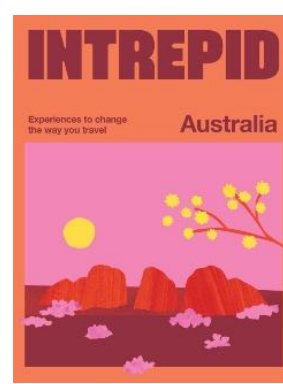
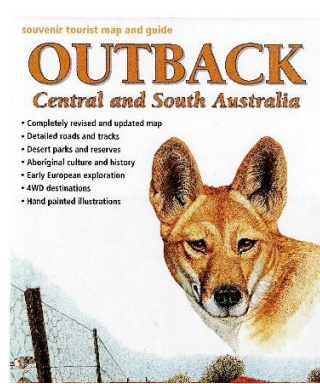
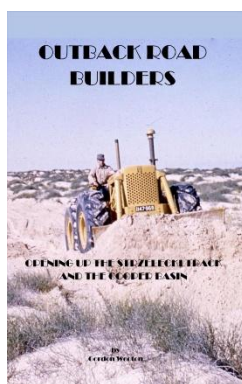


## The Meridian Line - Sunday 18.01.2026

“Country is strong. Even after fire, it remembers how to heal.” — Bruce Pascoe, Indigenous author



### Focus on Five

#### ***Blackwood Tourist Map – from \$5.95***

Discover the enchanting village of Blackwood, tucked away in the heart of the stunning Wombat State Forest, with our newly released tourist map. Created in collaboration with the local community, this guide is your gateway to exploring the hidden gems of this charming Victorian region. Situated in the breathtaking Macedon Ranges, between Ballan and Trentham, Blackwood flourished as a gold-mining town in the 1850s after the discovery of gold at nearby Golden Point. Today, it offers a tranquil escape along the scenic Lerderderg River, surrounded by the verdant native forests of Lerderderg State Park and Wombat State Forest. Uncover Blackwood's highlights, from the serene Garden of St Erth at Simmons Reef and the revitalising Mineral Springs to the historic cemetery and the quaint boutiques lining Martin Street. For those seeking adventure, a variety of picturesque walking trails await. Wander along the Significant Tree Trail, enjoy a leisurely stroll on the Whipstick Loop Walk, or take on the more challenging Blackwood Circuit Walk and Moonlight Gully Circuit Walk.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/blackwood/>

### ***Outback Road Builders – Opening up the Strzelecki Track and the Cooper Basin – \$37.50***

At just sixteen, Gordon Wooton joined the Engineering & Water Supply Department's road gang in Burra, South Australia. It was 1958—the year the State Premier promised Delhi Santos that if oil and gas were sought in South Australia, roads would be built to reach the remote Cooper Basin. What followed was a remarkable chapter in Australia's outback history. Gordon and the Burra Gang were tasked with carving a route along the Strzelecki Track to Innamincka and across the vast, unforgiving expanse of the Cooper Basin. From Blanchwater to Mount Hopeless, through the Cobler Sand Hills and along Strzelecki Creek, they constructed the roads that would open the desert to exploration and industry. Enduring blistering heat, sandstorms, isolation, and harsh living conditions, these men forged a unique camaraderie and left an enduring legacy. *Outback Road Builders* is Gordon's firsthand account of those years—an inspiring story of grit, teamwork, and the pioneering spirit that shaped the Australian outback. With rare photographs from the era, this book vividly captures the harsh beauty, the challenges, and the triumphs of building roads to the oil fields in the heart of nowhere.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/outback-road-builders/>

### ***Outback Central and South Australia - from \$15.95***

A comprehensive overview and planning map covering the route from Broken Hill to the Western Australian border, stretching north to Warakurna and across through Alice Springs to Bedourie and Birdsville in Queensland. This map is filled with fascinating insights on the front, while the back offers in-depth information on the history, geology, and pioneering stories of this vast and rugged region of Central Australia.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/outback-central-and-south-australia/>

### ***Intrepid Australia - \$39.95***

*Intrepid Australia* is your ultimate guide to discovering the country's most engaging and unique experiences, designed for locals, first-time visitors, and returning international travellers alike. Far more than a simple checklist, this guide reveals the rich tapestry that makes Australia extraordinary—vibrant cities and towns, First Nations cultures, diverse landscapes, iconic wildlife, world-class food and drink, and unforgettable nature adventures. Whether you're exploring new destinations or seeing the classics in a fresh way, this guidebook will inspire you. Wander the gorges of the Kimberley, follow the fagus pilgrimage at Cradle Mountain, join the excitement of Garma Festival in Arnhem Land, or cheer on the teams at the Tiwi Islands Grand Final Weekend. Challenge yourself to zipline off Perth's Matagarup Bridge or visit a

turtle rehabilitation centre at Fitzroy Island. From coast to outback, there is something to spark the curiosity of every traveller. *Intrepid Australia* also offers deeper insight into the places you visit, connecting you with locals who reveal the authentic, the eccentric, and the astonishing. With a focus on sustainability, the guide encourages ethical choices that celebrate the planet, protect unique environments, and support local makers and communities.

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

### **Great Australian Volunteer Firies Stories – from \$34.99**

*"Us firefighters do more than fight fires. We also help people who have just experienced what is often the worst moment of their lives."* The devastating 2019–2020 Black Summer bushfires highlighted the vital role of Australia's volunteer firefighters. But these courageous men and women do far more than protect life and property during fires—they respond to road accidents, plane crashes, cyclones, floods, and even rescue pets in peril. This collection of firsthand stories, spanning from the 1880s to 2020, takes readers to the frontlines and reveals the harsh realities these volunteers face to keep our communities safe. Brave and selfless, they roll up their sleeves and put their lives on the line. This book is a heartfelt tribute to the thousands of volunteer firefighters across Australia who do it all for their fellow human beings.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/volunteer-firies-stories/>

### **Meridian Musings**

As I sit and write this edition of *The Meridian Line*, the radio beside me continues to relay reports of the devastating bushfires sweeping through Victoria. My deepest respect and admiration go to the CFA crews and the many volunteers who have once again placed the needs of their communities above their own safety and comfort.

