

Celebrating 35 Years

President's Welcome

Well, due to the joys of modern technology, we had a crashed laptop the very week following our reunion. Our apologies for the missed Croc Tales; however we're now back on track.

What a weekend the reunion was! The Friday golf day went off with a bang (just ask Charlie) then everyone enjoyed drinks and a catch up at the club house afterwards. Saturday was the night of the reunion dinner and from the feedback that I've received, it appears that everyone enjoyed the night. In fact I was told we should do it every 35 years. For those who travelled, I genuinely thank you for your efforts. It was great to see you all in Darwin again.

During the night four new life memberships were awarded. I would like to congratulate David Ley, Brock Evans, Shane and Lyn Cotton, and Pauline Wyles-Kelly and Ned Kelly for this club honour. All have worked tirelessly over many years and fully deserve this award. The club also inducted its first members into our Hall of Fame: Tony Burns, Ratu K, Tony Morris and John Sullivan. All four were outstanding players in their day and when you read the criteria for the Hall of Fame, you will agree with the selection committee that these past players were automatic selections.

In closing, I would again like to thank the people who made the weekend special:

- Golf Day – Brock Evans and Charlie Chambers
- Friday Night at the clubhouse – Dennis Grant, Lyn Cotton, Ned Kelly and Pauline Wyles-Kelly
- 35 Anniversary Dinner – Brock Evans, Percy Peel, Selina Blyton, Evey Temple-Bree, Cecily Bree, Wendy & Mal Leach, Sonya Bree, Bryony Blake and also Michelle Woodcock, who did a fantastic job with the photography on the night.

If I have left anyone off, I am sorry. The work which was done by many made the weekend a huge success.

Ben Blyton, President



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Around The Grounds ~ Reunion Weekend



THE SENIORS



A GRADE



B GRADE

A Grade - Dragons 14 Palmerston 5

Unfortunately this game was called off early; however Ben 'Cube' Emmett still managed to exchange pleasantries with Big Billy Jones – much to the delight of the supporters and players who have vivid memories of past games against their old foe.

Try – Anthony Smith (1)

(A Grade photo supplied by Fiona Austin; B Grade photos by Hellfire)

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B Grade - Dragons 36 Palmerston 34

Update from coach Craig Leach

The Palmerston B grade team looked as if we had stepped back a decade in a time-tunnel on Saturday, as we took on Darwin Dragons.

With a thousand years of rugby experience on the paddock, the game had plenty of action and some great tries were scored. We had a team of front rowers in Cube, Snogga Snowden, Shane 'Fine' Cotton, Dennis Bree, Gareth 'Shrek' Felton, and John Herbert all taking the paddock. T-Bear Harrison got the dream job at Number 8, and scored a great early try. New big man, Errol Wilson, also a try scorer, provided some excellent charges and demonstrated how to tackle in the hit of the year on a wide-eyed Dragon! (Not sure how he got up, actually!).



Denny 'Duderanch' Johnson, Greg Jarvis and Shrek had some graceful runs in broken play, and our Under 18's debutant, JJ, had a really good game. Great to see ex-juniors, Paddy Killen, Tom Cummins and all-the-way from Singapore, Captain Michael Killiner, team up once again, with Pebbles (son of Boulder) displaying a perfect game at open side breakaway, and scoring a great meat pie. Father and son played alongside one another as Boulder took the field.

Snogga ran a perfect line to dive over and give the front towers some bragging rights. Robbie Taylor kept the scoreboard ticking, and we led by a point just prior to full time, when Dragons kicked a penalty goal, on the bell, and we managed to steal defeat from the jaws of victory!!

Great to see so many people come down to watch. Ex-players like Sully Sullivan, Same-Name, Tim 'Tom' Curran, Alec Watson, Stringer Lawrence and Brendan Sly all wisely turned up AFTER kick-off so they didn't have to play! Paddy Bree and Hellfire Bennett gave sideline commentary to 70's and 80's Crocs like Mike Barnard, Mike Wilson, Tony Burns, Mr Casuarina and Noel Bree. Also great to see old stalwarts Roger Lynch, Steven 'Doggie' Roberts and Ben Johnson at the game as well.

Superb effort from Tim Stitt who committed to the Crocs for his debut game, 90 minutes after flying in from Brisbane... subs are now due, Tim! And can you come back next week too?

