

Buga Up man jailed for not paying fine

A leading member of the Sydney graffiti group, Buga Up, went to jail yesterday rather than pay a \$200 fine for defacing a billboard.

Police went to the Sutherland home of Bill Snow, 43, yesterday morning to serve a warrant for his arrest for non-payment of the fine.

Snow was arrested and charged with wilfully defacing property vested in the State Rail Authority at Sutherland late last year.

He was found guilty and fined \$212 with costs in Sutherland Court in January this year.



Bill Snow

But Snow, a founding member of the Billboards Utilizing Graffiti Against Unhealthy Products (Buga Up) group, refused to pay the fine on principle.

Members of Buga Up use spray cans of paint to deface billboards advertising products that the group claims are unhealthy — mainly cigarettes and alcohol.

"We believe it is the billboards which deface the environment and the health of the community," a fellow member of the group, Mr Geoff Coleman, said last night.

"Bill was prepared to go to jail rather than pay the fine to show that he believes in the cause," he said.

The experience will not be a new one for Snow. He spent 17 days in Long Bay Jail in 1978 for refusing to pay a fine for a similar offence.

"On that occasion he talked his cell mate into quitting smoking so he carries on his work inside as well," Mr Coleman said.

Snow is expected to spend nine days in Long Bay serving out the fine.

Mr Coleman said it was the fourth time a member of Buga Up had gone to jail to serve out fines.

"And more are on the way because several people have been convicted since our last big campaign in January," he said.

Snow was also served warrants for non-payment of three other fines over his pet dog.