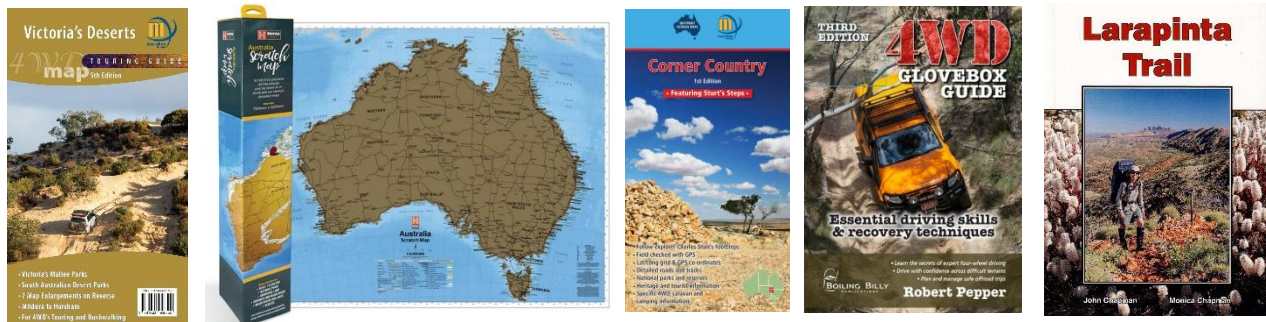




## The Meridian Line - Sunday 15.03.2026

" Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine. Anthony J. D'Angelo



### Focus on Five

#### **Victoria's Deserts 4WD Map – from \$15.95**

Covering the Mallee and northern Wimmera districts of Victoria and far eastern South Australia, this map is aimed fairly and squarely at the 4WD market and covers an area that has little commercial map coverage. Known for its range of beautiful mallee ecosystems, historical sites and wide range of wildlife, Victoria's deserts are a delight to visit. The Victoria's Deserts 4WD Touring Map is at a scale of 1:350 000. It covers Victoria's most interesting desert national parks and state forest, such as Little Desert, Wyperfeld, Murray-Sunset, Hattah-Kulkyne and Big Desert. There is also coverage of some of South Australia's more accessible parks and reserves, such as Murray River National park and Ngarkat and Scorpion Springs Conservation Reserves. The map also features 7 enlargements on reverse of popular areas: Little Desert, Pink Lakes, Border Track, central Wyperfeld, Lindsay & Wallpolla Islands, Raak Plain and Mt Arapiles. This map is an invaluable tool for four wheel driving in this special part of Victoria, and a vital resource to businesses, tourist operators and holiday makers in this incredible region of

Victoria. The map includes detailed campground and facilities information; major 4WD touring routes, such as the Border Track and Murrayville Track; important phone numbers and reference material in the region; and is large enough to show all roads, 4WD Tracks and many walking tracks in the region.

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

### ***Hema's Australia Scratch Map – \$79.95***

Discover a fun and interactive way to plan and track your travels across Australia with the all-new Hema Australia Scratch Map. Created in response to popular demand from Hema customers, this map lets you scratch off the places you've visited to reveal a beautifully detailed map of Australia at a scale of 1:6,500,000. It highlights national parks, Aboriginal lands, highways, major roads, rivers, lakes, deserts, and more, making it a fantastic tool for learning about Australia's geography. Not only does it provide a visual record of your adventures, but it also sparks inspiration for future trips. Each map includes a protective plastic sleeve and a scratch tool for easy use.