That was a really good turnout considering it was just before the 35th reunion dinner, so thanks to everyone that played out of position, and gave the old fellas a trot. Dragons must have been wondering why the big crowd had turned up to watch the



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game. Final score was 34-36.

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WHAT A NIGHT!

Pre dinner drinks



The Grand Ballroom



MC Hellfire



Toast to the Palmy Props



Presidents Toast



Toast to the Ladies



Glen & Jo Kennedy from NZ



Jarvo, Tommy and James



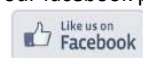
Al, Tim, Sully, Squirt, Craig, Brendan



Stalwarts Sonya & Bernie Bree



See these photos and more on our facebook page



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BERNIE BREE'S SPEECH INTRODUCTION TO THE HALL OF FAME

"Palmerston Rugby Union Clubs Hall Of Fame has been introduced to recognize players who have had a significant and lasting impact on our club and on rugby in the Territory.

The players to be inducted must have played at least 20 A grade games for the club up to 1979 and 50 games after that; they must have represented the Northern Territory; and they must have done this while demonstrating outstanding playing ability, sportsmanship, commitment, character and personal contribution to the team and the game of rugby in their era.

A limiting factor for some significant players that you may have in mind is that they must have been retired for at least two years.

To try to locate these special people the club asked a group of four people who have been with the club in various positions over many years. The club then asked for any interested members to nominate players they felt would qualify for this special award.

Many nominations were received and the panel can see that many of these will become Hall of Fame inductees in the future. We were very keen to ensure that this first group of inductees set the bar very high. We hope that as we read the players out and describe their input to the game of rugby, you will all nod in agreement that these are indeed special people in our club.

This first group of inductees is small and date across many eras. We will now introduce you to these the first inductees into the Palmerston Rugby Union Hall of fame".



Hall of Fame selection committee -
Garry Russell, Dave Ley,
Bernie Bree and Wendy Leach.



Our inaugural Hall of Fame inductees who were able to attend the reunion: John Sullivan, Ratu and Tony Burns, with Wendy Leach. Tony Morris was also inducted into the Hall of Fame.

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OUR INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Tony Burns



Ratu



John Sullivan



We'll have more about our inductees in upcoming editions of Croc Tales.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS PRESENTED AT THE REUNION DINNER



Dave Ley

Previous President & Committee Member, A Grade Player A & B Grade Coach, Mozzie Coach, Australian Combined States Schoolboy Coach, NT Schoolboy Coach, Referee Club Sponsor.



Brock Evans

Player, A Grade Best & Fairest winner, long term committee member, chief social organiser for many years, club character.



Ned Kelly & Pauline Wyles-Kelly

Tireless junior and senior club volunteers over many, many years, current Under 14's managers.

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TELEGRAMS

We received many well wishes for our reunion night. Here are some of them...

Hi all

Congratulations on 25 years of been a great rugby club, maybe the best rugby club ever, would of loved to join you all in the celebrations this weekend. Will be thinking of you all this weekend.

Haere rā: Goodbye

Muck and Leonie Olsen, New Zealand

Greetings to all our Crocs connections, from the two of us, 5 years in the awesome bay of islands.
Doug Kane and Kathy Heath, New Zealand

...I am extremely jealous of all of you and friends who are getting together this week and over the weekend for the 35th anniversary. I saw the latest list of names who are coming as well as the photo with Chris Marlow, so feeling sad that I could not transport myself (Star trek fashion) there... Please pass on greetings to all friends past and have beer or three for me...

Raphael Crowe, Abu Dhabi

The Maitland Rugby Club wishes the Palmerston Crocodiles congratulations of your 35th anniversary. A great achievement by a great club. As we enter our 135th season we wish to request of Palmerston, a safe home for any of our rugby players who venture north and vice versa any Crocodiles who wish to visit the Hunter. We trust that you have a wonderful evening and again congratulations on 35 years of top end rugby.

Ben Emmett VP Maitland RC



THANKYOU...

Many thanks to Chris Bree from Blue Sky Graphic Design and Shandelle from Fusion Exhibition and Hire Services, who worked miracles to ensure we had banners for our reunion dinner. They looked great!

