

Upcoming Games

FRIDAY 1st September
Austar Rugby Park 1

6.00 **U10** v ?

6.50 **U12** v Swampdogs

Austar Rugby Park 2

6.00 **U8** v ?

7.40 **U14** v University

8.40 **U16** v Dragons

SATURDAY 2nd September
Austar Rugby Park 1

3.10 **A** v University

Coming Events

NTRU Presentation

This **Saturday** from 7:00pm at the **Deck Bar**.

It is a great night (sit down dinner, drinks etc) and should be supported strongly by all players, officials and supporters.

Normal tickets are \$60 and **non-drinker tickets are \$25.**

See me with money or pen (to sign credit card form) if you wish to come along.

A few of our guys are in the running for some awards so keep your fingers crossed.

Juniors

Presentation Day

It is rushing up. Do you have **Sunday 10th September** in your diaries? It will again be at **Berry Springs** with plenty of space for our growing numbers of juniors.

The plan at this stage is to **get underway at 9:00am.**

BYO a chair, breakfast / brunch and swimming things (if you're game).

PRUC Presentation & 30th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 16th September.

It will be held at the **Long Tan Club** which is right out at the end of the point inside the **Larrakeyah Navy Base**. An absolutely beautiful location.

This brings with it some special security challenges. That is, **NO TICKETS at the DOOR** and everyone will need to arrive within an agreed timeframe, **with photo id**, and be checked off the list at the gate.

Ticket prices / structure etc will be determined this weekend.

Last Week's Games

A v Souths

Minor Semi Final

Well what can I say about this one? For a lot of the game **we were trying hard but it wasn't happening.** We were still giving too many penalties away, our kicks were giving the ball back to Souths to run it hard back at us and our lineout wasn't working. This all led to them doing a lot of hard running at us and us scrambling in defence.

Make no mistake, Souths were playing very well. They were enthusiastic and committed and were running and tackling hard. They also weren't making many mistakes. They probably have been the form team

over the last month of the competition and they were showing it.

After being **behind 0 – 10 at half time** we clawed back to within striking distance, 3 – 10, with a penalty early in the 2nd half but then Souths scored and converted to put, what I, and I think many other supporters, thought was the final nail into the coffin. We were **down 3 – 17** and there was less than 20 minutes to go.

But the team wasn't done yet. **Coach Connop** had made a couple of strategic replacements, **Brock Evans** for **Craig Leach**; **Peter Burnheim** for **Trent Abbott** with **Jono Schwalger** going to the wing from outside centre and **Paddy Killen** for **Nick Barlow** at fullback.

Brock added pace to the forwards and competed strongly at the break down, he also got up high in the lineout and was able to rein in our throws. **Jono's** move to the wing gave him the **freedom to roam and pop up wherever he could** (or was needed) in both attack and defence. **Pete Burnheim** added extra pace, and fresh legs to the backline.

Suddenly, it all started to happen. We controlled our ball, maintained possession, got going forward and started running Souths around.

It was the A Grade of 6 weeks ago back in action.

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4 tries and a last minute conversion in the final 17 minutes and we had won our way into the Preliminary Final with a **25 – 17 VICTORY**.

Tries were scored by **Ben Emmett, Dan Maroulis, Peter Burnheim and Jono Schwalger. Nick Barlow** kicked the penalty and **John 'Sully' Sullivan** kicked the conversion.

The **Coaches Award** was shared between the halves – **Sully and Shane**, for great efforts. While there could be no other **Player's Player** than **Craig 'Squirter' Leach**.

B v Jabiru

Coach Blyton saw the B Grade Major Semi Final this way.

'B Grade welcomed back **Paddy Killen and Dave Cairns** and guest appearances from **Tom Hurse and Brock Evans** for the major semi final against Jabiru on Saturday.

The Killer B's or the renamed **Killiner B's** ran with a strong wind in the 1st half. A dominate line out and scrum was soon providing the backs with good ball. The backs, in particular, **Hunter McGee, Kev Jones and Damian Smith** were combining well and the tries soon came, 4 in all, with **Damian Smith** being the surprise goal kicker with 3 from 3 including one from the sideline and **Michael Killiner** using his captaincy skills to take the conversion from in front. All in all a very good 1st half with Palmerston leading **28 - 0 at the break**.

