



RSL furious after graffiti vandals deface statue of World War II legend Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop

Antonia Magee | Herald Sun | December 07, 2009 10:24AM | 39 comments



UPDATE 11.35am: THE RSL has slammed graffiti vandals who defaced a statue of World War II legend Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop.

Vulgar words were written on the statue erected near the Shrine of Remembrance to commemorate the life and work of the Australian Army surgeon hailed for his [medical work on the front line in Japan](#).

The words "U f---in (illegible)" were written on the monument.

Victorian RSL chief executive Michael Annett condemned the defacing of the statue as deplorable.

"Weary Dunlop is an example to all Australians - particularly to the veteran community and those who served in the second World War," Mr Annett said.

"To think that someone would deface his statue, and I'm not aware of the particular words that were used, I just think for someone to deface the statue of a man that was loved and revered by so many thousands is shocking."



Council contractor Paul Hunt cleans offensive graffiti from the statue of Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop near the Shrine of Remembrance. Picture: David Caird Source: Herald Sun

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When Sir Dunlop died in 1993 his funeral brought Melbourne to a standstill as thousands lined the city streets to honour his life.

Mr Annett said the people who did the graffiti must have been ignorant to his great work.

"It's just appalling that these people, who presumably know nothing about what Weary did or what he stood for, have done this and I hope they catch them," Mr Annett said.

"It's awful when any memorial is defaced, but particularly one that is so focused on one particular man."

Shrine of Remembrance chief executive Dennis Baguley said he was only made aware of the damage to the statue this morning.

Mr Baguley said the statue was not on the Shrine's land so it was not protected by guards who patrol the gardens.

"Obviously this is something that we are concerned about but my view would be it is a very isolated incident," Mr Baguley said.

The Shrine was also checked for damage when the graffiti was reported and there was no other vandalism.

It is not known when the memorial was defaced. It was cleaned this morning.

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