Skate bowl clash heats up

Cathy Withiel

FEDERAL MP Chris Pearce is vowing to lobby Knox Council to stand up for his constituents in their fight to retain the Lewis Park skate bowl.

The Aston MP said Mayor Jim Penna told him to butt out of council issues and that he (Cr Penna) would not provide him with the information he sought about the skate bowl.

But Cr Penna told the Knox Leader the Liberal MP's version of the conversation was incorrect.

Cr Penna said he sent letters 10 days ago to both federal and state MPs outlining council's move to revisit, at its February 26 meeting, decision earlier decommission the skate bowl.

This followed a 573-signature petition by the community to save the skate bowl, tabled at a recent council meeting.

Mr Pearce said he sent a letter to the mayor asking the council to decision justify its decommission the popular site.

Mr Pearce said Cr Penna then telephoned him with a conversation that left him "shocked".

"He (Cr Penna) told me it was not my role to represent my constitumation to my request."

Mr Pearce said he would always same courtesy. act on his constituents' concerns and would not be "intimidated" by sion of their telephone converthe mayor.

The MP told the Leader that the



Skaters and BMX riders staged a rally recently to save the skate bowl at Lewis Park in Wantirna South.

council lobbied both state and council was not accountable to a issue after the February 26 council ents on this issue and would not federal MPs on a wide number of provide any meaningful infor- issues on behalf of their ratepayers, and that he expected the

sation was incorrect.

Federal member for local govern- meeting. ment responsibilities.

Cr Penna said Mr Pearce's ver- lobbied MPs over funding issues.

He said he told Mr Pearce that the MPs to fully update them on the \$20,000 and \$25,000 if retained.

■ The cost of decommissioning the Cr Penna said that the council, at Lewis Park facility is expected to the request of ratepayers, had cost between \$20,000 to \$25,000. It's annual maintenance cost is Cr Penna said he told Mr Pearce \$15,000-\$20,000. It will need immedithat he would send a letter to the ate improvements of between

BRIEFLY

Prize for write love

CALLING all romantics. Knox shopping centre and Knox Leader are running a competition to find our city's most romantic two couples. Knox shopping centre, which has the biggest footprint in Australia, will be giving the two winners gift vouchers of \$200 to splurge on whatever their hearts desire at the popular shopping centre. That's \$200 for each couple to celebrate their love. Send in the story of how you met and we'll choose the two most heart-warming tales. Winners will need to have their photograph and story published, and all those entering - whether they win or not - must also be prepared to have their letters published. Email your entry by 5pm on Tuesday, February 12, to knox@leadernews papers.com.au.

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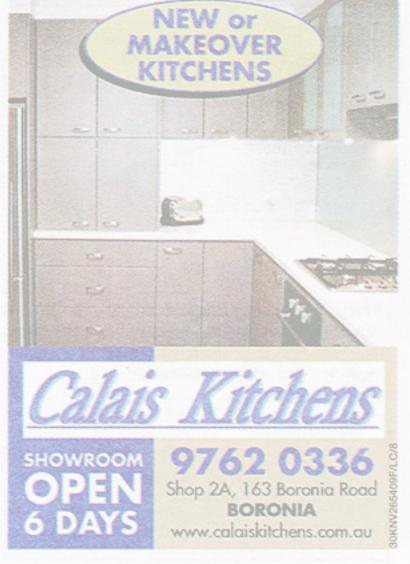














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