



COBRA TILING
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President's Welcome

Another big week at Palmerston Rugby Union Club.

Last weekend saw our first trial game down in Katherine. Two mini-buses made the trip and from all reports everyone who went had a good time. See the write up later in Croc Tales. Special mention must be made of our two Under 18's players, Cody McFarlane and Gary Keppell who enjoyed their first senior bus trip and also acquitted themselves well against the Brahmans.

To this week's team that is entering the Souths 10's, all the best and keep the momentum going. We are building for better things.

Last weekend also saw the start of the Super Rugby competition and the come-from-behind-win by the Queensland Reds must surely enhance the desire to play rugby again. Remember, only three weeks to go until our season starts and your bodies will thank you if you get down to training now.

The season draw has also been published and will be included in your senior handbooks which will soon be available online or at the clubhouse. The handbooks also include a social diary to enable you a heads up on what is happening in this very important year. The juniors should have already received their handbook; if you haven't, they are available at the clubhouse (and online soon).

And finally, Croc Tales is looking bigger and better than ever. Readers have probably noticed several changes to Croc Tales in the last few weeks, with new content and now a new look. We are attempting to make Croc Tales even more interesting and enjoyable to read. Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback and remember that we also welcome contributions from you - anything that you want to contribute we will try and publish.

Palmerston, Palmerston, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!!!

Ben Blyton

What's on this week...

SOUTHS 10'S - Saturday 3 March at Warren Park.



Notice board

2012 SEASON

A reminder that the 2012 season for **Juniors** starts on **Friday 23 March** and for **Seniors** on **Saturday 24 March**.

Palmerston will host the first senior games of the season with home games at Moulden Oval.

Under 18's will play at 3.00pm, **B Grade** at 4:30pm and **A Grade** at 6.00pm.

JABIRU 10'S

This is on next **Saturday 10 March** in Jabiru. Bus travel available for interested people.

CASH FOR CONTAINERS

Recycle your containers at the clubhouse and raise funds for the club at the same time:



Around The Grounds



Contributor: Craig Leach

On a steamy hot Katherine Saturday, the Palmy XV dusted the mould off the trusty old boots and did battle with the Brahmans at the 'Jewel of the Territory'. 8 debutants donned the tricolours for the 1st hit out of the year against an in-season opposition. Taking a while to settle, we found ourselves 10 nil down before mounting pressure saw Brock Evans score a long-reach try in the corner.

New comer Rowley was everywhere and was held up twice over the tryline before an old croc, Craig Leach mauled the ball to score a good forwards try. We led 10-12 after oranges but Brahmans replied on the bell to pull the game out of the bag and won 17-12. Best player was Anthony Smith.

With the boatrace lost, we headed north as 18 moons reflected off the Cullen River. Charlie Chambers released his new single at the Emerald Springs roadhouse and the singing rang on into the night. Thanks to all new and old players for the effort, and to Rob Sloan and Rob Iglesias for driving. Great trip.

{Editor's note: In late news, locals are baffled at finding 18 pairs of men's underpants in various states of disrepair on the banks of the Cullen River}



THE JUNIORS



The **2011 Under 9's**. Read about coach Wayne Smith on page 4.

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Running on for the B Grade Grand Final in 2006.



Grand final action.



With Dad, Boulder

Where are they now?

Name: Michael Killiner
Born: 21/2/1989
Palmy Player: Toddler - 2007

What are you doing now?

Currently having a "University Hangover" living and working in Singapore. Playing rugby for Wanderers and still awaiting a premiership to add to the Killer B's and 18's for Palmy in 2007.

How did you become involved with Palmerston?

The general public believe I was thrown into the club due to my families heavy involvement from an early age. However the "real story" behind the beginning needs to be told: My father "Boulder" was looking at venturing overseas to play some glamorous rugby. Upon realizing this I took it upon myself to force "Boulder" to remain at his beloved Palmerston and swam my way into my parent's life. This being the case he had no other option and married both my mum and Palmerston Crocs.....you are all welcome.

What's your favourite memory?

Running water out to the A-grades from an early age (I think Squirt had played around 200 games by this stage) was very memorable. However playing a season with my old man still remains THE highlight, unfortunately the Father-Son, Vice-Captain-Captain combo didn't have a fairytale ending with a surprise upset to the Dragons in the 2006 Grand Final.

What do you miss?

I will always remain a Palmy player at heart and with this comes an inability to truly "love" any other club. Unfortunately living in another country restricts my involvement however I will always miss trainings down at Moulden, the Palmy Mosaic in the club house, Wendy and Mal "the real armchair" supporters and all the people involved within the club.

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Wayne



2011 Under 9's game action

"Well as you know i have quite a bit of hair ... but it's getting the chop! I am going to be shaving for a cure on the weekend of march 15 - 17th".

In keeping with theme of the old and the new, we're introducing a new segment in which we profile current club members. The first club member that we're turning the spotlight on is the 2012 Under 10's Coach, Wayne Smith.

In the spotlight...

Name: Wayne Smith
Born: Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Playing history

Wayne's first memory of rugby was playing prop in the Under 8's in South Africa. He went on to play schools rugby as a lock or flanker, then played club rugby in South Africa, playing in the backs, mainly on the wing.

Wayne and his wife Maxi have now been in Australia for nine years. When he first came to Australia he played rugby for the Brighton Rugby Club in South Australia. He declined to answer the question regarding the difference between club rugby in South Africa and club rugby in Australia.

Why did you join Palmerston?

"I saw the club on the internet".

What do you like about coaching?

