

Upcoming Games

FRIDAY 23rd March

AUSTAR Rugby Park 1

6.00 **U6**
6.00 **U8** v Casuarina
6.00 **U10** v Casuarina
7.40 **U14** v Swampdogs

AUSTAR Rugby Park 2

6.50 **U12** v University
8.40 **U16** v University

SATURDAY 24th March

AUSTAR Rugby Park 1

4.00 **U18** v Dragons
5.30 **B** v Souths
7.00 **A** v Souths

Katherine

5.00 City v Country

A Grade	Tooheys New Cup				
	P	W	D	L	BP PT
Palmerston	2	1		1	2 6
Dragons	1	1			1 5
Souths	2	1		1	4
University	2	1		1	4
Casuarina	1			1	1

B Grade	Abel Finance Cup						
	P	W	D	L	JF	BP	PT
Dragons	2	2				2	10
Palmerston	2	2				1	9
Casuarina	2	1		1		1	5
Souths	2	1		1		1	5
Jabiru	2			2			
University	2			2			

U18	Colts Standings					
	P	W	D	L	BP	PT
Dragons	2	2			1	9
Palmerston	2	2			1	9
Cas-Souths	2			2		
University	2			2		

Coming Events

B Grade to Jabiru

Saturday week, 31st March, we make our first trek to Jabiru for the year. Full details are being worked out but get **Saturday afternoon and night** marked out in your diary for this trip.

Club Captain Election

It's time, time to elect a new club captain.

At the Clubhouse next **Thursday 29th March** after training. Check out the duties on the noticeboard.

Last Week's Games

A v Casuarina

This week we have a game report from **Head Coach Bree**.

'It was great to see our team get straight into the game with terrific ball movement and support play. Training has focussed on increasing our skill levels so that we can play this style of game and we certainly gave it a good go against Casuarina.

Four 1st half tries and two 2nd half tries put us in a very strong position and we always seemed to be in control.

Adrian Graham at No 10 dictated play by taking the ball to the line with speed, always looking for the offload. Running support for Adrian should pick someone up some serious points this season.

Paddy Killen fitted in to the back line at late notice and played the first half at full back and second half at half back. His off season weights program has certainly paid off and some Casuarina boys will be wondering what hit them.

In the forwards Lee Verrall was outstanding. His fitness levels ensured he made the breakdowns and was effective all game. Wise

Sekitoga had another strong running game and Jah is a powerful ball winner.

There were some good ball movements but big Ben Blyton's dummy and 20m run to set up what should have been a try under the posts was magnificent. The Casuarina back who took the dummy will be undergoing counselling all week. So will Ben as when the field opened up in front of him all he could see was the try line. He set off at full pace but soon realised that it didn't seem to be getting any closer so he had to pass.

Scott Werleman, a legend from the past (check out the Honour Board in the clubhouse), came on in the second half and showed that he is still hungry for rugby with a terrific big hit that rattled the bones of a Casuarina forward.

Our lineout really performed well and was a consistent platform for attack.

We let Casuarina back into the game in the second half and once they got our ball they were full of running and the final score flattered them. Our fitness meant that 80 minutes of full pressure rugby was beyond us.

We also have the problem of only getting 5 points from tries rather than 7 points and a specialist kicker is needed.

The final score was a 32 – 25 WIN to us.

Honour Board - 15 March 2007

A Grade Coach's Award: Shane Stoekert
B Grade Coach's Award: Anthony Thomas
U18 Player's Player: Michael Killiner



Tries were scored by **Dan Maroulis, Craig 'Squitter' Leach, Damian Smith, Hunter McGee and Wise Sekitoga (2)** while **Hunter** kicked a lone conversion.

Player's player was **Paddy Killen**.

Thanks to the B graders who sat on the bench. It's a hard thing to do after such a great victory as theirs but very necessary for us.

Hunter McGee had his last game for Palmie and on Tuesday he heads off to **Los Angeles** to play for 3 months. Some unkind people suggested he will be playing undercover for the San Francisco Gay Boys but this is not true. **All the best Hunter.**

B v Casuarina

Coach Killiner saw the B Grade game this way.

'After a disappointing start to the season with last week's first round forfeit by University, the Palmy B Grade took to the field against our archrivals of the 1980's, Casuarina. After the "defection" of a few players in the off season to Casuarina there was a hint of revenge and from the kick off the forward pack lead by **Dave Cairns** took to the Cougars with venom. The killer instinct came to the fore with the thought of fresh meat and the chance to rack up our first win for the season.

The club welcomed the return of **Scott Werleman** after a number of year's absence and together with **Damian O'Brien** and **Dave Cairns** the back row dominated. Working as a unit the forward pack showed plenty of promise for the season ahead with some big hits in defence, a number of turnovers in open play and with the ball in hand plenty of yards close to the ruck. Our set pieces were great with a couple of tight heads early in the game and our dominance at the lineouts due to some

very accurate throwing by **Ian Hogan**. A big thank you to **Sam Johnson** who made his return to rugby and impressed with the move from flanker to loose head prop.

The backs showed great defence in the mid field with **Rodney Winikerei** and **Anthony Thomas** leading the charge but unfortunately at times we were shown up a little for pace out wide. Little wonder with **Vince Kelly** a prop playing on one of the wings. Although Vince was quick to point out that Casuarina did not score on his wing until after half time when he moved to the more familiar position of prop.

With Palmy down on the scoreboard largely due to Casuarina's superior pace out wide, enter **Tom Cummins**. After a bullocking run down field by **Dave Cairns** and some great support play and clever passing, the ball found its way to **Tom on the wing** and with virtually no room to move he charged down the sideline to score in "Palmy Corner" for the **match winning try** with only minutes left on the clock.

