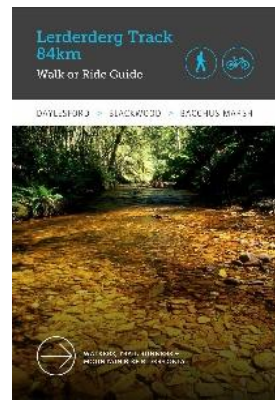
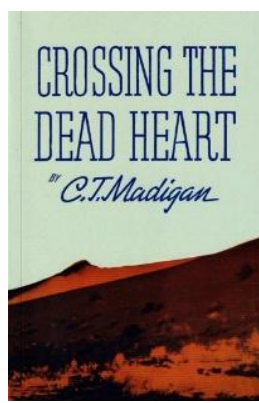
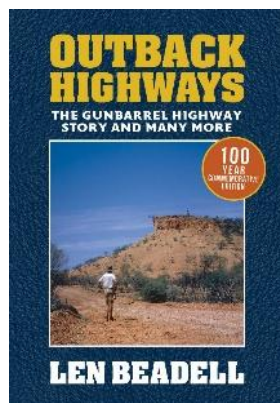
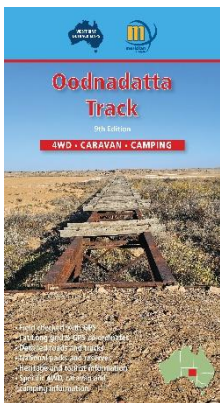




The Meridian Line - Sunday 12.05.2026

"You can, you should, and if you're brave enough to start, you will." – Stephen King.



Focus on Five

Oodnadatta Track – from \$15.95

This new 9th edition map covers the Oodnadatta Track from Lyndhurst to Marla, passing through Marree, Lake Eyre, William Creek, Algebuckina Bridge and Oodnadatta. It has been significantly updated, with more roads named, additional reserves shown, new features identified, and revised text on the reverse. The Oodnadatta Track follows the path of a major Aboriginal trade route, as well as the historic Overland Telegraph Line and the Old Ghan railway. Combined with features such as the unique mound springs, Australia's largest lake, and the world's largest cattle station, this region stands as one of the country's most significant outback heritage areas. The map also includes coverage of the Stuart Highway between Woomera (Pimba) and Marla, Lake Eyre, and the approach to Marree via Leigh Creek. One side of the map presents detailed cartography with GPS locations, while the reverse provides informative notes on each area, making it a practical and insightful companion for travellers. As with all Westprint maps, it includes information on history, explorers, points of interest, and surrounding flora and fauna, along with photographs of key landmarks. The map is clear and easy to

read, and features road and track distances, rest areas, and specific guidance for 4WD travellers, caravanners and campers, as well as heritage, tourism and national park information, complete with latitude/longitude grids and GPS coordinates.

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

Outback Highways - The Gunbarrel Highway Story and Many More – \$29.95

Len Beadell OAM was often described as the last of the true Australian explorers. As a surveyor and road builder, he worked across vast areas of the outback, from Arnhem Land to the Gibson Desert. This special commemorative edition of *Outback Highways* has been released to mark the centenary of his birth. A much-loved author, Beadell brought the outback and its people to life on the page, capturing Australians in all their vivid originality. Drawn from his best-selling books, these stories are rich in humour and offer a fascinating insight into the hard work, memorable bush characters and spirited adventures that defined Len Beadell's remarkable life.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/outback-hihways-100/>

Crossing the Dead Heart – \$34.95

Crossing the Dead Heart is a compelling account of an expedition undertaken in 1939, led by C.T. Madigan, with the aim of traversing a previously unexplored region of Australia's Northern Territory. The expedition was financed by Mr A.A. Simpson, after whom the Simpson Desert is named. From Charlotte Waters on the South Australian–Northern Territory border, the party travelled to its first camp beyond Andado Bore, crossed the desert to Birdsville in Queensland, and then turned southwest to the shores of Lake Eyre, eventually rejoining the railway at Maree. The book recounts a remarkable tale of exploratory enterprise and meticulous scientific investigation. Dr Madigan oversaw the work through to the press, but, sadly, he did not live to see it published, passing away in Adelaide in January 1947.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/crossing-dead-heart/>

We also have a well-bound hardback edition

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/crossing-the-dead-heart-hardback/>

