

Fines — and praise — for defacing cigarette ad

A JUDGE yesterday fined two men \$235 each for defacing a billboard cigarette advertisement but expressed great sympathy for the crusade against smoking.

The two men wrote "horses smell better — BUGA UP" on a billboard poster. As well as the fine they were placed on a 12-month good behavior bond at the Parramatta District Court, NSW.

Twelve jurors returned from

almost three hours of deliberation to find Neville Bruce Biffen, 31, technician, of Marne Street, Vacluse, and Geoffrey John Coleman, 23, of Foucart Street, Rozelle, guilty of maliciously injuring a Marlboro cigarette advertisement, the property of Philip Morris Ltd, on January 6, 1981.

Imposing the fines, Judge Loveday said: "I have great sympathy for anyone who is

crusading against smoking.

"As a person who believes that smoking has a deleterious effect on our community, I admire any person who does what they can to eradicate this problem.

"The commission of this crime is of the highest idealistic nature."

"This case was of a trivial matter and should have been dealt with by a magistrate," said Judge Loveday.