

Two teenagers, suspected to be graffiti vandals, arrested in Blue Mountains as 750 spray cans found

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TWO teenagers, suspected to be graffiti vandals, have been arrested and more than 750 cans of spray paint and 90 marker pens found.

Teenagers held in graffiti arrests

Police from the North West Metropolitan Region arrested the teenagers after a search of a home in the Blue Mountains.

Operation Countdown, a region-based strike force targeting break and enters in north-western Sydney, raided the house in Mary Street, Lawson, following a tip-off that items recently stolen from a road works compound site had been stashed at the rear of the house.

During the search warrant at 2.45pm yesterday, police allegedly located 756 cans (40 boxes) of spray paint of various colours, 91 marker pens, tools, a circular saw and other construction items in a garden shed in the backyard.

The seized property has an estimated value of \$10,000. Police will allege the items were stolen from the compound site on the Great Western Highway, Lawson, on October 28 this year.



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"After the break in where items belonging to the construction company were stolen, police in the Blue Mountains area noted there was more graffiti on public and private property," said North West Metropolitan Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner Denis Clifford.

"This is a tremendous effort by Operation Countdown which for the past five months has continued to target break, enter and steal offences and offenders. There is no job too big or small for this proactive strike force and yesterday's haul proves this.

"While graffiti may be considered by some at the lower end of criminality it is an eyesore and a source of annoyance for law abiding citizens. Hopefully this sends a strong message to those who believe they are artists and deface public property that it's illegal and you will be put before the courts."

The 16-year-old was arrested at the house after the raid had commenced and was taken to Springwood Police Station about 5pm. He was charged with Break, Enter and Steal and Goods in Custody,.

Following further police inquiries, a 15-year-old boy attended Springwood Police Station about 10pm with his mother and was later charged with Break, Enter and Steal and Goods in Custody.

Both were granted bail to appear before Parramatta Children's Court on Friday 4 December 2009.

Investigations by Operation Countdown into the matter are continuing.

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