



Helping hand: Jan Newbound, Judi Geddes, Kay Hall and Carolyn with machines donated to people in Uganda.

Picture: Rob Carew

BMX and skate action rolls into Gilbert Park bowl

WORKSHOPS and competitions for skaters and BMX riders will be held at Knoxfield's Gilbert Park bowl in the lead-up to its official opening.

Knox councillor Debbie Field said the bowl was one of the best in the country and was keen for residents to become familiar with it.

"We're offering clinics for beginners heading out on their wheels for the first time.

"The futuristic design has made it a major attraction for people right across Melbourne, whether they are young people trying out their wheels for the first time or seasoned skaters and BMX riders still looking for a thrill."

Cr Field said thousands of skaters had used the bowl since construction finished in January, but landscaping and other works were yet to be completed.

Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs Minister James Merlino and councillors will officially open the skate park on April 5.

Activities will be held at the Gilbert Park bowl, Ferntree Gully Road, Knoxfield (Melway 73 C6). Skateboards and safety gear will be provided for all clinics. Bookings essential: simplyskateboarding@gmail.com

United by a global thread

By Danica Harris

A STITCH in time saves more than nine.

So far, the World Vision program has helped more than 15,000 people in developing countries with the donation of working sewing machines from Bayswater residents. Last year, more than 100 residents

traded in their old machines to Spotlight to help women and young people become financially independent.

Ambassador Janine Nutley said the program empowered people in the developing world.

"It teaches them the skills to make clothes and bags to become financially independent so that

they can begin building better lives."

World Vision Australia chief executive Tim Costello said the program was essential.

"They give people living in poor communities the opportunity to ensure that they will be able to provide for themselves, their families and their communities and therefore

break the cycle of poverty."

Bayswater Spotlight duty manager Chellie Gourlay said the program was part of Spotlight's commitment to improving the lives of individuals, their families and society.

"The community has really banded together to help with this program."

FREE THRILLS:

March 15: BMX and skateboard competition from 2pm

March 16: Free games of S-K-A-T-E from 2.30pm

March 26 and April 2: Learn to skateboard from 10.30am

March 29: BMX Mad demonstration from 2pm

March 20: Skate and BMX competitions from 1pm



Knox City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the City of Knox - the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation

Knox City Council HealthyAgeing Expo 2008
 Brought to you by Knox City Council and AGM Over 50's Association Knox Branch
free Saturday, 29 March 2008 - 10am to 3.30pm
 Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South



Councillor profile

Nine Ward Councillors are the local representatives for residents of Knox City Council. A series of short profiles of Councillors and their involvement in current, local issues will be provided progressively during the first half of 2008. Councillors for Friberg and Tirhatuan Wards are featured below.



Councillor Debbie Field Representing Friberg Ward

Centred on Rowville, Knoxfield and Ferntree Gully.

Being a Councillor means being a voice for a wide range of residents and community groups. One of the exciting developments coming up that will bring together Council and community in partnership will be the opening of the Gilbert Park Skate and BMX Park in April. Being a modern, regional facility, the site has already proven popular with local riders and skaters from across Melbourne. Council has invested time, resources and energy into making it a major long-term asset for our community. As a Ward Councillor and Chair of the Knox Skate and BMX Park Reference Group, it has been a pleasure to be a part of this major development and I look forward to residents, users and key supporters joining

together for the opening on Saturday 5 April.

M: 0438 072 823 **E:** debbie.field@knox.vic.gov.au



Councillor Mick Van de Vreede Representing Tirhatuan Ward

Centred on Scoresby and Rowville.

Of the many issues that affect and benefit local residents of Scoresby and Rowville, the development of Stamford Park is a particularly exciting one. As Ward Councillor, and Chair of the Stamford Park Steering Committee, it has been pleasing to witness the start of a major development in Rowville that will provide a vibrant, mixed-use community asset and jobs for local residents. At its heart, the Stamford Park historic home occupies an important part of the precinct being developed, having been built in 1883 by Frederick Row. The redevelopment of the historic house is getting closer with the sale of nearby land. More exciting features of development — including wetlands and a possible residential development — are now being envisioned, in consultation with the local community.

M: 0438 029 932 **VoiceMail:** 9298 8567 **E:** mick.vandevreede@knox.vic.gov.au

Correction: The latest edition of the Knox Council 'Tirhatuan' Ward Newsletter has Councillor Mick Van de Vreede's voicemail number incorrectly listed as a fax number. The correct voicemail number is 9298 8567.

Economic Development Strategy - information session

As part of Council's commitment to community consultation, an Economic Development Strategy information evening has been arranged for Wednesday, 26 March, Room 2 at the Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South between 6pm and 8pm. All interested parties are invited to call in at anytime during these hours. Council staff will be on hand to answer any questions.

Registration is not required.

For further information call Randal Harkin on 9298 8511 or e-mail randal.harkin@knox.vic.gov.au

Long Term Financial Strategy

Knox Council has re-confirmed its commitment to responsible financial management by revising its Long Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) for 2008-09 to 2012-13. Building on the 2007 version, the LTFS includes an increase in funding for capital works projects from \$15.7 million to \$21.6 over the next five years. An additional \$6 million in funding will be directed towards asset renewal as part of the draft strategy. The LTFS will also maintain Council's underlying operating surplus and provides a guide for future financial decisions. Copies are available at the Knox Civic Centre, 511, Burwood Hwy, Wantirna Sth or online at www.knox.vic.gov.au

National Youth Week Knox Youth Animation Project

Knox Youth Services is running a series of 'stop motion' animation workshops to create 4-5 short films, based around the themes in Council's Youth Charter. Participants will learn new skills, work in teams with new people, and receive copies of the compiled DVD.

Date: 1 April 3-6pm, 5 & 6 April and 12 April (weekend workshops from 10am-4pm). Availability on either the 5 or 6, but must be available on the other dates.

Venue: Youth Information Centre, 2 Capital Blvd., Wantirna Sth (next to Centrelink)

Bookings: Pip Smith on 9298 8858 or email pip.smith@knox.vic.gov.au

Effective Minutes & Motions

This workshop is designed to assist community groups to host successful meetings with effective minutes and motions. Our facilitator, Kaz, has worked in the community sector for over 20 years. Kaz will steer you through the roles and responsibilities of the Chairperson and Secretary and provide you with practical tools and tips on straightforward minute keeping.

Date: 19 March 2008 **Time:** 7pm to 9:30pm

Venue: Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna Sth

RSVP before: 17 March to Jen Blyth on 9298 8379 or email jen.blyth@knox.vic.gov.au