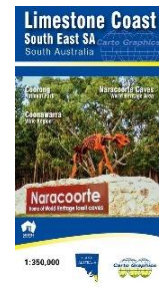
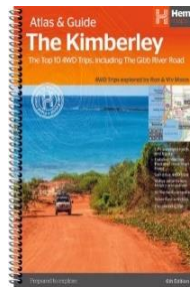
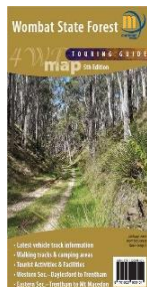




The Meridian Line - Sunday 17.03.2024

"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people just exist." — Oscar Wilde



Wombat State Forest 4WD Map – from \$14.95

A comprehensive double-sided map at a scale of 1:50,000 that encompasses the entirety of Wombat State Forest, stretching from Daylesford to Woodend and the Macedon Ranges. This map is tailored for four-wheel driving enthusiasts, offering detailed coverage of key tourist attractions and landmarks such as wineries, mines, mineral spas and picnic areas. It also highlights popular trails like the Great Dividing Trail and Wombat Forest Drive. This updated version now includes information on pet-friendly campgrounds, accommodations, local produce outlets, petrol stations, waterfalls, and additional tourist resources. This map is also available in a digital format.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/wombat-state-forest-4wd-map/>

Best Walks of the Great Ocean Road & the Otways – \$24.98

Explore the top walks along the Great Ocean Road & the Otways, catering to all levels from easy beach strolls to challenging bush tracks. With detailed descriptions, maps, and over 150 full-colour photos, this guide covers parks, rivers, coastlines, and urban areas. Featuring over 150 vibrant photographs and numerous intricate maps, this book serves as an indispensable resource. A convenient summary table of walks outlines distances, amenities, and highlights, facilitates the selection of the perfect outing.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/walks-of-great-ocean-road/>

The Kimberley Atlas and Guide – \$49.95

Discover Western Australia's Kimberley region with this guidebook, now featuring the Top 10 4WD Trips authored by Ron and Viv Moon, alongside comprehensive topographic atlas mapping. This updated guide includes 20 atlas pages in a striking new cartographic design. Highlighted are the top off-road adventures, complemented by an introduction to the region, trip planning tips, and insights on what to see and do. Detailed touring sections cover Kimberley's distinct regions, with each 4WD trip broken down by locality, offering comprehensive information on grading, distances, travel tips, and route coverage from start to finish.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/the-kimberley-atlas-guide/>

The Gunbarrel Highway – from \$14.95

The Gunbarrel Highway is featured due to its popularity, but the map also showcases the Great Central Road and several interconnected tracks within the Gibson Desert. Westprint Maps are known for their thorough coverage of desert regions. Each map contains detailed historical information, explorer notes, points of interest, as well as descriptions of the surrounding flora and fauna. Additionally, they feature various photographs of landmarks, making navigation and exploration easier for travellers. Notably, the maps are designed for clarity, providing road distances, rest areas, caravan parks, and fuel outlets. This particular map covers the Great Central Road, Connie Sue Highway, David Carnegie Road, and Leonora, Laverton, Glen Ayle Road, Rason Lakes Road, and the western segment of the Anne Beadell Highway, along with the Heather Highway. This map is also available digitally.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/gunbarrel-highway/>

Limestone Coast Map – from \$9.95

Carto Graphics' detailed touring map at a scale of 1:350,000, meticulously charts the southeastern corner of South Australia. This comprehensive map highlights major and minor roads, including names, as well as national parks, conservation reserves, prominent campgrounds, and cellar doors among other features. It also provides essential road distance and surface information. Additionally, the map includes a detailed inset showcasing the Coonawarra Wine Region, pinpointing cellar door locations for easy navigation and exploration.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/limestone-coast-map/>



David Hewitt (ABC News: Alex Hyman)

Meridian Musings

Thanks to Jo who notified us of the passing of David Hewitt. He was a long time Centralian who, with his wife had been awarded an Order of Australia each for their contributions to working with remote communities. David Hewitt was an Australian explorer and adventurer, who held a significant relationship with the historic Canning Stock Route. Hewitt's connection to the route stems from his extensive exploration and documentation of the Australian outback, particularly in Western Australia where the Canning Stock Route traverses. His efforts played a vital role in preserving the cultural and historical significance of the route which was established in the early 20th century to facilitate the movement of cattle from remote stations to markets. Hewitt's expeditions along the route have not only contributed to mapping and understanding the region's geography but have also shed light on the challenges faced by early drovers and Aboriginal people who have inhabited these lands for millennia. Through his writings and advocacy, Hewitt helped raise awareness about the importance of preserving the Canning Stock Route as a vital part of Australia's heritage, highlighting its cultural, ecological, and historical significance.

