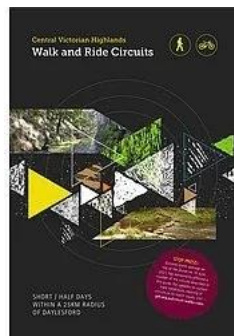
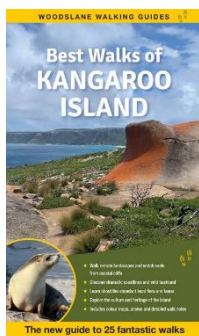
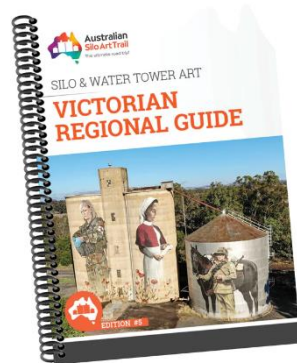




## The Meridian Line - Sunday 22.12.2024

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.” – James Dent

Focus on Five to Help Enjoy the Summer Break



### ***Dandenong Ranges & Lysterfield Hills Map Guide – from \$10.95***

Just a short drive or train ride from Melbourne! The stunning Dandenong Ranges invite you to escape into a lush rainforest filled with steep volcanic hills and towering Mountain Ash trees—the tallest flowering trees in the world. This serene natural haven is perfect for both nature enthusiasts and adventure

seekers. To make the most of your visit, consider using this detailed, double-sided map at a 1:20,000 scale, covering the Dandenong Ranges and Lysterfield Hills. It includes all the regional parks, such as Dandenong Ranges National Park, Churchill National Park, and Lysterfield Park, and features 32 walking trails, including the picturesque Dandenong Trail and the popular Dandenong Tourist Track. The map also highlights key attractions, local producers, picnic spots, and walking paths, making it an essential guide for bushwalkers, day-trippers, mountain bikers, and holidaymakers alike. Whether you're seeking a peaceful day out or an invigorating hike, the Dandenong Ranges offer the perfect escape, conveniently located just outside Melbourne.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/dandenong-ranges-map-guide/>

### ***Silo Art Guides – from \$8.95***

Discover the charm of silo art, where towering grain silos are transformed into stunning works of art, showcasing vibrant murals that celebrate local history, culture, and landscapes. Scattered across rural towns, these larger-than-life masterpieces offer a unique way to explore Australia's countryside while supporting regional communities. Whether you're admiring intricate portraits or vivid depictions of nature, silo art trails provide a memorable blend of creativity and storytelling, turning everyday structures into remarkable destinations.

You can find individual Silo Art Guides for Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, and Western Australia. Additionally, there's a Road Trip Guide and the comprehensive Silo Art Ultimate Guide to help plan your journey.

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

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

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

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/silo-art-trail-south-australia-regional-guide/>

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

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

### ***4WD Days Out of Perth OR 4WD Weekends Out of Perth - \$19.95 each***

Load up the car, hit the road and discover 15 fantastic day trips from Perth to kickstart your 4WD adventures. The 5th edition of our highly popular guide is filled with detailed track information, GPS coordinates, and descriptions of trails just outside Perth. Have a little bit more time? Weekends Out of Perth

features 18 exciting weekend getaways, offering key track details, GPS coordinates, and insightful background information to encourage you to venture beyond your comfort zone and explore the stunning landscapes of Western Australia.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/4wd-weekends-perth/>

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/4wd-perth/>

### ***Best Walks of Kangaroo Island – \$29.95***

"Best Walks of Kangaroo Island" presents 25 handpicked walking routes across this beloved island, famous for its abundant wildlife and scenic wilderness trails. Each walk provides essential details such as distance, elevation gain and loss (where relevant), difficulty level, and estimated time to complete, all supported by detailed, full-colour maps. Engaging insights into the island's history and diverse wildlife offer a deeper understanding of the region as you explore. Families will find useful tips on child-friendly trails and advice for safely enjoying the outdoors with children of all ages. The guide is enriched with over 150 vibrant, full-colour photos, giving readers a captivating glimpse of the island's breathtaking landscapes and distinctive features along each trail. Whether you're seeking popular routes or eager to discover quieter, hidden paths, this guide is your gateway to the best walking experiences Kangaroo Island has to offer. Match it with our Kangaroo Island Tourist Map.

