



clontarf
foundation

Term 3, 2021 - COVID-19 Lockdown

Southern NSW Employment

Newsletter

Greetings

Hello All,

Term 3 certainly had a different feel about it, with all pockets of the region affected by COVID-19 lockdown. With school closures and students working from home, we had to be creative and come up with alternative ways to support our boys. Phone calls, video calls, and home visits where possible, were all utilised to continue to support our boys in the Employment space. We had many Academy members still transition into part-time work during this period and have just over 80% of last year's Graduates remain engaged in Employment or further study.

In Term 4, there will be a heavy focus on assisting our current Year 12 cohort to transition out of school and into the next chapter of their life. Term 3 presented some challenges to this integral part of the boy's journey, with lockdown impacting on recruitment and minimising the opportunities in various industries. In saying this though, our boys are keen and are ready to make their mark in their respective careers, post school.

Lockdown Hasn't Stopped Boys Entering the Woolworths Work Force



Even in the wake of state-wide lock downs, the boys from the Southern NSW region have still put their hand up and taken the leap into part-time work with National Partner, Woolworths. 5 young men from our Lake Illawarra and Kanahooka Academies, including one Graduate have taken up positions across 3 stores in the area. Pictured here, is 16-year-old Dustin Riggs. Dustin has enjoyed his first couple of shifts at Woolworths and the feedback from the staff has been super positive.

The Woolworths relationship has really blossomed this year, with Woolworths staff becoming regular faces in our Academies and at morning trainings across the region. We're looking forward to watching this relationship grow in the future.

School-Based-Traineeships Continue



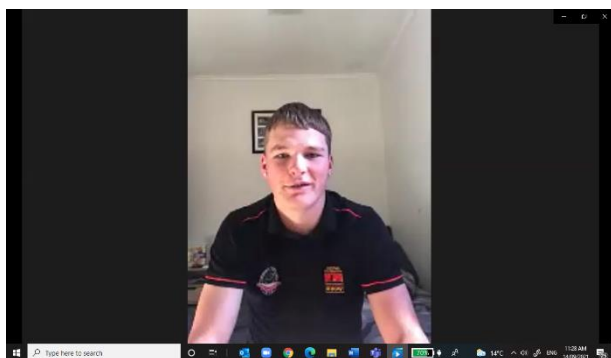
Zach Davis has been kicking goals. Currently completing a School Based Traineeship in Warehousing with Blackwoods, Zach has displayed many consistent traits that will set him up for future success. Zach wakes up in the morning and rides his bike from his home in Dapto to the local train station, which is a 2km ride. Zach then boards the train to Unanderra and will ride a further 3km to the Blackwoods depot, to start his days work. Zach has previously ridden his bike all the way home to Dapto after work, which is a 15km ride. Zach says that he enjoys this and helps keep him fit and active.

Zach, who is in Year 11, attends school 4 days each week and works with Blackwoods on the other day. Zach says that he enjoys the work and is hopeful of securing fulltime work when he finishes Year 12, in 2022.

Virtual Mock Interviews – Prepping our boys for the future

Mock Interviews are a great tool to help upskill our boys prior to entering the work force. Each Clontarf student that graduates Year 12, will participate in a variety of mock interviews and employment focused, skill-based work. COVID-19 lock-down impacted on our ability to be able to hold these sessions face to face, but we provided our boys with the opportunity to practice their interview skills virtually. With the world changing and the reliance of multimedia platforms to conduct work increasing, this also enabled our boys to upskill themselves in utilising various multimedia platforms.

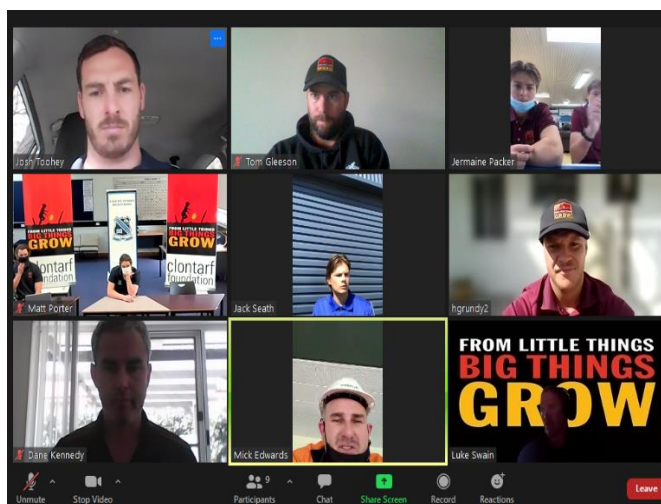
Pictured below is Declyn Timbs (Kanaooka Academy Year 12 student) and Clontarf hero, Barry Hoare who is employed by national partner, Blackwoods. Barry generously gave up his time to interview our Year 12 Kanaooka Academy boys and provide them with feedback.



