

A Week with Smithy...

During January, I had the pleasure of rooming at the Smith Chalet in Townsville. I can highly recommend the scenery, service and chatter. Mick and Annette and daughter, Remi, have certainly settled in to the Townsville scene and with their Service Stations and Brumby's appear to be established in Northern Queensland.

Mick is the successful coach of the Townsville representative team and has just recently returned from a trip to Italy with an all conquering side. He was quite concerned about having his bum pinched (he still keeps it as firm as ever) but apparently he returned unscathed.

Mick and I spent many evenings watching the day disappear as we looked out over the ocean to Magnetic Island from his verandah and though there were times when alcohol was involved we never got silly.

Thanks for the great 10 days Mick, Annette and Remi and hope to see you in Darwin soon for the Reunion.

...Bernie

Llwchwrystwythangefni !

(Palmy Hooker, Steve Payne's lineout call?)

Steve and Sue Payne, their kids Lucy and Jack, are on their way back to Darwin (and the Palmerston Crocs) after nearly 4 years living on the NSW south coast.

Steve, as all the older (not old) club members know, is part of the Palmy Croc tradition of Welsh Hookers, and he was also President of the club. Sue, was a Palmy supporter and social committee member during the time we bought the Clubhouse Clock (though we intended it to encourage our men to come home at a reasonable hour, it backfired) and the much used Palmy BBQ. They hope to have moved-up around the time of the Presentation night and it will be great to have them back!

Has anyone else had a private reunion or just want to tell about what some Palmy Oldies are up to? Send it to me at email: bbree75@hotmail.com



They've Gone

Pat and Liz Aratema suddenly departed Oz for those little islands off the coast of Queensland – New Zealand. After a long wait to sell up it all came too quickly and they are gone. We would all have loved the chance to say thanks for all of the years of work by both of them on and off the field. They'll be impossible to replace but we hope they'll be back (maybe for the reunion!).

Thanks heaps Liz and Pat.

Keep Thurs 12 April free!

PALMERSTON PRESENTATION NIGHT

In keeping with tradition, Presentation Night will be held on the Thursday after the big G-F, at the start of the Easter weekend. Mark it on your calendars now!

WHERE: Cruise Ship Terminal, The Wharf

STARTS: 6.30pm for free pre-dinner cocktails

COST: \$55 a-head Buffet dinner with red and white wine on each table and entertainment, full bar facilities. 100 places only! So book your tickets QUICKLY!

Registration is due (overdue)

I know that as a club we are slack when it comes to fronting people and asking for money. Please just do the right thing and pay up. The club has already paid for your insurance, registration, equipment and other bits and pieces that come to about \$3000 per team!

CAVEMAN HOUSEWARMING

The branded one (Jesse) would like to invite you all to Babbsy's House Warming. The theme is 'caveman', the location / time / day / month / etc are yet to be confirmed. The prerequisite is that everybody helps Babbsy move in. Refer to Babbsy for more details.

PALMERSTON RUGBY UNION CLUB

80 Bonson Terrace, Moulden, Palmerston NT 0830

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COMMITMENT is not a four letter word!

Over the past few weeks the coaches have been attempting to catch up with all of the club players with a view to getting a commitment on just what your playing and training schedule will be.

We have gone short a few times lately and though I am very thankful to and impressed by those who back up for two games it simply isn't fun and so we want to stop it.

Please be honest. If you won't train or won't regularly turn up for games say so. It is not good for a coach's stress levels to be 2 minutes to kick off and wondering where people are.



On 13th January, 2001 Ben Blyton became the second player (after Craig Leach) to play his 200th 'A' grade game for Palmerston.

We won the game then retired to the clubhouse for much merriment and a presentation.

Ben joined Palmerston in 1983 as a 15 year old giant and went on to play his first 'A' grade game in the 1985/86 season. He would have been into his 300s if it weren't for that four letter word – work! Ben toured the Territory and played in Jabiru, Alice Springs (where he also coached) and Katherine.

Ben has now played in seven 'A' grade grand finals, has captained 'A' grade, and won Best and Fairest and Best Clubman awards.

Ben Blyton turned 200

He still holds the Australian Schoolboy Championship record of having played in four of them and was selected in the Australian Second Division team in 1984.

The milestones continue for the man they call Burley and last year he married Selina who promises to keep him fit and trim until he overtakes Dennis Bree's playing record.

Ben has been a true asset to the club and I'm sure that he would name Gary Harper as his pin up boy as it is Gary's fine physique and incredible ball skills that Ben has modelled himself on. It has been people like Ben throughout the 25 years (almost) of Palmerston that has made this club special and two years ago Ben became a Life Member.

Thanks Ben for everything.

Do you have another club legend who you would like to write up in the newsletter? Well send it in!

Palmerston Rugby Union
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Recruit One, You Get the Family

Three years ago I was asked to go to an address in Driver where there was a young half back, fresh out of school in Brisbane and looking for a club to make a name for himself. I thought that I was going to the house to check out Richard Hollingsworth and tell him a few things about the club and what we could offer. Little did I realise that I was about to be interviewed by the family.

Dad Rod and mum Elizabeth were there as was one of the sisters Jo and maybe Suze. Mum and dad were in from Scott Creek Station just outside of Katherine and they were keen to know that their son was off to a good club where he could continue to develop as a young gentleman while honing his rugby skills for a higher level. I can almost hear you all thinking, 'What bullshit did he spread to get them to agree to Richard playing with us?' Well I just told the truth and so began Richard's first season with us.

