



## The Meridian Line - Sunday 29.03.2026

"Nothing in the world is as contagious as laughter and good humour." – Charles Dickens.



### Focus on Five

#### **Australia Wall Map – from \$14.95**

A 1:4,750,000 scale wall map of Australia featuring all the nation's top tourist sites, parks and points of interest clearly marked. Designed for clarity and ease of use, this map is ideal for business settings or for planning and tracking your travels around Australia. It includes inset maps of Australia's Territories, as well as a country comparison with Europe. With distance grids, time zone clocks and weather charts for all capital cities, this map is a practical and informative guide to navigating Australia. Available Folded, Folded & Laminated, Flat and Flat Laminated.

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

#### **Binns Track – \$32.95**

The Binns Track is a remarkable four-wheel drive adventure that traverses breathtaking scenery, offering the chance to discover some of the lesser-known sights of the Northern Territory. Starting at the South Australian border, the Binns Track meanders through remote national parks, excellent camping spots and distant outback towns. Spanning 2,230 kilometres, the track is

named after Bill Binns, a ranger who dedicated 32 years to NT Parks and Wildlife. Bill's vision was to enable visitors to explore more of Central Australia, uncovering its vibrant colours, native wildlife and majestic rock formations. Thousands of experienced four-wheel drivers have enjoyed the remarkable diversity of Northern Territory landscapes, ranging from deserts to the tropics, with equally diverse wildlife and vegetation. The Binns Track features a variety of road surfaces, from bitumen highways to rugged, tyre-punishing rocky tracks, and should not be taken lightly. However, it is a well-travelled route and travelling in a small convoy of two or three vehicles can greatly improve safety.

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

### ***Murray River Access Guides – from \$8.95***

The Murray River Guides are a great way to find the best camping and fishing spots, plan your adventure, and make the most of what this great river has to offer. They are also ideal for use during the Murray River Marathon. There are 16 guides in the series, each covering a different section of the Murray River from the Murray River Source to the Murray River Mouth. The guides can be purchased individually or as a complete set.

Individual guides can be found in the following section:

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product-category/atlases/>

Full set can be found at:

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/murray-river-access-guide-collection/>

### ***Great Australian Places - \$36.95***

Australia's master storyteller takes readers on a journey across the country, revealing tales of unsolved crimes, early exploration, military exploits, fascinating natural phenomena and iconic destinations. Everywhere you go in Australia, traces of the past await: ancient settlements, relics of exploration, yarns from the gold rush and bushranging days, unexplained events, and a cast of unforgettable, eccentric characters. Graham Seal guides us from famous landmarks to tiny settlements, remote sites and little-known corners of this vast continent. He uncovers the true stories behind immortal Aussie songs—like the pub with no beer and the land where the crow flies backwards. He visits places treasured by First Nations people and sites significant to more recent arrivals, investigates hair-raising tales in dangerous locations, and tracks down the elusive Everywhere Man. Along the way, he explores mysterious natural phenomena, unsolved crimes, gruesome events

and secret installations. Whether you're planning a road trip or enjoying an evening of armchair travel, *Great Australian Places* will surprise, entertain, and delight at every turn.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-australian-places/>

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

The Guide to Gold Prospecting is Doug Stone's new format, covering a smaller area and interpreting what you see on the ground through pictures and maps. It illustrates the different types of reefs, gold workings, vegetation types associated with gold country. It gives you the ability to recognise gold country narrowing down the likely places to find gold.

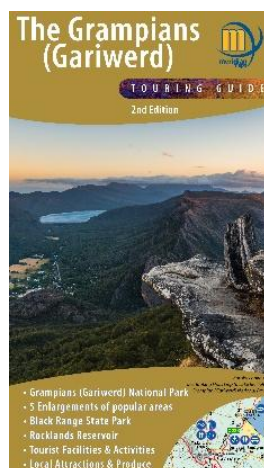
Covering "Victoria's Golden Triangle" including Wedderburn, Inglewood, Tarnagulla, Dunolly, Bet Bet, Moligul and Bealiba.

The Guide is easy to use, spiral bound for flicking through the maps in the vehicle and will give you a grounding in the geology of gold prospecting.

