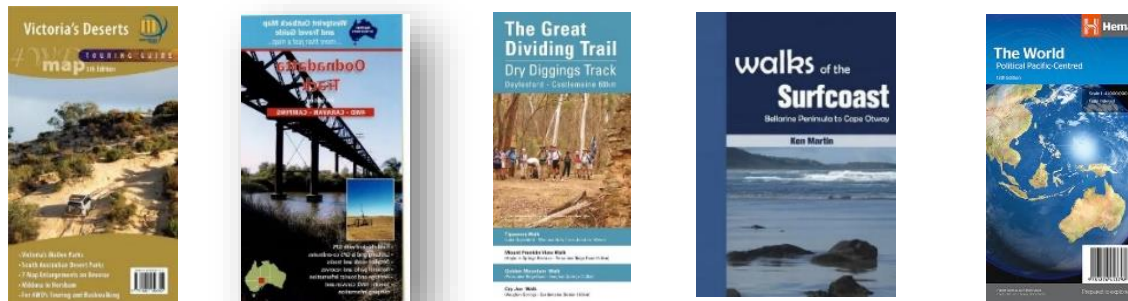


## The Meridian Line - Sunday 31.03.2024

"If my mind can conceive it, if my heart can believe it, then I can achieve it." —Muhammad Ali



### ***Victoria's Deserts 4WD Map – from \$14.95***

This map offers extensive coverage of Victoria's mallee parks at an enhanced 1:350,000 scale, spanning from the Little Desert to the Murray River, and including South Australia's Ngarkat and Billiatt Desert Parks, and the Riverland region. It features new tracks, road names, and other additions, with seven enlargements on the reverse side focusing on popular areas such as Little Desert, Pink Lakes, Border Track, central Wyperfeld, Lindsay & Wallpolla Islands, Raak Plain, and Mt Arapiles. Designed for four-wheel drivers, it includes all navigable tracks and tourist attractions, while also catering to bushwalkers with detailed coverage of the Sunset Remote Walking Track and the Desert Discovery Walk. Additionally, it encompasses the best of the Border Track and all four-wheel drive tracks within the Big Desert State Park. This map is also available in a digital format and as part of a map pack.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/victorias-deserts-4wd-map/>

### ***Oodnadatta Track – from \$14.95***

This map covers the Oodnadatta Track from Lyndhurst to Oodnadatta via Marree, Lake Eyre, William Creek, and Algebuckina. It closely follows significant historical routes like the Overland Telegraph Line and the Old Ghan

Line, highlighting its importance as an Aboriginal trade route and outback heritage area. Access to Lake Eyre National Park requires permits, available for day visits or longer stays. One side of the map provides GPS locations, while the other offers detailed area information, making it ideal for travellers. It includes historical, natural, and tourist points of interest, along with photographs and essential navigation details. Additionally, it covers the Stuart Highway from Woomera (Pimba) to Marla, Lake Eyre, and the approach to Marree via Leigh Creek.

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

### ***The Great Dividing Trail – Dry Diggings Track - \$9.95***

The Dry Diggings Track is a segment of the Great Dividing Trail, commences in Daylesford and extends for 60 kilometres to Castlemaine. Rich in heritage and wildflowers, the track is divided into four Walks/Rides, progressing from south to north. Detailed features and photo galleries for each segment are provided in panels on the left. This map conveniently folds to a manageable size, making it perfect for traversing the entire track or exploring individual sections separately.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/dry-diggings-track/>

### ***Walks of the Surfcoast – \$24.95***

Explore the scenic walks of the Surfcoast, stretching from the Bellarine Peninsula to Cape Otway, featuring a collection of 63 diverse walks suitable for all ages and skill levels. Each walk is accompanied by basic maps for navigation, detailed descriptions, and additional information to enhance your experience along the way. Whether you're seeking a leisurely stroll or a challenging hike, this guide provides everything you need to fully enjoy each walk.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/walks-of-the-surfcoast/>

### ***The World – Political Pacific Centred - \$14.95***

A globally-oriented map centred on the Pacific region, featuring relief shading to faithfully represent the topography of each country and underwater features, along with the International Date Line. This world map boasts a detailed index for easy reference, rendering it ideal for educational, informational, or decorative purposes.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/world-pacific-centered/>

## Meridian Musings

Received the following from John in relation to our article about David Hewitt in the previous edition of The Meridian Line:

“Thanks for acknowledging the life of David Hewitt. He was a remarkable man who married a similarly remarkable woman. David and Margaret worked for such a long time together in so many outback communities that they both received an Order of Australia Medal and the most unusual circumstance is that they each received the award but for the first time in the history of the Northern Territory, possibly even in Australia, the medals were awarded with one joint citation covering them both. David is one of the many people Bev and I met during our travels in the Outback. He will be truly missed by us.”