Lerderderg Track 84km Walk or Ride Guide - \$34.95

In October 2025, the Great Dividing Trail Association published the *Lerderderg Track Walk or Ride Guide*. The track stretches 84 kilometres, running from Daylesford through Blackwood to Bacchus Marsh, providing complete map and track-note coverage of the entire 300 km Great Dividing Trail Network in a sturdy wire-bound guidebook format. This 144-page guidebook complements the GDTA's highly successful, award-winning *Goldfields Track Walk or Ride Guide*. Following a similar style, it places large-scale 1:17,500 maps and detailed track notes between essays by locals and experts, celebrating the Lerderderg Track's extraordinary natural beauty as well as its rich cultural heritage, people and places. New features in this edition include seven short, half-day circuit walks and Welcome to Country acknowledgements from the two Kulin Nation language groups whose traditional lands encompass the track—the Dja Dja Wurrung in the north and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung in the south.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/lerderderg-track-walk-ride-guide/>

Mount Buffalo includes Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail – from \$19.95

The *Mount Buffalo Recreation Guide* from Spatial Vision offers detailed maps and information for walking and touring throughout Mount Buffalo National Park and its surrounding areas. This guide complements Spatial Vision's previously released *Bogong Alpine Area* and *Buller-Howitt Recreation Guides*. Developed in consultation with Parks Victoria, it also includes touring information provided by Glenn van der Knijff, a well-known adventure author. The guide includes a colour topographic map at 1:30,000 scale, a map of the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail, comprehensive walk descriptions with difficulty ratings, walk cross-sections, campsite and hut waypoints, and descriptions of overnight hikes.

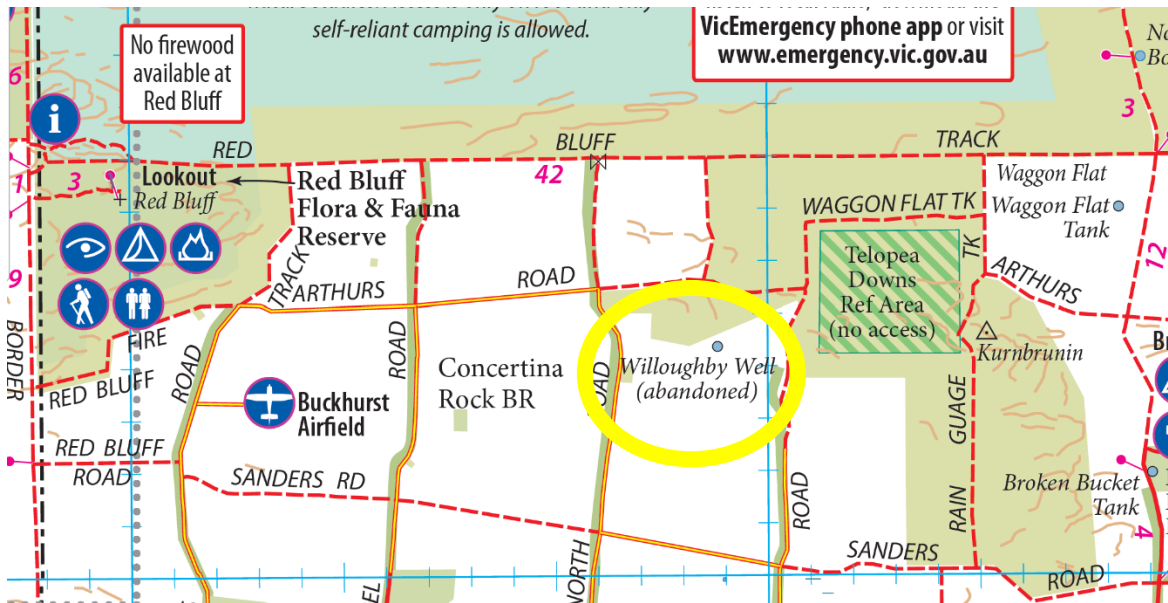
<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/mount-buffalo-map/>

Meridian Musings

We recently had a call from Steve who was enquiring about Willoughby Well in the Telopea Downs location north of Nhill. He says it may have been known as Red Bluff Well previously and thought it was renamed for a George Willoughby.

If anyone has some information on this well and how it came to be named Willoughby Well, please let us know and we can pass it on to Steve.

Here is the well's location – as shown on the Victoria's Deserts 4WD Map 5th Edition



It has certainly been a busy fortnight for us, both personally and professionally. This weekend, we celebrated the engagement of our youngest daughter and her partner. There is truly nothing more rewarding than seeing your children happy and settled, and we felt that joy in abundance over the weekend.

On the professional front, we received the 2nd edition of the *Dandenong Ranges and Lysterfield Hills* map. It's always a pleasure to see the success and popularity of a map lead to the creation of new and updated editions.

