

Skate fate



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Bumpy ride for Knox bowl

Michael Gleeson

THE future of the Lewis Park skate bowl is far from secure, despite Knox Council shelving plans back in February to demolish it.

The organiser of the Save Knox Bowl campaign, David Lalama, said he was delighted with the progress made since council voted to save the 20-year-old Wantirna South facility.

A committee – the Lewis Skate Park and BMX Facility Reference Group – has since been

formed, of which Mr Lalama and fellow skate bowl user Chris Josza are members.

But the historic bowl's long-term future will not be decided until the committee presents a report to council in March, 2010.

Mr Lalama said in the meantime he was anxious that skaters and riders continue to use the facility to prove to council that it needed to stay.

"That's what causing a bit of stress for me, because people don't realise it (that the site is still under review) and I say to them that there's a still a bit of

work to be done," Mr Lalama said.

People power, spear-headed by *Knox Leader*, saved the bowl in February after two petitions – with 573 and 1114 signatures respectively – were lodged with council.

Kerry Stubbings, council's director of community services, said the reference group was investigating the skate bowl's long-term viability and would present its findings in March, 2010.

"The group is charged with analysing how much the skate

park is used, its continuing running costs and its overall benefit to the community," Ms Stubbings said.

She said council's vision for the Knox Central precinct, of which Lewis Park is a part, could accommodate a skate bowl.

Mr Lalama said it would be a devastating blow to the community if the bowl didn't remain open beyond 2010.

» People interested in the history of the Lewis Park skate bowl should visit knoxbowl.com.

David Lalama at the Lewis Park skate bowl with Victorian champion rider, Gaelan, 13, from Bayswater.

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