

Upcoming Games

FRIDAY 2nd June

Austar Rugby Park 1

U10 bye

6.50 **U12** v University

7.40 **U14** v University

8.40 **U16** v University

Austar Rugby Park 2

6.00 **U6**

6.00 **U8** v Casuarina

SATURDAY 3rd June

Austar Rugby Park 2

4.30 **B** v Souths

6.00 **A** v Souths

A Grade Tooheys New Cup						
	P	W	D	L	BP	PT
Dragons	8	5	0	3	6	26
University	7	5	1	1	3	25
Palmerston	7	3	0	4	4	16
Souths	7	3	0	4	2	14
Casuarina	7	1	1	5	0	6

B Grade Abel Finance Cup							
	P	W	D	L	JF	BP	PT
Palmerston	9	9	0	0	0	6	42
University	8	6	0	2	0	4	28
Dragons	9	5	0	4	0	3	23
Casuarina	9	3	0	6	0	4	16
Jabiru	7	2	0	5	0	3	14
Souths	8	0	0	8	0	1	4

Well, as noted by the Pres last week, the A Grade has leap-frogged South Darwin and is **now running 3rd**. This week-end we have the opportunity to put some real distance between us & them and edge closer to Dragons and University at the **½ way point** of the season.

Coming Events

Queen's Birthday Weekend

Next weekend, **10th & 11th June** is the Queen's Birthday long weekend with Monday 12th being the public holiday.



Yes, we do still have rugby. A & B Grade plays on Saturday so you could get away for a spot of camping or fishing on Sunday & Monday.

B Grade to Jabiru &

A Grade bye

Saturday 17th June is our next A Grade bye and our last road trip for the season with the B Grade playing **Jabiru at Magela Field.**

It will also be **Jack Rotticci's** last game for the club, something about having to return home to America and Summer School. Isn't playing rugby around the world all the education a gentleman needs??

C Grade v NT Schoolboys

The NT Schoolboys would like a hard **warm-up game** to sort out some combinations etc before they head off to the Australian Division II Championships on the 23rd June. They will be in camp from Sunday 18th June and would like a hit out on **Monday evening 19th June.**

Any A & B Graders who don't go to Jabiru on the previous Saturday are welcome to join our C Graders to help make a top class opposition.

This game is our bit towards the future of NT Rugby plus won't hurt us at all.

Last Week's Games

A v Dragons

To quote the NT News, "**CROCS BUTCHER DRAGONS**", sort of sums it up although there must be a better word than butcher for what Crocs do to Dragons.

TOP END HOTEL

Eight tries and three conversions, yes, **46 points to us** and a lone try and a penalty, **8 points to them.** It's been a while since I can remember that sort of score line. A tight 1st half saw us leading 10 – 8 and the game in the balance but we kept the peddle to the floor and stormed home with a 36 point, 6 try, 2nd half.

Coach Connop was very, very pleased with the way our players performed and congratulates each and every one of them. He wants the team to continue to concentrate on playing to the game plan and keeping our discipline under control and many more wins will come our way.

He was thrilled with the **personal confidence and enjoyment of the game** that showed through on Saturday. This is what rugby is all about.

Although he wasn't saying, I'm sure the win was extra special for Wayne given he coached Dragons last year.

Tries were scored by **Nick Barlow (3), Ben Emmett, Ben 'Burley' Blyton** (does this rate against Dennis Bree's B Grade try?), **Tom Hurse, Shane Stoekert** and **Vili Leqa. Damian Collie** converted two tries and **John 'Sully' Sullivan** also kicked a conversion.

The Coach's Player of the Week award went to **Brock Evans** and the **Player's Player** in a great team effort was **Shane Stoekert.**



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B v Dragons

After last Saturday's, **50 – 22 win**, the Mighty B Grade has 9 wins from 9 starts.

Coach Connop thought it was a stunning game especially given they let Dragons score first while they only had 11 players. He says, "**Keep up the fantastic rugby and keep up the pressure on the A Grade players**".

Like the A Grade, the Mighty B's took a while to warm up only being in front 12 – 10 at ½ time.

For me there were many memorable moments but that was 5 days ago and I've forgotten most of them.

I do have burned into my memory the sight of **Alan Babbs**, in front of the Crocs crowd, **scoring a try in the corner** after sprinting onto a pass from **Damian Smith** who had made good ground after backing up a break by **Karl McFarland**.

In fact **Karl & Damian** figure in a few of my other memories, one making the break and the other backing up and either scoring the try or making lots of ground.

Jack Rotticci also figures, being very busy all game at both half back and fly half and scoring a couple of tries as well. **We are going to miss him when he heads home**.

Tries were scored by **Jack Rotticci (2), Damian Smith (3), Jason Iwikau, Brad**

Naylor and Alan Babbs.

