

Port Lincoln Clontarf Academy

# Clontarf Newsletter 2023 Highlights



clontarf  
foundation





## ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Port Lincoln Clontarf Academy was founded in 2019 and operates out of Port Lincoln High School. It caters for students in Years 7 to 12 and currently has 65 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

Port Lincoln High School  
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## STAFF CONTACTS

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# Message from the Director

The Port Lincoln Clontarf Academy has continued to grow and provide opportunities for our young men to be successful through many avenues. 2023 has seen the academy grow again, taking our total number to 64 fellas engaged in the program from Years 7- 12 with an average attendance of 82% across the year.

The Academy, in partnership with Port Lincoln High School, works with students to ensure retention until the end of Year 12 and then into employment. Using supportive relationships, a welcoming environment and a diverse range of activities, the young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in our programme develop improved self-esteem and confidence which assists them to participate in education, employment and society in a positive way.

Academy staffing has taken on a new look this year with inaugural Port Lincoln Academy Director Matthew Stokes coming back the work for the foundation alongside Derick Wanganeen as our Operations Officer's.

A quick look across our year shows that the boys have been involved in weekly early morning training sessions and breakfasts, after school activities, camps, football and basketball activities, worksite visits, health checks, community activities and obtained casual employment.

We would like to thank the Port Lincoln community and all local and national partners for your ongoing support which allows us to run such a fantastic program for our young men.

See you in 2024.





# Year 9, 10 & 11 Streaky Bay Surfing Camp

It was great to have our young men in Years 9-11 on a three-day camp to Streaky Bay in Week 8. Thanks to the high level of engagement in the program throughout Term 1, we were able to take 18 young men on this camp, which was a fantastic result.

The camp offered a range of engaging activities and opportunities to strengthen our relationships, including community activities, surfing, fishing, hiking, and evening cricket sessions. Surfing lessons at the amazing Scaale Bay were a highlight, creating lifelong memories for our young men as they bonded with their peers. Our evening cricket games were filled with laughter and showcased the true Clontarf Spirit.

A personal highlight was our community beach clean at the caravan park. It was incredible to witness others staying at the park approach our young men and commend them for their efforts. Our students took the opportunity to explain what Clontarf is all about, showcasing their pride in the academy. This interaction was truly special and a testament to their commitment.





# Morning Training

Morning training sessions have been a massive hit this year for Port Lincoln Clontarf Academy. On average, 20 young men have been attending our sessions before school, with many of them being ready for 6:30am pick ups.

These sessions are designed to give our young men an engaging and rewarding incentive before school, which is then followed by showers and a delicious cooked breakfast to start their day in the most positive way possible and make sure they have the energy they need to have a successful day at school.

NFL was the biggest hit among academy members this year, with some highly skilled and competitive games bringing a high level of engagement for all. Always with Clontarf Spirit of course!







# Year 12 Leadership Camp

In Week 5, our Year 12 students from across South Australia traveled to Adelaide for their Year 12 Leadership Camp. All four of our Year 12 students participated in the camp, which was a positive start. The camp aimed to emphasize the value and importance of Year 12 and solidify their commitment for 2023.

During our workshops, our Year 12 students from all over the state developed the following pledge. They all signed this pledge together, and it will be displayed in all academies throughout the state.

*"WE COMMIT TO BEING GOOD BLOKES, SHOWING LEADERSHIP AND RESPECT. WE COMMIT TO HAVING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND MAKING GOOD CHOICES. WE WILL ATTEND SCHOOL, SET AND ACHIEVE OUR GOALS. WE WILL HAVE THE COURAGE TO STAY ON THE RIGHT PATH AND ENSURE THAT WE FINISH YEAR 12."*

In addition to the pledge and goal setting, this camp also included engaging and enjoyable activities for our Year 12 students before they return to school. Our young men participated in paintball in the Adelaide Hills, surfing lessons in Victor Harbour, the inaugural Murray Bridge Clontarf Academy AFL game, and a fantastic super training session with over 50 staff from our partners in Adelaide and the surrounding area.





# After School Activities

Similar to training, our after-school activities have again been a massive hit this year, and our young men have engaged in a variety of activities including cooking, fishing, basketball, worksite visits, sandboarding, health sessions, football, life skills sessions, community activities, and academic catch-up sessions!



