

AD HOCKERY

from LEX LOCI ... 18 DECEMBER 2015

An occasional one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

The North Pole



Lex Loci usually attempts to offer place-related commentary which is interesting and relevant to Victorian readers. Sorry, folks, this time he has wandered off into the barren polar wilderness. Season's Greetings!

Conundrum: Where can we find a point on the surface of the earth, from which we can travel one kilometer south, then one kilometer east, then one kilometer north - and end up at the place from which we started?

It's an old conundrum, and the well-known answer is the North Pole.

Actually, there's another answer: any point on a circle whose radius is $1+(1/2\pi)$ kilometers from the *South* Pole. Think about it: we walk one kilometer south, and then our eastwards walk takes us around a circle whose circumference is one kilometer, then northwards back to our starting point.

But there's more! In fact there are an infinite number of answers. We could make such a journey from any point on *any* circle whose radius is $1+(1/2N\pi)$ kilometers from the South Pole, where N is any positive integer. If N is 5, for instance, then our southward kilometer gets us to a point on a circle whose circumference measures 200m (one fifth of a kilometer); our eastward kilometer has us circumnavigating the South Pole five times, and then our northward kilometer gets us back to the start.

Meanwhile, Lex Loci has some advice for Santa: relocate from the North Pole to the South. The ice is getting much too thin up there, mate!

Season's Greetings! Lex Loci

** Photo from TheExpeditioner.com

The Public Land Consultancy
ABN 69 067 045 520
Principal: David Gabriel-Jones
Email: lex.loci@publicland.com.au

57/151 Fitzroy Street
St Kilda, VIC 3182
phone: (03) 9534 5128

postal: PO Box 2251
St Kilda West, VIC 3182
mobile: 0412 134 243
www.publicland.com.au