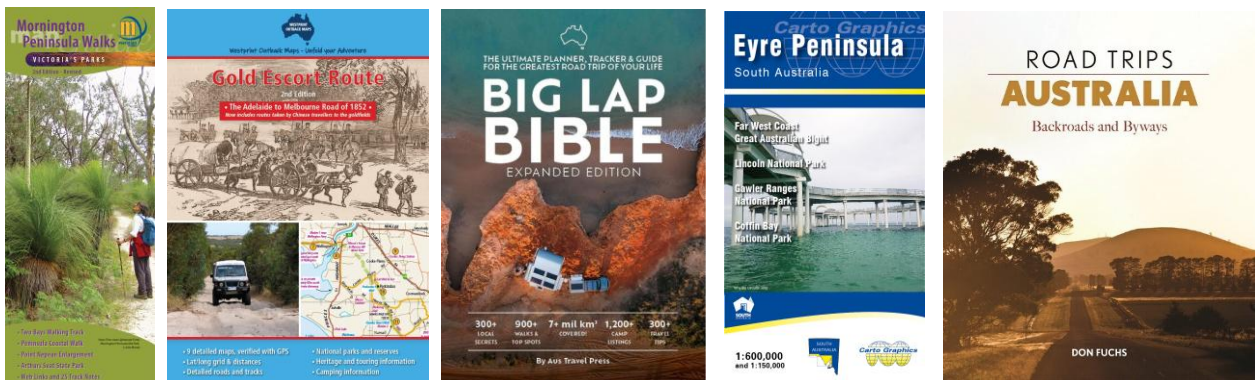




The Meridian Line - Sunday 11.10.2026

“Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt.” – John Muir

Focus on Five



Mornington Peninsula Walks Map Guide – from \$11.95

Escape the hustle and bustle of Melbourne and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the Mornington Peninsula National Park. Stretching along the wild ocean coastline from Portsea to Flinders, this spectacular park is a favourite destination for both locals and visitors. This detailed, double-sided map covers Mornington Peninsula National Park, Point Nepean, and Arthurs Seat State Park. It features the entire Two Bays Walking Track from Dromana to Cape Schanck, as well as The Coastal Walk from Cape Schanck to Portsea — a breathtaking two-day journey along dramatic cliffs, lush coastal vegetation and stunning ocean views. It's an adventure you'll never forget. The map highlights popular tourist sites, wineries, picnic spots and walking trails, with 25 detailed walking track notes to help plan your visit. You'll also find fascinating information on coastal formations, park history, and local attractions. This latest edition includes updated details for the Two Bays Walk, Bay and Coastal Trails, and current camping and cycling information for Point Nepean National Park. Whether you're a bushwalker, day-tripper or holidaymaker, it's the perfect companion for exploring this incredible region.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/mornington-peninsula-walks-map-guide/>

Gold Escort Route – \$32.95

The Gold Escort Route between Adelaide and Castlemaine is amongst the oldest interstate roads in Australia and possibly the oldest and most original that can still be travelled. Following the Gold Escort Route introduces travellers to the first direct route between Adelaide and Melbourne.

The route follows station tracks used by pioneer settlers in the mid-1840s when there were no maps, few sign posts and water was unreliable. The huge Mount Alexander gold rush in Victoria resulted in the establishment of the South Australian Gold Escort Route used to transport miners' gold back to Adelaide. This track was used by the Gold Escort Service for two years but continued to be used as the Adelaide-Melbourne Road for another 70 years. Some of the tracks in the Little Desert date from 1845 for European use and may well date back for thousands of years for Aboriginal use. Parts have never been maintained by tractor or grader.

Road surfaces vary from bitumen highways to deep sandy tracks suitable only for high clearance 4wd vehicles. Maps show alternative tracks for use where the original Gold Escort Route no longer exists as well as options and warnings for wet weather use.

The Gold Escort Service used different tracks depending on the weather and risk of bushrangers. These are shown so that modern travellers can vary their trips between Wellington and Castlemaine exploring different sections of the Gold Escort Route each time.

This revised second edition now includes additional information and maps showing the routes taken by Chinese people as they walked overland from Robe in South Australia to the Victorian goldfields.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/gold-escort-route/>

Big Lap Bible – Expanded Version \$99.95.

