Graffiti Outrage
By Samantha Wood

Graffiti in the Village is forcing ratepayers to fund a hefty $200 a day clean up bill.

Village Council has spent a total of $58,000 in the last financial year removing graffiti from public places. A Village Council spokesperson admitted yesterday that the graffiti problem was ‘spiralling out of control’.

Sgt Elmore Tuckerman of the Village police wants the public to help rally against graffiti by reporting vandalism.

‘Someone must see these vandals at work but people are either scared to come forward or they can’t be bothered. What they need to understand is the damage that this graffiti is causing to the environment and that the money spent cleaning it up could go towards better things for the Village public.’

Head of the Village Public Work Department, Rosalie Trumble, said the graffiti ‘hot spots’ were the skate park, shopping centres, factory walls and bus and train stations. Ms Trumble said that vandals were using felt tipped pens and aerosol paint cans.

‘The graffiti is mainly tags. When you consider this together with the fact that graffiti peaks around school holiday periods, it’s highly likely that the offenders are predominately young people.’

The Village Council ran the ‘Beat Graffiti’ program last year which included regular clean ups of graffiti by unemployed youth and school education sessions.