Explore the Dandenong Ranges, a rainforest getaway near Melbourne, with the Meridian Maps ***Dandenong Ranges & Lysterfield Hills Map Guide – 2nd Edition.***

Published in April 2026, this updated edition includes the latest park information on tracks and facilities, as well as details on local tourist attractions, produce vendors, and dining options.

Just a short drive or train ride from Melbourne, the Dandenong Ranges offer a lush rainforest escape, featuring steep volcanic hills and the majestic Mountain Ash, the tallest flowering tree in the world. This natural wonderland provides a perfect retreat for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike.

The 2nd edition features a double-sided 1:20,000 scale map covering all parks in the region, including Dandenong Ranges National Park, Churchill National

Park, and Lysterfield Park. It highlights 32 walking trails, such as the scenic Dandenong Trail and Sassafras Walking Track, ensuring you experience all the area's breathtaking sights.

The map also details tourist attractions, local producers, picnic grounds, and walking tracks, making it an essential companion for bushwalkers, day-trippers, mountain bikers, and holidaymakers. Whether you're planning a leisurely day out or an adventurous hike, the Dandenong Ranges offer a delightful escape right on Melbourne's doorstep.

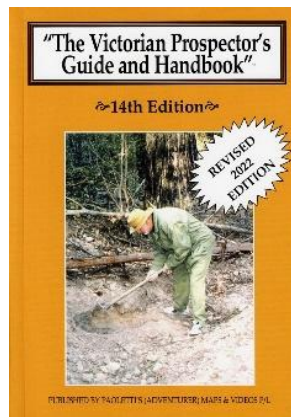


<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/dandenong-ranges-map-guide/>

What's New to the Website

The Victorian Prospector's Guide and Handbook - \$20.00

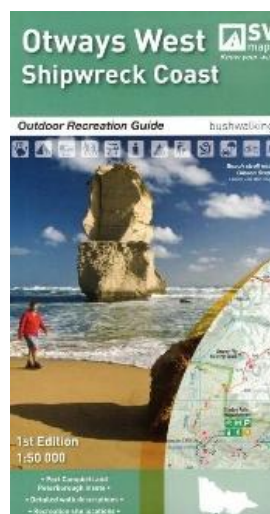
The 14th edition of this book has been updated to include references to metal detecting, along with the laws and practical do's and don'ts of prospecting. It also features a rich collection of photographs, both historic and contemporary. Blending modern insight with original material dating back to its first publication in 1894, the book offers a compelling look at both the history and practice of prospecting. It explores in considerable depth the geology of Victoria, as well as gold, gemstones and the various methods used to locate them. Whether you're just starting out or have years of experience, this is a valuable addition to any prospector's library.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/victorian-prospectors-guide/>

Otways West Shipwreck Coast - from \$13.95

Explore the iconic Shipwreck Coast with the detailed Otways West Map from Spatial Vision, designed to support a wide range of outdoor activities, including bushwalking, mountain biking, trail bike riding, car touring, four-wheel driving and water sports. The map covers some of the region's most celebrated natural areas, including the Great Otway National Park, Twelve Apostles Marine Park and Port Campbell National Park. It also provides a comprehensive overview of the full 100km Great Ocean Walk, from Apollo Bay to the Twelve Apostles, complete with a detailed route map and accompanying description. Track notes for both short and extended walks are included, along with the locations of popular 4WD tracks and mountain bike trails. The map also highlights many of the region's standout features, including waterfalls, scenic lookouts and historic shipwreck sites, making it a practical companion for exploring this dramatic coastline. On the reverse, you'll find additional information on the area's history, key attractions, native flora and fauna, as well as GPS references for major recreational locations.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/otways-west-shipwreck-coast/>

Otways Central Walks & Waterfalls - from \$13.95

Discover the heart of the Otways with the detailed Walks & Waterfalls Map from Spatial Vision. Covering key locations including Deans Marsh, Barongarook, Barwon Downs, Lorne, Forrest, Lake Elizabeth, Wye River, Kennett River, Skenes Creek, Apollo Bay and Marengo, it's an essential guide to exploring the region. Designed for a wide range of outdoor activities, the map is ideal for bushwalking, mountain biking, trail bike riding, car touring, four-wheel driving and water sports. This updated edition of the central Otways Range features comprehensive topographic detail, helping you navigate its diverse landscapes and recreational highlights with confidence. A broad selection of walking tracks—both short and extended—is included, along with detailed notes for each. Inset maps of Forrest, Apollo Bay and Marengo provide a closer look at local walking routes and recreational features, while the Forrest inset highlights the area's extensive network of mountain bike trails. On the reverse, you'll find additional information on the region's history, major attractions, native flora and fauna, as well as GPS references for key recreational sites.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/otways-central-walks-waterfalls/>