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

### ***Central Victorian Highlands Walk & Ride Circuits - \$25.00***

This is the perfect guide for exploring circuit walks and rides around Daylesford. Featuring 30 carefully selected trails, this guide provides clear maps, elevation details, and descriptions for each route. Spiral-bound for easy handling, it ensures you experience the best of the Wombat State Forest and Upper Loddon State Forest.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/central-highlands-walk-and-ride/>

## **Meridian Musings**

Vale Will Pringle.

One of Australia's top cartographers passed away recently and Australian Geographic pays tribute in the article below - The Cartographic King.

Will was a generous mentor, good friend and great company.

His sage advice was always appreciated but even more so in the early days of establishing Westprint Maps. One of Will's best gems came when computer mapping was in its infancy and we feared the end of our business.

'Anyone can make a map on a computer, but only a cartographer can make a good map'.



Image – Australian Geographic

This was both prophetic and wise and strengthened the commitment between Flat Earth Mapping's John Frith, also a top cartographer, and Westprint. This 30+ year partnership now continues with the new Westprint crew, Simon & Rochelle, along with Stewart Adrain of Custom Mapping Services for the Meridian Maps range.

Will Pringle certainly was the Cartographic King and will be missed by everyone in the mapping community.

John, Bev, Graeme & Jo (the old Westprint mob).

For those who would like to read more about Will Pringle, please look at this article in the Australian Geographic

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/history-culture/2024/11/the-cartographic-king/>

Always great to hear from Jo and see how they are enjoying retired life!

Hey there fellow outback travellers. I thought it high time to let you know what the old crew have been doing.

But first a few comments on the newsletter.

Well done Rochelle! I know how hard it is to keep putting it together.

I was pleased to see someone had noticed an error in the Goog's Track info. It's always nice to know people are reading the website info. And for anyone wondering it is pronounced 'Goog' and rhymes with good'. John Denton's family gave him the nickname Googy Egg, eventually shortened to Goog.

Excellent to see that you have a book on the Western Deserts. Books on this region have been scarce for a long time and Simon Nevill certainly knows his stuff.

And speaking of knowing their stuff, I see you have Rooftop and Hayman maps. Their attention to detail is admirable.

And onto the old retirees: John (now 85) and Bev (81) are in very good health, despite a scare at Easter when John had emergency bypass surgery. They continue to enjoy outback travel; this year they completed a big loop including Townsville and Alice Springs.

Graeme and I have finally completed all the major renovations on our house and just have a long list of bothersome smaller jobs. We rendered 15 interior dark brown brick walls and painted every mission brown trim white. It's a bit bright but what a difference!

Now it's time to travel. We've just spent 2 weeks pottering around Northland, New Zealand in a motorhome and will be heading to Darwin in the new year.

I'm still driving ambulances and Graeme is too busy getting through that list of bothersome jobs to find any other job!

Wishing you all the best for 2025, may you all find time to stop and smell the eucalypts. Jo.

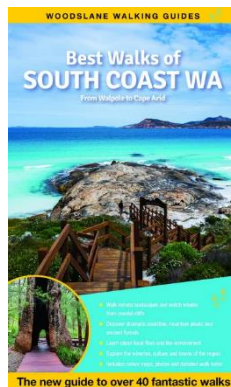
As the year comes to an end, Simon, I, and everyone at Meridian/Westprint Maps would like to send our warmest wishes for a safe and joyful holiday season, whatever way you choose to celebrate it. To all the fellow adventurers out there, we raise a toast to fantastic journeys and safe travels! May your holidays be filled with warmth, laughter, and memorable moments. Looking forward to a fulfilling and rewarding 2025.