These fires have left a profound impact on countless people. Homes, treasured possessions, wildlife, livestock and livelihoods have been lost, and tragically, there are reports of lives lost as well.

As a community, we may feel far away from the firegrounds, but many people want to help in whatever way they can. Supporting reputable charities and recovery appeals ensures assistance reaches those who need it most. Donating to organisations such as the CFA, BlazeAid, wildlife rescue groups, or local community relief funds can make a real difference. Even small contributions—financial or practical—can help families begin to rebuild their lives.

The Australian bush is remarkably resilient, and even after the fiercest fires, life will return. Native plants will sprout anew, and wildlife will gradually reclaim its habitat.

In due course, one of the most valuable ways we can support them is to visit these towns when they are ready, stay in local accommodation, shop at local businesses —helping to restore both the economy and the spirit of the region.

The latest advice that has been received by Parks Victoria is

“As bushfires continue to burn across parts of Victoria, many parks are closed due to ongoing fire activity and may remain closed for some time.

Please, **do not travel to fire-affected areas** – it is not safe to enter or camp in these parks and forests.

Thanks to the efforts of those on the ground working to keep communities safe, many parks across the state have reopened. You can return to enjoy some of your favourite parks and trails, like the Great Ocean Walk, provided you check it is safe to do so.

Closures may change as fire activity and conditions evolve. We may need to extend or introduce new closures at short notice to keep people safe.”

We have received an email from Ruth looking for volunteers to help at Milparinka. If anyone is able to lend a hand, I’m sure Ruth would be very appreciative.

### **Volunteers needed for the 2026 tourist season at Milparinka.**

Two sets of volunteers are needed to start-off the tourist season at Milparinka on the right note.

The first group is the traditional group who operate the Courthouse Visitor Centre and take care of all of the wonderful museum spaces within the Heritage Precinct. Accommodation is available in a restored, fully equipped 1880s cottage.

The dates that are available are:

1 Mar – 14 Mar

15 Mar – 28 Mar

29 Mar – 11 Apr

21 Sept – 10 Oct

25 Oct – 7 Nov

The second group takes care of the caravan park gardens, cabins and ablutions. Accommodation is provided in a new cottage (constructed in 2022) and includes a fully equipped kitchen and living space, bathroom/laundry and queen bedroom overlooking Evelyn Creek.

The available dates are:

8 March – 21 Mar

22 Mar – 4 Apr

5 Apr – 18 Apr

19 Apr - 2 May

3 May – 16 May

28 June – 11 July

12 July – 25 July

26 July – 8 Aug

9 Aug – 22 Aug

Both accommodation places have air-conditioning, satellite television and Starlink wifi.

Volunteers may choose to take up consecutive combinations of these dates.

<https://visitcornercountry.com.au/corner-country-towns/milparinka/> for more information.

Recommendations are available from previous volunteers including Jo and Graeme Ussing who described their experience as volunteers late last year.

If you are interested please contact volunteer coordinator John at [vk2yw@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2yw@wia.org.au)

or Ruth at [visitcornercountry@bigpond.com](mailto:visitcornercountry@bigpond.com)

### **What's New to the Website**

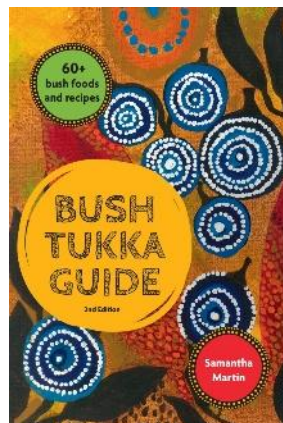
We've been busy exploring some exciting new titles to add to the **Meridian Maps** collection! While they're already available on our website, I'll be

gradually highlighting them in the coming editions so you can get to know them properly.

We'd love to hear from you! If there are any books or maps you're particularly interested in, or if there's something you'd love to see added to our range, please **drop us a line at [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au)**. Your suggestions really help us shape the collection to suit our readers.

### ***Bush Tukka Guide – Samantha Martin - \$26.99***

In this second, refreshed edition of Samantha Martin's bestselling *Bush Tukka Guide*, readers will find new bush foods, updated recipes, and additional practical information presented in a convenient field guide format. Known as the Bush Tukka Woman, Jaru woman Samantha grew up learning the land, waterways, and seasonal foods from her mother and First Nations Elders. This edition adds over 20 new bush foods, featuring all-new photography and Samantha's own artwork, giving readers a richer insight into traditional knowledge. The guide is organised into three chapters covering plants, animals, and recipes. Samantha provides detailed descriptions for each species, distribution maps, and notes on toxicity where relevant. Learn to identify native flora such as Kakadu plums and lemon myrtle and discover the nutritional value of native fauna like magpie goose and green ants. The book also includes delicious recipes, including bunya nut pesto, lemon myrtle slow-cooked kangaroo, and caramelised cluster figs with ice cream. With this field guide, you can explore the abundance of bush foods on Country, gaining insight into what First Nations People have known and practiced for centuries.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/bush-tukka-guide/>