Otways East Surf Coast – from \$13.95

Explore the stunning Surf Coast region with this comprehensive map from Spatial Vision, covering key destinations including Torquay, Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Lorne, Deans Marsh, and Birregurra. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts, the map supports a wide range of activities such as bushwalking, mountain biking, trail bike riding, car touring, four-wheel driving, and water sports. This edition focuses on the eastern Otways Range, offering detailed topographic information to help you navigate and discover the area's diverse

landscapes and recreational highlights. It features a variety of walking tracks—both short and long—with informative notes for each, including the popular Surf Coast Walk. Detailed inset maps of Torquay and Lorne provide additional insight into local walking routes and recreational attractions. On the reverse side, you'll find valuable background information on the region's history, key tourist attractions, native flora and fauna, as well as GPS references for major recreational sites.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/otways-east-surf-coast/>

Simon's Monthly Comment

Those of you familiar with our website may have noticed two headings: "Clearance" and "NQR Laminated Maps."

As a retailer, we occasionally find ourselves overstocked on certain products, holding maps that have been superseded by new editions, or with just a final copy remaining. In these cases, we reduce the price—giving you a great opportunity to pick up a bargain.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product-category/meridian-maps-clearance/>

Laminated maps provide excellent protection. As a paper product, maps can deteriorate over time with repeated folding and unfolding, but lamination significantly improves durability and adds water resistance, helping to extend their lifespan.

However, laminating large sheets does come with some inherent risk. Like the first pancake in a batch, the initial result doesn't always turn out perfectly. While the map itself remains fully legible and functional, there may be minor creases or imperfections in the lamination.

Because we take pride in the quality of our products, we don't feel it's appropriate to sell these maps at full retail price. Instead, they are offered at a reduced price to reflect the less-than-perfect finish.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product-category/not-quite-right-maps/>

The range of products in these categories is constantly changing, and availability can't always be guaranteed. If you're looking for a particular map, it's worth checking the NQR Laminated section—you might just find it available at a better-than-expected price.

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/>

Desert Parks remaining closed due to rain event and flooding.

Extensive rainfalls across central Australia (> 10 inches) have resulted in flooding and road closures. Desert parks will remain closed until access routes are re-opened and track conditions have been assessed.

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

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

Severe thunderstorms and flash flooding on 16 January 2026 has caused significant damage across parts of the eastern Great Otway National Park.

The following areas are closed until further notice:

Roads & Tracks Wye Rd, Curtis Track, Godfrey Track and Jamieson Track.

Walking tracks St George, Phantom falls, Lemonade ck, Kalimna Henderson Sheoak Falls .

Sheoak picnic ground walking Nature Loop

Cumberland

Cumberland Garvey Link

Kalimna Garvey Link

Cora Lynn

Erskine Falls Walking Track Won Wondah

Seasonal campfire bans have been lifted across many Tasmanian national parks and reserves from Wednesday 1 April 2026.

Recherche Bay Nature Recreation Area: The Catamaran Campground and Boat Ramp will be closed from 15 April to 31 July 2026 while upgrade works take place.

Tasman National Park: The Arch/Devils Kitchen visitor site will be closed from 15 April to 31 July 2026 for upgrade works. Access to the Tasman Coastal Trail from this area will be closed during the works. Waterfall Bay will still be accessible via Waterfall Bay Road.

Parts of Western Qld are still flooded, as water moves through the Channel Country. Eyre Creek: Major flooding. Thomson, Georgina and Diamantina Rivers and Cooper Creek: Moderate flooding. For the latest conditions please check: <https://data.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/htmlreports/statehighways.html>

What's On

16 – 19 April: The Man From Snowy River Bush Festival in Victoria.. Named after the famous poem by Banjo Paterson, *The Man from Snowy River*, the festival pays tribute to the iconic stockmen, their horses, and the spirit of the Australian bush. Exciting competitions, live entertainment, historical reenactments, and family-friendly activities, all set against the backdrop of the stunning alpine landscape.

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

24 – 26 April: White Cliffs Gymkhana and Rodeo in NSW. Full of motorbike and horse events. The White Cliffs Gymkhana is a fun event for all the family with live music, catering and a lot of dirt and dust!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064812785424#>

25 – 26 April: Boggabri Drovers Campfire in NSW. A community run festival celebrating the Australian outback spirit — featuring live music, local tours, bush poetry, camp fires, damper making, markets, and family entertainment such as whip cracking, billy boiling and line dancing

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

30 April – 3 May: Australian Celtic Festival in NSW. National and international music artists, including pipe bands, dancers, markets, food and beverage stalls, competitions, official ceremonies, live-action performances

and re-enactment groups, children's entertainment and a host of fringe events around the region.

