

Learning that there are consequences to defacing local space

FROM PAGE 1

MS FINIGAN added: "Hopefully through that they learn it's not worth doing the tagging, because the police will catch them."

Ms Finigan said council has had "quite a run on graffiti in Noosa lately" and now has high hopes for a program started this week

"They believe those years are the most important years for influencing them ..."

- Kylie Finigan

in local schools, which aims to tackle head-on the peer group pressure that often results in anti-social behaviour like graffiti.

The Graffiti Education Program, supported by Suncorp Insurance and the Queensland Police Service, kicked off on Monday at Noosaville State School, then moved to Cooroy, Sunshine Beach and St

Teresa's Catholic College.

Noosa has received \$5000 in funding through the Queensland Community Grants initiative for the program.

The program, which utilises the services of Warner Youth Education and professional actor Xavier Diaz, who can engage the students in their own language and life situations, aims to reach 100 students in Noosa in Years 5-8.

"They believe those years are the most important years for influencing them through peer group pressure," Ms Finigan said.

"It's delivered all over Australia and it's had some really good feedback about changing the attitudes of young people.

"Brisbane City Council actually recommended this to us," she said.

The program includes a 45-minute presentation by Xavier, a letter to parents, handbooks for teachers, stickers, comics and other materials promoting the message: Respect it. Don't wreck it.

Ms Finigan said the message to kids was that illegal graffiti was about choices and consequences.

By PETER GARDINER

SCHOOL was cool at Sunshine Beach State on Wednesday as Xavier Diaz, the street-wise character, had even the teachers putting their hands up to say they had been pressured at times in their lives into doing the wrong thing.

Xavier is the front line for the fight against illegal graffiti - he's a professional actor who pushes everyone's buttons in all the right ways and gets them thinking about peer group

pressure and making problems in life worse by doing stupid things.

Here is just a part of the role-playing, straight talking spiel that the students could not get enough of:

"If I grabbed your stuff without your permission and I basically destroyed it, then obviously I should face the consequences.

"If you grabbed someone else's property and damage it, without their permission then you're going to face the consequences.

"Which could include

meeting the owner and explaining yourself in front of your parents."

He asked if any students had ever met a kid who acted tough when their parents weren't around, but they were not so tough when their parents were around?

"Hey, what happened to Frankie? Why's he crying? Because that's his mum," he said.

"Who's ever seen a kid get pretty scared when it's mumma time?"

But Xavier had more on this life lesson.

"And then if you do it again you could actually go to court, which is very serious. So as a young person you could be fined, or they could even be sent to a place called juvenile detention.

"And they've got to spend time behind bars, which is very sad. A lot of kids say they don't have to worry about going to court, because 'they'll never catch me alive'."

He asked do bad things happen to the students if they don't get caught?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



COOL FOR SCHOOL: Sunshine Beach State School Years 5, 6 and 7 students at an anti-graffiti program.

PHOTO: GEOFF POTTER

Relax... We'll Do the Rest



QUALITY WICKER DESIGN OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Warehouse Open Tuesdays and Wednesday 9-2pm

- Tables and Chairs • Sun Lounges
- Day Beds • Bars • Lounges

0405 105 979 | www.restrelax.com.au
info@restrelax.com.au
 Shed 2/12 Rene Street Noosaville



CHRISTMAS SPECIALS @ ALLY'S HAIR 4U

- Half a head foil or regrowth + style cut + treatment + blow dry **only \$89**
- Spray tan **only \$30**
- Brazilian Waxing **only \$40**
- Eyelash extensions **only \$65**
- Facials (oxy, diamond, Ayurvedic and more) **only \$65**
- Pedicure **only \$40**

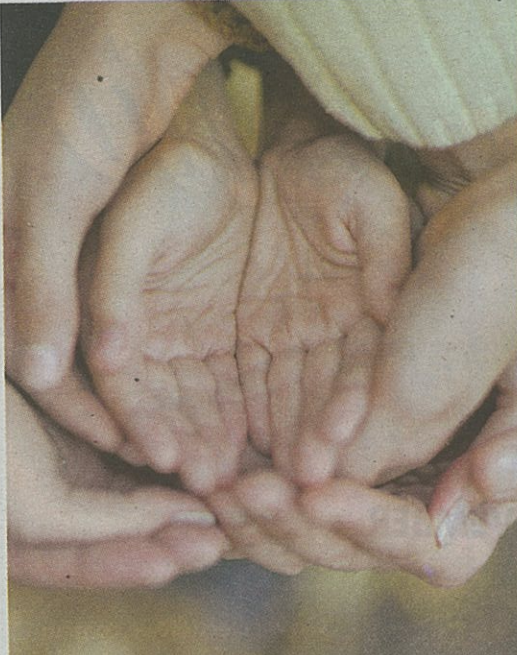
Eyebrow threading available



ALLY'S HAIR FOR 4U
 Hairdressing and Beauty Salon
 3/2 Project Avenue, Noosaville
 5474 2022 | www.hairandbeautynooosaville.com

Must present advertisement to receive these offers.
 *Conditions apply


Evening of Remembrance



We invite you to share with us an evening of remembrance for loved ones that have passed. This is a non-denominational service and includes a short program with live music, memorial tree dedications, support and a light supper.

Date: Friday 28th November 2014 **Time:** Commencing at 6pm
Where: Drysdale Funerals Chapel, Tewantin

RSVP: 25th November 2014, on 5449 9383
 or to csterlson@drysdalefunerals.com.au



DRYSDALE FUNERALS
 EVERY GOODBYE IS DIFFERENT