### ***Gippsland Lakes Outdoor Recreation Guide Map - \$13.95***

The Gippsland Lakes Outdoor Recreation Guide has been developed in consultation with Parks Victoria, Gippsland Port, and the East Gippsland and Wellington Shires. This comprehensive guide highlights marine markers, beacons, and zones, along with selected walking tracks of varying difficulty,

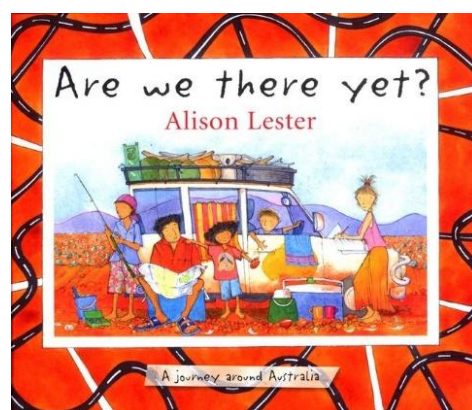
distance, and duration. It also details major recreation facilities, parks, and forests, making it a valuable companion for anyone exploring the region. The map covers the Nicholson, Mitchell, Tambo, and Latrobe River entrances, as well as Loch Sport, Metung, and Lakes Entrance, providing practical information for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds.



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

### ***Are We There Yet? – Alison Lester - \$24.99***

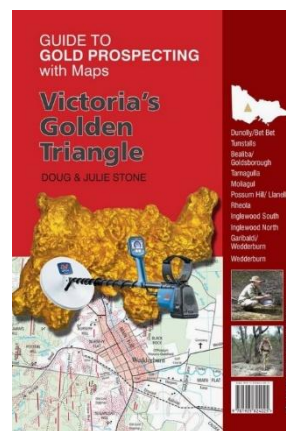
The year Grace turned eight, her family set off on an unforgettable trip around Australia. Luke, Billy, and Grace missed the entire winter term of school as they embarked on this adventurous journey. Join Grace and her family on their sometimes funny, often heartwarming expedition across the country. This charming story is based on a real journey by the beloved, award-winning author and illustrator Alison Lester.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/are-we-there-yet/>

## **Guide to Gold Prospecting with Maps – Victoria's Golden Triangle - \$75.00**

This edition of Doug Stone's guide is in a compact format that covers a smaller area while helping you interpret what you see on the ground through clear pictures and detailed maps. The guide illustrates different reef types, historical gold workings, and vegetation associated with gold country, giving readers the tools to recognise gold country and narrow down the most promising areas to prospect. For its first release, it is fitting that Doug has chosen Victoria's Golden Triangle, Australia's richest "gold nugget" producing region. The guide is easy to use, spiral-bound for convenient flicking through maps in your vehicle and provides a solid grounding in the geology and practical knowledge of gold prospecting.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/victorias-golden-triangle/>

### **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/3>

The Department of Infrastructure and transport in South Australia have a website that details their outback unsealed roads grading program which advises on the repairing and reconstruction of unsealed roads in the Outback that are affected by traffic and weather events. To access this information,



please visit their website:

<https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/infrastructure/projects/statewide-road-improvement-and-renewal-works/outback-unsealed-roads-grading-program>.

Road and park closures in Victoria are constantly changing due to existing bushfires and the threats of bushfires. Please follow any directions given in relation to these closures. If you do not need to be in these areas, please avoid them.

#### **Parks that have closures**

- Alpine National Park, partial closures
- Great Otway National Park, partial closures
- Lake Eildon National Park, full closure
- Cathedral Range State Park, full closure
- Mount Lawson State Park, full closure until further notice

#### **Parks that have reopened**

- Parts of Great Otway National Park (including Great Ocean Walk and campsites, Lake Elizabeth Campground).
- Port Campbell National Park (Twelve Apostles, London Bridge, Loch Ard Gorge).
- Dandenong Ranges, Organ Pipes, Yarra Ranges, Mornington Peninsula, and Point Nepean national parks.
- Wilsons Promontory, Grampians (Gariwerd), Mount Buffalo National Parks and Cape Conran Coastal Park.

Before you travel, please check the emergency websites for up to date information: <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

*Meridian Line: however, this may have been some time before the actual event. Please make your own enquiries before travelling to an event.*

### **What's On**

**16 – 18 January – Outdoor Living & Caravan Expo** in Geelong. The show is the perfect place to find everything you need for your next outdoor adventure.

<https://www.outdoorlivingcaravanexpo.com.au/geelong/>.

**24 January – Rubber Duck Regatta** in Benalla. Duck parade with prizes awarded to best dressed and best pimped duck. 400 rubber ducks are released to float down the King River.

<https://www.victoriashighcountry.com.au/listing/rubber-duck-regatta-whitfield/>

**24 January - Calliope Rodeo and Specialty Events** in Queensland Bulls, boots and BBQs.

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

**25 January – 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cockroach Races** in Queensland. A variety of different types of races featuring cockroaches.

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

**26 January - Hot 100 Australia Day Ute Run** in Northern Territory. The annual Australia Day Ute Run is a street parade that entertains spectators as it winds its way through Darwin, culminating in a community celebration. We encourage all to go overboard and deck out your ute, yourselves, your dogs and join in.

<https://www.variety.org.au/nt/event/australia-day-ute-run/>

**30 - 31 January – Berry Show** in NSW. Two big days of country traditions, arena action, livestock, woodchop, pavilions, food, wine and plenty of family fun.

<https://berryshow.org.au/>

**6 -7 February Allora Show –** in Queensland. A weekend packed to the brim with country tradition, community spirit and good old-fashioned show fun.

<https://allora.show/allora-show/>

**13 – 14 February Kangaroo Valley Show** in NSW. Agricultural Show is an annual celebration of the produce, talents, culture which celebrates rural life and community.

