all arvo," said Year 10 member Linkin Fell. "I can't wait for them to come to Tumut so hopefully we can repay the favour, although I don't think the fishing is this deadly at home." It was arguably one of the best camps of 2024, and the boys are already excited for the Academy to return in 2025. "Geez, the boys loved it! We are definitely staying an extra night next year. Jaydo and Tooley are great hosts," said Chicka.

The trip is already locked in for early Term 4 of 2025 and will serve as a great incentive for the keen fishermen in the Academy to have strong attendance and a can-do attitude in school for Term 3 of 2025.



More Alumni News...

As mentioned in the Awards night article, Alumni are an integral part of the Academy. They provide a great motivation to our young fella's to see what can be achieved through perseverance, hard work, and a good attitude. In the holiday break Chicka and Chappy were on hand to take part in a very special day for one of their Alumni.,the Wedding of Reggie and Amelia Coe.

The ceremony was picture perfect in the Gilmore Valley and the reception was amazing at the Brungle community hall and Chappy had the honor of being Emcee for the evening. It was certainly an emotional day for many, including Chappy and Chicka that could not be prouder of the bride and groom.

Mr and Mrs Coe have made their home in Camden whilst Reg completes his apprenticeship in the Army , and the entire Clontarf Foundation wish them well for the future.



Summer fun equals Cricket.....

Each term in Clontarf we do a home and away game with other Academies in our region. They are a great day out, getting the chance to recharge the batteries all while building well-being, self esteem in the boys and getting the opportunity to connect and build friendships with other academies.

This Term we had our regional indoor Cricket Carnival which is always a highlight of Term 4 , the Moths had Won this Carnival a few times over the Years however this year the honors went to the Googahs of Mt Austin. Well done lads. But the day was certainly full of highlights and the boys all played with great Clontarf spirit. The skills shown by Mason "Shiny" Cox-Kell would not of looked out of place on the Channel Nine broadcast of the Summer of Cricket, and the running between the wickets of him and Aidan "Sparra" Moorhead was a sight to see. Aidans efforts later saw him elected as the Clontarf Spirit Award winner of the Team and this was chosen by Captain Linkin Fell (Pictured Below with Sparra)

The other great sporting event for the term was the Clontarf Ping Pong Comp held in Wagga and again was taken out by Mt Austin capping off a massive year to go with their Ross Kelly Cup victory. The Tumut boys were extremely well represented in the finals serioes with Ryan Coe making the Semi Finals and Konrad Tybussek and Trey Patrick falling just short of them. Also Willie Thorpe caused a few upsets early in the day showing off his skills that he gets from the weekly comp in Batlow with Ryan Coe.



Upcoming Events

Week 1 2025

- THS Staff Return

Week 2

- Student Return (Thurs)
- Clontarf Rego Meeting

Week 3

- Year 7 Info BBQ
- Rego Forms Due Back

Week 4

- Morning Training Starts
- Year 12 Leadership Camp

Week 5

- Year 11 Dinner
- Year 7 Induction Camp

Week 6

- SVC Councilors Breakfast
- THS Admin Coffee Day

Week 7

- Jamberoo Camp
- Senior RL Trial

Week 8

- Teachers Morning Tea

Week 9

- Pizza Cooking

Week 10

- Senior RL Camp
- Year 7 Health Checks

Week 11

- Partners Training Session
- Year 7 Health Checks

Driving Forward.....

As we move forward to 2025, the Tumut Academy plans to really put an emphasis on all of the boys eligible to get their license to get it ASAP.

This year at Awards night we handed out Awards to boys that have made the effort to go and get their learners license (Pictured Below with EO Mitch Fennesy and Alumni Tana Scott, also note Liam Fell collecting his big brothers cert, you will get your chance Liam). Also thanks the Phil Hayes at B Safe Driving School we have managed to get the boys much appreciated driving lessons to help them in the next phase of licensing. The freedom of having your license is a huge part of employment success and most adults will agree that it is integral in having flexibility for working life. We have a large number of boys headed into Year 10 next year and look forward in supporting them.

Whilst on the employment space, the Academy has finished the year with 13 boys working part time from the Academy which is over 25% of the Academy.

This is a great opportunity to thank the local businesses for employing our lads,. Gaining social skills through partime work is so valuable after graduation.

We have lots lanned in the employment space for 2025 and look forward to sharing many successes in future newsletters.



Photos from Term 4



Photos from Term 4

