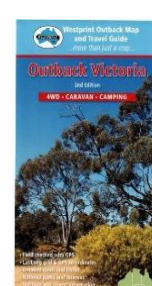
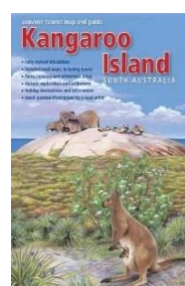
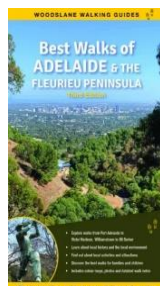
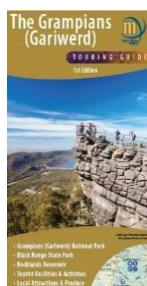




The Meridian Line - Sunday 04.02.2024

“Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.” —Theodore Roosevelt



The Grampians (Gariwerd) Touring Map – from \$14.95

For the first time, Meridian Maps presents a map of the complete Grampians region, finely detailed at a 1:100,000 scale. Designed for 4-wheel drive and touring enthusiasts, this map illustrates all tourist activities and significant features within the vicinity. It accentuates prominent attractions such as the Grampians Way Touring Route, public indigenous art sites, wineries, rock climbing areas, tourist hotspots, camping grounds, fishing and hiking spots and picnic areas. The map also covers the extensive Grampians Peaks Trail, along with numerous walking trails across the Grampians region.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/the-grampians-touring-map/>

Best Walks of Adelaide and the Fleurieu Peninsula – \$32.98

Australia's top-selling walking guide series covers a range of walks for both visitors and locals. From city strolls to rugged trails in the Adelaide Hills, the guide features detailed descriptions, over 150 full-colour photos, and maps for exploring parks, bushland, lakes, villages, and coastlines. A handy summary table aids in selecting walks based on distances, facilities, and highlights. Covering the metropolitan region and the Fleurieu Peninsula, the guide includes both well-known tracks and hidden gems.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/best-walks-of-adelaide-and-fleurier/>

Tasmania Handy Map – from \$9.95

The Tasmania Handy Map is a concise touring companion, featuring a distance grid and index for easy planning and reference across the state. The map highlights highways, major and minor roads, camping and rest areas, 24-hour fuel stops, information centres, picnic spots, caravan parks, and lookouts. An indispensable addition for holidaymakers or a valuable resource conveniently stored in the glove box.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/tasmania-handy-map-copy/>

Kangaroo Island Tourist Map 8th Edition – from \$14.95

Our newest edition of the popular souvenir tourist map and guide to Kangaroo Island, South Australia, offers both detailed navigation assistance and insights into the island's rich history, wildlife, attractions, and national parks.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/kangaroo-island-tourist-map/>

Outback Victoria – from \$14.95

The Westprint Outback Victoria map is a must-have for adventurers exploring Victoria's vast outback, covering over 500,000 square kilometres. From the Northern Grampians to Mallee Highway (Ouyen), it showcases national parks, reserves, and historical sites, including the Big Desert, Hindmarsh, Albacutya, and Little Desert. Perfect for off-the-beaten-path travel, the map details major 4WD tracks, remote dirt roads, and provides town maps for key settlements. It also includes information on camping areas, fuel stops, and points of interest,

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/outback-victoria/>

Meridian Musings

It was great to learn that Ruth Sandow and John Deckert were both honoured in the recent Australia Day Honours!

Ruth Sandow, who Meridian Line readers may know from the “Visit Corner Country and Outback New South Wales Australia” website, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in recognition of her service to the community through a range of roles. Ruth is actively involved with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (since 2010) and the Milparinka Heritage and Tourism Association (since its inception). Ruth was also involved with the Milparinka Courthouse. The Open Access College and Isolated Children's Parents' Association. Congratulations Ruth – well deserved recognition!

More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/ABCBrokenHill/>



Ruth Sandow with her husband Jon. Photo from ABC.

John Deckert, who Meridian Line readers will be aware from his connection to Westprint Maps, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Hindmarsh City Council. This award is presented to someone who has continuously contributed to the Hindmarsh Shire community for a number of years, whether it be through volunteering, running a local business, offering a helping hand when needed and/or being a positive advocate for the community and people. John has been an active volunteer for many, many years with a number of different associations including the Country Fire Authority (CFA) the Winiam Football Club, the Nhill Historical Society, Nhill Silo Committee and the Nhill Tourism and Agricultural Committee to name a few.

