

October 2026

Words From Your President ...

Hello all,

It's your have-a-chat President. As I explained in our last issue, I will be attending an event with 500 other Thalidomide Survivors in Amsterdam this month so I am busy organizing who I will call for bail money and packing my essentials.

Don't worry I will be back in time to attend our Annual General Meeting. This will be held on Sunday 29th November at Garden City Library between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Further information including the agenda and previous minutes will be made available to financial members at least 3 weeks prior to this meeting. If you cannot attend the library meeting in person, we will provide zoom connection information so you can join from a digital device.

Your committee is working hard to devise a new constitution which will be better suited to our organisation and more in line legally with Fair Trading practice. Before it's set in stone you will be able to read the proposed constitution, make any comments or suggestions and eventually vote to accept or decline the finished document. A timeline has not yet been established. These things often take longer than expected and the Secretary will keep you informed.

Enjoy the sunshine and go naked whenever possible.

Jeff
President, Town and Country Naturists Inc.

Choose nude

Our Committee:

President: Jeff
Mobile: 0468 822 676
enquiries@townandcountrynaturists.com.au

Vice-President: Michael
(also events co-ordinator)

Treasurer: Mark
treasurer@townandcountrynaturists.com.au

Secretary: Janet
(also newsletter editor)
newsletter@townandcountrynaturists.com.au

Member Representatives:
Ashley, marketing officer
Gerard, IT and membership officer
Martin, assistant events officer

Our Facebook group page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2250332229061040>

Our website:
<https://townandcountrynaturists.com.au/>

Skinny-Dip Sunday at Ipswich
Sunday 11th October 2026, 12:00 pm-4:00 pm
1 Martin Street Ipswich The Swim Factory
Free parking available at the **Blue Building**
Members, you can invite guests if they are interested or curious

Entry: \$21 financial members, \$25 government concession card holders and \$28 guests; payment is either cash or EFTPOS.
Included is coffee, tea, fruit, nibbles and biscuits and separately available is a \$1 sausage sizzle with free sauce and onions.
Please bring a bum towel and a smile.
Important: Behaviour standards of the **Australian Naturist Federation** apply to help maintain a safe, respectful and enjoyable environment for all.

Honestly, how good is this!

Do Australian Nudists Count?

Beyond the Invisible Tourist: Why It's Time to Count, Recognise, and Capitalise on Australian Naturism

For decades, the Australian naturist community has operated in a policy vacuum. Across local councils, state tourism boards, and urban planning committees, clothes-free recreation remains an uncounted demographic. This lack of data forces authorities to manage popular beaches, private clubs, and nature reserves using guesswork rather than evidence-based planning.

Integrating a simple, respectful question about “do you support clothing-optional recreation” into the Australian Census would change everything.

Counting this demographic would provide crucial metrics for infrastructure, body positivity, and local economies—proving once and for all that naturism is a legitimate lifestyle and a flourishing global industry.

The Policy Case: Evidence-Based Planning for Public Spaces

Currently, local councils and state governments face ongoing friction when managing popular clothing-optional sites. Without census data, authorities cannot accurately assess how many Australians regularly use these areas, leading to poor resource allocation, neglected public health facilities, and inadequate environmental management.

- **Targeted Infrastructure:** Accurate counts ensure proper funding for basic amenities, including waste management, public safety measures, and environmental protection in sensitive coastal zones.
- **Resolving Local Friction:** Establishing clear metrics helps identify where legal, well-regulated clothing-optional zones are genuinely needed, settling long-standing disputes between local residents and visitors.
- **Destigmatisation:** Including naturism in official data helps normalise a lifestyle rooted in body positivity, mental well-being, and a clean connection with nature.

The Reality on the Ground: Australia's Contracting Public Spaces

While global demand for outdoor recreation is growing, legal public spaces for Australian nudists are actively shrinking.