Jack Rotticci kicked five conversions.

Player's player was **Damian Smith**. Well done everyone.

U16s @ NT Championships

The Palmerston U16's competed in the NT U16 Championships over last Friday night and the weekend. The weekend was earmarked as an initial trial for selection in the **NT Indigenous U16** and **NT U16 teams** for respective National Championships.

Coach **Colin 'Snogga' Snowden** saw the week-end this way. "*The 'Colts' lined up against Dragons on Friday night and then Alice Springs and Gove on Saturday morning...culminating in a **3 - 0 win/loss result**.*

This put us automatically into the final against University on Sunday.

*The game against the Dragons was excellent. The Dragons came at us as a more cohesive and determined opposition this time round. They were more effective at contesting the tackle/ruck than previously and this made for a very physical game, as the injury to **Roddy Barua** that kept him out for the remainder of the tournament can attest.*

*We were dominant though, at the contest we were more aggressive and we operated at a lower body height. This suits our **game plan of 'pick and hammer', 'pick and latch', long place ruck ball***

with a 'skinny gate', up the tram tracks and then to the backs when stretched.

Don't laugh!! These boys can do it and have beaten much bigger and more athletic teams as a result...check em' out on Friday nights at 8:40pm.

*Anyway the **Crocs won 29 - 22** despite a late 2 try surge by the Dragons, after being comfortable at ½ time. The game was put beyond doubt with a strong late try to fly half **Rob Cotter**. **Cody Barrett** was tremendous in attack using his Benji like right foot step, he and Rob have formed a great combination by swapping between 10 and 12 and **Brendon Russell** keeps scoring tries... 1 per game at least so far this tournament, not bad for a Loose Head prop!!*

*On **Saturday** we met **Alice Springs** with only (uncharacteristically) 13 players and were dwarfed by most of their lineup. This did not deter the Crocs, who were missing many of last years 'veterans' and more experienced players. We attacked them with relish utilising our ever improving game plan and committed low defence (with a secure). Alice were not 'up' with the rules and the contested ruck ball proved fruitful with the penalties around 10 - 1 in our favour before ½ time. This gave us excellent field position and set up many scoring opportunities, some*



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Brumby's
Palmerston

This week-end at the Top End Hotel

- Thursday night's now Trivia Night from 6.30pm
- Friday Lunches @ Honey Pot Club 12 - 4pm (\$60) 3 course meal plus show
- Chase the Ace @ Lizards Bar this Friday 5-8pm plus Kahlua promotion with cool prizes.
- Live music from 8pm on Friday by Sabrosa and on Saturday by Bob's Your Uncle
- **Goose Club Raffle @ Lizards Bar - Fridays 6-9pm for Palmerston Rugby Union Club**
- Darwin Cricket club Raffles - Saturday night from 6pm



TOP END HOTEL



were taken!

Cody Barrett was sidelined through a back injury and we were winning 12 - 7 with 12 men until 4 late arrivals showed and **put the game away 22 - 12.**

Jye Wyles-Kelly was outstanding running from #8, setting up many incisive attacks with excellent decision making...a great Captain's knock. **Brendon scored another try!!!**

The highlight for me was the enormous double impact 'CLEANOUT' by **Blake Bishell** and **Jye** on the biggest player in the tournament who looked like a tree falling...Great work boys (just like **Old Hookers Viagra!**)

running in the tram tracks was very effective in catching them out of position. This built pressure that we were able to convert through tries in the forwards (**Brendon another one!**) and a couple to the wing and off #8 and #9. Once again our game plan was very successful in recycling possession and gaining field position...in the end Gove ran out of legs and the game went **our way 31 - 10** (I think) in the end.

Blake Bishell was industrious and always on the ball, **Brendon** scored again, **Brett Noakes** continued his sizzling long runs and the captaincy of **Jye** and **Kurt Collie-Whakave** was outstanding.

Coach Robbie Taylor...as he was there and I wasn't."

Coach Connop has let some of the suspense out of the bag. He is the **coach of the NT U16 Indigenous team** that will be traveling to the Gold Coast in July (I think) and tells me that **Fred Norris** and **Gilbert Wosomo** have been selected in this team. **Congratulations to Wayne, Fred and Gilbert** on your selections. Go and do the club and yourselves proud.

NT Schoolboys Squad

The week-end also served as the final selection trials for the **NT Schoolboys** team to compete at the National Division II Championships in Geelong in late June. Due to a couple of injury concerns, including our own **Ian Hogan**, and some good efforts over the week-end, the selectors have named a 29 man squad which will be trimmed to 23 before the Championships.

