

# Vandals help fund city anti graffiti programs

## Knox taggers ticked off

- [Local News](#)

5 May 12 @ 05:00am by Zoe Lewis

POLICE are continuing to crack down on graffiti taggers, with two men prosecuted and another charged over separate incidents.

But the fight against vandalism continues, with police investigating a fresh series of graffiti attacks, including at two primary schools, on April 20 and 21.

Knox Acting Sgt Andrew Doppel, also graffiti liaison officer, said vandals hit Lysterfield Primary and Rowville's Karoo Primary, collectively causing more than \$3000 in damage.

The Knox Athletics Centre and industrial estate around Rushdale St and Gilbert Park Drive were also targeted.

But in a win for police, he said Jason McKay, 22, and brother Luke, 28, of Heathmont and Ferntree Gully respectively, were convicted in Ringwood Magistrates' Court on March 28 after pleading guilty to criminal damage offences spanning two years.

The brothers, who used the tags "red man" and "creep", were ordered to pay more than \$20,000 in compensation to street furniture provider Adshel and local councils.

Sgt Doppel said the McKays had caused damage in Knox, Maroondah, the Yarra Ranges and in Seymour.

In a separate investigation, police searched a Berwick house on Tuesday last week and charged a 20-year-old man with more than 100 counts of criminal damage regarding \$50,000 of graffiti damage in Rowville over the past 18 months.

The man, also charged with arson, drug possession and use, and possessing a weapon, was bailed to Ringwood Magistrates' Court.

Knox Sen-Sgt Phil Edmunds said catching offenders was a "community effort" and encouraged logging tags on Knox Council's website, linked to a graffiti database.

**Anyone with information on graffiti should phone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.**

*With these restitution wins for Council their annual graffiti field audit, database and data entry and other components are self funded.*

*Additionally, having these 3 offenders cease offending will save the city an estimated \$38,000 per annum in removal costs.*