## What's New To The Website

### ***Best Walks of South Coast of WA - \$32.95***

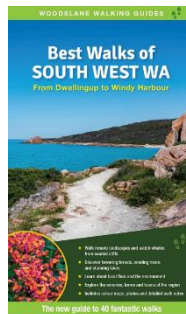
The south coast of WA is a hiker's haven, offering a diverse range of dramatic landscapes, from rolling hill country to some of Australia's most stunning beaches. This brand-new guide, part of Australia's bestselling walking series, showcases around forty walks (with additional variations suggested), spanning from easy coastal strolls to challenging hill climbs and rugged trails through the state's renowned national parks. With detailed descriptions and clear maps, this guide allows readers to explore the diverse ranges, wildflower regions, and coastlines. It is beautifully illustrated with over 200 full-colour photographs and numerous maps. A helpful summary table lists walks by distance, nearby cafes, and key highlights, making it easy to find the perfect trail for any occasion. This guide covers walks from Walpole to the top of Cape Arid, extending beyond Esperance, and includes both well-known paths and hidden treasures.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/best-walks-of-south-coast-wa/>

## ***Best Walks of South West WA - \$32.95***

The South West of WA is a hiker's paradise, renowned as one of the top hiking destinations in Western Australia. This brand-new guide, part of Australia's bestselling walking series, features forty walks (along with plenty of variations), ranging from relaxing coastal strolls to forest and waterfall explorations, and more challenging tracks through the state's famous national parks. With detailed descriptions and clear maps, readers can explore the breathtaking forests, rivers, and coastlines. The book is beautifully illustrated with over 200 full-colour photographs and numerous maps. A summary table highlights walk distances, cafés, and key features, making it easy to find the perfect trail for any occasion. This guide covers both the iconic Margaret River and Capes regions and the expansive Southern Forests, including both well-known routes and hidden gems.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/best-walks-of-sw-wa/>

## ***West Australia State Map - \$14.95***

Hema's updated WA State Map is printed on durable, waterproof paper, featuring a comprehensive index of locations for easy navigation and inspiration. The reverse side includes detailed road maps of Perth, along with inset maps of several key national parks: Leeuwin-Naturaliste, Cape Range, Nambung, Francois Peron, Purnululu, Walpole-Nornalup, and Karijini. The map also highlights information centres across Western Australia for added convenience.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/western-australia-state-map/>

## 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/>

Munga-Thirri Simpson Desert and the K1 Warburton, Walkers Crossing and Halligan Bay Point Public Access Routes in South Australia are closed from 1 December 2024, re-opening 16 March 2025.

Goog's Track – Seasonally Closed Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

Innamincka Regional Reserve and Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park

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

Helms Arboretum Reserve, located 17km north of Esperance in Western Australia, is closed to the public until further notice after being impacted by a bushfire that started on Saturday 30 November.

The Snowies Alpine Walk which is a 56km multi-day walk in Kosciuszko National Park, NSW, was officially opened in early December.



