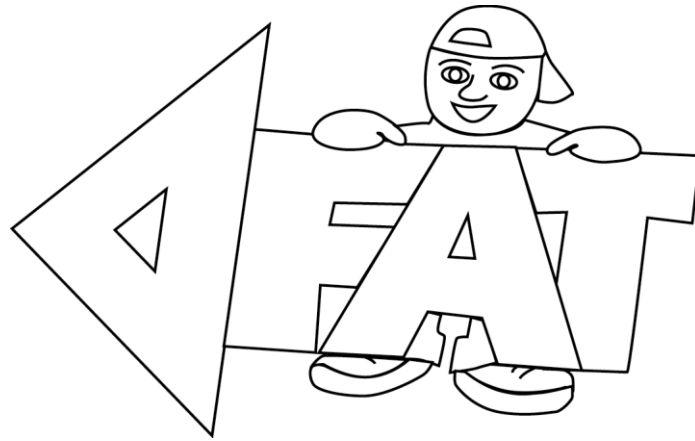


Skate Survey



Prepared by the Skate Rules Review working group
of the Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team (D'FAT)
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Summary of Findings

- The survey found that a majority of people ‘do not’ skate.

It was perceived that people who skate ‘do’ use their skateboards on roads or footpaths (as transport) instead of using their skateboard on skate ramps/parks (as recreation).

- It was felt that ‘give way to pedestrians’ is a rule that applies when skating and a person can ‘never’ skate on the road or footpath.
- The survey found that a majority of people ‘do’ know that there are areas called no-go zones where skating is not allowed.

It was perceived that the Central Business District (CBD) area is a well known no-go zone within New Norfolk and the no-go zones are equally ‘not’ properly promoted or marked by signs.

- A signage audit to be conducted on the no-go zones within New Norfolk was perceived as a need.
- It was felt that ‘fines and confiscation of property (skateboards etc)’ is a well known penalty that applies if a person skates in a no-go zone.
- It was felt that no-go zones should be declared where there is a ‘high amount of pedestrians’.

It was perceived that no-go zones should apply ‘all day’. But it was also suggested that no-go zones should apply during ‘certain timeframes’, such as 10.00 AM until 6.00 PM.

- It was felt that the general skate rules and no-go zones have a ‘low amount of enforcement’.
- It was felt that people who skate ‘can’ cause problems.

It was perceived that only a minority of skaters create ‘problems’ and increased respect is needed for people who skate.

- It was agreed that ‘skaters should be made to wear helmets/protective gear’ and ‘it’s good that skaters are out getting exercise’.

It was perceived that people are neutral or don’t know if ‘skaters often commit anti-social behaviour’.

- It was disagreed that ‘skating should be allowed on the footpaths’ and ‘skating on the footpath up the main street is OK’.
- Increased promotion of no-go zones and skate rules was perceived as a need.

What are No-go Zones?

On July 1st 2001, the new Australian Road Rules relating to wheeling recreation devices and footpath cycling was introduced. These laws allowed a Council to declare 'no-go zones'.

Wheeled recreation devices are defined as in-line skates, roller skates, skateboards, unicycles, scooters or other similar devices.

Users of wheeled recreation devices are able to use the left side of roads and footpaths, with the exception of;

- Where traffic control devices are installed (such as 'no-go zones')
- On roads with continuous or broken separation lines
- On roads with marked lanes for traffic going in the same direction
- Between sunset and sunrise
- On bicycle lanes
- If the user is under 12 years old
- On roads which have a speed limit higher than 60 kilometres per hour

Bicycle users are also prohibited from using footpaths where traffic control devices are installed (such as 'no-go zones'). However bicycle users are able to use the left side of roads at all times, but must abide to all road rules that apply to motorists.

Users of wheeled recreation devices and bicycle users must ride with due care and attention and give way to pedestrians. Users of wheeled recreation devices and bicycle users must also wear helmets/protective gear.

On June 20th 2002, Derwent Valley Council declared 'no-go zones' within the New Norfolk township after submissions from community groups and individuals within the Derwent Valley Municipality were received and former Councillor Shoobridge had nominated some 'no-go zones'.

