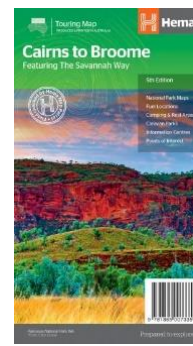
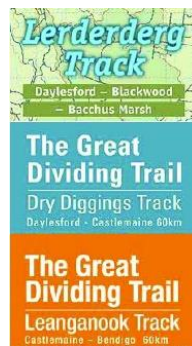
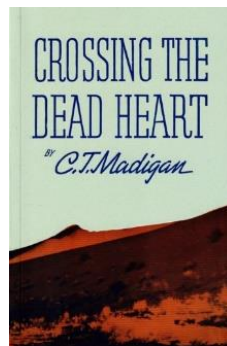
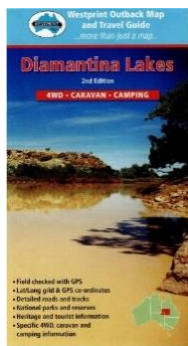




The Meridian Line - Sunday 07.07.2024

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



Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges – from \$10.95

This popular map set includes a 1:30,000 scale topographic map of Lerderderg State Park and a 1:20,000 scale map of Werribee Gorge State Park, with an enlargement of the Blackwood to O'Briens Crossing area, a map of the Pyrete Range and the new Long Forest Reserve Map. The map includes 17 new and updated walk notes, as well as information on the parks' history, wildlife, and available activities. It features the Emergency Marker Coordinates for the Lerderderg and Werribee Gorge State Parks, along with all tourist attractions in and around the parks. This map is ideal for bushwalkers, day-trippers, and 4WD enthusiasts, incorporating many updates to ensure it is the most accurate map of the Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges and surrounding region.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/lerderderg-werribee-gorges-map/>

Diamantina Lakes – from \$14.95

The Westprint Diamantina Lakes map is the ultimate guide for adventurers exploring the rugged beauty of outback Australia. Covering over 15,000 square kilometres, this map highlights the stunning Diamantina Lakes region,

including the iconic Birdsville Track, Boulia, Winton, Longreach, Windorah, and other significant areas of interest.

Featuring detailed road and track information, this map is perfect for those traveling by 4WD or on foot. It has been field-checked with GPS and includes a Lat/Long grid and GPS coordinates, detailed roads and tracks, national parks and reserves, heritage and tourist information, and specific 4WD, caravan, and camping details. Symbols on the map correspond to textual information on the back, explaining each point of interest and the surrounding flora and fauna. The back of the map also contains detailed historical information, points of interest, colour pictures, recreational activities in the area, and useful contact numbers.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/diamantina-lakes/>

Crossing the Dead Heart – \$34.95

"Crossing the Dead Heart" is a popular account of a 1939 expedition led by C.T. Madigan, aimed at traversing a previously unexplored region in the Northern Territory of Australia. The expedition was funded by Mr. A.A. Simpson, after whom the Simpson Desert is named. Starting from Charlotte Waters on the South Australian-Northern Territory border, the team travelled to their first camp beyond Andado Bore. They crossed the desert to Birdsville in Queensland, then turned southwest to the shores of Lake Eyre, eventually rejoining the railway at Maree. This narrative is a testament to significant exploratory enterprise and meticulous scientific investigation.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/crossing-dead-heart/>

Great Dividing Trail Map Pack - \$26.85

The Great Dividing Map Pack comprises three maps produced by the Great Dividing trail Association; Dry Diggings Track Map, Lerderderg Track Map and the Leanganook Track Map. The Great Dividing Trail, stretching from Ballarat to Bendigo with a branch to Bacchus Marsh, is one of Victoria's iconic long-distance walks. Whether planning a continuous trek or exploring it in sections, you'll experience beautiful scenery, majestic vistas, historic buildings, and Australian wildlife.

Each of the three maps is also available individually.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-dividing-trail-map-pack/>

Cairns to Broome Featuring the Savannah Way – \$14.95

This touring map covers the journey along the Savannah Way between Cairns and Broome at a scale of 1:2,200,000. It highlights 24-hour fuel stations, outback fuel stops, and LPG availability, along with caravan parks, camping

areas, and rest areas. Popular national parks along the route are featured with detailed inset maps of Judbarra/Gregory, Purnululu, Kakadu, and Boodjamulla. The map also includes contact details for accredited information centres and useful lists of the facilities available in the national parks.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/cairns-to-broome-touring-map/>

Meridian Musings

It's wonderful hearing from members of the Meridian/Westprint community.

