Capoeira master Luiz Ferrera is in Darwin to visit local classes of Xango Capoeira and show them his moves

Art of smooth moves

By NICOLE SHOTTON

MOVES like this were technically illegal in Brazil during the early 1900s, but capoeira master Luiz Ferrera has captivated the Top End with the traditional fighting dance.

Capoeira is a martial art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics and music, originally created by African slaves who were taken from their homes as a sign of rebellion.

“They had to find a way to fight for freedom but they were not allowed to do any kind of fighting, so they danced,” Mr Ferrera said.

Growing up in a Brazilian household, Mr Ferrera moved to Australia in 1995, where he opened his Xango Capoeira School on the Gold Coast.

Since then the highly respected capoeira master has opened schools in six different countries, including Thailand, Brazil and Singapore.

His school, Xango Capoeira Darwin is the only one of its kind in the Territory, attracting participants aged 15 to 41.

“The decision was not taken lightly, but after a thorough review of the route, it was found to not be viable to continue operating,” Mr Gissing said.

“This coincides with the closure of the Rio Tinto alumina refinery.”

Rio Tinto Alcan announced late last year it would close its Gove alumina plant in July – which will affect 1200 jobs.

“A large portion of customers on the Gove route were Rio employees,” Mr Gissing said.

“The number of customers travelling on the route has decreased significantly…”

Chief Minister Adam Giles said last night: “I’ve been working with alternate airlines to help secure alternate transport options.”