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Barely legal

Police give nudists the naked truth



NOT ON OUR BEACH: Nudists are welcome at Kings, Lady Bay, Cobblers and Obelisk beaches but not our Little Congwong.

Leesa Smith

A raid on an unofficial nudist beach at La Perouse has reignited the call to make Little Congwong a clothing optional locale.

The NSW Free Beach Action Group's attempt to have the beach classified as a nude beach for a two-year trial was rejected by the Randwick Council in 2005 and again in February last year, but tensions have risen between residents and nudists at the beach, which has had a long history of an unofficial clothing optional code.

The long-running battle to get swimmers at Little Congwong beach to keep their clothes on climaxed on Sunday with a police raid.

Police swooped twice in one day – at 12.30pm and 4pm – after ongoing community concern about the public beach being turned into a nudist oasis.

Nude bather Bozena Hochwallner, who was at the beach on Sunday, said the raid was a waste of police resources.

"There are more urgent matters for police to attend other than people skinny-dipping and if it is such a big problem in 2010, there is something wrong with society," she said. "Let's finish that nonsense and register the beach as a nudist beach. One can be sure us nudists will tolerate other users wearing swimming wear."

Concerns about nudists flouting the govern-

ment decision led to the police raid on Sunday. There, police found 140 people on the beach at 12.30pm, 80 of them naked.

Police spoke to a number of people, explaining present legislation and community expectations, before the nudists were asked to get dressed and leave the beach. More nudists were moved on at 4pm when the police returned.

Although the nude bathers were only issued with formal warnings, Maroubra police superintendent Gavin Dengate stressed that if the practice continued, infringement notices for offensive conduct and charges for wilful and obscene exposure were possible.

"Police remind the community that Little

Congwong beach is not a registered beach for nude bathing under Section 633 (nude bathing) of the Local Government Act," Supt Dengate said. "There are signs on the beach advertising this fact, and they have been subject to frequent vandalism."

Randwick councillor Robert Belleli said nudists should accept the law. "La Perouse is very different to 80 or 90 years ago when it was not populated," he said. "There is tourism and it is very family orientated now."



Should Little Congwong be a nudist beach? Tell us what you think at
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