

Property giant seals \$102.5m deal

By Will Wright

A 56-HECTARE residential development site in Scoresby has sold for \$102.5 million.

Brickworks Limited, parent company of Austral Bricks, finalised the deal this week with property giant Mirvac after

extending the deadline from last Friday. The property, which is subject to rezoning approval expected later this month, will be settled in three stages by September.

Brickworks managing director Lindsay Partridge said he was pleased with the level of interest in the site and

the "excellent" result. The sale of the company's Scoresby property and other clay sites enabled it to commission a \$45 million plant at Wollert, in Melbourne's northern suburbs, he said.

Mirvac (Victoria) chief executive Greg Collins said the purchase was

"further proof of Mirvac's significant growth". "The recent success of our Waverley Park estate and the River Homes at Yarra's Edge, Docklands, are just two examples of the fact there is strong market acceptance of our integrated housing model."

CB Richard Ellis senior associate

director Justin Clarkson said negotiations about the future development of the land and social housing requirements had caused delays to closing the deal.

Austral Bricks will vacate the site by July, paving the way for residential development by early next year.

Skaters flip into action to save park

SKATERS are ramping up their campaign to save their beloved skate park.

The Save Knox Bowl group has organised a barbecue and entertainment at Lewis Park, Wantima South, this Sunday to gain more community support.

Organiser David Lalama said several businesses were supporting the event by providing giveaways and equipment.

The demolition of the facility was due to start this month, but the plan was postponed after Knox Council received a 573-signature petition opposing the move.

Mayor Jim Penna said the council had envisaged that Gilbert Park bowl in Knoxfield would replace the old skate park.

Last week, Liberal MP Chris Pearce showed his support for the group's cause by calling on Knox Council to reconsider its decision to decommission the Knox Bowl.

"A lot of people have signed our petition to save the facility," Mr Lalama said.

His aim was to get 5000 signatures. "Most of the people are local and lots of families with young kids are getting on board."

Boronia's BMX Mad owner, Karen Turner, said she supported the event because the skate park was "great for younger kids".

"The new park is awesome for advanced kids but the community would like to keep the old one there for the future up-and-comers."

She said the Save Knox Bowl petition was in her shop for people to sign.

Another Boronia business operator said he was in favour of keeping the park because "we need places for kids to run around and feel good, it makes a lot of sense".

The Save Knox Bowl family fun day starts at noon on Sunday. It is a free event. Details: www.myspace.com/saveknoxbowl



Remembering him: Femtree Gully MP Nick Wakeling, Chris Draper, Stegbar general manager Mark Hamilton and Ray Draper.

Picture: Rob Carew

Memorial match touching tribute to young cricket star

THE death of a 15-year-old cricketer and football player more than three years ago is still a "very emotional subject" for his family.

Daniel Draper was fit and strong on December 26, 2004, when he went with his father Ray and younger brother Chris to day one of a Boxing Day Test at the MCG.

The talented young sportsman's life was tragically cut short during a game of backyard cricket at their Rowville home

later that day. Daniel complained of a severe headache and then collapsed.

He was rushed to the Monash Medical Centre, where he was diagnosed with a brain aneurism. He died two days later.

A student at Brentwood Secondary College, Daniel played sub-district cricket for Endeavour Hills and was due to be vice-captain of the under-16 Femtree Gully and District Cricket Association team.

"It's been a traumatic 3½ years,"

Daniel's father, Ray Draper said.

Mr Draper said his son's death took the family by surprise.

"One minute he was running around big and strong, the next he collapsed on the floor."

The fourth annual Twenty20 Daniel Draper memorial cricket match will be held on Sunday, February 24, at Rowville's Seebeck Oval.

Mr Draper said the match was a special event when family and friends gathered

to pay tribute to his son, but it was also a tough time. "It's quite stressful leading into the game, there's a lot of emotion."

All funds raised from the day will go towards junior development at the Rowville football and cricket clubs.

Mr Draper said the memorial match raised \$7500 last year, and was hoping for a similar total this year.

■ The Daniel Draper memorial cricket match is from 1pm at Seebeck Oval, Stud Road, Rowville, February 24.