

SPORT

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KIWIS CALMING DOWN

LID PUT ON EARLY SUCCESS **P24**



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GOLF

Long day out on course



CHIPPING IN: Burnett Cup Player Matt Janke plays a gentle chip shot to the pin on the 13th green.

PHOTO: SANDRA MCLEOD

Big Day: Extra holes needed in Burnett Cup

➔ STORY P26

CRICKET



SOLID CONTACT: Michael Loader.

Slashing form not rewarded

IN A final players are asked to do the extraordinary, sometimes they get rewarded for their performance and other times they don't. Unfortunately for Bundaberg's Boyd Williams his efforts didn't earn a win in the Goodchild Shield final at the weekend.

Williams sent down 10-straight overs of controlled-fast bowling that returned 2-16 while defending the modest 157 set by his team, and despite his hard work Fraser Coast took the trophy home with 5-158 in reply.

Bundaberg battled its way to 157 with James Fitzpatrick scoring 42, Dale Steele 32 and Jamie Harris 29 but Fraser Coast's Mitch Rawlins was devastating with the ball claiming an astonishing 3-7 from 10 overs, while his two spells yielded six maiden overs.

Paul Sanders enjoyed his second visit to Bundaberg this month – he scored an unbeaten century in the Sugar Cities final against Brothers on February 1 – with 69 not out, guiding his team past the modest total.

Williams's performance as the only multiple wicket-taker was a rare highlight for Bundaberg in the game and he showed why he is one of the premier fast bowlers in the local Division 1 competition. He will in action again this weekend for his club team Norths against Brothers.

SCOREBOARD

Goodchild Shield final

Fraser Coast 5-158 (P Sanders 69; B Williams 10-3-2-16) d **Bundaberg** 157 (J Fitzpatrick 42, D Steele 32; M Rawlins 10-6-3-7, D Challacombe 10-3-3-21, S Chew 10-1-2-40)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Region turned down Intrust Super Cup game

■ Matthew McInerney

THE Bundaberg region could have hosted at least one Intrust Super Cup fixture this season.

Fresh off the heels of Northern Districts Rugby League's opening-round blockbuster at Miriam Vale, the NewsMail can reveal the CQ Capras offered Bundaberg Rugby League the opportunity to host their round 12 clash against the Sunshine Coast Falcons.

But while the NDRL will kick off its season with the Capras' clash against the

Souths Logan Magpies, the BRL has foregone the opportunity.

BRL chairman Mike Ireland said it was simply a matter of viability.

He explained the BRL had to guarantee about \$10,000 to host the game, and that was a figure the BRL could not deliver.

"At this stage there is nothing yet," Ireland said.

"It's just not viable at this stage.

"We had one a few years ago but we actually lost money as we didn't get those numbers."

How an Intrust Super Cup fixture would've fit into this year's schedule is another matter, given the return of Waves Tigers to first grade and the resultant extended season.

The rugby league season starts in just three weeks, with a huge day of action at Hervey Bay's Stafford Park on March 7.

There will be two first-grade and three reserve-grade games on the day, though kick-off times are yet to be finalised.

"It will be the first time the competition will kick off out-

side Bundaberg," Ireland said. "Everything's been going well for the start of the season."

The return of the Tigers means each team will play each other three times over 22 weeks, and all teams will enjoy at least three byes.

Ireland said the club had "about 52 players on the books", but admitted it might struggle first up.

He said it would probably take time for the club to reach the pinnacle of the BRL, but he – and most likely the club – would be happy if they were competitive.



NO VISIT: Dylan Galloway on the attack for Norths in the Intrust Super Cup.