

CAZALYS
PALMERSTON CLUB

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

I welcome you all to a new and exciting 2012 season – a season which will be full of the new and the old.

We have a new committee, a new senior coaching team, new sponsors and a new junior competition format (to name a few), while with the old, it's great to see some old die-hards – you know who you are – returning for another season, along with players from the previous seasons.

This season also marks a very special year for the Palmerston Rugby Union Club – our 35th anniversary year. This is a great achievement and one that the club can feel rightly proud of.

To help celebrate the anniversary year, several activities are planned. We have some new features in Croc Tales, some special social functions which will be announced shortly, and a gala dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Saturday, 30th June.

Training has now started for all grades, under 6's through to seniors. And with the announcement here of our senior coaching team of Greg Hill and Robert Iglesias, I am pleased to say that all grades have now had coaches appointed.

With training started, now is the time to dust off the boots, see if the old jumper still fits, and get down to training. We only have 5 weeks to go until the 1st round. However, in between, we have a trial game in Katherine, plus the South's 10's and Jabiru 10's.

On a personal note, I am looking forward to a successful season both on the field and off. The committee has been working hard since Christmas in preparation for the year and now it is time to start the work on the training field.

Palmerston, Palmerston, Yeah,
Yeah, Yeah!!!

Ben Blyton - President

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2012 SEASON

A reminder that the 2012 rugby season for Juniors commences on **Friday 23rd March** and for Seniors on **Saturday 24th March**.

Palmerston will host the first senior games of the season with home games at Moulden Oval.

Under 18's will play @ 3.00pm,
B Grade @ 4.30pm and **A Grade**
@ 6.00pm.

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POSITIONS VACANT

A & B GRADE MANAGERS

Applications for the positions of managers for the A & B Grade teams are now being sought.

Closing date is 05-03-12.

Interested people should supply a brief application to :
ben.blyton@bigpond.com

Please limit applications to one page only.

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JUNIOR SIGN UP DAY

The Junior Sign-up Day was held on **Sunday, 12th February** at the Clubhouse.

A Junior Information Pack was handed out outlining details of fees, coaches, uniforms, games etc. for the year ahead.

Robbie Taylor will give a report on the sign-up day in next week's Croc Tales

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COBRA TILING
0450 949 957

SOMETHING NEW FOR CROC TALES

To mark the upcoming 35th Anniversary of our Club's establishment, Croc Tales will print a series of stories on the history of the Club.

The first story has been written by **Bernie Bree**.

PALMERSTON - THE BEGINNINGS

Back in the 70's, when we were just beginning to think that perhaps a rugby competition was actually possible, a group of smart, fit and athletic young men got together at Dave Cooper's house in Moil to think of a great name and logo for our club. Up until then, we had called ourselves Darwin and we challenged any group of likely lads we came across – (generally in a pub) - to a game.

Warren Snowden had organised a meeting of like-minded men at a house on Bagot Road with a view to starting a rugby competition later that year.

The meeting went quite well, and several different groups felt confident that they could put a team together. So off we all went to do what we didn't actually do very well – organise!!

Dave Cooper was our President and a passionate rugby player.

Rugby wasn't Dave's only passion and, on the night that we had to make momentous decisions that would affect generations of future Palmie players, he kept the committee waiting outside on his lawn for quite a long time while he engaged in his other passions – women.

Eventually, the door was opened and we were allowed in for the meeting that would decide the name and logo of the club. By the time the meeting got underway, the boys had a few beers on board and so it was lucky that the meeting got started at all! We were straight into, however, with some clever historical information that led us to quickly decide on the club name.

Palmerston was the original name of the settlement that came to be known as Darwin. Palmerston was on Port Darwin. At this time, there was no such place as Palmerston, the town that we now call home. We were all very pleased with ourselves and so celebrated step one, the naming of the club, by drinking another beer or two. On to the logo.

