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<http://palmerston.rugby.net.com.au/>

Upcoming Games

FRIDAY 9th June

Austar Rugby Park 1

6.00 **U10** v Swampdogs
 6.50 **U12** v Swampdogs
 7.40 **U14** v Swampdogs
 8.40 **U16** v South Darwin

Austar Rugby Park 2

6.00 **U6**
 6.00 **U8** v Dragons

SATURDAY 10th June

Austar Rugby Park 2

4.30 **B** v Casuarina
 6.00 **A** v Casuarina

See the full draw in the [Resource Library](#) on our webpage.

A Grade Tooheys New Cup						
	P	W	D	L	BP	PT
Uni versi ty	8	6	1	1	4	30
Dragons	8	5	0	3	6	26
Palmerston	8	4	0	4	5	21
Souths	8	3	0	5	2	14
Casuari na	8	1	1	6	0	6

B Grade Abel Finance Cup							
	P	W	D	L	JF	BP	PT
Palmerston	10	10	0	0	0	7	47
Dragons	10	6	0	4	0	4	28
Uni versi ty	9	6	0	3	0	3	27
Casuari na	10	4	0	6	0	5	21
Jabi ru	8	2	0	6	0	3	14
Souths	9	0	0	9	0	1	4

The season is now ½ half over and we're sitting OK. The Mighty Bs with a perfect record and the A Grade on the climb and within striking distance of the top two.

Coming Events

Queen's Birthday Weekend

This weekend sees the Queen's Birthday holiday on the Monday. Get your rugby out of the way on Saturday and you still have the chance to slip away for a spot of

camping or fishing on Sunday & Monday.

Farewell Party

Last week's CrocTales had it all wrong. This weekend is



Jack Rotticci's last game for us before he heads home for Summer School.

So, there will be a **Farewell Jack Party** on Saturday night at the Emmett's, 43 Rothdale Road.

It is all **BYO (drinks, meat & chair)**, so get organised, get there and send Jack home with a bang.

B Grade to Jabiru

Next Saturday week, the 17th June, is our next A Grade bye and our last road trip for the season with the B Grade playing Jabiru at Jabiru.

Normal plans re a bus etc. Expect to head off about lunch time and get back late....

I'm hearing Dan Maroulis enjoys a bus trip and is looking forward to securing a seat for his first with the club.

PRUC v NT Schoolboys

The NT Schoolboys want 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. All A & B grade players who don't play at Jabiru plus C Graders ken for a run are encouraged to make up our team. Dennis, this could be your first chance to get a run with the A Grade this year.

The game will kick off at 6.30pm at AUSTAR Rugby Park.

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

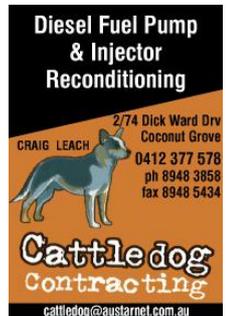
Last Week's Games

A v Souths

This game made it a **clean sweep** of games during the **2nd round** of the competition with 19 competition points from the 4 games.

A **41 – 0 victory** but there is still plenty of room for improvement.

Souths failed to field a B Grade team and leading up to kick off they seemed to be struggling to get full numbers for an A Grade team. I think subconsciously we thought this was going to be easy



and played like it in the 1st half. We kept trying to spread the ball and score tries before doing the hard work and getting some go forward. This meant a **5 - 0 lead at ½ time.**

I'm not sure what **Coach Connop** said at ½ time but it certainly worked with **Vili Leqa** running in a try straight after the restart. We kept our mind on the job and put together a **36 point 2nd half.**

Coach Connop told me that he was very impressed with the game. He thought the first half was very good. The game plan was adhered to but the finishing wasn't what was required. **Just goes to show how little I know.**

He also said that we **must not get complacent** with how we have been playing and the big wins we have had (my interpretation – don't get big heads) because the other teams could quite easily get their act together and come back harder than ever.

He wants the team to have continuity all the time, that means at training and at the game; maintain our discipline; keep to the game plan and keep up the positive talk.

Finally, he needs each and every player to do their bit towards **getting everyone to training.** We have lots of players but not enough are training regularly.

Wayne plans to have a few **specialist coaches** come

along in the next few weeks to work on **line outs** and **scrummaging** and it is important that everyone is there to get the benefit.

