

LEX LOCI'S TRAVELS

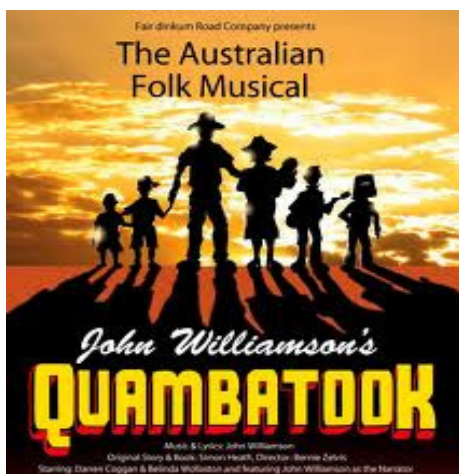
15 OCTOBER 2018

An irregular one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

Lex contemplates the Religious and Successory at Quambatook

Lex is hanging out at Quambatook, waiting for the Monster Tractor Pull. He plans to get a front row position.

While he waits, he checks out the town's public lands, which afford him varying degrees of interest.



He's only marginally interested in the Memorial Hall, the Tennis Courts and Bowling Club, and the frontage to the Avoca River - managed by three different Crown land Committees of Management. Would they be better off merged into one? Answerable to the local council rather than DELWP? He'll think about that another time!

And as for the police station, which occupies Crown land reserved for police purposes, it can also wait for another time, when Lex feels the urge to contemplate 'implied management.'

Today, what really interests our roving correspondent is a big slab of parkland containing the town's caravan park, golf course, football ground, and netball courts.

It certainly looks like public land, but is it? It turns out to be freehold land, of a very strange type. Lex needs to pull out his copy of the *Religious and Successory Trusts Act 1958* - a statute dating back to 1878. It's a good read while you're waiting for a Monster Tractor Pull.

This legislation, administered by the State's Attorney General, says nothing about the purposes of reserves, the term of trustee appointments, leases and licences, accountability, or regulations.

Seems that back in 1924 an arrangement was entered into between a landowner, the Shire, and certain persons who were to become trustees. Over the decades, trustees have come, gone, resigned or died - new trustees being appointed by the survivors. And it seems that it has worked reasonably well - the footy, golf and netball clubs have no complaints.

But Lex wonders. Here's land which has virtually no statutory governance regime, and yet Crown land reserves need a 70-section Act running to 137 pages. Something is amiss somewhere!

At last. Lex can forget all that! Here come a couple of Monster Tractors...

See you there! Lex Loci

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