Litchfield National Park, Northern Territory

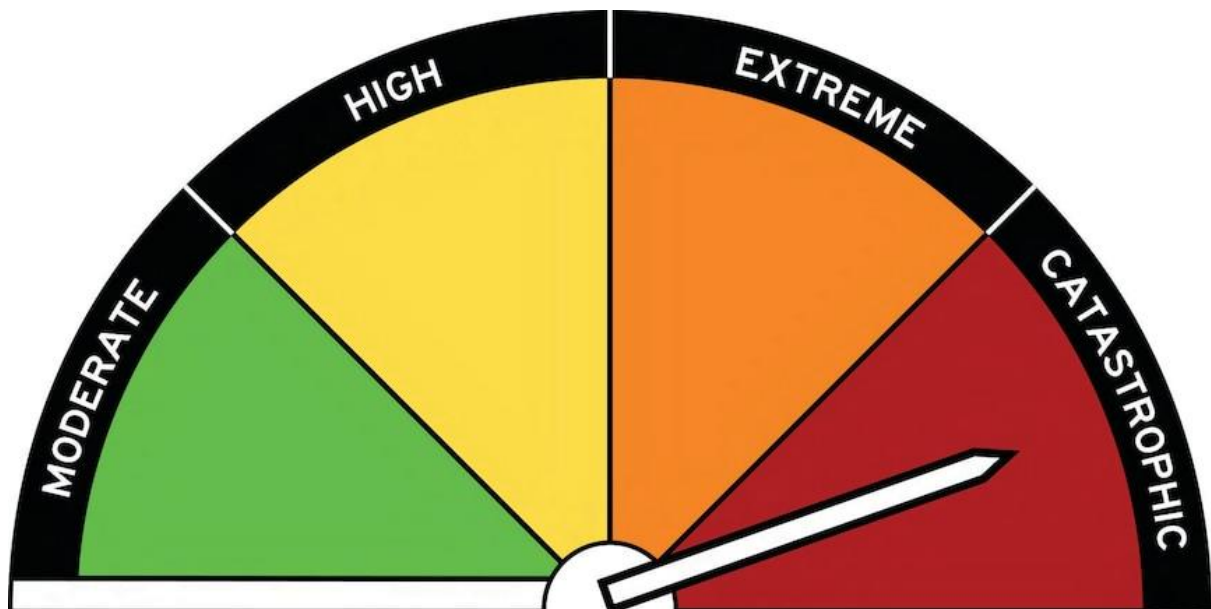
- Central Valley Campgrounds 1,2 and 3 , Reynolds River Track, Tableland Creek (Sybel Springs), Tabletop Track, Walker Creek – closed due to seasonal conditions schedule to reopen June 2025

*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

### Fire Danger Rating Vs Total Fire Ban Vs Fire Danger Period

When driving through rural areas, it's common to see fire danger rating signs. But what exactly do these signs mean, and why should we pay attention to them?



Fire Danger Ratings (FDR) refer to the risk of a fire occurring and its potential to spread based on various factors like weather conditions, vegetation, and other environmental conditions. From September 1, 2022, Australia introduced a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating (FDR) system to help people respond more effectively to bushfire risks. The system uses four easy to recognize levels, each accompanied by clear advice. These levels range from *Low-Moderate* to *Catastrophic*, with higher ratings indicating greater fire risk.

Fire Danger Rating Levels:

- **Moderate:** Low likelihood of fire spread; most fires can be controlled. Stay informed and up to date with information and be prepared to act if a fire occurs.
- **High:** Fires can spread quickly; precautions should be taken. Be alert as there is a heightened risk of fires in the area.
- **Extreme:** Fires could be uncontrollable and dangerous. These conditions pose a significant risk. Review your bushfire plan and ensure your property is fire-ready. If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you are not fully prepared, evacuate to a safer location well before the fire reaches your area. Reconsider travel through bushfire-prone areas.
- **Catastrophic:** The most dangerous fire conditions. Fires have the potential to be large, fast-moving, and uncontrollable. Evacuations may be required immediately. If a fire takes hold, lives are at significant risk.

Additionally, a white bar under *Moderate* indicates No Rating for days when no immediate action is required. This doesn't mean fires can't occur, but it indicates that any fires that do start are unlikely to spread in a way that threatens community safety.

What is a Fire Danger Period?

A Fire Danger Period refers to a designated timeframe when fire risks are elevated due to factors like dry weather conditions, increased temperatures, and strong winds. During this period, fires are more likely to start and spread. The period is declared by state or local fire authorities to raise awareness and help the public prepare for the heightened risk of bushfires.



