



**COBRA TILING**  
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## President's Welcome

Welcome to another edition of Croc Tales – again what a fortnight, and we are now halfway through the season. This to me is amazing as in some ways it feels like we have just been getting started.

Being halfway through the season the question is, how are we going? Our registered player base is fine and the numbers at the senior games have certainly improved on last year. The results on the field have not yet turned around but they will as long as we keep working on them. The challenge is now to integrate the U18s into the senior grades to keep as many of the players as we possibly can (read about the U18s on p 4).

In the Juniors we again have good numbers across all grades, with the U 16s and U12s being particularly strong. Our Junior sides are all young sides - with most players playing their first season in their current age group - and all players are to be commended on their efforts.

Our volunteer base, although strong for one-off events, could do with some help for the more regular jobs (particularly in the Seniors where we have a few unfilled roles - see me if you're able to assist in any way). On that note, a huge thank you to everyone who is volunteering their time on a weekly basis - without you all our club wouldn't be what it is today. Furthermore, the support of our sponsors this year has been excellent and the club is financially strong. The committee continues to work hard behind the scene to ensure that this continues.

So overall the future looks good - but I guess we would all like an A Grade win or two.

**Ben Blyton, President**

## What's coming up...

**Friday 24 May** – All Junior sides playing. Under 6s and Under 8s are on Field 1; all other sides are playing on Field 2.

**Saturday 25 May** – No Senior games this weekend.

## A GRADE vs UNI



## NTRU LADDERS

## A Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	Points
University	8	7	0	1	36
Casuarina	7	6	0	1	30
Souths	7	4	0	3	20
Dragons	7	1	0	6	5
Palmerston	7	0	0	7	0

## B Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	Points
Dragons	9	6	2	1	34
Swampdogs	9	7	0	2	32
Souths	9	5	0	4	26
Casuarina	9	2	3	4	20
University	9	2	2	5	18
Palmerston	9	1	1	7	9

## Jordan Simshauser

(pictured right), not only scored a great try in his A Grade game debut against Uni., he also turned 18 on the same day.

**Happy Birthday Jordan!**

## Around The Grounds



## ROUND 8 REPORT – 11 MAY 2013

*Update by A Grade coach Kerry Smith*

Both Palmy teams travelled across the border to play University at Uni's home ground.

B grade kicked off at 2:30 and it was hotter than all global warming predictions. The Killer B's once again made a reasonable start with some size about the forward pack and bursts of speed and penetration in the backline. Palmy looked the better side for the most part of the game but just failed to maintain enough pressure to score off the opportunities that were there. Several Under 18 players stepped up and really played well and Anthony Smith had half a game after a long injury. There was also a cameo appearance from Drew Weaver who was in town for the weekend.

A Grade started with most players trying to get the attitude lifted but it was really going to be one of those days. The plan was to try to shut down our habit of throwing 50/50 balls which continue to put us under pressure, but two errors where we did exactly what we didn't want and threw the ball back into play 'to no one in particular' lead to two tries to Uni. Palmy tightened up after these errors and for the next 20 minutes there was a real contest where we managed to recycle possession and made good progress up the field. Then another lapse saw Uni put on several tries. Palmy however put up a late assault and looked good with the ball in hand, with Jordan Simshauser finding a gap and accelerating through to score a good try under the sticks.

Palmy's best were Rhys Hitchcock who once again led well from the front, supported by Damian Collie, Chris Mead, Paul Williams and Matt McDonald. Michael Killiner also made a notable presence when he came on.



**A Grade** University 63 Palmerston 7

**Try:** Jordan Simshauser; **Conversion:** Damien Collie

**B Grade** University 22 Palmerston 22

**Try:** Xavier Mackenzie, Brock Evans, Michael Nicholas; **Conversions:** Paul Devir (2); **Penalties:** Paul Devir (1)

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**B GRADE vs UNI****A GRADE vs CASUARINA****B GRADE vs CASUARINA**

*All photos supplied by Fiona Austine*

**ROUND 9 REPORT – 18 MAY 2013**

*Update by A Grade coach Kerry Smith*

The last home game for the season saw a good crowd line the Moulden field to watch both grades take on Casuarina.

