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Graveyard graffiti attack "worst kind of vandalism"

BY TIM CONNELL
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AN anti-graffiti crusader said an attack on Tuncurry cemetery last Thursday hit him "like a ton of bricks", but insisted it was the work of an adult or older teen.

Dozens of cremation plots, a few graves and several signs were tagged in the cemetery's second hit in nine months.

"This hits me like a ton of bricks. It's the worst kind of vandalism, because it really affects people," Great Lakes graffiti buster Ted Bickford said as he cleaned off the spray paint.

"What right have [the offenders] to upset people like that? How would they feel if the graves [belonged to] their loved ones?"

After the attack last November, Mr Bickford said local kids had given him a good idea who did it. He put that

incident down to young kids being "bored", but suspected different motivations this time around. The flourishing, signature-style tag, he said, offered clues.

"It's not one of our kids. If it was, I'd know by now," he said. "It's definitely an older person. You can tell by the height they were working at, and by the style."

Mr Bickford said the silver-plated cremation plots were easiest to clean, and he had perfected chemicals that remove tags without damaging gravestones. However, the signs would cause the most difficulty.

He said he took comfort from the speed with which he could repair the damage to people's final resting places.

"The best thing is, it went on last night and it's off today," he said.

"Whoever did it wasted their time. I believe it was a blow-in, because I trust our kids so much. Maybe I'm naïve, but I really do."



"WHAT RIGHT?": Last week's attack on Tuncurry cemetery was branded by local campaigner Ted Bickford: "the worst kind of vandalism".



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