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

## **Meridian Musings**

Was quite exciting in the office recently to receive the second edition of Meridian Map's ***Grampians (Gariwerd) Touring Map***. There have been substantial updates and additions to this map more tourist and safety information. The new 2nd edition also now includes five enlargements of popular areas in the Grampians – Halls Gap, Mackenzie Falls, Wonderland Range, Mt Zero & Mt Stapylton, and Dunkeld & Mt Sturgeon. Discover the Grampians Way Touring Route, public Indigenous art locations, wineries, rock climbing areas, tourist attractions, camping spots, fishing and hiking locations, picnic grounds, and much more, all conveniently highlighted on this single map.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/the-grampians-touring-map/>

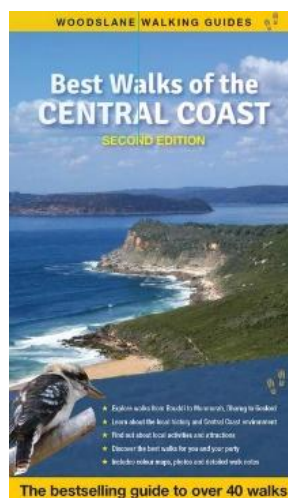
Ivan wrote in recently to say “I am enjoying your emails every time I receive them. Love the informative short story on Uluru and others. Maybe us readers could contribute stories about other areas in 4WD land. I would love to know more about the history of the APY lands. Over the years your website would surely attract a lot of users wanting to gather bits of quality info for their trips. I will start thinking about one for the Flinders Ranges.”

In the past, we have received many reader stories about their trips, which are always well received and often inspire others in planning their own travels. We love hearing from our readers and would echo Ivan’s letter by encouraging you to share stories about your trips, or tips and advice you’re willing to pass on to others. Ivan, I look forward to hearing about the Flinders Ranges, and who knows—there may even be a story about the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in the future!

## What’s New to the Website

### ***Best Walks of the Central Coast - \$32.99***

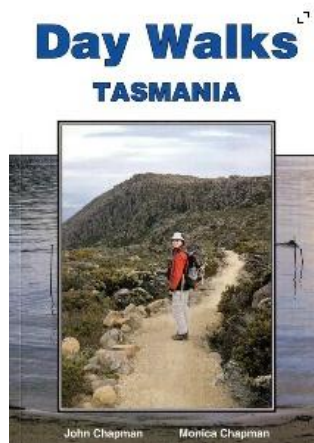
The Central Coast offers a diverse range of stunning environments, making it an ideal region for exploring on foot. This second edition features the 40 best walks for both visitors and locals, from leisurely cliff-top strolls to more challenging bush tracks. Each walk is accompanied by detailed descriptions and maps, guiding readers through the region’s parks, bushland, lakes, and coastline. The book is richly illustrated with over 150 full-colour photographs and dozens of detailed maps. A handy summary table highlights distances, facilities, and points of interest, helping readers choose the perfect walk for any occasion. Walking chapters include Bouddi, Brisbane Water, Dharug, Central West, Gosford, The Entrance, and routes further afield.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/best-walks-central-coast/>

## ***Day Walks Tasmania* - \$39.95**

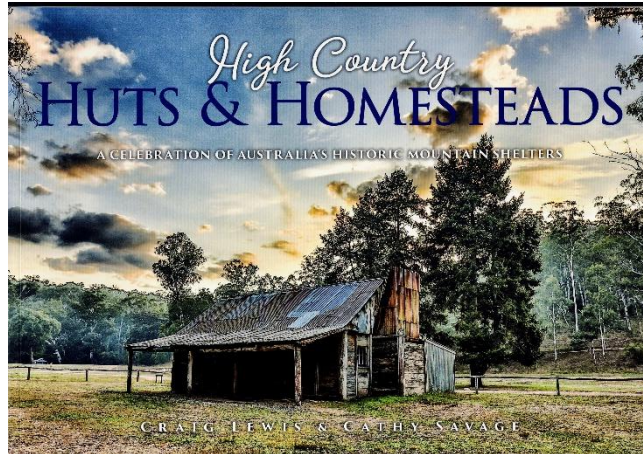
A detailed 1:20,000 scale map measuring a massive 1000mm x 700mm—covering an area that would normally require three separate 1:25,000 topographical maps. Designed for adventurers, it includes colour-coded tracks, contours, and historical features, alongside informative text, colour photos, and tourist 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. Tasmania is a walker's paradise, welcoming adventurers of all ages and experience levels. *Day Walks Tasmania, 2nd Edition* takes you on a journey through the state's stunningly diverse landscapes—from sparkling alpine lakes, cascading waterfalls, and dramatic glaciated peaks to an unforgettable coastline of rugged cliffs, sweeping sandy beaches, and gentle headlands. With 98 walks to choose from, there's an adventure waiting for everyone.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/day-walks-tasmania/>

## ***High Country Huts & Homesteads* - \$39.99**

From the authors of Australia's favourite bush camping and 4WD guides comes a captivating look at the High Country's most scenic and historic huts. *High Country Huts* is lavishly illustrated with full-colour photographs showcasing huts across New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria, and Tasmania. This nostalgic collection features abandoned mountain homesteads, shearers' huts, travellers' shelters, and other solitary structures. Each entry offers a brief history of the hut, along with fascinating stories that bring these remote places to life.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/high-country-huts-homesteads/>

## 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, Munga-Thirri Simpson Desert NP and Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre NP, Tallaringa CP, PAR No 8 Pedirka, PAR No 15 K1 Warburton, PAR No 16 Walkers Crossing, PAR No 2 Level Post Bay, PAR No 13 Halligan Bay Point and PAR 6 Tallaringa are closed with an aim to re-open on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Extensive rainfalls across Central Australia have resulted in flooding and road closures. All desert parks will remain closed until access routes are re-opened and track conditions have been assessed.

