



Vincentia Clontarf Academy  
Est. 2019

clontarf  
foundation

# Clontarf Newsletter

Term 4 2020  
Week 1-5



## ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Vincentia Clontarf Academy was founded in 2019 and operates out of Vincentia High School. It caters for students in Years 7 to 12 and currently has 90 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

Vincentia High School  
142 Wool Rd  
Vincentia NSW 2540  
(02) 4441 6766

## STAFF CONTACTS

Jermaine: 0407 345 132  
Taylor: 0448 281 208  
Harley: 0429 889 701  
Jackson: 0447 783 041



# Message from the Director

## Welcome back to Term 4.

Firstly I would like to congratulate the class of 2020 for completing Year 12 and graduating in style. Without a doubt it has been the toughest year for many but all of you stayed strong and focused to achieve great outcomes for yourself. You have set the bar high for the younger Academy members striving to complete Year 12 in the future. Now we get to look forward to your end of year trip to Byron Bay!!!

With COVID restrictions slightly lifting it has enabled us to get back to business as usual with camps on the agenda. A key element in Academy operations is engaging the fellas and developing strong relationships. We did not waste any time organising two camps away to Lake Tabourie for the juniors and middle school for their efforts this year.

Also on the agenda in Term 4 we have introduced 'contact time' for each year level in the academy on a fortnightly rotation. Contact time is a valuable way for us to deliver our program and achieve our mission statement.

The Foundation believes this can increase the overall effectiveness of our program, which delivers activities that enhance the skills and development of our young men. We organise a wide range of activities to build capacity, resilience and other valuable life skills needed to cater for Academy members.

Our Academy had the opportunity to be part of Remembrance Day with the Huski RSL laying a wreath at the service in Huskisson

Our local Bay & Basin Police came to the academy for a meet and greet, and now we are in the early stages of arranging a worksite visit at the station. In addition to the visit a game of basketball is also in the pipeline for the end of term. This is a great way to develop some positive relationships with the local police but also encourage boys to consider thinking about becoming a Police Officer in their future endeavors.

I now want to make a special mention of a few students who have accomplished great achievements in the employment space. Fresh from graduating Liam Anderson has filled a full time position with our partner Bunnings in Nowra. Also adding to the Bunnings team in a casual position is Cruz Ardler in Year 11. Another Graduate Rueben Menzies starting his apprenticeship in landscaping transitioning straight into employment post school. Ryley Madden recently landed a position as teacher aide at Jervis Bay PS working with young Indigenous students from Community.

I would like to thank everyone in the community and school for your on-going support for the Academy

We hope you enjoy the first edition of the Term 4 2020 newsletter.

# Lake Tabourie Year 7&8



Wednesday the 28th of October was a special day for our academy here at Vincentia, as it saw the commencement of our first camp away post COVID-19. 16 students from the junior cohort packed the bus up and headed south to Lake Tabourie for a three day adventure. The selection criteria for this camp were for the members who have been consistently turning up to training and school, and giving their best efforts during the stressful times of COVID.

Our first day saw us unpack and set up a base at camp, then it was off for water activities at the beach. Spending the best part of the day playing water footy, sand dune races as well as the biggest bomb competition. Soon after the group took a lunch break and tucked into the classic Clontarf wraps.

Later that evening on the menu was curried sausages on the camp crock pot. Whilst waiting for dinner it was time for our Clontarf trivia activity, a fun way to engage the lads into learning facts about the Foundation. Additionally this is a great way for members to get an understanding of how we can best support them and the opportunities we can provide.

Starting the next day with a delicious healthy breakfast the lads started with some banter of who is the best surfer in the group. So the challenge was set for the day - the fellas got changed into their wet suits, rash shirts and headed for the beach for our pre-surf introduction by our very own Jackson Webb. It was a solid two hour session with many of the lads getting to their feet with a big smile on their faces. The whole group did so well, it was hard to select the best surfer. Eventually the activities winded down for the day and it was the students' turn to prepare and cook dinner for the night, serving up chicken burritos.

Following dinner we had one last activity planned, an "Amazing Race" with a list of items they had to take a photo of in their teams (eg. selfie with a kangaroo, picking up rubbish in a place it doesn't belong). With this challenge ending in a tie we had a tiebreaker challenge to create a video clip of their favourite song. The whole group were blown away with the creativity and thought into their video clips with Cabin 5 winning the chocolates.

Our final morning we had a sleep in and BBQ breakfast. Shortly after we packed into the bus and headed to Mollymook beach for some fish and chips. This camp was a great opportunity to reflect on what has been a tough year for everyone and also be grateful for the opportunities we have being part of the Foundation.



# Lake Tabourie Year 9&10



Wednesday 4th November was an exciting day within the academy as it was the first camp of the term for the Middle cohort. At 8.00am the boys started rolling into the Academy room with smiles from ear to ear with their sleeping bags, pillows and the essentials. Taylor Betts whipped up his special spaghetti on toast with a few secret ingredients added.

