

Strathfield
Rotary
Club



Rotary Club Strathfield Wednesday Night Meeting

Sergeant Session

11th February 2026

Theme : A quiz on Australian Beach Culture and History with Summer almost over



Question 1. How Many Beaches Does Australia Have ?



A. Less than 10,000

B. More than 10,000

Answer 1. How Many Beaches Does Australia Have ?



At least 10685 beaches

~~A. Less than 10,000~~

B. More than 10,000

Question 2. Pre 1902 what was the legal use of the beach by the colonists?



A. Bath



B. Swim

Answer 2. Pre 1902 what was the legal use of the beach by the colonists?



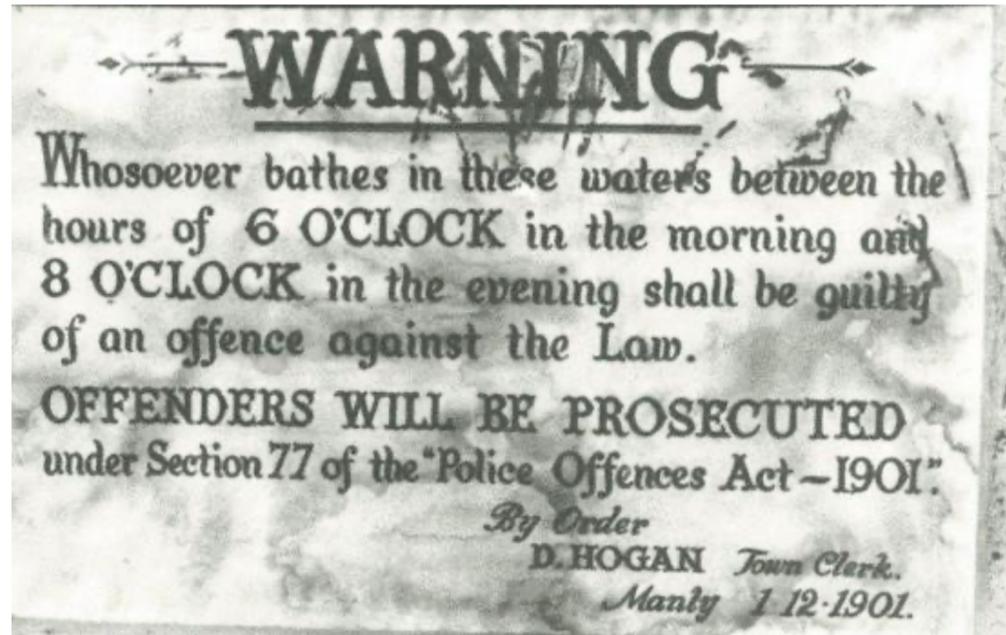
A. Bath

“While most settler-colonial Australian coast dwellers in the 19th century viewed ocean bathing as essential for hygiene, being in the water also channelled all sorts of panics.” from Beach swimming was once banned in Australia. How did it become a treasured pastime?



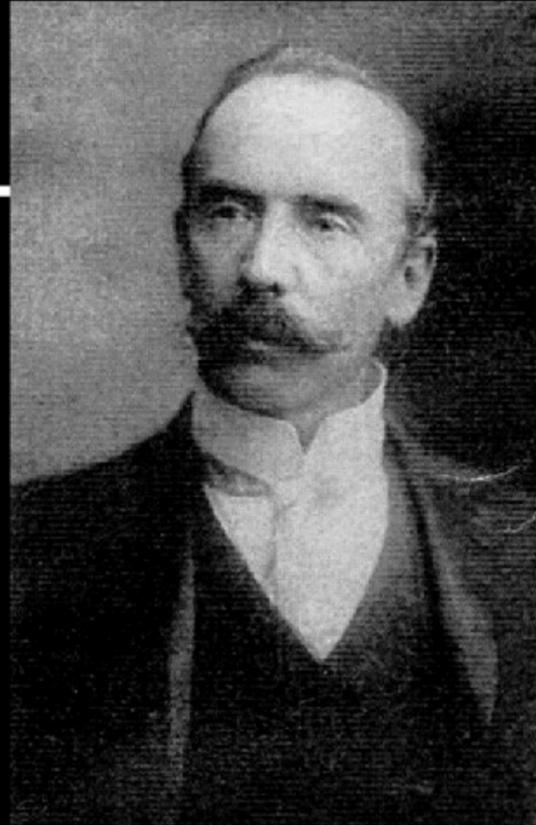
B. Swim

Question 3. Why did William protest?