Key Points About a Fire Danger Period:

- **When It Occurs:** Fire danger periods typically occur in the warmer months—mainly summer and autumn—when conditions are dry and windy. The start and end dates vary by region, depending on local climate and weather patterns.
- **Purpose:** The primary purpose of declaring a fire danger period is to reduce bushfire risks by advising the public and imposing restrictions on fire-related activities.
- **Restrictions:** During a fire danger period, certain activities (like lighting fires, burning off, or using equipment that may cause sparks) may be prohibited to prevent accidental fires. These restrictions can become stricter during a Total Fire Ban when the fire danger rating is particularly high.

### What is a Total Fire Ban

A fire danger period and a total fire ban (TFB) are not the same thing.

A Fire Danger Period is an extended period, often lasting several months, during which fire risks are elevated. It is declared based on seasonal weather conditions and will vary across different regions.



Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared when there is an extreme risk of fires spreading rapidly, or when widespread fires are already burning, and firefighting resources are stretched thin. A TFB is typically issued on days with predicted extreme fire weather or when ongoing fires threaten lives and property.

Occasionally, a Total Fire Ban may be declared outside of the standard fire danger period, especially when conditions like high temperatures and strong winds are expected, such as ahead of a storm front. On days when a Total Fire Ban is declared, it is illegal to light an open-air fire or engage in any

activity that could potentially start a fire. Prohibited activities include using equipment that generates sparks (like lawnmowers or barbecues). Breaches a Total Fire Ban declaration is subject to heavy legal penalties including large fines and even imprisonment.

For a full list of prohibited activities, visit your state or territory's official website.

Victoria - <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-danger-period-restrictions>

NSW - <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/media-releases/more-of-nsw-enters-bush-fire-danger-period-as-conditions-heat-up>

SA - <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions/fire-danger-season-dates-permits/>

WA - <https://maps.slip.wa.gov.au/landgate/bushfireprone/>

QLD - <https://www.qld.gov.au/emergency/dealing-disasters/disaster-types/bushfires/bushfire-aware/when-is-fire-season-in-queensland>

NT - <https://secure.nt.gov.au/prepare-for-an-emergency/fires/bushfires/fire-danger-periods#fire-danger-period>

ACT - <https://esa.act.gov.au/be-emergency-ready/bushfires>

### **Do you have a story?**

Articles for this newsletter can be emailed to [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au)

### **Meridian Mirth**

To share your jokes, please send them to [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au).

### **Astonishing Holiday Complaints**

We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our swimming costumes and towels.

It's lazy of the local shopkeepers to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time – this should be banned.

I compared the size of our one-bedroom apartment to our friends' three-bedroom apartment and ours was significantly smaller.

I got a call from a man who asked, "Is it possible to see England from Canada?" I said, "No." He said, "But they look so close on the map."

For my holidays last year, I threw a dart at a map of the world and decided to go to wherever it landed. I had a fantastic two weeks sitting next to the skirting board.

The animals at the zoo looked very sad and it made our children cry. Can't they train them to smile?

There was no sign telling you that you shouldn't get on the hot air balloon ride if you're afraid of heights.

No one told us there would be fish in the sea. The children were startled.

We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as yellow but it was white.

On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food at all.

The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.

It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.

We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning.

Woman wrote in to complain that her plane journey was a disappointment because the sky was far too cloudy, impeding the view for her and her children and spoiling their game of eye-spy.

Stonehenge - It's a bunch of rocks... in a field. WOOOOOOW! You'll have to excuse the sarcasm, but the reality is that this is exactly what this 'attraction' is, you can't even go up to them. Yes there's some historical background... but that can be said of plenty of other, far better attractions that our country has to offer. Give it a miss, not worth the effort...

The maid who cleaned our room made our towel into a swan shape. I don't like swans.

## **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.

## **Meridian Contact information**

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

## **Disclaimer**

Please note that the opinions and articles expressed in The Meridian Line are not necessarily those of The Meridian team. Also, we do not endorse any products (other than our own), or tours listed in my contributed articles.