

## Another Legend Departs... Pat Aratema

With all of the good news about the Club there is always some bad news.

Pat arrived in Darwin about 19 years ago. I didn't realise that until we were chatting recently and he reminded me of the night of his arrival. Funny how you put things like that out of your mind.

Pat and a few Kiwis and two bloody great big Fijians, Ratu and Abel drove into Darwin from Sydney after what must have been a terrible time for them and the people of the Australian outback who crossed their path. While on the road much alcohol was consumed and the five passengers (no one ever admitted to being a driver) slept either in or under the car.

On arrival in Darwin they hit a few drinking spots as they were thirsty and when they closed, that was when they came to introduce themselves to me. They arrived early one morning and asked if I had alcohol –not beer but alcohol! They drained me of the lot and left.

The next day we played an Army side at Larrakeyah and we were looking a bit light on until the car turned up with the five big fellas. I think the Army gave up at about the time the guys got out of the car.

They weren't all that effectual that day due to a lack of coordination but they all went on to be very talented players who began Palmys reign as a heavy weight pack.

Pat played for many years and threatens to once more don the boots before heading back to that little island off the coast of Queensland that we fondly refer to as 'NZ'.

His wife Liz decided that the only way to get to see Pat was to join the Club and Liz served as Secretary for many years, some of them with two person committees. The Club owes a lot to Pat and Liz and they won't be forgotten. They were good days. **Come back soon. (by Bernie Bree)**

### THE GREAT EMAIL ROUND UP

We currently email our newsletter to over fifty club members, however we know there are many more of you who we could be emailing. If you would like to be included in future e-mail outs of Croc Tales, simply provide your address details to one of our Committee Members.

In addition, if you know of any past players / Club members / sponsors / friends / or anyone who may just be interested in what's going on at the club and who would like to our mailing list, please forward their contact details (either email or snail mail). We will be sure to include them in future editions.



# Registration We want your money!

Yes it is \$120 and no, that doesn't include shorts and socks – and we are sorry we can't make it free BUT this is why:

Per team costs	
Insurance	\$1,000.00
NTRU	\$250.00
Kit	\$1,250.00
Game costs	\$1,200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,700.00</b>

By now you should all be aware that your Subs are due. You can pay this by cash or credit card, we don't mind. See Bryony Bree at the Bar on Tuesday nights and at the Game on Saturdays or pay whoever is behind the Bar on Thursday nights, so bring your money. The Club understands that some of you have other commitments and paying this amount in a one off payment is a bit hard. So please, feel free to make payments that you can afford on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The important issue is that the Club receives this money so that we can provide you with a Clubhouse and a bit of fun each year.

**Any complaints and we'll send Ricky Hoe around - so pay!**

## Rugby in the Raw

Save a spot in your Christmas Stocking for the inaugural 'Rugby in the Raw' Men of Palmerston calendar (to be released in December). See Squirter or Jesse Leal at Palmy, or alternatively, it will be on sale at the Palmerston Newsagency. Proceeds go towards buying the new PRUC aeroplane and a round the world trip for all Club members.

## COACHES & MANAGERS

The senior ranks are now full BUT if you are interested in getting involved in any way, please ask as the management is run off their feet. The latest recruit is Rod Hollingsworth as 'B' grade manager to join Anthony Towne the new coach. A huge thanks goes out to the injured (and sent off) players who still front on Saturday and help out with the water or running. I'm sure your team mates appreciate it.



80 Bonson Terrace, Moulden, Palmerston NT 0830

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# Undefeated Crocs win President's Cup

**What a great start to the season! Not only on the field – where Doggies warriors are undefeated after the first round and have won the President's Cup - but off the fields has been terrific too.**

The committee is probably – no definitely – the best I can remember for their dedication and initiative. We have had some terrific fund raisers. The Quiz Night was organised off season by Paul and Jo Dale and Suze Hollingsworth. Then came the Sponsorship Raffle organised by Garry Russell and more recently the Calcutta directed by Braedon Earley.

What made these even better was the fact that so many of you members became actively involved. That Sunday practice before the Calcutta amazed me. Excellent work!

While on fund raising, a few people have commented on our mercenary attitude this season and we have taken this on board. I do apologise if it has been over

the top but we are committed to rid ourselves of debt this season. Thanks for bringing us back to reality and to show that we are listening we held a Christmas Party on December 2 after our game, just for fun. Strangely, considering our bank balance problem, the theme was a red night.