This proved more difficult. Possibly the drink had started to play a larger part in the meeting and some very strange animals were put forward to be our club logo. Several ideas that didn't get a start were:

The Turkeys – we worried about the connotations of gobbling.

The Monkeys – there was quite a primate theme followed up at this time and it was surprising how many could be named by our group. None seemed appropriate, and all were hard to draw, so we moved on.

The Donkeys – probably no explanation needed as to why this name appeared, but we were concerned that the enemy may eventually find out our weakness in this area.

The Tigers – at that time there was a petrol company that used the slogan "Get a tiger in your tank". Given the close relationship we now have with the Defence Force players, this may have been an inspirational choice, but it wasn't. More drinks were needed.

Pussy Cats was mentioned, and I'm happy to say that we let that one go - another club grabbed it and ran with it.

Someone felt we should move closer to home and so we moved to Australia.

Wallabies came up, but apparently it had been taken.

Dingoes sounded good for a while, but then drongos was a derogatory word and too close to dingoes – move on – another beer.

Eagles – no, that was a band.

A **gecko** on the wall moved and got a brief mention, but was quickly dropped.

Cockroaches introduced some laughter for a while. **Whales?** – that's a country.

We were losing it and it seemed that no decision would be made that night.

Then, somehow, someone said “Crocodiles” and that was it. No discussion needed, no explanations, just lock it in.

I must admit to not really remembering how we eventually got to crocodiles, but most people are glad that we did.

Things could have gone very badly for the club that night!

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Also, with our 35th anniversary celebrations coming up, Croc Tales will include a “Where Am I Now?” column in which we will profile former club members. Contributions are always welcome.

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“WHERE AM I NOW?”

Name: James White

Nickname: Chook

When: 1995-1996

What are you doing now?

Living in Brisbane, married to Jackie, with two boys, James 11 and Nick 10, and working as a builder and housewife.

How did you become involved with Palmerston?

Met Dallas Graetz while fishing at Crab Claw.

What's your favourite memory?

The nude run around Moulden Oval after the Grand Final.

What do you miss?

The Palmy boys.

Footnote:

Did you know that Chook was the first player to have the Palmerston logo tattooed onto his arm?

He gained the nickname “Chook” because he worked on a poultry farm whilst he lived in Darwin. That’s logical!

He also caught Ben Blyton his first ever barramundi!

His other claim to fame up here was featuring in the NT News when the boat “The Purple Patch” sank in Darwin Harbour and he and the others on board had to swim to shore. No fish that day! But plenty of TV and NT News coverage.

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WHO AM I?

Each week Croc Tales will be running a “Who Am I?” competition with the winner receiving \$10 off their 35th Anniversary Dinner Tickets.

To enter the competition, just email your answers by 6pm on Wednesday each week to ben.blyton@bigpond.com

All 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.

The prize is not transferable.

Week 1’s questions relate to nicknames of our club members – can you name the following past and present players :

Blue Dog

Boulder

Chicken Wing

Cube

Dougie

Franga

Green Cans

Hellfire

Scratchie

Superman

Remember, email your answers to :

ben.blyton@bigpond.com

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RECYCLING

The Club is now recycling all cans, bottles and cartons that carry the 10c refund label. If you are not recycling these items for yourselves, could you bring them down to the Club. We have a large bin that the recycling company will take away and count when it is full.

You only have to wash the milk and orange juice items, as they stink if they’re not clean. All other items just need to be empty.

This will help with our fund raising efforts throughout the year.

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SMITHY'S 21ST

Anthony Smith is celebrating his 21st birthday at the clubhouse on Saturday, 18th February. Contact Smithy for more details.

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REMINDERS

A trial match in Katherine is scheduled for **Saturday, 25th February**. We're looking for players - it will be a day trip - back to Darwin that night. Transport arrangements are not finalized as yet.

SOUTH'S 10'S

Keep in mind the South's 10's competition on Saturday, 3rd March at Warren Park.

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JABIRU 10'S

No firm details as yet for this event.

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