<https://kangaroovalleyshow.org.au/>

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

If you've got a trip or tips to share, we'd love to hear from you - [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au) .

### **Multi Day Hikes – South Australia**

South Australia may be best known for its wine regions and wide-open roads, but beyond the highways lies an impressive network of walking trails that reveal the state at its most raw and remarkable. South Australia has many great trails to undertake multi-day hikes on and camp out along the way. From the ancient, undulating ranges of the Flinders to the white sandy shores of

Kangaroo Island, these tracks wind through landscapes shaped by time and weather, offering walks for a wide range of abilities. There are now over 350 national parks and reserves which cover more than 20 percent of South Australia, hikers are rewarded with encounters with native wildlife, ever-changing vegetation and sweeping views that stretch from inland ranges to dramatic coastlines.

Some multi-day hikes and long walking trails in South Australia are subject to seasonal closures or access restrictions, mostly due to high summer heat and fire danger risk as well as management activities. It is therefore always prudent to check closures as part of the planning process.

Below are details of just 3 of the amazing trails on offer in South Australia.

### Heysen Trail

**Distance:** 1200km

**Difficulty:** Moderate to Challenging

**Length:** Approximately 60 days.



**Highlights:** The full Heysen Trail stretches for 1200kms starting in Cape Jervis and finishing in Parachilna Gorge. It is South Australia's most iconic long-distance walking track. It traverses coastal areas, native bushland, rugged gorges, pine forests and vineyards, as well as rich farmland and historic towns. The trail is named after German born Sir Hans Heysen (1877-1968), a renowned Australian artist who is most well known for his watercolours of the Australian bush and his associations with both the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges.



Flinders Ranges Landscape, 1956, by Hans Heysen hanging in NGV.

The Trail has been designed to cater for both the serious backpacker walking the complete trail, and for the day walker who might choose to do short walks along different sections of the trail.

It is more common to complete the Heysen Trail in shorter sections. This flexibility is one of the trail's greatest strengths, allowing walkers to tailor their experience to the time they have available, their fitness level and the season. It is worth noting that some sections of the Heysen Trail are closed during the Fire Danger Season, closure dates vary across the trail. The Wild South Coast Way, the spectacular 80 km section between Cape Jervis and Victor Harbor is open all year.

The Friends of the Heysen Trail divides the trail into 61 sections.



# The Heysen Trail

The Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails Inc



1. Cape Jervis to Cobbler Hill – 14.5kms - From the southern trailhead at Cape Jervis, the trail follows sandy coastal paths and exposed hillsides with sweeping views across Backstairs Passage to Kangaroo Island. After Blowhole Beach, it enters Deep Creek National Park, climbing steadily through native bushland to Cobbler Hill.
2. Cobbler Hill to Tapanappa – 14kms - This section offers spectacular scenery which includes a magnificent waterfall as you follow narrow tracks through the dense native scrub of Deep Creek National Park.
3. Tapanappa to Balquhidder – 15kms - This section winds through native bushland, along Tunkalilla Beach and across lush farmland before climbing Balquhidder and its memorable hills.
4. Balquhidder to Waitpinga – 15kms - Between Balquhidder and Waitpinga, the trail winds through picturesque farmland, crosses Coolawang Creek, and follows the unspoilt sands of Parsons and Waitpinga beaches.
5. Waitpinga to Tugwell Road – 17kms - Sandy tracks wind through the coastal scrub of Newland Head Conservation Park before reaching dramatic clifftops. At Kings Beach, unless taking the spur to Victor Harbor, the trail turns inland, leaving the Wild South Coast Way to follow roads and an uncleared road reserve as the long journey north begins.
6. Tugwell Road to Inmar Valley – 15kms - This section follows country roads, fence lines, forest tracks and leafy road reserves, framed by native orchids, grass trees, birdlife and classic Fleurieu farmland views.
7. Inmar Valley to Myponga – 17km - Majestic gums line the roadsides on the climb up Sugarloaf Hill, rewarding you with sweeping rural views. The trail then enters the spectacular Myponga Conservation Park, offering more vistas and some challenging undulations.

8. Myponga to Mt Compass – 22kms - After a brief road walk, the trail enters the charming Yulte Conservation Park, then emerges onto open farmland, follows Lawless Road, and gradually climbs to Mount Cone.
9. Mt Compass to Kyeema – 19.5kms - The walk begins amid the dairy pastures of Mount Compass and Nangkita, before back roads lead through Finniss and Mount Magnificent Conservation Parks. A short detour to Mount Magnificent rewards with spectacular views over the southern Fleurieu Peninsula, while a mix of native bushland and quiet roads rounds out the day.
10. Kyeema to Dashwood Gully – 20.5kms - This walk passes through the dense bushland of Kyeema Conservation Park, the plantations of Kuitpo Forest, and scenic back roads. The Trail crosses land traditionally owned by the Kaurna people, who retain Native Title rights in the area.
11. Dashwood Gully to Mylor – 23.5kms - This scenic walk winds through gently rolling farmland, the northern Kuitpo Pine Forest, and the historic Jupiter Creek Goldfields, an important site from South Australia's gold rush era.
12. Mylor to Cleland – 21kms - While this is the Trail's most populated section, it still feels rural, winding through the parks and bushland of Bridgewater, Mount George Conservation Park, Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens, and Cleland National Park.
13. Cleland to Montacute Heights – 26kms - This section winds through the native bush of Cleland, Horsnell Gully, and Morialta Conservation Parks, as well as along scenic roadsides, offering spectacular views over Adelaide and the Hills.
14. Montacute Heights to Cudlee Creek – 19kms - After a short road walk, the Trail descends steeply to Sixth Creek before climbing through Montacute Conservation Park and Mount Crawford Forest Reserve. The stretch between Montacute and Snake Gully Road (Cudlee Creek) was severely affected by the 2019 bushfires, but vegetation is gradually returning, and the walk finishes pleasantly along private gardens on Holland Creek Road.
15. Cudlee Creek to The Nugget Rd – 21.5kms - This section winds through the rolling hills of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges and Mount Crawford Forest, offering outstanding views as you climb toward Mount Gould.

