City of
Casey

VICTORIA POLICE

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Community won't tolerate graffiti – Vandal ordered to pay up!

The largest fine for graffiti in Casey was handed out recently with 20 year old Chris Major of Narre Warren ordered to pay restitution of almost $21,000, the bulk of which $15,996.67 will be going to Casey Council.

Mayor Cr Colin Butler was pleased with the finding of the Dandenong Magistrates Court, "Graffiti is a costly crime and the Casey community should not have to foot the bill of vandals or have to put up with their scrawl in our neighbourhoods.

Mr Major is one of ten people arrested and charged earlier this year for a total of more than $120,000 worth of criminal damage in the City of Casey and restitution costs from those found guilty will go towards cleaning up the damage."

Acting Casey Inspector Bruce Kitchen said the result is due to the work of the Casey Regional Response Team, based at Narre Warren Police Station, with support from Council's Graffiti Working Party which is working hard to call vandals to account.

The City of Casey Graffiti Working Party includes members of Casey Council's Community Safety Team, Victoria Police and the Council's graffiti removal contractor, Urban Maintenance Services.

"Managing graffiti is an ongoing challenge; however, the strong partnership between Victoria Police and the City of Casey to target this serious community issue is making headway by identifying perpetrators and bringing them to the courts.

"I'm hopeful that the severity of this fine will remind parents to take an interest in the activities of their young people and discourage them from engaging in this criminal activity.

"The court proceedings should make anyone considering committing vandalism think twice about their actions as the cost is certainly not worth the effort."

Residents are encouraged to report all instances of graffiti to Council's 24-hour graffiti hotline, 1800 VANDAL, or ring 000 in cases where vandals are still at the scene," Insp Kitchen added.

The City of Casey introduced its Graffiti Management Program in 2002. An integral part of the program involves Council staff photographing each incident of graffiti and entering it onto a data base to help identify offenders and the cost of the damage incurred by their vandalism.

The database now holds thousands of images, which Victoria Police are using to link graffiti artists to crime scenes.

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