**2nd October
1902**

William Gocher
defies the
Australian law that
prohibits daylight
bathing in the
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new precedent in
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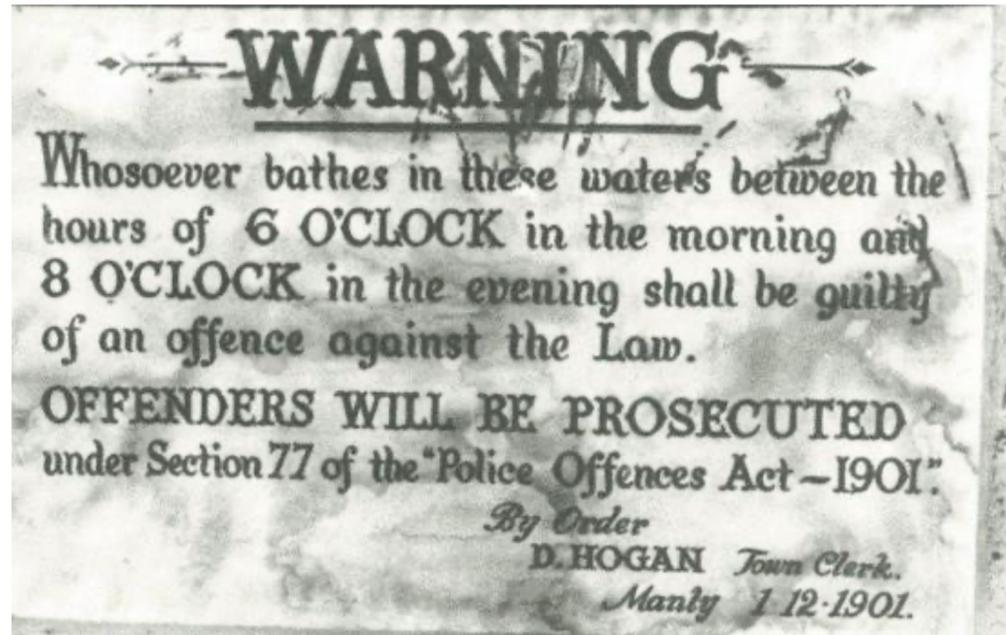
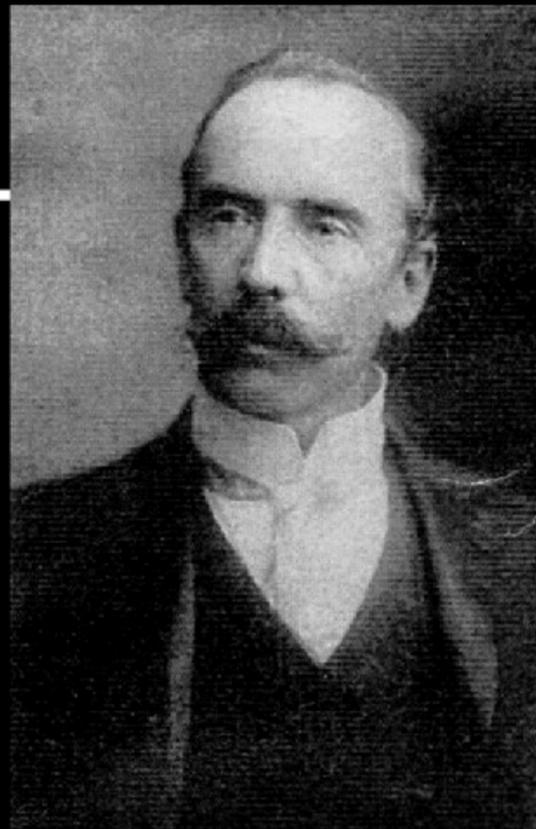
A. Public disobedience

B. Manly Beach Tourism

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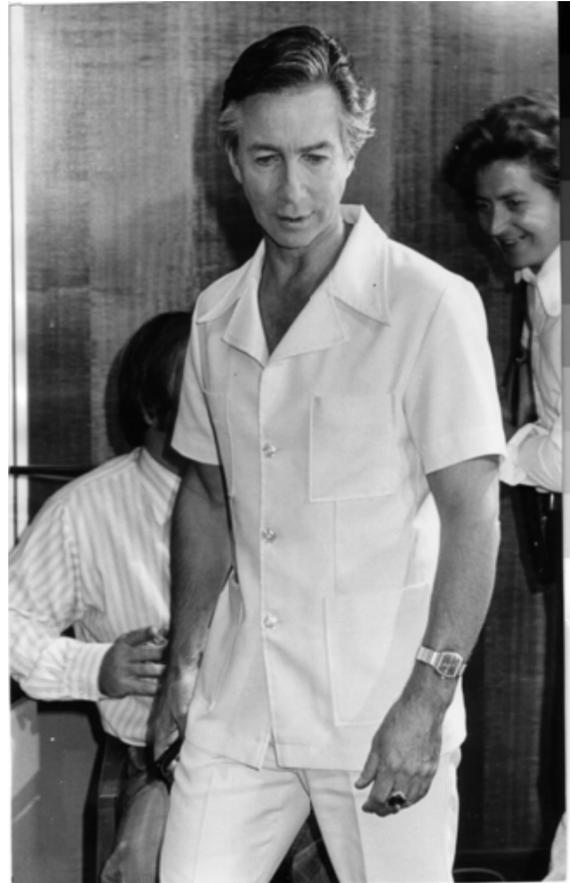
A. Public disobedience