B grade again made a reasonable start and everyone got really excited when Palmy were first to score and had a big advantage for territory. At half time I left the game with the hope of a Palmy win but it wasn't to be. Killer B's lost the game but there were definitely some positives to take from the game. First and foremost was the performance of the two star Under 18 recruits in Gavin McHugh and Xavier McKenzie who played outstanding games and definitely kept Palmy right in the game. The second positive was that we had most of the run-on side at training on Tuesday and Thursday and that made a huge difference amongst the guys. Others that worked hard were Josh Parker at hooker and Brock Evans and Chris Mead.

A Grade played the best first half of the season so far and really looked like being in a position to go on and take the win. Casuarina scored an early try that should have been stopped with better attention to fist time tackles. Their second try took a lot of work and was the result of some good phase play that eventually created an overlap. Palmy responded with a try of our own late in the half to big Gareth Felton who was very happy to get a reward for some excellent forwards play supported by good use of a couple of penalties. 12 – 5 at half time and we should have turned around and started the game without a break. Unfortunately the first 10 minutes of the second half did some damage on the scoreboard that was hard to recover from and we went down 32 - 10.

There was definitely a winning feel amongst the team and we need to ensure that the playing group understands that winning games is well within reach but it won't be handed over from any other side in the competition and we'll have to work hard together to get there. Palmy's best were the whole backline of Chris, Damien Collie, Tommy Hurse, Sam, Smithy, Jason and Tyrone Gersch-Mitzen with Gareth (Shrek) Felton, Rhys Hitchcock, Hemi Seymour, Paul Williams and Matt McDonald the pick of the forwards.

**ROUND 9 RESULTS**

**A Grade** Casuarina 32 Palmerston 10

**Tries:** Gareth Felton, Anthony Smith

**B Grade** Casuarina 26 Palmerston 12

**Tries:** Rhys Gluck, Shane Cotton; **Conversions:** Brock Evans

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## UNDER 18s The year that was...



## UNDER 18s REPORT

*Update by Ben Blyton*

Unfortunately there was sad news for the club this week, with the Under 18 competition officially folding for the season.

Although we had an enthusiastic and committed team it appeared every other club was struggling. With Casuarina and University both pulling out of the competition, there was only us and an under-manned Swampdogs side left in the competition. As a club we advocated strongly for our Under 18s to be allowed to play as a side in the B Grade competition; however unfortunately this was not accepted by the other clubs.

**The club would like to acknowledge the efforts of all the Under 18s players who have basically trained since February without yet having played a 15-a-side game. An awesome effort. To Justin and Tania McKenzie, the coach and manager of the side for a number of years - the committee would like to sincerely thank you for your efforts in getting the side together and turning them into a very impressive side.**

In lieu of an Under 18 competition, the NTRU has advised that the NT Schoolboy squad will begin training earlier than planned (maybe as early as next week) with trial games for the squad to be arranged soon. I would encourage all Under 18s to try out and train for the schoolboy squad. In addition to the usual games, there will also be another game against a visiting English school side later in the year.

I would also encourage all of the Under 18 players to continue to come down and train and play with the Seniors. Several of the players have already made the switch, with Ryan Cotton, William Bohning, Cody MacFarlane, Jordon Simshauser and Xavier McKenzie all being included in an A Grade match 22 at some stage this year. These guys plus several others including Gavin McHugh - who was best-on-ground in last week's B Grade game - are playing senior rugby each week.

And lastly – I would like to announce that as far as the club is concerned, the Under 18s not only won the pre-season 10s competition, but they can also claim the **Under 18 Premiership** as shown by the official NTRU ladder. Well done to all!

## Northern Territory Rugby Union

### Under 18 Colts

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Df	BP 4t	BP <7p	Pts
 Palmerston	7	6	0	1	274	65	209	7	1	32
 Swampdogs	7	6	0	1	244	120	124	6	0	30
 Casuarina	7	3	0	4	109	144	-35	3	0	15
 University	7	1	0	6	86	266	-180	2	0	6
 Darwin Dragons	4	0	0	4	17	135	-118	0	0	0

*Note: no new photos this fortnight, so here's selection from earlier weeks...*

### UNDER 6s



### UNDER 8s



### UNDER 10s



## JUNIORS ROUND 6 RESULTS – 10 MAY 2013

### Under 6s Palmerston 25 Casuarina 15

**Tries:** J Howe (2), L Muller (1), T Ruddick (2)

*Update by Bryony Blake (manager)*

Palmerston had another great win over Casuarina, with Levi and Jackson once again displaying great skill in their running and tackling, and Jordan eager to get in to help. The team was also supported by two players from Swampdogs, and Toré Ruddick from Casuarina who scored two tries.

