

# Grind for new park

By CLAYTON BENNETT

YOUTH from Darwin and surrounds are looking for a city skate park to be built.

Currently there are four existing skate parks across the Top End; Palmerston, Leanyer, Jingili and Humpty Doo.

But skaters young and old are demanding something be built close to the Darwin CBD.

"It can take two buses to get to the northern suburbs, to Leanyer," local skater Steve Hoare said.

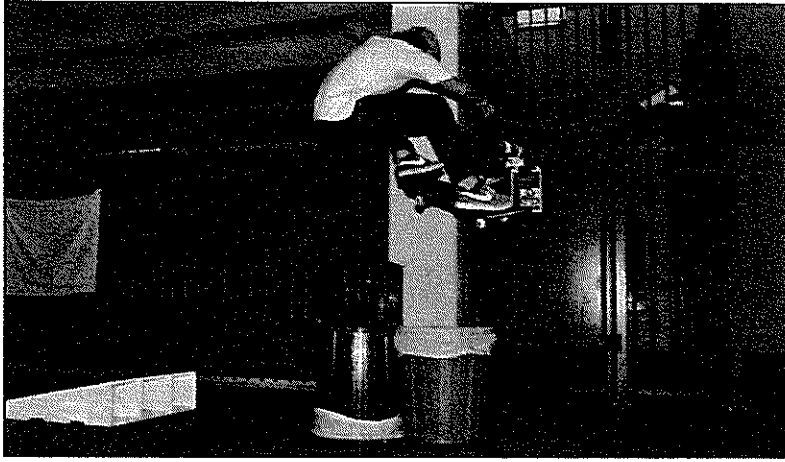
"Having a skate park in the city would be more convenient."

Hoare, who has been skate boarding for six years, is among a growing number of skaters who have said a skate park in the city would benefit many.

Greater access to food and drink facilities, as well as removing the need for parents or friends to drive them to the park have been listed as reasons.

The new park would also benefit nearby businesses who would see an increase in trade.

"Anything in the city radius would be good," said Hoare. "There is a good spot near the city bus depot across from the city council, or at the waterfront."



Local skaters are looking to have a skate park built in the city

Darwin City Council Mayor Graeme Sawyer said he was "quite happy" to have a recreational facility, such as a skate park, in the city.

"We just need to find the best place to put it," he said.

Mr Sawyer said it was simply a matter of getting a conversation started between council and local skaters.

Mr Hoare said space is the issue. "As long as (the location) has space," he said. "Leanyer has no space, it is very compact, when you have seven or eight skaters there, they run into each other."

Fellow skater Xavier Haines, who has been skateboarding for 16 years, said the idea of a skate park in the city was "a good thing", but he had seen it

mentioned before with no result.

Both skaters said the parks were not a place where violence or vandalism occurred.

"It's actually a good place for kids to get away from the computer, to get off the couch and do something enjoyable," Mr Hoare said.

He said parties where anti-social behaviour, such as underage drinking and drugs, are more likely to occur.

Haines added most skate parks in the Darwin region have legal graffiti walls and this cuts down on damage to property.

Mr Sawyer agreed and said a skate park would help divert attention from destructive behaviour to something positive.

"It's better that kids be at a skate park than roaming the streets," he said.

Skaters who wish to discuss the idea of a skate park are encouraged to arrange a meeting.

"Ring up and organise to come in and have a talk," Mr Sawyer said.

The next step is for skaters to make their voice heard.

To contact Graeme Sawyer, phone 8930 0517.

## Construction on new school starts

NEMARLUK school has started construction on its new site next to Alawa Primary school.

The \$11.37m project is expected to be completed by 2012. Education Minister Chris Burns said local company PTM will build the school.

The new school will include 14 classrooms, a hydro-therapy pool, gymnasium, after-school care and administration facilities.

## Call for locals with real vision

WORLD Vision is appealing for volunteers in Darwin next month.

The organisation needs local people from July 13 to 23 who are "passionate about ending global poverty".

Its ideal volunteers will have diplomacy, self-motivation, high energy levels, strong communication and negotiation skills and a commitment to World Vision values and philosophy.

Some experience in face-to-face customer service or sales experience is desirable but not essential as full training is provided.

To apply, send a copy of your resume with a short covering letter to Anita Ciccarelli at [volnt@worldvision.com.au](mailto:volnt@worldvision.com.au) by 5pm on June 17.