Many Queenslanders assumed that once Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen left office over 45 years ago, the state's ultra-conservative stance would soften and official free beaches would finally be gazetted. Yet, decades later, Queensland still does not have a single legally designated clothes-free public beach. The situation south of the border is equally challenging. For over 25 years, **Tyagarah Beach**—located within the Tyagarah Nature Reserve just north of Byron Bay—served as a vital coastal sanctuary for committed and casual naturists across Northern NSW and South East Queensland. However, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service officially closed the legal clothing-optional area at Tyagarah.

With public access facing bureaucratic hurdles, the burden has shifted to private landed resorts, eco-parks, and holiday clubs. The demand remains high, but without government recognition, private operators must build the market single-handedly.

Lessons from Abroad: The UK's Cultural Shift

The urge to strip off and connect with nature is far from an isolated Aussie trend. In the United Kingdom—a society traditionally associated with a “stiff upper lip”—clothing-optional recreation is quietly entering the mainstream.

An Ipsos survey revealed that **14 per cent of the British public** describe themselves as naturists or nudists. Driven by recent summer heatwaves, more Britons are embracing naked camping holidays on home soil. As Andrew, a regular UK naturist, notes:

"As it goes on and you just immerse yourself in it, after a short while, you look down and think, 'Oh my God, I've forgotten that I haven't got my clothes on'—but you're delighted."

From nude camping pitches on the south coast to boutique “Art Meets Nudity” festivals popping up across the countryside, the UK proves that even conservative societies quickly embrace clothes-free recreation when safe, welcoming spaces are available.

The Global Blueprint: Economic Heavyweights

Can naturism really drive serious economic growth, or is it just a niche activity? The international figures answer that definitively. Beyond Australia, clothing-optional tourism generates billions of dollars in economic activity through two distinct operational models.

1. France: The Integrated Tourism Powerhouse

France treats naturism as a mainstream, open-air tourism asset.

- **High Volume:** Welcomes **2.6 million to 4 million** visitors each year, with foreign tourists (from Germany, the UK, and the Netherlands) making up nearly half of all stays. Key hubs like *Village Naturiste du Cap d'Agde* and *CHM Montalivet* function as entire, self-contained coastal towns.
- **Direct Spend:** Generates **€350 million to €400 million** (~\$570M to \$650M AUD) annually across 150+ dedicated holiday villages, campsites, and commercial zones.
- **Total Economic Footprint:** Reaches **€1.5 billion to €2 billion** (~\$2.45B to \$3.27B AUD) per year when including secondary spending like local dining, regional transport, and retail.

2. United States: High-Yield Resorts & Real Estate

The US industry relies on private landed clubs, gated residential communities, and commercial resorts.

- **High Volume:** With around 30,000 to 50,000 card-carrying AANR members and roughly **10% to 11% of the American adult population** (approx. **25 to 30 million adults**) participate in social nude recreation, whether that means visiting a designated resort once a year, going to a clothing-optional beach, or attending private events.
- **Direct Spend:** The American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) estimates direct annual resort and club spending at **\$440 million to \$500 million USD** (~\$660M to \$750M AUD).
- **The Florida Effect:** In Florida alone, nude tourism generates **\$4.3 billion USD** (~\$6.45B AUD) in direct visitor spending, and up to **\$7.4 billion USD** (~\$11.1B AUD) in total economic impact when factoring in nudist real estate developments and local supply chains. For instance, Miami-Dade County's Haulover Beach attracts over **1.5 million visitors annually** to its designated clothing-optional section.

3. Germany has historically integrated FKK (*Freikörperkultur*, or "free body culture") directly into its mainstream public wellness culture.

In Germany, exposure to nudity is a standard, mainstream health practice.

