



GRAFFITI CULTURE





Terminology

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- 'Tagging' – name given to words or numbers executed in condensed calligraphic form
- 'Pieces' – the most complicated form of writing. Usually a highly stylised and colourful version of a tag or crew name. Can take between 1-6 hours, even days, to complete.
- 'Throw-ups' – are characterised by 'fat' bubble style lettering
- 'Stay-ups' – graffiti placed in high or hard to access locations
- 'Crew' – group of writers who share a common tag
- 'Kings' or 'pros' – those who have gained respect from peers for their particular style



Why do people graffiti?

- Cont.
 - A lack of 'legitimate' activities for young people;
 - Once exposed, many make a conscious decision to continue because of the pleasure they get;
 - Often evokes strong feelings of self-esteem, satisfaction, pride and happiness;
 - Form of communication
 - Boredom!

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Stereotypes of graffiti artists?

- Stereotypes include:
 - Young people/juveniles
 - Male
 - Low socio-economic family background
 - Abused at home
 - Unemployed
 - Involved in other criminal activities

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Profile of a graffiti artist

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- Most likely to be between 12 and 25 years of age;
- 'Tags' are mostly done by teenagers;
- 'Pieces' are more likely aged 15 years and up – in some cases 30 years of age;
- Majority of artists are male
- Broad range of social backgrounds



Profile of a graffiti artist

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- Usually write for a limited period of time (perhaps 2-3 years)
- Usually performed at night
- Writers tend to do so within a known or confined geographical range due to familiarity
- Usually piece on their own, with a trusted companion or as a group activity



Composing a piece

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- Ensure holding the can at right angle
- Tape is used to mark out height letters and spacing
- Using another person's tag is considered an enormous breach of the rules often leading to violence
- Usually influenced by other people's work
- Once completed, it's never forgotten and often visited by the writer
- Expensive activity



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This piece in England covers a wall 25m long



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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Rapid Removal

- The aim is to remove the graffiti before it has had exposure
- It's a simplistic strategy that is commonly pushed as THE solution to graffiti
- A purely a symptomatic approach
- It does not address graffiti culture

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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Removal methods:

- Paint – out
- Chemical Removers
- Pressure Washing
- Graffiti coatings
- Volunteer Removal Programs

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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Rapid Removal

Environmental Maintenance, cont'd
Paintouts – Hornsby CBD

1998: 40 incidents
per month in CBD

1999: 0-4 incidents
per month in CBD

2004 figures show
that these rates are
being sustained.

Overall reduction:
more than 90%



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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Rapid Removal

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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Rapid Removal



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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Aerosol Art Murals

- Mural projects aim to protect the wall in question, reduce the level of illegal graffiti within the area and redirect participants through education and training

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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Aerosol Art Murals (cont'd)

- A small percentage of genuine graffiti writers participate
- Mural involvement can create division within the local graffiti community
- Murals can introduce aerosol paint to young people for the first time
- Sites can become “shrines”, leading to an increase in local graffiti activity

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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Aerosol Art Murals

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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Aerosol Art Murals

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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Aerosol Art Murals

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Treatment options

Popular Strategies

Paint Art Murals (themes)



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Treatment options

Legal Walls



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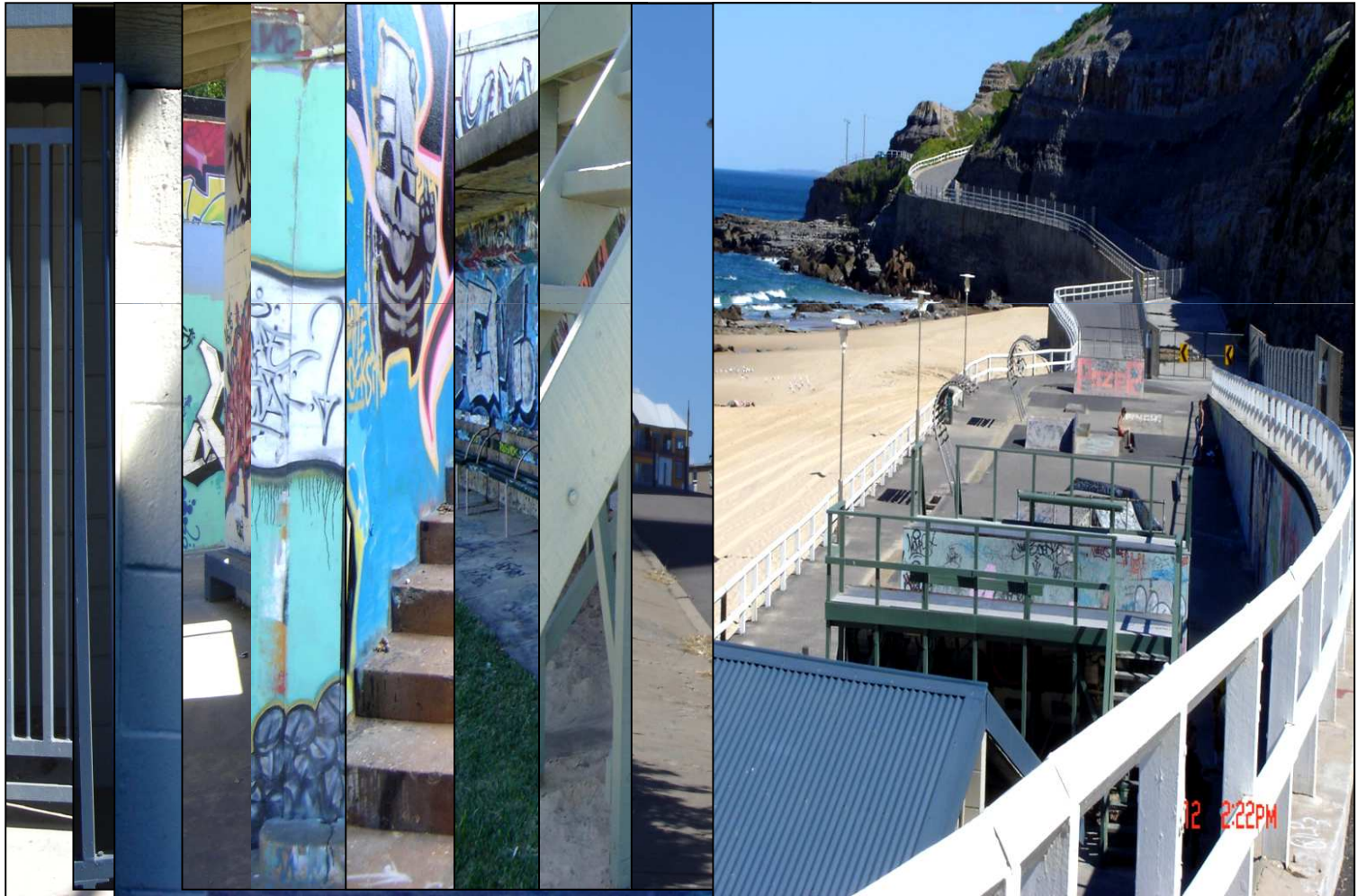