Tries were scored by **Brock Evans (2), Todd Harrison, Ben Emmett, Shane Stoeckert, Jono Schwalger and Vili Leqa.** **Damian Collie** kicked **2 conversions** and **Squitter 1.**

The Coach's Player of the Week award went to **Tom Hurse** and the **Player's Player** in another great team effort was **Kev Jones.** Ten different players got votes in the player's player award this week.

B v Souths

Sadly this game was a **35 – 0 forfeit to us.**

So instead of a match report we have a season mid point reflection from **Coach Blyton.**

"We are half way there. 10 starts for 10 wins - not a bad start to the season. Well I can't remember better.

High points of the season so far in no particular order are:

- **Paddy Killen's** A grade debut;
- All 5 of our schoolboys making the NT Schoolboy Squad;
- Contributions of the older guys in particular in making the game enjoyable;
- Father and Sons playing in the same team, who knows we may yet see a grandfather, father and son

in the same team (**Dennis, Dan and ??**);

- **Leigh Stait's** transformation into a demon breakaway;
- Having a beer with the boys after another game;
- The spirit that B grade is played in, every one having a go and enjoying the game.

Low points include:

- This week will be a big one - saying farewell to **Jack Rotticci** who leaves us to go back to America. His parents want him back.
- The panic that I some times have when with 15 minutes to go a lot of you are still not there.

Thanks should go to the following people who have help out with B grade during the year.

- **Wayne Connop** - A Grade Coach - for his time that he puts in each week at training
- **Bernie Bree** - Assistant Coach - for his advice
- **Robbie Taylor** - 1st year as manager and is doing a great job.
- **Cat Waite** - for the help she gives each week with the injured players.

Guys, as mentioned before, we are now ½ way through the season. The days of every one getting a run just for turning up on Saturdays will soon be at an end. There will definitely be



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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 - \$1,800 up for grabs
- Friday night - Footy on the big screen in the beer garden plus Jim Beam promotion
- Live music from 8pm 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



competition for places particularly in the back line, 2nd row and loose forwards. **Selection preferences will go to players who are training.**

Talk to me if you are working and let me know where you are.

It should be obvious to every one that the B Grade is an enjoyable team to play in and will definitely be part of the finals action so get behind your mates and make the most of it."

U16s @ NT Championships

As promised last week, below is the final installment about our U16 team at the NT Championships, courtesy of co-coach **Robbie Taylor**.

"On the Sunday of the Territory Titles, the boys put in a great effort, even with their "BASS IN THE GRASS" hangovers. We knew we were going to be in for a tough game against University, we haven't managed to win against them yet this season.

Unfortunately, this didn't change; **we went down 31-12.**

We started a bit slow, but once University crossed for their first try, the boys woke up and everyone chipped in.

To be quite honest, University managed to counter everything we threw at them and they played some really enjoyable rugby. Our forwards kept the good work going by following our game plan and taking it up the tram tracks. When the backs got the ball, we looked dangerous. Our only problem was that we weren't switched on. At halftime we were down 14-7. We came out in the 2nd half and right from the whistle we were much more aggressive at the breakdown and more

switched on out wide. We played our game against them and it led to us scoring first in the 2nd half.

Unfortunately towards the end of the game the long weekend caught up with us. The final score really didn't reflect on how much of an effort the boys put in. They were bugged at full time. Great rugby boys.

Some of the boys who stood out in the final were **Jye Wyles-Kelly (c), Blake Bishell, Brett Noakes, Cody Barry, Kurt Collie-Whakave, Robbie Cotter and Brendan Russell**. All of the boys made a mark though.

I want the whole club to know how hard these boys played on the weekend and how well they represented our club. I know that **Snogga** and I are very proud of their efforts, not just for the weekend, but also for the effort they are putting in week in, week out.

Just a quick thank you to **Alan Babbs, Denny Johnston and Ben Emmett** for rocking up and supporting the boys. I know that the juniors in general would love to see more support from the senior side of our club.

We had a number of boys who were selected in the "NT Mozzies Academy" and the NT U16's Indigenous training squads. Well done to **Jye Wyles-Kelly, Kurt Collie-Whakave, Blake Bishell, Jacob Collins, Brendan Russell, Ben Palmer, Gilbert Wosomo and Freddy Norris** on making the "NT Mozzies Academy". Nearly 30% of the positions available in the Academy were taken by the Crocs Colt's, what an effort. An extra well done to **Gilbert Wosomo and Freddy Norris** who also made the NT U16's Indigenous training squad."

