





# COUGARS ROAR

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS  
NEWSLETTER; ISSUE 2 2010

ESTABLISHED 1976

**RUGBY**  
a game for ruffians  
...played by ruffians

## A Grade v Darwin Dragons

With Darwin Dragons winning against last years Premiers University the week before we knew it was going to a battle to contain the Dragons. The game was again played out the back on field 2 at Austar Park, and it was the Cougars lack of ball handling skills and ability to master the simple basics like catch and pass that frustrated both the players and spectators alike. Our only saving grace was that Dragons were not able to capitalise on our mistakes and make us pay dearly. Half time saw the Cougars with a lead that was flattering to us of 27-3 (4 tries, 2 Conversions & 1 penalty)

After some home truths from Coach McGrath at half time the Cougars came out and played some more styled rugby in the second half, virtually eliminating the dropped balls, getting their set pieces working and being tight in the scrums. Although far from perfect it was a huge marked improvement in the second half. By the fulltime whistle we managed to put on a further 7 tries and a further 7 conversions to bring our final score to 73-3...a great result!

A hat trick of tries went to Zac Phillips with 2 tries to Damien Heath, and singles to Bros Naivalu, Manasa Tuisuva, Carl Ormandy, Scott Kennon, Andrew Kinnell and Brett Clifford. Zac Phillips had a personal tally of 33 points with the 3 tries, 9 conversions

Salvatores Café "Player of the Day" again for the second week running (1<sup>st</sup> in B Grade and now in A Grade) was **Carl Ormandy** who worked hard at all the breakdowns and his set piece work in scrums was outstanding. Carls defence was great to watch, hard solid hits and helping to set platforms for his forwards. Close behind was Gareth Atkinson up front in the engine room who was again leading from the front at the breakdowns, his defence was first class and his work rate around the paddock was also 2<sup>nd</sup> to none.

Next competition game for A Grade is against University on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm on Austar 1. This is a Home Game for the Club with both A & B teams playing Uni.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April – Clubhouse

- Ladies Night

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Austar Rugby Park

- Cougars Home Game

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Austar Rugby Park

- Cougars Home Game
- Race Night (TBC)

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Venue TBC

- Battle of the Codes by K Faktor
- John "Knuckles" Connolly (V)
- Tommy "cattledog" Raudonikis

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Austar Rugby Park

- Cougars Home Game

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Austar Rugby Park

- Cougars Ball

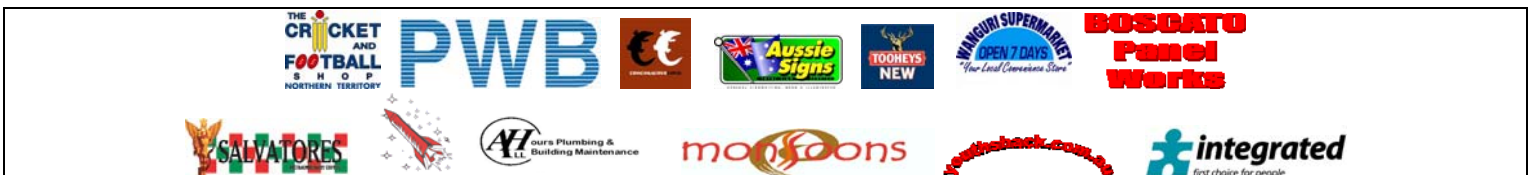
### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Austar Rugby Park

- Grand Final

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Sydney

- Bledisloe Cup

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## JUNIOR'S WRAP!

26th March 2010

### *Under 5's - Cougars v Palmerston*

It was good to see so many U5's out there enjoying their first game of the season, there are some rising stars in this team. Great listening and team spirit was evident throughout. Thank you to the dedication of the families of the team that help to make this a success. We welcome new families to the Club and look forward to your continued support through out the season.

### *Under 7's - Cougars 25 v Palmerston 25*

In Rugby terms a 25-all draw after leading 20-5 at half time is not necessarily a great result., however in real terms our performance on Friday Night was very exciting looking at the season ahead.

In order to give everyone a decent run we split our squad of 13 into 2 groups of 6 who played half a game each and then had Adam play pretty much a full game to make up the 7 in each period.

Instead of trying to select two evenly balanced sides, the starting team had Adam, Odin, Caleb and Issaac who had all played in the side last year. They were joined by Cooper who is up from the 5's and had a run with us in the 7's last year when we were short. Thomas also had the honour of being a starter having trained with the Under 8's a few years ago when he was only 3. A newbie to the Club, Anarkin got a starting sport based on the fact he arrived at the first training session before the coach and has trained the house down each night since. What was pleasing here was how well the young guys from last year stepped up to be seniors.