Please do keep the communication going and let any of the committee know what you think is going wrong – or right.

I'd like to also mention the great work being done in the Juniors by Gail Barlow and the Junior coaches. If you really want to see some terrific running rugby, get down to Rugby Park on Friday arvos or Saturday mornings. The players would love to see you.

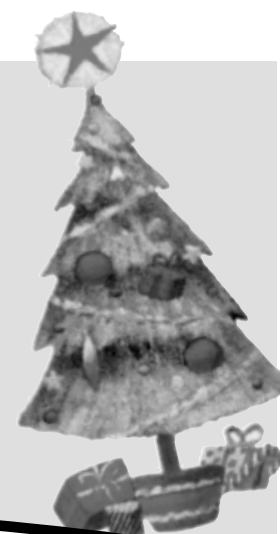
**Let's keep up the momentum.**

FROM THE PRESIDENT  
Bernie Bree

## Red Christmas Party



The PRUC Red Christmas Party held on Saturday night (December 2) was a great success, with partygoers still celebrating well into the morning. And we had plenty to celebrate with Palmerston A Grade's 8th win in a row, beating Casuarina 26-24. Great to see everyone getting into the spirit of things and wearing red, and with half price pre-dinner drinks the party started well. **Thanks to everyone for making it a great night.**



Palmerston Rugby Union  
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# 2000-01 SPONSORSHIP DRAW

Palmerston Rugby Union Club conducts an annual SPONSORSHIP DRAW. For a small investment, businesses can become one of the Club's major sponsors. We understand that due to financial constraints and the normally high costs associated with sponsorship, many businesses could not normally entertain such a proposal.

Businesses are asked to purchase a chance in the draw in order to be eligible to win one of seven possible Major Sponsorship Packages. For \$220 they purchase one chance in the draw or for \$550 they can purchase four chances. This year, the draw took place at the Arch Rival Bar in Palmerston on Friday 27 October – a good time was had by all who attended.

**Thanks** to all of the organisations who have chosen to assist the Crocs by being a part of this year's Sponsorship Draw. Without your support we could not be where we are today. All participants are listed below.

**Club members, please support those who support us by using their services whenever possible.**

The winners of the various packages were as follows:

ONE	'A' Grade Jersey Sponsorship	Palmerston Newsagents
TWO	Advertising Sign at 'Optus Rugby Park'	Oasis News & Lotto
THREE	Advertising Sign at 'Optus Rugby Park'	Compaq
FOUR	'B' Grade Jersey Sponsorship	NT Auto Air
FIVE	'C' Grade Jersey Sponsorship	Vanderfield Machinery
SIX	'U18' Colts Jersey Sponsorship	Wereabout Engineering
SEVEN	Junior Jersey Sponsorship	Territory Business Solutions

NTRU Season Passes   Mack Trucks   PRD Realty   Hardy Aviation   Trans Territory Foods   HB Blocks

## 4 Ticket Pack Supporters

DMR Consulting Group Aust

HB Blocks

International All Sports Ltd

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Palmerston Newsagents

PRD Real Estate

Territory Business Solutions

Trans Territory Foods

Vanderfield Machinery

## Single Ticket Holders

Compaq

Delfin Property Group Ltd

Donut King

Fingers Aluminium

Fire Fighting Enterprises

Hardy Aviation

NT Auto Air

Oasis News and Lotto

Peter Hourigan

Port Darwin Motors

Programmed Maintenance Services Ltd

Reman Engineering

Stepping Stones Child Care Centre

Tristar Industries

Wereabout Engineering

## Barperson & Handyman needed

We have had good luck getting people on one side of the bar but the other side is more difficult. Anyone interested?

There is much work to be done at the Clubhouse and some of it requires someone who knows what they are doing. If you are that type of person – we have fans to replace, leaking toilets (for about 10 years), new fans and switch points to put in and a wall divider to put up. Talk to us. We don't expect for you to be out of pocket.

