



COBRA TILING
0450 949 957



President's Welcome

Welcome to another packed addition of Croc Tales. A lot has happened both on and off the field since the last edition:

- the Under 18s won the pre-season 10s tournament
- we've played our first senior games (As, Bs and Under 18s)
- club members attended NTRU Education Week courses
- we had our season launch and announced the 2013 Kerr-Barlow scholarship holders
- Junior coaching positions have been filled and the Juniors are training with enthusiasm and commitment
- new jumpers have arrived for A & B Grade

For those players and families who may not know me, I hope to meet you all at some stage. I'm at Juniors training on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Senior training and back at the clubhouse on Thursdays, and at the games most Friday nights and Saturdays. If you have a query or problem, please don't hesitate to contact myself or one of our committee members or team officials. We will do our best to assist you with your concerns.

Following the Easter weekend the Junior games commence, which means we'll have all players on the field every weekend (with the exception of any byes). All the best for the season ahead!

I would like to put forward a goal for the club this year: that all grades play finals football. Last year we had one grade miss out, so this year it would be great to see everyone there. The club has been working hard over the off-season and will continue to do so in-season, to support our players and team officials and provide a positive environment for all club members to train and play to the best of their ability. We have the potential, let's do it!

Ben Blyton, President

What's coming up...

- Thursday 28 March** - Under 12s players' tea and movie night
- Easter long weekend** - no senior games. Bunnings BBQ on Sunday
- Thursday 3 April** - players' gear available at the clubhouse
- Thursday 3 April** - Junior players' tea at the clubhouse
- Friday 4 April** - Junior games start at Rugby Park
- Saturday 5 April** - Home games at Moulden Oval

ROUND 1 ACTION



NTRU LADDERS

A Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	Points
University	2	2	0	0	10
Souths	2	1	0	1	5
Casuarina	2	1	0	1	5
Palmerston	1	0	0	1	0
Dragons	1	0	0	1	0

B Grade

Team	P	W	D	L	Points
Swampdogs	2	2	0	0	10
University	2	1	0	1	5
Palmerston	2	1	0	1	5
Souths	2	1	0	1	5
Casuarina	2	0	1	1	3
Dragons	2	0	1	1	3

Under 18s

Team	P	W	D	L	Points
Casuarina	2	2	0	0	10
Palmerston	1	1	0	0	5
Swampdogs	2	1	0	1	5
University	1	0	0	1	1
Dragons	2	0	0	2	0

*All Senior photos provided
by Fiona Austine.*

Around The Grounds



Updates from A Grade coach Kerry Smith

ROUND 1 - 16 MARCH 2013

Under 18s Under 18s won by a forfeit

B Grade Swampdogs 24 Palmerston 14

Palmy started a bit hesitantly but had an obvious advantage up front and had potential to take out a win on the first game of the season.

The heat and missed, first time tackles, started to take a toll. Our defence was wanting at times but on the positive we had some very strong runs from several players who made good meters but the last five per cent of players backing up didn't allow our boys to fully capitalize on the good play. By half time despite being a few points down the game was still neither won nor lost.

The second half started well with a stronger more dominant scrum despite being a man down due to a red card infringement. An early error led to another try by swampdogs. It was truly a hard slog in the heat through the second half and the difference between the two teams was fitness and hunger. Swampdogs looked a little more hungry to get to the ball with numbers. Palmy looked good on attack for the most part of the game and used possession well but there was a clear lack of intensity and willingness to move up in defense which gave the opposition time and space to get organised.

Tries to Paul Williams and "Devo" with conversions and strong performance by Dominic Mead, Damian Collie, Ryan Cotton, Brad Hogan and the two try scorers wasn't enough to finish the game in front. A disappointing start to the season but more than enough positives to give confidence that wins will come once we get some consistency at training that can be transferred to the pitch.

Tries: Paul Williams 1, Jaden Tahruha 1;
Conversions: Paul Devir 2; **Players' Player:**
Damien Collie

A Grade A Grade had the bye



B GRADE**A GRADE****FROM THE NT NEWS...****PALMERSTON**

Colours: Blue, red and white

Premiers: 90-91, 98-99, 02.

Club coach Kerry Smith says: "I have set a goal to finish top three, but if we finish a place lower with momentum to take us into 2014, then that is a win for us."