Some claim to promote his newspaper and increase circulation



B. Manly Beach Tourism

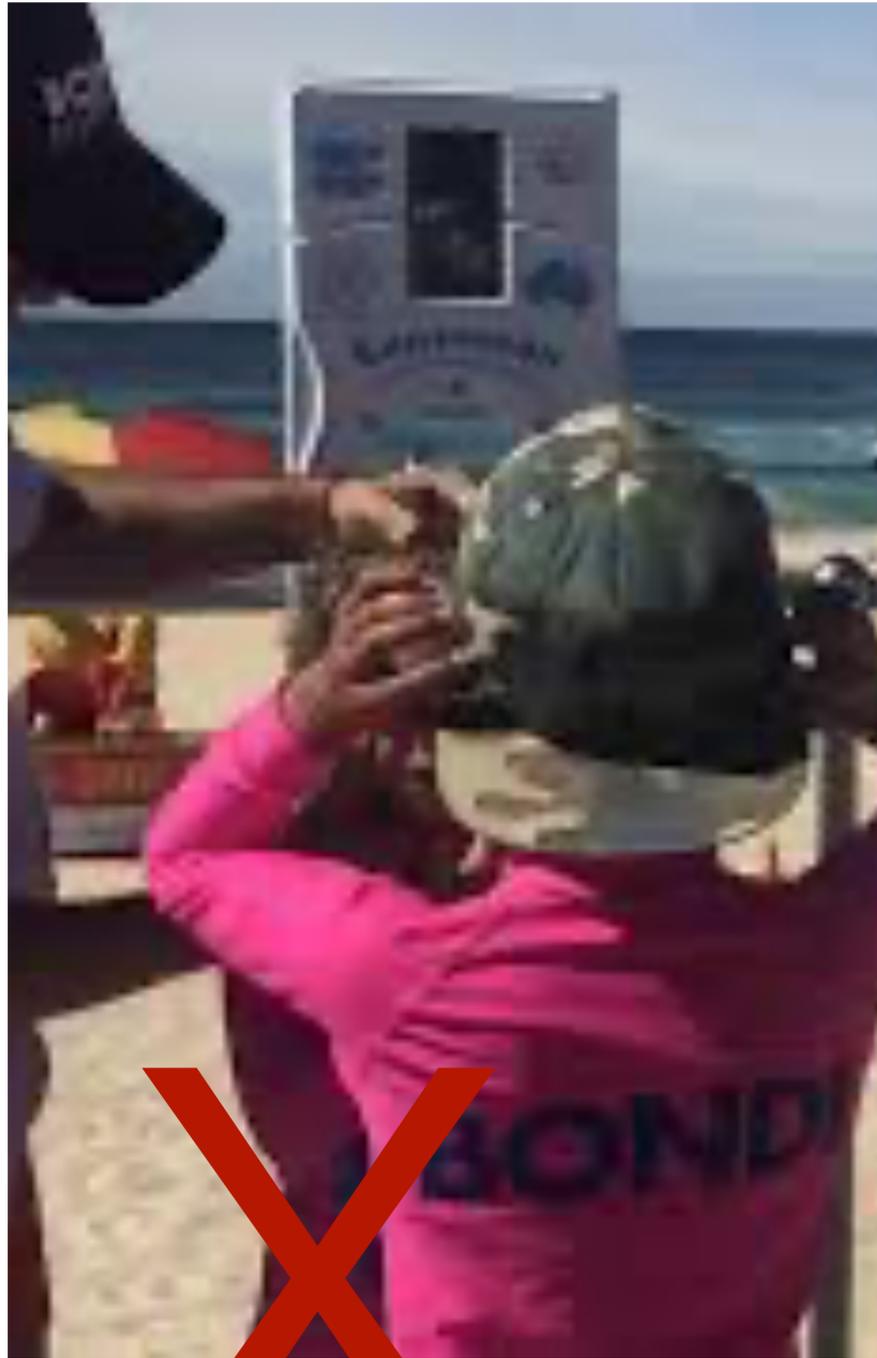
Question 4. What was Don Dunstan's revolutionary beach activity legislation ?



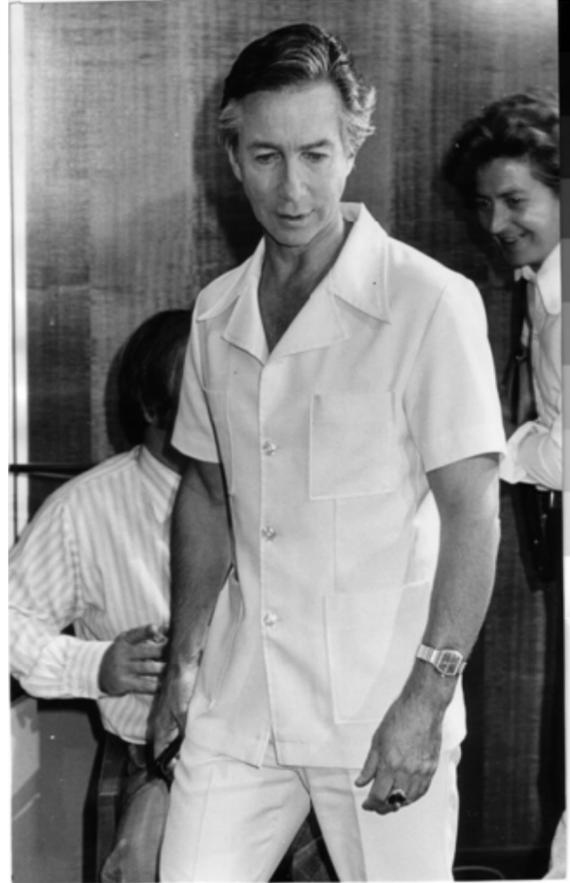
A. Sun Squirt for sun protection

B. Australia's First Nude Beach

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Question 5. What Started the Bikini Wars



