

## Upcoming Games

**FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> May**

**Austar Rugby Park 1**

6.00 **U10** v University  
6.50 **U12** v Dragons  
7.40 **U14** v Dragons  
8.40 **U16** v Dragons

**Austar Rugby Park 2**

6.00 **U6**  
6.00 **U8** v University

**SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> May**

**Austar Rugby Park 2**

3.00 **B** v Dragons  
4.30 **A** v Dragons

Check out the full **NTRU draw** on our website.

A Grade Tooheys New Cup							
	P	W	D	L	BP	PT	
Dragons	7	5	0	2	6	26	
Uni versi ty	6	4	1	1	2	20	
Souths	6	3	0	3	2	14	
<b>Pal merston</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	
Casuari na	7	1	1	5	0	6	

B Grade Abel Finance Cup							
	P	W	D	L	JF	BP	PT
<b>Pal merston</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>
Dragons	8	5	0	3	0	3	23
Uni versi ty	7	5	0	2	0	3	23
Casuari na	8	3	0	5	0	4	16
Jabi ru	6	1	0	5	0	2	9
Souths	7	0	0	7	0	1	4

The A Grade is on the move up the table at last.

**President Dan** notes that we need only three points to top Souths!!!! If not this week-end then the opportunity will be there next week-end when we play them.

## Last Week's Games

**A v University**

And another **Victory**, this time 28 – 3. The team might

be getting that winning feeling, well I hope so. It is so much nicer than losing. **Coach Connop** was absolutely rapped to a win against the top team. This was University's first loss of the season. This win proves that we can compete with any team when we play good rugby and stick to the game plan. **Wayne** thought that every player was superb and played outstanding rugby. He welcomes **Daniel Maroulis** to the club and the back row and congratulates him on a super game. Playing centres for the Mosquitoes didn't really let **Daniel** show his true abilities.

A big welcome also to **Warren Berto** and **Joel Peckham**. **Warren** came off the bench for his first game in A Grade while **Joel** played his first game in B Grade and sat as a reserve.

**Wayne** was also thrilled at the commitment of our Mosquitoes players, **Ben Emmett**, **Todd Harrison**, **John Sullivan**, **Daniel Maroulis**, **Nick Barlow**, **Jono Schwalger**, **Dan Simmonds** and **Tom Hurse**, all of whom backed up after a big game on Saturday against the Canberra Vikings. Thanks gents.

**Tries** were scored by **Dave Cairns**, **Vili**

**Leqa (2)** and **Jono Schwalger**. **Damian Collie** converted one try and kicked **two penalty goals**. **Player of the Week** and **Player's Player** in a good team effort was **Vili Leqa**.

**B v University**

**What a get out of jail free game!** We were down 10 – 24 at half time and not looking like we had a lot of answers to University's free flowing game. But, the players and coach had other ideas. We stormed home with a 4 try to 1 2<sup>nd</sup> half to **sneak over the line 30 – 29**, with 5 tries to each team. Thank goodness University didn't take a kick at goal from any of the string of penalties they got in our half late in the game.

**Coach Blyton** had these thoughts after the game. "Well guys you gave me quite a fright this week - 15 minutes to kick off and I thought we were not going to have a full team. (At



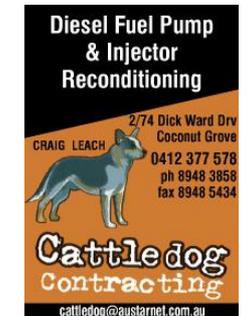
Vili in for a try



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about this time he was asking me if I had my boots with me).

You tell me you all have reasons why you turn up late but it would make it a lot easier if you **gave me and yourselves 45 minutes before the game to get ourselves organised.** Enough said.

The game started and for the 1st 20 or so minutes we hardly seemed to touch the ball and when we did our ball security was dreadful. All this pressure told and University scored a couple of tries. Despite this the **boys did not give up** and you could sense that as long as they did not get too far ahead we should eventually start playing well enough to get back into the game. On about our 1st venture into their half **Jack Rotticci** kicked a penalty to get us on the score board.

Unfortunately **Jack** and **Jason Iwikau** who both started the game unwell did not last and had to be replaced early in the half leaving us with only forward replacements.

**Warren Berto** and **Joel Peckham** went on and **Te Keepa Russell** moved into half back. This combination had an immediate effect with **Joel** scoring a try with his 1st touch of the ball.

Half time saw us trailing 24-10 but starting to play better rugby then University and them also starting to look tired.

At half time the plan was to look after the ball better, play to our ability and see what could / would happen.