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TOAST TO A (PALMY) PROP

It was midway through the season we were just outside the four
and although I know we won it I can't recall the score.

But there's one thing I remember and to me it says a lot
about the men who front the scrum the men we call "the props".

We won a lineout near half way the backs went on a run
the flankers quickly ripped the ball and second phase was won.

Another back then crashed it up and drove towards the line
another maul was duly set to attack it one more time.

The forwards pushed and rolled that maul they set the ball up to a tee
the last man in played tight head prop and wore the number "3"

The ball was pushed in to his hands he held it like a beer
then simply dropped to score the try his first in 15 years.

Then later, once the game was done he sat amidst his team
he led the song and called himself the try scoring machine.

But it wasn't till the night wore on that the truth was finally told
just two beers in, he'd scored the try and also kicked the goal.

At 6 o'clock the try was scored by barging through their pack
he carried two men as he scored while stepping 'round a back.

By seven he'd run twenty yards out sprinting their quick men
then beat the last line of defence with a "Jonah Lomu" fend.

By eight he'd run from near half way and thrown a cut out pass
then looped around and run again no-one was in his class.

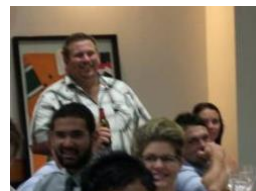
By nine he'd run from end to end his teammates stood in awe
he chipped and caught it on the full then swan dived as he scored.

By ten he'd drunk a dozen beers but still his eyes did glisten
as he told the story of "that try" to anyone who'd listen.

His chest filled up, as he spoke, his voice was filled with pride
he felt for sure he would be named the captain of that side.

By nights end he was by himself still talking on his own
the club was shut, the lights were out his mates had all gone home.

And that's why I love my front row they simply never stop
and why I always lend an ear when a try's scored by a (Palmy) prop.



A quick note re copyright: a google search for the origins of this ode resulted in several 'author unknown' versions; however one site did credit it to 'The Poem Guy' Mick Collis: http://www.thepoemguy.com.au/read_odetoaprop.asp

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Noticeboard



NTRU LADDERS

A Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	Points
Casuarina	11	11	0	0	50
Souths	12	8	0	4	41
Dragons	11	5	0	6	24
University	11	3	0	8	16
Palmerston	11	1	0	10	6

B Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	Points
Casuarina	14	11	0	3	54
Souths	14	11	0	3	49
University	14	7	0	7	34
Swampdogs	14	6	0	8	30
Palmerston	14	4	0	10	27
Dragons	14	5	1	8	25

Under 18's

Team	P	W	D	L	Points
Swampdogs	10	9	0	1	43
Casuarina	10	6	0	4	31
University	10	5	0	5	25
Palmerston	10	2	0	8	13
Dragons	4	0	0	4	0

ROYAL DARWIN SHOW CLEANUP

From **Thursday 26th July to Sunday morning 29th July**. See a Clean Up Co-ordinator to book your shift:

Dennis Grant – 0437 912 140
 Robbie Taylor – 0419 857 286
 Ben Blyton – 0417 082 531

And some other things...

PRESIDENT'S XV

Congratulations to former Palmerston Junior Jared Deo (pictured right), who was recently named in the President' XV to play the Tongan School Boys side. Jared's family are heavily involved with Palmerston Juniors, with younger brothers Ayrton and Sachin playing in the Under 16's and Under 10's respectively, and mum Robyn co-managing the Under 10's. Dad Jaz is over the moon with Jared's selection.



JUNIOR NOTES – from Junior Coordinator Robbie Taylor

- Please note that the Under 14's will now be training on Thursdays only, until the end of the school holidays.
- All Under 14's and 16's will be rostered on for five hours on the Saturday of the show clean up. If any players or parents have any queries or concerns, please contact Robbie on mobile 0419 857 286
- Under 10s have their training camp/sleepover this weekend 14 - 15 July, 4pm – 9am. All the best for a great camp!

JUNIORS TRAINING OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The following teams will have a break over the holidays:

Under 6's – back at training Thursday 26th July
 Under 8's & Under 12's – back at training Tuesday 24th July

The following teams are training right through the break:

Under 10's & Under 16's – Tuesdays and Thursdays
 Under 14's – Thursdays only

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