

Word on the street is it's all about art

EDITORIAL

By **OLIVIA FOGARTY**

GRAFFITI is a developing art form that has become a controversial topic, causing strong disagreements among the public, city officials, law enforcements and writers that wish to display and appreciate work in public places.

Some people say graffiti is against the law but others think that it is art and a form of expression.

Starting on the side of those who say it is against the law, that is entirely true. Graffiti is a form of defacement or vandalism and it is seen as a punishable crime.

The law says: "A person must not intentionally damage or deface any premises, vehicle or other property (including trees) by means of any graffiti implement".

Graffiti can also be quite risky if someone spray paints a wall, and someone else sees it and wants to do something better in more dangerous place and this continues until someone is risking their life.

Gangs use their own style of graffiti and are always trying to outdo each other.

The government is trying to get rid of the graffiti as quickly as possible but there is so much that they just can't keep on top of it all

as well as trying to maintain a safe environment.

Graffiti can express underlying social and political messages so some forms of graffiti can also be seen as offensive. The words people can spray, the pictures people can paint and just a simple drawing could be of an offensive nature to someone.

On the other hand, graffiti isn't too bad if it is done properly. But, either way, graffiti is just a form of art and expression and it makes some people happy. There is even a whole genre of artistic expression based merely upon graffiti.

There are also many different styles of graffiti and a large range of ways for the artist to show their talents or express their feelings. They can range from quickly-done tags to elaborate and often breathtaking full-wall pieces. Some different styles include tagging, throw-ups, stencils, slaps, wild style, blockbusters, heaven and many more.

Graffiti is against the law but the government have put many hours into finding a compromise for this situation and gratefully, they have found one. They have set up legal graffiti walls and have commissioned artists to decorate them. Newcastle launched a program called Hit The Bricks, in which there are allocated walls that artists can paint on using their incredible artistic skills.



Cartoon: *Magdalene Prebble*



NO NEED FOR SPEED: Year 6 student Olivia Lantry standing beside a school speed zone sign. *Picture: Lily Mullan*

Time to slow down in zones

By **GABRIELLE CONN**

MANY parents have become quite concerned about the disregard for the 40 km/h zones near schools.

Slowing down at school zones is a priority for saving many young children's lives. Many severe injuries are caused from drivers disobeying the law and not thinking twice about what they are about to do.

Not only is slowing down an issue, there are many more dangerous things that drivers do around schools like U-turns, parking in non-parking zones or bus drop-off zones.

Parents need to think about how many children they are putting at

risk, including their own, when they disobey the road rules.

There are now flashing school zone signs to catch drivers' eyes, although many people pay attention to them.

There is an organisation called the Speed Awareness Program that uses radar-activated variable message speed signs to notify motorists of their speed. It operates around schools during school hours to assist drivers.

All teachers at St Joseph's school agree with colleague Mrs Albert, who said: "The 40 km/h zones are to be obeyed and they should be followed for the safety of children."

The mighty prince of high seas

By **JAMES PETERS**

DURING early November 2014 the cruise ship Quantum of the Seas is to set sail from the USA.

Royal Caribbean International Cruise Lines is taking a big gamble by spending nearly \$1.3 billion on the ship.

When stepping on board, passengers will find new and exciting things that have never been at sea before.

This includes bumper cars, skydiving, a bird's eye view of the ocean from 300 feet, and a two-storey high music hall.

Royal Caribbean is still bringing back favourite activities like the Flow Rider (a surf simulator), the rock-climbing wall that is 15-metres high and the beloved DreamWorks characters.

Royal Caribbean says: "The Quantum of the Seas is designed to wow," and so far it has.

For those who prefer luxurious travel, the Quantum of the Seas includes a two-storey royal loft starting from \$3000 per person for eight nights.

One thing the royal Caribbean is very proud of is Two70, which is like a big living room with a 270-degree view of the ocean. At night it is a magical theatre lit up by stage performances.

Once this mighty ship has launched, Quantum of the Seas will be the prince of the ocean for a long time to come.

Preparing for high school is not daunting

By **PERRY PROCTOR** and **MACKENZIE PAYNTER**

HIGH school is looming for all year 6 students, who are working through their last year of primary school.

Bigger and better responsibilities await with more skills to handle tasks under pressure, tension and limited time frames.

Some students may think it's scary or tough to handle, however it's not as crucial as we may think.

High school is an immense place to start off with but students readily

get used to it. Many students will have a peer support groups and expeditions around the school.

There are more choices for subjects and class responsibilities, and students will also have different periods. Some subjects on offer include: English, maths, woodwork and PE, and when students reach year 8 they get a choice of learning new languages such as Italian and French.



FINAL YEAR: Lily Mullan studying in the St Joseph's school library. *Picture: Olivia Lantry*

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