

This Week's Games

FRIDAY 3rd September Optus Park 1

5.45 U6
5.45 U8R v Casuarina
5.45 U10 v Swampdogs
7.05 U12 v University
7.50 U14 v Dragons

SATURDAY 4th September

Preliminary Finals Optus Park 1

12.00 B v Dragons
2.10 A v University

Coming Events

NTRU Presentation

This event will be on **Saturday 3rd September** from **7.30pm** at the Deck Bar.

There will be dinner & presentations followed by the Bledisloe Cup Test from 9.30pm.

\$60 / head for a meal and 3 hour drinks (beer, wine, soft drink) package.

If you haven't got your ticket them you better see me NOW.

We are supporting this night in force.

Junior Presentation

& Family Fun Day

Sunday 4th September (FATHERS DAY) is the day, **Berry Springs** is the place. 9.30am start with the **Junior Presentation** to happen at 10.00am.

This is a day for the whole club; seniors, juniors, supporters etc.

Everyone is welcome to bring a picnic, stay for a swim and join in some club games etc.

Berry Springs is a great spot to spend Fathers Day.

Senior Presentation

In keeping with tradition, the Senior Presentation night will be held on **Saturday 17th September**, the week-end after the Grand Final.

It will be the normal formal or better function and will kick-off at about 6.15pm.

Tickets are now on sale at \$55 from Dan McIntyre, Tom Hurse and me. We need you to buy these ASAP to sort out catering etc.

Ticket cost covers meal, pre-dinner drinks, wine on the table, music etc. Drinks will be on sale at club prices.

Special Mini buses will be running from Palmerston to the event and home after. See Dan for details & pick-up points.

Buy your tickets NOW.

200 A Grade Games John 'Grange' Sullivan

I know he is universally known as **Sully** but earlier this year Ben Blyton coined another nickname for him after another superlative A Grade performance.

I must admit, I like it, (not that I have ever had the opportunity to try the real thing), he has certainly continued to get better and better with age.

This Saturday afternoon, Sully will play his **200th A Grade game** for Palmerston Rugby Union Club.

Congratulations Sully and thanks for each and every one of them.

My memory isn't exactly the best but I think Sully joined us as a 21 year old in late 1990 for the 1990/91 season. As well as Palmerston, Sully has played A Grade rugby on the Gold Coast and in Alice Springs.

Last Week's Games

A v Dragons

And Dragons bite the dust. **Palmerston 28 – Them 22.** **Dave Ley** had the following to say: *'A gutsy effort by the whole team. With injuries once again hampering our preparation and the late withdrawal of **Shane Stoeckert** on match day*

*meant some slight changes. **Squitter** came in to the side but was concerned after the warm up as to how his*

recovery from injury would go. He did however take the field though not at 100% fit. Also

*coming back from injury were **Ben Coffey, George Hatzismalis** and **Pete Burnheim**. It was do or die*

and from the out set the team played well and constructed some good passages of plays. Our forwards were recycling the ball well and the backs were creating opportunities.

***We still need to finish and must concentrate on our hands** to make full use of the field position and possession. However the continued commitment and improvement is a pleasing factor and it is happening at the right end of the season. As I have said it*



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really comes down to 3 games for the year and with 1 down we now need to concentrate on the next one. Injuries to **Damien Collie**, who had a head knock, **Squitter** and **Pete Burnheim** travelling at less than 100% forced some changes in the 2nd half backline. The forwards played a committed game with **Michael 'Scratch' Scaturchio**, **George** and **Matt 'Fang' Pheaney** playing very well and **Ben 'Cube' Emmett** leading from the front gave us the go forward required after so many changes. The old head of **John 'Sully' Sullivan** helped to control the game and was a standout performer. With a tight finish ahead all the replacement players had to step up to the mark which they did when asked to. Congratulations to both grades on a committed performance and especially those who sat on the bench and backed up for A grade. University this week will not be easy after the loss to Souths but we are confident that having recently been robbed by them we can have their measure with everyone playing to full potential and minimising turnovers. With a little luck on the injury front we hope to field a full strength team and look forward to our next challenge. Game 2 bring it on.'

