

LEX LOCI'S TRAVELS

4 JANUARY 2017

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

Lex checks out some Boots at the Portland Drill Hall

On vacation in the State's far South-West, Lex has a near-empty diary. Still, on Wednesday 11th January he'll be dropping in at the Portland Drill Hall.

This is where the Portland militia were issued with good solid boots and trained (with wooden guns) before being sent off to Gallipoli and the Somme.



The Drill Hall's place-law is interesting, although that's not the reason Lex is going there. It's a freehold inlier in a public purposes precinct which is otherwise reserved Crown land.

The Hall had also been Crown land until the first of March 1901. Then it was granted in freehold to the newly-created Commonwealth of Australia, which at federation had taken responsibility for defence. It's still freehold, now owned by the Shire of Glenelg.

But as we said, that's not why Lex is going there. His main mission is to check out another set of footwear.

Coastcare Victoria is hosting a 'Summer by the Sea' event, at which the guest speaker will be Mr Lynn Murrell.

Our Lex is in awe of Lynn. Sure, Lex gets around the State, but tends to do it as a cyber-tourist. Lynn on the other hand actually walked along the entire Victorian coastline, from West to East.

He traversed National Park, Crown Reserve, and Council freehold. He crossed we don't know how many river estuaries. Four commercial ports and fourteen local ports. When he came to privately owned freehold (yes, there is some) he had to go inland and walk around it. If he wandered below low water mark he was in a Marine Sanctuary or on unreserved Crown land.

Not to forget the Commonwealth land at Queenscliff, Williamstown, Point Nepean, and Sale. Freehold for the same reason that the Drill Hall is freehold.

Which gets us back to Portland on Wednesday 11th January, where Lex intends to check out the state of Lynn's boots.

See you there! Lex Loci

Picture: WW1 Army boots. Courtesy Australian War Memorial, Canberra