Help Required

Colin was hoping that he could some help or advice. He asks:

"Nutysland Nature Reserve - I am planning a trip through Nutysland Nature Reserve, from Cocklebidy to Esperance, in October. I am interested in hearing from someone who has travelled the track recently, and can provide advice as to the condition of the track, campsites and useful maps and guides, etc."

If anybody has some information that could help, please email me at rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au and I will forward your responses to Colin and publish them in the next newsletter.

From Ken who enjoyed his recent trip.

"Delighted to confirm receipt of the Binns Track Atlas yesterday. My wife & I together with 14 other customers had a great 11-day trip through this track from 17th-28th of this month with Outback Spirit. We saw some fantastic scenery together with the history of early settlements & present-day stations.'

Following our most recent newsletter we received a couple of comments.

Kym was concerned that the wombat photographed at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens may have mange. Wombat mange is a disease caused by a parasitic mite which burrows into the skin causing thick, crusty skin, and hair loss. Mange is contagious to humans and can cause itching and a rash, a condition known as scabies in humans. Unfortunately, the wombats at the gardens are affected with mange. On the positive side, these wombats have been treated for mange and are painted with a dye to show that the treatment has occurred. So, although the photographed wombat did show signs of mage, it also had the blue dye to indicate that it had been treated. If, however, you do see a wombat in Victoria that you suspect may have mange, contact **0431 600 125** or <https://mangemanagement.org.au/report-a-wombat/>

Phillip was asking why some of the deserts such as those listed on Meridian Maps 4WD Victoria Desert Map were not listed as one of the ten deserts as itemised in the previous newsletter. This is a really good question and the best response is that names can sometimes be misleading. The ten deserts in

Australia are listed as Great Victoria, Great Sandy, Tanami, Simpson, Gibson, Little Sandy, Strzelecki, Sturt Stony, Tirari and Pedirka. However where was mention of Little Desert or Big Desert? Geoscience Australia defines a desert as “a desolate, uninhabited region that receives less than 250 to 500 millimetres of precipitation annually.” According to the Victorian National Parks Association, “Little Desert is not a desert in any sense of the word. Its heathlands are renowned for their spring wildflowers, which include many types of native orchid.” The Association further stated the Little Desert and the larger Big Desert to the north were so named because their sandy soils were reminiscent of the Sahara Desert. Although The Big Desert has the word desert in its name, it is a Wilderness Park which stretches along the South Australian border giving way to Mallee country. It is also Victoria’s first declared wilderness area.

Geoffrey was inspired to write in about MacCabe Corner after reading the article about Corner Country. There are five border corners in Australia where state or territory borders meet. These are:

Surveyor Generals Corner – WA/NT/SA, Poeppel Corner – NT/SA/Qld, Haddon Corner – SA/Qld, Cameron Corner – SA/Qld/NSW, and MacCabe Corner – SA/Vic/NSW.

MacCabe Corner was named in honour of Surveyor Francis MacCabe. The Geographical Names Board of NSW identifies the Corner as being exactly where the NSW-Victorian border (the southern high bank of the Murray River) meets an extension of the NSW-SA border. However, the SA-Victorian border at that point is officially the midline of the Murray. The difference between the two points is about 100m of the Murray River waters.



Ron
a heartfelt and fitting tribute to a friend and travel companion.

shared

Thank you for your weekly newsletter. I've been a long-time Meridian/Westprint reader:

Attached are photos of a memorial plaque recently installed at Eringa Waterhole (between Finke and Oodnadatta). The text reads:

ERINGA WATERHOLE This beautiful location is where PHILLIP EDWARD LOCKHART departed this earthly life to be with his heavenly father on 26th September 2023 in the presence of friends from Mountain-Top Experience (Victoria): Richard Palmer, Ron & Anne Camier, Marcus Hiam, Pete Reynolds, Kathy & Lee Day, Mark & Lisa Brown, Peter Robertson, Brian McDermott, Neil Francis and Frank Bassett. This memorial was dedicated on 21st June 2024 by his wife, Bronwyn Lockhart and family: Anna & Andrew, Sylvie and Iris. Sam & Brooke, Mayah, Isla and Seth. Jessica and Elise. Dearly loved, sadly missed.