He proved to be a very elusive player – we couldn't always find him! Richard still had the bushy blood in him and just wanted to be with the horses (and the young girls who hung around horses). He played a bit of 'A' grade but became a great asset in the 'B' grade and played a decisive part in their grand final win. Then he went back to the horses.

BUT it was not all over. Rod and Beth and family had been following their son's progress and just because he wasn't playing seemed no reason not to be there (a bit like Frankie's parents). Sister Jo met club legend Paul Dale and they wed and had a child, Rod got more and more involved and became the 'C' grade and then 'B' grade manager and committee person. The sisters, Jo and Suze, and mother Beth became the social committee and put on some great club dinners. Beth is often seen in the clubhouse especially leading up to a social when there 's work to be done. Suze became the club secretary.

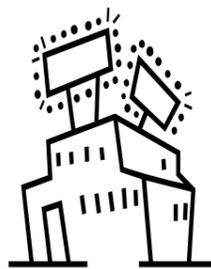
We went for a player and got a family. I love the way that works. Welcome and thanks for everything to the Hollingsworth family.

Richard, want a game some time?



Our major fundraiser, the Great Annual Woolworths Raffle will be up and running again soon for 2001.

As always, we really appreciate the efforts of everybody who lends a hand and helps out with the selling of tickets. It's a great prize – a year's worth of vouchers for spending at any Woolworths (or affiliated) store – and tickets sell reasonably quickly. Once again, we're looking for as many people as possible to pitch in and help. Burly Ben has been appointed ticket master, so be ready to sell (and buy!) those tickets!



BO Bonson Tee

OUR CLUBHOUSE

Have a think about any ideas that you may have for the clubhouse – we need to get a planning process in place for the upgrade and next stage of the clubhouse, and any suggestions that you may have will be welcomed.

JOKE... THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

You know you're a bloke if another bloke shows up to a party in the same outfit, and you become lifelong mates!

The Draw

So that you can plan ahead, here is the Draw. It can also be accessed at: www.users.bigpond.com/ntru

March 3

'A' grade – bye
'B' grade vs Dragons 3:00pm at Rugby Park 1
'C' grade – bye

March 10

'A' grade vs NTIS 6:00pm at Rugby Park 1
'B' grade vs Casuarina 3:45pm at Rugby Park 1
'C' grade vs University 1:00pm at Rugby Park 1

March 17

'A' grade vs Dragons 6:00pm at Rugby Park 1
'B' grade vs University 3:45pm at Rugby Park 1
'C' grade vs Litchfield 2:15pm at Rugby Park 2

March 24 – Semi Finals

March 31 – Preliminary Finals

April 6 – Grand Final

Super 12s Draw is: www.rugby.com.au/super12_2001/2001_vodafone_super12_results.html

The official rugby.com.au Vodafone Super 12 Tipping Comp has begun. Anyone can join the fun by clicking the link on the www.rugby.com.au to register and get your first tips in before Kickoff, for the chance to win great weekly and overall prizes.

COACH'S REPORT

by Braedon Earley (submitted early Feb)

The beginning of the 2001 part of the season saw Big Steve (Doggy) (A grade coach)(Fijian Negotiator in Coup situations only) Roberts resting quietly, mountain stream side, on a remote island in Fiji. Little did he know that he had left the fate of the Palmerston A grade side in the hands of a tyrant in the form of Braedon *I'm going to pull myself off at half time and you are coming with me* Earley.

We have lost three games this A grade and the same pattern seems to be developing each time before we go down. It goes a little like this:

-  Poor commitment to training from potential A grade and A grade players
-  Poor discipline on the field
-  Poor commitment to the game plan

Hopefully this will change leading up to the business end of the season.

There have been some big efforts from some players and not all will be mentioned here, however, special mention needs to be made of players such as: Shane *Fine Cotton*, Sam *Dot Jefferies*, Craig *Squirter* Leach, Ricky *Stinkin* Hoe, Ben *Burley* Blyton and Nicholas *Squirrel* Woodruff who are also leading by example and exemplify hardened senior rugby players – thank you.

Our loose forwards continue to dominate loose ball and broken passages of play. Unfortunately, every team in the competition now knows this as

well and consequently will be looking to tie up our looseys as early as possible in set passages of play. The real test for the Crocs loose forwards is the next couple of games.

Todd *TBear* Harris, Adrian *knock me out please* Graham, Daniel *I have nothing covering my hip bones* Bree and Ben *No Bum* Jones continue to play well and are getting better as the season progresses – we will see these guys at their best in the semis.

Jamie Flemming is set to make his comeback after injury. Pete Saweski (back in town), Steff (long time friend of Burleys), Marcus Bismarck *the interceptor*, Brad Naylor *rib cracker*, Francis *see you at training* Mills and Mike *Trangie 1st XV 1991* all have the potential to secure permanent A-grade positions as the season draws to a close. Keep up the good work fellas.

With only three games to go before the semis we need to pick up a gear. Beach running has started on Monday evenings. We're meeting at Casuarina Beach at 6:00pm with sandshoes and water bottles for a thirty to forty minute work out – everybody is invited. Tuesday evenings is mostly pad work, some basic skills and one on one contact. Thursday evenings is mostly team work, backs, forwards, separate and team runs.

Finally, on behalf of the players, coaches and committee members, congratulations to Bernie and Sonya Bree on their 25th wedding anniversary.

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