And from David after reading the article on the Canning Stock Route

“Following up on your Canning theme, the first vehicles to traverse the Canning went through in 1968. Two of the drivers were Dave Chudleigh and Russell Wenzholz. I knew both of them. Dave was in the Darwin office of the old Australian Survey Office, while Russell was in the Canberra office, where I met him after joining the organisation in 1972. At the time of their Canning adventure I was working for Australian Aerial Mapping, trying to work out how to build an iron ore railway from Mt Tom Price to Port Hedland. At the time there weren't any maps over the Pilbara. National Mapping had just flown the first high level aerial photography over the area ready to commence the 1:250 000 mapping, and Len Beadell was still working his way west building his road network to support missile trials out of Woomera. Our starting point was the NATMAP photography to work out possible routes, which we then photographed at a far lower altitude ready for railway feasibility studies and design. Anyway, the [xnatmap.org](http://xnatmap.org) website is a great resource for early stories on surveying from WW2 on, when the mapping of Australia really commenced. Both Russell Wenzholz and Dave Chudleigh have articles on this site; attached. I can highly recommend the Wenzholz' story. I've yet to read the Chudleigh story, only recently found.”

It was a bit of a personal milestone for our family recently. All three of our children have been involved in the scouting movement and, as parents, we have also held positions - firstly on the parents' committee and then as leaders. Our children started in the movement as young 7-year-olds and progressed through most sections of the scouting movement – cubs, scouts, venturers and rovers - until reaching 26 years of age when they are officially “booted” from the youth section of the movement. All three have earned their Queen's scout award (I guess it will now be called the King's scout award) and have gained so much from the scouting movement. Meetings, camps, hikes, jamborees - there is always something happening. They have gained so much

from scouting including resilience, planning, leadership, communication, their love of the outdoors, camping, bushwalking and navigation, they have made lifelong friends (in fact one of our daughters met her husband through scouts) and yes, they learned how to tie knots.

If you would like to share your stories of your time in the scouting movement, drop me a line at [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au).



Nothing beats sitting around and enjoying a fire whilst on scout camp

### What's New to the Website

Silo Art Trail Books – Silo Art is all about turning dull grey silos into beautiful pieces of artwork. The idea of covering silos with large-scale art originated in Western Australia back in 2015.

**Silo Art Trail – Silo Art Guide - \$24.95** The Australian Silo Art Trail presents a stunning spiral-bound book in vibrant full colour, ideal for mapping out your journeys across Australia. Featuring over 61 captivating Silo Art murals, this edition provides essential details for each masterpiece, including addresses, GPS coordinates, and artist summaries. Contained within this convenient edition are detailed maps showcasing the locations of all silo art installations in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, and Western Australia, aiding in your travel planning. This exquisite book serves as a source of inspiration for exploring rural towns throughout Australia, promising unforgettable experiences along the way.



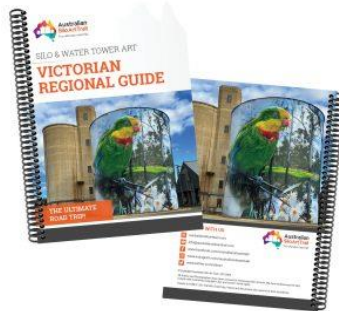
<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/silo-art-guide/>

**Silo Art Trail – NSW Regional Guide - \$24.95** - The Silo & Water Tower Art Guide – New South Wales Regional Guide showcases 53 silos, water towers, and street art murals across regional New South Wales. This charming little guide serves as the ideal companion for exploring these remarkable artworks along the Australian Silo Art Trail.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/silo-art-trail-nsw/>

**Silo Art Trail – Victorian Regional Guide - \$24.95** - The Silo & Water Tower Art Guide – Victorian Regional Guide highlights 75 silos, water towers, and street art murals throughout regional Victoria. This delightful handbook serves as an ideal companion for discovering these captivating artworks along the Australian Silo Art Trail.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/silo-art-trail-victoria/>

## 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

### Travel update 27 March 2024

The Anne Beadell, Connie Sue and Great Central roads remain closed because of the very high rainfall in the first half of the month. It is impossible to say when they will re-open, wet tracks are still an issue and then an assessment of damage can be made once access becomes available to road crews.

Please check Laverton and Kalgoorlie-Boulder shire web pages for up-to-date road reports.

Buchan Munji (Buchan Caves Reserve in Victoria) will re-open for the Easter holidays after a major program of recovery works.

Firefighters continue to battle a bushfire near Nanga Brook, Waroona, Western Australia in extreme terrain. For the latest information visit [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au).

It's been 3 months since ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper caused widespread damage to parks and forests across Far North Queensland. Of the 146 protected areas impacted, only 6 remain completely closed, with many re-opening for the Easter break. For the latest information on conditions, check park alerts. <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/park-alerts>.

