

Solutions through Community Engagement

A community project successfully
working to improve Newtown





Visit to Paris

Could New Zealand get this bad ?



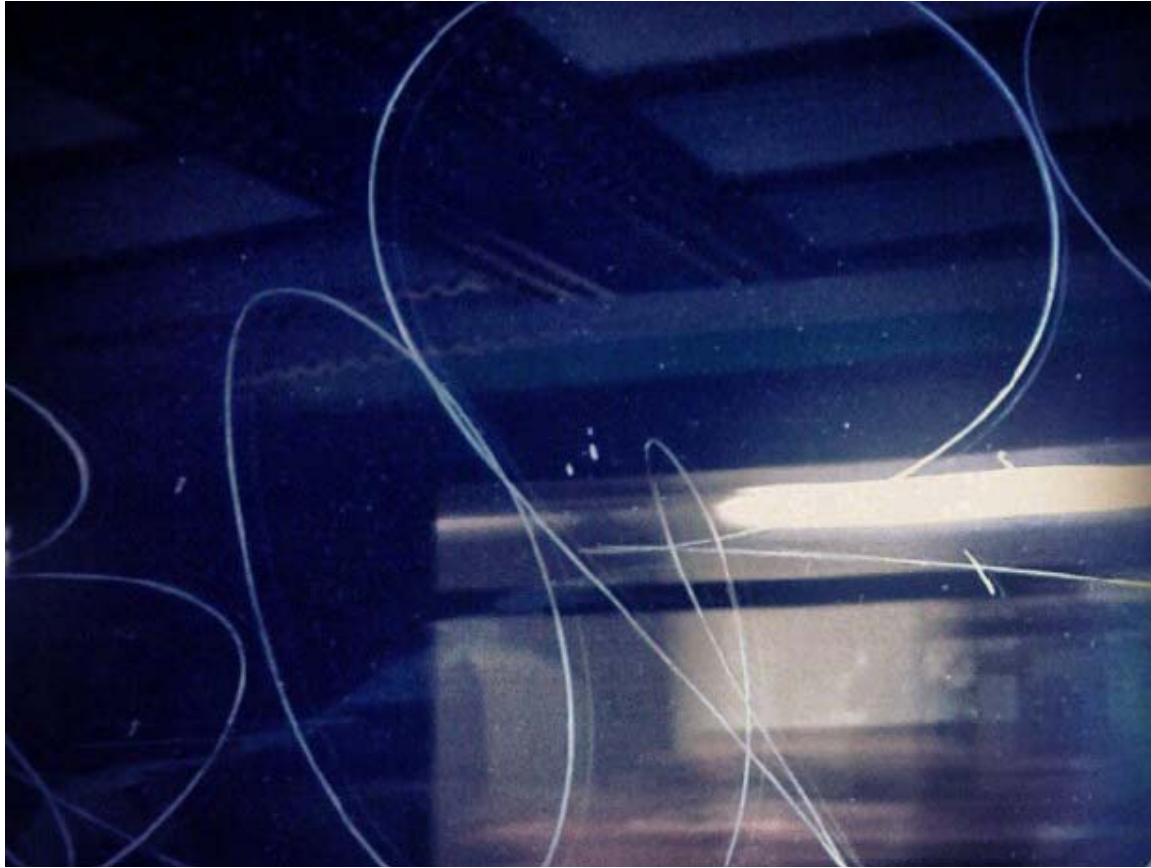
Vehicles a target !

Could it happen in New Zealand ?



Its already been happening here in Newtown !

Side of Salvation Armys Truck



Windows Etched

\$10,000 worth of damage to United Video shop windows.

Insurance companies are not reinsuring. Over 65 % of shops have had damage to their windows .

Effects on the Community

- Newtown was looking and feeling neglected, eg people would either accept it as a consequence or started turning a blind eye to tagging.
- Business negatively effected, Businesses complained.
- New businesses not attracted to set up in Newtown.
- Customers complained
- Residents complained “whats the use I remove the tag and then they come back again !”
- Visitors would comment “Newtown looked dodgy” First impressions count ! Newtown has a large number of visitors ie Hospitals, Sports events, Tertiary education, Newtown Festival.
- People didn't feel safe
- COST to damage to property and resources to repair, particularly glass etching ! Eg United Video \$10,000 quote and insurance companies not reinsuring.
- People felt Council neglected its responsibility.

Key elements to success

- Wasn't just about cleaning up Newtown
- Choice of name important
- Community volunteers
- Contractor supplying paint and equipment
- A ground up community process
- Keeping it simple
- Community Noticeboard to provide info and feedback.
- Support and involvement from Newtown Residents Assn and Businesss Group
- Encouraging Community engagement and responsibility
- Cleaning Newtown in one effort ie start with a clean slate
- Support from Council. ie resources eg supply info and publicity about removing tagging within 24hrs.
- Support and involvement with Police

How it works

- KISS
- Contractor supplies paint and equipment
- Painting equipment, tag removal chemicals, scrapers, rags, rubbish bags.(also safety equipment eg safety glasses and gloves)
- 1 Week before contractor covers Newtown taking photos and matching paint colours
- 2 On day of clean up, Contractor provides printed copies of photos with address and paint details
- 3 Volunteers remove or paint tagging / clean up rubbish then return equipment (equipment reused)
- 4 Walls repainted not just tag, so to achieve consistent result.
- 5 Contractor cleans equipment
- 6 Information returned to Council for Database by Contractor

What we achieved

- Dramatic visual improvement.
- Impressions of Newtown improved.
- Business Confidence improved.
- New Businesses established in Newtown.
- Community satisfaction and achievement
- Businesses and Residents proactive attitude.
- Improved engagement with community. Including Black Power and Residents from Mansfield house.
- Improved engagement with council
- Marked improvement in reduction of repeat tagging. Ie United Video wall, kept clean since July.
- Establishing a standard / benchmark

Goals

Future initiatives

- Engage offenders to participate
- Support for art work particularly in continually tagged areas.
- Engage with schools and community to extend participation “Proud of Newtown”
- Encourage the community to use Keep Newtown Clean as a place to meet council for engagement, to discuss ideas and potential projects
- Ensure the project continues to be sustainable.



**Absolutely
Positively
Wellington**

Recommendations

- To promote a YES attitude (Absolutely Positively Wellington)
- Consistent support from council required.
- Support community initiatives
- Encourage Council staff to attend and engage.
- Encourage Councillors to attend and engage.
- Encourage Community Engagement
- Encourage Community Resilience
- Encourage Sustainability
- Support Community Leaders – prevent burn out.