

John **TURNER** MP
Member for Myall Lakes

C101486

19 April 2010

Mr Ninos Khoshaba MP
Chairman
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Ninos

I refer to your committee's Graffiti and Public Infrastructure inquiry.

In the Great Lakes Council area of my electorate we do not have any graffiti (or if we do we have it for no more than 12 hours) due to work of one Ted Bickford OAM (the OAM was awarded for his work in the community keeping it graffiti free.)

Mr Bickford will be making a submission to your committee. I believe Mr Bickford would make a good witness to your public hearings as his work is ground breaking, simple and effective both in cost and results.

By way of background I enclose some of my file on Mr Bickford and his work for your information:

1. Letter to the Hon C Tebbutt MP, the Minister for Education 13/7/05
2. Letter from Great Lakes Council 20/6/05
3. Letter from Great Lakes Council 10/5/05
4. Newspaper clipping "Campaign Combats Graffiti"
5. Newspaper clipping "Graffiti buster backs crackdown on vandals".

Yours faithfully

John Turner MP
The Nationals Member for Myall Lakes
SS



13 July 2005

The Hon. C. M. Tebbutt, MLC.
Minister for Education and Training
Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

My Dear Minister

Mr Ted Bickford, known as 'Mr Graffiti' in the Great Lakes area has been a stalwart in removing graffiti as it appears in the Great Lakes area.

Mr Bickford started doing this work voluntarily and almost anonymously as a part of a community service however it has come to the stage now where he is sponsored by the council and now routinely cleans graffiti when and where it occurs.

More importantly however, Mr Bickford has established such a reputation and respect that the level of graffiti, particularly from residents of the Great Lakes area has almost ceased and when incidences of graffiti occur, it is often as a result people from outside of the Great Lakes area. Because of Mr Bickford's networks, particularly with young people many of whom are ex graffiti artists, these people are often identified and can be pursued.

Additionally Mr Bickford has been able to involve young people in his graffiti removal work, also in many cases these young people were formerly graffiti artists themselves.

Mr Bickford has observed however, that there has been a change in the demographics involved in graffiti and finds that there are now younger people more inclined to be involved and has instances of 9 to 13 year olds being very involved in graffiti.

As a result of his observations and concerns and his dedication to his community Mr Bickford has now, with the permission of schools and the Great Lakes Council embarked on an education program within the schools.

Mr Bickford attends Primary Schools within the Great Lakes Council area and explains the social and criminal ramifications arising out of graffiti. It is a fully integrated program where he actually has a young person with him who has been convicted of graffiti offences and is now assisting in cleaning up graffiti. The program interactively involves the young students in what he is doing by way of enlisting them as "spotters" for graffiti and of course, educating them against entering the graffiti field.

Great Lakes Council is fully supportive of Mr Bickford. Some of the incentives Mr Bickford uses are Council certificates to young people who assist him in removing graffiti, as well as "spotting" where graffiti has occurred or for participating in courses in school activities where Mr Bickford has attended and spoken.

Attached is a number of the initiatives that Mr Bickford has implemented such as the certificates of appreciation, photographs of children interacting in dress-up costumes, his truck which is synonymous with his work, wash-off transfers, and the like.

It would appear to me that Mr Bickford's School Education Program has been an outstanding success and this is evidenced by Mr Bickford's feelings and more particularly by the hundreds of students that have attended the talks.

Mr Bickford believes it is a matter that could be extended throughout the State on an education process that may alleviate many of the problems facing the community in relation to graffiti.

I invite you to consider the program that Mr Bickford has undertaken and the attached information and perhaps a relevant officer of your department could contact me or Mr Bickford (who can be contacted at 2/43 Pacific Parade Tuncurry, 6555 2315) to discuss his initiatives and how they might be developed further.

Mr Bickford does not seek reward for this program but is merely undertaking it as part of his contribution to his community.

