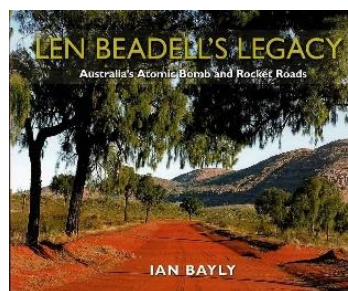
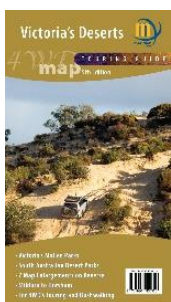


The Meridian Line - Sunday 27.10.2024

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." — Malala Yousafzai



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

The Victoria's Deserts 4WD Touring Map (1:350,000 scale) highlights major desert parks like Little Desert, Wyperfeld, Murray-Sunset, Hattah-Kulkyne, and Big Desert, along with South Australia's Murray River National Park, Ngarkat, and Scorpion Springs reserves. It also includes seven enlarged sections of key areas, such as Little Desert and Pink Lakes. This map covers the Mallee and northern Wimmera districts of Victoria and far eastern South Australia, tailored for the 4WD market in an area with limited map coverage. Renowned for its mallee ecosystems and wildlife, Victoria's deserts are a must-visit.

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

Corner Country Featuring Sturts Steps – from \$12.95

The Corner Country is a vast Outback region where Queensland, South Australia, and northwestern New South Wales meet, offering diverse landscapes, river systems, and wildlife. Explore the goldfield towns of Milparinka and Tibooburra, and the stunning scenery of Sturt National Park, featuring the Strzelecki Desert's red sand dunes, the Grey Range's mesas, the Gibber Plains, and the Dingo Fence. Visit Mutawintji National Park, rich in indigenous heritage and natural beauty, or follow Sturt's Steps Touring Route, retracing Captain Charles Sturt's 1845 expedition. The Corner Country offers history, nature, and adventure.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/corner-country/>

Heritage Wine Map of the McLaren Vale – \$30.00

Designed with a heritage aesthetic, this map of the McLaren Vale Wine Region showcases vine-covered areas, cellar doors, and the region's signature grape varieties. Featuring roads, waterways, and contours, it evokes the charm of vintage maps. Printed on high-quality paper, it's perfect for wine lovers and makes a striking addition to any home, holiday house, wine cellar, or office when framed. The map is available in A3 size (297mm x 420mm) and is delivered in a sturdy postal tube.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/heritage-wine-map-of-the-mclaren-vale/>

Len Beadell's Legacy – Australia's Atomic Bomb and Rocket Roads- \$34.95

In June 1952, Len Beadell was called to a secret meeting in Salisbury, South Australia, where he was tasked with locating a site for an atomic bomb explosion. He identified an unnamed claypan, later called Emu, west of Coober Pedy, which was approved by the military. On October 15 and 27, 1953, two atomic bombs were detonated there. Beadell was then asked to find a second site closer to the Trans Australian Railway, named Maralinga, where seven atomic bombs were exploded between September 27, 1956, and October 9, 1957. After completing the Emu and Maralinga sites, Beadell led the Gunbarrel Road Construction Party in November 1955. Despite limited resources, they constructed about 6,000 kilometres of roads through remote desert areas west of the Stuart Highway over nearly eight years. Key roads included the Gunbarrel Highway, Mount Davies Road, Sandy Blight Junction Road, and others. This book details the remarkable challenges and adventures faced by Beadell and his team, highlighting his courage and resourcefulness during extensive reconnaissance trips.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/len-beadells-legacy/>

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

This is the third edition of the 1:50,000 scale map, which covers the towns of Daylesford, Castlemaine, Hepburn Springs, Trentham, Glenlyon, Maldon, Vaughan, Ballarat, and Creswick. It highlights 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 areas, caravan parks, and more. It is printed on waterproof paper for durability.

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

Meridian Musings

Due to some email issues, many of our readers may not have received our newsletters during September. To review these please go to:

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/newsletter/>

The big lap is something that is on the bucket list of many people – I know it is definitely on mine!! In last fortnight's newsletter we ran an article on the big lap and although we showed it on the included map and it is definitely part of the lap, we inadvertently omitted it in the written description as pointed out by Margaret.

"I thoroughly appreciate this weekly newsletter and enjoy reading many of the articles and Meridian Mirth.

