



**MANNING**

# Skate parks do more good than harm

## REPORT FINDS NEGATIVE IMAGE UNFOUNDED

**Susanne Reilly**

RESEARCHERS from the University of WA have found skate parks are more likely to promote good behaviour than bad.

The researchers' community survey found that young people co-operate, learn from, teach, help and respect others, socialise with friends and take turns more often than they engage in anti-social behaviour at skate parks.

The experience at the Manning Skate Park, at the back of George Burnett Leisure centre, seems to bear out this research.

The City of South Perth said it had not received any formal complaints about anti-social behaviour at the park recently nor were they aware of anti-social behaviour occurring.

The researchers write that despite its popularity, skateboarding often suffers neg-

ative associations and there has been far less attention given to the positive pro-social behaviours that go on at skate parks.

"Yet skate parks are in fact a powerful setting in which young people can learn the arts of co-operation, negotiation and compromise informally, in contrast to via the structured rules of organised sports," lead author Associate Professor Lisa Wood said.

"The Manning Skate Park is central to the local community and brings many benefits to the area. It provides a venue for young people to hang out, exercise and catch up with friends. Significantly, the Manning Skate Park is used as a venue for state and national competitions and is part of Skateboarding Australia's community hub program," City of South Perth Mayor Sue Doherty said.

The park has floodlights and is monitored by CCTV cameras.