The 2nd half started much more slowly, Jabiru used the wind well kicking long at every opportunity. Unfortunately for us we also started to play poorly, pushed passes and poor ball security led to many turnovers. This kept Jabiru in our half for long periods and we never really looked like scoring again. Fortunately our defence was strong with only one lapse and we ran out **winners 28 to 7**. The win means that we are in the Grand Final.

Many players played well and all reserves got a run which was great, **Paddy Killen** was named **Player's Player**.

Highlights of the game for me included **Michael Killiner's** strong game in his 1st game as captain. **Michael** has had an **outstanding year**, both with Palmerston and the NT Schoolboys and will surely make his A Grade debut next year.

Brock and Tom making themselves available for B

Grade after the disappointment of missing out on an A Grade start due to work commitments. On Thursday I was only going to use them as reserves. But between Thursday and Saturday **Shaun Gill and Paul Veach** got called away with work and missed the game completely and **Damian Collie and Kapu Hita-Duval** got held up at work and arrived late. **Paddy** at 5/8 though must have thought that **Brock** for a half back makes a damn good breakaway as his **passing was a bit off**. In fact Brock may have been the tunnel ball champion of Newcastle with some of his passing. **Seriously though fellers, thanks** as we would have been short in the backs without you.

The other highlight of the day was of course after our game. All the B Graders would like to say **congratulations to Squirter** on reaching 300 A Grade



Michael in the captaincy swing

This week-end at the Top End Hotel

- Friday Lunches @ Honey Pot Club - 12 - 4pm (\$60) 3 course meal plus show
- Chase the Ace @ Lizards Bar this Friday 5-8pm - \$3,000 up for grabs
- Honeypot girls will be doing a Amstel beer promotion from 6 - 8pm
- **Goose Club Raffle @ Lizards Bar - Fridays 6-9pm for Palmerston Rugby Union Club**
- Loaded playing from 8pm on Friday and James from 8pm on Saturday night Honeypot girls will be doing a Tooheys Extra Dry Platinum promotion from 6 - 8pm on Saturday

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 **Brumby's**
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games. **Squirter is a person that all players in our club can and should look up to.** Squirter has always put the club first. He has often played out of position and at rare times played B Grade when he probably thought that he should be in A Grade but he would never let it get to him. He just turns up and gets nude whenever he can.

I was so pleased that the A Grade did the right thing by Squirter and won on his special day.

Selection for the B Grade Grand Final will be very difficult, unfortunately with over 50 players qualified for B Grade we are going to have some disappointed players when the squad is picked. In the words of **Wayne Bennet to Matt Hayden** when he missed out on selection to the Aussie cricket side, **"use the disappointment to make you better not bitter."**

See you down at the rugby on Saturday where we will watch A Grade win their preliminary final to join us on Grand Final day.'

Our tries were scored by **Tom Hurse, Kev Jones, Hunter McGee** and **Chris Yow.** **Damian Smith** kicked 3 conversions and **Michael Killiner** kicked one. The **Player's Player Award** when to **Paddy Killen.**

U16's Progress

Co-coach Robbie Taylor has penned the following update on our U16 team.

'Over the past few weeks **Snogga** and I have been running a little short on time and have been unable to fill everyone in on how the Palmerston Colts are going. Since coming back from the school holiday break the boys have really stepped up another level. They are very

switched on and ready going into the finals. **Our results since coming back have been very satisfying.** All three games were very hard fought games.

The first of the games was against the **Darwin Dragons with a satisfying 17-10 win.** The boys were under pressure from the first whistle and worked very well as a unit. The try scorers were **Freddy Norris, Jessie Villiers** and **Steven Carter,** with **Robbie Cotter** kicking a conversion. The **standout players** on the night were **Jason Muir, Steven Rawson, Tom Pavone, Ben Smith, Freddy Norris, Kurt Collie-Whakave** and **Jai Wyles-Kelly.**

The second game was against the University Pirates. This game decided who would finish with the minor premiership. Unfortunately, **University scored a last minute try to steal a 15-13 win** from our grasp. The boys played some really well structured rugby, and it was very enjoyable to watch. The **try scorers** were **Ben Smith** and **Kurt Collie-Whakave,** with **Kurt** also kicking a **penalty.** The entire team played extremely well and all of the boys deserve a huge pat on the back for the character they showed on the rugby field that night.

