

Tumut Clontarf Academy

Clontarf Newsletter

Term 2 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 41 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

I know at times we may sound like a broken record about how busy the term has been and this term has been no exception. We had a series of great community events, including a partners golf day, teachers morning tea, cultural burn, volunteering at the Snowy Valleys School athletics carnival (you can see this from the picture on the front cover of Kobe Burnes, Ryan Coe and Khobi Bousfiled with Snowy Valleys student, Isaac Penrith), volunteering at the community food bank, our Riverina Employment Forum and hosting two other Clontarf Academies (Hunter River and Mt Druitt). Just writing that was exhausting, although it takes some coordinating it certainly makes it worthwhile knowing that all of these interactions provide such great moments for our boys.

We have also commenced our annual health checks with Connection Medical Center; a huge thanks to Dr Tran and her staff for their ongoing support as we know how difficult it is at the moment to navigate the busy appointment schedule. These checks are the only real non-negotiable for our boys in the program and they prove to be pivotal in not only writing future programs but also setting the example of young men taking themselves to a GP for a check-up just like they would take their car to the mechanic.

The partner golf day was a great trip for our Year 9 and 10 boys to Albury and the level of maturity they showed being placed randomly with Foundation partners they did not know to play golf was outstanding. Golf can be hard enough let alone trying to do it in front of people you

have never met. By the end of the round the lads were sitting in their golf groups chatting like they were lifelong friends and it was truly a sight to see. Well done, boys.

Looking forward to Term 3 things will not slow up that is for sure. Our health checks will continue, our Year 7 and 8 boys head to Wagga Wagga for their annual Basketball Carnival, we host national partners of the Foundation again at Camp Hudson as we did in 2022 on a four-day camp, we have a Defence Force camp for boys interested in a career with ADF, as well as hosting the Airds Academy on their snow trip to Mt Selwyn and the big event of course is the Ross Kelly Cup for our Year 9 and 10 boys where we once again join forces with the boys from the Karabar Academy.

All of this of course happens with our weekly fun of class support, morning training sessions and afternoon activities.

Never a dull moment at the Tumut Clontarf Academy!

Thank you to everyone in the community - from families to school staff to Clontarf partners and friends - who all help make these opportunities come to life for our young men.

Regards,

Chappy and Chicka



Clontarf State of Origin

A marquee event on the Clontarf Calendar is the Clontarf State of Origin for our senior boys. This year the Tumut Academy was fortunate enough to have a representative in the team in Year 12 student Lachlan Breed after an excellent effort from Lachlan while representing Riverina at the Senior Footy Carnival in Term 1 in Newcastle. Apart from being an honor to represent his state, it was also an experience of a life time for Breedy with a jam packed couple of days in Sydney.

The side was made up from boys from all over New South Wales and the Riverina team had five reps that traveled down to Sydney together with Riverina Employment Officer, Mitch Fennessy.

"The lads went into camp together and all gelled instantly as a group, it was very special," said Fennessy.

Unlike the NRL Origin, camp life looked a little different with both New South Wales and Queensland spending time together before the game.

Both teams were treated to a special cultural session with ex-NRL player Jonathan Wright which was one of many highlights.

This was followed by a captains run at the New South Wales Rugby League centre of excellence, then it was a dinner with the jumper presentation to the side. This was an extra special occasion as the jumpers were handed out by NRL star Josh Addo-Carr. Josh took time out of his busy schedule to chat with the boys and also pose for photos and record video messages for family members. To have such access to a super star was amazing. Josh spoke to the lads about all sorts of topics including some tough conversations about walking your own path and trying not to listen to outside noise while trying to find your way.

Prior to the big game the lads were able to enter the Olympic Stadium through the infamous Walk of Fame, a tunnel that leads from the centre of excellence into the stadium. Very cool.

The boys were not able to retain the shield going down to a strong QLD team, but each and every player represented their state and academies with true Clontarf spirit.



Knowledge passed on....

