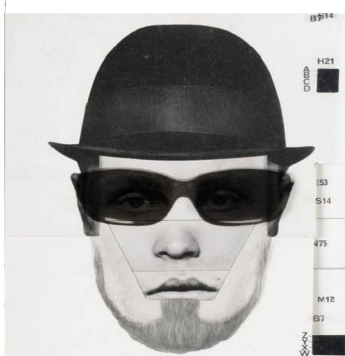
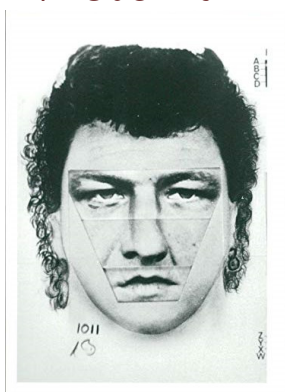


LEX LOCI'S TRAVELS

12 JULY 2019

An irregular one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

Lex takes on the Welshers, Urgers, Ticktackers and Touts at various Victorian racecourses



Lex is doing the rounds of Victorian country racecourses. So far he's visited Hexham, Newstead, Rupanyup, and Gunbower. There are plenty more.

Hexham? That's between Mortlake and Hamilton. Racecourse? There's no actual racecourse there - at least no place where racehorses actually race.

And as for urgers, ticktackers and touts (not to mention balancers, welshers, pickpockets and prostitutes) we'll come to them shortly.

It seems the word 'racecourse' has two different meanings. In the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (at section 4(1)(za)) we find that the word refers to a parcel of Crown land set aside for the purpose of racecourse. In the *Racing Act 1958* (at section 24) we find that it refers to a place where horse racing may actually occur. They are not the same! The Hexham racecourse is the former but not the latter.

So what about the welshers, urgers, ticktackers and touts?

Well, it seems that such people are to be found hanging around racecourses - of one type or the other. Although when Lex visited Hexham he found nobody there but half a dozen sheep. And they weren't even jogging, let alone racing.

So we need regulations. And here they are, for Hexham, and Bendigo, and Kilmore racecourses, and many others. You'll find them in Gazettes dated 1933, or 1941, or 1958... "No person who is reputed to be a thief, urger, ticktacker, balancer, welsher or prostitute shall enter on the said land and may be removed by the Trustees or Committee..."

But surely such regulations were wiped off the statute books long ago? Sent to the legislative graveyard? All sorts of regulations and local laws sunset at the age of 10 years - but not Crown Land (Reserves) Act regulations. They just keep on keeping on, never to arrive at the finish post. Like the horse Lex put his money on.

See you there! Lex Loci