Attendance at training has been encouraging with plenty of competition for positions particularly in the forwards. It is early days and there is a long road ahead so it will be in everyone's interest if they can **make training 2 nights a week** – let's give the selectors something to think about.

Finally, there were 4 players playing their **first game** for Palmerston and on behalf of the club **welcome to Dave Mansfield, Rodney Winikerei, Anthony Thomas and Damian O'Brien.**

Match Summary:

Palmerston 13 (Tries **Damian O'Brien** and **Tom Cummins**, Penalty goal to **Dave Mansfield**) d **Casuarina 12** (2 tries and 1 conversion)

Best Players - Dave Cairns (Player's Player), **Damian O'Brien, Dan Bree and Ricky Hoe** until he left the field injured.'

U18 v Casuarina

Week 2 of the U18 competition saw a much more competitive workout for our guys.

The combined Casuarina and Souths team plus a couple of ex-Palmie players made the going tough for a while but in the end our greater skills shone through and we had a **17 – 5 WIN.**

Strong games were again put in by **Tom Cummins, Michael Killiner, Kane Richards** and **Kyle Davies.**

Our tries were scored by that renowned try scoring prop **Brendan Russell, Paddy Elliott** and **Michael Killiner.** **Michael** kicked a conversion.

U16 v Dragons

Coach Bishell tells me that the U16's played an **excellent first game** of the season against a larger Dragons side. The forwards were able to match the Dragons at every breakdown. We were able to score the first try and were dominate throughout much of the first half. He said the guys managed to shrug off a number of high tackles throughout the game which did serve to unsettle us causing some lapses in discipline which gave away valuable field position.

His **stand out players** for the Crocs were **Jacob Collins**, who once again played above his weight and **Robbie Cotter** who had a strong game at halfback. Coach Bishell made a **special mention** of **William Tink** who was the teams only prop. **Will** played the whole 60 minutes which was a remarkable effort for the first game. Dragons ended up winning the game 12 - 5. Our lone try scorer was **Steven Rossin.**



U14 v University

Coach Donovan provides the following comments on the U14 game.

*'We went into this game with very little preconceived expectations. Most of the team was U12's from last year so there was very little team experience of the game at this level. While we have had 21 players at practice we were missing a couple of key players come game time and this showed in some vital areas of our game. Up front the forwards, particularly **Wade Burgkenhagen** and **Damien Stedman** led the way with new soccer recruit **Nu Huynh** playing an excellent game. **Peter Kilgour** led this group all-night and picked up the **top team award** week.*

*While the backs didn't see much of the ball the reliable quartet of **Jarred Donovan**, **Dylan Wyles-Kelly**, **Jimmy Kerr** (Players Player) and **Tyler Donovan** tackled their hearts out in a losing side. The **score line of 39 nil** did not reflect the effort put in by the team and it has given the team some areas to work on. Fitness is one key area all players have given a commitment to work on.*

*All players agreed that they had **had fun** and were ready for training and were looking forward to this week's game'*

U12 v Dragons

Coach Cotton reports:

*'The Palmy U/12 team can hold their heads high after their first run of the season performance against a more experienced Dragons team. At half time the score was 10 - 5 to the Dragons and the **game could have gone either way**. Palmy were the bigger and stronger side with the forwards winning more than their fair share of the ball. However, despite a*

*determined defensive effort from the boys, the more seasoned Dragons side was able to run the ball wide to score two more unanswered tries in the 2nd half giving a **final score of 5 - 20**. Our try was scored by **Ryan Cotton**.*

Best Players for the game were. **Joel Hogan**, **Ryan Cotton** & **Cody McFarlane**.

Well done boys. A few more training sessions should be all that is required to improve on our game structure and I'm confident the tables will be turned in the next encounter.'

U10 v University

University 27 - Palmerston 7
Riley Hogan scored our try and kicked the conversion.



Our U8s – raring to go
They had a **35 - 0** win over University. Try scorers were: Joe (4), Sean (2) & Coby Snowden

Palmerston 10 - Swampdogs 10
Sachin Deo and **Jack Akers** scored our tries.

Birth Certificates

Have you handed yours in yet? If not, please do so as soon as you can.

Senior's Helpers

Saturdays can be very busy preparing for the games and **Head Coach Bree** wants to thank **Col 'Gecko' Hillery** for organising all the gear and water for both grades. He also thought it was great that

Gareth Felton left the comfort of the Palmy grandstand and came down to run the water. **Gareth** said it was to keep him away from the rum, a good idea, and **Bernie** & team appreciated the help. **Rob Sloan** also seems to have settled into the team sheet recorder role. Thanks Rob.

If you would like to have a job with either A, B or U18 Grade on Saturdays then please see one of the coaches.

Goose Club

Starts tomorrow night, Friday 23rd March.

Please be there, at 5:45pm in your club polo if you are a part of **Ben 'Cube' Emmett's** team.

Sponsors

A special thanks has to go to **Arthur Hamilton** from **Shore Corporate** who has donated two large drink containers, a large quantity of drink bottles and the runners shirts for each of our junior teams. **Thanks Arthur.**

Croc Jottings

Michael

Scaturchio emailed from Italy during the week to congratulate the organisers of the new **U18** competition and to wish our players all the best.

He expects to be home in early May after the finish of the Italian season and is keen to catch up with everyone.

Happy Birthday!!

*Bernie Bree 52 on 25th Mar
Steve Miller 22 on 26th Mar
Colin Snowden 40 on 27th Mar*



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