

the guardian



Motueka, Tasman & Golden Bay

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Hard work pays off for enterprising BMXers

by Sue Clark

A group of BMX enthusiasts have shown that if you want something enough you can achieve it with hard work.

But the young men now need some help - in the unusual form of more clay - to complete a widely usable community asset.

On weekends, after work, and at any other time they can make it, this group of Motueka young men can be seen working away at the Skate Park using just a few shovels brought from home.

The BMX jumps were in need of a facelift and these guys decided to get stuck in and do the rebuilding themselves. What they've achieved with their shovels - and on their bikes over the jumps - is nothing short of exceptional and their enthusiasm is catching.

However, they have now run out of clay to form more obstacles. Their intention is to invite competitors to the area and to do this they need to make their jumps course interesting and to a national standard.

"We do all the building work ourselves and we maintain our own bikes, buying the parts from overseas because they are too dear for our local bike shops to hold in stock," says Ryan Lightfoot.

They have a number of small requests to the Council. They would like a picnic table so they can sit and take a break from their building.

They also need a rubbish bin so they can clear up the glass bottles and litter around their jump area before they do their training

jumps. They request people not to leave broken glass around the jumps - it can be very dangerous for the riders and expensive if their bikes get damaged.

The lads believe that a sign is necessary warning people and their young children that it really isn't the place for a stroll.

Kathy Tohill from the Tasman District Council is organising a public meeting on 18th August to discuss the Skate Board Park facilities. She says she is full of admiration for the hard work this group of enthusiasts has put in so far to improve the BMX area at the Skate Park.

The BMXers say they would really appreciate any donations of clay or fill from anyone wanting to get rid of a load.



Initiative and hard work: Sam Andrews, Cody Treanor, Lee Nuttall, Aidan Limmer, Casey Scott, Daniel Robinson and Ryan Lightfoot want to host competitions at the BMX site they are constructing. Pictured below left, Ryan shows how it's done, using one of the clay ramps as a launching platform.



Last days to see photo exhibition

If you haven't yet seen the 2010 Photographic Exhibition, you have just a few days left to visit the Motueka Museum for a viewing.

The exhibits will be taken down from the museum walls and from Muses Cafe made space available for the longer period.

Exhibitors will be able to pick up their photos from Westrupp Jewellers from Tuesday August 3rd.

Another exhibition in 2011 will depend, as usual, on financial and volunteer support for the event.

One thing is certain, however; there are many enthusiastic and skilled photographers in the region to do several such exhibitions.

If you are suspicious of this claim, just go along and view the evidence for yourself.

Their staging of the exhibition has been a great asset to Motueka.

As part of the successful week-long Festival of Lights held in June, the museum and Muses Cafe made space available for the longer period.

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