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

### ***Corner Country – Featuring Sturts Steps – from \$12.95***

The Corner Country spans the remote Outback where Queensland and South Australia meet northwestern New South Wales. This remarkable region is home to a diverse tapestry of landscapes, river systems, and wildlife, perfect for adventurous exploration. Discover dramatic scenery, intriguing history, and exhilarating drives through historic goldfield towns such as Milparinka and Tibooburra. Sturt National Park, safeguarding an arid wilderness, offers a truly unique experience. Explore the red sand dunes of the Strzelecki Desert, the ancient mesas of the Grey Range, the ironstone Gibber Plains, and even the world's longest fence—the Dingo Fence. Journey further to Mutawintji National Park, a protected area rich in Indigenous heritage and natural wonders, where the Far West region of New South Wales comes alive with cultural and environmental significance. Follow the Sturt's Steps Touring Route, retracing the path taken by Captain Charles Sturt in 1845, and immerse yourself in the history and rugged beauty of the area. This new map is an essential companion for exploring one of Australia's most extraordinary Outback regions. The Corner Country promises an unforgettable adventure, but its vast landscapes and fragile environment deserve respect and appreciation at every step.

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

### **4WD Glovebox Guide 3e - \$34.95**

This easy-to-follow reference shares the essential driving and recovery techniques that all four-wheel drive owners need to know. With a rugged cover and spiral binding, the guide is small enough to pop into the glovebox of any 4WD vehicle, but comprehensive enough to cover all the essentials about 4WD driving, including 4WD systems, suspension, wheels and tyres. Discover specific driving techniques for mud, water, sand and rock; learn why steep hills are often the most perilous of four-wheel drive situations and get yourself out of trouble with clear recovery techniques. Each chapter includes simple checklists to help drivers prepare for the trip and ensure the safety of both driver and passengers.

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

### **Larapinta Trail – \$39.95**

This edition of the Larapinta Trail Guide has been fully updated to include the latest changes along the trail, such as new shelter huts, updated food drop facilities, and the recently added section through Ellery Creek North. Produced in full colour, the guide provides detailed track notes for both directions along the trail, with colour-coded maps and notes to make it easy to follow the correct route. Gradient profiles are included at the same scale used throughout our guides, helping walkers plan each section with confidence. Each chapter covers a section of the trail, including the side trip to Glen Helen. The third edition features an expanded background section, now four pages longer, with information on the area's history, geology, climate, vegetation, and wildlife. A comprehensive **Safety and Trip Planning** section ensures walkers are well-prepared. The guide has been reorganised into 12 chapters aligned with the national park sections while retaining 20 one-day segments in the notes. While some walkers complete the trail in fewer than 20 days, 14 to 18 days is the most common timeframe. Traversing stunning arid landscapes, the Larapinta Trail has become a classic, iconic walk. Water is available at most regular campsites, provided by park management. Written by **John and Monica Chapman**, this guide is an essential companion for anyone seeking to experience the spectacular scenery of the Larapinta Trail.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/larapinta-trail/>

### **Meridian Musings**

There is always an incredible amount happening across Australia on any given day, and the events featured in our What's On column represent just a small snapshot rather than a comprehensive guide. Thank you to Stuart for identifying an error in the What's On section of the latest edition of *The*

*Meridian Line*. We also appreciate everyone who gets in touch to share what's happening in their local area.

The FABalice festival is on in **Alice Springs** 26-29 March 2026 not in Darwin. The Festival is based on the Priscilla Queen of the Desert film, in which the Priscilla bus ended up at the casino in Alice Springs. A fantastic community 4 day festival worthy of a visit. <https://fabalice.com/>

Ernie also wrote in to tell us about the Burton Automotive Hunter Valley Steamfest. Although it is not being held until 18 – 19 April, tickets are already on sale. It is a celebration of steam power, history, and family fun! <https://www.steamfest.com.au/>

