

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

10 December 2014

Skateboarders hit the decks at launch

School kids and skateboarders came out to hang with the Barkly Regional Council on Wednesday morning for the launch of a new skate park.

President Barb Shaw told the gathering of predominantly primary and high school children that she hoped they all enjoyed the skate park, which cost \$126,000, at Purkiss Reserve.

“It’s here for you to look after and enjoy. It’s all yours, so have fun and be safe,” she said.

Back in April 2013 six students from Tennant Creek High School wrote to the Barkly Regional Council expressing their concerns about the poor state of the old skate park and highlighting a few safety issues.

The students - Ayden Renfrey-Carroll, Jamarn Hampton, Luke Baldock and Chabascoe Bostock, Charles Walden (now at Canteen Creek) and Lachlan Hogan (now at Borroloola School) - conducted a survey, interviewing 107 students.

From the data collected, they found 25 students enjoy skating and do it often, only seven students used the old skate park and 58 would use a skate park if it was renovated.

Council worked closely with the school group, who were initially encouraged by teacher Clarence Jeanny to write the letter. Together they chose the design elements they wanted and the students displayed the final designs on the school bulletin board.

In November this year Sk8Scapes, of NSW, came to town to build the skate park and G.K. Contractors completed the finishing touches, welding and landscaping.

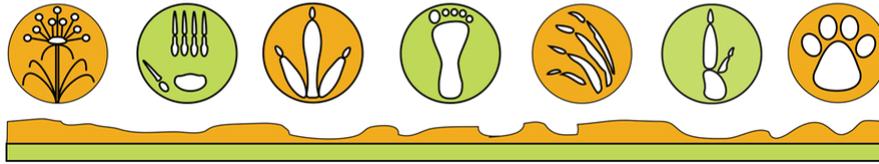
President Shaw said the skate park, funded by the NT Government’s Closing the Gap Grant, is a shining example of how young people can have a say about the community infrastructure that is provided for them.

“Council’s strategy is to listen to the community and get feedback and advice from groups and individuals on their specific area of interest or issue,” she said.

“On this occasion, the children of Tennant Creek wanted something, they went out and collected the data and presented it to council – and we listened.”

Afterwards, Primary School assistant teacher Joseph McCarthy, Bridgestone’s Lucas Fry and high school student Ayden Renfrey-Carroll showed onlookers how it’s done with some fancy footwork and rad moves.

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Break-out box:

Six skateboards to be won

Here's your chance to win a rad new skateboard. You've got the school holidays to come up with a graffiti design for the new skate park. Get a group together or do it on your own.

Drop off your design to council reception, 41 Peko Road, and mark your envelope Skate Park Graffiti Comp. Deadline is January 28, 2015.

Email Ktima Heathcote events@barkly.nt.gov.au for more info.

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