The back story to this is that our 4WD tour group had just completed a Simpson Desert trip in September last year and camped at this waterhole. Our friend Phillip did not awaken in the morning, later revealed to be due to an undiagnosed heart condition. We contacted emergency services by satphone and a couple of police officers arrived from Marla about five hours later. As you might imagine, it was a great shock to our group as well as his family back in Melbourne. The photo etched on the plaque captures him photographing the reflected sunset on the evening before he died. Mountain-Top Experience have been running guided 4WD tours for over 25 years, with many regular and enthusiastic participants such as Phillip.

So, in June this year we arranged a memorial gathering attended by 19 people in 8 vehicles including his family, our team and some participants from last year. The plaque location is amongst trees and rocks adjacent to the entry track to the camping area on the north side of the waterhole. It was concreted into the ground with the permission of Hamilton Station manager Tim Williams.



What's New to the Website

Not exactly new but probably not well known are Meridian Gift Vouchers. Available in amounts of \$25, \$50, \$75 and \$100, they can be used to purchase or part purchase any product on the Meridian Maps website.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/?s=gift>

What's On

July 20: Carinda Races in Carinda NSW. Since 1915 Carinda & District Race Club has put on a thrilling 6 race program in July. Classic country racing at its best.

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

July 25 – 27: Daminmin Arts and Culture Festival Lambells Lagoon, Northern Territory. A celebration of art and culture in the rural area, highlighting First Nations culture alongside a range of contemporary artistic practices.

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

August 2-4: Tara Festival of Culture and Camels held in Tara, Queensland. Variety of entertainment, culture, food including 2 days of camel racing action on the track with some of Australia's top camel jockeys battling it out for the Tara Camel Cup!

<https://tarafestival.com.au/>

August 4 - 5: Sheepvention Rural Expo in Hamilton, Victoria. From the Hamilton and Western District Sheep Show, yard dog championships, ram sales to agritrade, home and garden, schooling, and more, Sheepvention Rural Expo provides a stage for rural communities to come together to network and connect.

<https://www.visitmelbourne.com/regions/grampians/whats-on/community/sheepvention-rural-expo>

August 5: Garma Festival. Australia's largest Indigenous gathering, a 4-day celebration of Yolngu life and culture held in remote northeast Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

<https://yyf.com.au/garma-festival/>

August 8 – 11: Mount Isa Mines Rodeo in Queensland. Australia's longest running and largest Rodeo in the Southern Hemisphere with an action packed schedule including 3 days of rodeo, rock music and good old rodeo entertainment

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

August 16- 18: Let's Go Sunshine Coast Caravan and Outdoor Expo in Nambour Queensland. Latest models of caravans, motorhomes, campervans, camper/tent trailers and slide-ons, plus Queensland Tourism.

<https://www.caravanqld.com.au/show/lets-go-sunshine-coast-caravan-outdoor-expo/>

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/>

From 1 July – 15 October 2024 the Freycinet 4WD track in Tasmania is undergoing repairs. As a result there is limited access at the following locations: South Friendly Track, Cape Tourville to Bluestone Bay, Ranger Creek Fire Trail, Coles Bay Hill and Bradley Fire Trail, Telstra Track and Telstra Beach track. www.parks.tas.gov.au/alerts

The Reynolds River track in Litchfield National Park, Northern Territory is open to 4WD vehicles only.

Witjira National Park in South Australia is open to 4WD only.

Mt Cole State Forest in Victoria has reopened following the fires earlier this year. Most of the campsites and picnic areas are now safe to visit. Ditchfield Camp, Mugwamp Hut, Chinamans Campground and Smiths Bridge are all open. Richards, The Glut, Ben Nevis and Victoria Mill Scenic Reserve are open day use only. Beeripmo walking track and campground closed

