

Skate Park ramps up



ATTENDING the pouring of the concrete slab at the Gunnedah Skate Park from left, Community Fund Advisory Committee Member, Brett Reynolds, Gunnedah Shire Council General Manager, Robert Campbell, Gunnedah Skate Park Committee Members, Sam Turner and Leonie Walsh, Gunnedah Mayor, Adam Marshall and Shenhua Communications Manager, Melanie Layton.

AFTER almost three years in the planning, the Gunnedah Skate Park refurbishment is finally underway.

Workers began pouring the concrete this morning. This will eventually join a selection of new ramps to existing,

refurbished ramps as part of the long-awaited upgrade. Bubblers will also be installed.

Shenhua Watermark Communications Manager, Melanie Layton explained Gunnedah Skate Park had received \$55,000 in 2010 from the community fund and today marks the pouring of the concrete slab.

Ms Layton said it is a great initiative to benefit the youth of the Gunnedah community.

"It is creating a safe place to meet for youth – the ramps are broken and in not great condition, so the funding will benefit this facility immensely," Ms Layton said.

"It is also part of a bigger council initiative to get people physical and outside and a way to attract families – that is the bigger picture, to attract families and facilities to our town."

Gunnedah Shire Council General Manager, Robert Campbell said council is contributing to the upgrades by organising the slab, co-ordination of form work, and the extension of the water for the bubbler systems.

Gunnedah Skate Park Committee members, Sam Turner and Leonie Walsh were on site to

witness the pouring of the concrete.

"It is fantastic to see this finally happen, my children came to me years ago and asked what can we do to upgrade the skate park and now we are at that stage," Leonie Walsh said.

"Kids need something to keep off the streets and these upgrades will provide a safe area for them."

Sam Turner said eventually they would like to run a skate night to entertain the youth of the community and make good use of the facility.

"We have Tim Woods designing the ramps, who is fairly well known and will be able to bring good riders to town, including our own Billy Jolliffe," Mr Turner said.

"Boral has quoted a really good price on the concrete to assist with the costs and council's help with manpower and the water is fantastic – it is great to see it all underway."

Gunnedah Mayor Adam Marshall said he believes these are the first improvements to the skate park since 2005-2006 and it will be wonderful to see the benefits.