

Port Lincoln Clontarf Academy

Clontarf Newsletter

Term 1, 2024



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 63 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 Director

The Port Lincoln Clontarf Academy has had a successful, fun, and engaging Term 1 both inside and outside the classroom. This term has seen us engage an incredible 66 fellas in the programme from Years 7-12. Since the end of 2021, the academy has more than doubled its enrollments, which is a fantastic result for all involved.

As an academy, we had 66 young men engaged over the term, with an average attendance of 83%. This is a tremendous effort by these young men and a reflection of their hard work across Term 1.

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.

A quick look across our Term 1 planner shows that our boys have been engaged in a variety of activities that have resulted in positive outcomes, including worksite visits, 29 Contact Time sessions, 14 morning trainings, after school activities, as well as camps in Adelaide, Farm Beach, Port Lincoln, Streaky Bay, and a Big Day Out to Elliston.

As we approach Term 2, we are excited about what we have planned for academy members, particularly our Year 8 Football Carnival to Port Augusta and annual Health Checks.

Please feel encouraged to get on board with our morning training sessions, after school activities, and Good Bloke Lunches, as all activities are a great way to strengthen your relationship with our academy members.

Jack Yeoman.



Year 12 Leadership Camp

To start off 2024, our Year 12 academy members Wesley Bilney, Trai Burgoyne, Brodie Carbine, Jesse Retallick, and Dre Vlassco travelled to Adelaide to join 35 other Clontarf members from around the state on their Year 12 Leadership Camp. The leadership camp is always a favourite for our Year 12s to reinforce Clontarf values, set the 2024 academy pledge, enjoy some fun activities as they work towards the end of their schooling life, and moving on to employment or further study.

The camp began with the boys up early for a Partners Training, which was fantastic for our boys to talk and socialise with our partners around employment pathways and career choices. We then moved to the Adelaide Football Club where the boys were able to listen to Jeremy Johncock and Izak Rankine talk about working and playing at an AFL club. While at the Crows facilities our boys workshopped their employment pathway but most importantly their pledge for 2024, outlining their goals and standards to finish high school. To finish off the day, we were able to spend a couple of hours at Glenelg Beach enjoying the sun and surf.

Day 3 started with a lot of anticipation, as we headed out to Murray Bridge for some paintballing. Wesley, Brodie, and Dre directed a lot of banter towards Derick and Stokesy as we drove out to the paintball field. As the battle began, both sides were keen to take the upper hand. Unfortunately for the students, their mentors had the last laugh with some outstanding war play. A worksite visit to Thomas Foods was next, where students were shown multi-dimensional employment roles, including electricians, meat packers, butchers, and admin. To conclude, we were treated with a cultural activity by Harley Hall to make boomerangs. We would like to thank Harley for taking the time to share his experiences with our young men.

Concluding camp with a game of football at Hackham Football Club, our young men were able to showcase their skills to enhance their selection chances for State of Origin later in the year. All of our young men acquitted themselves magnificently and demonstrated high leadership skills across the camp, placing them in a great place for success in 2024.

- Matthew Stokes

Year 8 Farm Beach Camp



Our Year 8 boys had their first outing for the term, an overnighter at Farm Beach. One of the best places on the EP and one many of the lads had never visited before, so excitement was in the air. Pulling into our accommodation, setting up our campsite and watching the young lads attempt to put together a swag is always an amusing sight.

A big part of the Foundation is gaining part-time work for our young fellas, then onto full-time employment once Year 12 is completed. Our good friends Carly and Steven Thompson welcomed the boys for a tour through their Oyster Farm in Little Douglas (Gazander Oysters). It provided a great insight into what it takes to work in this specific profession, from cold and wet mornings out in the sea to hot and dry days in the shed, not to mention gaining the licenses and qualifications they will need if this a pathway they would like to explore in the future.

After lunch we headed back down to Farm Beach for some fun in the sun, an NFL match and some cricket. We had a few boys whipping around the fishing rods also. We then drove to Coffin Bay foreshore for a feed, then it was competition time with a catch and release fishing comp right off the jetty. A few days prior to camp we had a few lads chirping on how they would be the one to catch the biggest fish, and the most fish. Cruze Simes and Jordy Parker caught 12-15 fish which was impressive. Cruz Miller was generous and helped Diesel Makuch with setting up his rod and supported him with bait. Brodie Dunnett brought a lot of laughter to the session but not many fish were caught on his behalf. The highlight of the night was having Levi Fowler catch his first fish ever. Very proud and happy moment for the young lad. Great stuff, Levi.

Before making the drive back to Port Lincoln, we did some sightseeing at Coles Point which is another beautiful part of the world. It was good to take in the scenery and enjoy some downtime with the boys after a jam-packed day.

- Derick Wanganeen



Partner Muffin Run

Over an after-school activity in Term 1, our Port Lincoln Clontarf fellas engaged in a project to give back and show thanks to our local partners for all the support they provide locally and nationally.

We had a group of young men volunteer their time to freshly bake muffins during an after-school activity and then deliver them around town to our partners at Woolworths, Bunnings, BCF, Kmart, Coates, and the local Service SA.

This hands-on activity provided our young men with new skills and helped strengthen their relationships with our local partners.





