

This Week's Games

Saturday 10th September

GRAND FINALS

Optus Park 1

11.00 U8R v Casuarina

11.40 U10

12.30 B Dragons v Uni

2.15 U12

3.10 A Uni v Souths

3.50 U6 v Swampdogs

5.15 U14

6.30 U16 v Casuarina

We only have the U6s, U8s, and U16s playing.

☺☺☺

Don't miss the final opportunity to **see our U16 team in action**. They have only lost 2 games this season (both to Casuarina) and play an exciting game.

Many of these boys will be moving up into B & C Grade next and will more than hold their own.

Remember, 5 of them (Tom Cummins, Stephen Bartholdt-Green, Blake Chadwick, Kurt Collie-Whakave and Tukere Barlow) are in the NT U16 team that will be competing at the National U16 Championships at the end of September.

Coming Events

Senior

Presentation

It is all happening. Have you got your tickets yet?

If not then call Tom or Dan URGENTLY or you might miss out.

It will be BIG!!

It is on **Saturday 17th September**, next week-end, on the Holtze Lawn at the George Brown Botanic Gardens.

Kick-off at about 6.15pm.

Tickets are now on sale at \$55 from Dan McIntyre and Tom Hurse. We need you to buy these ASAP to sort out catering etc.

Ticket cost covers meal, pre-dinner drinks, wine on the table, music etc. Drinks will be on sale at club prices.

Special Mini buses will be running from Palmerston to the event and home after. See Dan for details & pick-up points.

Buy your tickets NOW.

50 A Grade Games
Ben 'Cube' Emmett

Congratulations Cube on 50 A Grade games for the club. While updating our statistics in preparation for Presentation Night it was discovered that last week-end's Preliminary Final was also Ben's 50th A Grade Game for the club.

Last Week's Games

A v University Preliminary Final

End of the road for the season, we **lost 23 - 33**. There were a lot of good efforts by many players but

we gave the fast University backline too many opportunities to capitalise on our mistakes and they grabbed them with both hands.

Coach Dave Ley provided the following words: *'Although we didn't reach the final goal there where some very memorable occasions and games along the way. I thought there was **improvement across the board** in both grades. A Grade definitely getting the best games at the end of the season except for 3 intercept tries and another charge down in the last game. I think this was a direct result of **strong numbers at training and being able to develop some continuity**. Injuries played a determining role with players unable to train fully for the last week. We did however push University and without the intercepts they would have struggled. Speaking with both of the coaches who are in the Grand Final they are both very glad to see us out and commented that we had been the team that had given them both the hardest games over preceding weeks and scores did not always indicate the tight struggle to beat us. It was acknowledged that had we not given simple tries and turnovers it may have been very different BUT WE DID and that tells the story of the year. I think that we have to turn the corner and drive*



hard to win and not accept that being competitive is good enough. We need to develop a culture of winning and training for the whole year. As my dad once said, 'If you bother to keep score you might as well win'. The player's frustration and disappointment after last weekend's results summed up the year as another one that got away.

The bright note was the recognition of Sully and Shane as players with great talent and dedication.

Improvement from last year and continued development will look to a positive year in 2006. **I thank every one for their efforts this year** and hope everyone has a rest and is fresh for the new season.

May I suggest some off season training so the start next year is not so daunting and hard on the body? Thanks to all once again.'

Thanks Dave.

Peter Winton, Brock Evans and Todd Harrison scored tries while **Damian** converted 1 plus kicked a penalty. **Player's player was again John 'The Grange' Sullivan** in A Grade game #200.

B v Dragons Preliminary Final

Coach, Ben Blyton tells it this way. 'On a hot Saturday (what was I expecting for a noon kick off) saw B Grade play Dragons to see who would qualify for the Grand Final against University.

The game started out like a true final, very close with few opportunities to score. Our defence was working well and even though we were running against the wind we were able to maintain

reasonable field position. As the half went on we started to gain some dominance through a supply of ball from **Denny Johnston** at the line out, and also getting our fair share of turnovers at the breakdown.

This pressure led to a couple of scoring opportunities, unfortunately out of about the 4 chances we had we only managed to score one try and that was by **Paul Veach** who scored just before half time.

Half Time score to us 5 nil.

In the second half the wind picked up but also changed direction and we found that again we were running into it.

Unfortunately the ball that we were winning in the 1st half dried up as well and we were forced to defend for most of the half, this pressure eventually took its toll and Dragons scored a try which they converted about half way through the second half to take a 7-5 lead. Later they used the wind to good effect to kick a penalty from about half way to make the score 10-5.

The boys tried hard all day but never really looked like scoring again. Our line out suffered a bit in the second half, but our scrum was solid and the ball we did win we were able to maintain for long periods but we never made inroads into their defence. On saying this when the Dragons got the ball, we also had to defend for long periods.

In the last few minutes while we were throwing every thing we had at Dragons a mistake led to them scoring their second try to make the score 17-5.

