

[News](#) → [Local News](#) → [News](#) → [General](#) → Residents snatch control of Riverstone from graffiti vandals

Residents snatch control of Riverstone from graffiti vandals

BY NICK SOON
19/06/2009 2:13:00 PM

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ABOUT 60 people from a community centre and church took back control of Riverstone town from vandals after holding their biggest graffiti clean up day.

They were helped by Blacktown Council which provided the materials and advice and the police last week.

The volunteers include Blacktown Councillor Nick Tyrrell, staff and members of Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre and the Hawkesbury Church in Vineyard.

The clean up was suggested by the Community Safety Precinct Committee team at Quakers Hill Police whose motto is Local Problems, Local Solutions.

Police Constable Vicki O'Bryan, crime prevention officer from Quakers Hill also briefed volunteers and shopkeepers about its crime prevention strategies and graffiti removal program.

Fiona Macgregor from Hawkesbury Church said the participants were pleased to join other volunteers in the clean up of the eyesores from building along the main streets.

She said her church carried out community works in area with community centres, playgroups centres, doctors surgeries and homes hit by vandalism and other problems.


“We joined the graffiti removing team to make a difference in our community,” she said.

Vikki Durrant from the Neighbourhood Centre said it organised the clean up to lift the profile of the town.

“We don't just work here. We also live here and want a clean and tidy town.”

Shopkeepers who got their graffiti removed from their buildings supplied free drinks and painting equipment.

A centre spokeswoman appealed to residents to contact the police on 131 444 if they see vandals painting graffiti.

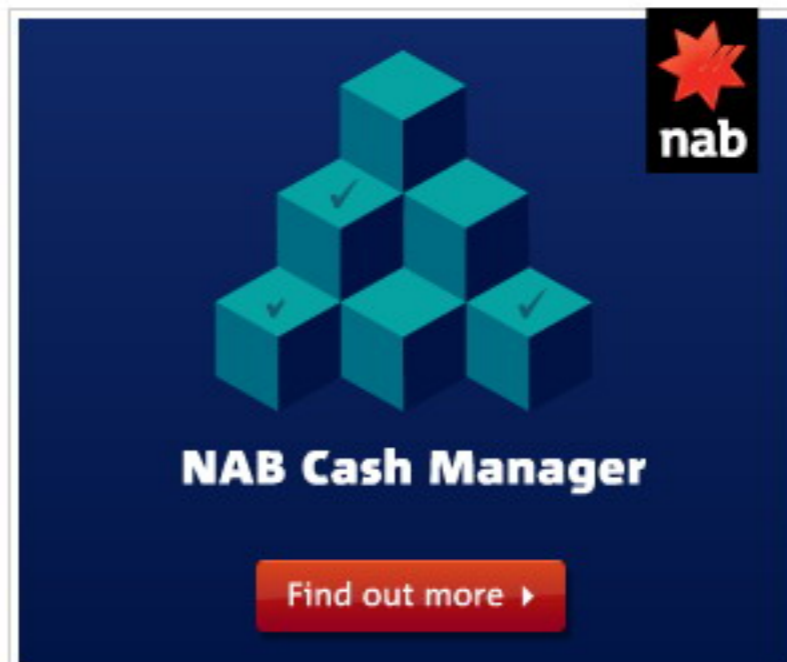
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