

Cartoon: Zoe Chapman

## Graffiti – is it the art of vandalism

### EDITORIAL

By ZOE CHAPMAN

WHEN you go shopping or you go for a walk, it's hard not to spot some kind of colourful signature on someone's fence or brick wall.

For most people, graffiti is a form of vandalism, and let's be honest – in most cases it is. There is nothing clever or beautiful about a spray-painted scribble but graffiti can be much more than that.

Graffiti can be a powerful and expressive work of art. People who use spray paint on walls in lots of different colours, with lots of textures and styles of writing are, technically, artists. In fact, the Oxford Student's Dictionary states that an artist is "...a person who paints or produces other works of art. A person who does something with great skill." Graffiti artists often do produce works of art of a high standard. They may draw an amusing or detailed picture, or write words that are thought-provoking. They can be political, philosophical, or simply funny.

Drab, grey, concrete city-scapes can be brought to life by graffiti

street art. It is fair to be upset if your freshly painted fence has been sprayed on, or when new school classrooms are scrawled with rude words.

Mindless graffiti of that kind, done only to cause destruction and offence is detestable. Graffiti used as a work of art, however, whether it is commissioned graffiti-style work, or just a person doing it without permission, should be thought about in a different way. It is another form of expression, especially for young people who do not have another way of being heard.

The famous London street artist Banksy, for example, produced artwork on blank walls that was meaningful and influential. Banksy used different stencils for this artwork, and they addressed big issues in the world today. Robbo, his rival graffiti artist found unattractive walls and transformed them into something colourful and interesting.

Banksy's artworks are now carefully preserved to ensure people can enjoy them into the future.

Is this sort of thing vandalism? On one level, yes, but it can also be seen as a form of art that some people have not fully embraced yet.

# Newcastle has much to offer us culturally

By EMILY RUTHERFORD

PEOPLE make it a goal to go and explore Sydney but most don't realise that Newcastle has that wow factor too. When people say entertainment some think of television, games or something that can keep us entertained. This is not just what entertainment means; entertainment can mean a variety of things like music, festivals, concerts, live shows or theatre productions, something you can experience yourself, without it being on a screen.

There are any places around Newcastle that you could explore and see things like theatre productions, comedy acts and music gigs, like the famous Newcastle Entertainment Centre where in October, the band KISS is playing.

Or there is always something showing at the Civic Theatre. In early July for the kids, Mister Maker and the Octonauts visited, Dylan Moran the British comedian or even *Fame Jr: The Musical* was on offer.

The Young People's Theatre, Hamilton also had a showing of *The Princess and the Pee*.

We can even thank the students for making Newcastle an entertainment city. In Adamstown, HSC stars are performing the best music marks and Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College has a fantastic annual production for everyone to watch.

Newcastle can be known for a city that is just 'there', but we have actors



The Civic Theatre shows great productions, saving you having to visit Sydney for a bit of culture.  
Picture: Emily Rutherford

and actresses that are successful that are from Newcastle like Rhys Muldoon from *Play School*, *House Husbands*, *The Secret River* and *Lockie Leonard* or Charlie Robinson, also known as Charlie from the original *Hi-5* and even *Dancing With The Stars*. These stars would have participated in local productions or

musicals to get to where they are today.

So what's going on in Newcastle now? Loads of opportunities to reach potential, live life and explore. Don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone and see what can inspire you to be as great as the people you see on stage.

## Female sport participation is good for all

By RENEE SMITH

HIGH local female participation in organised sports such as netball, football, basketball, hockey and golf in the Newcastle area provide for not only players, but administrators, officials, coaches, managers and volunteers at all levels of the game. We should be proud of the growth in female sport participation as promoting an active lifestyle contributes to fun, friendships, community integration and competition.

Recent wins by the Matildas football team and the QLD Firebirds one point win over the NSW Swifts in the ANZ Netball Championship, has been a huge topic of conversation over social media and in the community.

How fantastic that the Australian Diamonds netball team, to contest the World Cup 2015, have chosen Newcastle as a base to prepare for this event. Having the team in town will ensure continued growth and interest in female participation in sport.

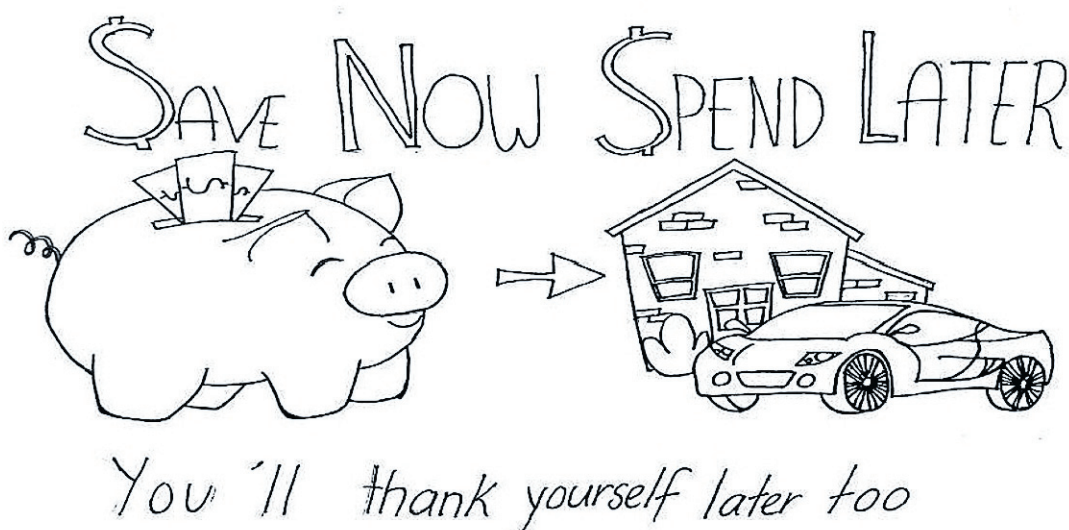


The young sportswomen of Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College: Jacqueline Ness-Wilson, Ella Smith and Renee Smith.  
Picture: Annabelle Ness-Wilson

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