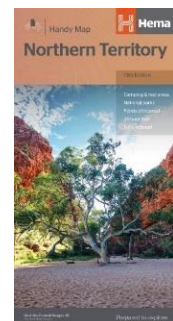
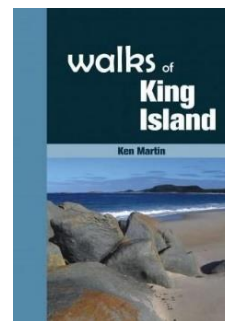
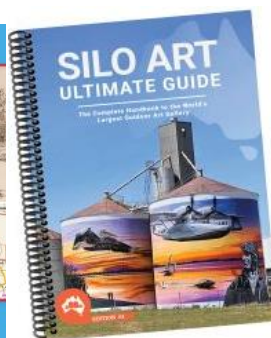
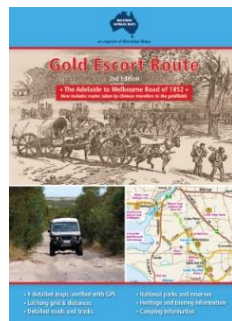
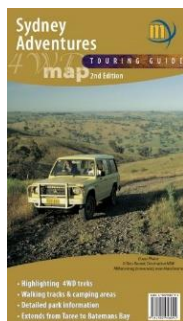


The Meridian Line - Sunday 23.06.2024

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new." — Albert Einstein



Sydney Adventures 4WD Map – from \$14.95

A 1:500,000 scale map showcasing the top four-wheel driving areas north and south of Sydney. Covering regions from Taree in the north to beyond Batemans Bay in the south, and stretching as far as Canberra and Orange, this map serves as an excellent tour planner and guide for exploring this spectacular driving region. It details every park and forest, as well as camping grounds and tourist attractions, to help you discover all the wonderful sights in the area.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/sydney-adventure-4wd-map/>

Gold Escort Route – \$32.95

The Gold Escort Route between Adelaide and Castlemaine is one of Australia's oldest interstate roads. Established in the mid-1840s, it was the first direct route between Adelaide and Melbourne, used by pioneer settlers without maps or signposts. The route became vital during the gold rush, transporting miners' gold to Adelaide. Although the Gold Escort Service used it for only two years, it remained a key road for 70 more years. This edition includes routes taken by Chinese migrants walking from Robe in South Australia to the Victorian goldfields.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/gold-escort-route/>

Silo Art Ultimate Guide – \$69.95

Begin your Australian adventure with the 2024 Silo Art – The Ultimate Guide. This premium coffee table book showcases 60 silos and 150 water towers, providing a captivating journey through monumental silo and water tower art. Each page features high-quality photographs, revealing the exceptional talent of artists who transform these massive structures into stunning masterpieces.

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

Walks of King Island - \$24.95

"Walks of King Island" features 44 walks suitable for all ages and difficulty levels. Each walk is accompanied by basic maps, detailed descriptions, and additional information to enhance your walking experience.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/walks-of-king-island/>

Northern Territory Handy Map – from \$9.98

The Northern Territory Handy Map highlights camping and rest areas, 24-hour fuel stations, and points of interest. This essential map is perfect for any holiday-maker's packing list or as a handy resource to keep in the glove box.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/northern-territory-handy-map/>

Meridian Musings

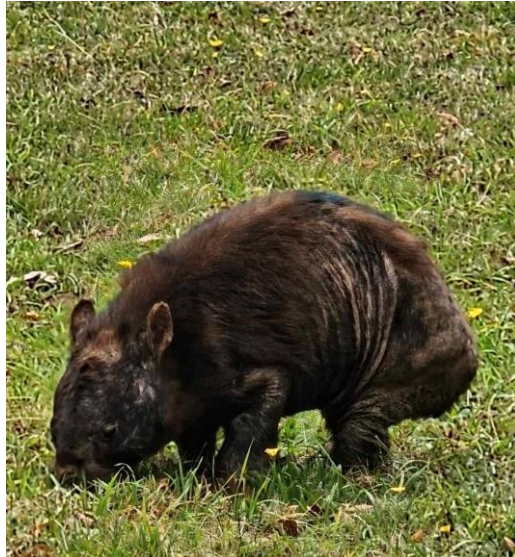
The King's birthday weekend surely let us know that winter has arrived. Although it was cold, the sun did make an appearance and we definitely got out and enjoyed. We took a drive through the Dandenongs and it was great to see that so many people were out and about. We enjoyed a walk through the Dandenongs Botanic Garden (formerly the National Rhododendron Gardens).