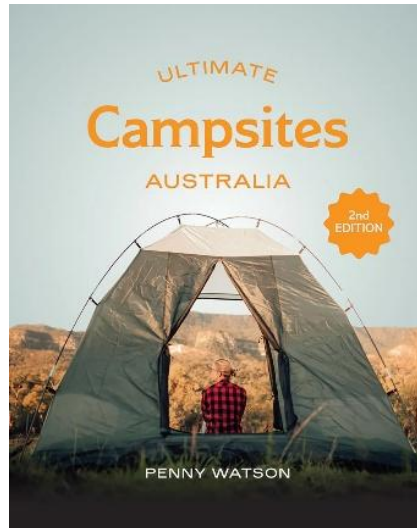
Anthony advises of the 46<sup>th</sup> Gisborne Vintage Machinery Society Steam and Vintage Machinery Rally. Held on May 17, the Rally allows the Society to fire up its Steam driven machinery as well as highlighting all their machinery and including stationary engines and other related machinery from other clubs in Victoria. <https://www.gisbornevmrs.com/>

It's the perfect excuse to head out and enjoy some unique events — or even use it as the inspiration for a memorable weekend away.

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

### ***Ultimate Campsites Australia - \$45.00***

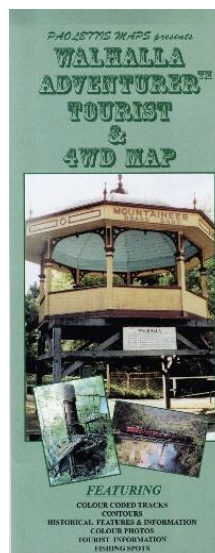
An inspiring and highly practical guide to 100 of Australia's finest nature-based campgrounds, *Ultimate Campsites Australia (2nd edition)* builds on the success of the bestselling first edition with even more exceptional places to pitch a tent and connect with the natural world. In this updated edition, Penny Watson takes readers on a state-by-state journey, with each chapter featuring detailed maps and essential what-when-why-where information for every campground. Alongside the practical details, you'll find local insights, tips and engaging anecdotes that bring each region to life. Dedicated sections highlight remote island camping, campgrounds with standout walking trails, and locations offering nearby First Nations cultural experiences. Handy at-a-glance lists make it easy to plan according to your needs, whether you're travelling with pets, seeking free camps, requiring 4WD access or preferring commercial campgrounds. There are also thoughtfully curated camping trail itineraries, perfect for linking two or three campgrounds into one memorable trip.



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

### ***Walhalla Adventurer Tourist & 4WD Map - \$10.00***

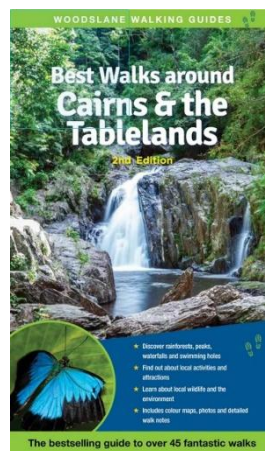
A detailed 1:20,000 scale map measuring a massive 1000mm x 700mm—covering an area that would normally require three separate 1:25,000 topographical maps. Designed for adventurers, it includes colour-coded tracks, contours, and historical features, alongside informative text, colour photos, and tourist information. The map highlights fishing spots, 4WD routes, walking trails, horse and motorbike tracks, and features an enlarged township map of Walhalla. It also includes suggested walks, attractions, canoeing notes, and 4WD trek advice. With colour-shaded boundaries, field-checked accuracy, and up-to-date information, this map is an essential companion for exploring the Walhalla region.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/ghost-town-series-maps/>

## **Best Walks around Cairns & the Tablelands - \$32.99**

Now in its second edition, Best Walks around Cairns & the Tablelands features nearly 50 of north Queensland's most rewarding walks, spanning from Cooktown to Hinchinbrook Island. Each walk includes essential details such as distance, total ascent and descent (where relevant), grade, estimated duration, and is paired with a clear, full-colour map. Historical insights and wildlife notes bring each walk to life, while families will find guidance on child-friendly routes and tips for safely exploring the bush with children of all ages. With over 150 full-colour photos, the guide provides a vivid preview of what to expect on every trail. Whether you're seeking the region's classic walks or lesser-known adventurous tracks, this guide is your key to discovering the rich natural beauty of Cairns and the Tablelands.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/best-walks-around-cairns/>

### **Simon's Monthly Spotlight!**

In July 2025 we decided to witness what had been described as a “once in a lifetime” event — seeing Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre in flood. Once in William Creek we took a flight over the lake to view it from the air. It was an amazing experience and certainly worth doing.