16. The Nugget Rd to Mt Crawford – 23.5 kms - The trail passes through Mount Crawford pine forests and the natural bushland of Warren Conservation Park and Little Mount Crawford.
17. Mt Crawford to Pewsey Vale – 21kms - After ascending Mount Crawford, the trail follows forest edges and roadsides before crossing the scenic Wirra Wirra Peaks. From there, it winds along creek lines, roads, and reserves through open grazing land dotted with large gums.
18. Pewsey Vale to Tanunda – 24kms - This easy section passes through northern Mount Crawford Forest and the native bush of Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park, known for its striking weathered rock formations, with panoramic views over the Barossa Valley and Lower North.
19. Tanunda to Kapunda – 24.5kms - The trail follows back roads and reserves past iconic Barossa Valley vineyards. Greenock marks the gateway to the cropping and grazing lands of the Lower North, offering a long but mostly flat walk with pleasant views and seasonal colour changes, finishing at Kapunda Town Square.
20. Kapunda to Hamilton – 24kms - This section offers a walk along backroads, tracks, and fence lines through the rolling farmland of the Lower North.
21. Hamilton to Peters Hill – 16kms - This section follows backroads and reserves through open scrubland before a short climb up Peters Hill.
22. Peters Hill to Gerkie Gap – 18kms - This walk follows back roads through rolling farmland to the southern end of the Tothill Range, passing the town of Marrabel and its memorial to the famous buckjumper, *Curio*.
23. Gerkie Gap to Webb Gap – 18kms - This section follows the Tothill Range, one of the Mid North's highlights, home to the largest remaining remnant scrub in the area.
24. Webb Gap to Burra Road – 23kms - The Trail continues along the Tothill Range, offering expansive views of the surrounding farmland and Apoinga Lagoon.
25. Burra Road to Worlds End – 17kms - The Trail winds through rolling farmland before entering the scrubland of the Hallelujah Hills, finishing with an easy walk to Worlds End Gorge.

26. Worlds End to Burra – 25kms - The Trail passes through rolling farmland into the Hallelujah Hills scrub, ending with a gentle walk to Worlds End Gorge.
27. Burra to Wandallah – 16kms - This section passes through historic Burra, including the old Redruth Gaol, before crossing the exposed hills of the North Mount Lofty Ranges to Wandallah.
28. Wandallah to Newikie Creek – 22kms - This remote, undulating section introduces the grazing lands north of Goyder's Line, where low rainfall makes the land unsuitable for cropping.
29. Newikie Creek to Dares Hill Summit Rd – 25.5kms - This section passes through Caroon Creek Conservation Park and the lesser-known Tourilie Gorge, where ancient geology sits amid stunning dry creek landscapes.
30. Dares Hill Summit Rd to Hallett – 20kms - The Trail passes the historic Mount Bryan East School before climbing Mount Bryan, the highest point of the Mount Lofty Ranges, then descends through grazing and farmland toward Hallett.
31. Hallett to North Booborowie Rd – 19kms - A gently rolling walk along rural back roads and reserves, with the surrounding farmland changing hues with the seasons.
32. North Booborowie Rd to Oban – 22kms - Heading mostly south, this section follows the crest of Brown Hill Range and the remnants of South Australia's longest stone wall, dating from the 1840s. The walk is undulating with little shelter.
33. Oban to Bundaleer Reservoir – 20kms - The importance of fresh water is abundantly clear for most of this section of the Trail which follows the Freshwater intake channel for Bundaleer Reservoir, only leaving it for a few kilometres to go through the township of Spalding.
34. Bundaleer Reservoir to Curnows Hut – 17kms - The Trail passes Bundaleer Reservoir and Bundaleer Creek, following the northern intake channel at the aqueduct. From the weir, it continues along Never Never Creek past remnant Yacca forests and grazing land toward Bundaleer Forest.
35. Curnows Hut to Raeville – 20kms - This varied walk passes through native scrub, Bundaleer pine forest, and farmland with some challenging climbs and ridgetop scrambles.
36. Raeville to Locks Ruin – 19kms - This walk follows dirt roads into historic Georgetown, originally planned as a miniature Adelaide in



anticipation of a railway that never came. You'll pass Hiskeys Hut, home to two generations of 19th- and 20th-century butchers, before continuing along undulating fence lines through Sams Hills.

