



North Swanbourne Beach Users Association

CAN WE CHANGE THIS LAW?

Bathing
prohibited
within
certain
limits.
Amended by
No. 28 of
1964, s. 39;
No. 113 of
1965, s. 3.

104. No person shall bathe, unless in proper bathing costume, near to or within view of any public wharf, quay, jetty, bridge, street, road, or other place of public resort, between the hours of six in the morning and eight in the evening; and any person who shall offend against this regulation shall, on conviction, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding forty dollars; and any constable may take into custody any person who shall commit any such offence within view of such constable.

BACKGROUND

As a result of widespread concern over the future of North Swanbourne Beach as a nude bathing area a public meeting was called on December 4, 1979 and the NSBUA was formed.

AIMS

The aims of the NSBUA are:

- (i) to increase public awareness of the fact that North Swanbourne beach users represent a large and orderly group determined to gain community acceptance;
- (ii) to continue to campaign for practical solutions to the Swanbourne parking and amenities problems;
- (iii) to continue to campaign for a change in the existing State Police Act obscenity law to legalise nude bathing in restricted areas (to be specified by the local authorities) along the WA coast.

COMMITTEE

President - Bruce Grieve
 Vice-President - Dick Whiteside
 Secretary - Mike Kile
 Treasurer - Sue Pomerantseff
 And many others.

Advertising - Gary Clark.

MEMBERSHIP

The association needs your support. Join the NSBUA now.

Membership fees are \$2 per person and \$3 per family (with a postal charge of an additional \$1 per subscription if postage is required.) The fees can be paid to any committee member on the beach or sent direct to the NSBUA postal address - PO Box 450, SUBIACO, WA, 6008. The money will be primarily used for printing and publicity costs incurred in the pursuit of the above aims.

& WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL MP!

Well, here we go again folks.....

Welcome to another Summer at North Swanbourne Beach. It could well be a hotter than average one for nudists, judging from the recent newspaper headlines of "Storm brewing over nude beach" and "Nudists refuse to budge". Those of you who were around here last year will probably take a deep breath, mutter something unprintable and roll around in the sand with a bad case of deja-vu. A year has gone by again and nothing has been done? How is that possible?

Well, whatever your feelings, a storm does seem to be brewing - if the State Government decides to take action on the latest resolutions of the Nedlands City Council over the future of North Swanbourne Beach. Due to the failure of initiatives to get a positive response from the State Government on the issue of nude bathing in WA, the council has come

out in opposition to it. Four reasons were cited at the council's last meeting on October 2, 1980:

"(i) North Swanbourne Beach is more or less accessible from or via the residential area to the south.

(ii) The possibility of providing adequate car parking and other facilities despite numerous enquiries and attempts by the council.

(iii) Damage to the sand dunes.

(iv) The attraction of undesirables to the area near the beach including the residential area."

The background to the second reason is worth expanding on here. It results from the failure of two council moves to obtain government assistance - i.e. land and money - for new amenities. The Department of Lands and Surveys has not approved applications for land by Caddy Pty Ltd to establish a kiosk and other facilities at North Swanbourne Beach.

Secondly, the Minister for Local Government has confirmed that there are no government funds available for the construction of parking or toilet facilities in the immediate area.

As a result of all this, a stalemate has developed with the council being forced to oppose the use of North Swanbourne as a nudist beach. At the same meeting the following recommendations were passed:

"(a) That the council consider that North Swanbourne Beach is unsuitable to be the major beach in the Metropolitan area where nude bathing takes place.

(b) If and when other nude beaches are established in the Metropolitan area, the council is prepared to reconsider its attitude.

(c) That the council arranges a discussion with the Minister for Local Government, the Minister for Police and the Commissioner

Government, the Secretary for Local Government, the Minister for Police and the Commissioner for Police to consider the following proposals.

1. That the use of beach for nude bathing cease as soon as practicable.

2. That policing of the requirement that nude bathing will cease be introduced as soon as practicable.

3. That signs be erected on the beach.

4. Such discussions should determine whether the policing is best carried out as a State matter under the Police Act or as a Reserve vested in the council with by-laws prohibiting nude bathing.

5. That the council makes it quite clear it does not have the manpower to accept responsibility for policing."

So the nudist ball is clearly back in the Government's court now. Where things go from here is anybody's guess. Nude bathing is an acceptable recreational activity in many European countries such as France, Denmark, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. So hopefully, sanity will prevail and the WA authorities will take both a practical and liberal-minded view of the present North Swanbourne impasse.