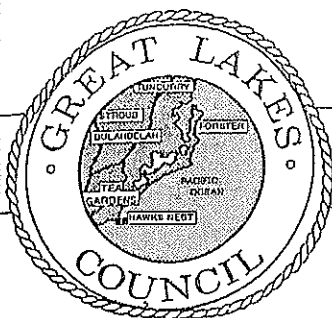
In addition to writing to you on this issue I have also written to the Attorney General.

Yours faithfully

John Turner MP

The Nationals Member for Myall Lakes

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GREAT LAKES COUNCIL

Breese Parade, Forster
PO Box 450, Forster NSW 2428
DX 7110, Forster

Telephone: (02) 6591 7222
Fax: (02) 6591 7200

Our Reference:

Your Reference:

Contact: Kerrie Simmons
Telephone: 6591 7238

20 June 2005

Dear Parent/ Caregiver

Re: GRAFFITI AWARENESS PROGRAM

Over recent years, Great Lakes Council has introduced a number of initiatives to help reduce the incidents of vandalism and graffiti through out our Local Government area.

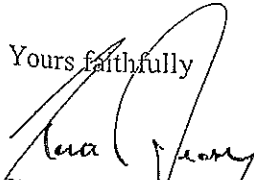
One such initiative is the very successful volunteer program involving members of the community who offer their time to remove graffiti from public places. Council supports the work undertaken by the volunteers by supplying chemicals and the very popular, brightly painted 'Graffiti Buster' vehicle, which has proven to be a big hit with the children.

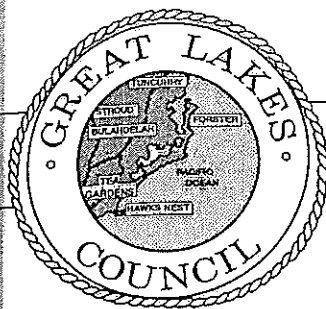
Whilst we have noticed a great reduction in the incidents of graffiti and vandalism, we have also witnessed a shift in the age group of the offenders, from mid to late teens to the younger 10-12 year olds. Ted Bickford is Council's leading volunteer in this program and has been involved in the graffiti removal process for the last ten years.

Ted has developed a good rapport with young people in the area and recently spoke to your child's Primary School about his work and the reasons he gives hundreds of hours to the community. Ted spoke about community pride and awareness concerning litter and graffiti.

To help keep this program positive, Council is providing sample bags and a colouring-in competition for each school Ted visits. Should you require further information concerning this program, please contact Council's Recreation Officer, Kerrie Simmons on 6591 7238.

Yours faithfully


KEITH O'LEARY
General Manager



GREAT LAKES COUNCIL

Breese Parade, Forster
PO Box 450, Forster NSW 2428
DX 7110, Forster

Telephone: (02) 6591 7222
Fax: (02) 6591 7200

The Principal
«Organisation_Name»
«Postal_Address_1»
«Postal_Address_2»

Our Reference:
Your Reference:

Contact: Ted Bickford
Telephone: 6555 2315

10 May 2005

Dear Principal

Re: GRAFFITI AWARENESS PROGRAM

Over recent years, Great Lakes Council has introduced a number of initiatives to help reduce the incidents of vandalism and graffiti through out our Local Government area.

One such initiative is the very successful volunteer program involving members of the community who offer their time to remove graffiti from public places. This has included the ongoing maintenance and improvements to Tuncurry Skate-park where children also volunteer their time to 'look after' the facility. When they see graffiti they phone through to the graffiti hot line and the graffiti is cleaned up quickly and efficiently. Council supports the work undertaken by the volunteers by supplying chemicals and the very popular, brightly painted 'Graffiti Buster' vehicle, which has proven to be a big hit with the children.

