



The Meridian Line - Sunday 26.11.2023

*“Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing at all” –
Helen Keller*

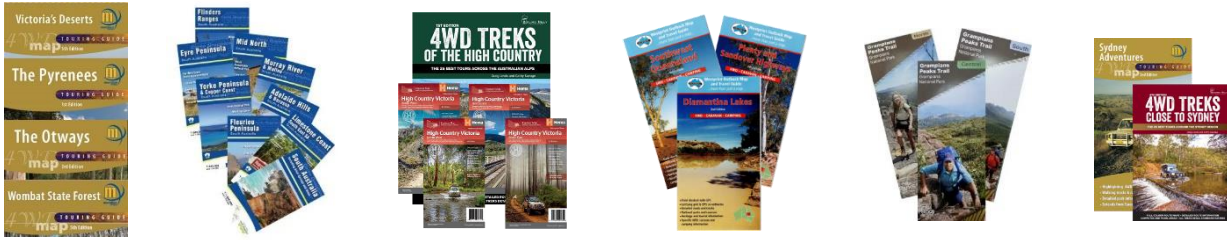


Black Friday Sale Friday 24 - Monday 27 November

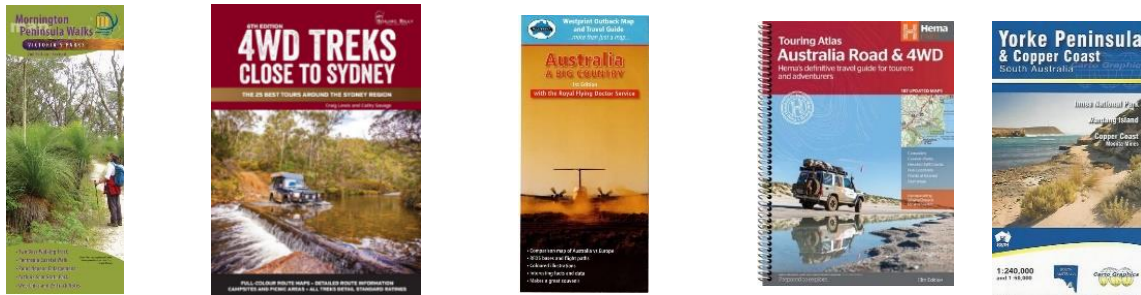
For a limited time of four days, Meridian Maps is extending a special offer: a 10% discount on all map packs. These map packs are thoughtfully curated to bring together complementary items, each tailored to emphasize specific areas of interest. Our map packs are already known for offering exceptional value, and for Black Friday, we're taking it a step further by slashing prices by an additional 10%. Take advantage of this limited-time offer to get even more value from our meticulously crafted map packs. Don't miss out on the opportunity to save while enhancing your mapping experience!

Just quote the code MMBF23 at checkout.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product-category/map-packs/>



List a product.



Mornington Peninsula Walks Map- from \$10.95

This double-sided multi-scaled map showcases Mornington Peninsula National Park, Point Nepean, and Arthurs Seat State Park. This comprehensive map spans the entirety of the Two-Bays Walking Track from Dromana to Cape Schanck, as well as The Coastal Walk from Cape Schanck to Portsea. Highlighted on the map are various tourist sites, wineries, picnic grounds, and walking tracks within and around the parks, providing a complete guide for exploration. With detailed coverage of 25 walking track notes within the parks and reserves, as well as insightful information on coastal formations, history, and park development, this map is an invaluable resource for bushwalkers, day-trippers, and holidaymakers alike.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/mornington-peninsula-walks-map-guide/>

4WD Treks Close to Sydney - \$49.98

4WD Treks Close to Sydney is the ultimate guide for 4W drivers exploring the surrounds of Sydney. This edition features 25 of the best four-wheel drive day and weekend treks within a few short hours' drive of Sydney. Including route directions, GPS Lat/Long and UTM grid references; trek maps for each trip; a regional road atlas as well as details of picnic areas, camping sites and walking tracks. Some of the treks include: Convict Trail, Abercrombie River National Park, Dixons Long Point, Caves to Caves, Watagan Wanderings,