The NSBUA proposes a three-point solution to the problem, in the belief that nude bathing is an increasingly popular recreational activity that is no different from other activities such as surf or golf or bowling clubs:

- (a) That the State Police Act obscenity laws be amended to legalise nude bathing.
- (b) That additional nude or free beaches be created along the coast to take the pressure off North

Swanbourne Beach (eg Woodman's Point - Jervoise Bay Quarantine Station area, Whitford's Beach).

(c) That land adjacent to North Swanbourne Beach be re-zoned so that adequate parking and amenities can be provided as soon as possible.

In the final analysis, the beach is only popular because increasing numbers of people wish to use it. To evoke an antiquated law over 100 years old to solve what is no more than a parking problem would be an extreme move indeed.

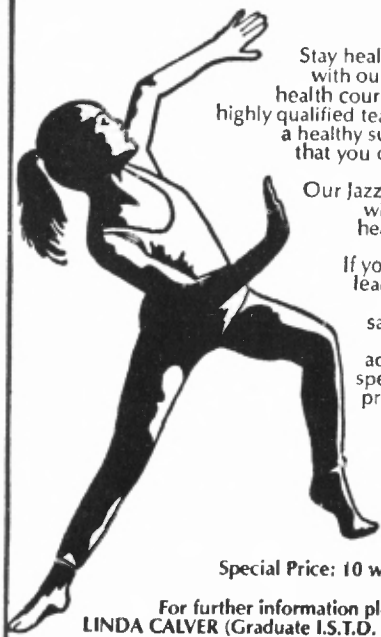
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LUNCH TIME AND EVENING CLASSES

Storm brewing over nude bathing

By George Williams

Swanbourne nude beach could be closed through arresting nudists.

This is one of the possibilities which the City Council wants to discuss with the Police Commissioner.

The council decided last night to try again to sort out the Swanbourne problem, because summer is only seven weeks away and ratepayers who live at Swanbourne will soon be complaining again about beachgoers parking all over the neighbourhood.

Nedlands Mayor, Cr David Cruickshank, said today: "There's no doubt about it. Nude bathing is an offence under the law."

"It used to be a special problem at Swanbourne because it was Common wealth land, but it is now owned by the State so State laws should apply."

"It is a matter whether the council wants to take a policy of nude bathing, but it is clear that it would be compared to Swanbourne as the beach in the area."

Local residents were justifiably upset over summer by the crowd up to 4000 on a Sunday and vehicles packing to their streets.

The council had many plans and over the past year to improve road access, but got nowhere.

He said: "I've cleared out now up to the cove for the council."

| APPROVE | DISAPPROVE | DON'T KNOW |
|---------|------------|------------|
| 44 | 47 | 9 |
| 48 | 47 | 5 |
| 49 | 47 | 4 |
| 48 | 47 | 5 |
| 48 | 47 | 5 |

In the latest poll there were significant differences in the results among various major sub-groups.

- Fifty-three per cent of men approved of public nude bathing, compared with only 35 per cent of women.
- Forty-eight per cent of men approved of public cities approved, compared with only 35 per cent of people in country areas.
- Forty-eight per cent of people in the capital compared with 38 per cent of ALP voters approved.
- Younger people approved of public nude bathing to a much greater extent than older people. For example, 60 per cent of people aged 16 to 24 approved, compared with only 23 per cent of people aged 55 and over.

By States, approval of public nude bathing was much greater in WA (60 per cent) and SA (56 per cent) than in Tasmania (30 per cent) and Victoria (45 per cent).

The approval rates in New South Wales (37 per cent) were the national average.

Results for the State were wider possible than for the State.

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Ban sought on nude bathing

Swanbourne residents are raising a new petition that asks the Nedlands City Council to oppose nude bathing at North Swanbourne beach.

By MARK SKULLEY

Residents began house-to-house canvassing in the Swanbourne area a few weeks ago and have so far collected

GALLUP POLL NUDES ARE O.K. IN WA

Forty-seven per cent of Australians disapprove of public nude bathing, says the Gallup Poll. But in WA 60 per cent of people in a survey approve of going "au naturel".

Forty-four per cent of all Australians approve and nine per cent are unsure. The poll in August took in 2026 people throughout Australia.

Those interviewed were asked, "Do you approve or disapprove of public nude bathing?"

Exactly the same question was asked by the Gallup Poll five years ago in April 1975.

Results of the two polls show an increase in approval of public nude bathing.

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THE WEST AUSTRALIAN THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11 1980

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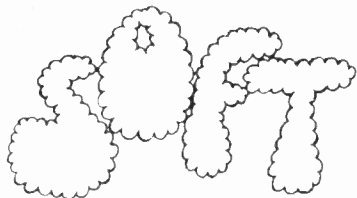
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HELP PREVENT DUNE EROSION

The North Swanbourne coastal dunes are the only major patch of native coastal vegetation left in the Perth Metro area. Besides being an important buffer zone against coastal erosion, it is also a habitat for coastal wildlife species such as marram grass and spinifex.