<https://australiancelticfestival.com/>

1 – 3 May: Kalbar Sunflower Festival in Queensland. Combine the beauty of nature with community spirit, unforgettable photo opportunities, live entertainment, sunflower-themed markets and produce, delicious food, and meaningful fundraising.

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

1 – 3 May: Koroit Irish Festival in Victoria. A lively southwest Victoria festival celebrating Koroit's Irish heritage with music, dance, parades, family fun and country charm.

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

1 – 3 May: Festival of the Outback Skies in Hughenden, Queensland. Featuring an array of entertainment appealing to a diverse audience – live music, dinner under the stars, workshops and art, a bull ride and raft race

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

1 – 3 May: Grampians Grape Escape in Victoria. set in the heart of the stunning Grampians National Park (Gariwerd), Grampians Grape Escape is a celebration of Western Victoria's finest wine, food, and music.

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

1 – 4 May: Barcaldine Tree of Knowledge Festival in Queensland. The festival showcases the community spirit and history of Barcaldine and Outback Queensland. The Barcaldine Tree of Knowledge is a historical attraction that is known as the birthplace of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) and influences the longest-running May Day Parade. Live entertainment, markets, horse and goat racing, Barcy RevFest, May Day parade and other special themed events.

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

2 – 3 May: Gatton Heavy Horse Field Days & Heritage Festival in Queensland. Working exhibitions and displays of heavy horses in action, Beautiful and decorated harness, displays, working team ploughing, obstacle courses, breed judging and ridden events in dressage and barrel racing, farriers' shoeing competition, craft demonstrations and breed displays.

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

2 – 3 May: Great Trentham Spudfest in Victoria. Festival brings together our local potato growers, talented artisans, and mouth-watering food vendors to share their goods, their stories, and their love of all things spud.

<https://www.trenthamspudfest.org.au/>

2 – 3 May: Bickley Harvest Festival in Western Australia. A vibrant celebration of the valley's finest wine, cider, spirits, and local produce.

<https://bickleyharvestfestival.com/>

2 – 3 May: Moondyne Festival in Western Australia. Celebrates Moondyne Joe, the Avon Valley's legendary bushranger. Dress in pioneer period costume, watch the re-enactment of Moondyne Joe's various arrests, mock trials, and escapes. Entertainment though the day, with artisan and heritage crafts, food stalls and loads of activities including a moustache competition.

<https://moondynefestival.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.

Mapping the Unknown: Blank Spaces on Early Australian Maps

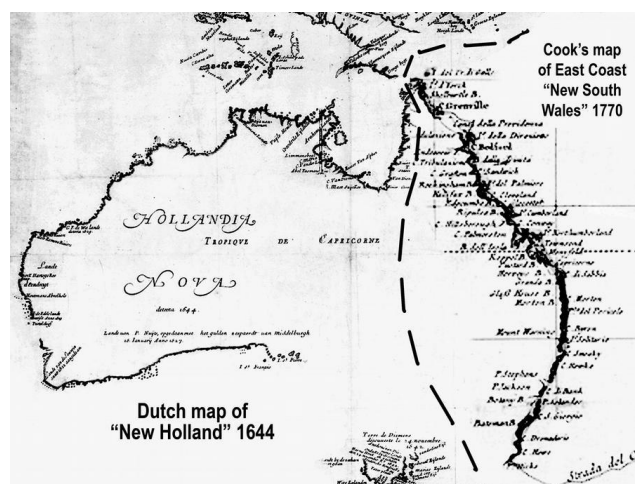
Maps have always been windows to the world, guiding explorers, shaping settlements, and reflecting humanity's evolving understanding of the planet. Just as a single map can never capture the vastness of the oceans, Australia's story on maps unfolds as a long and fascinating journey. For thousands of years, much of the continent remained a mystery. Early maps offered only hints of a southern land, based on conjecture rather than actual exploration.

One of the earliest European depictions of Australia comes from the Dieppe maps, created by French cartographers around 1522. These maps, however, were based on second-hand reports and speculative information rather than actual exploration. The Dieppe maps are notable for their artistic embellishments and imaginative elements, which included mythical creatures and fantastical coastlines. In the exploration of Australia, these early maps are a testament to the limited knowledge and creative speculation that characterised European views of the world at the time.

