



Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club



100 years of tradition

Pre - 1900

### **Brief History in the Pre 1900 era**

In the 1880's and 1890's, people were starting to realise the sea had uses other than boating and fishing and they trod down the sands to the ocean to revel, what they believed, to be the health giving qualities of salt water.

Swim they could not, nor even be seen in a bathing costume in broad daylight because, at law at that time, forbade "**bathing in waters exposed to views from any wharf, street, public place or dwelling house, between the hours of 6 am and 7 pm.**"

That was why, in **1902**, a Manly newspaper editor, William H Gocher, took on the authorities and announced he would enter the surf at **noon** on various Sundays. Eventually he was apprehended but no charges were laid. Finally swimming was allowed, provided bathers were discreetly dressed in a "**neck to knee**" **swimming costume** for both males and females.