It was a hot start to the term (pardon the pun) with a group of Clontarf boys participating in an educational cultural burn at the Tumut Wetlands in Week one of the term.

Working with the Wiradjuri Cultural Burn Team under the guidance of leader Dean Freeman (pictured on the right with Cordell Coe from Year 9) the students got to be a part of an amazing experience.

The group gained skills and knowledge on Cultural Burning and learned first hand how Cultural Burning builds biodiversity in nature.

The session had many special moments, one of which was the opportunity for Clontarf staff Chicka and Chappy to work along side former Clontarf Tumut members Cam and Jordy Minogue, who are part of the Cultural Burn team as well as their dad, Dan. Year 7 Clontarf member and little brother of Cam and Jordy, Lucas was also with the Academy on the day.

The other lads to join were Adelong member Konrad Tybussek and our Batlow members Willie Thorpe, Ryan

and Cordell Coe and Year 8 Academy member Noah Buckmaster.

The day could not of happened without the co ordination and organizing skills of Landcare worker, Bernadette Walker, who also facilitated the local RFS and council to be on hand at the Wetlands.

It was an amazing experience for all of the students to prepare the site and then watch the fire come through the chosen area to then be cool within minutes. They saw first hand the insects and lizards on the move to then be able to return to their areas so quickly.

"It was incredible how quickly the ash cooled down after the fire. I thought it would be hot and hard to handle but it was not like that at all. Dean and Dan showed us so much and also made sure we understood how to be safe around the fire and smoke" said Year 11 Academy member Konrad.

The Tumut Academy looks forward to educating more members in the future with the Wiradjuri Cultural Burn Team and look forward to the next session that becomes available.





Little Moths at Carnival

The Year 7 and 8 Tumut Academy side (the Little Moths) set off to Albury in Week 3 to compete in the regional Under 14s Carnival. The lads were combined with Lake Cargelligo Academy again after being successful last year bringing home the silverware. The boys competed well in all of their games however did not quite soar to the same heights as 2023. All the lads that played had their own moments of brilliance and all showed magnificent Clontarf Spirit on and off the field. The teams Clontarf Spirit winner for the Carnival was William Thorpe of Year 7. William's skills and speed were a showcase for the team as well as how he combined with Ashton Back (pictured below right) who was determined all day and Jackson Havers showed his hard work at training has been paying off. Crafty Brungle half Kobe Burnes (pictured below left) kept the lads organized when on the field.

It was not all about footy on the camp with three days of fun well and truly on the agenda. Operations Officer, Chicka Douglas, deputised Mason "Shiny" Kell-Cox as his co pilot for the bus trip.

The team pulled up at the submarine in Holbrook on the way down for some deadly home made sangas before getting to the accommodation to get dressed up in their Clontarf formal uniform for the carnival dinner that night at the Albury S&C Club. For the Year 7 group it was the first formal function and the boys scrubbed up well (see the above picture).

The trip also included a trip to the movies and also a pizza night where they got to watch their big Moth brother Lachlan Breed play in the Clontarf State of Origin on Kayo Sports TV.

Before heading home the lads got the treat of a trip to "Bounce" in Wodonga. This was a well deserved treat for the outstanding behaviour of the group while on camp, Bounce has a series of trampoline areas and also sections of rock walls for harnessed climbing which the boys absolutely loved, even the boys that were not to keen on heights.

Next terms basketball camp in Wagga should be a ripper if this is anything to go by.



Yidaki at Franklin....

Another community engagement highlight this term has been our boys joining Franklin Public School for their weekly Yidaki Group. Hosted by Franklin Teacher and great supporter of the Tumut Academy, Chris Lotter, the Yidaki group gives a great chance for our boys to not only engage in an important cultural skill but also work with the Clontarf members of the future in the young fellas at Franklin Public.

Cordell Coe and Alden Moorehead (pictured on the right) are just two of the six boys that joined for the term and are both ex-Franklin students that jumped at the chance to head back to their old stomping ground.