After a quick brief the boys loaded into the bus with their camping gear. During our journey to Lake Tabourie the boys enjoyed a few classic songs from the early 2000's which had the boys reminiscing and singing along. On arrival to Lake Tabourie the sun came out and the heat kicked in, before getting off the bus the boys were eager to jump into the pool. It was safe to say the boys couldn't have gotten into their board shorts fast enough. Instead of going to the pool it was decided that the beach was looking pretty inviting and good waves, this was a good opportunity for the boys to get amongst the surf boards!

Following the surf/beach session the boys had worked up an appetite! Lucky for them, Clontarf wraps were on the menu for lunch. After a solid feed some of the boys went to the pool with Harley Grundy while Jackson Webb, Taylor Betts and Jermaine Packer ran a tennis competition. The boys spent their time in the pool doing Manu's (a specific bomb), throwing the footy and competitions on who could hold their breath the longest.

Later that afternoon curried sausages were on the menu for dinner, then State of Origin. The mighty Blues took on the Maroons; the boys were in good spirits leading up to the game which was watched in the bungalow BBQ area. Taylor Betts organised dessert for the boys at half time which was S'mores.

Thursday morning the weather turned for worse with predicted rain that hung around for the entire day. After a big feed in the morning despite the rain the boys were eager to get out and catch some waves. The boys suited up in their wetsuits and we headed down to the beach. The conditions were unreal and the boys all appeared excited to be in the ocean. Later that afternoon Taylor Betts cooked up a delicious beef stroganoff which had them coming back for seconds. That night the boys were exhausted from a big day and hit the pillow early.

Friday morning we woke up to the sun shining, the lads cooked up bacon and egg wraps for breakfast. After packing up camp we drove to Mollymook beach and burnt some energy on the basketball court before going down to the beach for another surf.



# Document Day - Employment



On Tuesday Week 3 here at Clontarf we held an in-house document day for our Year 10 / 11 academy members, supported by our regional manager Ryan Woolfe and employment officer Josh Toohey. The focus of the day is to help these boys put together all their working documents such as birth certificates, tax file numbers, bank accounts and resumes. Unique student identifiers were all applied for with the boys.

This all goes into a graduation portfolio for the boys, so when they graduate all the documents needed to apply for a job are readily available. Three periods were spent with each year group and a beautiful spread of Subway was provided for the lads to keep them focused and engaged with the session. Josh Toohey completed a graduate employment plan for each of the lads so we have a clear indication of the direction each boy wants to take after school.

## Contact Time - Education

As mentioned in the Director's address, this term has seen the introduction of contact time. The boys have scheduled sessions within their timetable with Clontarf on a fortnightly basis. These sessions give us the opportunity to deliver important, relevant and meaningful information that will support the boys to build confidence and self-esteem as well as guide them to make healthy and safe decisions.

Topics that have been delivered this term include social media and personal hygiene. Our social media session discussed issues such as online safety and bullying, personal and professional standards and self-image. We watched a YouTube clip which was a short version of the popular Netflix documentary 'The Social Dilemma'. Personal hygiene sessions see the boys learn about shaving in a fun and interactive way! The boys get to master how to use shaving cream and a razor on a balloon, so they can master the art of shaving without cutting themselves.



# Toohey's News

## Employment Officer

Term 4 has been a busy term, with the Clontarf program slowly returning to normal in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. The employment space has been really positive across the region, with some outstanding things happening right here at the Vincentia Academy. Employment with partners has increased this term, with two Vincentia Academy members currently employed with Bunnings and a further two young men employed at Kmart. It is great to see the local relationships between the Academy and our partners begin to blossom.

Employment of last year's graduates across the region is sitting at 94%, 12 months after graduating. We are aiming to have similar or even greater success with this year's graduates. Of the 2019 graduates from the Vincentia Academy, each of them have been employed or engaged in further study at some point during the past 12 months. The 2020 graduates are working hard and exploring all options as they move into the next phase of their life. One thing is for sure, and that is that between the school, the local academy, the employment team and the boys – no stone will be left unturned, in an effort to transition into a meaningful next phase of the boys' life.



# Coming Up

- **Week 7 - Cricket Game - Moruya at Mollymook**
- **Week 8 - Worksite Partner Visit (Suez)**
- **Week 8 - Gong Games**
- **Week 9 - Year 11 Camp Penrith**

# Awards Night 2020

The awards night is the most anticipated event of the year for our Academy, where we get to celebrate all the achievements for students that have made big efforts during 2020. There are big awards on offer like Eagle of the Year, Junior and Senior Clontarf Spirit, and Team of the Year to name a few of the prestigious honour board awards.

After a successful 2019 awards night with 275 guests, we unfortunately cannot follow suit in 2020, as COVID restrictions do not allow large groups of people.

The awards night will go ahead, however we will only be able to accommodate 80-100 guests, with the family members of award recipients getting priority. We do look forward to seeing you on the 7th of December.

# Top 2 Pictures

