Graffiti blasters success

IT'S like a scene from the iconic Ghost Busters movie, but with a dedicated local feel.

Twelve months after implementing its Graffiti Blasters program, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is reporting a significant reduction in the amount of graffiti appearing throughout the community.

Director Tricia Bulic says the program's success stems from a valuable resource.

"Under the guidance of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, the Graffiti Blasters program is being resourced by a band of dedicated volunteers who have taken on the mammoth task of managing graffiti," Ms Bulic said.

"Established in February 2015, the Graffiti Blasters have volunteered hundreds of hours to remove graffiti from more than 500 locations throughout our region, with high profile sites including the Food for Less building and netball courts in Port Macquarie and Oxley Laneway in Wauchope all being cleaned up.

"The efforts of the Graffiti Blasters are appearing to pay real dividends with sites where graffiti has been removed not being hit again," Ms Bulic said.
"Our team have worked closely with the community to increase understanding of how to best manage graffiti, and have even collected evidence and provided photos to assist local police.

"Council would like to remind the community that graffiti offenders can be charged with criminal damage and even imprisonment under the NSW Crimes Act."

While the Graffiti Blasters are making a real difference within the community, managing graffiti is an ongoing challenge and anyone with information which might help identify offenders is urged to contact council or Crime Stoppers.

If you'd like to assist council by being part of the Graffiti Blasters program call 6581 8111 or visit pmhc.nsw.gov.au/volunteering