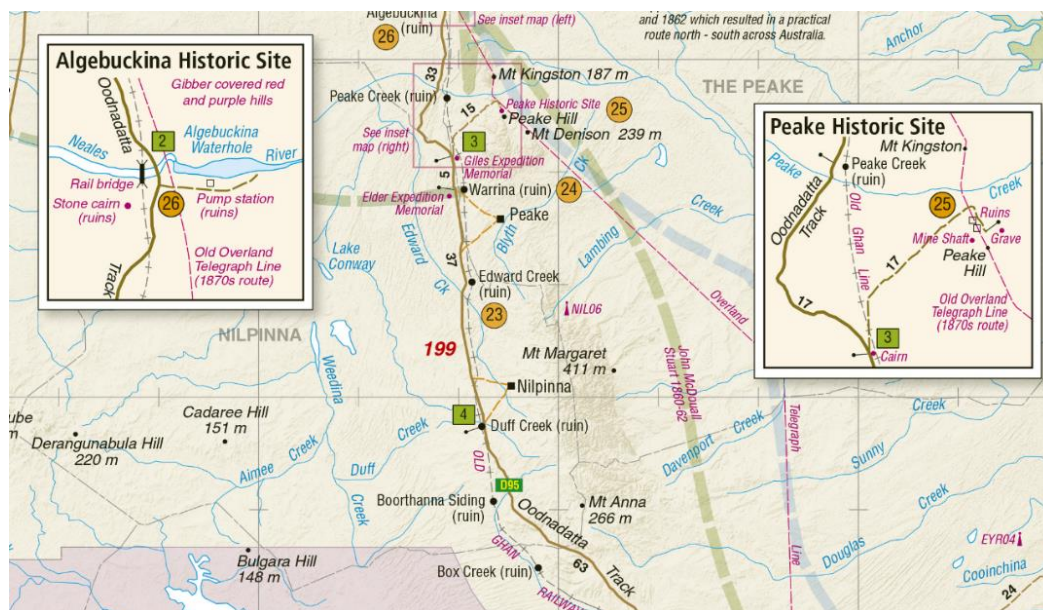
Disclaimer: These events were correct at the time they were added to the Meridian Line; however, this may have been some time before the actual event. Please make your own enquiries before travelling to an event.

Reader's Stories

Do you have a story?

The Oodnadatta Track: A Journey Through Australia's Outback Heritage

The Oodnadatta Track is one of Australia's most iconic outback tracks. Situated approximately 600 km north of Adelaide, this unsealed road stretches for about 620 km, connecting Marla in the northwest with Marree in the southeast. Along the way, the track passes through the settlements of Oodnadatta and William Creek, the southern lake of the Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park, and numerous mound springs.



The Mound Springs

The track is renowned for its mound springs, which are distinctive mounds formed by mineralized materials brought to the surface by natural springs. These mounds rise above the flat, salty landscape, creating unique and vital water sources in the arid environment.

Travellers heading north from Marree will first encounter Hergott Springs, followed by other prominent springs at Callana Station, Finnis Springs, Warburton, Loudon Springs, and the Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park. Some of the more renowned springs include Freeling Springs, Strangways Springs, and Blanche Cup and The Bubbler at Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs. The Bubbler is particularly notable for its constant flow of bubbles, unlike many springs that have a slow, seeping discharge.



The Bubbler

Historical Significance

The Oodnadatta Track has a rich history that intertwines Aboriginal heritage, European exploration, and the development of Australia's railway system. It closely follows a major Aboriginal trade route, the path taken by explorer John McDouall Stuart, the Overland Telegraph Line, and the Old Ghan Line.

Aboriginal Heritage

Long before European settlers arrived, the area now known as the Oodnadatta Track was a vital route for Indigenous groups, primarily the Kuyani people in the south, the Arabana people in the west, and the Arrernte people in the north. The track was used for ochre trading for thousands of years, with natural springs providing essential water sources. These springs were not only crucial for survival but also held significant cultural and spiritual value, with some regarded as sacred sites linked to the Dreamtime.



Ochre Cliffs along the Oodnadatta Track

European Exploration

European exploration of the area began in the mid-19th century. Aboriginal knowledge informed European settlers that the Oodnadatta Track, despite not being the straightest route, was the only viable one due to the abundance of springs. In 1858, explorer John McDouall Stuart heeded this advice and led his third expedition through the region, marking one of the first Europeans to cross Australia's interior from south to north. Stuart's journeys helped to map the area and identified the potential for future development, although it was recognized as a challenging environment due to its arid conditions.



Image: <https://walkerenergy.weebly.com/blog/john-mcdouall-stuart>

The Overland Telegraph Line

The route mapped by Stuart in his journeys of 1857 to 1862 was adopted as part of the Overland Telegraph Line route. Constructed in the 1870s, the Overland Telegraph Line was a pivotal development in the history of the Oodnadatta Track, connecting Australia to the rest of the world by running from Port Augusta to Darwin. This route, chosen for its strategic advantages, included repeater stations along the track. Some of the best-preserved stations can still be seen at Coward Springs Campground, which features a natural artesian spa, Curdimurka, and the "Old Peake" ruins. The telegraph line closely followed the path that would eventually become the Oodnadatta Track, bringing infrastructure and temporary settlements to the region.



The opening of the finished Overland Telegraph Line in Darwin in 1870. Image credit: State Library of New South Wales

The Central Australia Railway (The Ghan)

Due to the availability of water, the route was chosen for the steam-powered Central Australia Railway, known as The Ghan. Construction commenced in 1878, and Afghan labourers, along with their camels, played a significant role in building and maintaining the railway. Once completed, the railway allowed greater access to this remote part of the country.



