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**Knox-Sherbrooke  
News**

A LEADER NEWSPAPER GROUP PUBLICATION



Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. V3F8363  
Phone 762 2511 Classified 875 8000

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1989

243 Dorset Rd, Boronia. 30 cents

# Deputy leaves in protest after chief engineer resigns Council in turmoil

By FIONA CAMERON

KNOX Council has been thrown into turmoil with the resignation of two senior engineers last December.

Mr Peter Hanning resigned as city engineer and deputy chief executive after 2½ years with the council to pursue a career in private enterprise.

He was followed by his deputy, Mr Robin Ladd, in protest at not being automatically promoted to the senior position.

Mr Ladd had worked with

Knox Council for 23 years. See his story on page 9.

Councillors had decided at a special meeting on December 13 to advertise Mr Hanning's position rather than instal Mr Ladd.

### A protest

Mr Ladd told the *Knox-Sherbrooke News* that he resigned the following morning in protest over this action.

He had already been overlooked for the position when for-

mer city engineer, Mr Bob Adams, retired in 1986 and Mr Hanning was offered the job.

Having been deputy engineer for 13 years and having assumed the role of acting city engineer on several occasions, Mr Ladd was confident he would get the job.

"When Mr Hanning left I wanted to immediately get on with the job of being city engineer," Mr Ladd said.

"However, the council decided to advertise the position, as is their right. I resigned in protest, as is my right."

It is believed that Mr Ladd's resignation led to at least two impromptu council meetings, including one at 7.30 am two days before Christmas.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that the meeting was a fiery one.

Mr Ladd's resignation also led to a strong show of support from the engineering department, with 60 staff signing a petition urging councillors to consider him for the city engineer's position and to reject his resignation.

The staff said "a better leader for the technical services depart-

ment would be hard to find".

Mr Ladd said he would not now apply for the position which was advertised last week.

In the interim, Mr Lloyd Arnott has been appointed acting city engineer. Mr Lance Brook is acting deputy engineer and Mr Graeme Emmerson is acting executive engineer.

With Knox chief executive Tim Neville and many Knox councillors still away on holidays, other senior council officers were reluctant to comment on the resignations.

## Barrassi gets his boots back

A PAIR of bronze-plated football boots, worn by Hawthorn's Dermott Brereton when he kicked eight goals in the 1985 VFL Grand Final, has been recovered by Ferntree Gully CIB detectives.

Detective Sergeant Arthur McCarthy said the boots, which had been mounted on a marble slab, had been bought by footballing great Ron Barrassi at an auction but had been stolen about 12 months ago.

He said the boots were found in the boot of a car at a house in Ferntree Gully which had been raided by three detectives from Kilmore.

A 23-year-old Kilmore man was charged with theft and handling stolen goods and has been bailed to appear at Prahran Court on March 7 this year.

Detective Sergeant McCarthy said a Kilmore woman would be charged on summons with similar offences.



SKATEBOARD riders gear up for fun on the new Knox skatepark.

## Riders on the mark

THE new Knox Skateboard Park has been given the thumbs up by local board riders.

"Some of the favorable comments made by enthusiasts included: 'It really is excellent to have a ramp so close to home,' and 'although it's an unusual design, all the local kids use it and it's become really popular.'"

Chris Josza, 15, said he no longer was forced to travel to other suburbs to ride his board.

"It's so handy for us local guys and it's becoming so popular that on Sundays the number of kids using the ramp can reach 100 or more," he said.

When asked if any of the teenagers competed in skateboarding as their chosen sport, Chris said: "Some of the guys are interested in competition, but most of us are just in it for the fun."

And the fun he was talking about is usually a few hair-raising stunts!

For a closer look at the city's new skateboard facility, see the story on Page 18.

## EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the Australia Day holiday Monday, January 30, the Knox News advertising and copy deadlines for the issue January 31 will be earlier than usual.

Display Advertising — 10 am Wed., January 25

Advertising Copy — 2 pm Wed., January 25

Trades and Classified — 24 hrs earlier than usual

■ AUSTRALIANS ON THE MOVE — Page 23 ■ SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES — Page 27 ■ CAREERS & COURSES — Page 59

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SHOWING his style on the board is Chris Josza, 15, one of the many children using the new Knox Skateboard Park.

## Skating's just tops at new Knox park

THE new skateboard park in Knox is open — and it's proving a winner with local devotees of the latest skateboard riding craze.

Even before construction was completed, hundreds of young skateboard riders were flocking to the park in the Lewis Rd Reserve, Knoxfield, adjacent to the Knox cycleway.

Unlike a number of other skateboard facilities around the metropolitan area, the Knox rink, which was installed at a cost of \$45,000, is made completely of concrete — and it is below ground level.

Other rinks feature above ground steel and timber ramps combined with concrete bowls.

According to the skatepark's manager, Mr Ian Stacey, the rink is much safer due to the fact that it is below ground level.

Mr Stacey also pointed out that council had safety in mind when it chose a location for the park.

"Being situated near the cycleway offers skateboard riders safe off-road access to the park," Mr Stacey said.

He did say, however, that skateboard riders had to be aware of the safety issues and that they should wear helmets, knee and elbow protectors while at the skateboard park.

Mr Stacey said he took the advice from young skateboard riders into consideration when he was formulating the designs for the skate park.

"The young riders impressed upon us that they wanted something different to previous facilities they had tried," he said.

"They wanted to be provided with a new challenge."

Mr Stacey said that even during construction, certain design elements were modified at the request of riders.

He added that the design was quite unique in that it incorporated ideas from interstate and overseas.