

# Knox Leader

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# BOWL SAVED



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Two months of intense rallying, lobbying and petitioning have saved a much-loved skate bowl, reports William Jackson.

# Council backs down

PEOPLE power has forced Knox Council to finally back down on plans to demolish the Lewis Park skate bowl.

Last Tuesday night councillors unanimously voted to save the bowl.

More than 50 people showed up at the council meeting, wearing "Save Knox Bowl" caps and bearing homemade placards.

The show of support came after two "fun day" rallies that drew hundreds of people and a petition with more than a thousand signatures.

A poignant plea to councillors came from Bayswater youngsters Jacob and Clarissa, who got up during public question time and asked that their bowl be spared.

Their father, Andrew Radisich, who helped design the bowl when he was 14 years old, was also in the crowd.

The fiery two-month long row stems back to January after the council unofficially endorsed plans to scrap the 20-year-old skate bowl once the new Gilbert Park skate

facility in Knoxfield was completed, to save about \$15,000 in maintenance costs.

At last week's meeting, councillors complimented the protesters on their mature and sensible approach.

Cr Adam Gill said the skate park was clearly being used and the council was listening to the community.

Cr David Cooper said the council got it wrong when it decided to demolish the skate bowl.

Cr Mick Van de Vreede said there was clearly strong passion to save the facility, and the protesters were a model for other community groups.

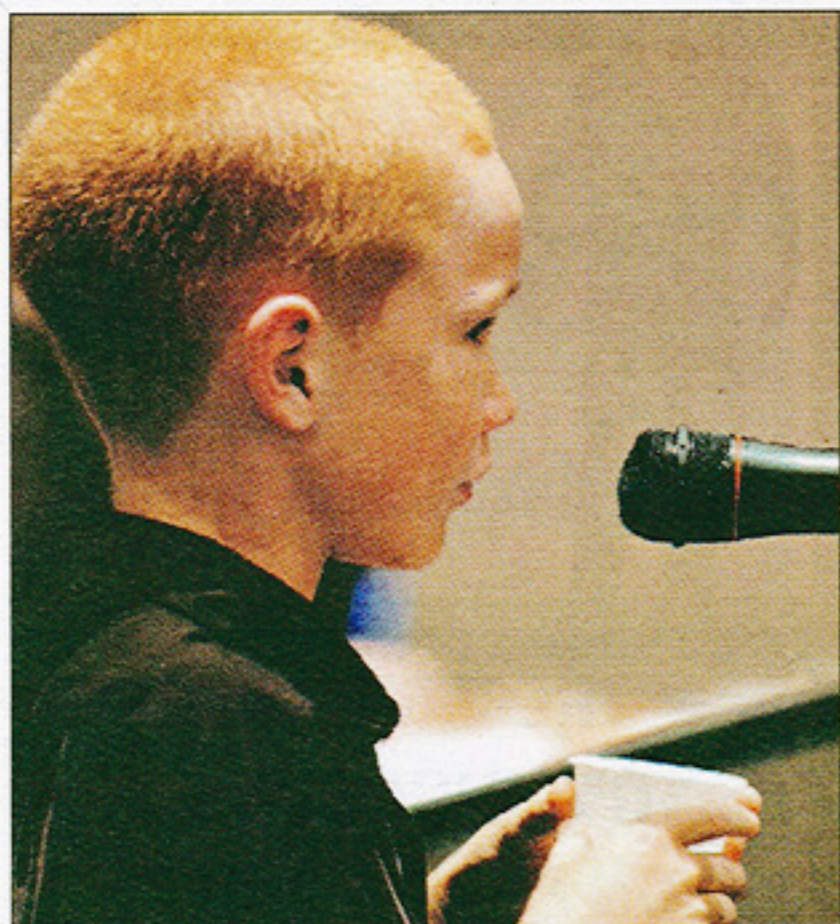
Mayor Jim Penna said he had been swayed to keep the bowl by the passionate lobbying from the bowl's supporters.

There was jubilation in the council chamber afterwards, with the packed gallery offering a standing ovation.

Save Knox Bowl organiser David Lalama said he was thrilled with the decision.



Bowl supporters wait outside the council chambers, gearing up for the big meeting inside. Picture: LAWRENCE PINDER N36KN305



Jacob addresses the meeting.



Terrence and Aidan do a double pogo before heading in to chambers.



Clarissa has her chance to speak.