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Kyel Gruenhofer, Nambucca Heads, impresses judges in the Valley's Youthfest skate competition.



## Youthfest hailed a healing day

The Nambucca Valley's Youth Week finale, Youthfest, brought together young people from all over the valley on Sunday, April 10.

Nambucca Valley Youth Services Centre (NVYSC) youth worker Peter Lea said all aspects of the day were a great success, from the skateboarding competition through to the input of local youth.

Along with the skateboarding competition, the day included 25 market stalls, a circus skills workshop and traditional indigenous games.

"The kids really got into the spirit of the traditional indigenous games, and it gave the non-skaters something to do.

"At any one time you could look out and see 100 kids doing indigenous games or circus skills, and then look over at the skate park and see 200 more kids there."

For the third year running, local boys Toby Frost and Daniel Perry were the primary organisers of the event, but up to 70 young

people were involved in different roles, Mr Lea said.

"It was really good that the kids of the Nambucca Valley got involved. We had kids from 12-years-old up to 18 and 20-year-olds and they all got along really well," he said.

With around 700 people attending the event, Mr Lea said organisers were especially pleased with the behaviour of the young people – there were no breaches of the drug and alcohol-free mandate and no disagreements or bad behaviour.

"After some of the dramas we've had with young people lately, it felt like a real healing day for the kids of the Nambucca Valley. Every time we see a young person (that went to Youthfest) they say, 'That felt really good'."

Better Futures and the Mimii Aboriginal Corporation, with support from retail sponsors like Evolve Clothing, Ice Graphics and Coastal Curves and community organisations Nambucca Rotary, Beyond Empathy, Drink Don't Sink, Career Connections and NVYSC, funded Youthfest.