The floods came about as a result of severe flooding that occurred across outback Queensland. The most intense rainfall fell in late March, with some areas receiving up to four times their average monthly rainfall in just a few days. Some locations recorded more than 500–600 mm of rain in under a week, nearly double the average yearly total for parts of the region. The Channel Country was heavily impacted, with towns such as Stonehenge, Jundah, Windorah, Adavale and Quilpie experiencing major flooding. The deluge produced floods that surpassed 1974 levels in some areas, creating a vast “inland sea” and causing significant losses of livestock along with widespread infrastructure damage.

Much of this water eventually flowed into the Georgina and Diamantina rivers and Cooper Creek, all of which feed into Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre. By July this had resulted in a significant filling of the lake. Water levels reached about 2.2 metres, creating what was described as a “massive” flood event, although still well below the 2010 record of six metres. The influx of water transformed the surrounding landscape, with the outback greening and blooming as wildflowers appeared and wildlife flourished.



Who would have thought that after the heavy rains of 2025 we would see significant rainfall again in 2026? Yet that is exactly what occurred in just the first few months of the year. Regions from Darwin through to Brisbane, and as far south as Mildura in Victoria, received heavy downpours, sometimes measuring more than 200mm in 48 hours as tropical lows regularly crossed the country.

Here are some interesting stats to consider:

- The Katherine River (NT) reached a peak of 19.2 metres in March 2026, making it the highest level in 28 years.
- Lake Nash Station in the Barkly Tablelands recorded 550mm of rainfall over just three days in February 2026, transforming the landscape into an "inland ocean".
- 90mm of rain fell in one night at Tibooburra in far north-west NSW

Once again, the lakes of the South Australian outback are beginning to fill following widespread heavy rainfall across the region. Much of South Australia, along with neighbouring areas of the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales, has a predominantly dry climate, meaning the vast lake beds across the central regions are often dry. This was the situation in early February, when many of the lakes appeared as broad salt flats.

Following recent heavy rains, however, water has begun flowing into a number of these remote lakes. Kati Thanda is once again starting to fill, while further south water has also reached Lakes Gairdner, Torrens and Frome. The transformation from dry salt pans to shimmering inland waters is one of the most remarkable and dramatic changes in the Australian outback landscape.

Many outback roads are still closed due to the flooding but are being assessed regularly by road authorities and local councils, so travellers should check official road authority websites before heading into these areas.

The silver lining of these events **is** that the Australian outback will be at its amazing best this tourist season. Lakes that are normally dry will have water in them, and the dry brown outback will be blooming with grasses and flowers.

So if you weren't able to see Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre in flood in 2025, this year promises to be another great opportunity to see the outback the way you may never have seen it before.

### 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/>

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>.

Witjira NP closed due to Rain Event

Munga-Thirri Simpson Desert NP and Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre NP, PAR No 15 K1 Warburton, PAR No 16 Walkers Crossing, PAR No 2 Level Post Bay and PAR No 13 Halligan Bay Point are closed from 1 December 2025, reopening 16 March 2026.

Significant falls of rain and flooding in the far north have resulted in the full closures of Innamincka and Malkumba – Coongie Lakes National Parks.



Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park — Closed 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Gariwerd National Park - The Mackenzie Falls carpark and all walking tracks in the precinct including Broken Falls Walk, Mackenzie Falls Walk to the base (from the carpark), the Bluff Lookout Walk, and parts of Mackenzie Falls River Walk are closed from February 2026 until mid-year for major revitalization works, including a new base viewing platform.

Flooding is currently impacting road access across the Diamantina Shire region and conditions remain unsafe for travel. Do not attempt to drive on any roads.

Flood Warnings are in place for the Diamantina River & Eyre Creek.

