



# North Swanbourne Beach Users Association

## 1983 THE YEAR OF PROGRESS

Where were you in '82? Relaxing at Australia's newest legal free beach - North Swanbourne? It is a way of life for thousands of West Australians and an accepted fact by the general public. We have come a long way since December 1979 when, threatened by intervention by authorities, the NSBUA was formed to save the beach and campaign for favourable laws, more free beaches and public acceptance. Attempting to

change the public's attitude on what they consider is a morality (ooh - ah!) issue, ie. public nude bathing, is one thing. That alone takes years. Changing State laws is a far more daunting task. But we have been fairly successful.

For two years we have run a public education program via letters to the editor of the local Post newspapers. The purpose was to inform non nudists what we are all about and what our needs are.

In February 1982 I presented the Nedlands City Council with an extensive report summarizing our beach with suggestions for the future and letters from interstate authorities about their free beaches. More pressure from the Council and myself resulted in the then Minister for Police Mr. Hassell stating the State Government's policy. In a letter (May 1982) he said and I quote :-

"The present law does not necessarily prohibit nudity on a separate beach. Under current standards of morality as interpreted by the Courts, it is unlikely that any prosecution against a nude sunbather or swimmer at a separate beach would succeed, whilst under the same provisions of existing laws a prosecution against a nude person at a beach in general use by the public and which had not been developed as a 'nude' beach' would succeed."

This means no change in the laws but the next best thing, a crown law opinion, notes that a prosecution on a designated beach would be laughed out of Court. To me this means we are legal and I challenge any sceptics to disprove it by prosecuting me. If a precedent is needed then I'll be the bunny.

The statement also gives other Councils the go-ahead to open their own free beaches. To this end myself, Bob Unwin of Sunseekers club and John Wier of Apollo club, have encouraged the Wanneroo Shire Council and finally in November they approved a free beach in the Wanneroo Shire subject to a solicitors report and a suitable site.

Interestingly, a random street survey in Wanneroo showed 22% opposed, 68% not opposed and 10% didn't care.

Bruce Grieve

ON CLOTHES

Your clothes conceal muck' of your beauty,  
Yet they hide not the unbeautiful,  
And although you seek in garments the freedom of privacy,  
You may find in them,  
A harness and a chain.

Would that you could meet the sun and the wind,  
With more of your skin, and less of your raiments,  
For the breath of life, is in the sunlight,  
And the hand of life, is in the wind.

Some -of you say,  
It was the northwind that has woven the clothes we wear,  
And I say, Aye, it was the northwind,  
But shame was his loom, and the softening of the  
    sinews his trade,  
And when his work was done,  
He laughed in the forest.

Forget not that modesty is for a shield,  
Against the eye of the unclean,  
And when the unclean shall be no more,  
What were modesty?  
but a fetter and a fouling of the mind?  
And forget not,  
That the earth delights to feel your bare feet,  
And the wind longs to play with your hair.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

WHO ARE WE

In November 1982 Deakin University Press released the first definitive book on the subject, "Nudism in Australia" by Magnus Clarke. It traces the history of nudism in Oz by way of clubs, magazines and later free beaches. There are some interesting thoughts regarding nudist's sexuality and the future of nudism. The cost is \$9.95 and can be bought here though I was not at all impressed with the quality of the binding).

We did a survey at North Swanbourne and the results appear in the book. Swanbourne received a good write-up with a colour photo of a volleyball game and comments like "This is one of the cleanest and safest beaches in Australia."

So who are we?

The survey showed the populace to be two thirds male; half were single (not married or defacto); most were average to high status with equivalent incomes and 90% felt 'very secure' on the beach.

Half have been free beaching for 1-5 years and a quarter between 6-10 years - a very stable addictive, community. Approx. 45% come to the beach to relax; 60% have good or better sex lives and most are open about their nudism to friends, family and workmates. The least majority come by car and from all over the metropolitan area.