A. Historical Legacy

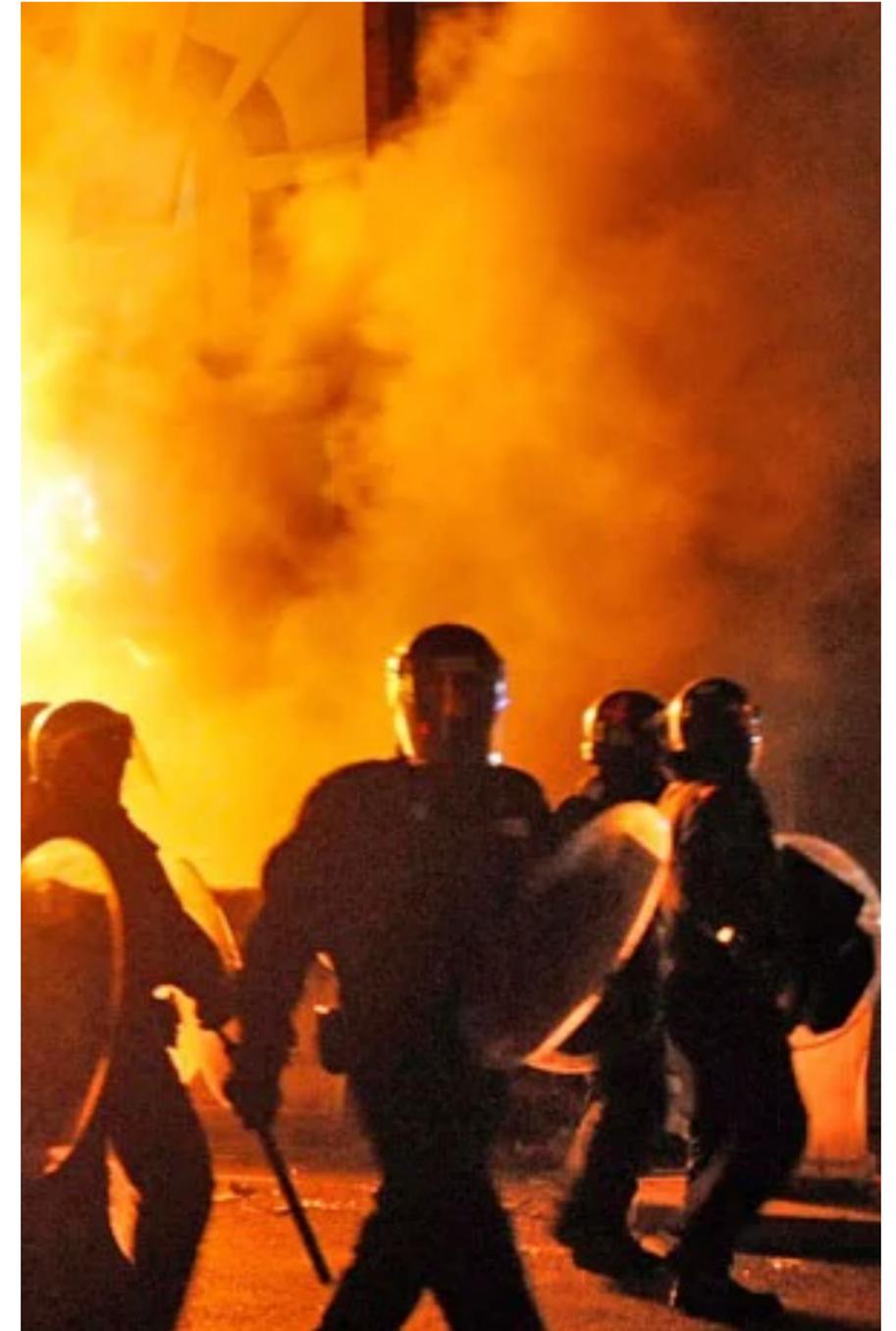


Waverley Council
Waverley Library
BIKINI WARS
1940s-1960s
A Waverley Library
Local History Fact Sheet

Although two piece swimsuits have been around since Ancient Rome (mosaics depicted found in the Villa Romana del Casale showed women wearing bandeau tops and shorts to compete in sports), the bikini as we recognise it is commonly

shoulder straps of keeping the composition.