- **High Volume:** Studies show that over **30% to 35% of Germans** (25 million people) regularly recreate unclad—whether at FKK beaches along the Baltic Sea, in lakes, or at public saunas. **Sauna Culture:** Millions of Germans practice co-ed, mandatory-nude bathing every week in public thermal baths (*Thermen*) and saunas nationwide. In Germany, being unclad in wellness spaces is not a "naturist subculture"—it is simply the law of the facility. The **DFK** (*Deutscher Verband für Freikörperkultur*) is the world's largest national naturist federation, representing over 120 dedicated sports and leisure clubs with roughly **30,000 to 40,000 formal card-carrying members**.
- **Direct Revenue & Tourism Output:** The commercial FKK sector in Germany (specialised campsites, nudist clubs, and dedicated resorts) contributes an estimated **€200M to €300M+ annually** (~\$330M to \$500M AUD) in direct spend.
- **The "Thermal Spa" Effect:** If you include Germany's massive thermal spa and sauna industry—where mixed-gender full nudity is legally mandated for hygiene—the economic footprint jumps to **several billion Euros per year**. Facilities like *Therme Erding* (the largest thermal bath complex in Europe) draw millions of visitors annually, generating vast local economic benefits almost entirely built around a clothes-free wellness ethos.
- **State Recognition:** Unlike the US (where public nude spaces are constantly under threat of local government closure) or Australia (where public beaches like Tyagarah are lost), German local councils actively fund, maintain, and promote legal FKK beaches (*FKK-Strand*) and park areas (such as the Englischer Garten in Munich).

Changing the Australian Narrative

Some social critics argue that modern commercialisation and Western lifestyle trends risk eroding traditional community ties. But acknowledging naturism in the Australian Census isn't about importing foreign commercialism—it is about protecting local outdoor freedoms.

Australians have always loved the outdoors. Quantifying our naturist population with hard census data will replace decades of political hesitation with clear evidence. It gives planners the leverage needed to secure legal beaches, helps regional councils build sustainable infrastructure, and allows tourism operators to capture a valuable piece of a multi-billion-dollar global market.

It is time to count the uncounted—and let the data bring Australian naturism out into the open.

- By Ashley

Bare to Nature

Wednesday 14th October 2026

10:30 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Private home at Kooralbyn QLD *Please complete the contact form on our website calendar for this event*

Parking: free parking available

Who can attend: known members and previous guests

What to bring: a bum towel, lunch, drinks and a smile

Included: coffee, tea, fruit, nibbles and biscuits

Food: BYO tucker

Activities: Swimming for the brave, socialising and heated spa

Payment: cash \$25 on the day

Important: behaviour standards of the Australian Naturists Federation apply to help maintain a safe, respectful and enjoyable environment for all.

Wednesday 11th November 2026

Please be aware this day is Remembrance Day

10:30 am – 4:00 pm details as above

Wednesday 9th December 2026

10:30 am – 4:00 pm details as above

Let's Go Bowling

Sunday 8th November 2026

8:30 am - 10:30 am

Caboolture Area

We will start bowling at 8.30 am to 10.30 am then head off for a relaxing day and BBQ lunch. This is a morning bowl.

Cost is \$40 which includes bowling, shoe hire & day entry to Bare Essentials Moodlu where we will enjoy a great B.B.Q Lunch.

There are only 60 tickets available to this event so get your tickets before we sell out.

Camping is available at Bare Essentials for the weekend. Contact Karen directly for bookings

This event is listed for member information. It is organised by another group and is not financially managed by our club.

Organiser: lifestyle.bowling@gmail.com

Important: behaviour standards of the Australian Naturist Federation apply to help maintain a safe, respectful and enjoyable environment for all.

Birthday Suit Bowling

Sunday 22nd November 2026

8:30 pm – 10:30 pm

10 Pin Bowling at Logan Central, Queensland

Includes shoe hire and generous nibbles with lots of CHOCOLATE prizes

You can even book a lane with friends – five [5] maximum per lane

Please note that ONLY participating tenpin bowlers will be admitted

\$37 for Members

\$42 for Concession Cards/Affiliates

\$44 for Guests

Phone 0452 46 23 26 for details.

Pre-registration must be made online then payment at the door at sign-in for the November bowl. If someone wants to be in a team they need to text the President's phone [number in previous paragraph] prior to 7:00 pm on Saturday night as the list for each lane will be set with no changes on Sunday. If you turn up on Sunday without pre-registration then expect to be on one of the spare lanes.

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