The Chelsea Native Garden, opened in 2023, is stunning as are the views over the Yarra Valley. The garden boasts 15,000 plants representing over 400 native Australian species. It highlights sustainable and water-efficient design, featuring an integrated bushfire protection system, solar power, and the innovative use of recycled and reclaimed materials.



Despite the cooler weather, there were still plenty of flowers to admire and even a local wombat out and about.



And of course, no trip to the Dandenongs is complete without stopping at one of the many tearooms for a cheeky Devonshire tea!



I was browsing through the latest edition of Australian Geographic (March – April 2024) and came across an article by Don Fuchs titled “Desert Delight”. He travels along the Anne Beadell Highway and Googs Tracks enjoying the beauty of the Great Victorian Desert. This desert lies in Western Australia and South Australia, extending from the Gibson Desert on the north to the Nullarbor Plain on the south and eastward from Kalgoorlie-Boulder almost to the Stuart Range. If you get the opportunity to read this article, it makes a fascinating read or better yet, if you are planning your next road trip, perhaps this area may be on your itinerary!

Of course, the Great Victoria Desert is only one of the ten deserts in Australia. The others being: Great Sandy Desert, Tanami Desert, Simpson Desert, Gibson Desert, Little Sandy Desert, Strzelecki Desert, Sturt Stony Desert, Tirari Desert and Pedirka Desert.



The Anne Beadell Highway.



Googs Track

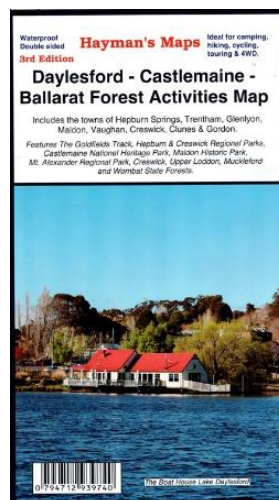


What's New to the Website

We are forever on the lookout for products that we believe complement the range of Meridian and Westprint products.

Daylesford-Castlemaine-Ballarat Forest Activities Map - \$14.95

This is the third edition of this 1:50,000 scale map, covering the towns of Daylesford, Castlemaine, Hepburn Springs, Trentham, Glenlyon, Maldon, Vaughan, Ballarat, and Creswick. It highlights the Hepburn Regional Park, Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, Maldon Historic Reserve, Mount Alexander Regional Park, and the Upper Loddon, Muckleford, and Wombat State Forests. The map includes all roads and tracks, historic sites, public amenities, camping and caravan parks, and more. It is printed on waterproof paper.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/daylesford-castlemaine/>

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-desert-tracks-central-sheet/>

Great Desert Tracks – Eastern Sheet - 14.95

The Great Desert Tracks Eastern Sheet covers from Tennant Creek in the north to Port Pirie in the south, and from Cunamulla in the east to Alice Springs in the west.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-desert-tracks-eastern-sheet/>

Great Desert Tracks – Western Sheet - \$14.95

The Great Desert Tracks Western Sheet covers from beyond Derby in the north to Norseman in the south, and from Halls Creek in the east to Marble Bar in the west.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/gdt-western-sheet/>

The four individual Great Desert Tracks maps are also available as a Map Pack which definitely offers great value.

