

## This Week's Games

### Friday 13 August

Optus Park 2

5.30 **U12** v Dragons

Optus Park 1

7.10 **U14** v Casuarina

8.10 **U16** v Casuarina

### Saturday 14 August

Optus Park 1

8.30 **U8** v Casuarina

9.00 **U6**

9.30 **U10** v Casuarina

Optus Park 2

2.30 **C** v Casuarina

Optus Park 1

5.00 **B** v Casuarina

6.30 **A** v Casuarina

### A & B Grade Tables.

	XXXX Cup Standings				BP	PT
	P	W	D	L		
Uni versity	16	12	1	3	12	62
Souths	16	7	2	7	10	42
Casuarina	15	6	1	8	7	33
Palmerston	15	5	2	8	6	30
Dragons	15	6	0	9	3	27

	Reserve Grade Standings				BP	PT
	P	W	D	L		
Palmerston	18	13	0	5	8	60
Casuarina	18	11	0	6	9	49
Uni versity	18	7	0	10	12	40
Dragons	18	9	0	9	7	39
Jabiru	18	6	0	12	9	33
Souths	18	8	0	10	5	33

## Coming Events

**NTRU Semi Finals** are almost upon us. They are on Saturday 28 August. **Are you qualified?**

Both semi finals are knock out finals this year, 1 v 4 and 2 v 3, with the **Grand Finals** on the following **Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> September**. The **NTJRU Grand finals** (except the U16's which will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>

August) will also be held this day.

The final **C Grade & Old Salties Night and Players Tea** for this season will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

The **Juniors Presentation Night** will be held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September** from 5.30pm at the clubhouse. The **Seniors Presentation Night** is currently scheduled for **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September**. Watch this space for more information.

## Last Week's Games A's v Souths

In an absolute must win game to stay in with a chance of a semi final spot, the A Grade team got much of their act together and had a **20 – 14 WIN** over the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team. Our **tries** were scored by **John Sullivan, Damian Smith and Peter Burnheim**. **Kerry Amory** converted 1 plus kicked a penalty. **Player's player was James 'Spunky' Ballantyne**, just in front of John 'Sully' Sullivan. The **Coaches Award** went to **Tom Hurse**.

## B's v Souths

In what Bernie Bree described as a "great game", the **B Grade had a 17 – 5 WIN**. Both teams went hard and play saw-sawed from one end of the field to the other. Our **tries** were scored by **Keven Jones, Tim Jackson and Dino Dial**. Tim converted 1. Coach Babbs felt that the team clicked in the last 15 minutes and turned solid defence into great team attack. Or was it that we had just ground them into submission?

There were a number of pieces of individual brilliance during the game including **Brad Naylor's** sideline runs, beating tackles everywhere; big, strong, barging runs from **Dino**; great support play from the forwards and excellent scrambling defence from the backs. Thanks to **Nathan 'Nads' Brodbeck** filling in at hooker so we could play contested scrums and welcome to **Tim Jackson** and **Paul Blackburn** for their first competition games with the club. Babbsy says, **"A great effort from everybody"**.

## C's v Swampdogs

The C Grade battled the Swampdogs again this week and ran in 7 converted tries for a **49 – 0 victory**. Coordinator **Noel Bree** saw the game this way. *"From the start, the game plan (well that might be going overboard, let's say general discussion as to how we should play) was adhered to. (What went wrong, this hasn't been C Grade's approach to date) Keeping control of the pill soon had the kids of Humpty Doo wondering what they could do and lo and behold over the hill comes **Al 'Woody' Woodcock**. Well, that was the end of the contest as we know it. Even though referee **Stephen 'Dog' Roberts** immediately banned Al from running more than 20 metres or tackling anyone. **Babbsie's boot was back in action and there was nothing that could go wrong.**" **Try scorers** were **Michael Bursle, Tom Cummins, Ross 'Boots'***



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**Blunsdon, Matt 'Fang' Pheeny, Ben Sage, Al Woodcock & Dino Dial.** Alan Babbs got 5 from 5 conversions and after his foot got tired of kicking them from the sideline; **Al Woodcock** got 2 from 2 (in front). **Best players** were **Michael Burlse, Matt Pheeny and Dino Dial.**