Unfortunately, today, being a Hobartian. I take issue with the article about National Highway 1 when your writer suggests that by driving either clockwise or anti-clockwise on the continental part of our country one captures Australia's heart and soul. Does this mean that Tasmania is unable to contribute to this heart and soul. In order for people to really travel the full length of our National Highway 1 they need to actually start in Hobart as Illustrated in your accompanying map."

We totally agree with you, Tasmania is a unique and essential part of the "Big Lap," Australia's ultimate road trip that circumnavigates the country. Though Tasmania is an island off the mainland, it offers some of the most diverse landscapes, natural beauty, and adventure experiences, making it an unmissable stop.

We were relaxing and watching TV during the week when we came across Australia Post ads advising of Christmas cut off dates to ensure that your post arrives in time. It's ads like this that make me realise that the year is actually flying by and that it is just under two months from the date of this newsletter until Christmas.

I'm sure that there are some who have already started to think of the possibility of a long deserved break at the end of the year. For some, this may mean pulling the caravan or campervan out of storage and hitting the roads.

November could be the perfect time to check that your caravan and towing vehicle are safe to use and meet ongoing safety compliance requirements. There are many pre safety check lists available on line or you may even have devised your own over the years, nonetheless, here is one compiled by the NRMA <https://thehub.nrma.com.au/drive/towing-safety-checklist>.

This weekend, for something different, we are taking a steam train ride from Melbourne to Ballarat. This trip by steam train only runs four times a year. We will have the opportunity to travel on a vintage train behind an R class steam locomotive. It is a full day trip with the focus more on the train trip than the time we shall have in Ballarat. On the way to Ballarat, we will travel through the towns of Little River and Lara, skirt Port Phillip Bay on the edge of the city of Geelong and then climb the hills of the Golden Plains, travelling along the original mainline between Ballarat and Geelong from 1862.

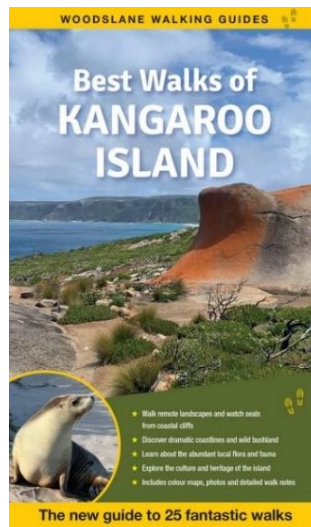
The return route to Melbourne passes through Ballan, before descending into the famous 1 in 48 Ingliston Bank, with views back towards Melbourne & across the Werribee Gorge State Park. Finally, we go through Bacchus Marsh, before passing over the iconic 357-metre Melton Viaduct, built in 1885 to traverse the Werribee River. I'll let you know about it in the next newsletter.

<https://www.steamrail.com.au/tours>

What's New to the Website

Best Walks of Kangaroo Island - \$29.95

Best Walks of Kangaroo Island features 25 carefully selected walks across this beloved island, renowned for its wildlife and wilderness trails. Each walk includes key details such as distance, total ascent and descent (where applicable), difficulty level, and estimated duration, all accompanied by detailed, full-colour maps. Fascinating snippets about Kangaroo Island's history and rich wildlife add depth and context to the walking experience. Families will find helpful advice on child-friendly walks and tips for safely exploring the bush with children of all ages. The guide is enhanced with over 150 full-colour photographs, offering readers a vivid preview of the island's stunning landscapes and unique features on each walk. Whether you're looking to experience classic trails or venture onto more remote, lesser-known paths, this guide will help you discover the best of Kangaroo Island's walking adventures.

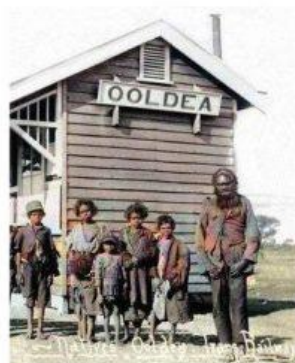


<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/best-walks-of-kangaroo-island/>

The Trans-Australian Wonderland - \$24.95

The first book on the natural history of life on the Nullarbor Plain was written by station-master A. G. Bolam and published in 1923. It reflects on his experiences with Aboriginal trackers and workers around Ooldea during the construction of the transcontinental railway. The book explores the region's wildlife, geography, and the Ooldea people's nomadic lifestyle, covering topics like clothing, bartering, marriage customs, weapons, fire-starting, ceremonies, and tracking techniques. Bolam also documented their knowledge of medicine, recreational activities, and methods for finding water in the desert.

