

LEX LOCI'S TRAVELS

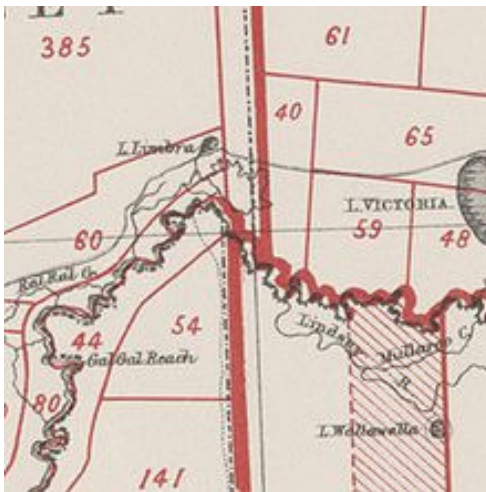
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An ad-hoc one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

Lex at the Corner-most Corner

Lex Loci has made it to the corner-most corner of north-west Victoria. And he's wet.

You might imagine that Mildura is at the corner. No. You might imagine that Ned's Corner Station, some 70km further west, is at the corner. No. A further 25km west of Ned's Corner is MacCabe's Corner. But that's still not the corner-most corner.



The border between Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, as marked on an 1883 map. Victoria's western border is further to the west than that of New South Wales

MacCabe's Corner is the point at which Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia meet. It's on the south side of the Murray, and marked by a post. But Victoria continues on for a further 3.6km.

That's 3.6km as the crow flies, but some 10km as the pelican flies – assuming that pelicans fly along the meandering course of the river.

The absolute corner-most corner of north-west Victoria is unnamed and unmarked. It is at the northern end of the border with South Australia – which should have been the 141st meridian of longitude.

It seems the surveyor who first set out the border (an unfortunate gentleman by the name of Edward White) got it wrong by 3.6km – a mistake for which we must forgive him, given the appalling privations he went through in the course of the exercise. In 1914 the High Court forgave him, and dismissed South Australia's claim to get the 3.6km transferred to them.

On the north side of the Murray, the border between South Australia and NSW is where it should be – on the 141st meridian. So the South Australian border does a dog-leg.

MacCabe's Corner is at the eastern angle of the dog's leg; our Lex is at the western angle. And he's wet.

The High Court informs us that the border between Victoria and NSW is the top of the bank on the south of the river. So MacCabe's corner is high and dry. But for the 3.6km we are talking about here (or 10 pelican-km) the land north of the Murray is South Australia. In the absence of a High Court ruling we assume the border to be in the middle of the Murray. So Lex, determined to get to the corner-most corner, is wet.

That's dedication!

See you there! Lex Loci