More details can be found at <https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/latest-news>

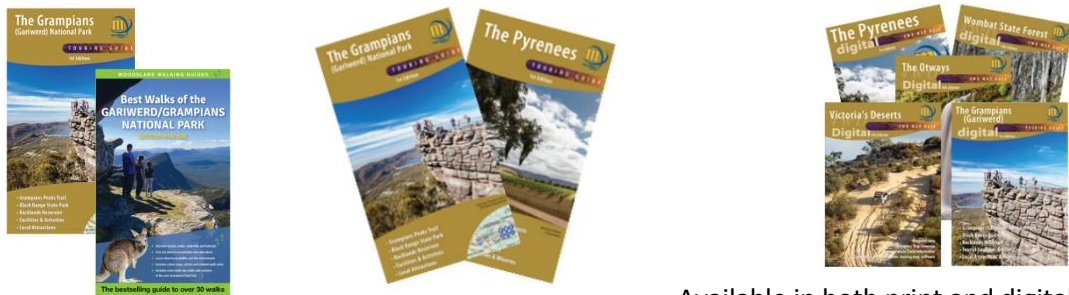


Photo taken by Lauren Badua

New to the Website

The Grampians constitutes an area situated in the western sector of the state, reaching out to the state border with South Australia. Encompassing nearly 170,000 hectares at the western terminus of the Great Dividing Range, the Grampians National Park is also recognized by its indigenous name Gariwerd.

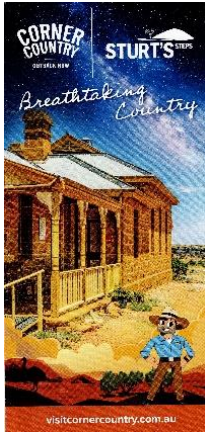
Several maps are available that cover this well-visited region, with one notable option being the recently released map by Meridian Maps titled "The Grampians (Gariwerd) Touring Map". A variety of new map packs has been curated specifically for the region, consolidating maps on related subjects. These packs provide a cost-saving advantage of around 10% compared to purchasing each item separately.



Available in both print and digital format.

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

The Corner Country is the area to the extreme far north west of New South Wales, bound by the Queensland border to the north and the South Australian border to the west. Ruth Sandow, who is the chairman of the Milparinka Heritage and Tourism Association and the instigator of the Sturt's Steps Projects, has been instrumental in the production of the brochure entitled "Breathtaking Country". The comprehensive full-colour fold-out brochure is rich with information about the Corner Country region. It encompasses details on activities, accommodations, and highlights the towns within the area. Additionally, it provides information about the Sturt's Steps Touring Route. Ruth Sandow has generously forwarded a number of these amazing brochures to Meridian Maps and these will be included free of charge to anyone who orders any outback Australia maps.



What's On

For many families, the most important thing on the calendar is back to school! However, there are really many other exciting events happening in our amazing country.

February 2 – 4: Caravan Camping lifestyle Expo Newcastle. The Expo showcases the latest in caravans, motorhomes, campervans, camper trailers, accessories and holiday parks all in one great location.

<https://www.caravanexpo.com/>

February 10: Henley on Lake Wallace, West Wimmera Shire. Day of festivities, laughter, and community spirit!

<https://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au/Events/Events-Calendar/Henley-on-Lake-Wallace-2024>

February 10: Curry Day, Chinaman Creek, Cloncurry. Paddleboarding and kayaking, community clubs and market stalls.

<https://www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au/news/article/94/curry-day-2024>

February 13: The Stolen Generations Apology Day, South Australia. Peaceful walk from Victoria Square to Veale Park.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=772073894950438&set=a.619914280166401>

February 16 – 18: Lake Charlegrark 31st Annual Country Music. Immerse yourself in the sounds of Tania Kernaghan, Jason Owen, Paul Costa, Danny Stain and a tribute to Johnny Cash.

<https://www.lccmm.com.au/>

February 21 – 25: Victorian Caravan and Camping Supershow. The biggest caravan and camping show in Australia which will feature the latest in caravans, camper trailers, motorhomes, and 4x4, plus a plethora of camping equipment, gadgets, and accessories.

<https://www.caravanshow.com.au/shows/the-victorian-supershow/>

Seasonal Updates

National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia have advised that the campgrounds in Innamincka Regional Reserve have reopened. 15 Mile Track remains closed past Minkie Waterhole Campground due to water on Track as does Wills Grave.

All caves in Abercrombie Karst Conservation Reserve, NSW, are closed until Sunday 31 March 2024 to repair flood damage and ensure safe access for visitors.