Treatment options

Legal Walls

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Recommendations

- **DO NOT GIVE GRAFFITI CULTURE THE NOTORIETY IT CRAVES** - Graffiti writers/crews are known to monitor the media and will respond to publicised strategies targeting graffiti
- **DO NOT PROMOTE YOUR GRAFFITI STRATEGIES & ACHIEVEMENTS** - Graffiti removal vehicles should be unmarked



Recommendations

- GAIN SUPPORT OF EXTERNAL AGENCIES –
 - Police
 - RIC (Rail Infrastructure Corporation)

- COLLECT DATA
 - Create a photographic and incident data base

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Recommendations

➤ MONITOR AND MAINTAIN ONLY PIECING WALL SITES

- It is important that the influence of crew activity no longer be present before attempting to clean the remainder of the area/suburb

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Recommendations

➤ REMOVE PIECING WALL OPPORTUNITIES

- This includes the planting of vegetation to hide walls, wall relocation, wall demolition and the cleaning and repainting of walls

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Recommendations

Removal of walls

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Recommendations

Landscaping

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Recommendations

Landscaping



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Recommendations

Landscaping



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Recommendations

Landscaping



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Recommendations

Landscaping



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Treatment options

Landscaping: Green screens



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Treatment options

Landscaping: Defensive planting

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Treatment options

Coatings/surfaces

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Treatment options

Coatings/surfaces

Materials:

Construction and design materials used in areas vulnerable to graffiti should be easy to clean.

Texture:

The texture of potential canvases can reduce attractiveness as a surface for graffiti. By incorporating open form designs the size of available canvas is reduced and surveillance may be increased.

Colour:

Although graffiti can occur on any colour, the application of light coloured paint over a dark colour is more difficult and expensive for the offender and easier to effectively paint over.



Recommendations

- ESTABLISH A “COLOUR PALETTE”
 - The palette reduces long term costs, streamlines maintenance and reduces the signs of “buff marks”
 - Buff marks attract more graffiti

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Recommendations

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Recommendations

➤ THE REMOVAL OF REMAINING GRAFFITI

- Remove graffiti from sites in the area or suburb surrounding the former piecing walls

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Recommendations

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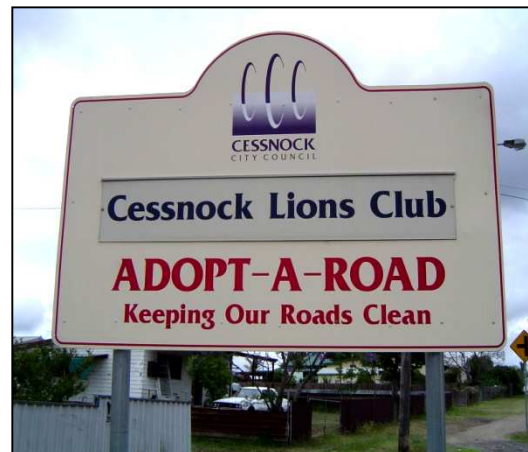


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Recommendations

- WORK AND EDUCATE WITH THE COMMUNITY
 - Graffiti Committees where residents can take part in programs designed at removal and education.
 - Police also attend and it becomes a community based working group





The Role of Government

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- The development of a Framework for Managing Graffiti in NSW.
- Preventative measures to reduce the harms and costs associated with graffiti in 5 key action areas:
 1. Improving management for the prevention and removal of graffiti
 2. Better education and communication
 3. Tougher restriction on the sale and possession of spray paint
 4. More involvement of offenders in graffiti removal
 5. Using community art to protect graffiti “hot spots”



The Role of Police

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- Working with local Council and Government with abatement programs
- Community Education
- Liaise with local schools to gather information
- Liaise with Cityrail, local retail, Chamber of Commerce, Westfields, etc to gather CCTV and intelligence.
- Graffiti register
- Implement treatment options within DCP and DA process



The Role of Council

- Working with local Police
- Ensure graffiti abatement programs are in place – Community Safety funds. Long term and short term programs.
- Ensure DA process to include local Police
- Community education

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The Role of Property Owners

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- Keep up appearances
 - Make every effort to keep the appearance of your property clean and neat.
- Build in prevention
 - Use principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Report to the Police
 - Contact the police to report graffiti and ask police to complete an incident report.
- Remove graffiti quickly
 - Rapid and continual removal of graffiti is the best way for property owners to protect their property and preserve the image of their neighbourhood



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