The Pinnacle, Touring the Turon, Lost City & Newnes, Stockton Beach, Chichester Forest, Barrington Tops and The Hunter Range.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/4wd-treks-close-to-sydney/>

Also available:

- 4WD Touring South East New South Wales and East Gippsland - \$34.98

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/4wd-touring-sensw-east-gippsland/>

- 4WD Treks Close to Melbourne - \$49.98

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/4wd-treks-close-to-melbourne/>

- 4WD Treks of the High Country - \$49.98

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/4wd-treks-high-country/>

Australia – A Big Country - \$14.95

This map is crafted to emphasize the extensive coverage of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, particularly when compared to the size and population of Europe, skilfully overlaid onto Australia. It provides a clear perspective on relative distances between countries. The map features vibrant illustrations showcasing Australia's flora and fauna, along with intriguing facts about Australia and the RFDS, making it a valuable and engaging souvenir.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/australia-big-country/>

Handy Atlas Australia Road & 4WD - \$29.95

The Hema Road & 4WD Handy Atlas is the essential guide for travellers, featuring comprehensive information like 4WD tracks, campsites, caravan parks, and more. This edition, in a convenient size, offers expanded map coverage with an easy-to-read style, covering major 4WD destinations in Australia. It includes a distance grid, national park guide, accredited information centres list, and a thorough index for efficient trip planning. With details on 4WD tracks, fuel stations, points of interest, and road distances, it's an indispensable tool for tourers, campers, road trippers, and off-roaders exploring Australia.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/handy-atlas-australia-road-4wd/>

Yorke Peninsula Map – from \$9.95

Carto Graphics presents a detailed touring map of South Australia's Yorke Peninsula at a scale of 1:350,000. The map showcases major and minor roads, national parks, conservation reserves, boat ramps, dive sites, heritage shipwrecks, and other points of interest. It also provides information on road distances and surfaces. On the reverse side, you'll find detailed maps for specific areas, including the Copper Coast, Innes National Park, Wardang Island Maritime Heritage Trail, Moonta Mines Walking Trail, and Tourist Drive.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/yorke-peninsula-map/>

Australia Post and Christmas Cut Off Dates

Meridian Maps relies on the services of Australia Post so please be mindful of the cut off dates for delivery of parcels as advertised by Australia post. We endeavour to get your order into the mail system on the day we receive it but have no control once it hits the post office.

Sending to/from metro only [^]	Parcel Post	Express Post
Within Australia (except WA and NT)	18 December 2023	21 December 2023
WA	15 December 2023	20 December 2023
NT	14 December 2023	20 December 2023

If you are ordering something for a Christmas gift, we can arrange to have your selection gift wrapped, a small card attached and send it directly to the recipient. Don't forget to nominate the different delivery address and note in the comments section that it is a Christmas gift. The tax invoice will not be included in the parcel but will be emailed separately to you.

Special November Offer

Looking at getting a jump start on Christmas shopping and a way to save at the checkout? For a limited time, in celebration of our website's recent updates, Meridian Maps is offering a 10% discount on all Meridian and Westprint maps (excluding map packs). This offer is only available until the end of November 2023. In order to take advantage, use the coupon code ML1123.

Meridian Musings

It's around this time of the year that many people start planning time away over the summer period. Many areas in the bush are now closed for the wet

season or due to extreme heat so make sure you check proposed destinations to avoid disappointment.

South Australia:

Witjira National Park is closed.

Simpson Desert National Park - Munga Thirri - is closed from 1 December to 15 March each year.

Flinders Chase National Park - West Bay Road within Flinders Chase National Park will be temporarily closed until 16 December 2023 for the purpose of essential road construction activities.

Trail closure at Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park – The following trails will be closed from 30 November 2023 until 1 March 2024.

- St Mary Peak (Ngarri Mudlanha) Hike – loop route (inside trail)
- Malloga Falls Hike
- St Mary Peak (Ngarri Mudlanha) Hike – direct route (outside trail); and
- Mount Ohlssen-Bagge Hike

Ewens Ponds Conservation Park will **reopen** 1 December 2023. Each year the ponds are closed to give the unique aquatic plant life a chance to rest and recover ready for visitors over summer.