Great Desert Tracks Map Pack – \$53.80

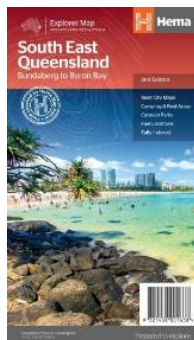
Included in each map pack: Great Desert Tracks Central Sheet, Great Desert Tracks Eastern Sheet, Great Desert Tracks Western Sheet and Great Desert Tracks Simpson Desert.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/gdt-map-pack/>

South East Queensland – Bundaberg to Byron Bay – from \$14.95

A regional map of South East Queensland extending from the New South Wales-Queensland border up to beyond Bundaberg, with detailed maps of the Brisbane Region, Brisbane City, and the Gold Coast on the reverse side.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/south-east-queensland/>

What's On

June 29 – July 21: Ballarat Winter Festival in Ballarat, Victoria is a celebration of the city's signature season through events, activities and unique offering.

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

July 1: As of 1 July, bookings for campsites will need to be made online before visiting the following campgrounds in Western Australia: Sues Bridge Campground, Warner Glen Campground, Canebrake Pool Campground,

Wrights Bridge Campground, Barrabup Pool Campground, Workmans Pool Campground, Boranup Campground and Point Road Campground.

<https://parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au>

July 2: Overland Track bookings for the 2024/25 summer walking season open. A new queueing system has been introduced this year. Join the waiting room one hour prior to opening, and at 9am those in the waiting room will be randomly selected to progress through to the booking site.

<https://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/cradle-mountain/overland-track>

July 6: Run in the Sun in Calliope, Queensland. Event for Hot Rods and Classic Cars held at the Calliope Historical Village.

<https://www.gladstoneregion.info/explore/calliope/events/run-in-the-sun-2024/>

July 13: Hunter Valley Wine & Beer Festival. Held in the Hunter Valley, NSW, this is a community event with an extensive array of wine, spirits, beer, cider and gourmet food on offer.

<https://huntervalleywinefestival.com/>

July 20: RAAF Open Day in Darwin. Opportunity to see the latest operational aircraft and meet Australian and international air and ground crews from over 20 nations participating in Exercise Pitch Black.

<https://www.tourismtopend.com.au/events/event/86418-raaf-darwin-open-day>

July 20 – 21: Betoota Gymkhana Weekend at the Betoota Race track In Queensland. Annual Horse/ Motorbike Gymkhana, Enduro Race and new Horsemanship challenges.

<https://www.facebook.com/BetootaGymkhana>

Seasonal Updates

Please be aware that road and Park closures are constantly changing and it is always best to check for changes before you set out.

For more regular updates on closures, please check our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MeridianWestprintMaps> as we try to include warnings and advice as we become aware of them.

The latest Desert Parks Bulletin has been uploaded to our website. For this and other Desert Pass updates, please go to <https://meridianmaps.com.au/deserts-pass-update/>

Both the Connie Sue and Anne Beadell highways remain closed. Although Laverton shire will continue to issue regular updates, the general consensus is that neither track is likely to open before mid to late August at earliest. Please check before travelling in this area.

Future closures of the Anne Beadell Highway by the Department of Defence are 21 November 2024 to 18 December 2024.

A number of tracks and campgrounds in the Innamincka Regional Reserve and Malkumba- Coongee Lakes National Park have been closed due to flood damage. Please check the latest information before you travel at <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/knowh-before-you-go/desert-parks-bulletin>
Or <https://meridianmaps.com.au/deserts-pass-update/>

Jim Jim Falls and Twin Falls Region in Kakadu are currently closed.

Please note: The gate on Nourlangie road accessing Nawurlandja and Nourlangie rock, in Kakadu, will close at 7pm each night and reopen at 7am each morning.

For further details of closures in the Kakadu are please check <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/access/>.

Sawback Range Track, Adamsfield Conservation Area in Tasmania -
The Sawback Range Track is closed for the winter period. Possibility of re-opening in November if conditions allow.

Maria Island National Park in Tasmania is closed from 23 June to 5 July for annual maintenance.

Works are now complete on stage two of the Horsetail Falls walk in Tasmania's North West and is now open to the public.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport are upgrading the Mallee Highway in South Australia from Taillem Bend to Peake. Construction activities will move around the extent of the works location as different activities progress. June 2024 to March 2025.

John Forrest National Park in Western Australia has seen its trail network revamped and are now open.

Birdsville to Bedourie in Queensland is now open through the Cuttaburra Crossing and the road is in good condition.