## What's On

**21 March – Wakool Sheep Races** in NSW. Combines the thrill of sheep racing with a relaxed country festival atmosphere. A great family day out, the event features sheep races, fashions on the field, food trucks, and a live band.

<https://www.visitrivercountry.com.au/events/event/wakool-sheep>

**21 March – Mt Pleasant** in South Australia. A celebration of agricultural achievements with an emphasis on community involvement and promotion of local produce and crafts.

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

**21 March – Mansfield Harmony Day Festival** in Victoria. A celebration of the cultures contributing to the Mansfield community. A day of music, food and culture - first Nations singer, Irish singer and dancers, Indian dancers, Fijian singers, cultural displays, global flavours, arts and crafts, and the rich traditions that make the community unique.

<https://letsgovictoria.com/listing/mansfield-harmony-day-festival/>

**21 – 28 March – Rochester Mural Festival** in Victoria. During the festival, artists paint large murals in public while visitors watch the artworks take shape over several days.

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

**22 March - York Motorcycle Festival** in WA. Featuring motorbike stunt shows, live music, Show & Shine, trade displays, market stalls, kids' activities and the Black Dog charity ride.

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

**26 – 28 March - Farm World** in Lardner Park Victoria. Farmers, regional families and rural suppliers gather for livestock judging, machinery demonstrations and rural innovation displays.

<https://lardnerpark.com.au/farmworld/>

**26 – 28 March – Towoomba Royal Show** in Queensland. Queensland's largest inland agricultural show with bull riding, livestock judging and family entertainment.

<https://www.toowoombashow.com.au/royal-show/>

**28 – 29 March – Warbirds Over Scone** in NSW. The biggest warbird airshow in the Southern Hemisphere!

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

**11 April – Beverley Airshow** in WA. A celebration of aviation heritage, innovation, and community spirit.

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

**11April - 2026 Pyrenees Unearthed Wine & Food Festival** in Victoria. Wine, delicious food, local produce and live entertainment, the Pyrenees Unearthed Festival is a brilliant day out for all ages.

<https://pyreneesunearthedfestival.com.au/unearthed-festival/>

### **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).

### **Uluru**

Uluru is one of the most iconic natural landmarks in Australia and holds immense cultural, spiritual, and historical significance. Located in the heart of the Northern Territory within Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, the massive sandstone monolith rises dramatically from the surrounding desert landscape and has become a powerful symbol of the Australian outback.



For thousands of years, long before European exploration, Uluru has been a sacred place for the Anangu people, the traditional custodians of the land. Today it is recognised not only for its striking beauty but also for the important role it plays in the cultural heritage of Indigenous Australians and in the evolving understanding of respect for traditional land ownership.

Uluru stands approximately 348 metres above the surrounding plain, with a circumference of about 9.4 kilometres. Although it appears as a single enormous rock rising from the desert, much of its mass actually lies beneath the ground.



The rock is composed primarily of arkose sandstone, which formed more than 500 million years ago. During this ancient period, central Australia was dominated by large mountain ranges that gradually eroded over millions of years. The sediments created by this erosion were deposited in large alluvial fans and eventually compressed into rock. Over time, powerful geological forces tilted the rock layers almost vertically. Erosion then slowly exposed the resistant sandstone formation that is visible today as Uluru.

One of Uluru's most striking features is its colour. The rock appears to change shades throughout the day, particularly at sunrise and sunset when it glows in brilliant shades of red, orange, and purple. The distinctive red colouring is caused by the oxidation of iron minerals within the sandstone. When the iron is exposed to oxygen in the air, it rusts, producing the deep red tones that make Uluru so visually dramatic.



Photo credit - <https://amazingearth.blogspot.com/2013/10/uluru-colour-changing-mountain-kata.html>

Beneath the outer layer, the rock is actually grey in colour. Rainfall in the region also transforms the appearance of the rock, as water flows down the surface and collects in small pools at the base.

