

Cranbourne Leader

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2002

Cranny now graffiti free

CRANBOURNE is graffiti free and within 12 months the rest of Casey should be as well.

Residents Against Graffiti Everywhere (RAGE) lobby group president Steve Beardon said it had only taken six months for more than 7000sqm of graffiti to be removed from the suburb.

That was thanks to a Casey Council agreement that its contractors would remove graffiti within 24 hours of it being reported.

"When we started, we were faxing two A4 pages listing vandalised sites to the council each week and there was more than that about," Mr Beardon said.

"It is now less than half a page on most occasions and many of these incidents are on property council cannot deal with, such as electrical boxes, railway property and power poles."

"The council has done a great job in dealing with the problem of graffiti."

Tagging message: it's not cool

ACTORS dressed in streetwise clothes are visiting schools across Casey to ram home the message to students that graffiti is not cool.

The educational tour will visit all primary schools in the city, aiming at students in Grades 5 to 8.

It involves a short theatrical presentation.

"The presentation educates children about the life of a tagger, and highlights the negative aspects of such a lifestyle," Casey Mayor Graham Smith said.

"It encourages children to investigate other more rewarding activities, and shows them how to help someone who may be involved in graffiti." It is the latest weapon in Casey's fight against spraycan vandalism. In April it introduced the graffiti management program, aimed at removing graffiti quickly in a bid to deter the vandals.