

AD HOCKERY

from LEX LOCI ... 4 APRIL 2016

An occasional one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

The Castlemaine Historicals



The blackboard behind reads 'SUGGESTIONS.' Well, here's one...

The Castlemaine Historical Society manages a parcel of Crown land, but it used to be freehold. If Lex wanted to know who had once owned it, and why it was surrendered to the Crown in 1988, and why it is now deemed to be an 'Area of Historic Interest,' who would he ask: why, the Castlemaine Historical Society, of course.

But Lex actually has another question: how would the land's management differ if its Committee of Management were answerable to the local Council, rather than to DELWP?

And he could ask the same question of the volunteer Committees of Management for Kyneton Racecourse Reserve, Fryerstown Community Reserve, Romsey Mechanics Institute, Moora Racecourse Recreation Reserve, Rushworth Public Park Reserve and the Echuca museum.

Last May, they all received certificates in recognition of their service. As the Regional Manager of DELWP told the Bendigo Advertiser: "On average, committee members provide an exceptional 13 years of volunteer service... We rely on their generosity and passion."

All these reserves are surely of *local* significance, rather than state or national significance. So shouldn't the relevant Shire come into the picture somewhere? How would the volunteers feel about reporting to the Town Hall, rather than to a Minister in Spring Street? Sorry, folks: Lex doesn't have the answer, only the question.

See you there!
Lex Loci