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## Hong Kong's youth skateboard event for local charity a gnarly success

- The Lee Gardens Skateboard Fest 2021 was a huge hit and local skate shop 8five2 donated 30 boards for the event
- Event was for Kely Support Group, a local non-profit organisations that focuses on mental health in young people



Patrick Blennerhasset + FOLLOW  
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Some Hong Kong kids got a chance to try skateboarding over the weekend as part of a charity event. Photo: Handout

Hongkongers got a chance to try their hand at some kick flips and ollies this past weekend in the driveway of Lee Garden One on Pak Sha Road.

A two-day Lee Gardens Skateboard Fest 2021 featured skateboarding experience classes, a street skating contest, a pop-up store, food trucks and a fingerboard DIY workshop.

The event raised money for Kely Support Group, a local non-profit organisation that focuses on youth mental health. The event was co-sponsored by the All Hong Kong Skateboards Association and the Lee Gardens Association.

Hong Kong's first skateboard shop, 8Five2, also donated 30 skateboards to those who took part in the experience classes.



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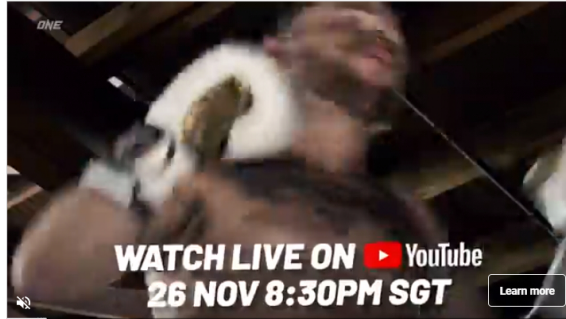


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The Lee Gardens Skateboard Fest 2021 featured a charity skateboarding experience for local kids. Photo: Handout

According to a study by The Federation of Youth Groups, more than half of Hong Kong secondary school pupils have exhibited signs of depression.



Hsu Siu-man, the deputy executive director of the the city's largest youth service organisation, said that loss of common symptoms included "a loss of focus, anxiety over issues that were previously not of concern and fatigue".

"I have never learned how to skateboard until this afternoon," said Steven, who was trying the sport for the first time. "After joining the exclusive class, I realised that skateboarding is far more than just an underground leisure activity. I could truly express my emotions and personal traits in different ways I skate."



Steven, a local Hong Kong youth who took part in the event. Photo: Handout

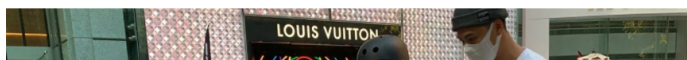
Another teenager added: "I started skateboarding when I was 10. I always dream about owning my own skateboard so that I can practice this whenever I want. Thank you Kely and 8Five2 Shop for making my dream come true."

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"All our young people enjoyed the lessons so much and were pretty excited to get such a precious gift from the shop," Stephanie Choi, the KELY's deputy director, said. "This was part of us celebrating our 30th year as an organisation as well."







The two day event raised money for the KELY Support Group, which focuses on youth mental health in Hong Kong.  
Photo: Handout

Skateboarding made its Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020 as the International Olympic Committee looked to capture the attention of a new generation of athletes moving away from traditional sports.

The medals were largely won by 13 and 14 year olds, with the likes of Japan's Momiji Nishiya and Britain's Sky Brown putting the sport on the map.

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This article appeared in the South China Morning Post print edition as: Kick flips and ollies help raise money for charity

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Patrick Blennerhassett

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Patrick Blennerhassett is an award-winning Canadian journalist and four-time published author. He is a Jack Webster Fellowship winner and a British Columbia bestselling novelist. He has covered sport for the Post since 2018.



Mental health  
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World / Europe

## Austria orders lockdown for unvaccinated as Covid-19 resurgence grips Europe

• Austrian authorities are concerned about rising deaths and that hospital staff will no longer be able to handle the growing influx of Covid-19 patients

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- Europe has been battling a resurgence of cases, with the WHO earlier this month declaring that the region was again at the epicentre of the pandemic

**AP** Associated Press [+ FOLLOW](#)  
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