There are many road closures in the Northern Territory due to heavy rainfall in the south and Cyclone Narelle in the north. These include all or sections of the

Barley Hwy, Victoria Hwy and Stuart Hwy. Please check <https://roadreport.nt.gov.au/road-map> for current conditions.

The northern part of Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is closed due to fire impact. The area to the east of Mournpall Trk is closed, including Goosefoot, Raak Trk, and Eagles Nest Trk. River Track is open for north / south travel and access to Murray Kulkyne Park's river country.

## What's On

**3 April – MacLean Highland Gathering** in NSW. Clans invade the town for the highland gathering from around the country. There will be street concerts, dancers, pipers and singers, as well as traditional Scottish games including tossing the Caber and hammer throwing.

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

**3 – 6 April - 2026 Beechworth Golden Horseshoes Festival** in Victoria. Streets will buzz with live music, bustling markets, local food, and family-friendly activities, all reflecting the strength and resilience that shaped the iconic gold rush town.

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

**10 – 11 April - Kalamunda Agricultural Show** in Western Australia. Celebrating local produce, rural skills and community spirit through competitions, exhibits and family-friendly entertainment.

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

**10 – 19 April – Parrtjima** in Alice Springs. An extraordinary free 10-night festival in the stunning Red Centre, with an incredible program featuring light installations, artworks, workshops, music and talks.

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

**11 April – Beverley Airshow** in Western Australia. Set against the backdrop of the historic Beverley Airfield, this spectacular event is a celebration of aviation heritage, innovation, and community spirit.

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

**11-12 April Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail** in NSW. Rare and lost trades and crafts will be showcased. Traditional Aboriginal tool and weapon making, blacksmithing, saddlery, dry stone walling, whip cracking and making, glass artistry, lace making, tapestry, embroidery, carpentry and joinery, coopering,

knife making and violin making are among many unique talents to be demonstrated by local and guest artisans.

<https://www.bathurstregion.com.au/bathurst-heritage-trades-trail/>

**17 – 18 April – Wandiligong Nut Festival** in Victoria. A hive of nut-based activities such as chestnut, hazelnut and walnut growers, nut-cracking tables, chestnut roasting and nut-based cooking demonstrations as well as a celebration of the arts and music that our region has to offer.

<https://www.nutfest.au/>

**17 – 19 April – Outback River Lights** in Cunnamulla, South West Queensland. Food experiences, free live entertainment, art & culture workshops and dazzling light shows under the stars.

<https://cunnamullatourism.com.au/outback-river-lights-festival/>

**18 April – Tamborine Rodeo** in Queensland. Brings together elite rodeo competition, country atmosphere, and a great day out for families, locals, and rodeo fans alike.

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

**18 – 19 April – Laura Folk Fair** in South Australia. Two amazing days filled with local artisans, delicious food, live music, thrilling rides, and entertainment for the whole family.

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

**18 – 19 April - Thailand Grand Festival NT 2026.** A vibrant showcase of Thai culture, flavour, rhythm, and community spirit, celebrating the Thai New Year in traditional style.

<https://northernterritory.com/darwin-and-surrounds/events/thailand-grand-festival-nt-2026>

**16 – 17 May – Thirlmere Festival of Steam** in NSW. Climb aboard authentic steam train rides, explore vintage machinery, and enjoy live entertainment, interactive displays and family fun at NSW's biggest celebration of rail heritage.

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



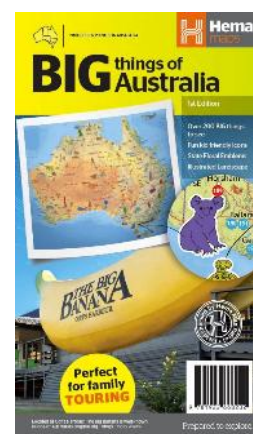
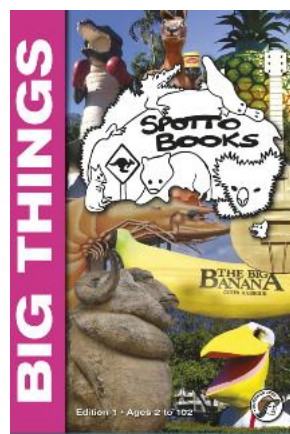
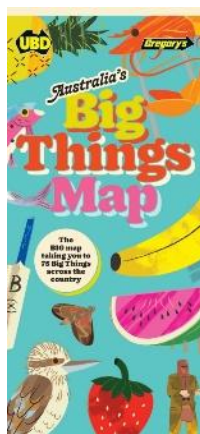
## Do you have a story?

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).