Additionally, David and his wife, Margaret, spent a lifetime in the bush, west of Alice Springs, offering assistance to people in need. His compassionate nature and willingness to help others left a lasting impression on those he encountered in central Australia and the western deserts. David's legacy extended beyond exploration; he led a reconstruction team to refurbish Well 23 along the Canning Stock Route in the early 1980s, providing fellow travellers with access to this vital resource. In 1998, David authored a book titled "The Canning Stock Route," offering a detailed description of the route and responsible travel tips. The book recounts the fascinating story of how the route was carved through some of Australia's most remote country, ensuring the safe passage of cattle from the East Kimberly to southern markets. It is understood that the Heather Highway was named after David Hewitt's

daughter Heather. David is reputed at the time the highway was named to have said, "If it's good enough for Len Beadell, its good enough for me".

In the last newsletter we highlighted Freshwater Swimming Holes in Victoria, Australia which is a new book to our website, (<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/swimming-holes/>). Jo wrote to us saying "My friends in Minnesota (home of 10,000 lakes) are still giggling that it could take someone 15 years to find all the swimming holes in Victoria. I told them the author had to wait 15 years for them all to have water in them 😊 .



We visited the Victorian Caravan & Camping Show earlier this month. We used to go camping quite a bit when our children were younger and we still enjoy road trips and the opportunity to stay at a variety of different accommodations types. So of course, the question arose is it time to invest in a caravan and take our accommodation with us. There is a lot to be said about the benefits of caravanning, you deck out your caravan at the beginning of the trip and no daily packing and unpacking at every destination, you meet like minded people on your travels, you have the comforts of home with you etc etc. However, there are also the downsides not the least being the financial cost of setting yourself up - I know you don't have to start with a brand new top of the range van but any van is a decent up front investment. There is also the financial upkeep of the van in the form of insurance, registration and where do we store the van when not in use. For us, there is the additional expense of upgrading to a car that is capable of safely towing a van. Lots to think about. Would be interested in hearing of your experiences if you are into caravanning and letting us now both the pros and cons of joining the growing number of caravanners.

Drop me a line at rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.



What's On

March 29 – April 1: Beechworth Golden Horseshoes Festival in Victoria. A weekend filled with family fun, bustling markets, and live entertainment. Experience the excitement of the Grand Street Parade, the thrills of the Family Fun Carnival, and the diverse offerings of the Rotary Market. Check out <https://www.beechworthgoldenhorseshoes.com.au/>.

April 4 – 7: Karijini Experience. A diverse and inclusive program of authentic arts and cultural experiences designed to connect people to the Homeland of the Banjima people and the landscape of Karijini National Park, Western Australia. Details at <https://www.karijiniexperience.com/>

April 12 – 21: Parrtjima 2024 – A festival in Light. It is the only authentic Aboriginal light festival of its kind, showcasing the oldest continuous culture on earth through the newest technology – all on the 300-million-year-old natural canvas of the MacDonnell Ranges in Central Australia. Further details at <https://www.discovercentralaustralia.com/events/parrtjima>.

April 13: Nhill Airshow 2024. Aerobatic displays, vintage aircraft and warbird manoeuvres featuring National Aerobatic Champion Paul Bennet and his spectacular Sky Aces, helicopter joyrides, vintage cars, fashions, music and children's activities. Find out more at <https://www.nhillaviationheritagecentre.com.au/nhill-airshow>

April 13: Goondiwindi Picnic Races. The Goondiwindi Picnic Races in Queensland has been a tradition for over 50 years. A country race day filled with good people, fashion, live entertainment, drinks, food and racing. Find out more at <https://www.goondiwindipicnicraces.com.au/about>