Whilst we have noticed a great reduction in the incidents of graffiti and vandalism, we have also witnessed a shift in the age group of the offenders, from mid to late teens to the younger 10-12 year olds. Ted Bickford is Council's leading volunteer in this program and has been involved in the graffiti removal process for the last ten years. Ted has developed a good rapport with young people in the area and recently spoke to Tuncurry Primary School about his work and the reasons he gives hundreds of hours to the community. This was so well received by the students that it has been decided to extend this program to all interested schools in the Great Lakes area.

If you would like to participate in the Graffiti Awareness Program and would like Ted to visit your school, please contact Ted Bickford on 6555 2315 for further information.

Yours faithfully

KEITH O'LEARY
General Manager

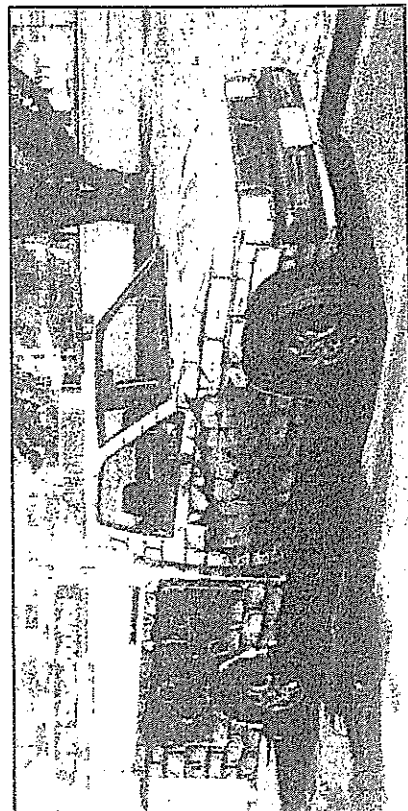


CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

This certificate is awarded to

Juncury Primary School

*For participating in the
Graffiti Awareness Program*



Ted Bickford

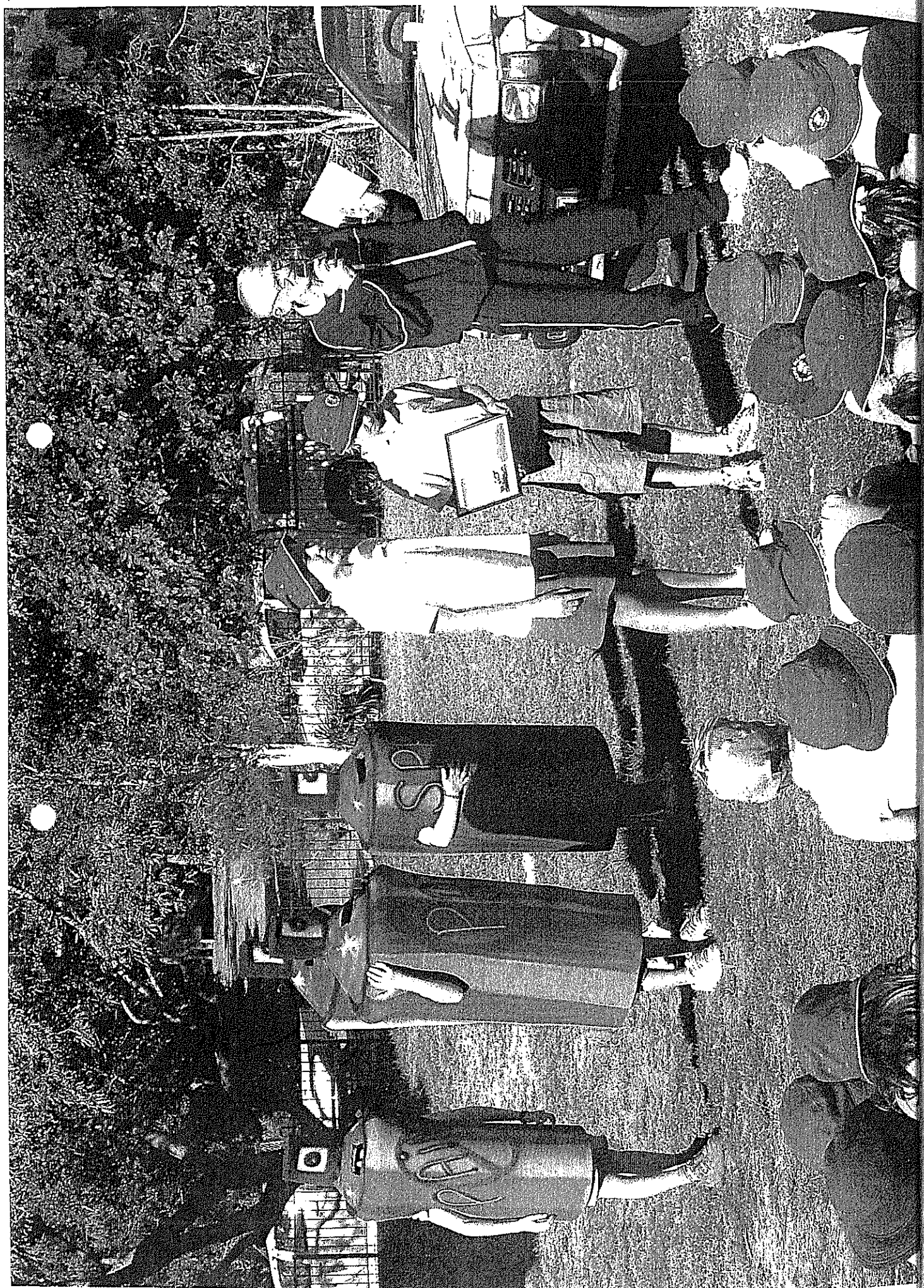
7 April 2005

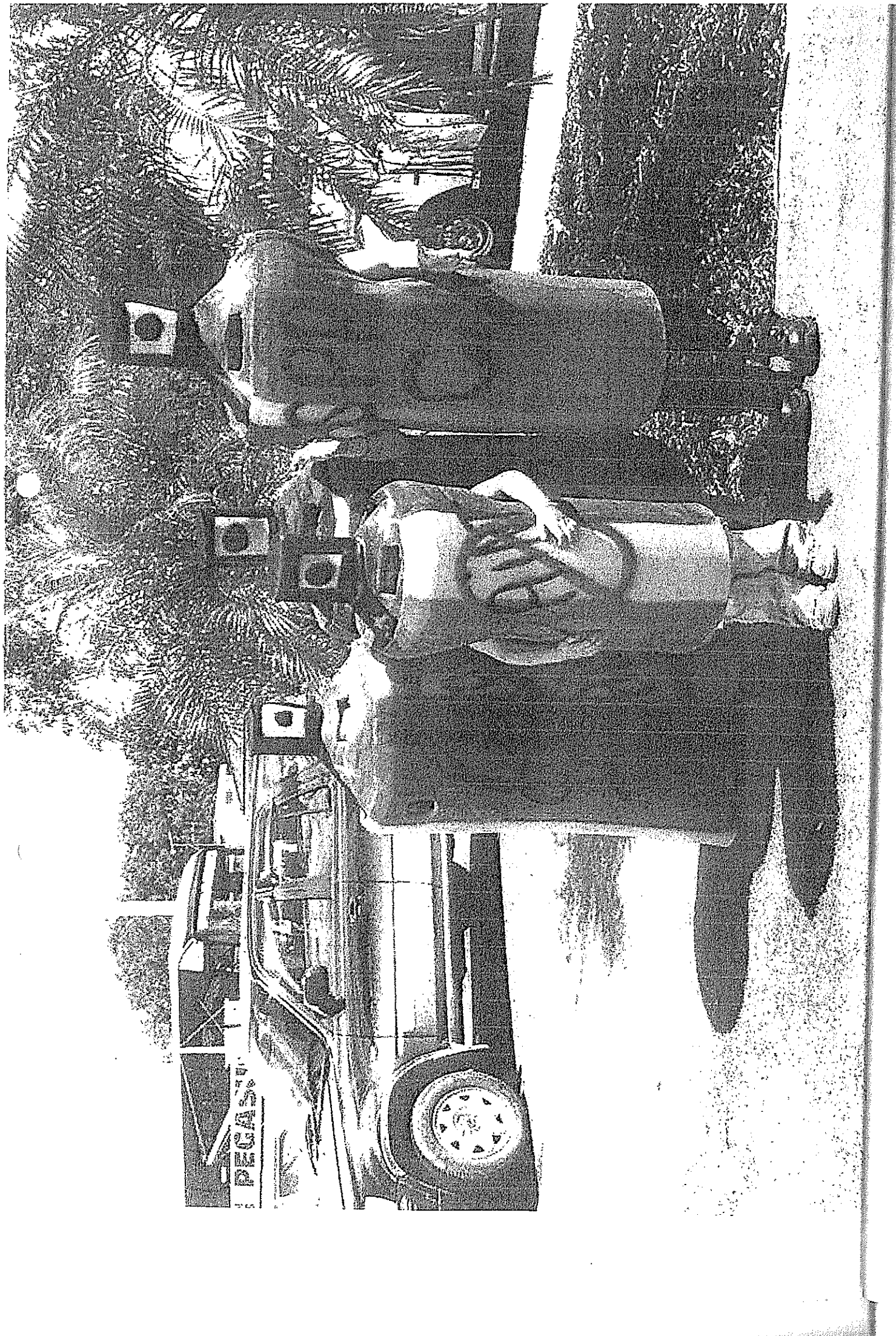
Date

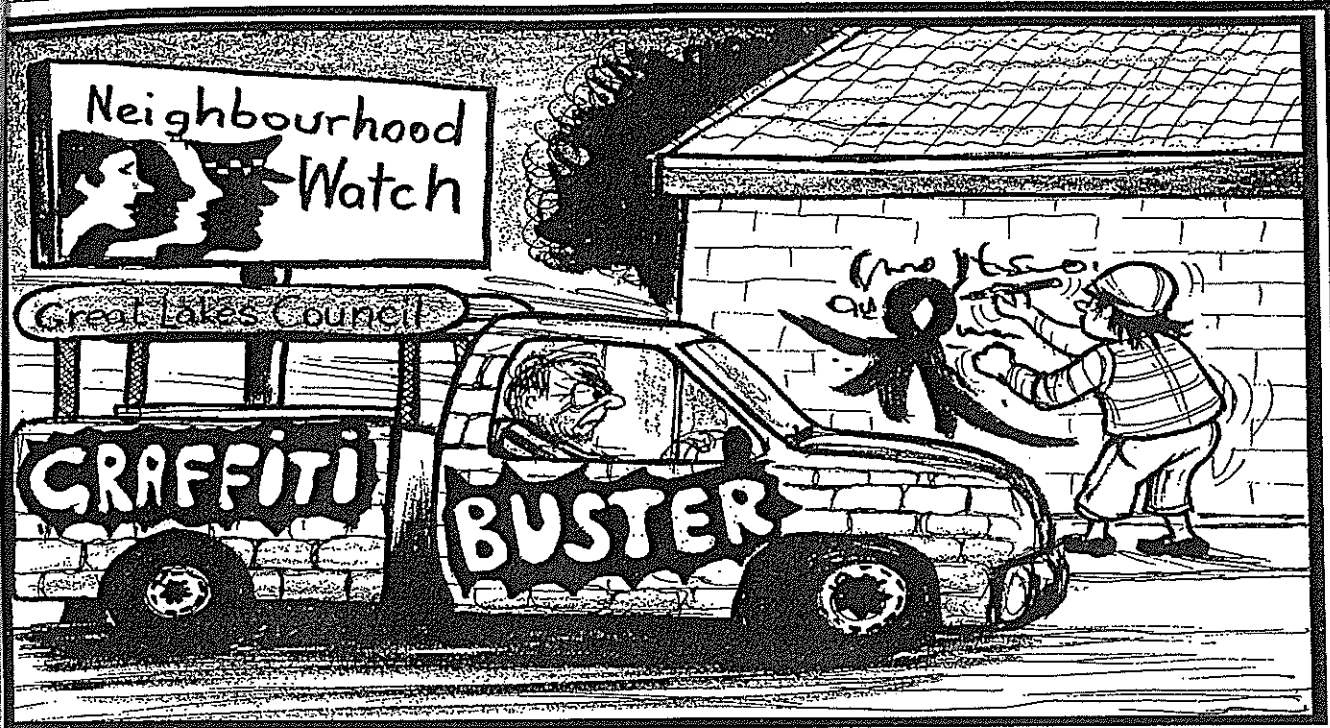
Keith O'Leary (General Manager, GLO)

