

GRAFFITI EDUCATION: Children learn about illegal tagging

Students urged not to travel down graffiti path

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MATER Dei Primary School students have learnt the consequences of illegal tagging as part of Toowoomba's Graffiti Education Program.

Toowoomba Regional Council's preventative anti-graffiti initiative launched in primary and secondary schools around the Darling Downs as part of the council's long term strategy to prevent youth from travelling down the graffiti path.

Warner Youth Education presenter Xavier Diaz said it was important that children did not make poor life choices.

"Essentially my role is to educate students about the criminal consequences of graffiti and the safety issues of illegal tagging," Mr Diaz said.

"I also explain to the children the difference between street art and graffiti. This is so they can understand that street art is actually artwork as opposed to the destruction of property.

"If left unchecked graffiti mentality can become an unhealthy addiction.



ILLEGAL TAGGING: Learning about the negative consequences of graffiti are (from left) Nick Freyling, Carrington Schubert and Olivia Burgess.

PHOTO: BEV LACEY

"We want to encourage kids to discover what their passions are and peruse them, instead of

becoming a destructive member of society," he said.

The program includes a

45-minute presentation, a handbook for teachers and educational comics for students.

IN BRIEF

Free hearing checks

GOOD Price Pharmacy Warehouse is working with Australian Hearing to provide free in-store hearing checks and Toowoomba's store is on the list for the month of June.

Good Price Toowoomba will be offering free, 15 minute, in-store hearing checks conducted by experts from Australian Hearing from June 1-30.

The store is located in the Rumours International complex at 323 Ruthven St. Call the pharmacy on 4613 0077.

USQ Bookcase

THE University of Southern Queensland's annual writers' festival, USQ Bookcase, returns to Toowoomba on July 18 and 19 with its biggest line-up yet.

Headlining the event this year is Walkely Award-winning ABC journalist and Toowoomba local Mark Willacy.

Mr Willacy, who will be presenting the keynote address on Saturday, July 18 and sitting on the "Meet the Press" panel, said he was thrilled to be returning home for the event.

Register via usq.edu.au/usqbookcase before June 30 and you'll go into the draw to win one of two iPads.

Old photos

WE'RE looking for old pictures to use in our popular The Way We Were section. Please send them to michael.rosier@thechronicle.com.au

Graffiti program educates young students

'Be Smart, Tags ain't Art' is a punchy, provocative slogan that Xavier Diaz wants school children in the TRC area to take to heart.

As a presenter for Warner Education, Xavier is committed to spreading the word that illegal graffiti isn't cool and, by highlighting the pitfalls to younger, impressionable students, he knows there's a much better chance that they won't go off the rails later in life.

Thanks to funding received from the State Government 2014-15 GraffitiSTOP Clean-Up Program, Warner Education is running a Pilot School Program across the Toowoomba region for Primary Years 5-6 and Secondary Years 7-8.

It includes a 45-minute presentation, a letter to parents, handbooks for teachers as well as stickers, comics and other materials.

As a professional actor, Xavier soon engages with his young audience – highlighting the ramifications that “bad choices” can bring and the often life-changing consequences that can come from submitting to peer-group pressure.



Warner's graffiti education program has seen successful results and received positive feedback from students and teachers right across Australia.

For more details, visit www.warneryoutheducation.com.au And, if you'd like more information on art programs in the region please visit The Toowoomba Youth Service website www.toowoombayouthservice.org