Year 8-9 AFL Game vs Ceduna

After our senior men got to test out their skills against Ceduna's best in Term 4 of 2023, it was our Year 8 and 9 fellas turn to take on their Ceduna brothers and see if they could get one back for the Port Lincoln Sharks.

Despite their best efforts and a high level of Clontarf Spirit, the young men from Ceduna were too good for us and kicked away early with a strong display from Wayden Sumner in the middle showing off his silky skills with back-to-back centre clearances.

For the Sharks, it was debutant Ryder Bilney working hard to link up with his new teammates as he worked well with Blake Wells and Tyler Males.

Following the game, our young men from both academies shared lunch and had yarns about their holidays and plans and goals for the year ahead.

After lunch we headed down to the foreshore for a recovery session in the shallows, ensuring we educated our young men on the importance of recovery and looking after your body for the upcoming season.





Year 7 Induction Camp

Our Year 7 fellas had the opportunity to finish the term with an academy sleepover for their much-anticipated Induction Camp. The morning started with a little physical activity with our weekly morning training session capped off with a hot meal in preparation for a massive day ahead.

We teamed up with the local SAPOL Officers, Allan Miller, Coen Taylor and Swayne Ackland, for a visit to the Port Lincoln Police Station. The lads were terrific while touring the facilities, asked good questions and displaying all the behaviours and values that make them such a great group of young men. The fellas got the chance sit in the

Courthouse and blast the sirens in one of the cop cars. Most importantly it was great to hear the many opportunities of employment if this was a pathway the fellas would like to pursue post high school.

It is very important our lads get the chance to display their leadership and getting out into the community for a beach clean-up is a super positive way of doing that. We spent an hour walking along the foreshore of North Shields beach and packed our plastic bags with a bunch of rubbish that either washed ashore or from people who had littered. We talked about being a good bloke on a daily basis and for some of our

academy members this was the first time they have participated in an activity like this. It was great to see them enjoy giving back to our community.

Winding up a jam-packed morning we whipped out our fishing rods and patiently waited for some nibbles on our tasty bait. Ethan Retallick and Lindsey Mclean jagged a few little tommies and walked away victorious with the most fish caught for the day. Before dinner and free time, we had a conversation around the values and expectations of a Clontarf fella attending Port Lincoln High School and what that looks like. The journey over the next few years to get to Year 12, graduate and land

themselves in an employment space that they will thrive in was also discussed.

To conclude the Year 7 Induction Camp, it was time for a maze run and a competitive 18 holes of mini golf. A few holes-in-ones were witnessed, though to the lads surprise it wasn't as easy as they first thought. As always, Clontarf staff showed the lads how the job must be done and walked away as clear winners.

We then broke into two groups and stepped into a maze run to find and tick off a bunch of animals that were scattered all around the maze. The fellas got some kilometers in the legs and

really enjoyed the challenge of finding the animals before searching for a clear path out of the maze.

A successful first camp for Blake Dunnett, Edward Betts-Benbolt, Malakye Charnock, Terry Peel, Jake Shillabeer, Lindsey Mclean, Amir Randhawa and Ethan Retallick.

Clontarf staff of Port Lincoln look forward to many more camps and laughs over your schooling journey.



Morning Training

Morning training has continued to be a big highlight this year, with average numbers ranging from the mid- to high-20's across Term 1.

The sport of choice this term has been modified AFL and Gaelic Football, with many sessions held both indoors and outdoors, preparing our participants for their 6:30 am pick-ups.

Following training our young men showered up and then sat down together to enjoy a nice breakfast, with one student each morning practicing their public speaking in front of the group by saying a thank you in front of their peers.



Alumni Good News Story - Continued

In 2023 I shared with you all a good news story of 2022 graduate, Charles Clements. After successfully completing his studies in 2022, Charlie worked at the Port Lincoln City Council in the IT Department while going through the lengthy and demanding process of applying to the ADF.

After a six-month period of interviews and paperwork, Charlie made the big move to Cairns from Port Lincoln and officially commenced his role with the Navy with a challenging six month course.

In that time, Charlie showed exceptional commitment and leadership while completing his training and made his family proud as they gathered to watch him graduate in person last week.

We look forward to continuing to follow Charlie's journey with ADF and having him into the academy when he is next in town to share his experience with our young men.

Charlie's story highlights the importance of providing our young men with the necessary support until the very end, ensuring they successfully transition into a bright future.



Charles with his Nan Maryanne Clements and pop Warren Clements at his graduation ceremony.

Yr 9-11 Streaky Bay Camp

It was great to have our young men in Years 9-11 on our annual three-day camp to Streaky Bay in Week 8. Thanks to the high level of engagement in the programme throughout Term 1, we were able to take 14 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, beach footy against our brothers up the highway in the Ceduna Academy, fishing, hiking, and evening cricket sessions. Matthew Stokes and Graham Goldsmith put on an all time show at the jetty both afternoons, with some of the biggest bombies that have ever been witnessed by the Streaky Bay jetty. The "catch and cook" activity was hard to complete without any fish actually caught this time round, but our fellas will be back next year and hopefully with more luck!

Our evening cricket games were filled with laughter and showcased the true Clontarf Spirit, with many guests from the park commending our young men for their attitudes and conduct.



Photos from Term 1