7 April 2005

Date







GREAT LAKES COUNCIL

GRAFFITI HOTLINE

0408 440309

**IF UNANSWERED PLEASE LEAVE A SHORT MESSAGE AFTER
THE BEEP STATING THE LOCATION OF GRAFFITI AND A
CONTACT PHONE NUMBER**

Great Lakes Council



Graffiti Awareness





Campaign combats graffiti

AN innovative graffiti awareness campaign in the Great Lakes is booming.

Tuncurry Public School was the first school in the region to invite the "Graffiti Buster," Ted Bickford, and his truck with four giant spray cans to a school assembly attended by 450 students.

Since then, another 10 schools have asked him to talk to their students.

Mr. Bickford is now booked solid until September to visit schools and estimates that he will have spoken to about 1500 students.

And the awareness campaign is bringing benefits to

the community.

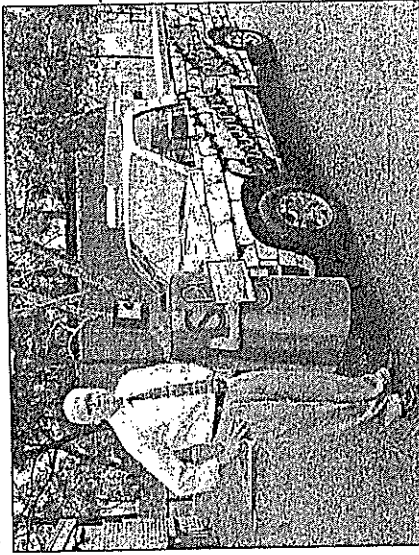
"The kids are now letting me know when they spot graffiti. That helps me because it's easier to remove if we can get there quickly," he said.

After a short talk about having pride in their school and town by doing their best to keep it clean and free of rubbish and graffiti, Ted presents the school captains with a certificate of partici-


pation for taking part in the Graffiti Awareness Program.

He also invites the students to enter a colouring competition where prizes are awarded for in each grade.


Great Lakes Council is behind the graffiti awareness campaign and hopes that all primary schools in the Great Lakes will take part.



SCHOOL IS IN: Tuncurry Public School's deputy principal Tim Putland with one of the Graffiti Buster's spray cans and his truck.



Great Lakes Council
Graffiti Hotline



0408 440309

With compliments —
Great Lakes Council Parks & Rec.

KFORB, Ted.

GLA-29/7/09



Outdoor cinema approved

AFTER months of toing and froing, Great Lakes Council gave the green light to an outdoor cinema proposal yesterday.

The 12-month trial will see two sites, Forster Town Park and the public reserve adjacent to the Irvine Rescue building, transformed into outdoor theatres up to three nights a week in busy school holiday periods.

Among a list of guidelines and conditions, the outdoor cinemas are restricted from showing R rated films and must be finished by 10.30pm, in addition to minimising any necessary noise.

