

Port Phillip Council slammed for youth 'graffiti' classes

Article from: [Herald Sun](#)

Font size: [A-](#) [A+](#) | Email article: [✉](#) | Print article: [🖨](#) | Submit comment: [💬](#)

Anthony Dowsley

July 17, 2008 12:00am

"STREET art" classes run by a Melbourne council have been slammed as a nursery for graffiti vandals.

The ratepayer-funded workshops, using stencils and stickers, are aimed at youths from 12 to 19.

The council also provides several public sites around St Kilda where the teens can try their hand.

Port Phillip Mayor **Janet Cribbes** said street art was part of the inner-city landscape.

Street art or graffiti? Scroll down to submit a comment and share your opinion

"The workshops are an opportunity for us to educate young people on appropriate and legal outlets for graffiti," Cr Cribbes said.

But **Graffiti Hurts Australia** spokesman Scott Hilditch said the workshops gave teenagers the green light to vandalise city streets.

"It's sending out the wrong message," Mr Hilditch said.

"Graffiti breeds graffiti and other anti-social behaviour.

"Ratepayers' money could be used in other areas, helping the elderly, providing books to libraries and schools."

Mr Hilditch said vandals were also helping to force up rates across inner-Melbourne.



Advertisement

Advertisement

Youi Car insurance saving

It's a smarter way that saves you money. You interested? youi.com.au

Anchors Away With P&O

South Pacific & Queensland Cruises - Download your free brochure today! - www.pocruises.com.au

NRMA Car Insurance

Choose & Save - it's the un-old way to buy car insurance. Get a quote.

Tools

- [RSS](#) **Receive our News Feeds**
What is RSS?
- [📰](#) **Get your Newspaper Delivered**
- [✉](#) **Receive our Email Newsletter**
- [📷](#) **Send us your news photos**
- [🗣](#) **Send us your story tips**
- [📄](#) **Place a classified newspaper ad**
- [📰](#) **Retail newspaper availability**

Albert Park MP **Martin Foley** (Labor) had doubts about the street art classes.

"I don't think it will help, frankly," he said.

Mr Foley said he recently spent hours cleaning unsightly tags from the front of his office after a graffiti rampage along Park St, South Melbourne.

"Vandals tagged my bloody office in gold paint. It took me hours to get it off. It was on every building for 100m.

"I know people are getting jacked off with tagging on their property."

Cr Cribbes said the council did not support illegal graffiti and tried to remove it within two working days.

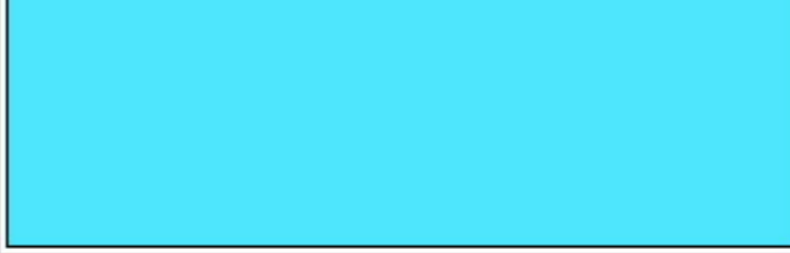
The council spent more than \$200,000 removing graffiti last financial year.

Under the street art program, the council provides space at St Kilda Junction as well as Astoria Paper Products, South Melbourne Light Rail, Balaclava Railway and Hewitson Reserve.

"**The City of Port Phillip** works with the young people in our community to find appropriate outlets for street art," Cr Cribbes said.

But the workshops are at odds with stringent new laws banning the sale of spray paint to minors.

Retailers face on-the-spot fines of more than \$2000 while minors found with spray cans or other graffiti paraphernalia can be penalised.



Also in Victoria

- > **Ballarat:** Toddler killed by 4WD
- > **Survivor anger:** Fury at killer firebug
- > **Wildlife wonder:** Sam the koala, a video star
- > **Bushfire alert:** Alarm system shelved
- > **Noble Park:** Missing boy, 4, found
- > **Back into flames:** 'Not without my dog'
- > **Devastation:** Town dies in tears
- > **River refuge:** Heroic pair save 19
- > **Fatal crash:** Driver 'sped up' on Lygon St
- > **Beating the odds:** Head-on crash saves man's life
- > **Bushfire horror:** Fires still threatening towns
- > **Victorian bushfires:** 'Nothing left' in Marysville
- > **'Perfect' firestorm:** Deadly factors led to fire disaster
- > **Grief-stricken:** Nothing left for sisters to remember
- > **In ruins:** 28 years of work destroyed

Share this article

[What is this?](#)



All the latest news updates, in your Facebook Profile.

[CHOOSE YOUR NEWS](#)

facebook