

## Upcoming Games

**FRIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**AUSTAR Rugby Park 1**

6.00 **U6**

6.00 **U8** v Dragons

7.40 **U14** v Dragons

**AUSTAR Rugby Park 2**

6.00 **U10** v Dragons

6.50 **U12** v Swampdogs

8.40 **U16** v South Darwin

**SATURDAY 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**UNIVERSITY OVAL**

1.30 **U18** v University

**JABIRU**

5.00 **B** v Jabiru

A Grade Tooheys New Cup						
	P	W	D	L	BP	PT
Dragons	2	2			2	10
Souths	3	2		1		8
Palmerston	3	1		2	3	7
University	2	1		1		4
Casuarina	2			2	1	1

B Grade Abel Finance Cup							
	P	W	D	L	JF	BP	PT
Dragons	3	3				3	15
Palmerston	3	2		1		1	9
Souths	3	2		1		1	9
Casuarina	3	1		2		1	5
Jabiru	3	1		2		1	5
University	3			3			

U18 Colts Standings						
	P	W	D	L	BP	PT
Palmerston	3	3			2	14
Dragons	3	2		1	1	9
Cas-Souths	3	1		2	1	5
University	3			3		

## Coming Events

**B Grade to Jabiru**

This Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, the B Grade is off to the wilds of Kakadu to play the Jabiru Bushrats at home.

**Coach Killiner** (0439 818 933) needs to **know NOW** that you are going if you haven't already endeared yourself to him.

## Club Captain Election

It is time but game scheduling and player training numbers mean this will be **Re-Scheduled for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April** after training. Check out the duties on the noticeboard.

## Easter break

As everyone knows **Easter** is the weekend after next, **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April**.

There is **no junior or senior rugby** on the Easter weekend.

That doesn't mean training stops. Now is the time to put in to **catch up on that pre-season training** you may have missed.

## Last Week's Games

**A v South Darwin**

**Head Coach Bree** provides the following information on last week's A Grade game: *'Though we had seven players out in the City team on Saturday and several injuries, we had every reason to feel that this was a **game we should have won**. We went **down 17 - 21** and when we look at our missed opportunities we will wonder how it happened.*

*The game was extremely fast and from a spectator's point of view it was very entertaining as both teams' support play and ability to spread wide was*

*fully utilized. The 2<sup>nd</sup> saw us drop a lot of ball on impact. In fact we dropped the ball on the first three attacking raids.*

*It was two tries all and with **Craig 'Squirter' Leach** back at #10 and kicking we converted both. I don't think that this has happened for a long, long time. It was penalties that sunk us. We gave away 9 points in penalties but more importantly we gave away many metres in penalties. At one stage we won a tight head scrum five metres out from Souths line. We could have expected to score here but six penalties and about two minutes later, Souths scored at the other end.*

*We continue to give away multiple penalties and this really kills us.*

*The back line really looked sharp when they ran and **Keve Jones** was unstoppable. It was good to see the ball moving and with **Chris 'Yowie' Yow** coming in to the back line I'm sure we will continue to give him ball.*

***Dan Maroulis** showed just how much we will miss him with fantastic coverage and some great running. The tight five travelled well and **Dave Cairns** followed up last week's terrific B Grade game with a solid A Grade performance. Up front the big three of **Ben Blyton, Chris Carlin and George Hatzimalis** handled the Souths pack well and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week*

## Honour Board - 22 March 2007

A Grade Coach's Award: Lee Verrall

B Grade Coach's Award: Tom Cummins

U18 Player's Player: Michael Killiner



in a row we showed some skill with the driving maul.

There were several players having their first 'A' grade game. **Michael 'Pebble' Killiner** had a terrific game at #7 and really stepped up from U18s and showed that he is not out of place at this level.

**Damian O'Brien** at #6 also travelled well and will become more regular at this level. **Dan Bree** had 10 minutes last week and 80 minutes this week. **Rodney Winikerei** at #13 really made an impact until his legs let him down. **Dave Mansfield** on the wing scored the first try of the game about 10 minutes into his first A Grade run on. **Brett Lenz** came on for a strong run in the forwards while **Mika Dreu** had an immediate impact with his straight running lines. That's a lot of new faces and so we can look at a strong future.

Thanks again to **Gareth Felton** who organised the water and all the other manager type things. He even ran on for a bit of B grade so he was a busy boy. He said he had some cold rum calling his name and so I hope he enjoyed the rest of the evening.

If anyone is interested in taking on this position please let me know as Gareth intends to play.

**Dave Mansfield** and **Mika Dreu** scored our tries while **Squirter** kicked 2 conversions and a penalty.'

#### B v South Darwin

**Coach Killiner's** B Grade summary.

'Well it was a **tough day at the office** for Palmy B Grade on Saturday. The flow on effect of players unavailable for A Grade due to representative commitments and injuries meant that only 6 players from last week's side were able to back up for B Grade this week. Fortunately,

due to strong numbers at training and with a little help from a few new recruits on the day we were able to field a full side.

Unfortunately, Souths were able to beat us at our own game. It was a **very physical and forward orientated match** with the scores locked at 0-0 at half time. We found ourselves camped inside our own half for almost the entire 1<sup>st</sup> half mainly due to some poor kicking. With a strong territorial advantage South's tried to out muscle us in the forwards, however, on a positive note our **defensive effort** across the field and in particular close to the breakdown area **was strong** and South's were unable to break through for a try.