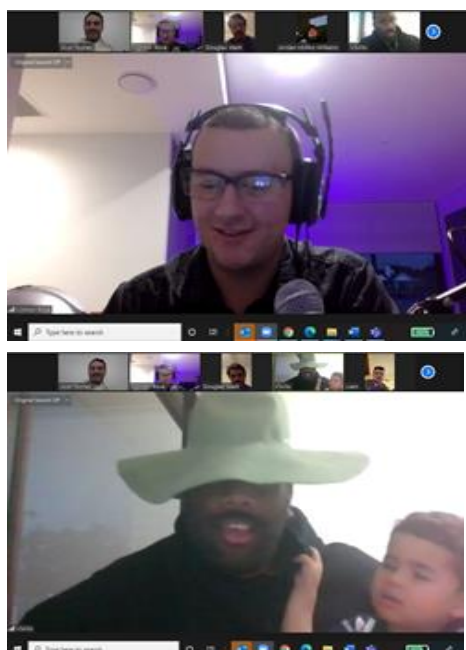
Virtul Employment Forum and Individual Partner Follow Up

For the second year in a row, our Employment Forum moved to an online format to cater for the COVID-19 impacted lockdowns. With representation from all 6 Academies across the region, this enabled our Year 11 & 12 boys to hear about various career opportunities that they may wish to pursue, post school. Kmart, Joss, Bunnings, Snowy Hydro, Blackwoods, University of Wollongong, DHL, Woolworths and the Australian Defence Force, all participated on the day. Allocated a 10-minute time slot, each presenter would discuss their respective industry and inform the boys of any upcoming opportunities. For the boys that were really keen and wanted to learn more, we organised follow up sessions with the presenters to allow the boys to ask more in-depth questions. Michael Edwards from Snowy Hydro was even able to give our boys a virtual tour of one of the power stations during the Snowy Hydro follow up session.

All our partners did an amazing job with their presentations, which sparked widespread interest in our boys. We are hoping to see some of our boys transition out of school and directly into employment with our Clontarf Partners.



Virtual Alumni Catch Up Sessions – How well can you sell a random household item?



Keeping in touch with our Alumni is one of the most rewarding aspects of the Clontarf network. With an inability to catch up with our former Graduates in person this term, we once again moved to an online format. With former Southern NSW Graduates tuning in from Sydney, Canberra and across the South Coast, it was great to have a chat and hear what the boys are up to now. With a wide range of topics including employment, lockdowns, families and reminiscing about the old Clontarf days, this gave the boys a platform to stay connected and reach out for help if needed. After sharing some jokes and stories, we closed out the night with a scavenger hunt, whereby the boys had 1 minute to locate a Green coloured item from within their house and then had 30 seconds to “sell it” to the group. With shopping bags, aprins, blankets and even children in green shirts placed on the sale list – It was hard to go past Vili’s “ancient, authentic, genuine Fijian hat”.

Our 2020 Graduates: Jhai Sturgess – Apprentice Electrician



Most young people aren't 100% sure of what they want to do when they leave school. This wasn't the case with Jhai Sturgess. When Jhai was coming to the end of his school journey, he was certain that he wanted to be an Electrician. With the support of Clontarf staff, Jhai applied for over 10 Electrical apprenticeships. This perseverance and dedication paid off, with him securing his dream job straight out of school.

Jhai had previously worked with National Partner Bunnings throughout high school and feels he learnt a lot about the workforce in that time. Jhai is honest about his time in full time work and says that "not all days are roses but I really enjoy the trade". Jhai has successfully completed all his TAFE up until now and will move into the second year of his apprenticeship in the coming months.

Our 2020 Graduates: Jarrad Maynard – Apprentice Builder



Jarrad Maynard is on the verge of successfully completing the first Year of his Carpentry apprenticeship. Currently Employed with ByGroup in Nowra, Jarrad has had the opportunity to work in various locations across the South Coast and also work on contracts at Australian Defence Force bases. Jarrad states that he tries to be a positive role model for himself and others and has taken a lot of confidence out of the first year of his apprenticeship.

Jarrad has previously worked with Clontarf partners, Kmart & Woolworths during school and then transitioned into his apprenticeship upon the completion of Year 12. Jarrad speaks very highly of his new employer and believes that his previous roles with Kmart and Woolworths gave him the tools to be able to succeed in the role.

Enjoy your break to the Academy staff. I know we're all looking forward to a big Term 4 with students back in the schools!