

New playground for Palm Island youth

By Simon Kelly, Media and Public Affairs Branch



Local children flock to the new Police-Citizens Youth Club on Palm Island.

Just weeks after opening, the new Police-Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) has already become a major part of the Palm Island community.

About 200 children flocked to the PCYC's new basketball court, boxing ring, gym equipment, pool tables and computer games when it opened on February 24.

Now it is even being seen as a source of employment for Palm

Island residents and a vital meeting centre for the community.

"We're looking at employing bus drivers, cleaners and a child care coordinator," Sergeant Paul Morley, Palm Island PCYC Branch Manager said.

"The PCYC has been very well received by the whole community. I'm getting positive reactions from everyone I speak to.

"We're hoping to broadcast the local radio station from the building. We're also looking for volunteers and supervisors as well as people to staff the kitchen and canteen at the club."

Sergeant Morley said locals had already approached him looking for work at the PCYC.

"It is also becoming an important meeting venue with its multi-purpose rooms," he said.

Crowds at the PCYC rarely drop below 100, with the youth activity centre boasting pool tables, computers and video games proving very popular.

The gym is also getting a workout with Sergeant Morley already holding a fundraiser to send a team of local boxers away for a tournament.

The Palm Island PCYC is Sergeant Morley's first full-time branch manager position.

He recently worked at Yungaburra Police Station and has enjoyed previous stints as a relieving PCYC branch manager.

Sergeant Morley said he enjoyed working with children and had always liked working in small communities.

He is relishing the challenge of working on Palm Island where his wife Sam helps out at the PCYC and does Queensland Transport duties two days a week at Palm Island Police Station.

"It's non-stop and that's why we like it. We feel like we're making a good impression," Sergeant Morley said.



Palm Island children try out gym equipment at the community's new PCYC.