

Another gig for bowl

SAVE Knox Bowl is having another family fun day at the Lewis Park skate bowl on Sunday from noon, including a free BBQ, giveaways and DJs. The day will feature some of Victoria's best skaters and BMX riders showcasing their skills in an effort to save the much-loved facility. Knox Council will decide whether or not to demolish the skate bowl at its next meeting on February 26. Save Knox Bowl founder David Lalama said everyone who wanted the bowl saved should come down and show their support. The last Save Knox Bowl fun day drew about 300 people.

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Opinion

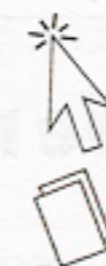
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Listen up, council

I WISH to state my support in keeping the Lewis Park skate bowl.

I have two boys, aged 11 and nine, who have been learning BMX and skateboard skills, playing and enjoying the facility for over six years.

It is an excellent set-up for younger and older children, while being a pleasant environment for adults to supervise from. My children say it is their favourite park in the eastern suburbs, because it is not as intimidating, not quite as busy and for its ease of use.

We once lived very close by to it, but now we drive from Ringwood, and we appreciate its proximity to this side of Knox, as it means a quick visit to the skate bowl is manageable and enjoyable.

The cost to demolish and re-establish the park as something else does not seem worth it to me, when it is so well liked and is such a valuable community asset.

Surely maintenance of the skate bowl is within the capabilities of the council's resources and budget. If not, please explain.

Our family would be disappointed and frustrated to see it go.

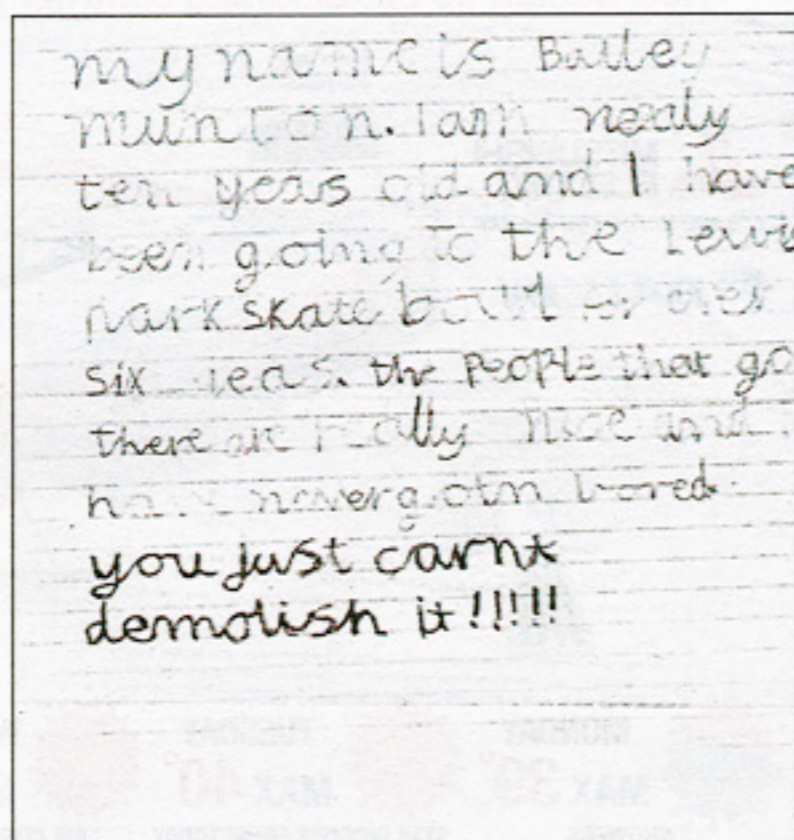
I would hope that the voice of the public is considered as the council deliberates on the skate park's future.

Erika Munton, Ringwood.

Proposal ludicrous

I AM a mother of three boys, aged nearly 12, 13 and 14. I am appalled with the decisions being made to demolish the Lewis Park skate bowl for what I think is a ridiculous cost.

A new skate bowl was built in Knoxfield, for I would imagine also a huge cost. If deemed necessary for a new bowl in Knoxfield, why not just build that and leave the bowl at Lewis Park?



One of Erika Munton's two boys, Bailey, wrote this letter to the Leader.

With all the publicity and costs about child obesity, lack of exercise, too much time spent on the computer, etc, why not keep the two bowls for the children and teenagers to use. Over the holidays I have been so happy to have had our boys outside, making new friends, exercising and learning new skills.

I wonder if I am alone in thinking that this is the preferred way and the best way to be. Out rather than in.

I am troubled with the huge amount of money spent on so many varied things these days, surely we could put aside some local council funds to provide for more healthy activities for our children.

It also worries me that the teenagers in the local area shall lose a well used public amenity.

I am in my mid-40s and remember fondly all the riding around, outside activities that I was



Youths protesting outside Knox Council demanding the skate park stay.

able to enjoy growing up in Forest Hill. I hope, and hope you do, too, that Knox Council will listen to the public about this preposterous proposal to demolish the skate bowl.

Sue Harrington, Wantirna.

It's my second home

YES, the Lewis Park skate bowl should be revamped. It's my second home, everywhere I go everyone knows where the skate bowl is - even interstate and worldwide.

Knox Council should be proud of this (and) not want to demolish it. I love my skate bowl.

Gaelan Sudji, 12, Bayswater.

Just fix it up

I RIDE to the Lewis Park skate bowl in Knox

two to five times a week, and have been doing so for five years.

So demolishing it would be like demolishing mine and many other people's second homes.

The new skate park is not very good and will never be used by many of the local riders.

If the bowl was demolished, it would mean we would have to travel further to different skate facilities. I don't see why you would demolish it. It is still used and loved by a vast number of people and the demolition would cost as much or even more than it would to fix it up.

Tim Cook, Glen Waverley.

The world is watching

GOOD on you, Graeme Emonson, chief executive of Knox Council, for holding off the demolition of the Lewis Park skate park.

Looking at the whole picture, with the demolition of Lewis Park, I see long queues of kids waiting and a time limit for each user of Gilbert Park, what with the riders and skaters flocking in their hundreds from all over Melbourne, not to mention the world.

So Knox Council is keen to provide facilities that meet the growing population. It doesn't make sense to do away with Lewis Park and cram all and sundry into the one venue.

Garry McPherson, Bayswater.

Consult users

I THINK demolishing the Lewis Park skate bowl is a waste of money.

It still gets used a lot, it's better than the new skate park in terms of younger skaters and BMX riders to learn at.

Maybe Knox Council should consult the users about what should be done at the park, e.g. some new obstacles or something.

Or just leave it as it is at the moment, but have it cleaned up a bit regularly.

Lachlan Swanton, Ferntree Gully.