We had 5 boys competing in the trials and I'm thrilled to say that **all 5 are in the 29 man squad.** They are **Stephen Bartholdt-Green, Blake Chadwick, Ian Hogan, Paddy Killen** and **Michael Killiner.**

Congratulations guys and all the best for the final selections.

This is a good team with at least 6 players playing A Grade in Darwin, a few playing A Grade in Katherine and Alice Springs and about another 10 playing regular B Grade in Darwin.

Referees required

The competition is **desperately short of referees.** I know a few Palmerston people have stepped up in the last season or so (Thanks to **Denys &**



This also looks like an old hookers Viagra.

We then met Gove about 1½ hours later with a near full strength squad...although they themselves were a much better team than Alice, the game was going to be a good test of the teams character, with the reward of a Finals berth on Sunday...NT Champions even!

The game was highly contested and see-sawed a little, although our blind side

Notable performances throughout the tournament also included **Ben Palmer, Jake Collins, Jack Kypreos, Mikey Bewley-Green, Freddy Norris, Gilbert Wosomo, Jessie Villiers, Steven Rawson, Ben Munroe** and **Brenton Whatley.**

Results of the Sunday Final and representative selection honours next edition of Croc tales, to be penned by **Co-**



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Kerrin Stedman, Miles Hindle, Jacob Kerr-Barlow, Bernie Bree occasionally and **Brock Evans** on one occasion) but we need more. Do you or someone you know, want to get out and about on Friday night and/or Saturday? If so, the **NT Rugby Referees Association** has something you can do. See Pres. Dan or myself.

Jabiru game Rules

So there is no doubt. **Jabiru play in the B Grade competition** so shouldn't have to play A Grade teams. They understand it can be difficult to get the full B Grade team to be available to go to Jabiru so they and the NTRU are happy for up to 5 players who played in the preceding weekend's A Grade match to be eligible to play in the B Grade team at Jabiru. This is only if the team cannot get the required numbers of B Graders to fill the team.

The most important issue is that the game must be about assisting the competition and played in the right spirit. Hear, hear!!

School Sport Raffle Books

These are now due back (with all tickets sold of course) to **Percy Peel**. See him at training tonight or at the senior games on Saturday.

Goose Club Roster

This Friday night is the **Committee, Coaches, Managers & Supporters** turn, next Friday we will be back to the beginning of the roster with the **A Grade forwards**.

This week's Team Leader will be me, **Garry Russell**,

showing and being shown the ropes. Call me on **0401 111 700** to tell me you will be there by 6.00pm in your club shirt.

Dan has confirmed that this week will be the first week for our additional helpers from the **Honey Pot**, so come along and show them the ropes.

Lizards Big Screen

I have just heard that Lizards has invested in a new big screen, so all major sporting events will be played on both the big screen and the TVs from now on.

A Carton of Crownies

Brock Evans has volunteered to re-visit the club policy re: a carton of Crownies as he thinks current practise isn't in line with the original policy.

He claims to know because it was originally brought in because of his misdemeanours and cost him about 3 cartons before he caught on.

He is of the view that a **carton of Crownies is the fine for back chatting the referee**. (Now there are many who will say that this is something Brock knows a lot about.) He also points out that **being sinbinned** may in fact be a calculated move and a **game saver** rather than an act of stupidity and shouldn't necessarily be penalised.

I encourage **strong and vigorous debate** after training on Thursday while enjoying **Ben's** carton of Crownies.

Croc Jottings

THE ARU sent an officer to Darwin to help out with the

organisation and management of last week-ends NT U16 Championships and the NT Schoolboy trials. The word is that he was overheard on the phone telling the ARU that **he stopped watching the live telecast of the Super 14 final** between the Crusaders and the Hurricanes from New Zealand because **the local Palmerston Crocs v Dragons game was much more interesting**. We're up there in entertainment value with the Crusaders!!

★★★

I hear that past player, **Ralph Tapera**, is back in town and looking for work. He has been involved in building in the past. If you know of any opportunities, he can be contacted on 0401 347 723.

★★★

Coach Connop was very busy with rugby last week-end. As well as everything to date, he also noted on Friday night at the juniors that **we had an increase in the playing numbers of the U8s and some of the other junior teams**. Well done junior coaches, managers, organizers etc...

★★★

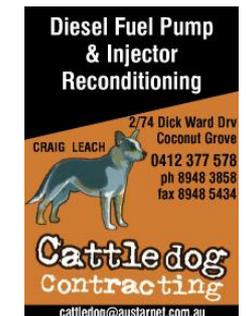
If any of junior coaches need help with their team, then **talk to Coach Connop**. He understands an increase in player numbers means more challenges etc. He is happy to **help organise some of the senior players** to lend a hand if needed.

★★★

Should players who make themselves unavailable for representative rugby without dispensation be banned from playing for their clubs? See last week's eRugby News.



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