"Our pre-season has been about doing the basics right and building a game plan from set pieces where we can create time and space to exploit the opposition."

"We have picked up a number of players and will have a strong back line with plenty of depth and speed."

Ian Butterworth says: Smith has a passion for the game and the club, and will introduce a more contemporary game plan to Palmy.

His plans for a structured and disciplined approach will refresh the existing core group and a revitalised Palmerston should emerge.

The club has abundant juniors and a challenge will be to hold them in the game and bear the fruits when they become senior players.

NT News 16/3/13

ROUND 2 - 23 MARCH 2013

Under 18 Under 18s had the bye

B Grade Palmerston 40 Souths 26

B Grade provided a good win in the early game against Souths on Saturday, through having consistent strength across the park and right from the first whistle. Some good tries were scored throughout both halves of the game. Souths never really tested the Palmerston defence but the real difference was our ability to turn possession into field possession which enabled the team to take advantage and put points on the board at regular intervals.

Tries: Paul Devir 2, Kurt Collie-Whakaue 2, Damian Smith 1, Jordan Boyd 1; **Conversions:** Paul Devir 5; **Players' Player:** Jordan Boyd

A Grade Souths 63 Palmerston 18

The first A Grade game for the new season had a good feeling about the team and while we were a little more settled than previous weeks there were key positions that had to be changed at last minute. Souths opened up an early lead with two quick tries where they used their speed and created errors out wide which allowed them a run to the line. By mid first half we had converted two penalties through the boot of Peter 'Devo' Devir. At 14 - 6 down we had some work to do but still looked competitive. Unfortunately Souths were able to make good progress through their big hard running forwards and the couple of speedsters in the backline and their lead increased regularly.

Palmerston had some good passages of play and when the ball was put through the backline they looked really good each time, and provided a bit of excitement for the people under the Palmy shed. The halftime score of 43 - 6 looked a bit dire but was definitely not a true reflection of the difference between the teams. The second was a lot brighter with our guys putting on a try a piece to newcomer Reece Hitchcock and Brad Bishel. Damian Collie converted one of those tries and Devo's two penalties made up our 18 points. Our scrum, which was rearranged at the last minute and had guys out of position, was under pressure most of the day and we missed too many tackles which eventually was the difference. Strong performers in the Palmerston squad were Matt Macdonald, Peter Devir, Ryan Cotton, Brad Hogan, Paul Williams, Reece Hitchcock, Damian Collie and Cameron Surchane.

Tries: Blake Bishell 1, Rhys Hitchcock 1; **Conversions:** Paul Devir 1; **Penalties:** Paul Devir 2; **Players' Player:** Matt McDonald

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Important notes for the start of the season...

Correct playing strip essential

With all teams playing from next weekend, please remember that it's essential that everyone (from Under 6 to A grade) wears the correct club playing strip.

Last year our standards in the seniors fell away considerably and this is just not acceptable. We owe it to our sponsors, team members and the club to wear our team colours with pride.

This year the club will be enforcing the policy that you must wear the correct shorts and socks when playing,

Shorts and socks

Shorts and socks will be available for collection from the clubhouse from Thursday 4th April, for all players who have paid their registration fees.

Extra pairs of shorts and socks can also be brought separately. Shorts and socks will also be available to collect on Friday nights for the juniors or Saturdays for the seniors.



Palmerston Rugby Union Club
Darwin, NT, Australia

NO SOFT CROCS

Registration fees

We understand that then registration fees may be a financial burden on some families / players and we are happy to discuss possible payment plans if required. We also are accepting the government \$75 sporting voucher.

Remember, to be covered by insurance you need to be a financial member of the club - which means you need to have either paid your registration fees or you need to have entered into an agreement to pay them.

Communication

We have three major forms of communication:

Croc Tales

You're reading it now!

Our website

www.palmerstonrugby.com.au

Check it weekly to access senior games results, Junior and Senior draws and ladders, news and events, etc.

Facebook

www.facebook.com/PalmerstonRugbyUnionClub

Make sure you like the Palmy Crocs on Facebook!

