

Kurri Clontarf Academy Newsletter

The Kookaburra Chronicle

Term 3, 2025



clontarf
foundation



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SYDNEY

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Kurri Kurri Clontarf Academy was founded in 2022 and operates out of Kurri Kurri High School. It caters for students in Years 7 to 12 and currently has 115 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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Term 3 Highlights

Term 3 was packed with outstanding academy activities, camps, and student achievements.

We kicked things off with the Ross Kelly Cup Camp, where the boys had the incredible opportunity to travel to Sydney, climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and take part in the largest Clontarf Rugby League Carnival on the yearly calendar. This was followed by senior leadership excursions and a range of re-engagement day trips.

A major highlight was the Top Blokes Camp, where the fellas headed to Sydney to watch the Panthers take on the Bulldogs and also gave indoor skydiving a crack – an unforgettable experience for all involved!

Our Kurri Clontarf boys also put their skills to the test at the regional Table Tennis Competition, proudly taking out the 2025 Regional Table Tennis Championship title.

We successfully completed a large number of Year 7–10 health checks in partnership with SONIC Healthcare, ensuring our students continue to stay on top of their health and wellbeing.

To top it all off, we proudly watched our Year 12 Clontarf boys walk the stage to receive their graduation certificates, a huge milestone and a moment of pride for the entire academy.

Overall, Term 3 was a highly successful and engaging chapter for Kurri Clontarf, and we're looking forward to an even bigger Term 4, with exciting camps and our highly anticipated Awards Nights just around the corner.

Ross Kelly Cup 2025

On the 5th of August 2025 the Year 9 and 10 Kurri Kurri Kookaburras had the amazing opportunity to head out on a 3-day camp to Sydney and the Central Coast – and what a trip it was!

Day 1:

The group kicked things off by travelling down to Narrabeen, where they settled into their accommodation before heading out for a delicious lunch at Oceans Restaurant. The evening was a highlight, with the boys dressing up for a formal dinner alongside other Ross Kelly Cup (RKC) teams and Clontarf partners. It was a great night filled with good food, great conversations, and a chance to connect with students from other regions.

Day 2:

The second day started bright and early as the group made their way into Sydney for one of the most exciting parts of the trip – the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb. The weather was perfect, with clear blue skies and sunshine all around. The climb was challenging but rewarding, offering incredible views and memories that will last a lifetime.

Day 3:

The final day was game day – the Ross Kelly Cup. Despite cold and rainy conditions, the boys gave it their all on the field. Their hard work paid off with 3 wins out of 5 games! Unfortunately, it wasn't quite enough to make the finals, but the team played with heart, skill, and determination.

Overall, the trip was a great success – filled with teamwork, new experiences, and plenty of fun. Well done to all the boys for representing Kurri Kurri with pride!



Top Blokes Camp

This special event recognised academy members who had consistently shown commitment throughout the year — maintaining strong attendance, positive behaviour, and regular morning trainers.

The group arrived in Narrabeen shortly after lunch and were welcomed with a classic fish and chips feed by the beach — the perfect way to kick off the trip. With their energy restored, the boys spent the afternoon at the golf driving range and finished with a round of mini golf.

By 2:00 pm, they checked into their cabins at the Narrabeen Lakeside Holiday Complex. After dropping off their bags, they headed to the park for a game of footy. When the weather turned, they jumped in the vans and went to the cinema to watch Fantastic Four. The evening wrapped up with a BBQ dinner, giving everyone a chance to relax and reflect on a great first day.

Thursday began with a morning training session by the water, followed by the regular BBQ breakfast. The day's highlight was indoor skydiving — a first-time experience for many.

Though some were nervous, every student gave it a go, showing great support for one another.

Later that afternoon, the boys travelled to the highly anticipated NRL match between the Bulldogs and Panthers. With jerseys on and banter flying, the boys got right into the action. The Bulldogs came away with the win, and proud supporter Memphis Marks had the last laugh.