While it is impossible to know who was the first to wear a bikini on a public beach, there has been a history of arrests of women



B. Riot

Answer 5. What Started the Bikini Wars



A. Historical Legacy

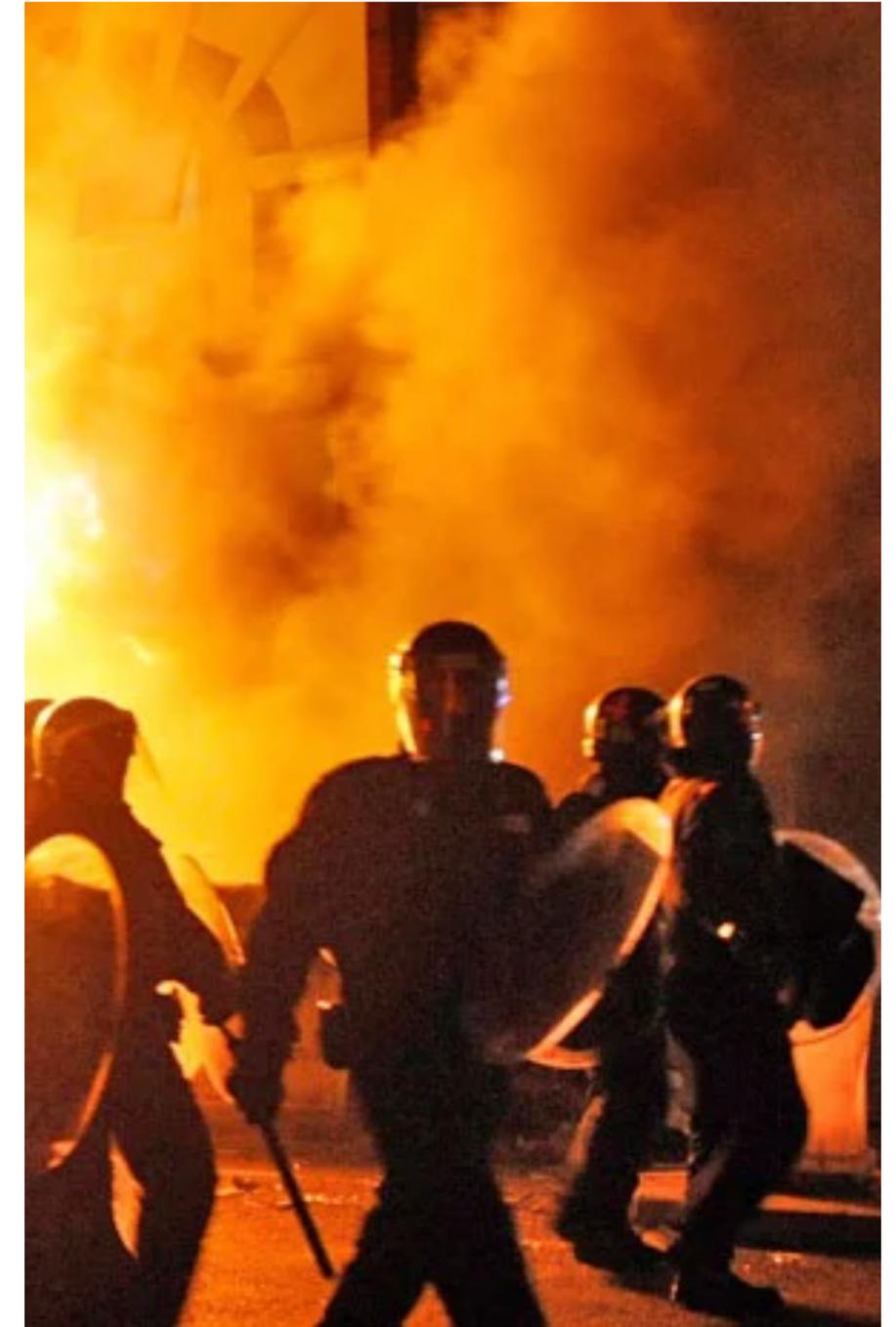


WAVERLEY COUNCIL

BIKINI WARS

1940s-1960s

“According to a Sunday Telegraph report in 1946, an unnamed woman braved Bondi promenade wearing a bikini and 'caused a near riot. Waverley Council Lifeguard (then known as Beach Inspectors) Aub Laidlaw told her she was indecently attired and ordered her to the changing sheds at Bondi Pavilion with instructions to put on some more clothes. Later charged with offensive behaviour”



B. Riot

Question 6. Who is responsible for inventing rock pools



A. Australia



B. Scotland

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A. Australia First rock pool at Maitland NSW

B. Scotland

Question 7. Which Surf Life Saving Club Started Nippers ?



A. Bondi Beach



B. Nambucca Heads

Answer 7. Which Surf Life Saving Club Started Nippers ?



A. Bondi Beach



ROTARY CONNECTION

"A few young ones had been swept out around Christmas 1960, and there was discussion in Rotary about what could be done. So we got together – the doctor, the barrister and other town leading lights, everybody was in the club in those days – and organised a public meeting that heard our idea of forming a branch of the surf life saving club for local youngsters. "It was Cyril Bannister, a delightful chap, who came up with the name. Nambucca Nippers. It rhymed, ran off the tongue like a little poem."