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2013 KERR-BARLOW SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Brad Hogan
 Luke Schneider
 Ryan Cotton
 Cody McFarlane
 Thomas Roe
 Ben Kraat

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

Dennis & Cecily Bree
 Martin & Lavinia Mills
 Garry & Marcia Russell
 Denys & Cathy Stedman
 John & Alby Sullivan

"THE CLUB I STILL CALL HOME..."

Also at the season launch, **Jake Kerr-Barlow**, on behalf of his brother **Narada**, presented the club with a signed All Black jumper.



2013 Kerr-Barlow Scholarship

One of the key events at the season launch was the presentation of the 2013 Kerr-Barlow Scholarships by **Gail Barlow**. The scholarships have been introduced to support players in the transition from the junior to the senior ranks.

Brad Hogan, Luke Schneider, Ryan Cotton, Cody McFarlane, Thomas Roe and Ben Kraat were all selected as our inaugural scholarship holders. **Congratulations to all.** We'll be introducing you to these players in upcoming editions of Croc Tales. A sincere **thank you** also to our scholarship sponsors who have assisted in making this initiative happen.



Ryan, Brad, Gail, Jake, Luke and Craig.

From Gail Barlow...

"Firstly, let me say what an honour it is for the inaugural scholarships to be named after our family. What makes Palmerston Rugby Union Club such a very special rugby club is the quality of the people involved in the playing and administration of our great game. What used to be years of involvement is turning into decades for many people, and we are seeing second and third generations of the same families continuing to enjoy and add to the proud traditions of our club."

"I am sure that the first six young people to receive a PRUC scholarship acknowledge that as a recipient, they have been presented with both a great privilege and a great opportunity. During the next year, you will be exposed to lots of new challenges both on and off the rugby field. I encourage you to enjoy the challenges and embrace every opportunity that presents itself to improve your skills, both on and off the rugby field. Set some individual goals, dream some big dreams, and remember to have lots of fun along the way."

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Noticeboard



CROC SHOP CLEARANCE SALE!

The **Croc Shop Clearance Sale** continues! Drop into the clubhouse after training on Tuesday and Thursday to pick up various past-season items at hugely reduced prices.

HOME GAME BBQ

We require a BBQ chef and a helper for the home game on **Saturday 6 April**. If you can help, please see **Dennis Grant** behind the bar or give him a call on **0437 912 140**.



BUNNINGS BBQ # 2

Our next Bunnings BBQ is on **Sunday 31 March**. There are four shifts: **8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm**. Four people are required per shift. So get together in a team of four or put your name forward for another team, then get in contact with **Dennis Grant**.



Brock and Dennis, BBQ # 1

Other News...

SENIORS - LOOKING FORWARD

The club is activity trying to recruit players to bolster its playing stock: If you know of anyone that would like to play a season in Darwin let either Ben, Rob, Kerry or Damian know and we will follow it up.

The club will also be holding more activities around Palmerston to recruit local player to join our club. Again, all ideas will be considered, so if you have some thoughts on recruiting players let us know.

JUNIORS - LOOKING FORWARD

We are fielding sides in all Junior grades and all teams now have coaches: a big thank you to **Larissa Deo** and **Georgia McFarlane** who will be co-coaching the mighty Under 6s, and to **Bryony Bree** who will be managing the side. **Ben Blyton** will be coaching the Under 10s.

We are always looking for more numbers and it's not too late to join a team, so if any you know of any one that wants to play rugby just let them know that Palmerston is the place where they should be! Likewise, if you are a parent who would like to become more involved, we would love to hear from you.

SENIOR SUBS - THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Senior players have been known to ask "Why do I have to pay subs? After all, I am the player and without me the club will not survive". Well here is why, and where your money goes:

- *Playing socks* \$10.00
- *Playing shorts* \$25.00
- *Club singlet* \$35.00
- *Playing Insurance* \$120.00
- *NTRU Affiliation fees* \$10.00
- **Total** **\$200.00**

As you can see, there is no money left over for jumpers and other playing costs. The club actually subsidises the cost of you playing rugby, even with you paying subs. So please pay up or start a repayment plan. See Ben or Rob regarding what you want to do. (Suggestion: if you paid your subs off at \$20.00 a week, you would even find that your Presentation Night ticket would be paid for.)

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GET WELL SOON NARADA...