Brisbane has experienced heavy downpours and flooding. This has resulted in a number of park alerts. Please check for access, closures and conditions before heading out. <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/park-alerts>

Disclaimer: These updates were correct at the time they were added to the Meridian Line; however, changes may have occurred since then.. Please make your own enquiries before embarking on your journey.

Reader's Stories

There is always a need to be on top of updates in areas where we produce maps. We therefore thought this would be a good opportunity to share a recent press release which identifies the updates to the Tanami Road.

If anyone had driven the Tanami Road, we would love to hear your experiences. Send in your stories to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.

Tanami Road Upgrade

The Tanami Road - also known as the Tanami Track, Tanami Highway and the McGuire Track – stretches 1050 kms between Alice Springs in the Northern Territory and Halls Creek in the Kimberley in Western Australia. In addition to being an intrastate route for cattle transport, it provides access to several remote Aboriginal communities, mine sites and tourist attractions.



While much of the road is formed and gravel sheeted, large sections of road become corrugated and difficult to travel on throughout the year. It's also common for the road to be closed and damaged during the wet season, requiring extensive repairs most years. Since 2014-2015, the Northern Territory Government has invested \$16.5 million in an effort to seal the Tanami Road.

In a 2023 media release the Western Australian Government advised that sealing had begun on the Western Australian section of Tanami Road, which links the Great Northern Highway near Halls Creek with the Northern Territory border.

Work on the first 41-kilometre section through the hills south of the Great Northern Highway is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.



The road is notoriously difficult to drive, becoming rough and corrugated during the dry season with long road closures during the wet season, cutting off access to the communities it services.

Sealing the road will deliver improved and safer access to remote Aboriginal communities and mine sites, as well as a more resilient road freight network by providing an alternative route into northern Western Australia from the eastern states.

The Australian and Western Australian governments have committed \$542.8 million to complete sealing of the 313-kilometre WA section of the road over the next 10 years, after design and development work started in 2020.

The project will be directly managed by Main Roads Western Australia on behalf of the Shire of Halls Creek, using local Kimberley businesses with a focus on long-term Aboriginal engagement and employment.



Four new local Aboriginal start-up businesses are currently engaged on the project, with two more to begin soon. More than \$15 million in contracts have been awarded to Aboriginal businesses to date.

More than 65 per cent of the current workforce are Aboriginal, and two-thirds of those workers are local from the Shire of Halls Creek, with further initiatives planned to provide more opportunities for local residents to work on the project.

In the Northern Territory, 300 kilometres of the 703-kilometre section of road has already been sealed, with an additional 30 kilometres from Alice Springs end due for completion mid-this year, and a further 90 kilometres due for completion during 2025.



Meridian Mirth

Laura's dishwasher quit working, so she called a repairman. Since she had to go to work the next day, she told the repairman, "I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dishwasher, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you a cheque."

Oh, by the way, don't worry about my bulldog, Bob. He won't bother you. But, whatever you do, do NOT, under ANY circumstances, talk to my parrot! I repeat, do not talk to my parrot!"

When the repairman arrived at Laura's apartment the following day, he discovered the biggest, meanest looking bulldog he has ever seen. But, just as she had said, the dog just lay there on the carpet watching the repairman go about his work.

The parrot, however, drove him nuts the whole time with his incessant yelling, cursing, and name-calling.

Finally, the repairman couldn't contain himself any longer and yelled, "Shut up you stupid, ugly bird!"

To which the parrot replied, "Get him, Bob!"

A young boy enters a barber shop and the barber whispers to his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you."

The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, "Which do you want, son?" The boy takes the quarters and leaves.

"What did I tell you?" said the barber. "That kid never learns!"

Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream parlour.

"Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?"

The boy licked his cone and replied:

"Because the day I take the dollar the game is over!"

A guy said to God, "God, is it true that to you a billion years is like a second?" God said yes.

The guy said, "God, is it true that to you a billion dollars is like a penny?"

God said yes.

The guy said, "God, can I have a penny?"

God said, "Sure, just a second."

A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can.

A year later, there's another knock at the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says, "What was that all about?"



To share your jokes, please send them to 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/>

Using information from this newsletter

You are welcome to use information from this newsletter, but we request that you kindly acknowledge that the information is from The Meridian Line.

Meridian Contact information

Email: rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au

Disclaimer

Please note that the opinions and articles expressed in The Meridian Line are not necessarily those of The Meridian team. Also, we do not endorse any products (other than our own), or tours listed in any contributed articles.