B. Nambucca Heads

Question 8. Highest Paid Swimming Star in Hollywood Films



A. Esther Williams



B. Anette Kellerman

Answer 8. Highest Paid Swimming Star in Hollywood Films



A. Esmer Williams

Anette Kellerman known as the Million Dollar Mermaid, was a swimming suffragist originating from Marrickville NSW.

She introduced the one piece swim suit and the first nude on film.

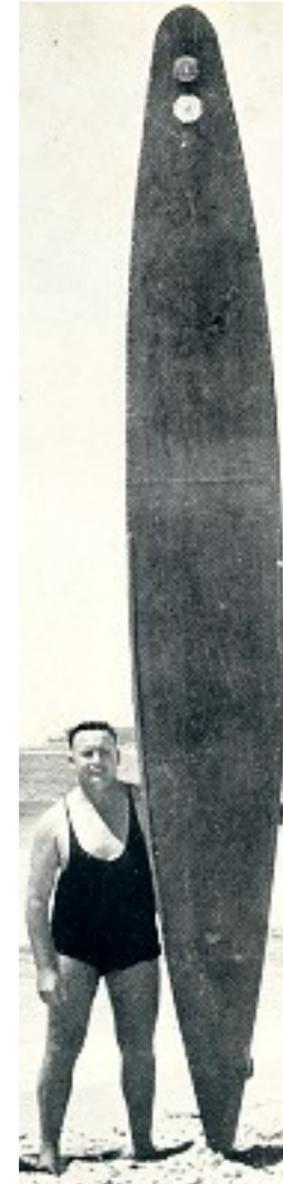


B. Anette Kellerman

Question 9. Australian Surf Riding Innovations, which came first?



A. inflatable rubber surf mat



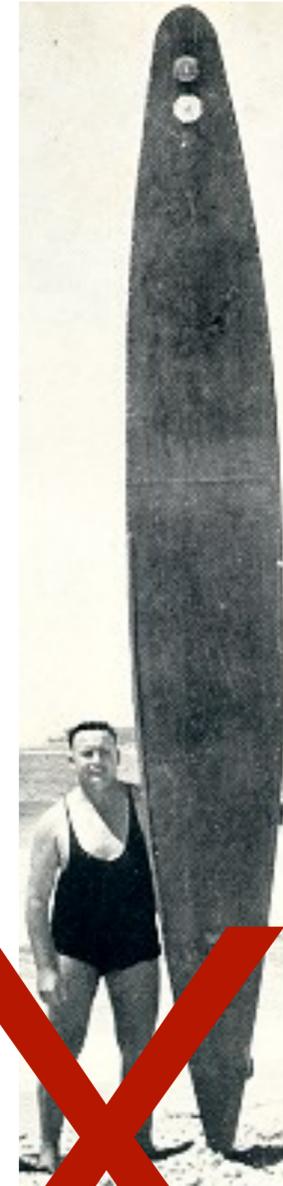
B. Hollow Timber Surfboard

Answer 9. Australian Surf Riding Innovations, which came first?



1933: Ernest Smithers launches the surf-o-plane, an inflatable rubber surf mat

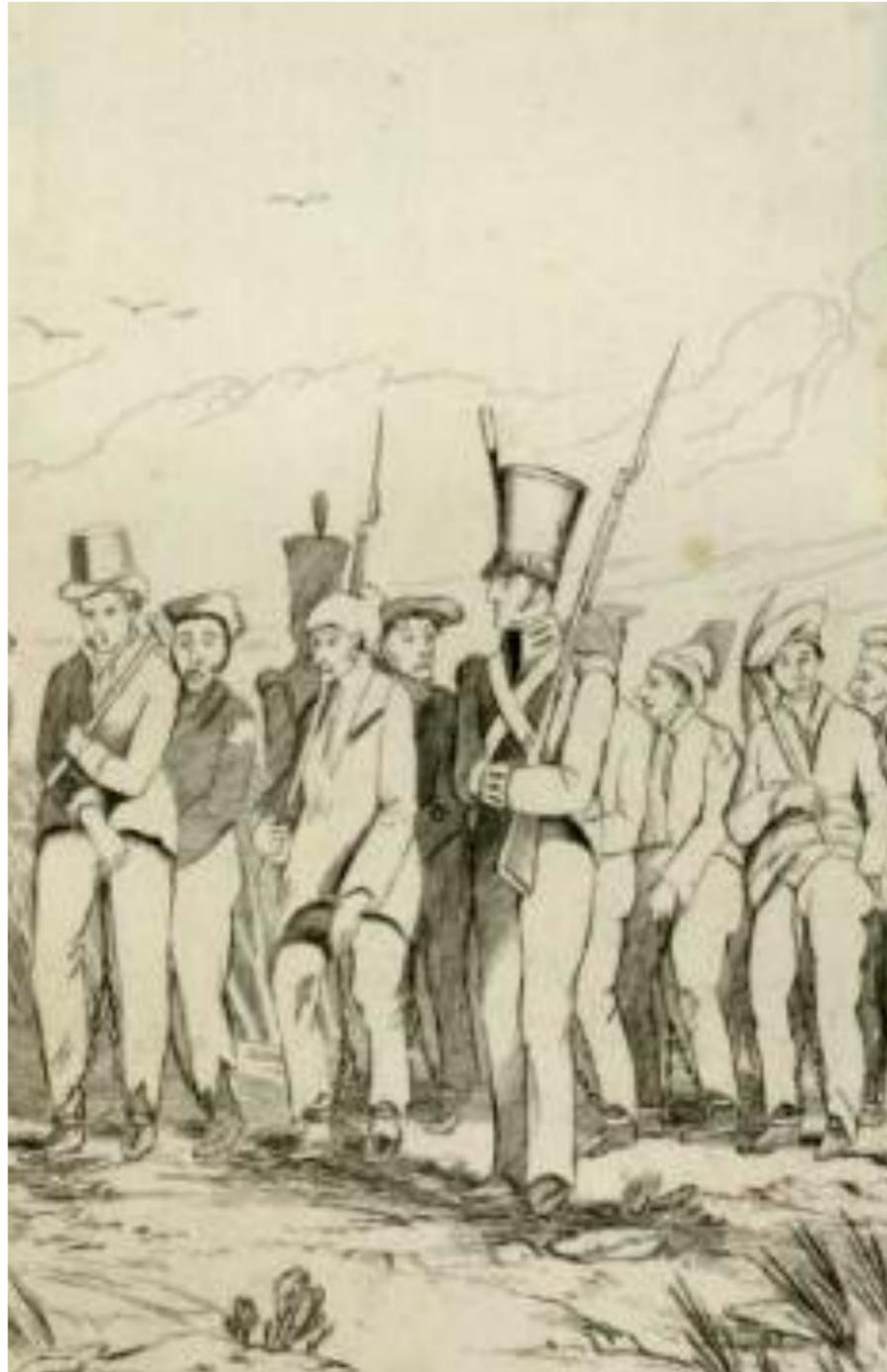
1934: Frank Adler shapes The Racing 16, Australia's 5rst hollow board with timber frame and plywood skin