The 2nd half started much better with us scoring almost straight away. The boys had switched on and now were playing much more like a team. **Karl McFarland** in the centres had a good game consistently taking the ball across the gain line and giving the forwards a target to head for. **Miles 'Ralph' Hindle**, playing as a flanker this week, was proving a reliable ball winner in the line outs and along with **Leigh Stait** was putting heaps of pressure on their backline in defence.

**Ashley Binding** continues to improve with every game he plays and made many yards picking and driving from the rucks.

Then I pulled my master stroke - with about 20 minutes to go I tell **Dennis Bree** he is on. **Dennis** is only on the field for a number of minutes and the boys score again to put us ahead 25-24. This is the 1st time that we have been ahead all day. Every one is excited but **Dennis** shows his experience and calms the team down with 10 minutes still to go.

Unfortunately University score again so we are now trailing 25-29. The boys are getting tired but we have no more replacements. There is still time to win if we want it bad enough. Again we get into University's half and after

a series of driving mauls comes the game breaker - **Dennis Bree** puts the ball under his arm and hearing the call from the referee to play on, out paces the opposition **to score** in the corner. We are back in the lead, 30-29, with about 3 minutes left to play.

We then concede a series of penalties that finishes with me being sin binned, and maybe benched next week, to put some pressure back on us. University attack but not content to win the game by scoring his try **Dennis** decides to save the game at the other end with a **copy book tackle** to bring down the big University prop just short of our try line.

Full time and now the mighty B's have gone 8 straight and still remain undefeated.

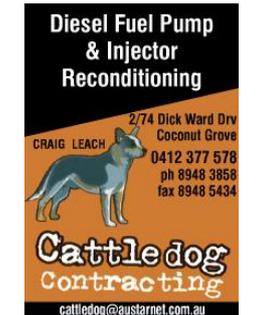
Best players include **Miles Hindle, Leigh Stait, Karl McFarland, Te Keepa Russell, Warren Berto** and **Joel Peckham**.

Tries were scored by **Damian Smith, Warren Berto, Joel Peckham, Miles Hindle** and **DENNIS BREE**. **Jack Rotticci** kicked a penalty goal and **Warren Berto** kicked a conversion. Warren also managed to bounce three attempts off the up rights.

**Player's player** was a tie, **Miles 'Ralph' Hindle** and **Leigh 'Stait' Stait**. Well done guys.

#### C v Dead Mozzies

We did it and so did they. Get teams together to



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### This week-end at the Top End Hotel

- Friday Lunches @ Honey Pot Club 12 - 4pm (\$60) 3 course meal plus show
- Chase the Ace @ Lizards Bar this Friday 5-8pm. Be there for your chance to win \$1,500
- Live music Friday and Saturday from 8pm
- **Goose Club Raffle @ Lizards Bar - Fridays 6-9pm for Palmerston Rugby Union Club**
- Darwin Cricket club Raffles - Saturday night from 6pm



resurrect the possibilities of a

willingness of our players to do what was needed.

In the second half, we came a little unglued at times with some players thinking that they could do the job by themselves resulting in poor team play. This was



Does this count as a rep game? Could that be Dallas Graetz lining up in the centres?

### C Grade competition.

I have no idea of the score, although referee **Jeff Fraser** seemed to be working hard at keeping things even. Is it any wonder that **Dennis Bree** was so effective in Sunday's B Grade game; he had warmed up in this game on Saturday.

### U10 v Swampdogs

Coach **Jamie Akers** has again provided me with a write-up on the U10 game. I'm pretty sure that is every week so far this season. Well done Jamie, keep up the great work.

"Palmy U10 played Swampdogs in a **closely fought contest**. Each of our players walked onto the field with a determination to play their best. We lacked a little in supporting our runners at times, which was picked up by the Swampdogs occasionally resulting in preventable turnovers. During the latter part of the first half I could say no wrong about the team's performance, **2 brilliant drives resulting in tries** showed the ability and

remedied by a **try** scored by **Kerrin Akers**, he was in a perfect support position to clean out, no opposition in front of him, he picked up the ball, took 3 steps and placed it for an easy try. After this demonstration of teamwork the team saw the benefits and started working harder as a team.

The **standout player** for the game was **Ben Kaart**, imitating a road train, **Ben ran in 3 tries** often over the top of opposition players. When not scoring tries, **Ben attacked the ball with every ounce of energy he had,**

finding himself in the middle of everything and gaining a great amount of ground.

**Jye Snowden** again scored **2 conversions** and is shaping up to being a very good all-round player. The other player of note was **Brielle Felton** who got into all the rough stuff and came out every time with a smile not often seen on a Rugby player.

