

LEX LOCI'S TRAVELS

1 MARCH 2018

An irregular one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

Lex sings Country Music in the Heart Morass

Heart Morass. To Lex it sounds like something to be sung by Dolly Parton. Or Slim Dusty, if he were still with us.

*"I lost my Love
In the Heart Morass..."*

Lex is working on it.

In truth it's a wetland at the confluence of the Thomson and Latrobe rivers in Gippsland.



Lex's old mate, Slim Dusty

The Heart Morass was named after a pastoral run which had in turn taken the name from an 1840 report by Land Commissioner Tyers describing the area as 'the heart of Gippsland'.

Some parts are Crown land, but most is freehold, owned by Field & Game Australia through its subsidiary, the Wetlands Environmental Trust (WET). They have worked with the local CMA to restore the environmental water regime, plant 50,000 trees and remove 20 tonnes of carp. Impressive.

But Lex has mixed feelings about all this. Can shooters be conservationists?

He's uncomfortable with the pics on the Field & Game website of gun-totin' dudes in camouflage gear, looking like something out of the NRA.

They'll be there, at Heart Morass, on 17th March, the start of this year's duck season.

Lex's old mate Laurie Levy will be there too. No friend of Field & Game, he'll be protesting. According to Laurie the ducks will be inedible anyway, because of pollution from the Sale RAAF base, just upstream.

But then Lex recalls what another old mate, Tim Flannery, had to say on the subject of Field & Game Australia:

*"There wasn't a national parks system until 1966 in Victoria. There was no land reserved for wildlife. It was the duck shooters who imposed a levy on themselves that really preserved the first land in Victoria for wildlife" **

So Lex is a bit befuddled. Perhaps he'll stick to song-writing.

*I lost my Love
In the Heart Morass*

*Gave me the Shove
In the Heart Morass*

*Alas, alas!
The Heart Morass...*

Next stop, Tamworth.

See you there! Lex Loci

Sources: [West Gippsland CMA](#), [Field & Game Australia](#)

** Tim Flannery seems to have forgotten Tower Hill?*