



## **Working Community Student**

**Daniel Froebel**

### **2007 Young Citizen of the Year!**

Daniel is a Year 10 student at Eltham High School. He played a pivotal role in the re-development of the Eltham BMX dirt jumps – an initiative which has great benefits for the young people of Nillumbik.

Daniel is one of five Eltham High School students involved in the project. The group – Daniel, Tammy Sorensen, Mitch Gardner, Andrew Bracka and Aiden Mayle – became involved in the project as part of the Working Community program.

They worked collaboratively with Council's Youth Services team to secure \$1250 in funding from Council which was used to develop new jumps, restore current tracks and revegetate the area. The collaboration began after illegal dirt jumps were demolished in June 2006.

This is a great example of a young person leading by example. Daniel has acted as media spokesperson for the group and worked collaboratively with Council's Youth Services, Leisure and Community Services, Environment and Planning sections, and also Melbourne Water, to help the development of this facility.

Daniel has consulted with many of his peers and is part of a great team of young people who have conducted themselves in a professional and mature manner that has enabled the successful completion of this project.

Daniel's contribution to the local community is of great benefit to our young citizens. The new track suits all stages of riding. It promotes a safe place for people in the outdoors and encourages young people to get active.

**Congratulations to Daniel Froebel – Nillumbik Young Citizen of the Year.**





## CASE STUDY

**Written By Daniel Froebel**

How do you make something that you like doing - riding your BMX bike - into something that you can learn from and get school credit? If you live in Eltham and go to Eltham High School you take part in Advance / Working Community and rebuild the old BMX track. The track had become dangerous and was being bulldozed for safety reasons, but by taking the initiative and doing something for themselves, a group of Eltham High School Advance / Working Community students has not only enhanced their learning but also done something for young people in the Eltham area.

The five students, four boys and one girl, teamed up to persuade not just the Nillumbik Shire Council but also Yarra Valley Water to support their ambition. Convincing these two groups took skills in discussion, persuasion and a multimedia presentation which has now been seen by many other groups. With the help of Lindsay and Holly from Nillumbik Youth Services, their community partner, the team has mapped the old track, drawn scale plans for the new track, designed jumps in consultation with the users and gained a grant to help them with their plans.

Agreement has been reached about the construction of the track so the group is now switching its focus to the opening event, a BMX competition complete with prizes, food and entertainment. This has entailed the development of another set of skills: event management. Through training funded as part of Advance these skills are available to the students. The team has also now become more specialised as subgroups take responsibility for aspects of the main event. There are the fund raisers who have had about \$400 worth of prizes donated for a raffle, there is the advertising group, and there is the competition organising group. The students now have to work to a budget so another skill set is developed.

If you come to the Rotary Eltham Town Festival in mid November look out for the team, they're planning to have a presence there to advertise their big event.