The TRANS-AUSTRALIAN WONDERLAND



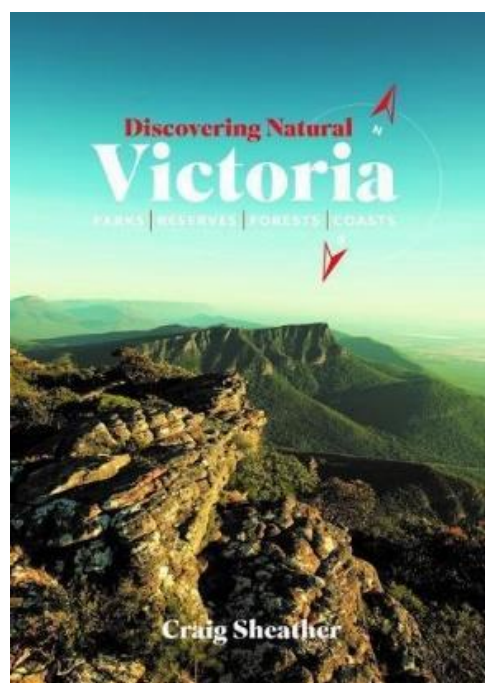
A.G. BOLAM

**EMERIN
CLASSICS**

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/trans-australia/>

Discovering Natural Victoria - \$39.95

Victoria is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and a prized hiking destination. Vast portions of the state are made up of national parks, reserves, and state forests, offering countless trails, scenic viewpoints, wildlife encounters, and adventurous activities. This book is designed to help you make the most of Victoria's natural wonders, showcasing the state's top outdoor experiences. It features over 250 photographs and numerous detailed maps, along with a summary table of facilities and highlights, making it easy to find the spot for your next adventure. Covering the entire state, it includes well-known parks as well as a few hidden treasures.



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

Christmas Gift Wrapping

If you are in the process of organising your Christmas for this year, there is something for everyone in both interest and price point. From now until Christmas, Meridian Maps will gift wrap any gifts and attach a card. If you would like the item to be mailed directly to the recipient, we can do that and write out any message on the gift card. Just let us know by including the information in the "order notes" section when placing the order. If you really just can't decide, there is always the option of a gift voucher and allowing the recipient to choose for themselves.



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

What's On

1 – 3: November Sale Show, in Sale Victoria. The Gippsland region's premier agricultural Show attracts over 13,000 local and metropolitan visitors, which highlights the finest skills and talents of exhibitors preserving a strong agricultural focus.

<https://www.visitgippsland.com.au/event/sale-show-2024>

1 – 3: November Tasmanian Craft Fair in Deloraine Tasmania. The Tasmanian Craft Fair showcases more than 240 exhibitors, entertainment, feature artists, the Premier's Arts Prize and working craft demonstrations.

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

14 – 17 November: Bacchus Marsh Strawberry & Cherry Festival, in Bacchus marsh, Victoria. A celebration marking the beginning of the Victorian growing season! This event honours the rich agricultural heritage of the region while showcasing the finest produce grown by local farmers and growers throughout the Victorian growing region.

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

16 November: A Very Darwin Christmas Pageant in Darwin Northern Territory. Community event will kick-start the holiday season, celebrate the rich and diverse culture in the community.

<https://www.tourismtopend.com.au/events/event/86497-a-very-darwin-christmas-pageant>

29 November – 1 December: National Cherry Festival in Young NSW. Young prides itself as the Cherry Capital of Australia. The National Cherry

Festival is more than just a celebration of cherries; it's a celebration of our farming history and of the local community.

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

30 November: Nindigully Pig Races in Nindigully Queensland. This event features pigs racing in a lively and entertaining atmosphere. It's a delightful blend of humour, excitement, and community spirit that will have everyone cheering for their favourite pig. This event raises funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

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/>

Many sections of the Heysen Trail are closed during the Fire Danger Season. As the trail passes through several fire ban districts, the trail closures commence progressively from October 15th.

- Flinders District Fire Danger Season to commence on 15th October 2024. The Flinders District covers the Heysen Trail north of Wirrabara. The trail in this section includes Melrose, Wilmington, Quorn, Hawker, Wilpena Pound, the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park through to the northern end of the trail at Parachilna Gorge. This section of the trail will be closed between October 15, 2024 and April 15, 2025.
- Mid North District Fire Ban Season to start on 1st November 2024. The Mid North District includes the trail between north of Tanunda and south of Wirrabara.
- The Heysen Trail between these locations will close from November 1, 2024 until April 30, 2025.
- Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban Season to commence on December 1, 2024.