South's came out for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with a clear plan to kick for field position and then aim to wear us down. This proved successful as they ran in 3 unanswered tries in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

The game started with uncontested scrums, as South's were not able to field a front row. Obviously this was disappointing, but it is something that is likely to happen a few times in B Grade this season and we need to be able to adapt. Despite being held scoreless we did create a number of opportunities with the ball in hand and there were **plenty of positives** to take from the game and build on in the weeks to come.

With **Scott Werleman** leading the forwards and the return of last year's B Grade Best and Fairest **Leigh Stait** we fielded 2 very mobile flankers. **Brett Lenz** at #8 and playing his first competition game for the club provided plenty of go forward with some strong running. **Ben**

**Vitale** also playing his first game for the club had a strong game in the centres.

This week we make the trip down the Arnhem Highway to Jabiru. This is always a tough assignment and with University forfeiting (again), Jabiru will be itching for a contest. **Hopefully everyone will make the effort to be available** and let's make sure we have something to celebrate on the bus trip home.

Again there were 3 players playing their **first game** for Palmerston **Ben Vitale, Jon-Paul Hogan, and Marshall Rodgers**. Welcome gentlemen.

#### Match Summary

Souths 15 (3 tries) d  
Palmerston 0

Best Players - **Scott Werleman** (Player's Player), **Brett Lenz, Ben Vitale** and **Kyle Davies** playing his first senior game after backing up from the U18's was outstanding.

#### U18 v Dragons

A major disappoint this week for the U18 team and the competition, **Dragons forfeited** the game to us.

I don't have all of the detail but I understand there was some sort of a scratch game for a while. Although a start, this is never anything like the real thing.

Let's hope our boys get a real game this week-end against University.

#### U16 v University

**Coach Bishell** reports:

'This week we played the Pirates, once again the boys were required to **play a larger forward pack**. It



was a hard fought game with neither side willing to give any ground. Through some strong forward work we managed to go into half time all locked up at 5 all. The game turned spiteful in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half; however, the boys displayed good discipline and refused to lower themselves by retaliating. The scores were all locked up at **10 all with a minute to go**. On the back of some penalties the Pirates managed to score the deciding try with little time left on the clock. **Final score 10 - 15.**

There were some **outstanding performances**, **Henry Burgess** had a strong game at blindside flanker, **Tom Pavone** played a strong game and managed the backline well, **Anthony Smith** was strong as usual at fullback and a **special mention** must go to the **front three** who were strong all game. **Henry Burgess** and **unknown** scored our tries.'

#### U14 v Swampdogs

**Coach Donovan's** thoughts:

'This week the U14's put **a lot of effort in at training** in the key areas we were beaten at the week before. Up front the forwards worked on forming a platform at the breakdown to ensure we retained the ball and we were able to move forward when we had the opportunity. A lot of work was also done on our lineout resulting in a much better contest for the ball and we came away with several wins from the opposition throw in.

To add more speed to our pack and to help the forwards get to the breakdown a couple of the bigger backs in **Jarred Donovan** and **Brad Hogan** were played as flankers with good result in our cleanout's.

While Swampdogs ran in four unanswered tries in the 1<sup>st</sup> half **our boys dug deep in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half** and held them to only one

try. The team went back to what they had been doing in training and the effort in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half was particularly good.

**Lachlan Wade** at full back and **Nu Huynh** (tight head) tackled their hearts out defending our line. **Nu** was voted **Player's player** for his effort with **Lachlan** picking up 3 points for his efforts.

As testament to how tough the game was all six reserves were used to replace injured players. **Game fitness is still a problem** but one that we are slowly working on.

#### U8 v Casuarina

Palmerston 40 d Casuarina 0  
**Joe Cotton** (4), **Sean McFarlane** (3) and **Koby Snowden** scored our tries.

#### U6 v Swampdogs

Palmerston 15 d Swampdogs 5  
All 4 tries were scored by little Crocs, **Michael Dreu**, **Darcy Holmes**, **Cody Akers** and **Jack Akers**.

### Birth Certificates

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

Players without birth certificates after the 15<sup>th</sup> April won't be able to play.

### Goose Club

**Is now underway each Friday night.** After our first week's effort there is a small change to the arrangements. **Ticket selling** now needs to **get underway at 5:30pm** rather than 6:00pm. We need to catch the after work crowd before they disappear elsewhere.

Denny's team needs to be there at 5:15pm in your club polo. **Extras are always welcome.**

### Croc Jottings

**Ray Walters** was a pretty handy rugby player and a talented multi media man a few years ago when he was playing for the Crocs in

Darwin. Remember his **multimedia tribute to Squirter's** career.

Well since moving back to Alice Springs he has continued to expand his creative side and has branched out to painting. I'm not sure how his rugby side is going but he now has a **website** up and running about his painting.

Check it out at <http://www.thornyarts.com>

**Congratulations Ray.**

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Our 7 Darwin City representatives all performed well last week-end in Katherine in the game against NT Country.

**Ben Emmett** led a dominate scrum while **Lee Verrall** and **Apenisa 'Jah' Nayacadraudrau** were outstanding in the loose. **Lee** also went very well jumping in the lineouts. **Wise Sekitoga** has his normal good running game. **Adrian 'Slugger' Graham**, **Vili Leqa** and **Tom Hurse** were all solid in the backs. **Adrian** received the additional honour of taking over the **captaincy** of the team when **Ben Emmett** was given an early rest.

**Adrian** also handled the **goal kicking duties** and although his return was outstanding there looked to be some potential there. Take note Coach Bree.

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Watch the week-end papers and next week's CrocTales for more information about this logo.



# Professionals