"Training the boys and seeing how they develop and improve during the year".

Wayne has been the Under 9s / 10s coach for the last three years. His two sons, Zane and Reuban, also play for Palmerston Juniors.

Other news...

Former player Michael Scaturchio (**Scratchy**) will be **Shaving for a Cure** on the weekend of March 15 – 17. If you would like to help Scratchy on his way, you can make a donation at:

<http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=430927>

Just follow the link above and click 'donate'.

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Each week Croc Tales are running a “PALMY TRIVIA” competition, with the winner receiving \$10 off their 35th Anniversary Dinner Tickets.

To enter the competition, just email your answers by 6pm Wednesday each week to ben.blyton@bigpond.com

All correct (or mostly correct) answers will be placed in a draw and one weekly winner will be picked. The winner and the correct answers will be published in Croc Tales the following week. The prize is not transferable.



Last week's winner is **Garry Crone**, who has sent his answers in from the mines of W.A. Garry was always an active member of the club whenever his work commitments allowed him to be Darwin.



Previous winners are:

1 – **Steve Roberts**

Palmy Trivia # 3

Last week's quiz was quite challenging, so here's a easy one...

WHO AM I? Guess the club personality from the clues below:

“I am a current player. I used to be a back, now I play in the forwards. My family has made a great contribution to PRUC and the NTRU. I am married. I live in the rural area. I have played for PRUC for many years. Some say that I am too old to play. I am a life member of the club. I have two daughters. I like red beer, bus trips, singing songs, and getting nude. I am ???”

Remember, email your answer to: ben.blyton@bigpond.com

The answers to last weeks questions...

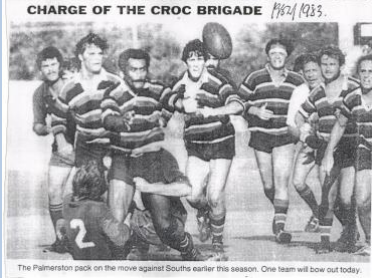
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW PAST AND PRESENT PLAYERS?

- How many Palmerston players were in the NT team that beat Scotland?** 7 (in Garry's words: “I was there and saw it with my own eyes”)
- Name the Captain and Vice Captain of the team:** Craig Leach and Braedon Earley
- What year did Palmerston win their first A Grade Premiership?** 1990 - 1991
- Who has played the most A Grade games for Palmerston?** Craig Leach
- Who has played the most games for Palmeston?** Dennis Bree
- Which 2012 Super Rugby team had an former Palmerston Junior playing in it?** The Chiefs
- In 2011, two Super Rugby players have had brothers that played for Palmerston - who are they (the Super Rugby Players)?** There were actually three - Drew Mitchell (Waratahs), Gene Fairbanks (Western Force) and Narada (Tawera) Kerr-Barlow (Chiefs) (Jake Barlow, although better known as a referee, also played for Palmerston. Sorry Jake! That's what happens when you sin-bin the writer of the quiz).
- Name two current politicians that have played for the club:** Good try Garry, but it wasn't Barack Obama and Kevin Rudd (“both sneaky halfbacks”), it was Warren Snowden, who also coached for the club, and John Elferink.
- What is the name of the first 3rd Generation player to play for Palmerston?** young Hamish Blake
- Who has won the most A Grade Best and Fairest, and how many did they win?** Three players have won three each: Tony Morris, Tony Burns and John Sullivan (although Garry, Brock is thrilled that you had him winning it about 8 times).

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(CROC) TALES FROM HISTORY



To mark the upcoming 35th Anniversary of our Club, Croc Tales will print a series of stories on the history of the Club.

The weeks story was submitted by Mark Spain, after being inspired by Garry Russell's article the week before.

35th Anniversary

Contributor: Mark Spain (Spano)

I would like to add my first experience with the mighty red, white and blue particularly reading about Garry Russell's first experience. So here it goes, I was living in Palmerston at that time around 1985 and decided that Aussie Rules wasn't quite the sport for me and I would have to put my \$7 K-mart footy boots and firm fitting footy shorts to better use so I thought why don't I try something where I tuck the ball under my arm and with great gusto run at someone so they had to tackle me, how hard could it be. So my first point of call was with Bernie Bree, down at the Gray Oval, introduced myself and was accepted straight away by the club.

So my career started as an outside centre, next to Garry (who still had the league ethos as to not pass it just take it up and see what happens) anyway after a couple of nerve racking games it didn't take long for Bernie to approach me and raise the prospects of playing in the forwards, I said certainly "what position do you have in mind?", well the response from Bernie could not come out quick enough "would you be interested in say the front row", why not I said and fully supported by Garry = Thanks. Those years proved interesting, one year we had a strong front row the next couple of years we had a light front row and every other team had a massive forward pack which we often ended up 4 foot off the deck or the reverse would happen resulting in half an hour to dig myself out of the dirt after being firmly embedded by the friendly opposition.

I had a couple of years as the Prop then moved into Hooker and must admit my starting height was 180 cm and in a few short years was compressed to a midget when I finished, speaking of gravity challenged people, I caught up with Dennis Bree the other night and is still playing, he was 185cm back in those days. Anyway in wrapping it up I started as outside centre, moved to prop, promoted to hooker and finished up on the wing. Don't think the last promotion to winger was because of pace, the fact was Patty Bree and myself where slow runners but we could stay with each other in the last line of defence, also the mighty Colin "Snogger" Snowden showed up in devastating form as the hooker from Penrith.

I have met many fine people and taken away many fond memories from this great club.

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