For the Anangu people, Uluru is far more than a geological formation. It is a deeply sacred site that is central to their culture, spirituality, and identity. The Anangu have lived in the region for tens of thousands of years and maintain a profound connection to the land. Their cultural beliefs and traditional laws are guided by Tjukurpa, often translated as “Dreaming” or “Dreamtime,” which describes the ancestral stories that explain the creation of the land, animals, and people. According to these stories, ancestral beings travelled across the landscape, shaping the land and leaving behind physical evidence of their journeys. Many of the features of Uluru, including caves, rock formations, and markings on its surface, are associated with these ancestral stories and hold specific spiritual meaning.

These stories are not simply myths but form the foundation of Anangu law and cultural practice. They dictate how people should behave, how the land should be cared for, and how knowledge is passed between generations. Certain areas of Uluru are sacred and restricted, meaning visitors are asked not to photograph them or enter them out of respect for cultural traditions. Rock art found in caves around the base of Uluru provides further evidence of the long-standing connection between the Anangu and the landscape. These paintings, some of which are thousands of years old, depict animals, hunting scenes, and important cultural symbols.



Rock art near Mutitjulu waterhole and cave, close to Uluru. ©Tourism NT

Uluru first became known to Europeans in 1873 when the explorer William Gosse sighted the rock during an expedition. Gosse named the formation “Ayers Rock” after Sir Henry Ayers, who was the Chief Secretary of South Australia at the time. For more than a century, the name Ayers Rock was widely used in maps, travel literature, and tourism promotions. During the twentieth century, the site gradually became a popular tourist destination, attracting visitors from around the world who were drawn to the unique landscape of central Australia.

As tourism increased, climbing Uluru became a popular activity for many visitors. In order to assist people attempting the steep ascent, a metal chain was installed along part of the climbing route. This chain was physically hammered and anchored into the rock face so that climbers could pull themselves up the most difficult section. The climb was challenging, especially in the intense heat of the desert, and the chain provided support and balance for those making their way toward the summit. For decades, photographs of visitors holding onto the chain as they climbed Uluru became a familiar image in travel brochures and postcards.

However, the practice of climbing the rock increasingly conflicted with the wishes of the Anangu people. The climbing route followed a path that is associated with important ancestral stories and is considered sacred within their cultural traditions. From the Anangu perspective, climbing Uluru was not simply a recreational activity but a disrespectful act toward a site of deep spiritual importance.

Another important development occurred in 1985 when ownership of Uluru and the surrounding land was officially returned to the Anangu people by the Australian government. This event, known as the “handback,” was a significant moment in the recognition of Indigenous land rights in Australia. As part of the agreement, the Anangu leased the land back to the government so it could continue to operate as a national park. Today the park is jointly managed by the traditional owners and Parks Australia. This cooperative arrangement allows traditional knowledge and modern conservation practices to work together to protect the landscape and its cultural heritage.



The name of the landmark also underwent an important change. In 1993 the site was officially given the dual name “Ayers Rock / Uluru” to recognise both the European and Indigenous names. In 2002 the order was reversed to “Uluru / Ayers Rock,” reflecting a growing awareness of the importance of Indigenous culture and language. Today the name Uluru is widely used and recognised throughout Australia and internationally.



The issue of climbing Uluru continued to be a topic of debate for many years. Although the Anangu people repeatedly asked visitors not to climb the rock, many tourists continued to do so. In addition to the cultural concerns, the climb also presented significant safety risks. The slope is steep and can become extremely hot and slippery, especially during the intense summer heat. Over the decades, numerous accidents occurred and more than thirty people lost their lives while attempting the climb.

In 2017 the board responsible for managing Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park made the decision to permanently close the climb. The closure came into effect on 26 October 2019, exactly 34 years after the land had been returned to the Anangu people.

