



■ Joe Browning, 13, of Waterview Heights completes a grab out of the bowl during practice time. PHOTOS: TERRY DEEFHOLTS



■ Cody Kilduff of South Grafton contemplates the future of his limbs as he leaps from bowl to bowl.



■ Despite breaking his wrist Joel Battersby went on to win the open competition.



■ Blake Winmill, 13, of Ulmarra impressed the judges to take home the Under-13s prize at the Grafton Sk8ters Ink round one competition on Saturday.

# Breaking a wrist no bar winning title to skater

By JENNIFER HUXLEY

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BREAKING his wrist in the first round was not enough to stop Minnie Water's Joel Battersby from putting in a winning performance in the open division at the Bring Back the Boards skateboarding competition at Grafton Skate Park on Saturday.

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The competition was the first in a series of six to be held by Grafton Skaters Inc. and attracted 24 skaters from all over the North Coast.

Competition organiser and president of Grafton Skaters Inc. Dan Bailey said he was

Continued: P9



■ Matt Zeitch, 14, of Grafton shows off with a 180 grab during Saturday's competition run by Grafton Skater Inc.



■ James Palmer of Woolgoolga pulls a tweaked grab over the big spine.



■ Justin Carriage, 15, of Woolgoolga gets some height over the spine.



■ Ulmarra's Blake Winmill, 13, impressed the judges, taking home the Under-13s prize from the Grafton Skaters Inc. round one competition on Saturday.



■ Grafton's James Waghorn makes a shovet tail grab over the fun box at Grafton Skate Park on Saturday.

From: P8

impressed by the calibre of skaters carving up the pavement over the weekend and was looking forward to coming events.

"We had skaters from Tweed Heads to Port Macquarie ranging in age from 7 to 30 years old, and the level of competition was really good," he said.

"We're running these events as a six event trophy series through the year, we (Grafton Skaters Inc.) are young guys who want to give kids something to do rather than play their Sonys.

"It's judged on the variety of tricks, how clean and big the tricks are, and how well skaters use the park, so it's a challenging sport.

"Joel Battersby was a stand-

**It's a good workout and a fun, social thing to be involved in.**

out competitor - he broke his wrist in the first round, but still skated so well he won the open event."

Bailey said more than 100 spectators crowded the skate park on Saturday to cheer on competitors.

"It's a good workout and a fun, social thing to be involved in - I think that's why it works so well here in Grafton," he said.

Round two of Bring Back the Boards will be held at Grafton Skate Park on April 19.



■ Scott Adams of Ramornie shows off his grab skills.



■ Bailey Holloway, 7, of Grafton on his way to winning the Under-8s division.



■ Zac Arvinson, 14, of Woolgoolga gets some air out of the bowl during free skate time at the Grafton Skate Park on Saturday.