



TAGS aren't ART

Thank goodness art is subjective. But can we ascribe 'artistic' or 'creative' to the scrawls, doodles and tags we can currently see on walls, signs and a variety of private and public property around the Tomaree Peninsular. We agree that graffiti art can be fantastic and has a valid place in urban culture but 'art' is not what we are being subjected to in our shopping centres, parks and streets.

Its hard to apply 'work of art' to the disgraceful mess at the Gan Gan lookout, on the rocks at Birubi Beach or on the CBD business shopfronts and public amenities throughout the area. These markings are not pretty for the locals and are definitely not attractive to tourists. They are not artistic - they are simply unsightly and destructive.

The TRRA supports the action being taken by the Nelson Bay Chamber of Business to clean up the graffiti, however believes that the culture behind the vandalism needs to be understood and addressed in a way that solves the problem in the long term, and that our Council should take some responsibility to remedy the situation.

This is not just a Tomaree problem, it is evident throughout the municipality, and we need both the Council and the Community to become involved, if we are to successfully tackle this problem.