A massive thank you to Principal Emilie Rossington and Mr Lotter for giving the boys the opportunity to join in and we look forward to building that link between the two schools well into the future.



Annual Oz Tag Day a Ripper.....

For the second year running the Tumut Academy has played host to the James Falon, Koorinal and Mt Austin Acadmies for their annual Oz Tag day at Jarrah Oval in Tumut.

With ages ranging from Year 7 to Year 10 boys, the games were played in fantastic spirit and were of an extremely high quality, with the academies using it as a reward trip for their Top Trainers it certainly showed off the skills of boys who get up early twice a week to train at their respective Clontarf academies.

The boys were joined by national partner and great local academy supporter, Snowy Hydro, specifically staff from the Tumut 3 Power Station. The Snowy staff were amazing on the day, with staff joining in by running water, cooking the BBQ, photo taking, providing first aid and in some cases , even popping the tag belts on and joining in for a game of Oz Tag.

The first series of games were tightly contested with the Koorinal Crows pushing the Mt Austin Gooahs all the way to only go down on the bell 7 tries to 8. On the other field the James Fallon Wombats were just pipped in the final minutes by the Tumut Moths. The Moths relished in the home game conditions competing solidly in all of their games. Although all boys showed great Clontarf Spirit on the Day, Liam Fell from Year 7 earned his first Clontarf Spirit Award for his resilience of playing through the pain barrier and showing magnificent sportsmanship on more than three occasions.

Other lads from the academy to star on the day where the Moths answer to the Ella brothers in Ryan and Cordell Coe and Willie Thorpe, the boys try scoring ability and almost telepathic communication was on show in each game and proved entertaining for all those watching and playing. "You can tell these boys play so much park footy together, they just throw it and someone is there to catch it," said Operations Officer, Leon Douglas.

The other highlight of the day was the "Catch the Bomb" competition which Snowy Hydro had their very own Matt Richard join in with the boys to show them how it is done. Richo is a regular at Tumut Academy training and still shows the skills that he showed in Group Nine for a decade.

The Tumut Academy is so very grateful to Snowy Hydro for all of their ongoing support of the academy, on and off the field, and look forward to our next training session in the coming weeks.



Upcoming Events

Week 1

- PLP sessions

Week 2

- Health checks
- Morning Training starts

Week 3

- Gym sessions
- Health checks

Week 4

- Year 7 & 8 camp
- Health checks

Week 5

- Airs Academy visit
- Health checks

Week 6

- Taco Tuesday
- Teachers Morning Tea

Week 7

- RKC training
- Health checks

Week 8

- RKC Sydney Camp
Year 9 & 10

Week 9

- Health checks
- Golf lessons

Week 10

- Clontarf Partners Camp
- Haircut day

Employment Forum

One of the key events on the Clontarf Regional Calander is our annual Employment Forum, which is organised and facilitated by our regional Employment Officer, Mitch Fennessy.

The Forum provides an opportunity for senior Clontarf academy members to get an insight into a myriad of career options over a wide variety of industries.

This year there were 20 Clontarf Partners/Supprters in attendance and over 80 Clontarf members coming together for the event.

The Tumut Academy had made the decision to take the opportunity to make it into a camp for the senior lads which comprised of an afternoon at the barbers getting fresh cuts, a session of steam-letting off at the Wagga Smash Shack, a special dinner at the Palm and Pawn in North Wagga and trip to the movies as well.

Although a lot of activities were on for the camp , the Forum was the star with members glowing about how interesting the session was. "It is such a good thing to go to , I did not know what to expect in the beginning , but in the end I was so happy I came. I learned so much about heaps of different jobs that are out there," said Year 11 Tumut Clontarf member, Liam Starr.

Local partners, Snowy Hydro and Visy, were on hand with the other 18 businesses showcasing what careers are out there for the boys.

A huge thanks to Mitch for all of his hard work.



Photos from Term 2



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