## Employment & Worksite Visits

A key pillar of ours here at Clontarf is employment. Not only do we want to ensure we are developing our young men to be ready to enter the workforce successfully upon completion of Year 12, we also want to ensure we are exposing them to a variety of different industries throughout their schooling years. In 2023, we have over 20 of our young men in Years 9-12 engaged in part-time/casual work, which is an amazing outcome.

This year, we ran a variety of worksite visits including Bunnings, Fulton Hogan, Civil Construction, and Gazander Oysters to get hands-on experience in the seafood industry, as we live in the seafood capital of Australia. In Term 3, we engaged in a project with our local Bunnings to design and make a guitar rack for the guitars we have in the Academy Room that were without a home.

During the first session, we headed off to Bunnings, where the boys had to work their way through the store, collecting all of the necessary materials as per their individual lists. They were then split into groups and had to measure out all of the PVC pipe they collected to the required measurements.

A fortnight later, Bunnings came to the Port Lincoln Academy Room for the second session of the project. We set up the Academy Room with some makeshift workbenches before cutting up the PVC pipe, gluing the fittings into place, and adding the finishing touches to the guitar rack.

This was a great hands-on project for our young boys that provided them with a variety of new skills while also growing their relationship with our local Bunnings team.





# Health Checks

In Terms 3 and 4, we placed a strong emphasis on Health Checks for our Port Lincoln Academy. We scheduled consecutive appointments at Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service from Wednesday to Friday morning in Week 7 of Term. Additionally, in Week 5 of Term 4, PLAHS visited us at Port Lincoln High School to finalize the remaining checks.

We are extremely proud to have completed over 50 checks this year and we are grateful for our ongoing partnership with PLAHS.

This achievement is a wonderful result for our program and the wider Port Lincoln community. We anticipate further development of this event in the coming year.



# Alumni Good News Story

I wanted to share a good news story about Charles Clements, a graduate from 2022. Charlie has successfully completed his studies and is now working in the IT department at Port Lincoln City Council. At the same time, he has been going through the lengthy process of applying to the ADF.

After a six-month period of interviews and paperwork, Charlie has officially begun his role with the Navy. He will be stationed in Cairns for the next six months.

Charlie's story highlights the challenges that Year 12 can present for our students and reinforces the importance of providing them with the necessary support until the very end. This ensures a successful transition into a bright future.





# Celebrating Success

At the start of Term 2, all Clontarf Academy members from around South Australia were asked to submit a guernsey design for the NAIDOC AFL game in Week 10, facilitated by Fulton Hogan. Port Lincoln Academy had five students make it as finalists, with Year 8 student Tyler Males having his design selected for the 2023 guernsey. This was a great achievement for Tyler and a great example to all of our young men to try your best in everything that you do! Tyler was lucky enough to be flown to Adelaide to take part in the day and be recognized for his design.



## Parent Testimonial: Allysha Males (Burgoyne):

*"This year, Tyler has shown growth in so many ways that he and our families and friends have highly recognized. He has demonstrated maturity beyond his age and consistently proven his ability to support others in any situation, whether positive or negative.*

*Tyler has built confidence and formed strong relationships in the Clontarf Academy, thanks to the exceptional support, advice, and guidance provided by Jack and Derick here in Port Lincoln. Throughout the year, Tyler has thrived and discovered an abundance of exciting opportunities. Once he sets his mind on something, we are confident he will succeed and continue to motivate everyone around him. Winning the Guernsey design for NAIDOC Week has further fueled his determination to always strive for excellence in all challenges he faces."*





# Year 7-8-9 Ceduna Camp

During Week 6, 18 members of our Port Lincoln Clontarf Academy traveled to Ceduna for their Year 7, 8 & 9 Camp. They set up camp in Smoky Bay and went fishing on Tuesday night. The boys had a packed day on Wednesday in Ceduna, starting with a bike ride around town with the Ceduna Youth Hub. During the ride, they visited the Koonibba Football Club, where they learned about the club's history, which was a highlight for many of our students.

Afterwards, we went to Koonibba Mission to conduct a clinic at the local Primary School. It was filled with laughter and strong leadership from all Academy Members. Following the Primary School clinic, we returned to Ceduna for the first-ever Port Lincoln vs Ceduna Football Game. Both teams put up a strong effort, but Ceduna came out with an 11-point victory. We are excited for future interactions with the Ceduna Academy.