Have you travelled to see many "big things" around Australia or for that matter elsewhere in the world? I thought we have seen quite a few "Big Things" in our road trips around Australia, but I actually had no idea that there are so many! We'd love to hear of your adventures,

### "Big Things"

Australia's "Big Things" are among the most recognisable features of the country's roadside landscape, appearing in towns, along highways, and at key tourist stops across every state and territory. While they are often seen as quirky or humorous, these oversized sculptures have a clear historical origin and purpose. Their development is closely tied to the rise of car travel in the mid-20th century, when increasing numbers of Australians began exploring the country by road. As highways expanded and long-distance driving became more common from the 1950s and 1960s onwards, many towns faced the challenge of encouraging travellers to stop rather than simply pass through. The solution was both practical and imaginative: build something so large and unusual that it could not be ignored.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product-category/books/kids-books/>

This approach drew inspiration from similar roadside attractions in the United States, but in Australia it quickly developed a distinct identity. Many of the earliest Big Things were designed to represent a town's primary industry, effectively turning agriculture, fishing, or local production into a visual symbol. They functioned as advertisements, landmarks, and expressions of civic pride all at once. Over time, they became embedded in the culture of Australian

road trips, forming an informal network of destinations that travellers actively seek out.

It is difficult to determine the exact number of Big Things in Australia, although conservative estimates put the number in excess of 1,000. Counts vary depending on whether only major landmarks or also smaller, temporary, and privately built structures are included. Most are in New South Wales and Queensland, reflecting early adoption of the trend and the density of towns along major highways, while Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia also feature many examples. Tasmania, the Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory have fewer due to smaller populations and lower traffic volumes. The total continues to evolve, with new Big Things added and older or neglected ones sometimes removed.

While the Big Banana is often credited with popularising the “Big Thing” trend across Australia, the Big Scotsman was actually constructed first, in 1963, to promote Scotty’s Motel in Adelaide. The oversized figure of a Scottish Highlander—complete with kilt, sporran, and tam o’shanter—was designed to catch the attention of passing motorists and encourage them to stop. Constructed with a fibreglass outer shell over a steel frame filled with polystyrene foam, the sculpture requires frequent repainting at considerable expense.



The Big Banana, constructed in 1964, is widely considered one of the most influential Big Things. In 1964, John Landi wanted something to make passing traffic stop at his roadside banana stall. He had heard of a “Big Pineapple” in

Hawaii and thought that something big would definitely stop traffic. Local engineer Alan Chapman designed the giant banana by cutting the best-looking banana he could find into 40 pieces and developing plans from which builders could work. Builder Alan Harvey began construction in September 1964, with the work completed before Christmas. The 13-metre structure, the biggest banana in the world and Australia's first "Big Thing", was officially opened on December 22 that year. What started as a simple roadside attraction has grown into a sprawling entertainment complex featuring waterslides, ice skating, laser tag, and toboggan rides. However, the working plantation behind the complex still grows bananas.



The Big Banana also helped define the relationship between Big Things and regional identity, as it directly reflected the banana-growing industry that dominated the Coffs Harbour area. Its evolution into a larger tourist complex further showed how a single structure could anchor broader economic activity.

Conversely, the Big Tractor in Carnamah, Western Australia, unveiled in 2024, is one of Australia's newest Big Things and a striking tribute to the region's agricultural history. Modelled on a Chamberlain 40K tractor, the sculpture measures around 11.5 metres tall and 16 metres long, making it an impressive roadside landmark visible from a distance. It was designed to celebrate the contributions of local farmers and to attract visitors to the Mid-West town, blending novelty, community pride, and tourism promotion. As both a photogenic attraction and a symbol of regional identity, the Big Tractor continues the tradition of Australia's Big Things while highlighting the importance of farming to the area's economy and culture.



New South Wales continued to develop this concept of Big Things, with structures covering everything from giant animals to enormous ugg boots. The Big Merino in Goulburn, New South Wales, is a 15-metre tall ram built in 1985 to celebrate the region's historic wool industry. It features an internal exhibition detailing Australia's wool production and its importance to the local economy. Visitors can climb to a viewing platform in the head of the Merino for panoramic views of Goulburn and the surrounding countryside, making it both educational and fun.



- **The Big Golden Guitar (Tamworth)** – A 12-metre tall guitar honouring Tamworth's status as the country music capital of Australia.
- **The Big Prawn (Ballina)** – A coastal icon symbolising the region's seafood industry and holiday culture.