April 19 -20: Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival. For 28 years the Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival has celebrated the spirit of the Queensland Outback with dirt, dust, sweat, beers, and tears. From running the gauntlet in the Adventure

run to shaking your booty for Australia's Best Butt the weekend is full of fun for the whole family. To learn more, go to: <https://dirtndust.com/>

April 26 -27: Let's Walk Daylesford. The Great Aussie Hike partners with Beyond Blue to encourage connection through participation. Stunning new course featuring Wombat State Forest. Teams participate in 30, 50, 80 or 100km walks. Further information at: <https://greataussiehike.com.au/>

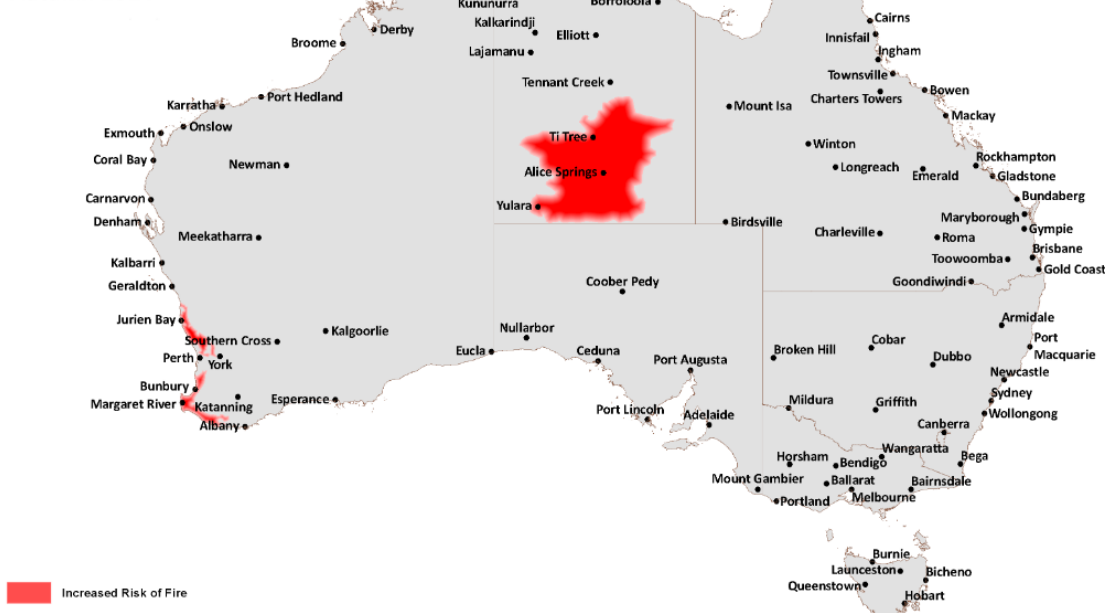
Seasonal Updates

National Council for Fire and Emergency Services has released the Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2024. This was developed by the Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the NSW Rural Fire Service, ACT Emergency Services Agency, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Country Fire Authority, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Victoria, Tasmania Fire Service, SA Country Fire Service, Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions WA, Bushfires NT and AFAC (National Council for fire and emergency services).

They advised that the end of summer does not necessarily signal the end of bushfire risk for Australia. Fire authorities may also begin to undertake prescribed burning during autumn, and everyone should stay informed to reduce the impact of smoke exposure. Australia's summer temperatures were warmer than average for most of the country, and this will continue into autumn. Rainfall during autumn is likely to be below average across much of northern, eastern and southwestern Australia. This autumn, an increased risk of fire is identified for locations in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Autumn 2024