# Mother's Day Morning Tea

On Friday of Week 2, our Port Lincoln Academy members invited all the special women in their lives to the academy for our Mother's Day Morning Tea. It was an amazing turnout and a real highlight of the year so far. Our young men welcomed guests, took coffee and tea orders, and then followed up by making and delivering them back to the table for their respective family members.

Other academy members also helped take orders from our wonderful PLHS staff who made the effort to attend and have coffee and some food with our members' families. A massive thank you to all who came along, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.



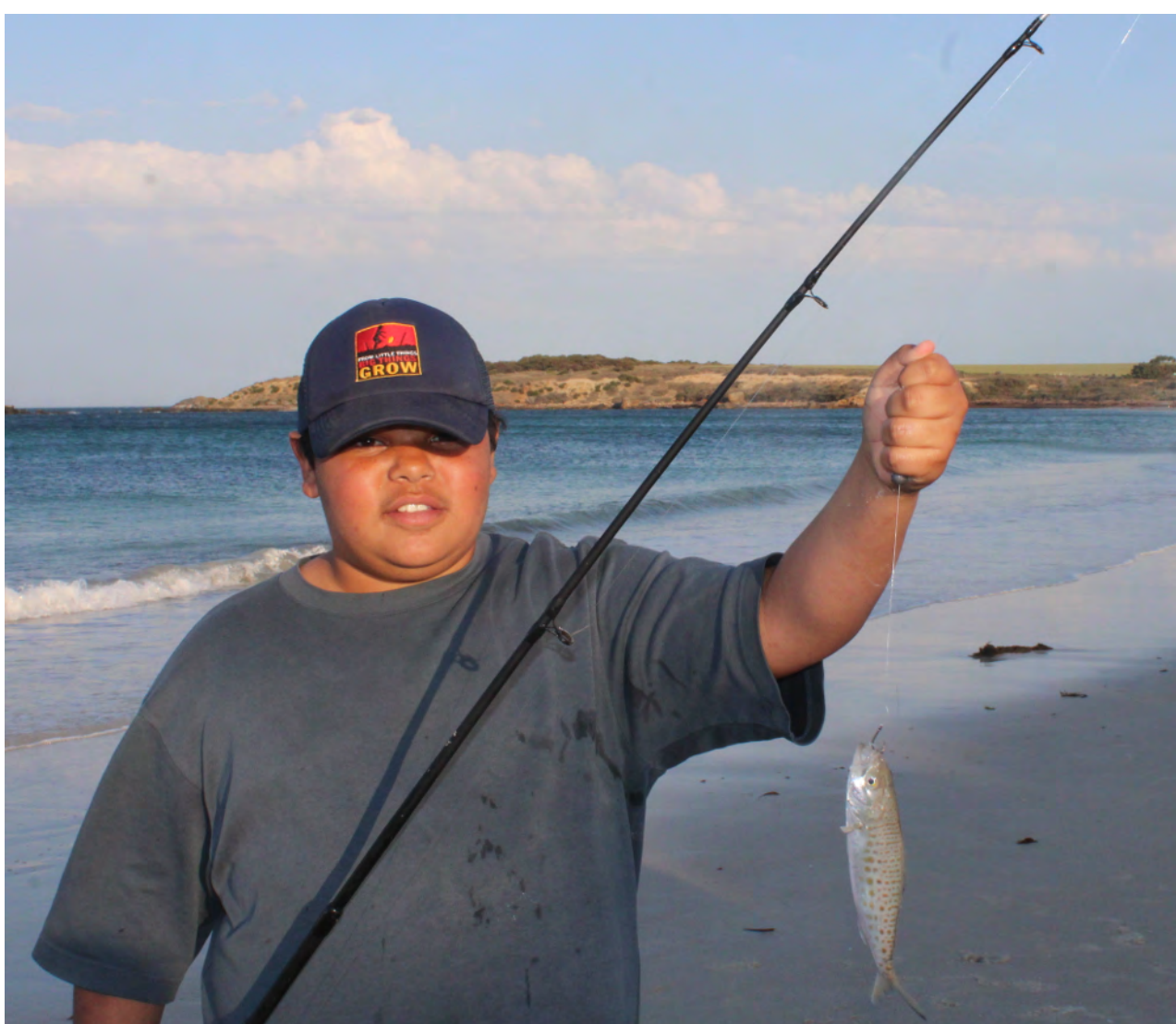


# Year 7-8 Thuruna Camp

Week 8 marked our Year 7-8 Camp to Thuruna on our Term Planner, and after a long term for our junior fellas, they were very excited to get away to one of the Lower EP's hidden gems. Unfortunately, the weather did not want to join the party on Thursday with 60 km/h winds making it tough to get outside. But in true Clontarf spirit, the fellas did not let it get them down and we adjusted the day to include some fun games and leadership activities indoors.