To finish the camp on Friday morning, the group toured Brookvale Oval and had the awesome experience of watching the Manly Sea Eagles train. Many were able to meet their heroes, collect autographs and take photos with the players. Seeing the team up close and witnessing the intensity of a professional team left a lasting impression.

The Top Blokes Camp was more than just a reward — it was a celebration of persistence and hardwork. As Term 3 draws to a close, Kurri Kurri Clontarf Academy hopes this experience inspires all students to stay committed and finish the year strong.



Kookaburras Shine at Clontarf Basketball

On Thursday, 21 August, the Kurri Kurri Kookaburras basketball team showcased exceptional skill and determination at the highly anticipated Clontarf Basketball Competition. Led by their inspiring captain, Leon Vizer, the team entered the tournament with a strong sense of unity and purpose, determined to make a deep run.

Throughout the day, the Kookaburras played four intense round-robin games, facing off against a variety of skilled teams from within the Newcastle and Hunter region. With strong leadership from the senior boys both on and off the court, as well as boatloads of enthusiasm from the younger squad members, the team demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience, and strategic play, winning each game and securing their spot in the semi-final.

The semi-final match was a thrilling encounter, with the Kookaburras holding their nerve under pressure to claim a hard-fought victory. Their disciplined defence and sharp offence paved the way to the much-anticipated Grand Final.

In the Grand Final, the Kookaburras met Newcastle High School in a nail-biting clash that kept spectators on the edge of their seats. The match was fiercely competitive from the start, with both teams exchanging leads and showcasing their best basketball. The game eventually went into double overtime—a testament to how evenly matched and determined both sides were.

Despite the Kookaburras' relentless effort and Leon's inspirational leadership, the team narrowly lost in the final seconds of the game. The heartbreaking finish only highlighted the courage and spirit of the Kookaburras, who fought until the very last buzzer.

A standout star throughout the competition was Blake Hetherington, who earned the Player of the Tournament award for the Kookaburras team. Despite being smaller in stature compared to many opponents, Blake's exceptional defensive efforts made a huge impact. His tenacity, quick hands, and smart positioning consistently disrupted opposing offences and inspired his teammates.

Although the trophy narrowly eluded them, the Kookaburras earned the respect and admiration of everyone present. Their performance on 21 August will be remembered as a proud moment and a source of inspiration for future teams.





West Industries Day

In Week 9, Kurri Academy students had the valuable opportunity to participate in the Wests Industries Worksite Tour, held in Mayfield, Newcastle

The day commenced with a warm welcome from Leanne, who outlined the schedule and expectations for the day. This was followed by a meaningful Acknowledgement of Country, delivered by Jason May.

Following the formalities, students were divided into four rotating groups to explore different departments within Wests Industries. The rotations included horticulture cellar operations, hotel services, and catering. Each group gained insight into the various roles and responsibilities within these sectors. The experience was rounded out with a group tour of Balance Gym, showcasing yet another facet of the industry.

Throughout the tour, the boys were encouraged to ask questions and were provided with valuable information about potential career pathways. They even had the chance to get hands on experience from laying lines on the field, helping to wash lettuce in the kitchen and even tapping a keg in the cellar.

After the rotations, students were treated to a catered lunch, offering a chance to relax, socialise, and network with staff and each other. This was followed by a Q&A session, where students learned about the application process for jobs within Wests Industries, including what employers look for during interviews.

To top off an already fantastic day, the boys had the unique opportunity to play a game of touch footy with two Newcastle Knights NRLW players, Shanice Parker and Botille Vette-Welsh. This was a definite highlight and an inspiring end to the experience.



Upcoming in Term 4

Week 2

- ALFABS Work Site tour

Week 3

- Kurri Super Training Session

Week 4

- Hunter Beach Oz Tag Carnival

Week 5

- Fox Sports Carnival

Week 6

- Year 12 Major Camp

Week 7

- Back to Basics Camp

Week 8

- Awards Night 4th of December 5pm - 7pm

Week 9

Top Trainers Camp



Photos from Term 4