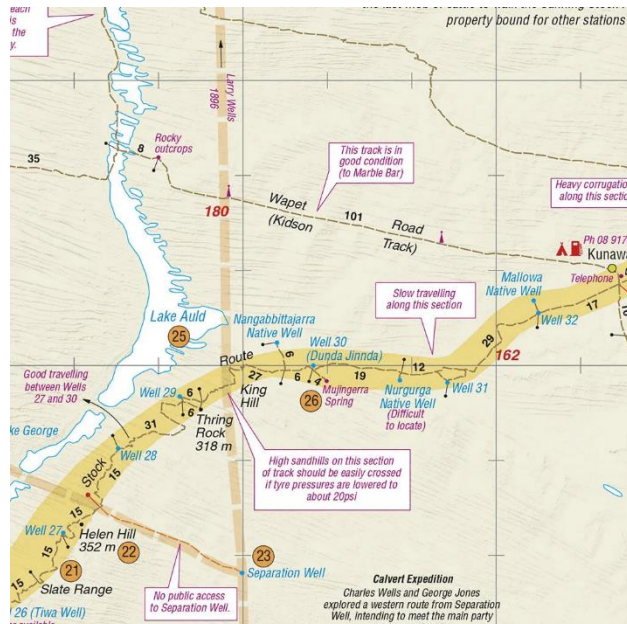
For more information or to read the outlook in full, please go to <https://www.afac.com.au/auxiliary/publications/seasonal-outlook/seasonal-outlook-article/seasonal-bushfire-outlook-autumn-2024>

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

In Honour of the passing of David Hewitt, I thought I would look at a brief history of the Canning Stock Route.

The Canning Stock Route is a must-do for experienced Australian adventurers. It's the longest stock route in the world, stretching over 1,800 kilometres through the vast open spaces of the Gibson, Great Sandy and Little Desert between Halls Creek in the north and Wiluna in the south. This historic route is one of the longest and most remote tracks in the world, offering a fascinating journey through the heart of the Australian outback.



Westprint Maps – Canning Stock Route

The concept of the stock route first emerged in 1905 as a response to a monopolistic situation that had emerged in the beef supply chain to Perth and the goldfields of Western Australia. The monopoly had resulted in exorbitant beef prices, prompting the government to launch a royal commission to investigate what was termed as a 'meat ring'. Cattle originating from the East Kimberley region were particularly affected by ticks and were prohibited from being transported through the western part of Western Australia to prevent the potential spread of these ticks to unaffected cattle. Consequently, East Kimberley pastoralists sought alternative markets for their cattle, while the government sought to introduce competition into the market to lower prices.

James Isdell, an East Kimberley pastoralist and politician, hypothesized that the cattle tick would not survive a desert crossing and advocated for the government to establish a route through the desert. This proposal appealed to the government as it offered a solution to the meat supply dilemma. Subsequently, an expedition was organized to survey the terrain between Wiluna and Halls Creek, encompassing parts of the Great Sandy Desert, the Little Sandy Desert, and the Gibson Desert. The final route chosen would also cut through the traditional lands of various Aboriginal peoples, each belonging to distinct language groups.

In 1906, the West Australian government entrusted Alfred Canning, a seasoned surveyor, with the task of leading an expedition from Wiluna to Halls Creek. The objective was clear: to thoroughly explore the terrain and identify a viable route suitable for cattle transportation between these locations. Canning's mission required locating significant water sources spaced at intervals manageable for cattle—approximately a day's journey apart—where

wells could be constructed. Moreover, the route needed to offer ample grazing land capable of sustaining up to 800 head of cattle during their southern migration. On July 1, 1907, the party returned to Wiluna, having completed their arduous journey. Canning's assessment upon his return was one of optimism and enthusiasm. In his report, he declared that the proposed route would likely become "... the best watered stock route in the colony."

Canning was called upon to lead the expedition tasked with sinking the necessary wells along the proposed stock route. Departing in March 1908, the expedition's endeavours spanned two years before they returned in 1910. The crews averaged one well every eight days. During the northern journey they built 31 wells. The remaining wells were built on the returning journey. Upon reaching Wiluna and completing the stock route, Canning sent a telegram to the government reading simply "WORK COMPLETED – CANNING".



Historical well along the Canning Stock Route – Photo credit – Tagalong Tours

The construction of the Canning Stock Route was not without controversy. Canning's team of builders had constructed the wells with the forced help of Aboriginal people whose land the route traversed, including Martu and Wangkatjunga people. Canning himself found it difficult to locate desert water sources. In order to gain assistance in locating water along the track, Canning captured several desert men, chained them, forced them to eat salt, and then waited until they got thirsty enough to lead his party to water.

Today the stock route is a haven for outback travellers wishing to follow the footsteps of some of our early explorers. Travellers embarking on this epic journey are treated to breathtaking landscapes, from the rugged red deserts of the Pilbara to the lush gorges of the Kimberley. Along the way, they encounter

remnants of the past, including historic wells, Indigenous rock art sites, and relics of early settlements, each offering a glimpse into the region's rich and diverse history.