- **The Big Potato (Robertson)** – A giant 10-metre spud built to honour the town’s potato farming heritage.
- **The Big Trout (Adaminaby)** – A 10-metre sculpture celebrating trout fishing in the Snowy Mountains region.
- **The Big Bogan (Nyngan)** – A modern and humorous landmark reflecting outback culture and local identity.
- **The Big Kookaburra (Kurri Kurri)** – Represents the town’s emblem and ties into its mural trail.
- **The Big Murray Cod (Tocumwal)** – Highlights fishing along the Murray River and the importance of the cod species.
- **The Big Beer Can (Cobar)** – A five-metre tall can celebrating local pub culture and outback hospitality.
- **The Big Lawn Bowl (Port Macquarie / Lake Cathie)** – A two-tonne sculpture marking a popular local sport and community hub.
- **The Big Lamb (Guyra)** – Promotes the region’s sheep and potato industries and rural heritage.

Queensland is home to some of Australia’s most famous “Big Things”, many of which celebrate the state’s agricultural heritage and tourist attractions. The Big Pineapple in Woombye, opened in 1971, is perhaps the most iconic, forming part of a larger agritourism complex. The Big Pineapple is heritage-listed on the Queensland Heritage Register, having been officially added on 6 March 2009 for its cultural significance as an early and influential example of agritourism and roadside attraction in Queensland.



Other “Big Things” in Queensland include:

- **The Big Mango (Bowen)** – Celebrates the region’s famous mango-growing industry.
- **The Big Cane Toad (Sarina)** – A humorous nod to a local tropical pest and agricultural challenge.
- **The Big Bull (Rockhampton)** – Represents the city’s beef industry and cattle heritage.
- **The Big Barramundi (Karumba)** – Highlights the town’s fishing and seafood culture.
- **The Big Crocodile (Normanton)** – Symbolises the Top End’s iconic wildlife.
- **Matilda the Kangaroo (Longreach)** – The mascot from the 1982 Commonwealth Games, now a landmark and tourist attraction.
- **The Big Cane Cutter (Mackay)** – Commemorates the sugarcane industry that dominates the region.
- **The Big Prawn (Cairns region)** – Celebrates local prawn and seafood production.
- **The Big Cassowary (Mission Beach)** – Highlights the endangered native bird of the tropical rainforest.
- **The Big Cockatoo (Atherton Tablelands)** – Represents native wildlife of northern Queensland.

In Victoria, the “Big Things” concept expanded beyond agriculture to include historical and cultural figures such as the Big Ned Kelly, which commemorates the infamous bushranger and marks the location of his capture in 1880. Ned Kelly has been immortalised as a towering six-metre statue in the town of Glenrowan, the site of the final siege of the Kelly Gang and the deaths of three of its members. The plaque at the base of the statue reads: “Ned Kelly – Hanged a murderer in Melbourne, November 11, 1880 – not 26 years old – described as a rebel, bushranger by necessity, a bush battler, underdog, sometimes gentleman, sometimes larrikin and a man with a strong sense of family.” This structure reflects the enduring place of Ned Kelly in Australian folklore and demonstrates how “Big Things” can also serve as monuments to history.



Victoria is also home to many other big things including:

- **The Big Koala (Dadswells Bridge)** – Celebrates native wildlife and is a popular stop along the Western Highway.
- **The Big Strawberry (Koonoomoo)** – Highlights the local strawberry-growing industry, especially during festival season.
- **The Big Wine Bottle (Rutherglen)** – Represents Victoria's wine regions and vineyards.
- **The Big Miner's Pick (Ballarat region)** – A nod to Victoria's gold mining heritage.
- **The Big Watermelon (Carisbrook)** – Celebrates local horticulture and farming traditions.
- **The Big Sheep Shears (Warrnambool area)** – Reflects the state's wool industry and shearing history.
- **The Big Almond (Robinvale)** – Highlights almond farming in the region.
- **The Big Camel (Mildura area)** – Represents historical camel transport used in outback regions.

- **The Big Chicken (Cobram)** – Celebrates poultry farming in the Goulburn Valley.
- **The Big Melon (Robinvale)** – Another nod to local horticulture, particularly melons and produce.

South Australia's contributions are often closely linked to coastal industries. The Big Lobster, constructed in 1979 by renowned artist Paul Kelly, is one of the most recognisable examples. Kelly created this engineering marvel by purchasing an actual lobster, having it stuffed, and using it as a detailed model to ensure anatomical accuracy. Rising to about 17 metres and made from steel and fibreglass, it is known as Larry the Lobster to locals. The sculpture was commissioned to celebrate the local crayfish (southern rock lobster) industry, which has long been central to the economy and culture of Kingston SE and the surrounding waters.



The following “Big Things” are some of those that can be seen in South Australia:

- **The Big Galah (Kimba)** – Represents the native bird species and the town's identity as the “Gateway to the Outback.”
- **The Big Rocking Horse (Gumeracha)** – Highlights local craftsmanship and the region's timber industry.
- **The Big Orange (Berri)** – Celebrates the Murray River region's citrus-growing industry.
- **The Big Pram (Loxton)** – Reflects the town's early settlers and community heritage.
- **The Big Cockatoo (Ceduna)** – Represents native wildlife of the Eyre Peninsula.