### Juniors

The **U14's** played the Dragons on Friday night and according to the coaches, **Peter Lafferty** and **Dan Curtin**, put in their best game of the season running out **36 – 5 WINNERS.** Both coaches and spectators were talking about the new backline moves introduced by specialist backs coach, **Damian Collie**, and executed to perfection by the backs but the forwards also played well with superb scrummaging and cleaning out at the ruck contest. This gave the backline plenty of ball and room to move. **Brendan Russell** and **Fred Norris** made some good runs (one 90 metres) and were ably supported by the rest of the forwards. The tackling was also of a high quality. The scorers were **Rory Valentin, Brendan Russell, Jai Wiles-Kelly, Tom Pavone and Fred Norris (2).** The 3 successful conversions went to **Jai, Kurt Collie-Whakave and Watene Kirikind.** Damian's best players included: Number 8 **Jacob** for all his hit ups and clean out work; lock **Micky Green** for the 2 excellent try saving, cover defence tackles he made on the fastest Dragons player and lock **Brenton Whatley.**

Dan says the boys are playing great and if you want to see a junior team that's playing some great rugby come and watch the U14's on Friday night.

The **U12's** are making a serious push for the finals, replacing University at the top

of the table, after their **17 – 5 WIN** over them on Friday night. **Tries** were scored by **Brenton Davie, Shaun Ley** and **Robert Pols.** **Ryan McMillan** kicked one conversion. **Coach Cat Waite** congratulates all players on a hard-fought winning game!

The **U8's** had a narrow **15 – 20 loss** to Casuarina this week. **Try scorers** were **Jack Callaghan (2)** and **Rhys White.** **Best players** included **Jack Callaghan, Ashley Theyers** and **Cameron Anderson.** **Coach Robbie Taylor** said *"It's a shame to see the end of the season coming up. The kids are really starting to put on a bit of a show. Everything that they have learnt throughout the season is really paying off for them now. It would wonderful to see the seniors turn up for the last couple of games for the season. The kids would love to see them down cheering them on. I know I loved it when I was younger."*

**Alison Snowden** tells me that the **U6's** took to the field this week with only eight players, **Mahlia Snowden, Kai Longley, Gavin Anderson, Jake Longley, Harry Burns** (Swampdogs) and our **try scorers** for the day **Michaela White, Tom Callaghan** and **Isaiah Dau.** This meant there was plenty of room to run and everyone had the opportunity to shine and show their potential as future Wallabies.

### Show Helpers

Two **CrocTales** ago I included a list of all of the helpers from the Royal Darwin Show week-end. As per normal, I missed someone, **Megan Radomi.** I'm sorry Megan, thanks for your help as well.

### Our Volunteers

**It's great to have volunteers.** At last week-end's **HOME GAME** we had people setting up the grounds and shade

cloths, selling food, manning the bar, running water, strapping players, playing rugby in three grades (50 individual players), cleaning up, organising the clubhouse and many other activities. Our guests, Souths, had the same guy running their water, doing the touch line and being the trainer! Depth is a wonderful thing! **Keep thinking about how you can help your rugby club.**

### Level 1 Coaching Course

Are you excited by the efforts of the club's teams this year? Do you want to get out there and **help out with the coaching of a team?**

The first step is to let **Lyn Cotton, Greg Hill** or I know and the second step is to attend a **Level 1 Coaching course.** The **next one** will be run in the **1<sup>st</sup> week of October**, so get in touch now.

### Croc Jottings

Many spectators were impressed to see the **toe poke kick** making a come back last week-end. After scoring a try, **Al Woodcock** placed the ball and gave it an almighty thump with the toe to send it over the black dot. And for good measure he repeated the effort a little later when someone else scored under the posts.

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The same spectators were also impressed by the short white socks and my runners that **Al** wore. **Very trendy!**

I guess these are the sacrifices that you make when your club is short and needs you out there quickly. Isn't that right **Al?**

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For the next 2 weeks I will be trekking the **Larapinta Trial** with Tom and over 70 of his year 9 class mates. **CrocTales will take a short holiday** unless a mystery editor appears.



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