Although we **lost the game 36 to 24**, our U10's can hold their heads high, knowing that each week they play their best and improve in leaps and bounds."

### Training

This is the thing that all players need to do on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** nights from **6.00pm** at Moulden Park Oval. **Coach Blyton** points out that with the season nearing the half way point and the Mosquito players back there will be **stiff competition for places** in both the A Grade and the B Grade. Just turning up on Saturday may not get you a game.

**Coach Connop** says that the sweet smell of victory won't be maintained unless all players get to training. We are on the improve now



There are many past great players in this photo.



due to the hard work at training of a dedicated group of players.

If you are sick or **can't make training** for some reason then **let your fingers do the walking** in the phone book and **then do the talking by ringing** either **Wayne (0418 852 860)** or **Ben (0417 082 531)**. We do care if you can't train but it is critical that we know where everyone is and who will be available or not for the coming Saturday.

## Goose Club Roster

**This Friday night is the B Grade Backs** turn, next Friday will be the **Committee, Coaches, Managers & Supporters** turn.

This week's Team Leader will again be the Pres, **Dan McIntyre**, showing the ropes to others. Call him on 0400 270 679 to tell him you will be there by 6.00pm in your club shirt.

He tells me that negotiations are still continuing to get a couple of the **girls** from the **Honey Pot** to come along to help us to sell the tickets. Rick was away last week.

## Brisbane Test Match

**Tony Burns** tells me he is a bit late this year getting the **2006 Brisbane gathering** of Palmerston Rugby up and running. Usually there is only one game and 50 tickets but this year there is two games and no tickets.

On **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July** the Wallabies play the **Springboks** while on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July** they play a Bledisloe Cup game against the **All Blacks** of course.

As the **Bledisloe** is the premier game and the one

most travelers would be in Brisbane for, **Burnsy** has opted for the **afternoon gathering on that day** at a yet to be named watering hole.

Of note is the fact that it is **10 years since the original gathering** at Lang Park for some old boys.

He is also sure a **gathering** of sorts can be arranged for the **Springbok game** if anyone needs practice.

If you're planning to be a part of one or both of these great events, then send **Burnsy** an email at **anthonyburns@optusnet.com.au** so he can get some numbers to **Peter Davis**, our man with the golden pub touch.

## Big Shoes to Fill

**Todd Harrison** had every right to feel a little nervous at the prospect of being **A Grade captain** last weekend. In the team were four ex captains. **Craig 'Squirter' Leach** who is an ex Palmerston and NT captain and is approaching 300 A grade games, **John Sullivan**, the current NT half back with over 200 A grade games to his name, some as captain, **Colin Snowden**, an ex Palmerston and NT captain and a level 3 coach and **Ben Emmett** the current NT Mosquitoes captain. What a fine job Todd did. He did say that getting advice was quite easy.

Todd said he felt like the English cricket captain with so many captains in the team!

## That's a Carton Burley

**Ben Blyton** was yellow carded in the last minute of a fantastic 'come back from the death' match which the B

grade won on Saturday. **Burley** was the third player in a row to kill the ball and the young referee, **Jake Kerr-Barlow**, had no option but to march him. Jake has been a Palmy junior since his early days. Jake is still only 13 years of age and did at least say sorry as he handed over the yellow card.

Jake may have been worried about the after game reaction but he got a great reception when everyone realised that **Burley** would have to **shout a carton** on Thursday night.

## Croc Jottings

**Tom Hurse** might be having second thoughts now about backing up after Saturday's Mozzies game. He finished the game with his **nose splattered all over his face** courtesy of a high shot right at the end of the game.

★★★

I'm not sure what was hurting the most, his nose or the thought of **Ben 'Cube' Emmett's** offer to straighten it for him.

★★★

**Coach Connop** was impressed by the dedication of the Mosquito players who backed up for us on Sunday and the B Graders who sat on the bench for A Grade. He was most impressed though by **Colin 'Snogga' Snowden's** big hit. To quote, "**What a big hit by Snogga! Didn't the pirate guy feel that?**"

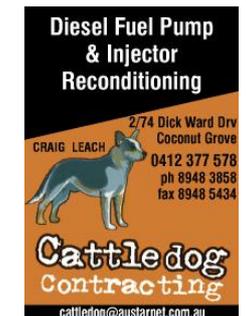
I can almost feel it after reading that.

★★★

**Tony Burns** needs your help. He is looking for ideas on how all **Crocs players from the 1980's** can tell their children that they **cheered for a team coached by John Connelly!**



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