

Vandals have nothing to say, so they scribble

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By Vikki Campion, Urban Affairs Reporter
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THIS is about the 670th time that Mike Stacey has cleaned the same wall on Sydney's North Shore.

Every week, for nearly 13 years, the man behind 1800NO Graffiti, has been blasting the back of a shopping centre on Burns Bay Rd, Lane Cove.

The nearby Commonwealth Bank is tagged almost daily.

In Sydney's west it is even worse, with youths bombing trains, underpasses and shops overnight.

Clean panels become canvas for insults, racial abuse, and illegible black scrawl - and every blank wall is a target. Cleaning 5sqm could cost up to \$150 - the greater the damage, the greater the bill.

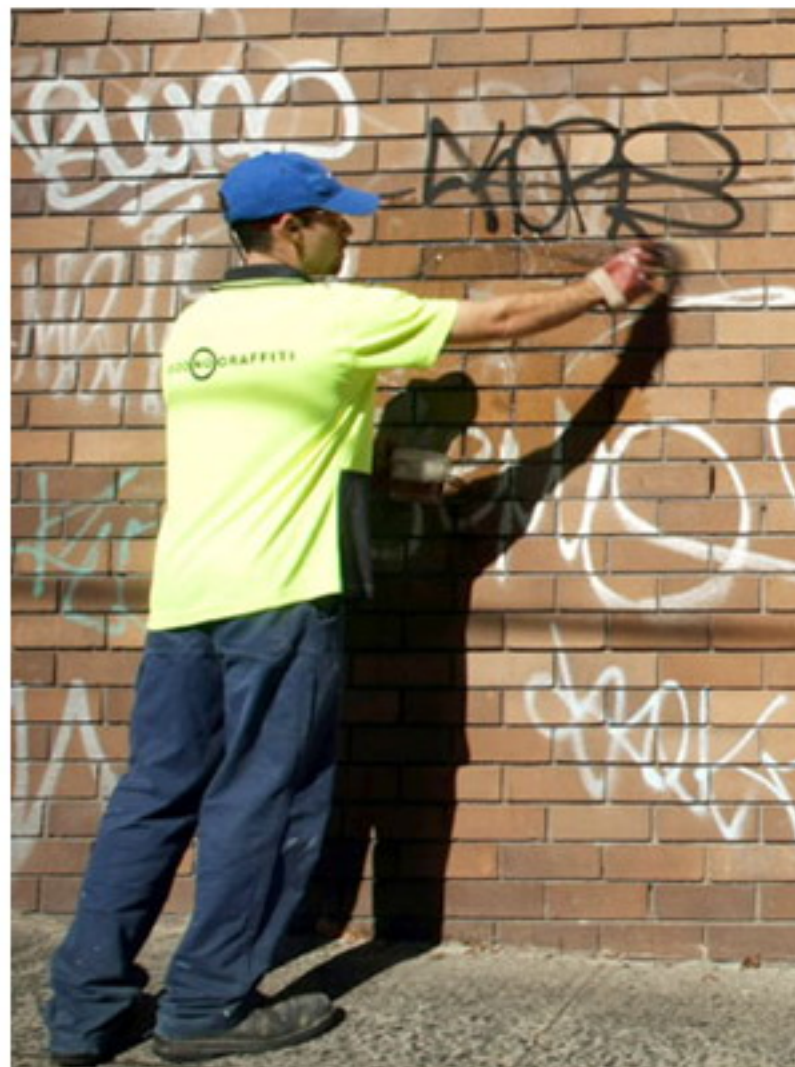
"As far as costing goes, there is no average job, there are no average vandals," Mr Stacey said.

"Costing depends; 5sqm is about \$150 to remove, some long walls could cost up to \$5000."

Attacked underpass at Ropes Crossing, Mt Druitt costs \$3000 to clean up.

Most buildings are sprayed with what graffiti buster Mr Stacey calls "scribble".

"I reckon vandals are advertising executives, all vying for the greatest exposure and all they seek is recognition," he said.



THIS is about the 670th time Mike Stacey has cleaned the same wall in 13 years, after the man behind 1800NO Graffiti, has blasted the back of a Sydney shopping mall.

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