### Under 8s Palmerston 70 Casuarina 70

**Tries:** A McFarlane (5), C Brady (4), O Muller (2), M Terupo (1), J Davis (1), C Blyton (1)

*Update by Glen Brady (coach)*

What a huge effort by both sides to end up 70-all. Palmerston played hard, fair and as a tight unit right up until the final whistle. It's good to see that all the training is paying off. The team has grown rapidly so a special thanks to our team manager Melanie, who was run off her feet on the interchange with 12 players to manage. All in all, every player had their chance to shine. Well done U8's - play hard, train hard and most of all have fun!!

### Under 10s University 22 Palmerston 0

*Update by Ben Blyton (coach)*

This week was the first week that we didn't to score a try; however all players tried their best and put in a huge effort. We just need to improve our working as a team and remember to concentrate on the rugby! Player of the Week was Ayden Whitehouse.

### Under 12s Palmerston 44 University 0

**Tries:** Jacob Blyton (3) Jack Deane (2) Ken O' Connor (2) Ethan Muller (1); **Conversions** Riley Reid (2)

### Under 14s Dragons 86 Palmerston 0

**Under 16s Palmerston 28 University 0**  
Palmerston won by a forfeit.

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## UNDER 10s



## UNDER 12s



## UNDER 14s



## JUNIORS ROUND 7 RESULTS –17 MAY 2013

**Under 6s** Palmerston 30 Souths 0**Tries:** L Muller (3), J Howe (2), E McKenzie (1)*Update by Bryony Bree (manager)*

Palmerston recruited a new player this week, Ethan, who showed great skill throughout the game and was able to cross the line to score a try. Levi and Jackson were also impressive, and Hamish, Tommy, Jordan and Izzy provide great support. This week Levi was awarded the first MacDonald's Player of the Week prize for being a great listener and team mate. Well done Levi!

**Under 8s** Swampdogs 45 Palmerston 40**Tries:** C Brady (4), O Muller (2), C Blyton (1), G Blackman (1)*Update by Melanie Blackman (manager)*

The U8s continue to improve every week and the players are getting better at spreading out, passing and running forwards in attack. In defence the players show a lot of dedication and in some cases literally throw themselves at the opposition - nice one Tynan! These players are so dedicated and enjoy themselves so much that when Ollie remarked to me 'I don't ever want the game to end' I wasn't surprised. There is such enthusiasm for the game that no-one enjoys being rotated off the field but all players show great sportsmanship and team spirit when they are asked to take their turn. Many thanks to coach Glen who, despite being new to coaching, is doing a fantastic job and sacrifices watching his son play U10s every week to be with the U8s. Keep smiling everyone and watch out for your manager's toes!

**Under 10s** Casuarina 45 Palmerston 7**Try:** M Brady (1), **Conversion:** T Humphreys (1)*Update by Ben Blyton (coach)*

Another big defensive effort from our U10's and the score doesn't give our players the credit they deserve (the last time we played Casuarina we lost 73-12). This is the first year most of the players have tackled and their tackling is certainly getting better. A massive highlight for me was some of the passing that we are now starting to do. Mitchell received the benefit of a great run and then a pass from Ben to score his try. Thomas, Josh, Tristan and Lily all tried to get the backline moving and tackled everything that came their way. Ayden lead the forwards well and was supported by Daniel, Owen, Aaron and Briony. This week at training we're working on passing and team work. Player of the Week was Ben Sack.

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## UNDER 16s



## ROUND 7 RESULTS (continued)

**Under 12s** Casuarina 51 Palmerston 0

**Under 14s** University 73 Palmerston 20  
(scorer details tba)

**Under 16s** Palmerston 34 Casuarina 19

**Tries:** L Bilston (2), H Degoumois (1), F Byrne (1), K Kachionis (1), J Briskin (1); **Conversions:** H Degoumois (2)

## CLUB BBQ AT RUGBY PARK

**For all Junior players, coaches and managers and their families.**

The Palmerston Rugby Union Club Life Members along with 2013 Scholarship Holders will be running a Club BBQ for all Junior players and their families on **Friday 31 May**.

The BBQ will be held in the Palmerston Stand and will commence straight after the Under 6, Under 8 and Under 10 games.

This will be a great opportunity for the younger players to stay and watch the older kids play rugby, while enjoying a bbq dinner.