To European mapmakers, Australia was defined as much by what was unknown as by what had been discovered. Coastlines traced by navigators gradually appeared on maps with increasing accuracy and confidence. The British era of exploration in Australia began in earnest in the late 18th century.

Captain James Cook, a British explorer, mapped large sections of the coastline during his voyages, most notably producing the *Chart of the South Coast of New Holland* in 1770. Cook reached the southern coast of New South Wales in 1770 and sailed north, charting Australia's eastern coastline and claiming the land for Great Britain on 22nd August 1770. This map accurately depicted the eastern coast, including Botany Bay and the Great Barrier Reef, marking a significant advance over speculative earlier maps.

In 1770, Cook sailed aboard the HMS *Endeavour*, meticulously mapping the east coast, claiming it for Great Britain, and naming it New South Wales. His maps were remarkably precise and represented a major step forward from the often-imaginative maps of earlier centuries.



Later, the Freycinet Map, drawn by Louis de Freycinet and published in 1811, became the first map to depict the entire continent. Released in Paris three years before Matthew Flinders' *Terra Australis or Australia*, the Freycinet map showed Australia's full contours for the first time.



Yet beyond the narrow coastal fringe lay a vast, largely unrecorded interior—often left blank, sometimes marked with speculation, and occasionally filled with hopeful guesses about what might lie within. These empty spaces were not mere oversights; they reflected the genuine limits of European knowledge at the time. For explorers and surveyors, the inland was immense, often harsh, and rarely forgiving. Early expeditions led by figures such as Charles Sturt and Thomas Mitchell ventured into these blank spaces in search of rivers, fertile land, and, in some cases, the imagined inland sea. Their journeys were arduous, shaped by extreme heat, scarce water, and the sheer scale of the continent.

One of the earliest European depictions of Australia comes from the Dieppe maps, created by French cartographers around 1522. These maps relied on second-hand reports rather than direct exploration and were notable for their artistic embellishments, including mythical creatures, serpentine rivers, and fantastical coastlines. They reveal not only the limits of knowledge but also the creativity and speculation that characterised early European understandings of the world.



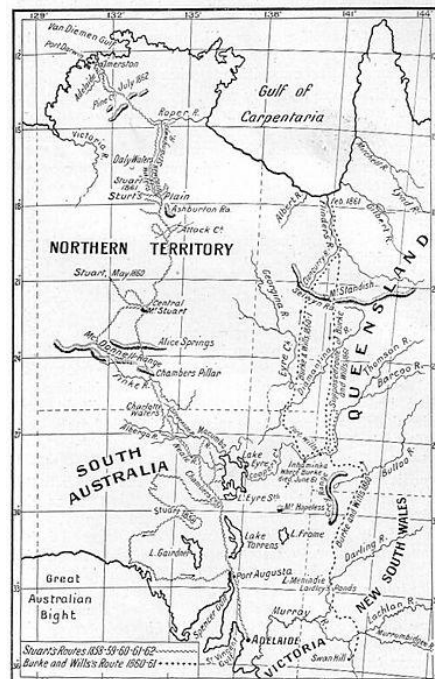
Dieppe Map of the World

Maps from the early 1800s often reveal as much about European hopes as they do about reality. In the absence of reliable information, cartographers sometimes filled interior blank spaces with plausible features—vast lakes, mountain ranges, or rivers that might connect the continent's heart to its coasts. The idea of an inland sea persisted for decades, fuelled by reports of

seasonal flooding and large river flows in central Australia. Only repeated expeditions gradually disproved these theories.

