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## SBA NEWSLETTER WINTER 2017

The mercury keeps dropping and there's that chill in the air which brings on our love/hate relationship with Winter. We have moody skies and friends are flying north to the sunshine. The great indoors will have to keep us entertained this time of year. Maybe it could be an art gallery or catching up with friends or some DVD's. We really miss that open fire that we used to have.

### Graffiti

It is an Italian word that is the plural of the word 'graffito'. It usually is in the form of drawings or words on a wall or other surface. It is usually anonymous and mainly done without permission. We have all seen it on sides of buildings, billboards and partitions in public toilets. Archaeologists keep finding examples of graffiti from the days of ancient China, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

Last Easter, visitors to the Smiths Beach General Store were very annoyed to see spray-painted 'tags' everywhere defacing our buildings and local area. Kally, the Store's manager says that it often happens around there. Why do people do this vandalism?

It seems to me that the person needs to mark their territory like the dogs having a pee. Our unwanted black spray painted scribbles were daubed on the INSIDE of the lift-up glass covering our useless noticeboard. It was said that a former local Councillor and his family did a great job in cleaning it and the surroundings. Hopefully, someone could recognise the anonymous tagger's tag and contact the relevant authorities. When notified, our BCSC has a clean-up squad available from the Council Depot. They will bring their appropriate solvent cleaning materials and techniques and will remove any ugly outdoor daubings.

Indoors, marker pens are the weapon of choice used for their slogans and scribbles. The blots on our landscapes, particularly along trainlines and freeways, are mainly from spray cans. Legally, a person under 18 years of age buying a spray can must have proof that it is to be used for employment purposes.

We, too, as kids may have been known to scribe our initials in some wet cement or concrete.

Not all graffiti is obscene, offensive, racist or political and unlawful. To reduce vandalism of public and private property, cities throughout the world have designated walls or areas to be used by graffiti artists. Some thoughtful artwork may take 30 minutes or up to a month. Stencils are often used to speed up their paintings.

Some artists are famous. A homeless graffiti artist, Jean-Michel Basquiat sold one of his artworks in New York recently for \$148.9 million. Banksy from the U.K. is one of the most notorious yet faceless man and his graffiti as an art form may be found in cities throughout the world including Melbourne. Our city also is world famous for its unique attraction for local and overseas visitors. Hosier Lane is one of the many of our venues and is famous for its murals. There you will see crowds flocking to take their selfies and providing the background for their wedding parties.

As we know, our common written graffiti could be in the in the form of witty quotations, slogans and jokes and are the expressions of ideas. We all have our favourites such as "I don't know what apathy is and I couldn't care less" or "in the beginning was the word, and the word was Aardvark" etc.

Wherever you go in the world, non-ugly graffiti provides superb free entertainment.



Ian Shand, SBA Newsletter Editor

