

Forces Uniting

Two worlds in graffiti war

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They come from different worlds, but their hatred of graffiti has drawn them together.

Prominent Newcastle businessman Jeff McCloy and anti-graffiti warrior Rob Denton have joined forces during the past 18 months to fight the war on graffiti.

Mr McCloy has given \$12,000 in that period to Mr Denton's non-profit graffiti-removal program.

The program began in Cardiff and has spread across Lake Macquarie and into suburbs of Newcastle.

"Jeff's funding gave us the ability to set up in a way that made us virtually self-sustaining," Mr Denton said.

"It gave us creditability".

The money helped Mr Denton establish a pilot program using "nanocoat", a substance painted on walls that makes it easier to remove graffiti.

"The cost of removal goes from \$200 to less than \$20," he said.

Mr Denton presented Mr McCloy with a certificate yesterday "as a small token of appreciation".

"It wasn't the money, it was what it represented," Mr Denton said.

"He showed trust in me, who he barely knew at the time, to use the money for good.

Mr McCloy said Mr Denton was "incredibly efficient".

"He's a worker and he gets things done," he said.

"He removes an enormous amount of graffiti in the city."

While the two men come from different ends of town, they have a common belief that people should show pride in their city and take responsibility for their actions.

"As a community, if we accept graffiti it's a signal that we don't care," Mr McCloy said.

"Graffiti is a blight."