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## President's Message

This week in Palmerston Rugby....

Last Friday evening saw our inaugural volunteer recognition night. Junior and senior coaches, managers, committee members and other Club volunteers gathered at the clubhouse to mingle in a relaxed social atmosphere prior to the season starting. Life members were also invited as special guests, and it was great to see our new volunteers mixing with some great volunteers of the past. A special thanks to Dennis Grant who again ran the bar, and also found my glasses, albeit a bit too late for me to read my speech.

The Juniors have had a busy week with a training/come-and-try morning on Saturday. Well done to all involved. You can read more about it in the Junior wrap up later in Croc Tales.

A working bee was also held on Sunday at the clubhouse. A big thank you to all that helped out – the clubhouse will thank you, especially as our first home game is this weekend.

And on another note, competition for the Rusty Needle Award is already up and running and the season hasn't even started yet!! Rolly received 9 stitches after the South's 10's – so well done – this all helps to keep the tradition alive!

And finally, at long last, the season is all but here. I can't wait for Saturday when the rugby starts and we see the Crocs having a red hot go against Souths down at Moulden Oval. I think you'd be mad to miss it - hope to see you there!!!!

Palmerston, Palmerston, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah.

### What's on this weekend...

**FRIDAY NIGHT** – Junior season kicks off at Rugby Park, Marrara

**SATURDAY** - Senior season starts with home games at Moulden Oval



## Notice board

### SATURDAY 31 MARCH

B grade play at Jabiru. A grade and Under 18's have a bye that day.

### SATURDAY 21 APRIL

Home games against Casuarina at Moulden Oval, including Past Players Day. Save the date and watch this space for more details.

### SENIOR SUBS

Senior subs are now due. \$190 includes playing kit and insurance. \$50 payment must be received by first game. Balance paid in full by end of first round. Payment required so that your insurance is paid!

### CASH FOR CONTAINERS

Recycle your containers at the clubhouse and raise funds for the club at the same time.



## Around the Grounds



### \* HOME GAMES THIS WEEKEND \*

Under 18 – 3:00 pm

B Grade – 4:30 pm

A Grade – 6:00 pm

*Food and drinks available on the ground  
and afterwards at the clubhouse.*

**Let's celebrate the first game of the season!**



### THE JUNIORS

Saturday morning saw approximately 40 participants turn up for our come and try day / skills session down at Moulden Oval. After a joint warm up, the group was split into two with the U6's and 8's joining forces and the U10's to U16's combining into large training units.

The younger croclings went through their paces, learning new skills like running with the ball in two hands, passing, side-stepping and generally having fun, until the session was called off due to a mid-morning storm. The older Crocs went through various skills until the storm came in and forced everyone into the clubhouse. During the break, fruit, drinks and icy poles were provided to all the participants.

After the storm had cleared, the older boys went back out and hit the shields with vigour. The U10's in particular were keen to impress the older boys with their hardness at the breakdown and their running skills. It was all about learning new skills ... the kids enjoyed it and will benefit from participating in the sessions.

Thanks to all those involved, and to the parents for getting the kids down there on a Saturday morning: *Coaches: Robbie Taylor, Gareth Felton, Ricky Hoe, Wayne Smith, Cody McFarlane, Ben Blyton and Jaz Deo; Behind the scenes: Robyn Deo, Kylie Grainger, Rebecca Gardiner, Cody Grainger, Larissa Deo and Fiona Austine.*

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A young Sachin



Ayrton



Larissa - waiting for the ball to come out of the ruck



Jared



Under 6's with Jaz, Robyn, Jared and Sachin on the right



## In the spotlight...

**Name:** The Deo Family:

Jas, Robyn, Jared (17), Ayrton (14), Larissa (12) and Sachin (10)

### Meet the Deo's:

- Jaz's current involvement with the club is to make sure the bar does not end up with out-of-date beer. He will also apply to be the club's beer taster if ever there is such a position. Past involvement includes playing C and B grade in the late 80's. He almost scored a try in a 'C' grade game in 1988.
- Robyn is the Junior Fundraising Co-ordinator. She co-managed the Under 9's last year and now co-manages the Under 10's (along with Kylie Grainger).
- Jared's involvement began in 2006. He tried coaching the Under 6's in 2007 but couldn't handle the pressure (he's currently in Melbourne recovering from this stint). In 2009 he played for the Under 18's premiership team. Ayrton first played for the Croc's in 2005 in the Under 10's and in 2008 played in the premiership winning Under 12's team. This year he's playing for the Under 16's. Larissa played for the Under 8's in 2008 and now helps out with fund raising for the club. Sachin's involvement began in 2008 with the Under 6's. He currently plays for the SUPER UNDER 10's CROCS.

### Playing history and achievements:

- Jaz actually played soccer, hockey and cricket. Rugby was by accident. A very good friend of his from Alice Springs, namely Noel Bree, converted him to play rugby. After watching Jaz play, Noel retired from recruiting people from other sports to play rugby.
- Jared represented the NT in Under 16 sides in 2009 and 2010. In 2011 he went to Melbourne and represented Victoria in the Under 18's Victorian Division 2 team. He is currently in the Melbourne Rebels Junior Development Squad and has just been selected for the Under 18's Victorian Division 1 State Team.
- Ayrton represented the NT in the Under 14 rep side in 2011.
- Sachin also loves the game of Rugby. He was recently appointed the 2012 SUPER UNDER 10's CROCS captain.