- **The Big Gumboot (Myponga)** – Symbolises the region’s dairy and agricultural heritage.
- **The Big Apple (Robe)** – Celebrates local fruit-growing and tourism.
- **The Big Cow (Mount Gambier region)** – Reflects the area’s dairy and cattle industries.
- **The Big Sheep (Clare Valley)** – Highlights the wool industry in the region.
- **The Big Camel (Far North SA)** – A nod to historical camel use in outback transport.

Tasmania, although smaller than other Australian states, has its own collection of Big Things that celebrate local produce, wildlife, and quirky culture. Among the most notable is the Big Tasmanian Devil in Mole Creek, which draws attention to the state’s iconic native marsupial and raises awareness about its conservation. Located at the entrance to Trowunna Wildlife Sanctuary, it stands around 2–3 metres high, highlighting the devil’s stocky build, powerful jaws, and unmistakable black-and-white markings that have made it an icon of Tasmanian wildlife. It draws visitors into the sanctuary, where people can learn about Tasmanian devils and conservation efforts to protect this endangered species, threatened by disease and habitat



While in Tasmania, there is also the opportunity to marvel at:

- **The Big Penguin (Penguin)** – Celebrates the town’s namesake and the region’s coastal wildlife.
- **The Big Abalone (Beauty Point)** – Highlights Tasmania’s fishing and aquaculture industries.
- **The Big Trout (Derby)** – Reflects the region’s trout fishing and recreational angling culture.

- **The Big Cheese (Burnie)** – Celebrates the state’s dairy industry and local cheese production.
- **The Big Apple (Huonville)** – Recognises the Huon Valley’s apple orchards and fruit-growing heritage.
- **The Big Strawberry (Latrobe)** – Marks local strawberry farming and seasonal harvest festivals.
- **The Big Cow (Sheffield area)** – Highlights dairy farming and the state’s agricultural heritage.
- **The Big Lobster (not to be confused with SA’s Big Lobster, in some coastal regions)** – Symbolises local seafood industries.
- **The Big Wine Bottle (Coal River Valley region)** – Celebrates Tasmania’s emerging wine regions.
- **The Big Tree (Strahan region)** – A tribute to Tasmania’s forest industry and iconic tree species.

In the Northern Territory, Big Things often reflect the distinct environment and culture of the outback. The Big Boxing Crocodile on the Arnhem Highway in Humpty Doo is a 13-metre fiberglass sculpture that has been “throwing punches” at passing road-trippers since 1987. Commissioned by local businessman Marshall Brentnall to draw attention to his Bush Shop, it was inspired by the Boxing Kangaroo logo from Australia’s victorious 1983 America’s Cup campaign. It celebrates the Northern Territory’s iconic saltwater crocodiles, which can grow up to six metres long and thrive in rivers, wetlands, and billabongs across the Top End.



Other “Big Things” in the Territory include:

- **Big Aboriginal Hunter (Anmatjere)** – 17 m tall sculpture of an Indigenous hunter holding a spear, celebrating traditional Anmatjere culture and heritage.
- **Anmatjere Woman and Child (Anmatjere)** – Companion sculpture depicting a woman and child with a perentie goanna.
- **Big Frill-Necked Lizard (Alice Springs)** – Celebrates native reptiles and Central Australia’s wildlife.
- **Big Camel (Alice Springs)** – Represents historical camel transport used in outback exploration and freight.
- **Big Emu (Alice Springs region)** – Symbolises native birdlife and the importance of fauna in local culture.
- **Big Barramundi (Katherine region)** – Highlights freshwater barramundi and the Territory’s fishing industry.
- **Big Dingoes (Alice Springs)** – Celebrates dingoes as part of outback ecosystems and culture.
- **Big Platypus (Katherine area)** – Represents native freshwater wildlife found in rivers and billabongs.
- **Big Boab Tree Sculpture (near Broome / NT border)** – Reflects iconic Kimberley and Top End flora.
- **Big Crocodile Jaw (Darwin region)** – Emphasises the power and significance of saltwater crocodiles in Northern Territory culture.

The “Big Things” in the ACT are fewer in number compared with other states, reflecting the territory’s smaller population and limited highway network. They often differ from those in other Australian states in scale, style, and purpose. While other states often feature giant roadside attractions celebrating local produce, regional icons, or tourist gimmicks—like the Big Banana in New South Wales or the Big Lobster in South Australia—the ACT’s big things are generally smaller, urban-friendly, and integrated into parks, town centres, and public art projects.

The Big Acorns at the National Arboretum Canberra are representative of the type of “Big Things” found in the ACT. They are oversized acorn-shaped sculptures that form part of the nature-themed POD Playground at the Arboretum’s Village Centre. Installed in 2013, the giant acorns are built into climbing structures, net tunnels and enclosed slides that encourage children to explore, play and interact with the space in imaginative ways. Beyond being fun play equipment, they reflect the Arboretum’s focus on nature and the life

cycle of trees, tying in with the site's broader conservation, education and recreation goals within the 250-hectare living forest landscape.