The third and final "Home and Away" game for the year was against the South Darwin Rabbitohs. The boys showed how much they wanted this one, coming away with a **15-10 win.** We were down 10-0 early in the second half but managed to really put our heads down and finish off in a flurry, scoring three impressive tries. **Try scorers** were **Brendan Russell, Freddy Norris**

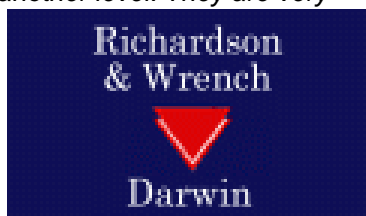
and **Jessie Villiers.** Our standout players on the night were **Floyd Thompson, Cody Barry, Jacob Collins** and **Alix Lyness.**

I just want to take this chance to **thank all of the boys for their efforts throughout this year.** No matter what the results are come finals time, this has been an **extremely successful season.** Out of 14 games we have only lost 2. We have the **highest point's scorer** in the Colts competition in **Brendan Russell** (it's not very often in any competition that you'll see a **front rower score 14 tries** in the one season). We have our first **Lloyd McDermott Indigenous representative** player for the club in **Freddy Norris.** We had 12 Mozzies Academy players, and out of those 12 we had 9 go on to make the NT U16's squad. We have seen some great leadership shown by our "senior" boys in the squad. And at the same time we have been privileged to see some future talents show what they are made of.

I strongly believe this has to be one of the **strongest teams I have ever seen Palmerston put onto a rugby field.** Each and every week the boys would not



What a great photo - Patrick & Ben



only play for themselves and the club. But they would also show how well they wanted to play for their mates. It has been a hell of an honour to be able to coach these boys this year alongside **Snogga**. I must really thank **Snogga as Co-Coach and Alison Snowden as our manager** for all the time they have given throughout this year. We have all seen how much pride **Snogga and Alison** show, in being a big part of the future of the Palmerston Crocs.

The last big thank you goes out to the parents and supporters who have given up their time to support and cheer for the Crocs this year. And once again thank you very much to all of the U16's for the time, effort, enjoyment and appreciation they have shown towards this year. **Let's go and get the premiership boys.'**

Connop's Corner

Coach Connop was ecstatic like everyone else in the crowd (they were fantastic the supporters), we have jumped over that finals hurdle and now we need to concentrate on this week's game. Players need to re-visualise and prepare mentally for the next finals chapter. I expect I will have had all players at training this week so we can go through the next game plan as finals are different and need to be played a little bit different. We again need to be fully prepared, think and play clever rugby and be disciplined.

Congratulations to **Sully and Shane** on getting the **Coach's Choice Award**. It was very hard to pick and each week it's getting harder because everyone is playing so well.

Well done to everyone. Welcome back to **Peter Burnheim**. Great tries from **Ben Emmett, Peter, Jono and Daniel Maroulis**. I think we out foxed the foxes (Souths) at their own trick by doing even better by scoring four tries within about 12 minutes. Well done guys and keep up the good work. Keep up by "going forward", "support", "continuity" and apply the "pressure". Also remember, play the whistle and not referee.

Congratulations to the **B Grade** team and **Coach Blyton** on their fantastic effort to go straight through to the **GRAND FINAL**.

Goose Club Roster

This Friday night it is the **A Grade backs** turn to do the honours. Be there by 6.00pm to do your duty.

Next Friday it will be the **B Grade backs** turn.

Croc Jottings

Sean 'Boulder' Killiner will be back from injury for the **B Grade Grand Final**. This causes a problem within the Killiner



Through the banner

household with son **Michael** having taken over the **B Grade** captaincy last week-end while Dad was out injured.

Boulder tells me it's not a problem; he will just confiscate the car keys if **Michael** thinks he's keeping the job.

Over to you **Coach Blyton**.



Mel, Squirter & Jesse