The 2nd half team was very much an inexperienced one and pretty much thrown to the wolves. Charlie and Clancy were up from the 5's, Sam a newbie who is also just turning 6 this year plus Taj, Lachlan and Marty playing their first ever game all acquitted themselves well and will really benefit from the run in terms of understanding the positional play required.

Adam scored four tries and had a terrific game and one would think he'll score 50+ this year. One thing for certain is that Adam won't be wearing any other jersey than one with Blue and White hoops this year. Last year he helped out every other club (except you know who). Odin scored our other try and had a strong game.

### *Under 9's - Cougars v Palmerston*

What a great opening to the season by under 9's, it was like watching text book Rugby. Thomas, Nikitas, Lachlan, Samuel and Reed were a great support to their team using fantastic cleaning out skills and brut strength in the forward line and second row. Good work by Simon, Connor, Dirk, Yada and Dylan by pushing up our try points and moving the ball up and down and around the field. An incredible match by Jay Jay, for his first game with the Cougars showing great support skills. Yada had an outstanding kicking boot on converting 6 of our 8 conversions.

Dylan and Dirk also converted a try each. What impressed us the most was enormous team spirit and dedication and great listening skills. Well done boys, keep it up.

### *Under 11's - Cougars 22 v Palmerston 7*

The mighty Cougars Under 11's showed good form for the first game of the 2010 season winning 22-7 against a tough Palmerston Crocs. The win was testament to the hard work and consistency at training over the past three weeks and the boys and girls should be proud of their efforts. From the kick-off the Cougars quickly dominated possession with good service to the backs from Yani Mauromatis. The forwards were always hungry at the breakdown and will improve ball retention as the year progresses. In the pack Rowan Boscato (1 Field goal), Jackson Phillips,

Brayden Daly and Will Fox were tenacious in attack and defence with Brayden rewarded with two hard-earned tries. Special note to Luke Kinna who led the forwards all day and showed early signs he will be a player to look for in the future. The backs showed good cohesion with Harry Smith-Lester distributing quality ball leading to a Trey Crowley try. Centres, Ryan Edwards and Braedyn Slann (1 try) were solid in attack and worked well with Ben Thompson, Ryan Penney, Camden Wilkinson, Owen Boles and Brianna. Trey defended well at fullback and has cemented his spot for the season. Congratulations to all the newer players (especially those who have never played rugby) who tried hard all game. With no games over the next two weeks I hope to see a good turn out this week before the break. I was pleased to see all the Mighty Cougars Under 11's trying their hardest and enjoying the match and can't wait to continue the basics at training this week. Thank you to Karen (Manager) for her work over the last week and all the parents who turned out to support the team. Great start to the year...GO COUGARS!!!





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## **Under 13's – Cougars 46 v Palmerston 46**

Playing against Palmerston first up, we knew it was going to be a tough match. They had a huge pack of Forwards and big Backs. Besides that, we had 5 first timers and no reserves. In attack we had some great runs in the first half from our halves, Patrick and Ben and also from our Hooker, Eli. But we lacked in our Forwards getting to the breakdowns in desperate times. Also due to a few injuries and having no reserves, we were always going to be found short in defence. But in saying this, the boys tried their hearts out and were only down by a try at the break.

We went to the break with 3 tries on the board to our Halfback: Patrick, Hooker: Eli, and our 1st timer, Winger: Joe, "Great Try Buddy".

In the 2nd half, the boys once again busted their backsides. Whilst having 3 players short in defence due to injured players being off the field, and Palmerston replacing their tired players with fresh players, we were always going to be behind on the score board. But to their credit, the Cougars never threw in the towel. They fought till the final whistle was blown. Good on you boys. As for myself being their coach, I couldn't have asked for a better bunch of boys. I am so proud of these guys. To see a team doing it so tough and not giving up, I know this team has a great attitude and will keep showing up for each other.

I have to give a special mention to our halves, Patrick and Ben in attack with some great runs, supported well from Eli, Jarred, Jayden and Josh with a good run or two and defensively Patrick, Ben, Eli, Jarred, Jayden, Denzel. But one of our smallest guys surprised me and many spectators with some one on one defence out wide on the wing.

Brady, you have a great ticker kid. Keep it up boys; I'm sure we will have much better days ahead of us. See you at training on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Coach Paddy

## **Under 15's – Cougars 17 v Palmerston 41**

In the under-15s, Casuarina ran out two players short and held the Crocs to 5-all at half-time. But Palmerston scored five second-half tries for a 38-10 victory. Bryce Condon had a terrific match for the Cougars, proving to be a handful with every touch of the ball. The score does not reflect the great work and effort put in by the boys and I am sure they will reverse the score next time these two teams meet.