Despite its allure, traversing the Canning Stock Route is not for the faint-hearted. The route presents numerous challenges, including remote and unforgiving terrain, unpredictable weather, and the need for meticulous planning and preparation. Travellers must be self-sufficient, carrying ample supplies of food, water, and fuel, and be prepared for long stretches of isolation.

Fortunately, a growing interest in outback travel has led to improved infrastructure and amenities along the route, with designated camping areas, fuel stations, and emergency assistance available at strategic points. Additionally, a range of guidebooks, maps, and tour operators offer valuable resources and support for those undertaking the journey.

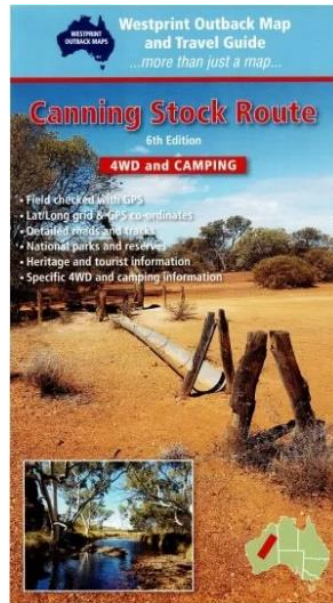
As interest in ecotourism and Indigenous cultural experiences continues to grow, the Canning Stock Route remains a beacon of exploration and discovery. Its rugged beauty, rich history, and profound cultural significance continue to captivate and inspire adventurers from around the world, ensuring that the legacy of this iconic outback track endures for generations to come.



4WD tour along the Canning Stock Route – photo credit Outback Spirit

Now in its 6th edition, Westprint maps publishes the Canning Stock Route map. This meticulously crafted map caters specifically to adventurers and explorers, offering precise and comprehensive details about the Canning Stock Route and its environs. Spanning the full 1850km distance from Halls Creek in Western Australia to Wiluna in the east, it furnishes intricate insights into the route's history and vital landmarks, including wells, water sources, campsites, and Aboriginal communities. Additionally, the map features

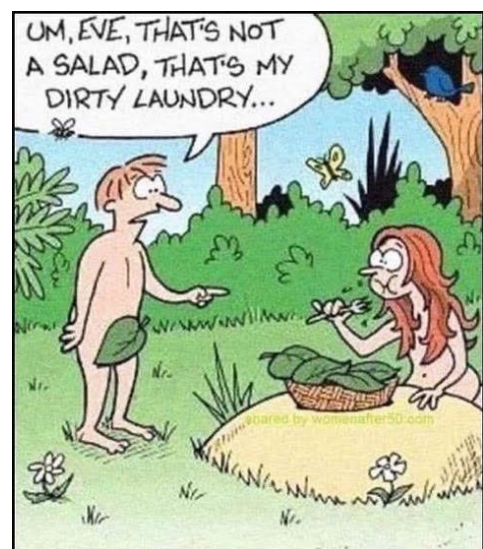
annotations elucidating the surveying and construction of the Stock Route by Alfred Canning, alongside the subsequent well refurbishments by Snell.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/canning-stock-route/>

Meridian Mirth

Thank you for most of these jokes from our regular contributor! To share your jokes, please send them to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au



Personally, I don't understand why this next one was sent as a joke. I think it is quite accurate! What do other readers think?

Statistics that don't lie:

average duration of a phone call

Boy to Boy	00:00:59
Boy to Mom	00:00:50
Boy to Dad	00:00:30
Boy to Girl	01:23:59
Girl to Girl	05:29:59
Husband to Wife	00:00:03
Mom to married daughter	10:50:59
Wife to Husband	14 missed calls

My grandkids tease me
for not keeping up with
all this **new technology**,
but they themselves
have to google how to
boil an egg...



If one door closes
and another one
opens,
seek help.
Your
house
is haunted.



This is why one should travel when you are still young 😊🤔😊😊



One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week' The florist was pleased and left the shop. When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.' The cop was happy and left the shop. The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a politician came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you. I'm doing community service this week.' The politician was very happy and left the shop. The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen politicians lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

To share your jokes, please send them to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au

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

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

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