Eight (8) submissions were received from community groups and individuals, these submissions were from;

- Rebekah Lodge New Norfolk
- New Norfolk District Hospital Auxiliary
- New Norfolk Red Cross
- Friends of Community Health Inc.
- Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team (D'FAT)
- Dane Cowley
- Grady Cowley
- Natasa Milenovic

Former Councillor Shoobridge was delegated this task of nominating 'no-go zones' on 19th July 2001.

These no-go zones were;

- High street from Circle street up to but not including Stephen Street, and adjoining side streets (all Charles Street, Burnett Street from Pioneer Avenue to George Street)
- Pathway through Arthur Square
- All car parks
- Within 50 metres of any church
- Within 100 metres of the New Norfolk District Hospital or Corumbene Nursing Home

These no-go zones came into effect on August 22nd 2002 after a media release was conducted in The Gazette and signage was erected.

New Norfolk Police was also advised of the 'no-go zones' in order to allow policing of these areas.

Tasmanian Police are able to issue 'on-the-spot fines' and confiscate wheeled recreation devices and bicycles for up to 7 days.

A Derwent Valley Municipality Profile of No-go Zones

According to Tasmanian Police:

According to New Norfolk Police there has been 'no on-the-spot fines and/or confiscation of wheeled recreation devices and bicycles' since 2003.

How this Research was Conducted

This research was undertaken during 2005 by the Skate Rules Review working group of the Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team (D’FAT) to review the no-go zones and skate rules within New Norfolk.

The Research method

Survey

A survey was developed through consultation with users of the Ellis Dean Reserve Skate Park. The survey was distributed to specifically targeted community groups, schools and service providers (see ‘where they are from’). A total of 169 surveys were returned complete, which is 1.8% of the population of the Derwent Valley Municipality.

Where they are from

	No.	%*
New Norfolk High School	130	76.9%
Derwent Valley Council (consists of GM, DGM and staff)	16	9.5%
Derwent Valley Regional Arts	3	1.8%
Derwent Valley Chamber of Commerce & Industry	1	0.6%
Lions Club of New Norfolk (consists of Board of Directors)	10	5.8%
Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team (D’FAT)	6	3.6%
Valley Vision (Derwent Valley Economic Renewal Group Inc.) (consists of EDO, Project Administrator and Chair- Person)	3	1.8%
	Total	
	169	

*Percentages based on the total number.

Where they live

	No.	%*
Within New Norfolk	120	71%
Less than 10km away	25	14.8%
More than 10km away	24	14.2%
	Total	
	169	

*Percentages based on the total number.

Age groups represented

	No.	%*
0 - 12	26	15.4%
13 - 17	109	64.4%
18 - 25	3	1.8%
26 - 39	6	3.6%
40 - 59	23	13.6%
60+	2	1.2%
	Total	
	169	

*Percentages based on the total number.

Gender represented

	No.	%*
Male	92	54.4%
Female	77	45.6%
	Total	
	169	

*Percentages based on the total number.

Why this Research was Conducted

The aim of this research was to work in consultation with individuals and groups within the New Norfolk township to:

- Determine the knowledge of no-go zones and skate rules
- Identify attitudes towards skating

Skate Survey

General

Question: Do you Skate?

	No.	%*
Yes	46	28.4
No	116	71.6%
	Total	
	162	

*Percentages based on the total number of responses to this question.

Interpretation of responses

It was identified that the participants in this survey do not 'skate', with 71.6% of the responses indicating this.

Question: Do you use your skateboard on skate ramps/parks (as recreation)?

	No.	%*
Yes	21	45.7%
No	25	54.3%
	Total	
	46	

*Percentages based on the total number of responses to this question.

Interpretation of responses

It was identified that the participants in this survey (who 'skates') 'do not' use their skateboards on skate ramps/parks (as recreation), with 54.3% of the responses indicating this.

Question: Do you use your skateboard on the road or footpath (as transport)?