# Morgan's on a charity mission

By FERGUS McEWAN

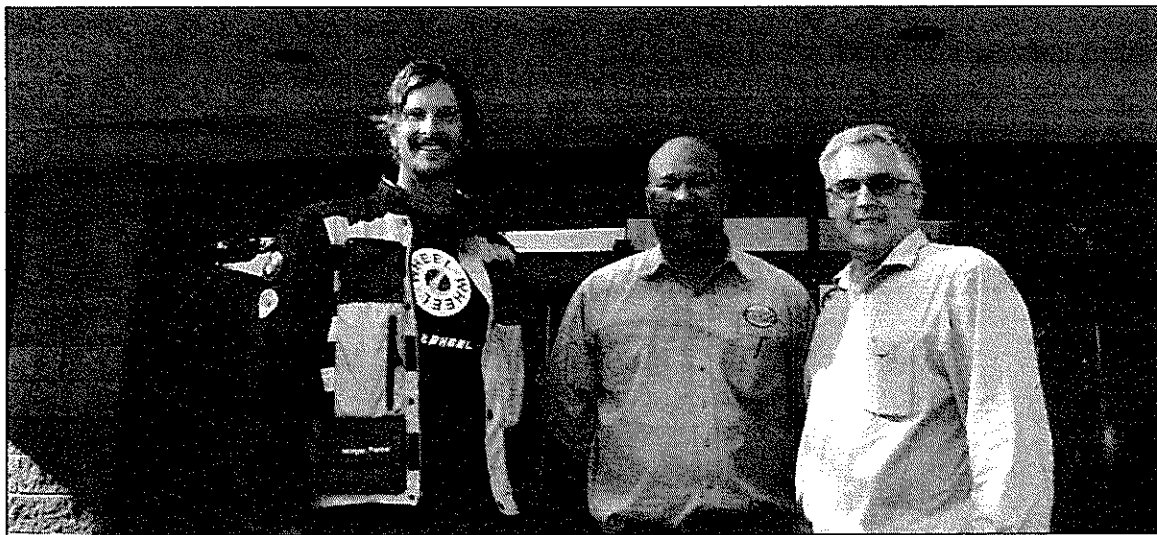
A DARWIN charity has featured in a philanthropist's epic mission to raise the profile of good causes across Australasia.

Prominent Hong Kong-based businessman Morgan Parker, originally from Brisbane, stopped here this week on the last leg of his Wheel2Wheel 20,000km solo motorcycle ride between the two cities.

Mr Parker, who has filmed visits to 10 charities in 10 countries for a television series about his journey, chose local organisation NAILSMA (North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance) to represent Australia. He spent two years preparing for the trip, originally inspired by actor Ewan McGregor's televised motorcycle world tour *Long Way Round*.

His team carried out exhaustive research to find one small charity tackling a pressing national issue in each country he visited, namely Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, East Timor and Australia.

Wheel2Wheel already has 40,000 online followers and has raised US\$200,000 in donations, although the team's target is to hit US\$1 million. The show will be broadcast to 40 million homes across Asia.



Philanthropist Morgan Parker (left) meets Darwin Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer (right) and Joe Morrison of Darwin-based NAILSMA, one of 10 charities to feature in his Wheel2Wheel motorcycle tour of Australasia

"A lot of people in Asia don't know anything about indigenous Australians, which is why we thought NAILSMA had a particularly important story to be told," Mr Parker said.

"This is a chance to show our audience the vast environmental knowledge held by the oldest civilisation on the planet, which has lived in harmony with nature for

thousands of years. One of the big themes on this trip has been environmental issues.

"We realised that indigenous Australians have a much more intimate relationship with the land and sea, and that NAILSMA has been doing a fantastic job of supporting that."

At a reception for Mr Parker on Monday, Darwin's Lord Mayor Graeme

Sawyer described the journey as a "great example of human endeavour" and NAILSMA as an "incredibly worthy organisation".

"It's very humbling to receive this level of recognition and we're looking forward to working with Morgan to share this unique story," NAILSMA chief executive Joe Morrison said.

## Retail giant unveils new-look store

COLES will unveil its multi-million dollar renovation, delivering a new market-style shopping experience to Palmerston residents tomorrow.

The new-look store, situated in the Palmerston Shopping Centre, features a range of innovative offerings, including an open bakery, baking fresh bread daily, an in-store butcher slicing meat on request, and an extended fresh produce section with fruit and vegetables displayed on ice for maximum freshness.

More than 20 new positions were created to help service the new store offerings, adding to the store's existing 196 staff.

## Inpex project closer

THE INPEX gas project proposed for Darwin is much closer to reality after getting the green light from Australian officials.

The project, to pipe gas from the offshore Ichthys field to a processing plant in Darwin, has received Major Project Facilitation (MPF) status from the Federal Government.

Meanwhile, the NT and WA governments have granted crucial pipeline licences for the scheme.

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