

# Still proudly supporting his team

## RHYS O'NEILL

IF it is possible, Mark Dalle Cort's life is even busier since he retired from life with the Northern Pride.

A member of the squad's 2010 Intrust Super Cup grand final win, the 32-year-old now owns and runs Little Snappers Swim School at Smithfield.

He is among a host of Pride alumni scattered around the Far North who will watch on as the class of 2014 take to Suncorp Stadium for Sunday's decider against Easts.

Dalle Cort, a hard-running centre who played in the UK Super League, retired after the 2012 season because, simply, life got busy.

"I got engaged in 2011, married in 2012 and had a baby in 2013," he laughed.

"And I've owned the swim school since 2011 so I've been very, very busy.

"I've always had a passion for running a swim school."

These days, Dalle Cort has wife Mai and eight-month-old son Fox to keep him company.

But he looks back fondly on the times he shed blood, sweat and tears with his Pride mates.

"It was a really good year and we had a really good squad," he said.

"We had a good base of players. It was good fun.

"(Coach Dave Maiden) Maida made it lots of fun with lots of games.

"The boys were all good mates."

As for which class is better, Dalle Cort grudgingly concedes the 2014 squad may hold a slight edge.

"It's really hard to compare," he said.

"But in four years the game has changed; the athleticism is now unbelievable.

"I don't like saying it but if I have to be totally honest if the two squads played each other, this year's team might take it out."

And he's hoping Jason Demetriou's squad can do a similar job on the Tigers on Sunday.

"If they stick to what JD tells them, and I think they've been doing that all year, then I think they'll win," he said.

Dalle Cort will join other Pride "old boys" in reuniting in Cairns to watch the game this weekend.



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 YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FOOTY  
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 It's Grand to see you again

# BUDDY PRIMED TO HAMMER HAWKS



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Picture: VERONICA SAGREDO

## PUP-ULATION EXPLOSION

NORTH Queensland Animal Rescue has had a population hike over the past fortnight after two of the dogs in their care gave birth to 20 puppies.

FULL STORY PAGE 5

## EXCLUSIVE: Outrage as blinds drawn in Cairns Hospital rooms

# PATIENTS IN THE DARK

SCOTT FORBES

CAIRNS Hospital patients have been forced to draw their blinds and keep windows covered because their high-rise neighbours have complained they don't want to look at sick people.

Bentley Park resident Roy Graham left his hospital room for minor surgery on Friday morning, but when he was wheeled back upstairs he returned to a world of darkness.

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