

MEDIA RELEASE

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More than 200 youth and residents from Paraburdoo and Tom Price celebrated the official opening of the redeveloped Skate Park in Tom Price on Saturday 27th October.

The launch kicked off with Skateboarding Australia coaches Ben Bowring, Quayde Baker, James Ahern and Luke Shalders teaching youth the moves in skateboarding clinics. Children of all levels and ages participated - for some it was their very first time on a skateboard.

The skatepark was designed by Convic who engaged professional skaters and landscape designers along with consultations with the local community to create a facility unique to Tom Price.



Steve Kassab, Convic General Manager said the park was designed to cater to all ages and skill levels with shallow elements for the younger or beginners to the deeper mini-ramps and cantilever banks for the more advanced.

“The park has also been designed to work with the natural landscape so that it’s an integrated space working within the trees, orientating the park to the sun, having visible elements from the road and sidelines and maximizing the views for visibility, safety and security,” said Mr Kassab.

“The launch has been a good opportunity for families and parents to see that skate parks offer many benefits rather than the stereotype of breeding anti-social behavior. Kids can come and have fun, enjoy themselves and it is safe. It also gives the kids a chance to be active.”

The facility is now regarded as one of the best Skate Parks in WA by Skateboarding Australia.



Besides improving physical fitness, mental alertness, balance and coordination, skate parks offer opportunity for youth to develop important social values.

Recent studies reveal that skate parks facilitate the development of social skills, including cooperation, communication, acceptance, tolerance and patience. It also helps to build self-esteem and confidence which transfers to other areas of an individual's life.*

“You can see that the older skaters who are using the facility coaching the younger ones and they learn respect,” said Mr Kassab. “They will wait for somebody to finish their rolling and will have a natural courtesy for other skaters. This also allows them to learn to manage their own risk as they progress.”

The launch was a huge success, expertly organised by Melissa May from the Shire of Ashburton and her band of volunteers.

Cr Cecilia Fernandez officially opened the Tom Price Skate Park, followed by a scrumptious barbecue lunch for all to enjoy. The facility was proudly funded by Lotterywest, Rio Tinto and the Shire of Ashburton.

* Sourced from Griffith University, 'Skaters' Paradise? A study of gold coast City Skate parks and Their Users, July 2008' http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/documents/bf/skate_park_report_290908.pdf

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