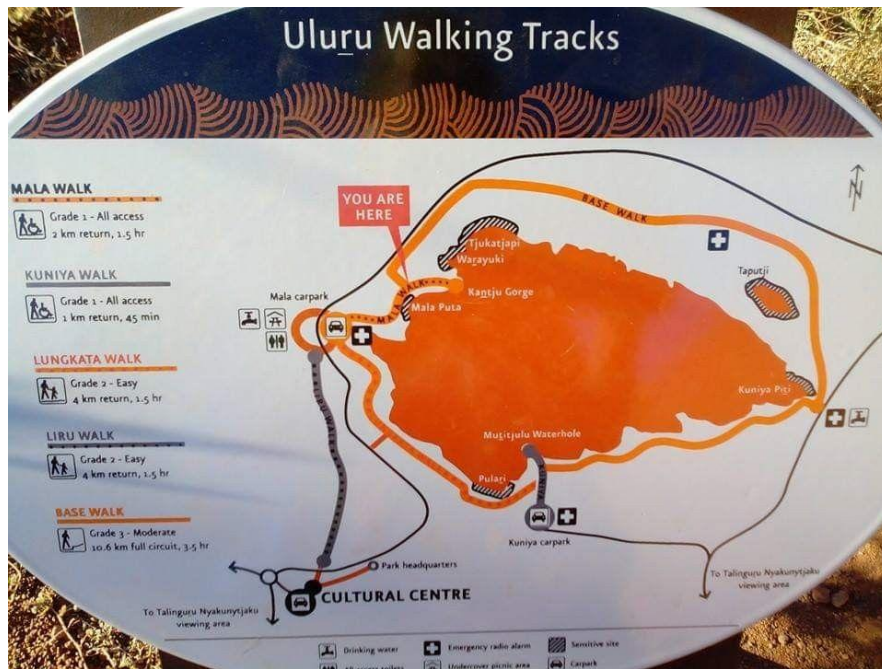


Shortly after the closure, the infrastructure that had supported the climb was removed. The metal chain that had once helped visitors pull themselves up the steep rock face was dismantled, and on 11 November 2019 the final section was taken down. The chain had been attached to a series of metal posts drilled into the rock, and workers carefully removed these as well, filling the holes with specially coloured material designed to blend with the surrounding sandstone. The removal of the chain symbolised the end of climbing at Uluru and marked a significant step toward respecting the wishes of the traditional owners.

There are many ways to explore the area while appreciating its natural and cultural importance. A walking track around the base of the rock allows visitors to observe the changing textures, caves, and waterholes up close. Interpretive signs and guided tours provide insights into Anangu culture, local wildlife, and the geology of the region. Cultural tours led by Anangu guides allow visitors to learn about traditional bush foods, desert survival skills, and the stories connected to the landscape.

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park is also home to Kata Tjuta, a group of large domed rock formations located about 50 kilometres from Uluru. These formations are equally significant to the Anangu people and provide additional opportunities for walking and exploring the desert environment. The entire region is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site for both its natural beauty and its cultural significance.





Today Uluru stands not only as a spectacular natural landmark but also as a powerful symbol of Australia's ancient history and cultural diversity. Its presence in the vast desert landscape reminds visitors of the deep connection between the land and the people who have cared for it for thousands of years. The recognition of Uluru's traditional name, the return of the land to its original custodians, and the decision to stop people from climbing the rock all reflect a broader shift in Australian society toward respecting and acknowledging Indigenous culture and heritage.