## Ladies Day

Saturday 25 December was Ladies Day, a day when the rugby chicks (wives, fiancées, girl friends, mothers, sisters, friends and supporters) are treated to delicious champagnes, scrumptious nibbles and five star service from the conscripted waiters. Many thanks to all who contributed to a great evening. Even Back Packer made a token appearance with an olive platter. And Jesse, ever mindful of the 90%-humidity-in-the-shade weather conditions, thoughtfully nominated to fan us all with cool palm fronds (unfortunately he forgot to make an appearance on the day -- I guess we'll just have to take a raincheck Jesse).

# MELBOURNE CUP CALCUTTA

The Melbourne Cup Calcutta ('MCC') was a great success. Everyone that attended enjoyed themselves immensely – especially the boys from NT Pre-Stressing, who went on to win both first and second place and a total of approximately \$4,600.00. Even though they hit pretty hard during that free first half hour, I'm told they were all at work at 6.30am the next day.

The Club made approximately \$1,000.00 and gained considerable experience at the same time. The first attempt at anything is always the most difficult, but in the end our MCC raised more money and paid greater percentages than that of our professional contemporaries (refer NT News Public Notices, 10/11/00), plus we gave prizes for attending! I believe we are now well positioned to run a Calcutta for any major horse race.

Many people helped out on the night, unfortunately too many to mention, but your contribution was essential to an enjoyable and successful night. Many thanks everyone!

See you all again for the Darwin Cup Calcutta?

Braedon Earley

## A GRADE WRAP UP

As a coach, what more would you want! Seven games played, seven games won. And winners of the Presidents Cup as well!

It has been one of the Clubs best starts to the season in years: we won the Bundy 10's comp and were runners up at Jabiru. We started without our regular A Grader's but picked up some good players - in particular Ben Jones and Chris Yow from the Army. Both players have a ton of pace. In addition, Paul Veach returned from Queensland for some cameo appearances. And with regular A Graders Ricky Hoe, Brock Evans, Todd Harrison, Danny Easton, Matt Pheaney and Aaron Cim – (Cimba), Palmerston took out the 10's final in convincing fashion (I think it was around 40 – zip). Braedon, I don't think I'll leave a 10's side in your control again.

The season started with very few of last years A Graders on board. This could have been a blessing in disguise as the players that have filled those vacant boots have done a sterling job. The Club has found players of the calibre of Shane Cotton, Jamie Flemming, Ben Jones, Chris Yow and Terry Schiderfeld. A lot of past players got back on the field, including Fonsie Shields, Greg Girle and Braedon Earley. In addition, our

## Our Junior Crocs

The Palmy Juniors are off to a great start this season with our U8s leading the way.

Daryn Bishell and Phil Winters are doing a fantastic job coaching our youngest recruits who remain undefeated so far; with Shaun Ley, Dillion Wylles-Kelly and Natasha Kennedy our champion try-scorers.

Ned Kelly and Ric Huriwai are guiding the U10s around the paddock. This young team in their first year of "tackle rugby" has bucket loads of talent (some of those bare foot drop kicks are pretty amazing!).

The U12s have started well. A lot of our boys are actually only ten. Micheal Killiner and Narada Kerr-Barlow (2nd generation Crocs, hurry up the rest of you!), Alden Kennedy, Blake Bishell, Jai Wylles-Kelly, Alex, Jacob and Stephanie Davies are just a few of the kids with a great future in rugby. Many thanks to Ralph for his help with this team.

The U8s and U10s play at 9.00 and 10.00am on Saturday mornings (yes, I know you Seniors think this is very early!). The U12s play on a Friday night, kicking off at either 5.15 or 6.00pm. It would be fantastic to see some Senior players down to watch these kids play! by Gail Barlow

1999/2000 B Grade players have had the opportunity to get an A Grade spot - Robin Paine, Jeremy Bree and Sonny Sewell have all played especially well. Unfortunately Paine played his last game with us last weekend against Uni, before heading south. Thanks for the effort you have put in Paine. With last years A graders Craig Leach, Francis Mills, Nick Woodruff and Ben Blyton returning to the side, and this years regular players Sam Jeffries, Ricky Hoe, Brock Evans, Todd Harrison, Danny Easton, Matt Pheaney and Dan Bree putting in solid games, the season is looking good.

With the numbers increasing at training and with several players trying out for one or two positions in the A Grade side, it certainly makes my job a lot harder in selection.

It is a long season and there are areas to improve on, but with our numbers picking up and players getting fitter and stronger, who knows what can happen!!!

B and C Grade Wrap up next issue of Croctales.

Steven Roberts

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