

Throwaway society! How can you throw away a Bowl?

How easy is it nowadays to throw something away when it is past its use by date, or when you no longer have a need for it. Well, my local Council wants to throw away thousands of dollars worth of money by trashing our Lewis Park skate bowl!!

They have made another, away over in Knoxfield, with little to entice the new skater or learner. Our "old" bowl has history. It has benefited and made seasoned skaters out of many, many local kids as well as those who have travelled to it. It has a community - a community of skaters who've learnt and loved the art through countless and thousands of hours of practice there. They have held wakes there and honoured 'Bowl' friends who have passed on. They have made countless friends and mentored new riders and skaters who come there with the same purpose, this community has a passion.

They have been at the mercy of Council decisions to what their welfare is. Thousands of dollars spent on a Vert ramp installed at Rowville instead of the bowl. Residents didn't want it, Bowl participants begging for it. Transported to the Council yards where it rusted for a year or two. Still the residents begged for it. Thousands of dollars supposedly to transport it, and finally the Knox bowl scored it as theirs!!! Knox city has a revamp and AMP Capital Shopping Centres offer to spend money on installing a new skate park. Two years of 'talks' and plans. Skaters and bike riders were attentively asked for input- jollied along. But for some reason, this park at the back of Knox city didn't go ahead; instead it's been installed at Knoxfield.

But back at Lewis Park, the skaters and bike riders continue to sweep the bowl out of the debris that blows in from nearby shady gums. They continue to enjoy the comrade they have always had with others using the park. Mums and Dads still bring their littlies down to test out new scooters and bikes on the gentle learning slopes.

And word is, that Council says it costs too much to maintain. So at a cost far in excess of what it will cost to do minimal maintenance, they will trash this little oasis of our locals who are so passionate about what they do best.

In my opinion, shame on Knox City Council! You've failed your community. This isn't a case of improvement; it's a case of sheer waste. And I appallingly pay rates for your folly.

by Winnie Rose

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