George Hatzismalis, Michael Scaturchio and Pete Burnheim scored tries while **Damian** converted 1 plus kicked a penalty. **Sully** also kicked a penalty. **Player's player was John 'The Grange' Sullivan.**

B v Jabiru

A win – Us 17 – Them 7.

Ben Blyton had this to say: 'B Grade found out what semi finals were about on Saturday when they played a committed Jabiru in the knock out semi final. The general feeling from within the B Grade camp

leading into the game was that Jabiru who we had beaten easily during the year was only making up the numbers in the semi finals. This was not to be the case.

The 1st 15 minutes saw us pressuring Jabiru's line but we were just unable to score.

We definitely blew a couple of tries in the 1st half but to Jabiru's credit, their strong defence saw them keep the score to nil. The wind, although at our backs, was causing us problems, we dropped a couple of passes that should have led to tries, missed a couple of kicks at goal and also kicked out on the full a couple of times.

Eventually pressure from us lead to a try, but unfortunately it was to Jabiru. We had a scrum feed 5 metres out from Jabiru's line, we won the scrum but did not control the ball and their half back, who had a good game, picked up the ball and sprinted the length of the field to score. With the conversion that meant we were now trailing 7 - nil.

Defence by both sides seemed to be on top at this stage, we were defending very well but were not playing with any great conviction with the ball in hand. **We were winning enough ball but mistakes and pressure from Jabiru** at the breakdown meant that often it was not good quality ball and our backline was not functioning as well as it had in the previous few weeks. On saying this there was still enough people playing well individually to give me confidence that as soon as we started to play like a team things would turn around.

Eventually we got together for long enough for the backline to function and **Tim 'Jacko' Jackson** scored a good try.

The conversion then made it 7 all. This was the score at half time.

The 2nd was to be a mirror of the last few weeks with one

exception. We would be running into a strong win with the game plan of keeping the ball in hand, limited kicking due to the wind and defence and ball control would win us the game, but this time we did not have a lead to defend.

Defence was outstanding; we were able to withstand every thing that Jabiru threw at us. The forwards really lifted, our scrum began to wear Jabiru down and took a number of tight heads, **Denny Johnston** was outstanding in the line out not only winning all his own ball but continuing to win some of theirs, the supply of position and that fact that we started to go forward in rucks and mauls meant that our backs started to get on top as well. A strong run by **Kevin Jones** saw the forwards then take it on through a couple of pick and drives which saw **Stuart Bright** score. 12 - 7 to us.

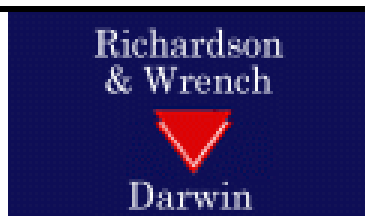
Latter in the half **Stuart** also backed up and ran strongly to be tackled deep in their 22, from the resulting ruck some good back line passing saw **Niko Broughton** score to take the score to 17-7.

The second half really showed what we can do, despite running into the wind we out scored them 2 tries to nil and had the better of the field position.

Good games were had by **Ian Hogan, Denny Johnston, Stuart Bright, Sean 'Boulder' Killiner, Paddy Killen, Tim Jackson, Kevin Jones and Paul Veach** but every one contributed.

Thanks to all the reserves, with finals being the way they are there is no guarantee that every one will get a run but hang in there because you never know what might happen.

This week it is Dragons who we have pushed all year but are yet to beat.'