37. Locks Ruin to Bowman Park – 16kms - An easy walk mostly along roads and reserves, this section passes through Crystal Brook before following the creek to historic Bowman Park.
38. Bowman Park to Mt Zion – 20kms - This section begins on Bowman Park Road with some road walking. At Hughes Gap, you reach the southernmost Flinders Ranges, and after a gradual climb to the ridge, you're rewarded with views of Port Pirie and Spencer Gulf.
39. Mt Zion to The Bluff Lookout – 22kms - Most of this section follows gravel roads and a rollercoaster fire track through bushland to the TV tower at The Bluff, offering spectacular views of Spencer Gulf and beyond.
40. The Bluff Lookout to White Park Road – 19kms - This section features a day of climbs and descents, following ridgelines on fire access tracks through Telowie Gorge Conservation Park. After leaving the ridge, a steep descent along Sheeppark Track is followed by a climb to Rocky Ridge, then north through harvested pine forest. A steep ascent to Sugargum Lookout rewards with more Gulf views. The Trail then continues along the Wirrabara Greenway across private property, finishing at White Park just south of Yellow Cutting Roads.
41. White Park Road to Murraytown – 13.5kms - Starting at the White Park Road & Yellow Cutting Road intersection you'll be walking along back roads and road reserves for this section of the Trail, through undulating farmland.
42. Murraytown to Melrose – 17kms - A leisurely walk along gently rolling back roads, this section offers pleasant views over the surrounding farmland, finishing in the shadow of Mount Remarkable.
43. Melrose to Alligator Gorge Rd – 26kms - This long and challenging section begins with a climb up Mount Remarkable, continues through Mount Remarkable National Park, and emerges onto Alligator Gorge Road.
44. Alligator Gorge Rd to Horrocks Pass – 15kms - The Trail first climbs Lavender Peak to the scenic Stony Creek campsite, then follows tracks, back roads, and a stretch beside a busy highway to reach the memorial of explorer John Horrocks.

45. Horrocks Pass to Broadview – 19kms - Beginning with a steep climb out of Horrocks Pass, the Trail crosses exposed, gibber-strewn hills and farmland, offering views over the Willochra Plain and Spencer Gulf.
46. Broadview to Woolshed Flat – 18kms - This section climbs through grazing land and natural scrub to Mount Brown. After a challenging ascent, a single-file descent leads to Waukarie Creek, finishing with a classic Flinders Ranges creek walk.
47. Woolshed Flat to Quorn – 14kms - A steady climb takes you to the top of the range with views over Pichi Richi Pass. Descending into the pass, the Trail follows the historic Pichi Richi railway line, passing remnants of deserted sidings and settlements, and finishes just outside historic Quorn, established in 1878 as a hub for the Great Northern Railway.
48. Quorn to Dutchmans Stern – 10kms - This section passes the outskirts of Quorn before entering Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park.
49. Dutchmans Stern to Eyre Depot – 19kms - A difficult walk along undulating fire tracks, a rocky gorge, and a gibber-strewn floodplain, going from Dutchmans Stern to Eyre Depot, historically a staging post for Edward John Eyre's 1830s–1840s Flinders Ranges expeditions.
50. Eyre Depot to Warren Gorge – 8.4kms - After climbing back into the range, the Trail enters Depot Creek, which winds northward. The gradual climb along the creek bed, with its waterfalls and rocky sections, can be slow. Walkers may take the spur trail to Warren Gorge or continue to Mount Arden South campsite.
51. Warren Gorge to Buckaringa Gorge – 17kms - After climbing back into the range, the Trail enters Depot Creek, which winds northward. The gradual climb along the creek bed, with its waterfalls and rocky sections, can be slow. Walkers may take the spur trail to Warren Gorge or continue to Mount Arden South campsite.
52. Buckaringa Gorge to Calabrinda Creek – 22kms - This mostly flat walk passes beneath rocky outcrops before continuing across Willochra Plain to reach Partacoona Station.
53. Calabrinda Creek to Jarvis Hill – 26.5kms - This is a long walk, starting along vehicle tracks, then crossing open grazing land along Yappala Range and past the historic Mount Elm school site to Jarvis Hill carpark.

54. Jarvis Hill to Leigh Creek Rd (Old Wonoka) – 10kms - It's a short walk, though the terrain may slow your pace. The day ends at the site of Wonoka, proclaimed a town in 1883, with a memorial marking the town and its pioneering settlers.
55. Leigh Creek Rd (Old Wonoka) to Mt Little Station – 15kms - A classic Flinders Ranges walk, this full-day route follows Wonoka Creek, which has experienced several major floods in the past.
56. Mt Little Station to Moralana Scenic Drive – 30.4kms - This long section of the Trail follows scenic Mernmerna and Slaty creeks to Red Range campsite. The gentle walk winds along creek beds and through native pine woodlands, beneath Elder Range and Mount Aleck. At 32.4 km, it cannot be shortened due to private property access restrictions
57. Moralana Scenic Drive to Wilpena – 16kms - Start with a walk along Black Gap Creek before climbing Pound Range to Bridle Gap, with views of Elder Range. Entering Ikara–Flinders Ranges National Park, with a walk to Wilpena Pound.
58. Wilpena to Bunyeroo – 20kms - This scenic walk stays entirely within Ikara–Flinders Ranges National Park, with much of the day following the Wilcolo Track between the ABC Range and the towering peaks of Wilpena Pound
59. Bunyeroo to Trezona – 15kms - Climb from Bunyeroo Valley up to Yanyanna Hut, then follow Yanyanna Track past old settlers' huts before entering the geologically significant Trezona area.
60. Trezona to Aroona Hut – 15kms - This section begins along Brachina and Enorama creeks, passing the Golden Spike and other notable geological sites, before climbing to cross the ABC Range
61. Aroona Hut to Parachilna Gorge Trailhead – 18kms - This final section of the Trail follows Aroona Valley to the watershed separating it from the Parachilna Creek catchment. The route then continues along the valley between the ABC and Heysen Ranges, past abandoned mines, to the final stile at the Northern Trailhead.