Before heading to outback South Australia please check the Desert Parks Pass for the up to date closures.

<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/desert-parks-bulletin>

Western Australia:

The Kimberley's Parks and Wildlife service has confirmed many of the region's national parks are now closed for the 2022-23 wet season. The anticipated re-opening date is 1 April 2024 (access road and weather conditions dependent). These include:

- Purnululu National Park World Heritage Area
- Bandilingan (Windjana Gorge) and Dimalurru (Tunnel Creek) National Park
- Wunaamin Conservation Park, including Dulundi (Silent Grove), Dalmanyi (Bell Gorge), and Mt Hart
- Miluwindi Conservation Park including Lennard Gorge
- Mitchell River National Park
- Danggu Geikie Gorge – boat tours closed.

Northern Territory:

It's Kurrung season (hot dry weather) in Kakadu and temperatures are on the rise. The following site closures are noted for 2023:

- Maguk – from Monday 11 December 2023
- Stone country bushwalking (including Graveside Gorge) – From 01 October 2023
- Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre - wet season operating hours 10:00 – 16:00 until March 2024.
- Bubba Wetlands Walk has been temporarily closed due to feral animals in the area.
- Jim Jim and Twin Falls region – seasonal closure
- Mangarrie Rainforest Walk – seasonal closures

Disclaimer: These events were correct at the time they were added to the Meridian Line; however, this may have been some time before the actual event. Please make your own enquiries before travelling to an event.

Reader's Stories

Hotham Valley Tourist Railway, WA

It was interesting to read about the Heritage Railways in the last edition of Meridian Musings. The railways listed were all on the East coast or Tasmania so I would like to point out that there is also one in WA just south of Perth – The Hotham Valley Tourist Railway. It begins in Dwellingup, a small town located just an hour and a half drive south of Perth. For 32 kilometres it winds through the bush on the old Pinjarra to Narrogin line. It runs year-round but is only pulled by a steam engine in winter, using a diesel the rest of the year.



At the end of August this year my husband Tim and I decided to give a special treat to our 5 year old grandson who, of course, had only seen steam engines in his story books. Not telling him what lay ahead, we set off in the morning

with a promise of a picnic lunch in the bush and later, meeting his parents and younger brother for dinner. I thought he might doze off during the drive there, but he was very interested in all he saw around him as we gradually left the metropolitan area and went through the countryside. Just 20 minutes or so West of Dwellingup he suddenly called out 'There's a train'. Sure enough, on the other side of a large paddock the Hotham Valley Steam Train was making its way along the tracks on the morning outbound run.

We kept going to a spot that we had picked out previously, where the gravel road runs through the forest and crosses the railway track, and there we enjoyed our picnic. After our lunch we explored the track and surrounds, and our young grandson collected some rusty old railway-related treasures. At that point, we knew that the train would soon appear on its way back to Dwellingup, and so I gave our little grandson a wooden train whistle that I had bought previously and suggested that he might use it to see if he could call up a steam train. Meanwhile, in the distance, Tim and I could hear an occasional train whistle, so we knew it was getting close. In a very short time, we could hear the puffing of the train, see the smoke above the trees and then the light at the front and, as the engine appeared through the bush, it seemed as though the grandson's eyes were popping out of his head. As it passed within just a few metres of where we were standing, he was able to see the passengers in the carriages who all obligingly waved to us. Later on, his mother had a fit when she realised how close we had all been to the moving train! However, we both agreed with our grandson's comment that it would be nice to ride on a train like that one day.



We carried on to Dwellingup and showed our grandson the station, the soon-to-be-restored turntable and the other engines in the sheds. Then we joined up with the rest of the family, mum not realising until then that a family ride in the train on its afternoon run was to be her birthday treat. The grandson, of course, was overjoyed. Once aboard we found our seats - but the grandson didn't stay in his for very long. He moved to the front of the train where the guards van gave prime view to the front of the engine (it was in reverse for this leg of the journey), and the side mirrors gave a view of the train behind. When we arrived at the Isandra siding endpoint, he was able to watch the engine being unhitched and moved along so that it could travel along the side track and back onto the main line and become the front of the train on the return journey.