The Wild South Coast Way on the Heysen Trail (between Cape Jervis and Victor Harbor) is open all year round.

Anne Beadell Highway will be closed by the Department of Defence from 21st November to 18th December.

Witjira National Park and Munga-Thirri – Simpson Desert National Park are open to 4WD only.

Innamincka Regional Reserve and Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park.

- Coongie Track Innamincka to Kudriemitchie Campground – Open to 4WD
- Coongie Track Kudriemitchie Campground to Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park – Open to 4WD
- 15 Mile Track – Open to 4WD
- Merninie Loop – Closed due to flood damage
- Cullyamurra Waterhole – Closed due to flood damage
- Burke's Grave – Open to 4WD
- Queerbidie – Open to 4WD
- Policemans – Closed due to flood damage
- King's Marker Campground – Closed due to flood damage
- King's Marker Day Visitor Area - Open to 4WD
- Ski Beach Campground – Open to 4WD
- Wills Grave – Closed due to flood damage
- Minkie Waterhole Campground – Closed due to flood damage
- Old Strzelecki Track (on Innamincka Regional Reserve only) – Open to 4WD
- Bore Track North – Closed due to flood damage
- Bore Track South – Closed indefinitely.
- Walker Crossing Public Access Route – Closed

Berry Springs Nature Park in the Northern Territory is closed until November 4 for maintenance.

Maguk in Kakadu National Park has opened for the 2024 dry season.

Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) National Park in Western Australia will be closed from 1 December 2025 until May 2025 for the wet season.

Most seasonal road closures in Victoria are implemented following the Kings Birthday long weekend in June and re-open before Melbourne Cup Weekend in November. Many roads are listed for reopening on October 31, with the rest being listed for the end of November. Please check before travelling to avoid disappointment.

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature/seasonal-road-closures#:~:text=While%20a%20few%20tracks%20close,suitable%20to%20safely%20re%2Dopen.>

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?

Articles for this newsletter can be emailed to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au

K'gari

K'gari, previously known as Fraser Island, is located off the east coast of Australia in the Wide Bay-Burnett region. The island's traditional name, K'gari, means "paradise" in the language of the Butchulla people, who have lived on the island for thousands of years. According to the Traditional Owners, the island has always been known as K'gari, however, it was renamed Fraser Island in historical records after Captain James Fraser and his wife Eliza became stranded there in 1836 while escaping the sinking ship, *Sterling Castle*. While Captain Fraser did not survive, Eliza lived among the Butchulla people for six weeks before being rescued.



In 2021, the Queensland Government began the process of renaming Fraser Island to K'gari, and on June 7, 2023, the island was officially given its traditional name. K'gari is pronounced 'Gurri,' with the 'K' being silent, much like in the words "knee" or "know."

K'gari, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992, is the largest sand island in the world, stretching over 120 kilometres in length and covering around 1,840 square kilometres. The island is composed entirely of sand, making it the largest sand island on Earth.

The story of K'gari is deeply connected to the Butchulla people. According to their legend, K'gari was a beautiful spirit sent from the heavens to help create the world. As she worked, she became mesmerized by the beauty of the sea, sky, and land she was shaping, and she didn't want to leave. Seeing her desire to stay, the great god Beeral transformed her into the island itself, allowing her to remain in paradise forever. He gave her lakes for her eyes, trees for her hair, and sand for her body. To keep her company and care for her, Beeral sent birds, animals, and humans to the island.

The Butchulla people's connection to K'gari is deeply rooted in their cultural heritage, which is guided by three key lores:

- The wellbeing of the land must come first.

The Butchulla people have historically been mindful of sustainable practices, ensuring that natural resources are used in ways that do not harm the ecosystem.

- Do not take or touch what is not yours.

Respect for others and the environment is central to this lore. It emphasizes that individuals should not take what isn't theirs, whether that be plants, animals, or land.

- If you have plenty, you must share.

Sharing is a core value in Butchulla culture, ensuring that everyone, including visitors, benefits from the island's resources in a sustainable way.

K'gari's ecosystem is a remarkable blend of diverse environments, boasting five different ecosystems: rainforests, wallum forests, freshwater lakes and creeks, sand dunes, and coast.

