

Pressing The Flesh in WA



Last year Perth's Sunseekers Nudist Club committee made a recommendation that over summer there should be more public awareness and promotion of West Australian nudist activities and lifestyle. With this in mind, early last December I was asked if I would do this, because of the very successful video I had organized to promote the 1998/9 ANF Convention in Perth.

A busy program of events was organized by both Sunseekers and Apollo clubs. The events that we were able to record photographically, with the exception of Apollo's nude river cruise, are shown adjacent. Numerous other events such as Sunseekers Open Weekend and their dances, which are conducted as clothed functions, will be reported elsewhere.

Nude parasailing had never been organized in Perth before, so it was with considerable interest that our team of four boarded the small craft to have their baptism in this adventurous activity in the Indian Ocean off Fremantle. I don't know if lots were drawn, but the three men, Bob, Les and Tony, went first, followed by Helen.

There was a bit of chop on the sea, making our small craft bob about and the wind strength was just too strong to pay out all the cable, but our intrepid four did their stuff in fine style. Each in turn then got dumped into the ocean with yells of protest.

Once they realized the lack of attire of our 'birds', craft in the vicinity rapidly changed course to see more. Fortunately no collisions took place.

The next promotion was a live radio interview at the ABC Studios in Perth. John McNamara,

who presents the popular late afternoon 'Drive' program on 720AM, had a chat with Helen Black and Bruce Grieve, both of whom—to John's surprise—were completely "nood", as John kept saying. The discussion centred on the forthcoming Swanbourne 'Nood' Olympics, and the definitions of nudism and naturism, and the general interest in the nudist scene in the Perth region. I had hoped they would not be asked the usual inane questions this time, but it had to come.

"Well," asked John, "What is the attraction of going nood?" to which Bruce answered, "Have you ever showered dressed?" John somewhat stumped, acquiesced. The discussion moved into why nudists were so regularly considered as sex obsessed or perverted by the uninformed. Helen mentioned, it was often the addition of sexy garments that promoted sexiness not nudity as such. Bruce gave the example of the huge lingerie industry as testimony to this.

How effective these activities were in promoting nudism in the Perth region is hard to gauge. Certainly the parasailing was carried out far from curious eyes for any but other watercraft occupants to see. It did however get coverage in the 'Curiosity' column in the local press. The radio broadcast would have been more widely heard had it not been competing with another dozen or so stations on air simultaneously. The efforts made were however commendable and all thanks must go to those dedicated few who can always be counted on to do more than their share in promoting our wonderful lifestyle. Often they do so at their own expense and with little acknowledgement from those who benefit most from it.