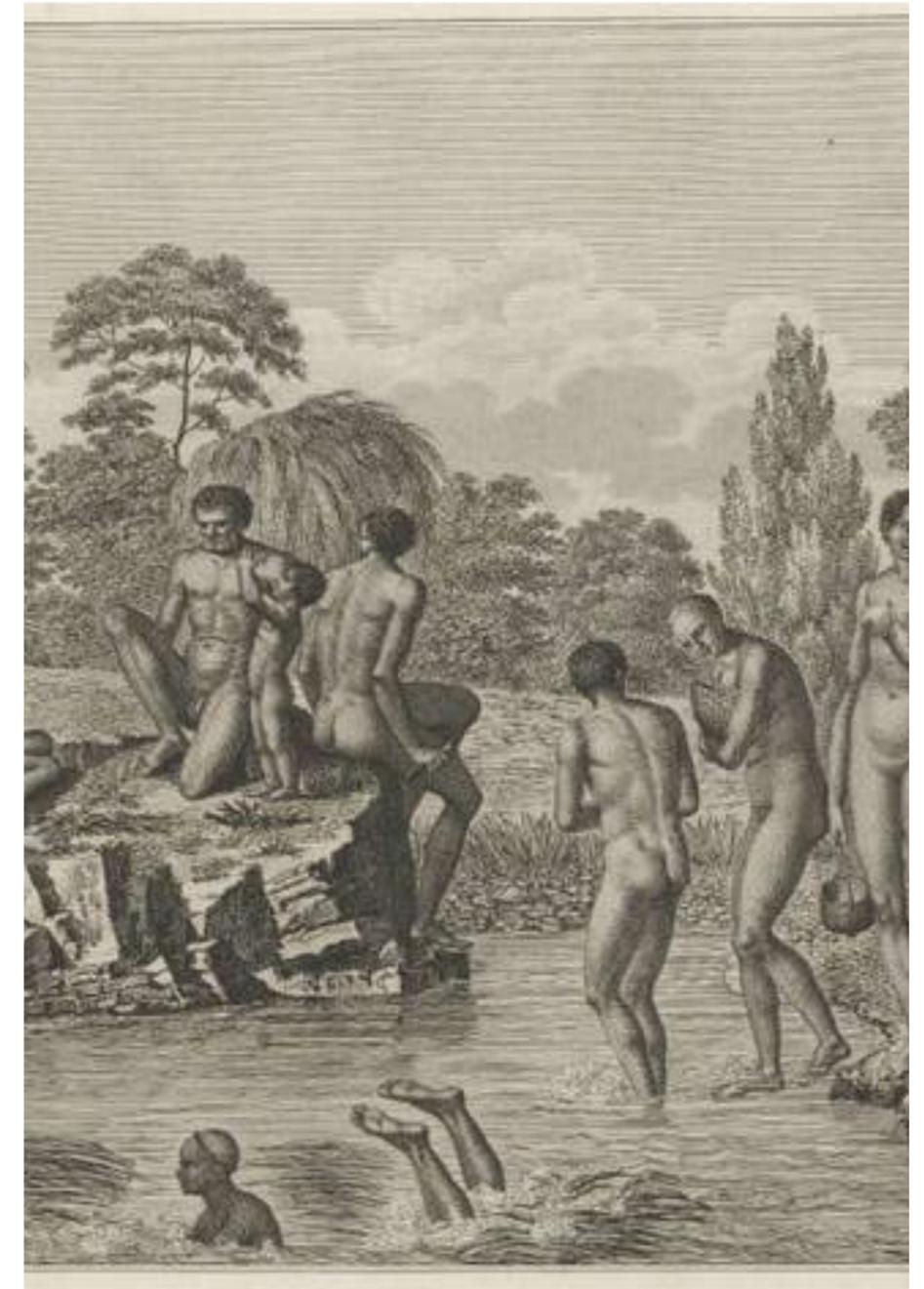
A. inflatable rubber surf mat

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Question 10. Prior 1903 which community group were actively swimming?