U16s v University

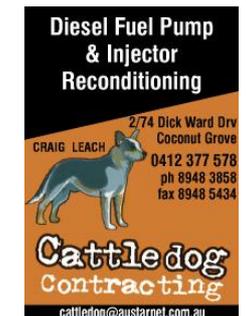
The Crocs U16's met University as a determined unit on Friday night, just a week after our 31 - 12 loss in the NT Championships final last Sunday. **Coach Snowden** saw the rematch this way.

"The recent loss and the large margin were enough to have our 'Colts' fired up to reverse the score and to put in a much more committed performance. We were not disappointed as the game finished as a **15 all draw**, although we did let them off the hook with a 60m try at the death, and under the posts. (they missed the conversion!).

Our game plan is continuing to produce good field position and clean ball at the back, which allows many varied attacking forays, though a little quicker use of that ball whilst catching them entering the phase play would be better.

Notwithstanding the above reports our team once again played above expectations and were comfortable at ½ time being 10 - 5 up and pressuring their defence through the tram tracks and wide when we went there. This continued well into the 2nd half and we were looking like springing an upset (in University's minds). Our flow was interrupted by a very good blindside kick from their fly half to their winger off a scrum...with Jacob Collins being very unlucky in his attempt to stop the score, the pointy ball beats the man on occasions!

This try against play and a 'few' dubious refereeing decisions had the Crocs on the back foot, with University mounting a late charge and pressuring us all the way back to our own goal line. We



again rallied under the guidance of our team captains and just about got away with a very well deserved win...we were the **best team on the night!!!**

We lost our fly half with concussion and our backline had to change with **Kurt Wyles-Kelly** slipping into ½ back...this was a disruption to the team but they just keep adapting and improving...one of the great pleasures of coaching the team.

As a result players like **Roddy Barua, Brett Noakes and Mike Bewley-Green** stepped up and played fantastically.

I believe that we still have vast amounts of improvement in ourselves and that with every improving performance we are on the way to Grand Final glory and a large number of players in the representative ranks.

Best players included **Roddy Barua, Jye Wyles-Kelly, Blake Bishell and Brett Noakes. Player's Player was Roddy Barua.**

Prop **Brendon Russell** scored his **10th try** this season (worth the trip to watch this boy play) and currently leads the U16 competition in tries scored and highest point scorer. **Well done Brendon."**

Front row club

There was a hastily convened meeting of a very agitated **front row club** after last weekend's A Grade game.

At that meeting **Ben Emmett** was soundly thrashed and harangued by other more mature members of the club for his **display of open running rugby**. Not once but three times, he was seen running very quickly to back

up a back who had made a line break. In each of these runs he clearly crossed two or more cross field lines which everyone knows have been placed there to warn front rowers to slow down and take a break.

The backs are also unhappy with Ben's performance and complain that they would have been there to back up but it was **such a long way around**.

Goose Club Roster

This Friday night it is back to the start of the roster and therefore it is the **A Grade forwards** turn, next Friday it will be the B Grade forwards.

This week's Team Leader will be **Craig Leach**. Call him on **0412 377 578** to tell me you will be there by 6.00pm in your club shirt.

I am led to believe that last week's "oldies" crew were the best presented team so far. The challenge is back with the "player" crews to come up to scratch.

A Carton of Beer

Well this issue received strong debate last Thursday night while enjoying **Ben Blyton's free beers**.

Did I have one too many or did I just leave too early? I'm not quite sure what the outcome was although it did seem to be heading towards both back chatting and being sin binned were carton offences. Could this have something to do with the attraction of a free beer? The fact that someone could be sin binned for doing something that saves a game didn't seem to have a lot of support.

Croc Jottings

The **Sideline Eye** tells me that our U12 team needs

some coaching / managing help. If you can assist them please see Junior Coordinator, **Alison Snowden**.

★★★

The **Sideline Eye** also noted how much fun our U6 team seems to be having on the field. Well done Coach.

★★★

Colts coach, Snogga is disappointed that more senior players don't get down to AUSTAR Rugby Park on Friday nights to support our junior teams and especially next year's new senior players in his U16 team. He says *"I have not seen Hide nor Hair of any seniors other than **Damien Collie, Gareth Felton and Shane Cotton** at our games. We play at 8:40pm on Friday nights, the Goose Club raffles are over and there shouldn't be any huge drinking sessions prior to Saturday's game (hey Wayne), so get out and support your club. How good did it feel when you were a junior playing in front of senior players and especially if they took the time to give some feedback? From my position I think senior players take and expect too much without giving back, harsh words perhaps, but the challenge is now on, lets see who steps up to the plate!"*

★★★



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