Legend on the road to amends

FRED McCUE

PAUL Nuku made a name for himself as a legend during his career with the Department of Corrections.

Yesterday, the late Mr Nuku’s contribution to the Department of Correctional Services was recognised when the main road into the new Darwin Correctional Centre was named in his honour.

Born in Fiji, Mr Nuku won recognition as a tough guy who prisoners actually liked.

When he died last year friend, Brett Schroeder, went further, saying prisoners “loved him.”

This applied particularly to juvenile offenders, who Mr Nuku worked with in an attempt to turn young lives around.

When he was transferred from the former Wildman River Detention Camp, built to house 14-18 year-old low-security inmates, the young men asked for him to be allowed to return to the facility.

Mr Nuku had a passion for boxing and he employed the sweet science and other forms of martial arts as part of his rehabilitation efforts with prisoners.

At a special ceremony yesterday the Department of Correctional Services officially named the main road into the new Darwin Correctional Centre “Nuku Road”.

Isabella Nuku, S. Amella Nuku, Jacob Nuku, Sera Nuku, Tikiri Nuku, Ti, Anita Nuku, Chace Nuku and Paul Nuku were at the Darwin Correctional Centre when a road was named after Paul Nuku, rugby player, former professional boxer and legend from Fiji

Picture: DAN McDONALD

Council votes in rate rise

DANI McDONALD

AFTER 21 days of fierce debate and protest, Palmerston council finally voted to go ahead with it’s rate increase for those with larger land lots.

However, it will provide a 50 per cent concession to owner/occupiers for the first financial year.

At a special meeting last night, the council voted to change the rating scheme so that land lots with a UCV (unimproved capital value) above $277,000 will be calculated by multiplying the UCV by the proposed residential rate in the dollar being .00425 for the next financial year.

Those with land under the UCV rate will experience a 19 per cent pay rise at $22. A 50 per cent concession will be available for owner/occupiers with UCV above $277,000.

Acting chief executive officer Mark Spangler said those with larger land lots.

Atcher Marlow Lagoon, said she was frustrated that the council wouldn’t support her.

“I am the most feedback we’ve ever had for anything in council and how many people does it take for the elected members to realise that they represent the community – not their own views,” she said.

Depending on the number of concessions, council will use its reserves to balance its budget for the next financial year.

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