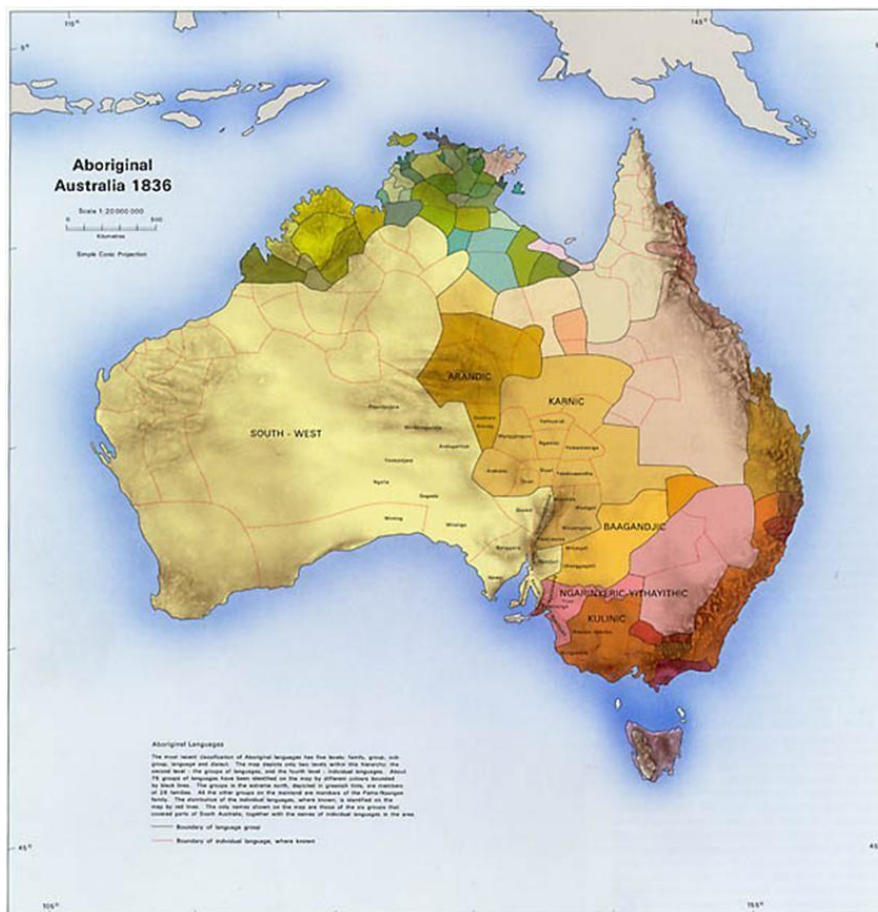
As exploration progressed, these blank spaces began to shrink. During the 19th century, explorers like Charles Sturt advanced European understanding of the interior. In 1827, Sturt mapped the Murray River and its tributaries, providing valuable insights into the inland's geography. His expeditions, including the major 1844 journey into arid central Australia, were among the most challenging of the era. Traversing harsh regions such as the Simpson Desert and Cooper Creek, Sturt's detailed observations contributed significantly to understanding these vast landscapes. Cooper Creek, in particular, provided crucial hydrological information, while his records of the Simpson Desert added considerably to knowledge of the central interior. Sturt's work conclusively disproved the myth of an inland sea, reshaping European perceptions of Australia's heartland.

The ill-fated 1860 expedition of Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills also added important detail to previously uncharted regions. With each journey, the unknown became known—at least from a European perspective. Rivers were charted, ranges named, and tracks recorded, gradually filling the blank spaces with lines, labels, and boundaries. Around the same period, John McDouall Stuart successfully traversed the continent from south to north, mapping a practical route that later guided construction of the Overland Telegraph Line, physically and symbolically connecting the interior to the wider world.



Routes of John McDouall Stuart

Yet this European viewpoint only tells part of the story. Long before Europeans arrived, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples possessed deep knowledge of these landscapes, encoded in songlines, oral histories, and cultural practices. These systems contained vital information about water sources, seasonal patterns, and sacred sites. What appeared “empty” on colonial maps was, in reality, intricately navigated and richly understood country. Songlines served both practical and spiritual purposes, guiding travellers across vast distances while embedding cultural knowledge and law into the land itself.



Mapping the interior required both measurement and interpretation. Surveyors relied on compasses, sextants, chains, and theodolites, often under extreme conditions, to translate the physical world into paper representations. Errors were inevitable, and early maps frequently contained distortions that could only be corrected through repeated exploration. Even so, every line drawn represented progress—an incremental step toward understanding a continent that resisted easy definition.

The blank spaces also reflected European imagination. Beyond practical cartography, early maps often included fantastical rivers, imagined mountain

ranges, and inland seas. These features illustrate how much of exploration was guided by theory, hope, and human curiosity, alongside observation. At times, imagined features shaped subsequent expeditions, as explorers sought to confirm or disprove the supposed inland seas or river networks depicted on earlier maps.

The process of exploration and mapping also influenced colonial development. Maps guided the placement of pastoral stations, roads, and telegraph lines, gradually enabling settlement in regions once thought inhospitable. They became tools of both knowledge and power, shaping perceptions of Australia's interior and supporting European expansion.

Today, these early maps offer a window into a time when uncertainty was part of the adventure. Blank spaces invited imagination, and exploration was as much about what might be discovered as what was already known. In contrast to today's precise digital mapping, with satellite imagery and real-time navigation, these historical maps convey possibility, curiosity, and human persistence. They are also historical artifacts, reflecting politics, culture, and European perspectives of the time. Museums and collectors study them not just for geography, but for insight into the ambitions, fears, and creative interpretations of early explorers.

