

# Riders roll in for rally

William Jackson

LOCAL skaters and BMX riders are set to protest the demolition of the Lewis Park skate bowl at tonight's Knox Council meeting.

Knox Mayor Jim Penna last week confirmed the council was still planning to demolish the much-loved Wantirna South bowl once the new \$650,000 facility at Gilbert Park, Knoxfield, was completed.

A "fun day" to demonstrate support for the old bowl last Sunday drew an estimated 300 skateboarders, BMX riders and their families, while an online petition has more than 1000 signatures.

The skate and BMX communities say the old park should be retained because it is historically significant, has a unique design and provides a safe, welcoming place for learners.

Despite repeated community requests, the council has refused to put the skate park issue on the agenda for tonight's council meeting.

This will be the last meeting before the facility is due to be demolished.

Cr Penna said the council understood the concerns of those supporting the Lewis Park facility but it would be demolished anyway.

"For cost, maintenance and risk management reasons, it is council's desire to operate and maintain one high quality skate and BMX facility," Cr Penna said.



He said Lewis Park bowls maintenance costs were \$15,000-\$20,000 a year and it needed \$20,000-\$25,000 in repairs to bring it up to a safe standard. It will cost about \$20,000-\$25,000 to demolish the facility.

The skate parks users say they

were never asked whether they wanted the Lewis Park facility retained.

Save Knox Bowl organiser David Lalama said the Knox Council was ignoring the area's young people and had done so for years.

**Skaters and BMX riders rally to save the skate bowl at Lewis Park in Wantirna South.**

## Children locked in car

PARAMEDICS were called to a car park in Wellington Rd, Rowville, last Thursday after two children were locked in the vehicle.

The caller said two children under the age of seven were in the car for at least an hour and were distressed after their mother went into the shopping centre.

Paramedics arrived within eight minutes but the car had been driven away.

Tests by the Metropolitan Ambulance Service show on a 29C day, the inside of a car can more than double from 20C to 44C within 10 minutes.

Paramedic Natalia Check urges drivers not to leave children in a car, even on a cool day.

## Picture big day

IT IS time to celebrate your youngster's return to school with that special picture marking the next stage of their school life.

Whether they are preps just starting out or Grade 6s beginning the end of their primary school years, *Knox Leader* would like to hear from you.

*Knox Leader* is inviting parents and relatives to send us photographs of their youngsters preparing for the big event.

We will publish supplied images as part of our special Back to School reports in print or online.

Photographs, and a brief outline including your child's name (first names only to be published), age, school or kinder, can be posted to the Leader Back to School Special, 19 Chandler Rd, Boronia 3155, or emailed to [knox@leadernewspapers.com.au](mailto:knox@leadernewspapers.com.au) with the words "Back to School" in the subject line.

Photos should be sent by Wednesday, February 6.