At 5.00pm, the wind dropped out and it turned into a magical afternoon. All 18 young men were very keen to try catch some fish for dinner. It's fair to say it was a good night to be a fish, with the fellas not having too much luck... however, it was an unbelievable evening with many laughs and smiles.

Friday morning was a pearler, with all 18 fellas up for their 7.00am beach training, followed by a delicious cooked brekkie. Following brekkie, it was on to the clean-up, which was followed by beach games, swimming, fishing, and a big beach clean of the Thuruna stretch. Blake Wells was awarded MVP for camp, putting in an unbelievable performance from the moment we picked him up, showing fantastic leadership, initiative, and Clontarf Spirit across the entire camp.





# Parent Testimonial

## **Parent Testimonial: Tegan Bullock:**

*"How lucky are we to have such a fabulous initiative like Clontarf available to our boys here in Port Lincoln? As a parent, my favourite things have to be the morning pickups and afternoon drop-offs, which help in keeping the boys attending and engaged in school.*

*The work they do not only gets the boys work-ready but often helps land them a job too. I also appreciate the extra support I receive from Jack, Derick, and the other Clontarf staff in helping steer them in the right direction.*

*My boys love the Morning Trainings and Afternoon Activities, where they get to try new things, engage with the community, create new relationships, all while hanging out with their mates. They also love the camps, of course!*

*Finally, when there isn't anyone, there's always Jack and Derick. I am beyond grateful that the boys chose to enrol. I couldn't imagine where the boys would be without the support of not only Jack and Derick but other Clontarf Academy members too.*

*I look forward to watching our boys smash some more goals."*







## Employment Forum

Week 3 marked our annual Employment Forum for all of our Year 11 and 12 students across South Australia. This year, the forum was again held in Adelaide at the West Lakes Resort. It was great to see all 12 Year 11 and 12 students commit to the week-long camp.

The first day was packed with activities at the Port Adelaide Football Club, including a Financial Literacy session, Mock Interviews, and Port Adelaide star Willie Rioli from the Port Adelaide Football Club joining us to have a chat with the boys. He spoke about his schooling and Clontarf journey up until his AFL career, highlighting how important education and finishing Year 12 is. Following our sessions at PAFC, we split off into groups for worksite visits at Flinders Port Holding, Australia Post – Startrack, Fulton Hogan, and Bunnings Warehouse.

On Thursday morning, over 20 different Clontarf Partners joined us for breakfast and the Employment Forum at The Lakes Resort Hotel. Ethan Taylor, who is a Clontarf Alumni, was the Master of Ceremonies for the event and was one of three guest speakers to be interviewed by Ocean View Academy Director Peter Rolfe. The other two guest speakers were former GWS Giant and Adelaide Crows player Curtley Hampton and Whyalla Alumni Terrelle Colson.

Upon completion of the forum, we headed to the Glenelg Football Club for the official State of Origin

trial match. All players were competing for a spot on the State of Origin SA Team, which would head to Melbourne in Term 4. It was amazing to see our young men from Port Lincoln step out of their comfort zone and engage with partners in a respectful manner, listening to the opportunities that may lie ahead within the businesses and even handing out resumes and business cards to those who sparked an interest.





# State Of Origin - 2023

In Week 4 of Term 4, Port Lincoln Clontarf Academy had 6 boys selected in the South Australian State of Origin to compete in Melbourne at the Collingwood Football Club over a 3 day carnival.

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and our young men returned from the trip full of stories and pride. It was amazing to see the young men from our academy who did not make the side this year support and talk about how their fellow academy members were going to the wider school community. The replay of the game is still often being played in the academy room before school with our younger fellas counting down the days until they get to try out in coming years.