They tell stories of journeys into the unknown, landscapes that revealed themselves slowly, and the enduring desire to push beyond the limits of knowledge. Within those empty spaces, we can see both the limits of early understanding and the enduring human drive to uncover the world. They are reminders that maps are never neutral—they capture both knowledge and imagination, truth and aspiration.

Even today, modern cartography continues this tradition. Satellite imagery, GPS, and digital mapping have made "blank" spaces nearly impossible, yet the fascination with the unknown persists. Historical maps remind us that exploration is not merely the act of seeing, but the act of interpreting, imagining, and understanding—whether on paper or in the field.



Meridian Mirth

To share your jokes, please send them to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.
Many thanks to Paul and Rob for the contributions!



A billionaire is sitting in a fancy restaurant when a little old wise man comes in and says, "I have a golden lighter. You probably want to buy it, but I warn you immediately, it costs one million dollars."

The billionaire says, "have you lost your mind? A million dollars? That light is not even worth a dollar."

The old wise man proceeds to click the golden lighter, at which point a genie pops out of it and goes, "Sir, what do you wish for?"

Everyone in the restaurant is shocked when the old wise man says, "Genie, bring me a glass of tea with sugar."

The genie claps and with a flash of fire, a glass of tea on a platter, a container of sugar and a spoon appear all as if by magic.

The billionaire rubs his eyes to assure himself on what he just saw. He grabs the lighter and writes the old wise man a check for a million on the spot. The

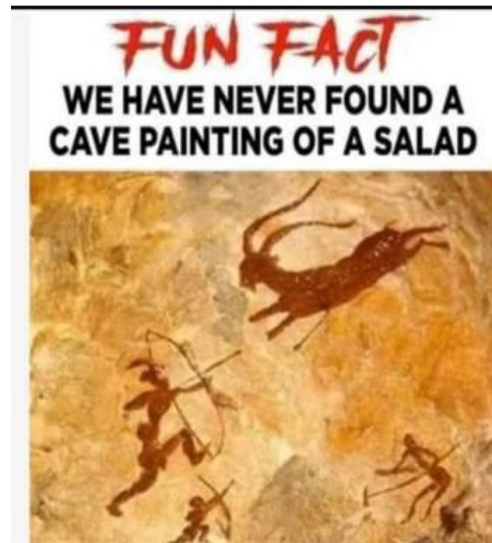
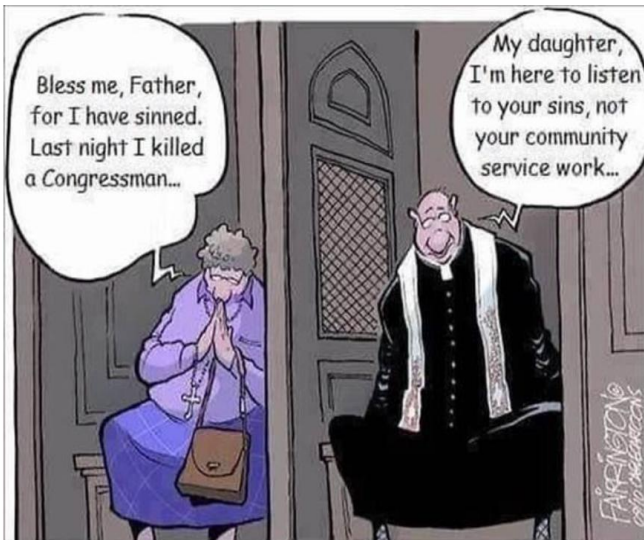


old wise man says, "not so fast. How do I check this is good?" So they both go to the billionaire's bank and have the check cashed, at which point they shake hands and part ways.

The billionaire jumps in his car and is driven home. At home, he sits at the table, looks at the lighter, picks up the lighter and then clicks the lighter. Sure enough, a genie reappears and says, "Sir, what do you wish for?"

The billionaire says, "First, I need you to return me the million dollars that I paid for you. In addition, I need a new yacht, my own private jet, and two Mercedes in my garage."

The genie makes a sad face and goes, "I'm very sorry, sir. I can only serve you tea or coffee. Do you want sugar with that?"



A former sergeant in the marine corps took a new job as a high school teacher.

Just before the new year started, 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 wasn't noticeable.

On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school. The students having already heard that their new teacher was a former marine were wary of him and he knew that they would be 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 a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Dead silence....

The rest of the year went very smoothly.



Today I'm doing
nothing because
I started doing
it yesterday and
I wasn't finished.

I'm no quitter.

The Fine Print

At The Meridian Line

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