Other “Big Things” in the ACT include:

- **Big Coins (Deakin)** – Celebrates Australia’s currency with giant coin sculptures outside the Royal Australian Mint.
- **Big Galahs (Watson)** – Large pink galah sculptures highlighting native Australian wildlife.
- **Big Swoop / Magpie (Civic, Garema/Petrie Place)** – Iconic giant magpie sculpture popular with photographers and visitors.
- **Big Powerful Owl (Belconnen Town Centre)** – Towering owl sculpture representing ACT fauna.
- **Big Thorny Devil (Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve)** – Sculpture of the distinctive desert lizard, showcasing Australia’s unique reptiles.
- **Big Bogong Moths (Australian National Botanic Gardens)** – Oversized moth sculptures illustrating seasonal migration of the species.
- **Big Tyrannosaurus Rex (Gold Creek, National Dinosaur Museum)** – Dinosaur sculpture for educational and museum displays.
- **Big Bunyip (Gungahlin)** – Whimsical sculpture inspired by the children’s book *The Monster That Ate Canberra*.

- **Big Coffee Pot & Cup (Monash)** – Fun café sculpture providing a quirky stop for visitors.
- **Big Pool Ball (Yarralumla Play Station)** – Oversized 8-ball adding a playful urban feature to the mini-golf course.

Comprising more than 2.6 million square kilometres, it's no surprise that Australia's largest state is also home to some impressive "Big Things." One of the most iconic in Western Australia is the Big Ram, which was briefly Australia's largest ram when it was unveiled on 9 May 1985, before being surpassed by Goulburn's ram just months later.

The towering Big Ram in Wagin, built in 1985, celebrates the region's sheep farming heritage and wool industry. Standing 9 metres tall, the ram—affectionately known as Bart—is located in Wagin's Wetlands Park, near the playground and nature walks. Weighing four tonnes and constructed from steel and fibreglass, this Merino ram was designed by sculptor Andrew Hickson and took eight months to build at a cost of \$34,000.



Other "Big Things" in the WA include:

- **The Big Apple (Donnybrook)** – A giant apple celebrating Donnybrook's reputation as Western Australia's apple capital and its rich orchard heritage.

- **The Big Bin (Kalgoorlie)** – Known as the world’s tallest bin, this quirky landmark reflects the humour and character of this historic gold mining town.
- **The Big Camera (Meckering)** – A massive camera-shaped building that houses an impressive collection of vintage cameras and photography equipment.
- **The Big Crocodile (Wyndham)** – A striking roadside sculpture marking the gateway to the Kimberley and highlighting the region’s crocodile country.
- **The Big Lobster (Dongara)** – A bright tribute to the local rock lobster industry that has long been central to the town’s economy.
- **The Big Marron (Capel)** – Nicknamed “Rex of the River,” this oversized marron celebrates the region’s freshwater crayfish farming.
- **The Big Orange (Harvey)** – A vibrant symbol of Harvey’s citrus-growing history and one of the South West’s most recognisable attractions.
- **The Big Banana (Carnarvon)** – A nod to Carnarvon’s tropical fruit industry, particularly its well-known banana plantations.
- **The Big Bobtail (Kalamunda)** – A unique rammed-earth sculpture of a blue-tongued lizard, representing local wildlife in the Perth Hills.
- **King Neptune (Two Rocks)** – A towering statue from the former Atlantis Marine Park, now an iconic and slightly surreal coastal landmark.

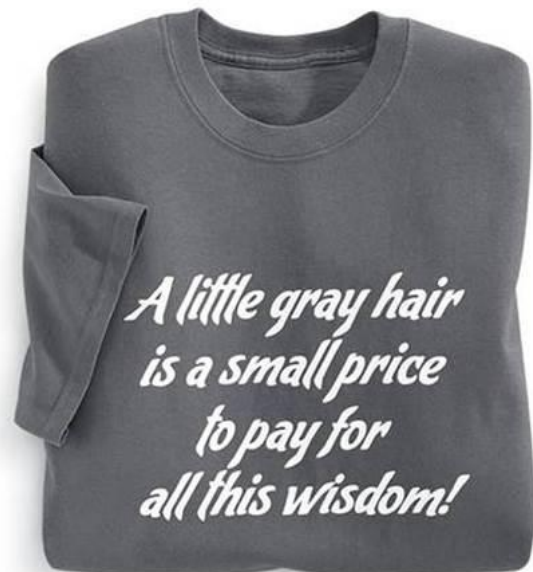
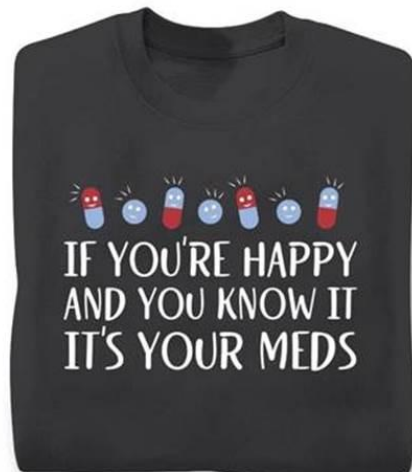
The Big Things listed here represent just a selection of Australia’s oversized attractions across each state and territory. From the wildlife and cultural sculptures of the ACT and Northern Territory to the iconic roadside symbols of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, there are countless other Big Things waiting to be discovered. These lists are by no means exhaustive—every town and region has its own quirky or monumental creations—so explore beyond these highlights and seek out even more of Australia’s fun, creative, and larger-than-life attractions.