To accommodate the 5 person audiences, 5 food stalls will be allowed to operate during each movie and appropriate toilet facilities are to be on site.

Owner of Great Lakes Cinema 3, Peter Howard objected to the proposal since its inception, and said at yesterday's meeting that the applicant would not be able to prevent underage children from watching MA15+ movies shown on site. For safety and commercial reasons the sites will be fenced off during each evening and no alcohol glass will be permitted on site. The plan will be reviewed after 12 months.

Graffiti busters back crackdown on vandals

By TIM CONNELL

A GREAT Lakes graffiti crusader has cautiously backed the State government's self-described "crackdown" on young offenders, but wants more focus on education.

Hunter Minister Jodi McKay last week announced that a scheme where young offenders negotiate their punishment - often compensating affected parties by washing off graffiti - will now be mandatory.

"Traditionally, young offenders in the Hunter who have committed a crime can participate in the [Juvenile Justice] Young Offenders program, which includes removing graffiti," she said.

"These amendments take this rehabilitation one step further by making it compulsory for all graffiti vandals."

Forecasting the changes last month, Premier Nathan Rees said about 400 young offenders are referred annually to Youth Justice Conferences under the outgoing system.

About 60 percent of these "conferences" end in young offenders doing community service.

Great Lakes graffiti buster Ted Bickford has taken on kids under the system, and said it gets them to rethink their actions.

"The way it works, kids can be sat down and told the effect [their actions] have on others. Parents are there, and the police, but the kids aren't spoken down to."

Mr Bickford had high hopes for some of his recruits from the system, because "the parents are onside", and said making the program compulsory would circumvent negligent parents "because it's taken out of their hands". But he said the new laws were conspicuously light on the issue of education.

"You've got to get into the schools, and try to stop kids wanting to do [graffiti]," he said.

"No-one's mentioned that here."

The government's action also includes an Office of Fair Trading blitz to make sure retailers are obeying laws brought in last year that prohibit the sale of spray-cans to under 18s.

But Mr Bickford said kids are finding ways around such hurdles.

"The law should also somehow be brought in for marker pens," he said. "They're as bad as, if not worse than, spray paint to clean off."

Ms McKay said the new laws, which coincide with a police raid on statewide graffiti "hot spots", were in line with community expectations.

"The community has simply had enough with vandals, and we are taking steps to significantly reduce the number of reported graffiti incidents every year," she said.

"Vandals must be held responsible for their destructive behaviour."

Baldwin steps up to hear small business concerns

AFTER working a shift with feet in his face, Paterson MP Bob Baldwin accused the Federal Government of "job snob" hypocrisy and joined the insistence from both time and there are often other options while they work towards that".

The comments, made in a speech to Young Labor on Saturday, were instantly



6554 6043
Great Lakes CINEMA 3
PROGRAMME FOR 30/7/09 - 5/8/09
www.greatlakescinemas.com.au
BARGAIN DAYS - Mon & Tues before 6pm!
Adults \$10.00! All others \$8.00!

JOHNNY DEEP
CHRISTIAN BALE
PUBLIC ENEMIES
A Michael Mann film!
THURS, FRI, SAT AT 12.40PM, 3.20PM, 6PM & 8.40PM.
SUN AT 11.45AM, 4.20PM & 7PM.
MON, TUES, WED AT 1.30PM, 5PM & 7.40PM.

THURS, FRI AT 12.25PM, 4.05PM & 6.15PM.
SAT AT 11.15AM, 4.05PM & 6.15PM.
SUN AT 11.30AM & 4.35PM.
MON, TUES, WED AT 4.10PM & 8PM.
My Sister's Keeper

THURS, FRI AT 1.15PM & 6.30PM.
SAT AT 11AM, 3.40PM & 6.30PM.
CIN AT 2PM & 5PM
Daily Patrol