Photo credit: <https://www.odysseytraveller.com/articles/the-ghan->

Oodnadatta was proclaimed a government town in October 1890 in anticipation of the railway's arrival and the town became a key stop on The Ghan route. The railway spurred the growth of other service towns like Marree and William Creek, which provided essential services to railway workers, travellers, and the emerging pastoral industry.



30TH OCTOBER 1890

Oodnadatta, in far north South Australia, is surveyed and declared a township, ahead of becoming a significant railway terminus.

Photo credit: Leo Fogarty to South Australian History

By 1891, the line from Port Augusta had extended to Oodnadatta. The Ghan line was extended to Alice Springs in 1929 and further to Darwin in 1942 to facilitate troop and supply movements during the Second World War.

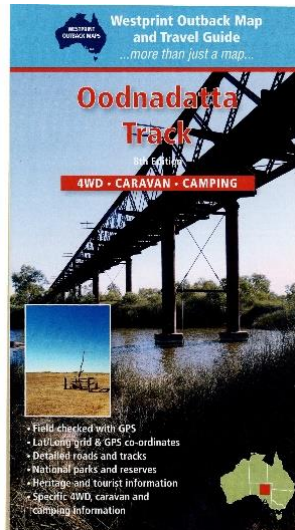
With the coming of diesel-powered railway engines, the days of the Old Ghan route were numbered. In 1980, The Ghan was moved to its current location with the new route bypassing Oodnadatta altogether. Remnants of the railway sidings and bridges, as well as the ruins of railway buildings and Overland Telegraph Line repeater stations, are still found along the track. Some of the best-preserved sites include the Coward Springs Campground, which features the abandoned Curdimurka railway siding.

As the railway faded, the Oodnadatta Track emerged as an important route for travellers seeking to explore the Australian outback. The track, which follows the old railway line, became popular with adventurers, tourists, and history enthusiasts. Its rugged terrain, historic sites, and natural springs offer a unique glimpse into the region's past.



Photo Credit: <https://www.roadtransporthall.com/old-ghan>

Today, the Oodnadatta Track attracts thousands of visitors each year. It passes through numerous historic and natural landmarks, including the mound springs at Coward Springs, the ruins of the old railway siding at Curdimurka, and Lake Eyre, Australia's largest salt lake. The track serves as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of both the indigenous populations who first navigated this harsh landscape and the European settlers who followed. It remains a vital link to Australia's pioneering past and an enduring symbol of the country's outback heritage.

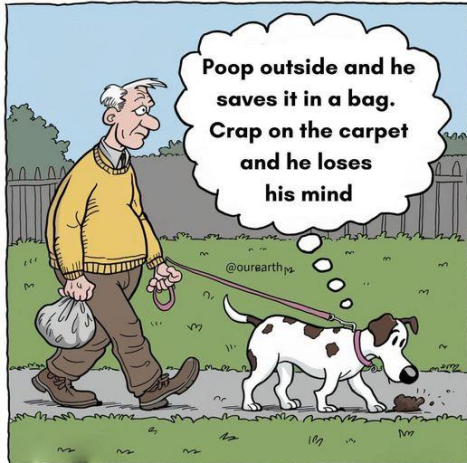


<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/oodnadatta-track/>

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.



When people give me directions and say "you can't miss it" — buddy, you have absolutely no idea what I'm capable of.



And because it is the end of the financial year, a whole bevy of accounting jokes.

- Welcome to the accounting department, where everybody counts.
- A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- What do you call an accountant with an opinion? An auditor.
- How does Santa's accountant value his sleigh? The Net Present Value.
- What do accountants suffer from that ordinary people don't? Depreciation.
- They say that two things in life are unavoidable: death and taxes. At least death only happens once!
- For every tax problem encountered there is a solution that's straightforward, uncomplicated, and wrong.
- How many accountants does it take to screw in a lightbulb? How many did it take last year?
- What do you call an accountant without a spreadsheet?
- Children may be tax deductible, but they're still taxing.
- What's the difference between tax avoidance and tax evasion? Jail.
- An accountant is someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand.
- What is the definition of a budget? An orderly system of living beyond our means.
- An accountant was having difficulty sleeping and went to see his doctor. "Doctor, I just cannot get to sleep at night
"Have you tried counting sheep?"
"That's the problem - I make a mistake and then I spend three hours trying to find it."

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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