**A flyers with full details will be handed out at next week's at training.**

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## 2013 KERR-BARLOW SCHOLARSHIPS



**Brad Hogan**



**Ryan Cotton**



**Luke Schneider**



**Cody MacFarlane**

## 2013 Kerr-Barlow Scholarships

With the Under 18 competition folding it is perhaps timely to provide an update on the scholarship program and the scholarship holders. The club will continue with the scholarship program and we're pleased with the progress of the players who were given scholarships in 2013.

**Brad Hogan** continues to grow as a player and last night (Wednesday) he would have played in the Possible v Probable trial game to select the NT Mosquito team. We all hope that Brad can go on to the next level. He is a player with a lot of potential and is starting to get some of the rewards that he deserves.

**Ryan Cotton** appears to have cemented his place in this year's A Grade side, scoring his first try a few weeks ago against Souths. Ryan, although qualifying for the U18s, decided that this year would be his first year of senior rugby. He is currently playing second row but hopes to move to No. 8. Ryan will continue to develop and some may consider him unlucky not to have been picked for the Mosquito trial.

**Luke Schneider** is in his first year of Seniors and continues to develop as a player in our B grade. Luke has made his home in the B Grade second row and is starting to put pressure on the A Graders for a starting spot. He made his A Grade debut a few weeks ago coming off the bench against Dragons.

**Cody MacFarlane** is a flanker who currently plays in the U18 team but will switch to seniors now. He has already played senior rugby this year, having been part of our Hottest Sevens team earlier in the year and having played a few B grade games. Cody made his A Grade debut from the bench against Dragons a few weeks ago and we would not be surprised to see him permanently in the A Grade match 22 from now on.

**Thomas Roe**, our youngest scholarship holder, continues with his fine form in the Under 16s. Thomas was playing both Under 16s and U18s but at this stage he will continue with the U16s. Thomas has an excellent training attitude and is a key member of his team.

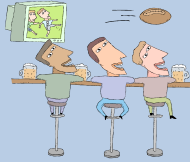
**Ben Kaart.** At the time of writing Ben Kaart unfortunately may be the one victim of the U18 competition folding. Ben is a first year U18 player and as yet has not decided if he will attempt the jump up to seniors this year. The club will continue to talk with Ben about his options and we'll let you know what Ben has decided to do in a future edition of Croc Tales.

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## Noticeboard

### BAR STAFF



Interested in helping out behind the bar? From time to time, e.g. for functions etc., an extra pair of hands would be useful. If you are interested, please see Dennis Grant in the clubhouse.

### HOME GAME ON THE SIDELINES

The crowd...



... and the hardworking bbq crew



## In the News

### NT MOSQUITOES SELECTION TRIAL GAME



Congratulations to the following Palmerston players who were named to play in the NT Mosquitoes selection trial game on Wednesday 22 May 2013: Rhys Hitchcock, Anthony Smith, Brad Hogan, Hemi Seymour, W Kirikono, Sam O'Shea, Paul Williams and Paul Devir.

### LAST HOME GAME OF THE YEAR

Last week saw our last home game of the year and although the results on the field were not what we ordered, a sizable crowd turned up to watch the rugby. Casuarina contacted the club on Monday to thank our club members for our hospitality; they said that their supporters, particularly the ladies, appreciated the platters and champagne.

### FRIENDS OF RUGBY



The *Friends of Rugby* are a group of rugby supporters in Darwin who promote rugby union in the Northern Territory. The *Friends of Rugby* recently held the Heineken Long Lunch and a result of their fundraising efforts on the day, they were able to present each club with a set of junior rugby balls last Friday night. Wayne Smith (Under 12 coach) accepted the 12 rugby balls on behalf of our club. The donation of balls is appreciated by the Palmerston juniors.

### AND FINALLY... what do these things have in common?



*Italian Festival Darwin*

Cheers to past player Paul Dale, who somehow managed to link the Palmerston home game to the Darwin Italian Festival! Paul, a radio presenter with the ABC, was heard on the radio on Saturday morning discussing the merits and attractions of both, with our home game getting quite a few mentions - so thanks Paul. A highlight though was when the guest from Italian Festival organising committee asked Paul if he would be attending the festival. Paul said no; he could not possibly miss the Palmerston Croc's home game. It was then suggested he could go to the festival AFTER the rugby; however Paul replied that after a hard game of A Grade he is usually a bit worse for wear... and that is just after watching the game.



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