It is up to beach users to ensure that this fragile environment remains intact. There are a number of ways you can help:

- (i) Keep off the dunes and their vegetation wherever possible.
- (ii) Approach the main beach area only along the seaward side of the coast.
- (iii) Discourage your children from playing in the dunes.

Besides the environmental hazards that can result from damage to the dune buffer zone, there is also the summer problem of snakes. Young dugites are very

common now and their bite can be fatal to a young child. So please take care.

For further information see the enclosed leaflet - 'The Importance of Coastal Dunes' - issued by the Dept of Conservation and the Environment.

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| <p>FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 8 PM</p> |
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| <p>The first AGM will be held at the Swanbourne Surf Club, Tuesday, December 9, 1980. Everyone is welcome!</p> |
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ADVERTISING

Do your part to preserve the beach.
ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER.

Rates are \$5 per quarter page; \$10 per half page' \$20 per full page for each issue.

Those interested should contact Gary on 275 2120.



BRUCE IS TURNED ON

The sight of a well tanned body really turns me on but i suffer sympathy pains when I see an iridescent, "well done" slab of crisp skin. The long term is possible cancer (don't knock it, its real!) and the short term is two weeks of squirming in clothes and worse still, NO SWANY BEACH. Those who attend the beach regularly (hereinafter called "regulars") know that a standard Swany Swag contains sun tan lotion and a hat. Lip cream and sunnies won't go amiss either. Nobody gets a fast tan; it has to be worked at slowly. For the newcomers, those strips of (ugh) white can be fashion - matched to the rest of you but take your time with a good quality sun tan cream. Fair skins should use a blocking cream and zinc cream is in this year (esp. for kids). It may sound sacrilegious but cover up if you do get burnt and skins do love a sensuous coating of moisturising cream after a great day at the beach.

So PLEASE use common sense, more lotion and a hat and we will get to see more of each other - so to speak.
 —Bruce ***

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 WEST AUSTRALIA.

The Swanbourne Surf Life Saving Club needs our support.

North Swanbourne nudist beach has all the ingredients for a potentially serious accident.

It would be great if we could rectify this situation during the 1980 Summer. But to do this we need your support. Ross Bosworth, the president of the club has a low active membership, and is primarily responsible for patrolling the Swanbourne Beach area proper. More members are urgently needed

The SSLC requires its patrol officers to have a SLA Bronze. The club is keen to hear from males and females of all age groups who might be interested. The average training time is about 10 hours per week for a six-week period. So let us help the SSLC help us in the interest of public safety. Those interested should contact the SSLC's Secretary/Registrar and Chief Inspector, Ivan Martinovich, on 335 6424 (home) or 445 1833 (work).

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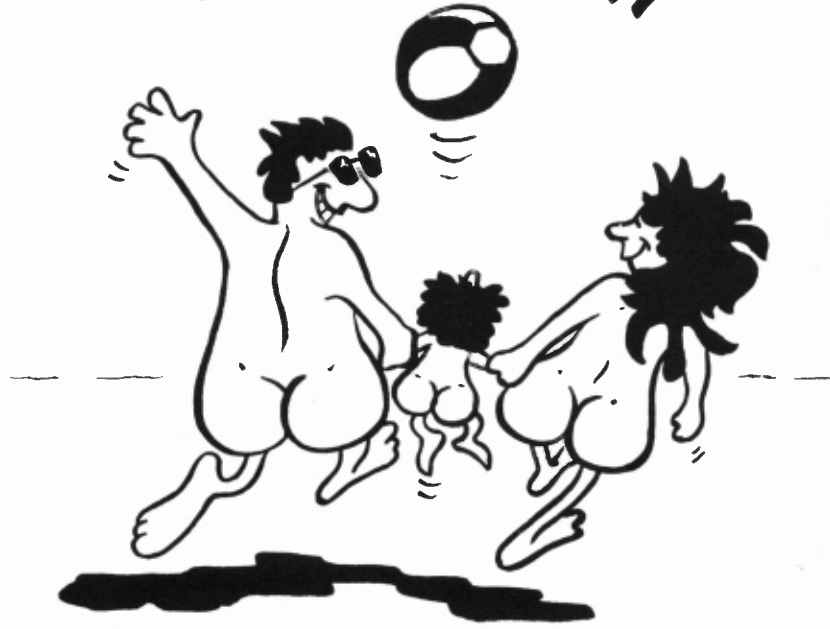
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