I would like to add that we are also people, tax paying citizens (and howl) who should not be put down/ or refused consideration in the distribution of the public dollar in the supply of facilities and parking. We must speak up for our rights - Ta-daaa rhubarb rhubarb you've heard it all before. But it is true - think about it .....

I would also like to thank everyone at the beach for making it such a warm, friendly and relaxing place to be. Like so many, it is the place I head for when the pressure builds up or when I need the company of genuine friends on the same wavelength. Swimming in the nick isn't bad either.

Bruce

THE FUTURE OF FREE BEACHES

In a Word - sunny! Swanbourne is legal; Wanneroo is on the way; Warnbro is accepted; Esperance is still deciding Albany said no because it wasn't sure about Hassell's deal:-(try try again); Port Hedland nudists are still fighting and Roebourne said OK on secluded areas. The south beach at Port Denison is also free but down a bit from any textile swimmers.

Victoria should get free beaches this year so that leaves Queensland and Tasmania still fully clothed. Lately there have been positive signs in Joh's country. Free beaches are becoming the norm and rightly so.

The people want it and it's hardly a nest of organised crime, sin and corruption.

Incidentally, the leader of the Opposition Mr. Brian Burke has said the Labor party will have a policy on free beaches by March - ring him up and voice your opinion it will be appreciated. While on the phone, give the new Minister for Police Mr. Medcalf a call and ask when the indecency laws will be changed. This is still very important and past experience has shown that public press is the only way to get fingers pulled out.

Good luck to the nudists in northern districts. When you finally get your free beach (in the Wanneroo Shire) it will be up to you to safeguard your investment. Get a community spirit going early; bring in some poles, net and ball for the inevitable volleyball; discourage any idiots; organize rubbish disposal and you will develop the most popular beach in Wanneroo. It would be a good idea to keep in touch With the Councillors since it is their job to look after the interests of the Wanneroo ratepayers. In some eyes you will be on trial. Continuous 'attendance and careful management will ensure Wanneroo free beach will be permanent. It will need a name too.



THE PLAYFUL POOCH

Most folks are animal lovers but like inflation and kids, dogs can cerise discomfort when uncontrolled. Dog beaches are a hot issue but it is generally thought that, like nudists, if they stay away from popular people beaches, everything's hunky dory.

In case you haven't noticed, Swany is a very popular people beach and many have complained about roaming dog's lack of discretion regarding ablutions, kicking sand and bothering tiny tots. Also there is no shade or water so please think of others and don't bring dogs to Swanbourne beach.

P.S. Swanbourne beach between North St. and our border is a big no-no for dogs - Nedlands Council Bylaws.

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HASSLES

This is being repeated for the benefit of newcomers. One of the outstanding features of 'North Swanbourne is the open and friendly atmosphere on the beach. All beachgoers are of course keen to bee that the reputation of the place should be Maintained. The NSBUA therefore encourages everyone - especially newcomers - to let us know (near the volleyball court) if they are hassled in any way at all on the beach and the problem will be dealt with immediately!

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Six-year-old girl was reporting to her pals-after a first visit to Swanbourne beach:

"We had a great time, but when we got there, Dad find he'd forgotten his bathing costume."

"Then he found he'd forgotten mine, too."

"And after we went in for a swim, we found everybody had forgotten theirs as well."

THE EVER PRESENT, \_PARTIALLY BORING NCH SEXIST TIT BITS:

The North Swanbourne Beach Users Association has an address for any correspondence, information or further explanation of any item in this newsletter :-

P.O. Box 35  
Claremont 6010  
W.A.

Or you can find me on or near the volleyball court.

Bruce Grieve  
President

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Back in the 1930's a minister of religion in New York proposed an excellent theory on how to prevent wars. His idea was that the whole world should turn to nudism so that no one could distinguish their friends from their enemies. (Then all beaches would be free 6)

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Definition of a free beach :-

A place where the rising hemline has finally met up with the plunging neckline. (You can still hear the reverberations from that inevitable collision)

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Can anybody tell me what a plain clothes policeman (on duty) wears at a free beach?