A. Convicts



B. Aboriginals

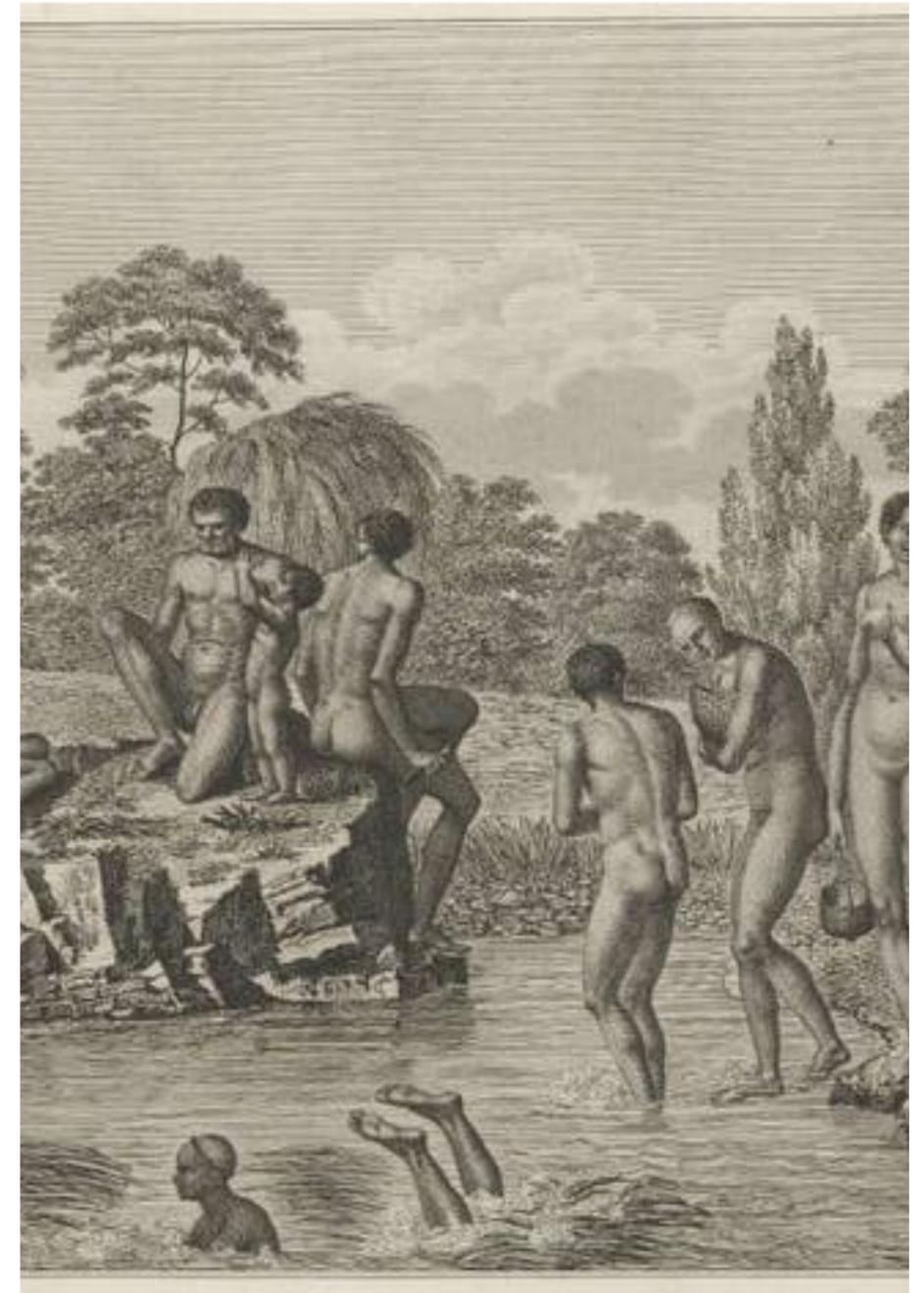
Answer 10. Prior 1903 which community group were actively swimming?



A. Convicts

The swimming and diving feats of First Nations men and women were frequently commented on by colonists and observers. Aboriginal people “are bold and surprisingly expert, both in swimming and diving”, wrote William Govett in the Saturday Magazine in 1836.

William Romaine Govett was a painter and assistant surveyor in the Surveyor-General's Department of New South Wales after whom Govetts Leap was named.



B. Aboriginals