Please congratulate the following young men:

- Michael Burgoyne
- Wesley Bilney Jnr
- Tristan Edwards
- Nathaniel Hirschausen-Burk
- Ashur Miller-Pickett
- Dre Vlassco





# Inagural Ceduna Carnival - Term 4

In Week 6, 18 of our lads from the Port Lincoln academy travelled to the far west coast of Ceduna for a Year 7-8-9 Basketball Carnival Camp. On night 1 we were welcomed to town with a BBQ feast before setting up camp at the local Race Course for a well-deserved sleep.

Day 2 was jammed packed, no better way to start our morning than giving back to the Ceduna community with a massive clean up of fallen leaves and broken branches in the surrounding area of our camp Location. Moving on from clean ups, the fellas were pumped to get stuck into the amazing race (Ceduna Style). All academies drove off in vans with clues to different locations to complete tasks. There was some sabotaging going on to get in the lead of other academies which was great banter for the lads. Thanks to Local organisations such

as Foodland, Sports Power, Ceduna Council and Ceduna Youth Hub for getting involved and making the amazing race such a great experience for the lads.

Later in the afternoon we were set to don the Port Lincoln Clontarf guernseys and work up a sweat. Port Lincoln Academy had two teams competing in the Basketball Carnival due to having 18 lads participating in this event. All academies were competitive, all were having fun and competed in the Clontarf spirit way. Highlight of the carnival was Lloyd Mclean attempting to dunk and getting nowhere near the rim had the whole gym laughing.

Also having Yadu Health set up in the Ceduna Clontarf Academy room for resting teams for a quick health session and fuelling the boys up with a smoothie before getting back onto

the courts.

The final day was one to remember, we hiked for 30 minutes along a beautiful beach which then turned into sand dunes to get to one of the best locations on earth in Davonport Creek.

Activities included a 4-way rotation with Beach Activities, Paramedics sharing first aid scenarios, Parks & Wildlife spreading education on the environment around the Ceduna area, and the cooking of around 60 Kangaroo tails, damper & a juicy wombat for a feast that left everyone wanting more.

Congratulations to Noah Retallick & Scott Kropinyeri who embodied the Clontarf way and won our Clontarf Spirit awards for being great fellas, showing leadership and bringing the best version of themselves to camp.





# Major Trip - Darwin

A highlight for all Year 12 Clontarf Academy members across the country is their "Major Trip", where all graduating Year 12 students who have fulfilled their agreed-upon commitment at the start of the year get to go on their final Clontarf camp as students.

This year, 26 young men from our South Australian Academies were accompanied by ten staff for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Darwin to celebrate and reward their hard work and commitment to their schooling journey.

The group spent an amazing 5 days in Darwin exploring Litchfield National Park, Barramundi Fishing, Spectacular Croc Juming Tour on the Adelaide River, Darwin Aquatic Park and conducted an outstanding Clontarf Presentations to Santos.

Our senior academy members who took part in the trip absolutely loved the experience and are now ready to start their next Clontarf chapter in employment.





# Awards Night

Term 4

Our awards night was a highlight for us this term with over 130 people coming down to the Port Lincoln Yacht Club to celebrate the achievements of the young men who have engaged with our program in 2023, while also acknowledging all of the support received by our Partners and wider Port Lincoln Community. We had another amazing turnout from school staff and the wider Port Lincoln Community which was really exciting to see.

Please see award winners for Port Lincoln Clontarf Academy 2023 Awards Night.

1. Clontarf Spirit (Academy Member of the Year):  
Jnr – Noah Retallick, Snr – Dre Vlassco
2. Good Bloke Award: Jnr – Tate Shillabeer, Snr – Brodie Carbine
3. Encouragement Award: Jnr – Beau Mclean, Snr - Wesley Bilney
4. Attendance Award: Jnr – Aaron Richardson-Scott, Snr – Nathaniel Hirschausen-Burk
5. Training Award: Jnr - Warren Clements, Snr - Lucas Retallick
6. Sportsman of the Year Award: Jnr – Scott Kropinyeri Snr – Ashur Miller-Pickett
7. Employment Award: Kobe Dodd (Kmart)



## BACK TO BACK - Port Lincoln High School Student Principal - Dre Vlassco

We are incredibly proud to announce that our Year 11 Academy Member and Senior Academy Member of the year, Dre Vlassco has been voted by his peers, teachers and school support staff as the 2024 Student Principal.

This is an incredible achievement for Dre and shows great leadership for our younger academy members.

As an Academy we are incredibly proud to have another Clontarf Academy Member acknowledged as Student Principal two years in a row.





# Photos from 2023