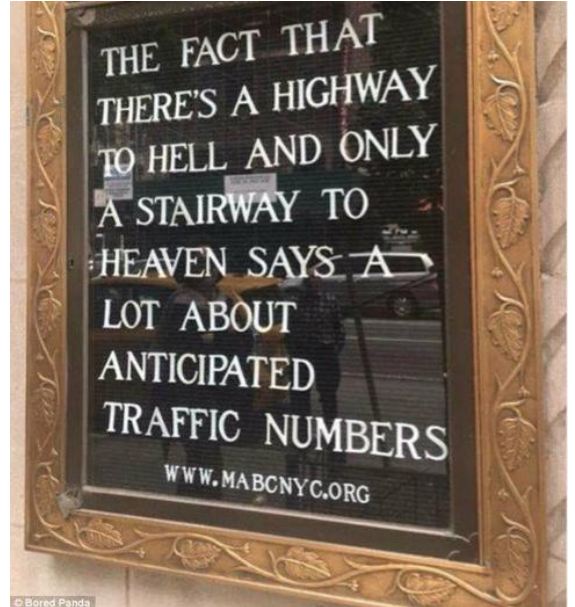
For many visitors, seeing Uluru for the first time is an unforgettable experience. As the colours of the rock shift with the changing light and the desert landscape stretches endlessly in every direction, it becomes clear why this place holds such deep meaning. Uluru is more than a geological wonder; it is a place of story, culture, and living tradition that continues to shape the identity of Australia today.

### Meridian Mirth

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

Mother and son talking about going to school.  
 Mother. Son, you have to get ready for school.  
 Son. I don't want to go.  
 Mother. C'mon, get ready or you'll be late.  
 Son. But mum, I don't like school.  
 Mother. Why not.  
 Son. The kids are horrible and the teachers hate me.

Mother. You're being silly, hurry up.  
Son. Why do I have to go?  
Mother. You're the head master.



Tip of the day: Before starting a project, check if you have the resources available



Remember I before E except

- when your foreign neighbour Keith receives eight counterfeit beige sleighs from feisty caffeinated weightlifters. Weird.

### Heinous Deficiencies

A Statement from The Decaffeinated Protein Surveillance Society  
(Atheist Branch)

*I before E except after C*  
is one of those weird and ancient rules  
to which beige obeisance gets paid  
when you're at school

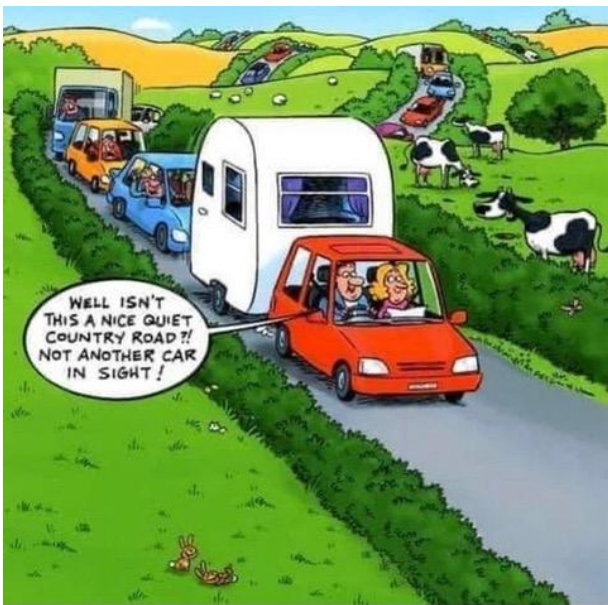
but it's time it reigned no longer,  
the rule being of little use –  
it's counterfeit, a sleight of hand,  
and only serves to veil the truth.

The phrase makes us feel all ogreish,  
a different species altogether,  
for its heinous deficiencies  
forfeit a life of leisure.

Surely a rule that's conscientious  
should therein bear its weight.  
Yes, a few exceptions can reinforce  
but not eight hundred and eight.

Sorry to inveigh so feistily  
and deign to perpetrate this heist  
but let's seize the day (and cease this phrase) –  
it's time to get with the zeitgeist.

*Brian Bilston*



A former sergeant in the Marine Corps took a new job as a high school teacher. Just before the school year, he injured his back. He was required to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. Fortunately, the cast fit under his shirt and was not noticeable. On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school. A group of students had already heard that their new teacher was a former marine and planned on testing his discipline in the classroom. Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher opened the window wide and sat down at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he picked up the stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Dead silence.

The rest of the year went smoothly.

## **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**

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