

Hottest 7s

The Friends of Rugby / NTRU Hottest 7s were held last week-end. Although 7s isn't Palmies best game we still had over 12 guys who were keen to work hard and represent the club. This was on top of those who were representing the NT Development and the Total Damage teams.

Saturday saw us play the Tailavu team from Sydney first up. Tailavu was an impressive group of Sydney Fijians (including **Wise Sekitoga**) and gave us quite a run around. Game 2 was against the Darwin Dingoes, the top rated local team and again we spent a lot of time chasing them to the try line. Our final game brought the days highlights with a strong win over the Flying Kukris.

This win put us 3rd in our pool and the 4th qualifier for the main draw and gave us a date with the **Aussie Spirit team** first up at 10.00am on Sunday morning. Even though Sunday dawned fine, clear, hot and humid and **Ben 'Cube' Emmett** and **Dan McIntyre** wore their secret weapon, blue, full body lycra suits, it was to no avail, the Aussie Spirit were still too good for us.

This put us into the BUFF competition against the NT Development team including **John 'Sully' Sullivan** and **Tom Hurse**. Tom proceeded to score 3 tries against us to end our week-end. Best players over the week-end included a returning **Steve George** who seemed to have a knack of finding the try line.

Steve is a Palmie junior who has spent some time in Cairns in recent years. Another newcomer in **Nathan Pierpoint** also went well and his friend **Tim Jackson** tried hard. **Dan McIntyre** also worked hard. Dan needs to add a few kilos to his 68kg frame and I'm sure the blue lycra body suit is not going to help make that happen.

Training – Seniors

Training for senior players is now underway each **Tuesday and Thursday at 6.00pm** at Moulden Park Oval under the guidance of **Dave Ley**. It is time to get down and get some fitness and refine your skills before we start playing trial games late next month. That's only about 4 weeks away.

Training – U16s

Training for the U16 team starts officially next Tuesday, the **1st February at 6.00pm**. The U16s will do some of their training with the senior players and some specialist development work with our **U16 and Youth Development Coach, Colin 'Snogga' Snowden**.

Call Snogga if you can't be there.

NTRU Development Academy

The NTRU will again this year be running a **Development Academy**. **Andrew 'Jacko' Jackson** will be leading the program which is targeted at **14 – 17 year olds**. The program will run on Monday and Wednesday afternoons

from 5.00pm to 7.00pm and will focus on the **core skills and core fitness** requirements identified by the ARU High Performance Unit.

The Academy will start on **Monday 14th February** and is open to all players who are interested and committed. It will run until June when the NT U16 training squad will be announced.

The Academy is an excellent opportunity for young U16 players to get extra skill and fitness development and to put themselves in contention for selection in the NT U16 team.

Snogga will be talking to Palmerston players and parents to see if we can get a squad together to join the academy and car pool them to and from training sessions.

Let Snogga know if you are interested.

TryRugby

Leading into the season there will be a TryRugby program run at Freds Pass Reserve. TryRugby is a fun way for **boys and girls aged 5 - 16 years** of all abilities and experience to **enjoy Rugby at their own pace**. Players develop general and Rugby-specific sport skills in a fun, safe and welcoming atmosphere to play the modified Rugby games of Walla, Mini, Midi and Under 19. **Professional instructors** run skills and games to suit the specific age groups and abilities of the children. The



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program runs for **6 weeks** and everyone is welcome to attend. Dates and times will be advertised soon so watch out for more information in CrocTales or your school newsletters.

TryRugby Coordinators

To make the TryRugby program happen we need a couple of key people, the **Off-field Coordinator** and the **On-field Coordinator**.

The **Off-field Coordinator** is the person who gets the program up and running and recruits all of the participants, instructors etc. It is expected that this person will need to spend about 30 hours getting the program together plus another 3 - 4 hours per week during the 6 weeks of the program.

The **On-field Coordinator** is responsible for making sure everything runs to plan on each of the 6 nights of the program. They will oversee the instructors etc. They are expected to need to put in 5 - 7 hours before hand and 3 - 4 hours per week during the program.

Both of these people **get paid for their efforts**.

If you think you know someone who could do one or both of these jobs then please call me ASAP on 8948 1849.

Juniors

Although we are not yet sure of the exact plans for the junior season we have committed to some critical dates for our juniors.

The **Junior Sign-on** is on at **3.00pm Sunday 27th February** at the Clubhouse.

Junior training starts at **5.00pm on Tuesday 1st March** at Moulden Park Oval and every Tuesday and Thursday thereafter.

We expect the junior games to start on Friday 1st April (U12,

U14 & U16) and Saturday 2nd April (U6, U8, U10).

Junior Coaches & Managers

We still need more coaches and managers for our junior teams.

Colin 'Snogga' Snowden is the **U16 coach**, **Dan Curtin** and **Darren Bishell** have committed to the **U14 team**, **Tim Jackson** and **Nathan Pierpoint** have volunteered for the **U12s** and **Alison Snowden** will look after the **U6s** again if no one else comes forward.

I think we might have 2 managers for the U12s, **Sharmay Ley** and **Louise Bishell** and an **assistant coach** for the **U10s** in **Miles 'Ralph' Hindle**.

We need at least **2 more people** per team for each of the **U10s and U8s**.

Please give Alison or myself a call if you are interested or know of someone who might be.

The club will meet all costs for coaching / development programs for new coaches.

NT Rugby Reunion

It has been decided that 2005 is the **30th Year of rugby union** in Darwin and therefore a wonderful opportunity for a **REUNION**.

Planning is well underway and the week from the **13th to the 21st August** is when it will all be happening.

Get onto your mates, book the airfares, decide who you are going to be staying with and get into training. It will be a big time.

Send me any email addresses or other contact details you have for past Palmie players so we can let them know.

So you know, I will post a list of people I have email addresses for on our web page.

Mossies Pre-Season Tour

All potential Mosquito players should note that the Mossies are off on a pre-season tour this year to Singapore and perhaps Malaysia. The team will be away across the Anzac Day long week-end.

Mossies training starts next week I think.

Referees & Touch Judges Needed

Rugby Union in Darwin is in desperate need of **additional referees and touch judges**. Ideally we need younger people as many of the existing ones are nearing the end of their careers.

It has been decided to trial a system where **each club will supply 2 new referees** to be trained and accredited for the 2005 season. Each club would also look at assisting with providing two people to be trained as touch judges.

The plan also includes the NTRU providing a **financial benefit to the club** for each senior game refereed throughout the year by new and existing referees. There is also a fine if referees don't turn up as allocated. The exact financial details are still being formulated.

The **bottom line** is **we need more people to be referees**, even if it is only to do junior games. **Every little bit helps**. Talk to me if you are interested or know someone who might be.



Bernie working hard at the 7s

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