The latest Deserts Parks Bulletin (797 – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024) is available at: <https://meridianmaps.com.au/deserts-pass-update/>

*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

Thank you to Jo Ussing for sending in an article to keep in touch with readers of The Meridian Line. Jo and Graeme Ussing were, of course, the owners of Westprint Maps and author of Friday Five which was the precursor of this newsletter.

Graeme and I have not been spending our semi-retirement travelling as we had imagined. Instead, we have finally started the kitchen renovation that is overdue by about ten years. Our camping adventures have been limited to two campsites close to home, both lovely quiet places to camp.

Walkers Lake is a lovely free camp area near Donald. There is a toilet (kept very clean), a boat ramp and a limit of 30 days' stay.

The Brim recreational reserve is \$10 per night and has clean toilets, showers with hot water, some powered sites, playground, swimming and boating areas. And plenty of shade.

John and Bev have been travelling in Outback Queensland recently and had to spend a few hot days in Charleville waiting for vehicle parts. To pass the time, I sent them this check list of things to do in town. The parts turned up in super quick time and so they didn't get through the list. The Ussing family highly recommend the Charleville Cosmos Centre.

Things to do in Charleville.



### **Bilby Experience.**

The Charleville Bilby Experience offers a must-see show! Join a tour of our nocturnal house (where we alter the timing so that the bilby's night is during our day) and see some super cute bilbies during their night-time activities. After an engaging talk by one of our keepers you will understand more about the plight of this delightful eco-engineer and exactly why they are worth saving from extinction.

### **Charleville Cosmos Centre.**

Through a combination of education and storytelling, the Charleville Cosmos Centre is dedicated to igniting curiosity, deepening understanding, and creating memories that reach beyond the stars.

Defy logic while viewing the Sun directly through specialised telescopes, immerse yourself in Queensland's largest planetarium, look into the past at celestial objects thousands of light years away and hear timeless stories that have shaped cultures around the globe.





(Photo from Visit Qld)

### **Royal Flying Doctor Service**

Charleville RFDS Visitors Centre, learn about the history of the RFDS and see how far we have come. Located next to the operational Charleville base which commenced operations in 1943 and services approximately 622,000 square kilometres of southwest Queensland - an area almost the size of the United Kingdom.



### **Historic House Museum.**

Historic House Museum at Charleville displays a vast array of memorabilia and artefacts reflecting the early history of the district, its cultural and indigenous origins and the development of the town and district.



### **Secret Wartime Base.**

Experience what life was like for 3500 United States Army Air Force personnel stationed in Charleville in 1943. Enlist yourself at the brand new interactive, educational Base, showcasing; Ocean voyages, Top Secret information, classified missions, wartime romances, and command your own bombing mission from inside a simulation B-17 Bomber.

### **Angellala Rail Bridge**

A heritage-listed railway bridge on the Roma-Cunnamulla railway line over Angellala Creek in Sommariva in the Shire of Murweh, Queensland, Australia. It was designed by Henry Charles Stanley and built from c. 1885 to 1994. It was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 21 October 1992.



### **Native Tree walk.**

Surrounding the lake in Graham Andrews Parklands is a collection of 18 different species of native Australian trees. Look, touch and smell your way around the walk, as you learn both botanical and common names as well as the European and Aboriginal uses for each species. Call into the Charleville Visitor Information Centre for a copy of the written handout and map that complements this walk.

If you have any stories that you would like to contribute based on places that you might have been, drop me a line at [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au).

### **Meridian Mirth**

Thank you for these jokes from our regular contributor! To share your jokes, please send them to [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au)

A female CNN journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Western Wall to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long, long time.

So, she went to check it out. She went to the Western Wall and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site.

She watched him pray and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, using a cane and moving very slowly, she approached him for an interview.

"Pardon me, sir, I'm Rebecca Smith from CNN. What's your name?"

"Morris Feinberg," he replied.

"Sir, how long have you been coming to the Western Wall and praying?"

"For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and the Muslims.

"I pray for all the wars and all the hatred to stop.

"I pray for all our children to grow up safely as responsible adults and to love their fellow man.

"I pray that politicians tell us the truth and put the interests of the people ahead of their own interests.

"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?" asked the journalist.

"Like I'm talking to a brick wall."

### **The price of gasoline in France?**

A thief in Paris planned to steal some paintings from the Louvre.



After careful planning, he got past security, stole the paintings and made it safely to his van. However, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of gas.

When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied, "Monsieur, that is the reason I stole the paintings."

"I had no Monet



to buy Degas



to make the Van Gogh."



See if you have De Gaulle to  
send this on to someone else.





## Practical Advice:

If all the toilets in your house are occupied and you are waiting for one to be free, switch off the wi-fi.



"ALL RIGHT, EDNA. WHERE ARE MY GOLF CLUBS?"



"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."

Liam Walsh, The New Yorker



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](mailto: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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### **Meridian Contact information**

Email: [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au)

### **Disclaimer**

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