



RIGHT MOVES . . . the head of Capoeira in Australia, Mestre Peixe, trains with Townsville students

Photo: EVAN MORGAN QTD16570

Martial arts, acrobatics and dance — Brazilian style

Aitkenvale gym will hold martial arts workshops for adults and children this Saturday — Brazilian style.

Capoeira Brasil Townsville will host the workshops which combine elements of martial arts, acrobatics, music and dance.

Capoeira was born in Brazil in the 1500s when the Portuguese brought African slaves to Brazil.

The combination of African and Brazilian styles led to the creation of a dance-like sport,

which is combined with traditional percussive instruments and song.

Several guest instructors will be coming to Townsville for the Capoeira workshops including the head of Group Capoeira Brasil Australia Mestre (master) Peixe.

"We've got our Mestre up from Sydney and a couple of instructors from Sydney in Brazil as well," Group Brasil Townsville instructor Matthew Eales (Uakari) said.

"They're going to be

conducting workshops over the week for kids and adults.

"It's all leading up to the grading on The Strand this Saturday."

In Capoeira only a Mestre can grade students and give them a belt.

Mestre Peixe will be grading more than 50 Townsville students at The Strand Ampitheatre this Saturday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

"We're going to have a great time. Everyone knows they will be getting a belt,

the grading is the celebration and public announcement of it," Mr Eales said.

This is the fourth year Mestre Peixe has come to Townsville to grade students and Mr Eales has been teaching the sport for close to six years.

"The word's starting to spread and we're not going to stop here," he said.

The sport has gained rapid support over the past few years with the group opening their own gym in

January this year after previously operating out of the Aitkenvale PCYC.

"I remember when we first started there was only two people on the basketball courts at the uni," Mr Eales said.

"Now we have our own gym with 65 students."

The workshops will be held every day this week from 5.30-6.30pm for children and 7-9pm for adults. Beginners are welcome and more information is available from Group Brasil Townsville on 4755 0636.