Tawera Kerr-Barlow

Territory halfback has jaw broken

THE Chiefs paid a heavy price for their 19-7 Super Rugby defeat of the Highlanders on Friday, with halfback Tawera Kerr-Barlow breaking his jaw and set to be sidelined for six weeks.

Territorian Kerr-Barlow, who made his All Blacks debut last year, played the 80 minutes at Waikato Stadium but was later found to have suffered a break on the right side of his jaw.

A Chiefs statement said the 22-year-old would undergo surgery this week.

A six-week recovery period would have him returning to action in early May.

The NT junior representative played his first two All Blacks Tests on last year's tour to Europe, coming off the reserve bench against Scotland and Italy.

Augustine Pulu is set to start at halfback for the Chiefs, although former All Blacks No.9 Brendon Leonard is poised to re-enter the selection frame.

NT News 24/3/13

In the news...

TAWERA 'NARADA' KERR-BARLOW

Narada had the unfortunate experience of breaking his jaw in Friday night's game against the Highlanders. After such a good start to the season, it's a huge disappointment for him and it possibly means he's out of contention of the All Black's French tests in June. **NARADA, EVERYONE AT THE CLUB WISHES YOU ALL THE BEST FOR A VERY SPEEDY RECOVERY!**

JEREMY BULLFROG IRON MAN BREE

Guess what former Palmerston player Jeremy 'Bullfrog' Bree is doing these days...? He's become an Iron Man! On 23rd March he competed in the Ironman Asia-Pacific Championship. Here he is at the end of the 180 km bike leg (which was after the 3.8 km swim leg), just beginning the 42.2 km run leg. He'd been going 8 hours and is just about to embark on his final 5½ hours!



BUSH TURKEYZ BALI TOUR



There are only seven available playing spots left for the Bush Turkeyz Bali Tour. Dates are Friday 11th October 4pm until Sunday 13th October 11:59pm. Arrange your own travel and accommodation; just be available in Bali for those times.

We will have the kit price arranged as soon as I have locked in 15 players. It should not be more than \$450 pp. We will not be taking any extras this year. And it is the last ever Turkeyz Bali Tour. Next year – Hawaii or Guam! Any queries, contact Bush Turkeyz Manager Drew Weaver at bushturkeyzrugby@gmail.com

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MORE SENIOR ACTION

A GRADE



B GRADE



All Senior photos provided
by Fiona Austine.

Captain's email...

Below is an extract from an email (reproduced with permission) that Michael Killiner, former Palmerston player now living in Singapore, received from his team captain Graham Harkness on the day before their team's grand final game. Replace the words *Singapore for the Territory* and *Wanderers for Palmerston Crocs* and the similarities between the two clubs is striking.

"We all love playing rugby. It's the best game in the world and what a rugby club offers you in all aspects of your life is something people who don't play the game will never understand. We all play for that very reason but with that comes responsibility. Responsibility to the club, to your team, to yourself, to whoever got you started playing rugby and to whoever gave you the opportunity to be at where you are now, on the eve of a Grand Final.

Singapore is a transient place. People come and go for all sorts of reasons. Maintaining a rugby club of any sort under these circumstances takes a huge amount of commitment and effort. When you consider only one club has a clubhouse and field to call home, this feat is even more remarkable. We owe a huge amount to those Wanderers who have gone before us. The guys who over the past 20 years have created the best club in Singapore despite the obstacles in their way. Guys who worked their arses off on and off the pitch to create something for future Wanderers to buy in to and play for. Guys who have come and gone, given so much for this club and may never have tasted any success. Without what these guys have made the badge stand for we wouldn't be running out for this club, with this team and with these mates. In keeping with what people have sacrificed to give us the opportunity to go out to challenge in a Grand Final, it is now our turn to put something back into the badge. Add our small legacy to the heritage of the club and make sure that future Wanderers keep coming to this club and appreciate what it stands for. This club looks after its own, it's our turn to look after the club."

Update on Michael Killiner's Grand Final in Singapore

After such a sterling email from their captain, the Wanderers won their Grand Final 32 -18. Michael no doubt celebrated as hard as he would have played, but he still had time to contact us to let us know the result. It's Michael's first taste of premiership success since the 2007 B Grade win with the Palmerston Crocs. Michael wishes us well with our 2013 season.

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