As large silo art installations continue to appear throughout the Australian landscape, it begs the question whether silo art are replacing big things in alluring road travellers to rural towns? I would suggest that silo art is not replacing Australia’s Big Things but has become a complementary attraction for rural towns. While Big Things continue to draw visitors with their quirky, nostalgic charm, silo art appeals through large-scale public murals and modern visual storytelling, often creating striking photo opportunities. Together, they provide rural towns with multiple reasons to entice road travellers, combining traditional roadside novelty with contemporary artistic experiences.

## Meridian Mirth

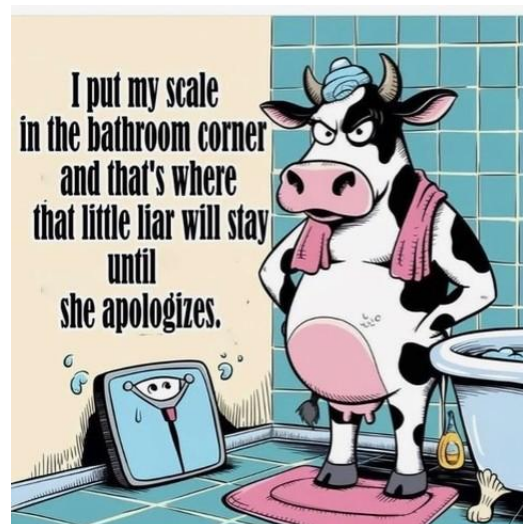
To share your jokes, please send them to [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au).  
Many thanks to Paul and Vince for the contributions!

### T-Shirts for Seniors

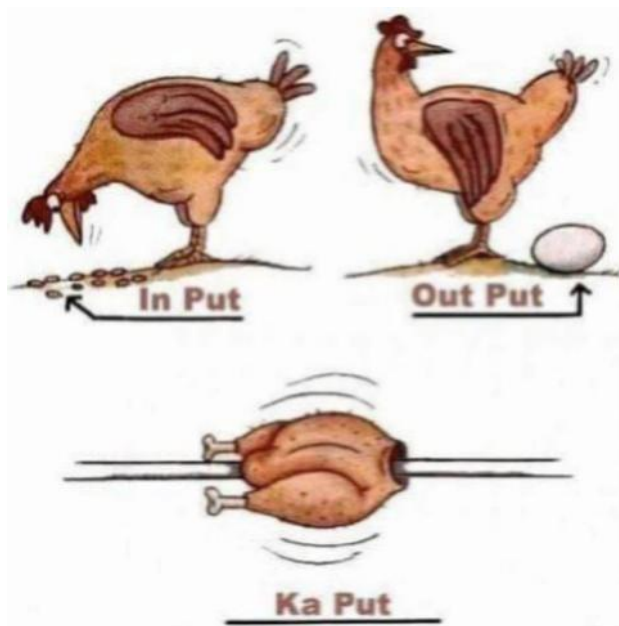




Winston Churchill once raised his glass and said, "I prefer not to wish anyone health or wealth, but only luck. Because most people on the Titanic were both healthy and rich. But very few of them were lucky."

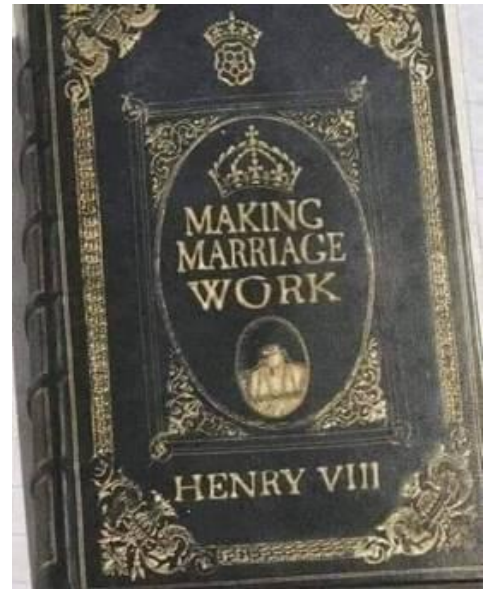






THINGS THAT MAKE YOU SMILE...





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