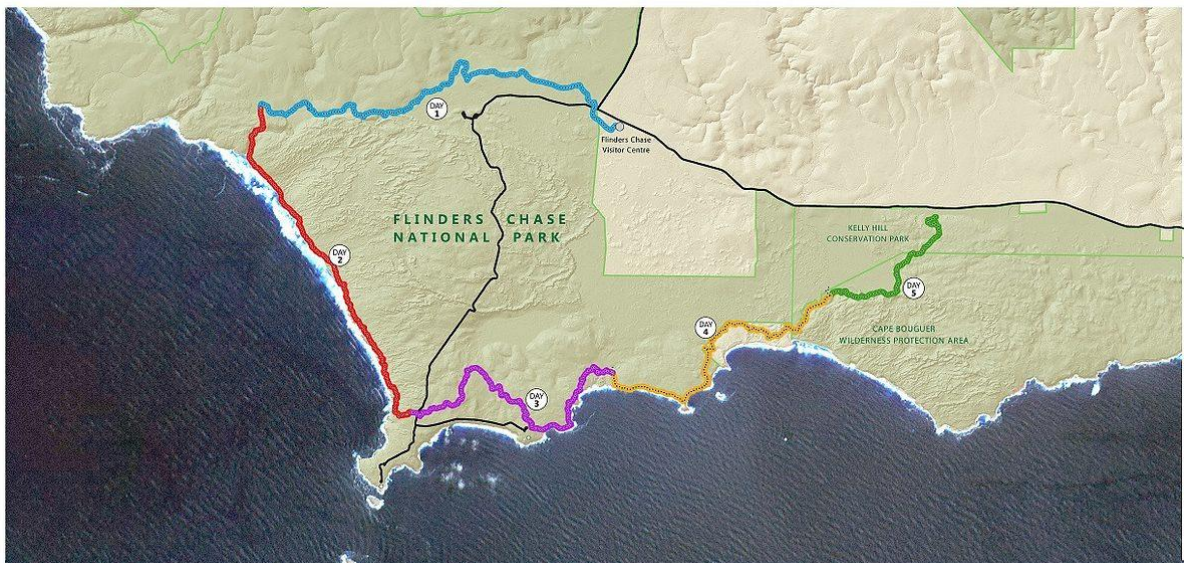


## 2. Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail

**Distance:** 73 km

**Duration:** 5 days

**Difficulty:** Moderate (some rugged sections)



**Highlights:** The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail takes you through some of South Australia's most botanically unique landscapes before ending on the wild and spectacular Southern Ocean coast. The trail covers some of the island's most scenic and pristine wilderness terrain with a mix of coastal views, eucalypt forests, and wildlife sightings. The trail is broken into daily sections with camping areas featuring shelters, rainwater tanks and basic facilities.



Walking South Australia suggests the following sections for completing the trail.

1. Rocky River Section - Rocky River to Cup Gum Campsite (near Snake Lagoon) – 12 kms - The walk begins at the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre, leading to the well-known Platypus Waterholes. This shared section of trail is rich in interpretive signage and provides an excellent introduction to the park.

After joining the Rocky River Trail, the path enters dense eucalypt woodland, alive with birdlife and native animals. From here, the trail passes through riverbank and mallee habitats and the day finishes at Cup Gum Campground.

2. Maupertuis Section - Cup Gum Campsite to Hakea Campsite (near Cape du Couedic) – 14kms - The trail follows Rocky River as it winds toward its mouth on the coast. From here, the track turns south, tracing Kangaroo Island's wild and rugged coastline.

At Maupertuis Bay, the trail descends from the clifftop to the bone-white sands below. This coastline proved unforgiving to early seafarers, with the remains of shipwrecks—many claiming lives—still visible today. The track then climbs back to the rocky clifftops, drawing ever closer to the Cape du Couedic Lighthouse, perched on the distant headland.

When the trail finally turns inland, the walking becomes gentler underfoot for the final stretch to camp.

3. Hakea Campsite to Banksia Campsite (near Sanderson Bay) – 13kms - There is an optional side trip off the wilderness trail to view the popular sites

of historic Weirs Cove, Cape du Couedic lighthouse and Admirals Arch which would add just over 2km to trail.

From the Wilderness Trail, the track heads east toward Sanderson Bay, passing through dense coastal mallee before emerging at the Remarkable Rocks.

Beyond the rocks, the trail closely follows the coastline. The day's walk concludes at Banksia Campground, set in a sheltered location near Sanderson Bay.

4. Grassdale Section - Banksia Campsite to Tea Tree Campsite (near Grassdale) – 13.5kms - As the trail turns inland toward Hanson Bay, the vegetation changes from low coastal heath to tall, dense mallee and tea tree. At the South West River, walkers have the opportunity to cross by punt. This crossing marks the gateway to the Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area, the most remote and untouched section of the trail.

An optional side trip (less than 1 km for the round trip) leads to the Hanson Bay headland and the small settlement of Hanson Bay. Returning to the Wilderness Trail, the route follows the winding river into Kelly Hill Conservation Park and on to Tea Tree Campground, set beside the historic Grassdale property.

5. Kelly Hill Section - Tea Tree Campsite to Kelly Hill Caves – 7.5kms - The final day's walk is more relaxed in pace. The trail passes through a rich variety of landscapes, from recovering woodlands to freshwater lagoons and ancient karst cave systems.

A short, gentle walk through sugar gum woodland leads to the end of the trail at the renowned Kelly Hill Caves.



Stalactites and stalagmites in Kelly Hill Caves.

### **3. Investigator Trail — Lincoln National Park**

**Location:** Lincoln National Park, Eyre Peninsula

**Distance:** 89 km,

**Duration:** 4–5 days

**Difficulty:** Moderate (mostly flat terrain)



### Highlights:

Winding through Lincoln National Park in South Australia, the Investigator Trail is an 89km figure-eight circuit that showcases some of the region's most striking coastal and bushland scenery. The trail is named for HMS Investigator, the ship from which Matthew Flinders surveyed the rugged coastline of the Eyre Peninsula in 1802.



Model of the HMS Investigator



It is made up of a series of shorter connected trails which can be done as separate day walks, as two loops or as a whole trail with camping along the way.

