

HISTORY

Francis Peter MacCabe was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1817 and died in Bowral, New South Wales in 1897. On arrival in Australia, MacCabe undertook surveys for the NSW Surveyor General, Sir Thomas Mitchell from 1841 until 1856. In 1856 MacCabe resigned as a Surveyor and worked until 1883 as Manager of the Mt Keira colliery near Wollongong. During his time in the area, he was on the first North Illawarra Council in 1869 and served as its Mayor in 1870.

In 1848 MacCabe began his major surveying work on the rivers of western NSW. He first surveyed the Murrumbidgee River, from its junction with the Lachlan to its junction with the Murray River. From this point, MacCabe continued down the Murray River and reached the Murray-Darling Junction in early September. Between May and June 1850, MacCabe proceeded to survey west of this Confluence around the northern side of Lake Victoria to Chowilla and returned east along the course of the Murray River. MacCabe's maps of the Murrumbidgee, Murray and Darling Rivers are notable for the numerous Indigenous place names that he recorded.

On the 5 March 2008, a tristate meeting was convened in Melbourne between Mr John Tulloch, Victorian Surveyor-General and Registrar of Geographic Names; Mr Warwick Watkins, New South Wales Surveyor-General and Director-General of Lands, Mr Peter Kentich, South Australian Surveyor-General, the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales; and a Victorian Geographic Place Names Committee.

NAMING HISTORY

The Members of the meeting resolved to name the south-west corner of New South Wales MacCabe Corner in honour of the Surveyor Francis Peter MacCabe for his significant field surveys in this area. On the 6 September 2008 the MacCabe Corner plaque was officially unveiled by Mr Warwick Watkins, Surveyor-General of New South Wales and Mr Chris McRae, Executive Director Land Victoria. Also present at the unveiling were Michael MacCabe, grandson of Francis Peter MacCabe, John Tulloch, Surveyor-General of Victoria and Paul Harcombe, Chief Surveyor of New South Wales.

Disclaimer - Information in this brochure is to be used only as a guide and is believed to be correct at the time of printing (July 2019). We recommend that you verify details prior to your departure.



MACCABE CORNER

Photos courtesy of ExplorOZ

https://www.exploroz.com/Members/58567.500/4/2017/MacCabe_Corner.aspx

MACCABE CORNER

MacCabe Corner is the most mysterious of the State Corner's, located in the South West corner of New South Wales and is the point representing the State borders of New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. It is a rarely visited corner site, mainly due to its remote location and the need for multiple forms of transport to access the site.

GETTING TO MACCABE CORNER

The closest point to gain access to MacCabe Corner is through the Murray Sunset National Park and a local area known as Higgins Cutting. To get to this area, first hand knowledge of the area is critical, as none of the tracks into the area are signposted, so if you are not familiar with this area, you simply will not find the Higgins Cutting.

Leaving Renmark, you will cross the historic Paringa Lift Span Bridge and then head out on Murtho. Upon reaching the junction of Cal-Lal Road, you will leave the bitumen and head northeast on this good quality all weather dirt road. Scenery along the early section of Cal-Lal Road is typical Mallee country and then it opens up to Bluebush country until it reaches the Border Track that runs north and south along the State Border of South Australia and Victoria. For future travellers that are unfamiliar with the area, there are no signs that tell you are actually crossing into Victoria, but a stock grid marks the actual crossing and the track still heads further east into Victoria, where you continue over the grid and just keep going east.



Cal-Lal Junction



Unposted Sand Track



National Park

Continuing east, you will come to a track junction that again is not signposted. It is at this junction that local knowledge is critical. Instinct will want you to follow the main dirt road around the bend, but it is at this junction that you veer left onto the two wheel sand track and a grove of

Almond Trees will be on your right hand side as you follow the track. Within a short distance of following the track, you will now come to a Boundary sign for the Murray Sunset National park and a sign to Higgins Cutting Boat Ramp.



Sign to Higgins Cutting Boat Ramp



652 Marker



SA/NSW Border

Launch your boat or canoe from Higgins Cutting Boat ramp and continue downstream until you reach the Murray River Blue and White Marker "652" on the starboard side of the River. Every 2 kilometres from the Murray Mouth, these permanent markers are places on large River Red Gums. Getting ever closer to our intended destination there was another permanent waypoint marker, again on the starboard side of the River and this time it is the Black and White "406" Liba Liba Marker. From this point on, keep an eye out for the MacCabe Corner marker as dense vegetation can make it easy to miss.

In the distance you will see the South Australian / New South Wales Border marker, white against the bush. Hug the western bank for quite some distance from the SA / NSW Border Marker and then sitting high on the bank there is a large white post signalling MacCabe Corner.