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 Ruth who sent in this story about The Corner Country.

CORNER COUNTRY

Following in the Steps of Sturt - Setting the Corner Country apart from the rest

On a warmish day in the early 2000s a small group of people connected in various ways to tourism in the Corner Country (that area in the far north-western corner of New South Wales) met to discuss ways of attracting visitors to the region. They came up with a list of things that “set the area apart from the rest”.

For example, it is the only New South Wales district bounded by two states, has a low population and freedom to move and breathe, at night the skies are brilliant and not affected by artificial light.

There are significant local Aboriginal heritage sites and connections, an established history of pastoralism and gold mining with remarkable pioneer stories.



Its natural heritage includes amazing arid zone flora and significant native animal habitat, red sand dunes of the Simpson Strzelecki Dune-fields, vast gibber plains and salt and fresh water lakes, saltbush steppes and acacia woodlands

There are quartz fields near Milparinka, ancient sandstone mesas and jump-ups dominate Sturt National Park, the largest self-managed national park in New South Wales, and massive granite tors surround Tibooburra.

Linking all of these features is the historical connected with Charles Sturt's 1845 Inland Expedition. During the expedition Sturt traversed the Corner Country, spent six months near Milparinka, and established a second camp at Fort Grey. Place names and significant sites from the expedition remain today.

And so, at that early meeting in Milparinka, the idea of creating a touring route through the Corner Country was conceived. Today, the roughly 1100 km circular route follows a system of public roads and links Broken Hill to Milparinka, Tibooburra, Cameron Corner and Packsaddle.

Along the route interpretive shelters, information posts, museums and sculptural installations tell the story of the very elements that were identified as "setting the Corner Country apart from the rest".

Undertaking the project required a collaboration of individuals and agencies, some to manage finances, procurement and legal considerations, others to bring

ideas to the project. Representatives of Milparinka Heritage, National Parks and Wild Life, Aboriginal Land Councils, Tibooburra Village Committee, West

Darling Arts, Transport for New South Wales and Wild Deserts (Fort Grey) were all integral to the development of the amenity and interpretations along the route.



Hundreds (if not thousands) of hours were spent on research and design for the material included on the shelters and information posts as well as the museum spaces in Milparinka and Tibooburra.

Artists and sculptors were engaged to create murals and sculptural pieces for Milparinka, Tibooburra, Packsaddle and Fort Grey.

Public toilets were built in Tibooburra and improved amenity in the Land Council Reserve in Tibooburra.

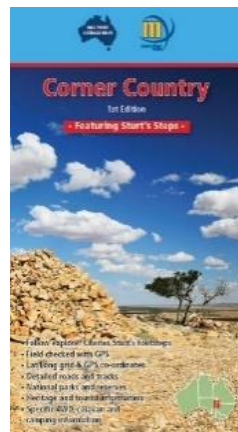
In Milparinka, the caravan park was also upgraded and additional toilets and showers installed. Solar panels and a battery were installed to provide power for the newer installations.



And finally, the route has now been marked with the installation of brown and white tourist signs making it a safe bet that travellers along the route will not



Yet, for most, it will still be a journey of discovery, one which is enlightening, exciting and surprising and so very much worth undertaking.



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.

Meridian Mirth

To share your jokes, please send them to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.
Thanks for these words of wisdom from our regular contributor. Thank you also to Rob for his interesting historical facts.

- When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
- To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
- Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
- The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
- When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
- I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
- Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
- If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
- When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
- I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
- I run like the winded.
- I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
- When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

- When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminium can stuffed with celery?
- I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
- When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
- Don't bother walking a kilometre in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
- Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
- My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb."



The next time you are washing your hands & complain about the temperature of the water temperature, think about how things used to be around the 1500s.

- Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. Since they were starting to smell, however, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.
- Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it ... hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"
- Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the

cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof, resulting in the idiom, "It's raining cats and dogs."

- There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed, therefore, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.
- The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, leading folks to coin the phrase "dirt poor."
- The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way, subsequently creating a "thresh hold."
- In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while, and thus the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."
- Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."
- Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.
- Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust."
- Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up, creating the custom of holding a wake.

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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