Travelling back, he stayed with us for a short while in the guard's van, now at the back of the train, and we were able to point out to him why the train only ran in the winter. At regular intervals we would see little fires between the tracks where the cinders had fallen from the engine between the tracks and ignited the dead leaves lying there. After that he moved to the front of the train and remained transfixed, watching from behind the engine.

Arriving back at Dwellingup it was almost time for dinner, but not before a short playground session. (Where do kids get their energy from?) He clearly enjoyed his day and so did we. That evening a very tired, but very happy, little boy slept in the car all the way back to Perth. We hope that, in the future, we might take him and his brother further south, to Pemberton, where volunteers run a restored tramway that used to transport the timber from where it was logged, to the sawmill.

If you would like to share a story, drop us a line at rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au

Meridian Mirth

'I'm a walking economy, you know'.

'How so?'

'My hairline is in recession, my stomach is always in inflation, and these two together bring me into a deep depression'.

"Sam walks into his boss's office and says 'Sir, I'll be straight with you, I know the economy isn't great, but I have over three companies after me, and I would like to respectfully ask for a raise.'

After a few minutes of haggling the boss finally agrees to a 5% raise, and Sam happily gets up to leave. 'By the way,' asks the boss, 'Which three companies are after you?'

'The electric company, the gas company, and phone company

After a prolonged drought when the rain came, all the animals in the forest were happy except the Kangaroo. When the others asked him what the reason was for such sadness, the Kangaroo revealed that the rain meant that all its kids would now be playing inside.

The story is told of a lady who was rather old-fashioned, always quite delicate and elegant, especially in her language. She and her husband were planning a week's vacation, so she wrote to a particular campground asking for a reservation.

She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped but didn't quite know how to ask about the toilet facilities. She just couldn't bring herself to write the word "toilet" in her letter. After much deliberation, she finally came up with the old-fashioned term BATHROOM COMMUNE. But when she wrote that down, she still thought she was being too forward. So, she started all over again and rewrote the entire letter referring to the bathroom commune merely as the BC. "Does the campground have its own BC?" is what she actually wrote.

Well, the campground owner wasn't old-fashioned at all, and when he got the letter, he just couldn't figure out what the woman was talking about. That BC business really stumped him.

After worrying about it for awhile, he showed the letter to several campers, but they couldn't imagine what the lady meant either. So the campground owner, finally coming to the conclusion that the lady must be asking about the local Baptist Church, sat down and wrote the following reply:

Dear Madam: I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take pleasure in informing you that a BC is located nine kilometres north of the campground and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance away, if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along and make a day of it. They usually arrive early and stay late. It is such a

beautiful facility and the acoustics are marvellous. Even the normal delivery sounds can be heard.

The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now a supper is planned to raise money to buy more seats. They are going to hold it in the basement of the BC.

I would like to say it pains me very much not to be able to go more regularly, but it surely is no lack of desire on my part. As we grow old, it seems to be more of an effort, particularly in cold weather.

If you do decide to come down to our campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time you go, sit with you, and introduce you to all the other folks. Remember, this is a friendly community.

Sincerely, Campground Owner



Managing your weight around the holidays just takes a little planning.



For example, I took the batteries out of my scale Wednesday.

If there is anyone else who would like to contribute, drop me a line at rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.

Do you have a story?

Articles for this newsletter can be emailed to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au
We cannot guarantee any item will have a particular publishing date but we do our best to keep topics and events current.

The Fine Print

About The Meridian Line

Wherever possible we try to acknowledge the source of all information contained in this newsletter. We offer no guarantees for accuracy, but we do our best.

Get the Word Out

Feel free to forward this newsletter to any family or friends who you feel might enjoy a good read. If they would like to receive this newsletter on a regular basis they can register at: <https://meridianmaps.com.au/newsletter/>

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Meridian Contact information

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