

TUESDAY JULY 29 2014

# sport



AFL Demons player Luke Loudon took part in the Australian rules football festivities at Mosman park on Saturday when Masters players from Townsville and Whitsundays converged on Charters Towers to play. Picture: SOPHIE KESTEVEN

# Demons learn to master Aussie game

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YOUNG Demons players learnt a thing or two about Australian Rules Football on the weekend, when Masters players converged on Charters Towers.

The day kicked off with the junior games and a coaching clinic, followed by the Masters game consisting of players aged over 35 from Townsville, Whitsundays and Charters Towers.

Charters Towers Demons president Allan Georgee said the day was successful and it was great to see the Masters players and local men involved.

"The guys are just wonderful with the kids," Georgee said.

"And they have donated meat trays here, with the money going towards our club, so they are all here to get our club up and going.

"One of the key reasons for having the

masters here is to teach the junior players, and we are looking down the track at getting some senior footy matches here," Georgee said.

"Some reserve grade and first grade games so that our kids can see how they can, as they get older, get into the game."

Georgee said it would be great to get more people joining up to Australian rules football this year and in the mean time they are just getting their exposure out there.

"We understand people want to play rugby league, that's fine we don't want to try and drag people away, we just want to let people know AFL is here and it's an option for kids, ranging from under 6s to 12s."

AFL Townsville Football operations manager Tony Burke played in the masters game and said the day was about supporting the Charters Towers Demons AFL Club, to show them they are a part of the wider AFL community.

"We had a bit of a clinic here and we had a girl and a boy who had never played before, and it's about introducing them to

some of the basics," Burke said.

"If we can convert one kid into getting interested in the local game, that is good for the community and what they are trying to do here and grow their club."

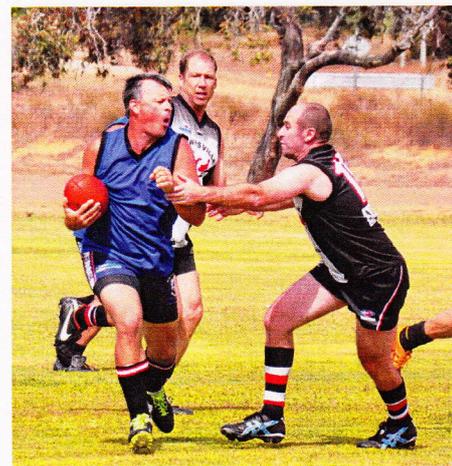
Regarding the final score of the Masters match he said scores aren't that important in Masters football — it's more about the enjoyment and camaraderie of playing with and against your mates.

"It's all about fun and making sure no one gets hurt, but footy is just one of those things. Once it is in your blood, it's in your blood," he said.

Burke said he hopes they can keep coming back to Charters Towers to play Masters footy.

"It is a great little spot and they looked after us really well today and it is a good footy oval and we would like to see if we can do something about getting some senior football up here.

"I think we would get good support if on the back on a junior competition in the morning we had a senior game in the afternoon. If it is possible, it would be fantastic."



AFL Masters players from Townsville and the Whitsundays converged on Charters Towers on Saturday. Picture: SOPHIE KESTEVEN