## **Under 17's – Cougars 5 vs. Palmerston 57**

**By Drew Weaver:**

Last Friday saw the months of waiting finally come to an end when the Boys made the trip across the desert to Darwin to play for the Mighty Casuarina Cougars. There was a fair bit of excitement on the bus on the way in, and also a fair bit of nerves too. We had all experienced 'New Team Jitters' and the boys (and coach) were not sure what to expect.

We got in with plenty of time to spare, and got to work sorting out the joint venture arrangements. Casuarina Club President Mark Heath made proceedings very easy and Player Coordinator Donna Hofmeier made us feel welcome.

The Casuarina club were very excited and happy to have the boys come in to play and pulled out all the stops to make sure the boys were accepted into the team. Special thanks has to go to Peter from Boscato & Co for his offer of support for the boys.

The Casuarina Coach's were introduced, most of the boys already knew Zac and Rob so there were no real issues there.

The players took a few minutes to introduce each other and then the boots and kit was on and into the warm up.

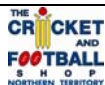
I stayed out of the warm up session to give the boys a chance to work with the Cougars coach and get a feel for the rest of the team.

The game kicked off and defending premiers Palmerston came with a full squad including 7 on the bench. That put the new Cougars squad behind the 8 ball from the start, with only 13 players available for the game.

Palmerston found traffic tough trying through the middle but managed to spread the ball wide on many occasions, scoring a series of quick tries through clever ball recycling and fast support play. The Cougars tried very hard to contain the big Palmy forwards but sheer weight and numbers allowed Palmerston a fairly easy first half.

The heads were down at the halftime huddle, but some encouragement from the coach, a few positional changes and a few pointers to some of the boys and the spirits were good again.

The change was obvious, with the Cougars controlling the ball better from the ruck and some of the loose forwards started to gel in support of each other. One of the best sets of play of the night saw 5 phases recycled right on the touchline, and then spread wide. With a move like that after only one game I can't wait to see the rest of the season.





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The game ground out with Palmerston scoring 3 tries in the second half compared to 6 in the first half. Just when Zac made comment that any score would be good for the Cougar boys, a careful cross field kick from Deakin Bradley put loose forward Rusty Tisdell over for the only Cougar try. A very tired Cody Bartlett dropped his conversion attempt just a touch wide and short to miss out on the extra 2 points.

The game finished with a fairly rough score line of 57-5, however taking into account the team situation it was a fantastic start to the season.

The boys all played their butts off and deserved a much better score line. Hopefully with a full team with reserves they may be able to post a better score if not a win.

The Casuarina Cougars have made a big effort to accept our boys which has made the decision to play this season with them worthwhile. As an ex-Cougar from the early 90's it is good to see the atmosphere of the club so welcoming to what essentially is a rival club. It shows that beyond the field players, coaches and officials from all clubs have one common goal – to play rugby and enjoy the rewards.

The Easter break means the next game is on Friday 2nd April, with the boys again staying in town for the night at 'Bushratz Lodge' at Austar Park. Training will not stop during the Easter period with the exception of this Thursday.

Easter Saturday sees the NT U18 squad take on visiting Qld school Downlands College. This will basically be a trial match for the 2010 NT U18 squad. Jabiru has 2 players in the squad at the moment with the possibility of one or two of the other players on the verge of selection. If you are in town for the weekend, get down and support the boys.

## WEBSITE UPGRADES AND INFORMATION

Remember to check out the Clubs website for all the latest news and information. We will again try and keep the site as up to date as possible throughout the season.

[www.casuarinarugby.com.au](http://www.casuarinarugby.com.au)

We have been making some improvements to the website and will continue to do so over the next few weeks, so any feedback you have on what would make the site better please let [me](#) know or [Shane](#) on your thoughts!

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Senior Membership fees this season will be at **\$170.00** the same as last season or **\$220.00** with a Season Pass.

## START PAYING YOUR FEES NOW!

See Mark or Kathryn on any given Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday at the Clubhouse.

*\$25 must be paid prior to your 4<sup>th</sup> Game with the Club*  
*\$75 must be paid prior to your 8<sup>th</sup> Game with the Club*  
*\$125 must be paid prior to your 12<sup>th</sup> Game with the Club*  
*Full membership fees must be paid prior to your 15<sup>th</sup> Game with the Club*



## This Weeks Games:

### JUNIORS

#### Friday April 9

U7's Casuarina V Dragons - Austar 1 @ 6.00pm

U9's Casuarina V Souths - Warren Park 1 @ 6.00pm

U11's Casuarina V Dragons - Austar 2 @ 6.00pm

U13's Casuarina V University - Austar 2 @ 6.50pm

U15's Casuarina V University - Austar 1 @ 6.50pm

U17's Casuarina V University - Austar Park 2 @ 7.50pm

### SENIORS

#### Saturday April 10

B Grade: Casuarina v Swampdogs – Freds Pass @ 5pm

A Grade: Bye