U12 v Dragons

Coach **Tim Jackson** tells me that the U12s had a good hit out against Dragons on Friday night. We led for 38 minutes of a 40 minute game but as has happened far too many times this season, we were unable to keep focus until full time letting Dragons in for a try minutes before the full time siren. Special mention must be made of **Snow Levavsour** who scored a hat trick of tries and also **Shaun Ley** and **Jim Kerr** who made numerous try saving tackles. Although the season hasn't produced the greatest win/loss record the team should be confident that they can beat any other team in this division if they can maintain focus for the full 40 minutes.

U8 Blue v Casuarina

Coach **Jamie** provided me with the following information on the U8 Blue game.

'Palmy Blue played Palmy Red for the fourth time this year and won with a 20 - 5 score line.

Both teams have now won two a piece. If you ask Nicole, Red only lost due to the "bad" jerseys, which may have merit in that each time we have played in those jerseys they have created a loss.

Just before the game there was a close call on who would have to forfeit with a lot of late players from both teams causing a bit of worry. Luckily we had enough players to play 6 a side and avoid the forfeit. The play was a little lacklustre as neither team played with the intensity that they save for other teams. I think that playing against friends that they train with makes it difficult.

***Riley Hogan** scored two tries and both **Kai Longley** and **John Lynch** scored a try for Blue. This seems to be a habit for John that we all hope he keeps up. **Bret Mullins** scored Reds only try which was overshadowed a little by*

***Nicole** either having a seizure or dancing, (we are unsure which).*

The focus for the Red team is Friday night's game, their last for the season while Blue is gearing up for the final showdown against the Swampdogs on the 10th. Blue is set to prove that our win against Swampdogs was not a fluke and I am sure that the Swampies are bound to be after payback for their only loss of the season, it is bound to be an exciting match.'

U6

Palmerston Green 35 v Palmerston Yellow 10.

Try scorers were **Koby Snowden (3)**, **Joshua Ozegovic (2)**, **Jake Longley**, **Christopher O'Brien**, **Jake Baptista** and **Dlynn Felton**.

Cross Netball

Kate Eadie tells me that this week is the **first round of the DNA finals** and she's very proud to say that in their first year as a club, both the teams have made it through to the finals with flying colours. She also provided the following game news. *'Last week saw C's down to just 5 players but another brilliant defensive performance and fresh legs from D's **Bec Fears & Michele Bensley** in the last quarter added to a good hard slog from the 5 players we had and secured us a **1 point victory** over Waratahs. This left Palmy **3rd on the premiership table**. Special thanks to "**Barefoot**" **Bec Maple** for her help with the umpiring problems other clubs were facing.*

*D's topped their fine form finishing with a **nice win over University** in the late game last week. A great end of the season has resulted in an awesome **2nd place finish** for D's and a double chance for the Grand Final making an*

almost certain Palmy playoff on Sept 15.

*This week **C's play at 6:30 against University**.*

University also have a strong defence and winning this one is a necessity to continue heading to the GF.

***D's** have the double chance and **take on Casino Sharks at 8pm**.*

Casino has a very strong team balance and I'm sure it'll be a great game. I know it's a training night, but if any of the fellas are able to come down and show some support it'd be a big bonus to help us over the line.

Likewise, for C's & D's to come early or stick around and cheer each other on.

Good luck and see you all there!'

NT U16 Team

The **NT U16 team** to compete at the Australian Championships in late September was selected last week-end after a training camp & selection trials in Katherine. **54 boys** attended the camp from Darwin, Palmerston, Nhulunbuy, Katherine and Alice Springs.

We had 5 boys selected in the 23 man squad. **Stephen Bartholdt-Green, Tom Cummins, Kurt Collie-Whakave, Tukere Barlow** and **Blake Chadwick** have another month of hard training before the Championships.

Congratulations on your selection and I am sure you will do the club and the Territory proud.

I also thought that **Kane Richards** and **Mitchell Lawrence** performed very well at camp and were very close to being selected.

It is pleasing to note that 5 Nhulunbuy, 4 Katherine and 1 Alice Springs player made the final team. **Well done to the regions.**

