

Your Say

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Letters should be no longer than 250 words. They must include the writer's full address (only the suburb is published) and a daytime phone number for verification. Letters should be concise and relevant to the local community.

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Skatepark really does not stack up

John O'Connor says my argument against the Rushcutters Bay skatepark site doesn't stack up (Your Say, Oct. 30) Not only do my arguments stack up, the pile is quite high.

Given that the facility is designed for younger children (eight to 15), and Woollahra Council will not be supervising the facility, parents will probably want to be in attendance: Parking is all but impossible and there are no adjacent drop-off zones

The nearest Woollahra residents live at least 500m away and more than 90 per cent would be further than one kilometre.

Single journey public transport is confined to the New South Head Rd corridor. Children coming by skateboard down public footpaths will be descending from the dress circle that is Darling Point, Edgecliff,

Woollahra and Paddington (plus the adjoining Darlinghurst, Kings Cross and Potts Point). The return journey might not be such fun but a lot safer for pedestrians. One of the arguments for the park is to keep skateboarding off the streets.

Except for those coming from Darling Point, the children must cross, by several sets of lights, the very busy thoroughfare of New South Head Rd. Young children might be tempted to chance their luck.

The site is simply impractical.

In October last year I wrote to the councillors suggesting they did a trial run to see the problems for themselves. Only one, Megan McEwin, replied: "Thanks Tim, I am happy to take up your suggestion to do a trial run as if we were using the skatepark. As we do not own a car, we will be walking the 100m from our house to the park.

I will report my findings. Cheers, Megan."

She did not report her findings. If I were still a resident of Woollahra, as I was for most of my 80 years, I would not be impressed by her response.

Tim Locke
Rushcutters Bay

Smoky haze heading our way?

After attending the recent Matraville Paper Mill's incinerator meeting along with around 150 other concerned residents, few important questions were answered.

This incinerator should not be put in a populated area. Don't think that only Matraville residents will be affected by the incinerator.

When the wind blows other suburbs of councils such as Randwick, Waverley, Woollahra, Bayside, Sutherland and beyond will also be affected by the fallout of this proposed incinerator.

The smoke haze blanketing Sydney from the north coast bush fires some five