We are Explorers divides the walk into 4 sections.

1. Pillie Lake to Woodcutters Beach Campsite – 8.5kms - The walk begins at the information plaque in the car park, where you'll sign the intentions book and note the locations of the water tanks along the trail. This is an important detail, as many of them aren't marked online. It is worth noting that water supply is not guaranteed during summer months. The first day is short and relatively easy.

From the trailhead, the route skirts Pillie Lake, a seasonal wetland that is often dry and stark in summer and sparse in vegetation. The first beach and campsite is Woodcutters Beach which is sheltered from the open ocean.

2. Woodcutters Beach to Carcase Rock – 25kms – The walk starts along Woodcutters Beach along the sand before climbing the dunes and rounding Surfleet Point. Beyond here, you'll encounter some of the trail's busiest sections. Fisherman Point, Engine Point, and September Beach are clearly popular, with multiple rainwater tanks and more developed facilities, including bathrooms and car accessible campsites.

Before heading east of the cape, collect water at September Beach. From there, the trail enters a desolate stretch of limestone cliffs. Finally, the path opens onto the sheltered waters of Yachties Beach and Carcase Rock.

3. Carcase Rock to Brian Clarke Hut – 30kms - The terrain is relatively easy along this section despite some of Australia's highest cliffs lining the coastline.

The next major stop is Taylors Landing and then onto a long stretch through inland mallee to Pillie Hut, a small shelter with a rainwater tank which can be used as an overnight stay. However, a gentle climb leads to Brian Clarke Hut, a three-walled shelter tucked into the nearby sand dunes.

4. Pillie Hut to Pillie Lake – 28kms – This section of the trail leads into the Sleaford-Wanna dune system. These dunes are massive and constantly shifting, with so little vegetation they almost seem alien. The trail skirts the shores of the hyper-saline Sleaford Mere.

From Sleaford Mere, just a few connecting tracks lead past the park entrance, bringing this extraordinary section of the trail to its conclusion.



## Meridian Mirth

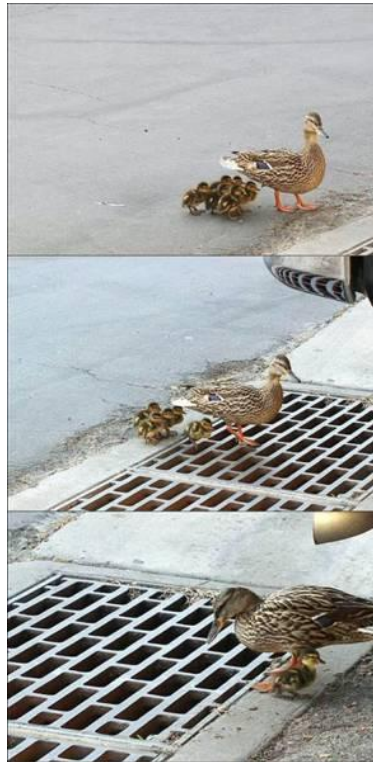
To share your jokes, please send them to [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au).  
Many thanks to Paul, Rob and Vince for their contributions!

When it is okay to swear:





And finally



A young man shopping in a supermarket noticed a little old lady following him around. If he stopped, she stopped. Furthermore, she kept staring at him. She finally overtook him at the checkout, and she turned to him and said, "I hope I haven't made you feel ill at ease, it's just that you look so much like my late son."

He answered, "That's okay."

"I know it's silly, but if you'd call out Goodbye, Mum, as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy."

She then went through the checkout, and as she was on her way out of the store, the man called out, "Goodbye, Mum."

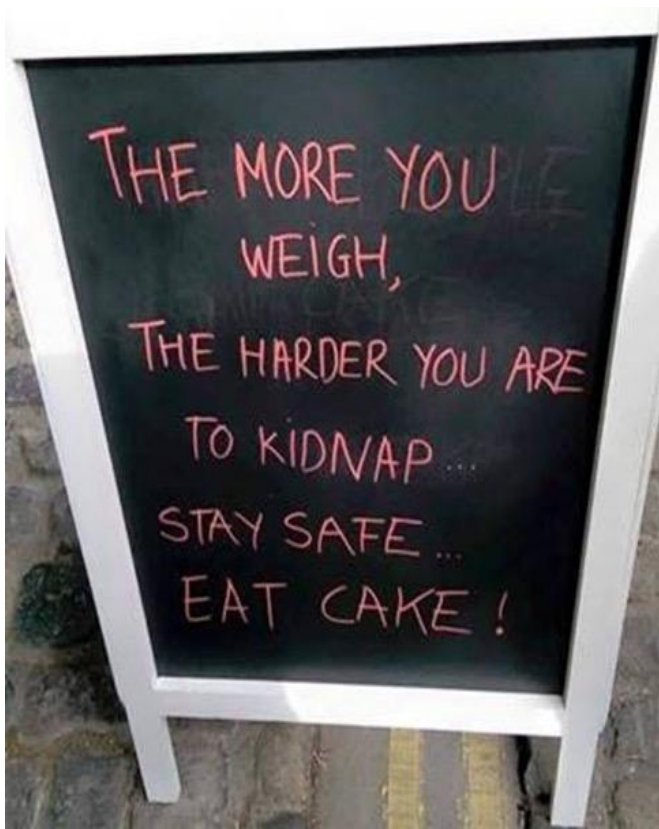
The little old lady waved and smiled back at him.

Pleased that he had brought a little sunshine into someone's day, he went to pay for his shopping.

"That comes to £121.85," said the assistant.

"How come so much? I only bought 3 items!"

The clerk replied, "Yeah, but your Mother said you'd be paying for her things too."



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