The island's rainforests are remarkable, as K'gari is the only known sand island where rainforests have not only survived but thrived for thousands of years. The success of these rainforests is largely due to their location on mid-to-high sand dunes, where they are sheltered from salty winds, receive high rainfall, and have deep, nutrient-rich soils. Fungi and lichens on the forest floor break down decaying organic matter, returning essential nutrients to the sand and enabling the growth of a more complex forest over time.

The Wallum forests of K'gari are another unique ecosystem, thriving in the nutrient-poor sandy soils of the island. These forests are home to a remarkable array of plant species, including the iconic wallum banksia, paperbark trees, and various types of heath. The wallum forests thrive in areas that experience seasonal inundation, where the rich, nutrient-poor sands are enriched by seasonal rainwater. This ecosystem supports a variety

of wildlife, including bird species such as the rare ground parrot and various reptiles and amphibians that depend on the moist environment

K'gari's freshwater lakes and creeks further contribute to its rich biodiversity. The island has over 40 lakes, categorized into perched, window, and barrier lakes, each supporting its own unique ecosystems and wildlife.

Perched lakes, like the famous Lake McKenzie, are rainwater-fed and characterized by crystal-clear waters. Window lakes, such as Basin Lake, are fed by both groundwater and rainwater, while barrier lakes, like Lake Wabby, are formed by sand dunes blocking streams. These freshwater systems provide vital habitats for aquatic species, such as turtles and fish, and support a wide variety of birdlife.

The island's sand dunes, which can reach heights of up to 200 metres, play a significant role in shaping K'gari's ecosystems. These dunes, made of fine white silica sand, are essential for water management as they filter rainwater and replenish freshwater lakes. The dunes also support specialized plant species and provide critical habitat for wildlife, including dingoes and reptiles.

The coastal ecosystem of K'gari is a dynamic and diverse environment that plays a vital role in the island's overall ecology. Stretching along its sandy shores, rocky headlands, and tidal zones, this ecosystem serves as a meeting point between land and sea, creating habitats for a wide array of marine and land species. Mangrove forests and saltmarshes line sections of the coast, offering critical nurseries for fish and crustaceans, and acting as natural buffers against erosion and storm surges. The area also serves as a critical feeding and nesting ground for migratory birds, particularly endangered shorebirds. Mangrove forests along the coast play an essential role in preventing erosion and providing nurseries for juvenile fish.

K'gari is also a haven for wildlife, supporting 47 species of mammals, 354 bird species, and a variety of reptiles. The island's diverse habitats provide shelter for iconic species such as wallabies, echidnas, the eastern brown snake and the lace monitor. Marine life is equally impressive, with the waters around K'gari teeming with marine life, including dolphins, fish, and colourful coral reefs. K'gari supports both freshwater turtles and sea turtles, which are spotted around the island. The island's freshwater lakes support Krett's River Turtles and other freshwater turtle species, while its coastal waters serve as nesting sites for sea turtles. Humpback whales migrate past the K'gari Coast during their yearly trek up from Antarctica to the north of Australia.

The dingoes of K'gari are one of the island's most iconic and fascinating inhabitants. The dingo population on K'gari is considered to be one of the purest in Australia due to its isolation and strict park rules. As they are restricted to the island, they do not have the opportunity to cross-breed with

other species of wild or domesticated dogs like other dingoes in the rest of Australia. Unlike domestic dogs, K'gari's dingoes have developed unique behaviours suited to their environment, often foraging in family groups to hunt for food. They are generally shy and elusive, preferring to keep their distance from humans, which helps preserve their wild nature. Visitors to K'gari may encounter dingoes along the beaches or in the bush, but it is essential to respect their space and adhere to guidelines to ensure their safety and well-being.



Meridian Mirth

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

I told my doctor that I broke my arm in two places – he told me to stop going to those places.

This is your captain speaking, AND THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SHOUTING.

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you do criticize them, you're a mile away, and you have their shoes.

I was at the park wondering why this frisbee kept getting bigger... and then it hit me.

Two fish in a tank, one looks at the other and says, "How do you drive this thing?"

Evening news is where they begin with "Good evening," and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

When I met my now wife, I asked if she was vegetarian because she really loved animals. She responded, "No, I just really hate vegetables."

I know they say that money talks, but all mine says is "Goodbye."

I have an inferiority complex, but it's not a very good one.

What do you call a lazy kangaroo? A pouch potato.

My wife and I laugh about how competitive we are. But I laugh more.

My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.

Have you heard about the guy who stole the calendar?! Well, he got 12 months!

Instead of "the John," I call my toilet "the Jim." That way it sounds better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning.

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

The Fine Print

At 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.

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