



## Wundowie Students Jump on Board

With planning well underway for the extension of the Wundowie Skate Park, there was no shortage of enthusiasm from the Wundowie Primary School students to jump on a skateboard and learn the basics of skateboarding. The sessions, delivered by Skateboarding Australia (SBA) and coordinated in liaison with the Shire of Northam, were held during school hours to provide all students from Years 1 to 7 the opportunity to try the sport.

All equipment was provided by SBA, and once all the helmets were securely fastened the students were encouraged and guided by two trained coaches. While for some students it was not the first time on a board, for many this was their first attempt at skating, with the majority learning very quickly.

Skateboarding is a great activity for the physical and social development of young people, and recent research by the University of Western Australia suggests that skateparks are the ideal setting for young people to learn the art of cooperation, negotiation

and compromise. And learning early means skills are developed quickly; despite some parental concerns about their children's safety, skateboarding results in less injuries than many traditional sports such as football and rugby.

The Clinic at the Wundowie School also provided the students the opportunity to discuss the plans for the Wundowie Skate Park with the experienced coaches. The students later had the opportunity to complete a survey and comment on the plans. The feedback from the children and the wider community about the skatepark plans, which have been made available on the Shire website and the Wundowie Post Officer, have been extremely positive with the children unanimous in their opinion that the facility will be extremely well utilised.

