

LEX LOCI'S TRAVELS

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An ad-hoc one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

Lex asks: What's New?



Lex asks 'What's new?' and in response, tells himself that new is relative. New College Oxford was founded in 1379.

Which gives some perspective to the 'New Works' at Lakes Entrance, commenced in 1860, completed in 1889 – delayed along the way by natural disasters and administrative prevarication.

The primary focus of the new works was the dredging of the channel between the lakes and the open sea – celebrated by the nearby town of Cunninghame being renamed 'Lakes Entrance.'

Other associated works included jetties, groynes, and workers' temporary cottages, which took on quite a permanent character. They remain there to this day – on the primary dune between the lakes and the ninety mile beach.

The land on which the cottages are built was never sold off as freehold. The 'new works' cottages sit on Crown land; occupied by descendants or beneficiaries of the original workers.

In the 1980s the State Government, riven by inter-departmental rivalries, held contradictory views about the cottages. The old Lands Department wanted them removed, and gave the occupants notice to quit. The Conservation Department assessed them as having heritage significance, and listed them on the heritage register.

The end result – they're still there. The occupants have formed themselves into an incorporated association, committed to the protection of the dune environment and the restoration of heritage values.

And they're still called 'new.'



See you there! Lex Loci

Graeme Butler, 1993 – *New Works Conservation Analysis*

Public Land Consultancy, 2004 – *New Works Area, Lakes Entrance, Report for Occupiers*

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