	No.	%*
Yes	25	54.3%
No	21	45.7%
	Total	
	46	

*Percentages based on the total number of responses to this question.

Interpretation of responses

It was identified that the participants in this survey (who 'skates') 'do' use their skateboards on roads or footpaths (as transport), with 54.3% of the responses indicating this.

Knowledge of Skate Rules

Question: When Skating, which of these rules apply?

▪ Give way to pedestrians	▪ Stay under 20kph
▪ Skate with due care and attention (with regards to your surroundings)	▪ Pay damages and medical expenses of people or vehicles you run into
▪ Signal when turning	▪ Walk when pedestrians are present
▪ Wear a helmet	

The rules that were identified out of the list of seven

Rules	No.
*Give way to pedestrians	132
Stay under 20kph	47
*Skate with due care and attention (with regards to your surroundings)	108
Pay damages and medical expenses of people or vehicles you run into	63
Signal when turning	52
Walk when pedestrians are present	62
*Wear a helmet	120

*The correct skate rules.

Interpretation of responses

It was strongly felt by the participants in this survey that 'give way to pedestrians' is a rule that applies when skating.

Question: Are you allowed to skate on the footpath?

▪ Never	▪ Outside business hours
▪ Daytime only	▪ Anytime
▪ On the left side only	▪ Only where there is a special lane
▪ Only if you're older than 11	

The rules regarding the footpath that were identified out of the list of seven

Rules regarding the footpath	No.
Never	52
Outside business hours	9
*Daytime only	25
Anytime	47
*On the left side only	17
Only where there is a special lane	22
*Only if you're older than 11	7

*The correct skate rules.

Interpretation of responses

It was felt by the participants in this survey that a person can 'never' skate on the footpath.

Question: Are you allowed to skate on the road?

▪ Never	▪ Outside business hours
▪ Daytime only	▪ Anytime
▪ On the left side only	▪ Only where there is a special lane
▪ Only if you're older than 11	▪ Where there is no centre line
▪ Where there is a speed limit lower than 60kph	

The rules regarding the road that were identified out of the list of nine

Rules regarding the road	No.
Never	83
Outside business hours	4
*Daytime only	20
Anytime	20
*On the left side only	16
Only where there is a special lane	17
*Only if you're older than 11	6
*Where there is no centre line	4
*Where there is a speed limit lower than 60kph	16

*The correct skate rules.

Interpretation of responses

It was felt by the participants in this survey that a person can ‘never’ skate on the road.

Question: Did you know that there are areas called no-go zones where skating is not allowed?

	No.	%*
Yes	88	65.2%
No	47	34.8%
	Total	
	135	

*Percentages based on the total number of responses to this question.

Interpretation of responses

It was identified that the participants in this survey ‘do’ know that there are areas called no-go zones where skating is not allowed, with 65.2% of the responses indicating this.

Question: Which areas around New Norfolk do you know of, that are no-go zones?

Interpretation of responses

Central Business District (CBD) area

It was felt that the ‘CBD area’ is a well known no-go zone within New Norfolk.

Question: Do you think the zones are properly promoted?

	No.	%*
Yes	35	30.4%
No	80	69.6%
	Total	
	115	

*Percentages based on the total number of responses to this question.

Interpretation of responses

It was felt by the participants in this survey that the zones are ‘not’ properly promoted, with 69.6% of the responses indicating this.

Comments;

Interpretation of responses

Increased promotion

It was felt that ‘increased promotion’ of no-go zones and skate rules is needed.

Question: Do you think the zones are properly marked by signs?

	No.	%*
Yes	39	32.2%
No	82	67.8%
	Total	
	121	

*Percentages based on the total number of responses to this question.

Interpretation of responses

It was felt by the participants in this survey that the zones are ‘not’ properly marked with signs, with 67.8% of the responses indicating this.

Comments;

Interpretation of responses

Signage audit

It was suggested that a signage audit should be conducted on the no-go zones within New Norfolk.

Question: What penalties do you know of that can apply if someone skates in a no-go zone?

