

Frankston staff stop graffiti youths

■ Frankston Station staff lead by example recently, proving that everyone can help in the fight against graffiti and vandalism!

On September 25, around 3pm, Tony Berg was going about his usual tasks in the freight yard when he spotted two boys writing on the inside of a train door.

Tony immediately phoned this information through to the Stationmaster, Len May, who with, Station Assistant, Andrew Taylor, and Clerk, Peter Riley, then approached the boys.

Len says, under these circumstances you really must use your discretion, and ensure you do not put yourself or more junior members of staff in a dangerous situation.

"When approaching offenders I always carry my radio and, when possible, someone in the office observes on the video surveillance screen.

"We approached these particular youths, who were around 16 years old, and simply asked them what they were doing. As usual they weren't doing anything. We asked for the pen, which they had hidden, so then we asked to see their tickets.

"The boys' tickets were suspicious and on further investigation we found they were stolen from Bon Beach Station.

"The boys were then taken to the office until police arrived," Len said.

The police arrived and the boys admitted to defacing the inside of the train door and also explained that they had got their tickets from students at school.

The matter is now in the hands of the Transit Police.

Full credit must go to staff at Frankston Station for their quick action and attention to following procedures.

Looking after the system is up to all of us. Reporting incidents to Transit Police or local police, a Stationmaster, Tram or Bus Driver, will play a great part in combatting this problem which is costing us millions of dollars each year.

The Safe Travelling Forum met on September 25. Broad issues of safe travelling were discussed and the group started to investigate initiatives for improvements across the system.

If you have any suggestions please forward them to Kathy Molloy, level 12, 60 Market Street, Melbourne 3000, or telephone 610 8133.

Life savers

■ Revenue Protection Officers, Suzanne Randall and Jason Monardo, had no idea what was going to happen when they were on a patrol at Cheltenham Station on September 26. It was just another routine day.

Then Sue saw an elderly lady collapse on a pedestrian crossing in the path of an oncoming train. Jason dashed to the lady's assistance and managed to pull her out of the train's path.

This quick action saved the lady's life - there was no way the train could have stopped in time.

Well done Sue and Jason!



Jason and Sue - it's all in a day's work



(left to right) Andrew, Len, Peter and Tony