

Mobile skate park on a bike

By Steve Muir

My son, who turned ten in July, has developed a strong interest in scooters and so we got him a reasonable quality 2nd hand scooter for his birthday present, and encouraged attendees at his birthday party to bring their own scooters along. I also had a few sheets of plywood left over from temporary earthquake repairs which I recycled into two sets of ramps. We have no driveway and the back yard was a huge mud bog after earthquakes and snow storms, so we decided to set up the ramps and other activities at the local school as part of the party entertainment. The problem was how to get them all down there easily, as they were too big to fit in a car.

My home made three wheeler 'tadpole' proved to be the perfect vehicle for the job with its very sturdy big black bin made from recycled wool bale wrap (Agpac industries). We managed to fit in the two sets of ramps and have sufficient visibility over the top to tag along with the convoy of scooters down to the school. The skate ramps proved to be a huge hit, although the bike-pump-powered hydraulic rockets with a lolly launcher mounted on top did seem to rate *slightly* higher in the kids estimations, launching lollies 30 m into the air. Once the scooter ramps had been well thrashed for an hour or so, the kids gave each other joy rides in the tadpole before throwing all the ramps back in the bin and heading home for birthday cake.



Steve and the scooter ramps in the 'tadpole'



Scooter ramps in action

Steven makes a variety of sizes of bike trailers and loans them out for free for a month so people can try them out. Contact steve@cycletrailers.co.nz, 021 0619296