Interpretation of responses

Fines and confiscation of property

It was felt that ‘fines and confiscation of property (skateboards etc)’ is a well known penalty that applies if a person skates in a no-go zone.

Question: Where should no-go zones be declared?

Interpretation of responses

High pedestrian areas

It was felt that no-go zones should be declared where there is a ‘high amount of pedestrians’.

Question: Should no-go zones apply all-day or only during certain times?

Interpretation of responses

All-day

It was felt that no-go zones should apply 'all-day'.

Certain timeframes

It was felt that no-go zones should apply during 'certain timeframes'. A suggested timeframe was 10.00 AM until 6.00 PM.

Question: How well do you think general skate rules are enforced?

Interpretation of responses

Low enforcement

It was felt that there is a 'low amount of enforcement of general skate rules'.

Question: How well do you think no-go zones are enforced?

Interpretation of responses

Low enforcement

It was felt that there is a 'low amount of enforcement of no-go zones'.

Question: Do you think people who skate cause problems?

	No.	%*
Yes	54	51.9%
No	50	48.1%
	Total	
	104	

*Percentages based on the total number of responses to this question.

Interpretation of responses

It was felt by the participants in this survey that people who skate 'can' cause problems, with 51.9% of the responses indicating this.

Comments;

Interpretation of responses

Minority

It was felt that only a minority of skaters create problems and this depicts a negative image of skaters.

Increased respect

It was also suggested that increased respect is needed for people who skate, as 'problems' only occur when people feel that they are not valued.

Attitudes towards skating

Question: Which attitudes towards skating do you agree to?

▪ Skating on the footpath is dangerous for pedestrians	▪ Skating should be allowed on the footpaths
▪ It's good that skaters are out getting exercise	▪ Skaters should be made to wear helmets/protective gear
▪ Skaters often commit anti-social behaviour	▪ Skating on the footpath up the main street is OK
▪ Skating is a good way for skaters to get around	▪ Current skating rules should be better enforced
▪ I like to see people skating	▪ Skaters cause too much damage in public spaces
▪ I like seeing the stunts that skaters can do	▪ I feel unsafe when someone skates past me on the footpath
▪ Skating is OK on some roads	▪ Skaters are unfairly targeted by the authorities
▪ The skate park in New Norfolk is adequate for skater needs	▪ Skate rules are not well promoted
▪ I'm not sure where skating is allowed	

The attitudes towards skating that were identified out of the list of seventeen

Attitudes towards skating	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/ Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Skating on the footpath is dangerous for pedestrians	45	49	31	14	5
Skating should be allowed on the footpaths	20	31	33	33	32
It's good that skaters are out getting exercise	42	71	20	5	4
Skaters should be made to wear helmets/protective gear	59	49	17	11	9
Skaters often commit anti-social behaviour	10	18	74	24	14
Skating on the footpath up the main street is OK	18	30	32	39	29
Skating is a good way for skaters to get around	29	61	38	9	1
Current skating rules should be better enforced	36	39	50	7	5
I like to see people skating	29	40	56	15	2
Skaters cause too much damage in public spaces	7	24	60	22	20
I like seeing the stunts that skaters can do	36	49	24	23	5
I feel unsafe when someone skates past me on the footpath	13	38	34	33	12
Skating is OK on some roads	23	47	40	28	10
Skaters are unfairly targeted by the authorities	18	26	60	16	14
The skate park in New Norfolk is adequate for skater needs	17	38	54	15	7
Skate rules are not well promoted	20	39	49	10	6
I'm not sure where skating is allowed	21	48	41	15	9

Interpretation of responses

It was strongly agreed by the participants in this survey that 'skaters should be made to wear helmets/protective gear'. It was also agreed that 'it's good that skaters are out getting exercise'.

The participants in this survey are neutral or don't know if 'skaters often commit anti-social behaviour'.

It was strongly disagreed by the participants in this survey that 'skating should be allowed on the footpaths'. It was also disagreed that 'skating on the footpath up the main street is OK'.

Other Comments;

Interpretation of responses

Increased promotion

It was felt that 'increased promotion' of no-go zones and skate rules is needed.