In the end 2 tries to 1 was not a real indication of the game

and although we were out played in the second half we easily could have 15 to 20 points up at half time.

Best Players included in no real order - **Denny Johnston, Stu Bright, Dave Cairns, Paddy Killen**, but again every one contributed.

I would like to thank all the players who have played B Grade during the year for their assistance, but also would like to give a special mention to the following players who have made the coaching of the B Grade even more enjoyable.

Ian Hogan, Chuck Mathers, Dave Cairns, Denny Johnston, Sean Killiner, Ian Liney, Anthony Lees, Paul Blackburn, Terry Kirstenfeldt, Paddy Killen, Tim Jackson, Keven Jones, Karl Macfarland, Paul Veach and Daniel Gaywood.

Others that I would like to thank are **Alan Babbs** who was the manager you have when you do not have a manager.

Colin Snowden and Robbie Taylor (Under 16 Coaches) who not only supplied themselves to play when they could but also produced our two best players in **Paddy Killen** and **Ian Hogan** (both straight out of U16), **Dave Ley** A Grade Coach for his advice and guidance.

And last but not least **Bernie Bree** for his efforts as Joint Coach, without Bernie I am not sure I could have got through the whole year.

Thanks Ben.



Richardson
& Wrench
Darwin

TOP
END
HOTEL

ENSIGN
A SPOTLESS COMPANY

Crocs Netball

Kate Eadie tells me that 'sadly the finals race **came to an end** for the **C Grade team** last week. University were unstoppable in the goal area and shot what seemed like a near perfect game.

We, however, weren't quite in our usual form and our inability to capitalise on opportunities brought us down a notch in the standard stakes. Having said that though, we still went out there and played as hard as we could right to the end and a **4th place finish** in our inaugural year isn't anything to be sneezed at. It's a brief break now for the girls and then we'll be gearing up for the Wet Season comp, which kicks off in October. Sad goodbyes from everyone to **Kirstin Stannard** who played her last Croc game last week and best wishes for their new adventure down south as well as big hellos and welcomes to **new comers, Kristin Bentley & Danielle Crabtree** who'll be joining the Crocs this coming season.

D's too sadly clocked up a **loss against the Sharks**, but not without a huge effort from everyone on the court. Never minding the odd (& unnoticed by the blind ref's!) nudge or push from the opposing team! But like all good Crocs, the girls went out there and played fairly and cleanly.

This week's game is at 6:30pm TONIGHT and is against University. We're confident that our Crocs will face up against Casino Sharks again in the GF on 15th Sept, but support this week from everyone will help

ensure we have a Palmy GF this year.

Big thanks to the fellas who have been able to come down, especially **Sam "Snowy" Johnson** who has been there near every week and joined more recently by **Leon "Kimba" Covey**.

Once GF times are announced we'll pass it on to everyone and would really appreciate a mass of red, white & blue to help the girls get over the line.

PS: DNA courts are licensed and it's cheap!

NTRU Awards

The **NTRU Presentation Night** was held last Saturday night at the Deck Bar.

I was pleased to see our club supporting the night strongly (even after the disappointments of earlier in the day) with 24 attendees.

There were a range of Best Player and Point Scorer Awards presented for both grades and Palmy players made their presence felt.

The **ABC Player of the Year Award** is voted on by opposition coaches on a 3, 2, 1 basis in each A Grade game and this year's winner was our very own **Shane Stoeckert**. **Congratulations Shane**.

On the representative front, the **Mozzies Player of the Year** was **John 'The Grange' Sullivan**. **Congratulations Sully**.

Sully was also runner up in the **Eric Johnston Medal** behind joint winners, Joe Egan and Stewart Boland. This award is voted on by the referees.

Bernie Bree very kindly provided me with these words about the night.

'Last Saturday will not go down in my book as a good day. We lost 'B' and 'A' grade finals and the Wallabies looked decidedly wobbly. But just when all is bad, along comes some good!

Garry Russell was recognised by the NTRU for his great contribution to rugby when he received the '**NTRU Volunteer of the Year Award**' at the Presentation Evening.

At Palmerston we know that Garry has been an incredibly well organised and enthusiastic worker for our club and I'm sure you've all wondered how he manages to stay so calm while fielding hundreds of questions and complaints from all sides. (No, it's not drugs.)

Garry just gets things done and when he received his award I think all there felt terrific because he's a great mate and he has put our club on a firm footing.

Well done Garry. I hope you enjoyed the award. I know it made my night.'

Thanks Bernie, it was a very pleasant surprise.

Juniors

Presentation

It was a **great turn out** at Berry Springs last Sunday for the Juniors Presentation and Family Fun Day.

Congratulations to all of the award winners and a **very big thank you** to all of the **team coaches and managers**.

Finally, a **huge THANK YOU to Alison Snowden** for all of her efforts in making our juniors so successful this year.



Richardson
& Wrench
Darwin

TOP
END
HOTEL

ENSIGN
A SPOTLESS COMPANY