### How did you become involved in Palmerston?

Jaz got involved with the Palmerston Crocs because they sponsored the Federal Devils team that Jaz played for in Alice Springs (Noel Bree may have some regrets here). The rest of the family got involved partly because of Jaz (10%), the rest due to the Palmerston Crocs Club itself (90%). Players and parents are second to none and as a family the Deo's have made some very good and long lasting friends. It is always a good Friday night during the junior games and on Saturday's on home games.

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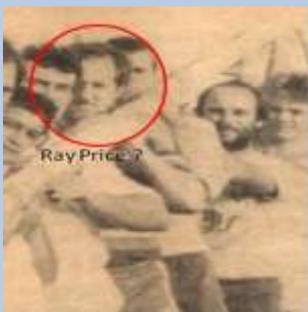
**(CROC) TALES FROM HISTORY**

*First Home Game ever at Moulden Oval against Souths*



Comment from the sideline regarding last week's 'goal post' story...

Garry Crone queried whether we had an ex-Wallably helping out on the day: Ray Price



# 35th Anniversary

This week sees our first home game of the year against South's in A and B grades. As a coincidence, our first home game ever at Moulden Oval was played in the 1989/90 season and was also against South's. These photos from archives speak for themselves (but what were we thinking with the white shorts???)



Palmerston Rugby Union Club treasurer Byrne Haigh (right) and player Tim Curran survey the new club rooms.

## Crocodiles host first home game

By JOHN GREEN

Rugby union in Palmerston takes a giant leap forward tomorrow when the Crocodiles play their first home game at Moulden Oval. Palmerston will play South Darwin in all three grades.

The recently completed clubhouse at the oval will be officially opened at 7 pm by local M.L.A. Darryl Coulter.

The new clubhouse features two public changing sheds, custom, club room and bar facilities.

Palmerston is the first rugby union club in Darwin to have developed a home ground and clubhouse facility.

Club president Mr Dennis Ives says the establishment of a clubhouse and home ground in Palmerston itself guarantees a bright future for the club.

"I hope Palmerston people can get behind the club for this first home game, whether they've been rugby fans in the past or not," he said.

Palmerston is the oldest club in Darwin. It was established in 1977.

It was then known as the Darwin Rugby Club but changed its name to Palmerston Rugby Club following the establishment of an official Darwin competition in 1978.

All of Palmerston's home games will be played at Moulden Oval next season.

## 35th Anniversary Dinner

**When:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 @ 7pm

**Where:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, Darwin

**Tickets:** \$150.00 per person. To purchase tickets, please contact Treasurer Percy Peel for details.

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Each week *Croc Tales* are running a "PALMY TRIVIA" competition, with the winner receiving \$10 off their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Tickets.

To enter the competition, just email your answers by 6pm Wednesday each week to [ben.blyton@bigpond.com](mailto:ben.blyton@bigpond.com) or [wleach@bigpond.com](mailto:wleach@bigpond.com)

All correct (or mostly correct!) answers will be placed in a draw and one weekly winner will be picked. The winner and the correct answers will be published in *Croc Tales* the following week.



Last week's winner is Kerry Smith. Kerry was a power house prop in the early 80's who punched well above his weight. An important member of a star studded and feared forward pack.



Previous winners:

- # 1 - Steven Roberts
- # 2 - Garry Crone
- # 3 - Jaz Deo
- # 4 - Jeremy (Brahman) Bright

## Palmy Trivia # 6

This week's question is:

What do the following years have in common?

1990-91

1998-99

2002-03

Remember to email your answer to [ben.blyton@bigpond.com](mailto:ben.blyton@bigpond.com) or [wleach@bigpond.com](mailto:wleach@bigpond.com) by Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Here's Garry Russell's entry for last week's question. Kerry also identified the 'long haired halfback' as Kim (thereby just pipping Garry at the post).



The Palmerston pack on the move against Souths earlier this season. One team will bow out today.

Palmerston players from left to right: Kerry Smith, Abel Seru, Tony Burns, Garry Harper, Dave Harries, Kim (Kerry can't remember his last name).

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## Where are they now?

It's a good question ... where are you? Croc Tales would love to hear from you. You don't have to be a club legend. You may still be in Darwin or you may have moved on. You just need to be an ex-member who may have a story to share. Send your snippets through to [wleach@bigpond.com](mailto:wleach@bigpond.com) or to [ben.blyton@bigpond.com](mailto:ben.blyton@bigpond.com) and we'll try to publish it.



## Other things...

- Thanks to the Deo family, Shane and Lyn Cotton, Fiona Austine, Mal Leach, Chris (the new player), and Dennis Grant for turning up to the working bee last Sunday at the clubhouse.
- Don't forget the next Bunnings sausage sizzle on **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Saturday)**. We need 4 people each shift. The times are 07.15am, 10am, 12 noon and 2pm. Other than the first set-up shift, they are for 2 hours only. These are good fund-raisers for the Club, and it's not hard work. **Contact Dennis Grant – 0437 912 140.**
- The Club is also running a Monster Raffle – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize goods and vouchers to the value of approximately \$1000. There are 1000 tickets. You pay the price of the ticket number you pull from the bin, e.g. Ticket 0705 would be \$7.05, Ticket No. 0070 would be \$0.70 cents. All costs rounded to nearest five cents. The raffle will run throughout the year and prizes drawn at Presentation Night. See Dennis Grant for tickets.

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