This new edition is the ultimate planner, tracker and guide for Australia's greatest road trip. Developed through conversations with hundreds of tourism organisations, locals and travellers, this refreshed edition provides practical advice, regional insights and timeless travel knowledge to help you plan your journey with confidence. Covering everything from preparation and route planning to regional highlights, camping options, travel conditions and local secrets, the Big Lap Bible helps you create an itinerary that suits your style of travel. Each region of Australia features must-sees, must-dos, hidden gems and practical information, supported by regional maps to make planning easier. With dedicated planning pages, trackers and a travel diary, the Big Lap Bible becomes a companion throughout your adventure — helping you

organise your trip, record your progress and capture memories along the way. It also includes access to over 300 travel discounts, making it an essential resource for anyone planning to explore Australia by road.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/big-lap-bible-expanded/>

Eyre Peninsula Map – from \$9.95

Explore Eyre Peninsula, South Australia with our detailed Carto Graphics touring map at 1:600,000 scale. This map showcases major and minor roads, national parks, conservation areas, hill shading, distance chart, town index, and more. Flip it over to find an extension of the Far West Coast to the Western Australia border (Nullarbor Plain) and detailed 1:150,000 scale maps of key national parks like Lincoln, Coffin Bay, and Gawler Ranges. Your essential guide for comprehensive exploration.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/eyre-peninsula-map/>

Road Trips Australia – ~~RRP \$44.95~~ – Sale Price \$36.95

Australia is perfectly suited to adventurous road trips. An immense network of highways, unsealed tracks and back roads stretches across the vast landscape, linking remarkable national parks with character-filled country towns. From sweeping coastlines and dense forests to the wide, open reaches of the outback, much of the continent is accessible to those prepared to explore. All it takes is a reliable SUV or four-wheel drive, camping equipment, sound navigation skills, a measure of common sense — and, of course, time. Yet adventure does not always require heading into the most remote corners of the country. Many of the journeys featured in this book unfold in more settled and accessible regions, proving that discovery can be found closer to home. Often, the unexpected lies just beyond the next bend. Wherever the road leads, few experiences rival the freedom of travelling beyond the main highways. An adventurous journey along lesser-known roads offers the perfect antidote to the pace of city living and the routines of suburban life.

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

Meridian Musings

In the Victorian Central Highlands there is a large regrowth forest known as the Wombat State Forest. It has been utilised for timber since the goldrush days of the 1850's. Home to a range of vulnerable species such as the Powerful Owl, the Greater Glider and the Wombat Bush-pea, environmental groups including Wombat Forestcare have been pushing for its greater protection for over 15 years. In March 2023 the Victorian Environmental Assessment

Council (VEAC) was tasked with reviewing the status of the Victorian parks system in the Central Highland from Bendigo in the east to Ararat in the west. As a result of the review the Victorian Government has now implemented the findings and a range of new parks have come into existence:

- Wombat-Lerderderg National Park
- Pyrenees National Park
- Mount Buangor National Park
- Cobaw Conservation Park
- Hepburn Conservation Park
- Bendigo Regional Park
- Barkstead Regional Park
- Fingerpost Regional Park
- Blackwood Regional Park
- Spargo Creek Regional Park
- Hepburn Regional Park

For more information on these parks go to:

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/southwest-victoria/central-west-transition>

This will mean we be updating the following maps:

- Wombat State Forest 4WD Touring Map
- The Pyrenees Touring Map

Updates are underway on both these maps and are expected to be available in the near future.

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/>

More details are available from:

<https://dit.sa.gov.au/outbackroads>
<https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/travel-information/driving-in-wa/roadworks-closures/>

<https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/>
<https://www.livetraffic.com/>
<https://roadreport.nt.gov.au/>

WA

Victoria Pass is currently closed on the Great Western Highway between Mount Victoria and Little Hartley. All highway traffic between Mount Victoria and Lithgow is detoured via the Darling Causeway and Chifley Road. Road is expected to reopen in the second quarter of next year.

SA

Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park:

Public Access Route 13 Halligan Bay Point – open

Public Access Route 2 Level Post Bay–Closed for safety purposes due to flood damage

Tallaringa Conservation Park: Public Access Route 6 Tallaringa– Open to 4WD.

Innaminka Regional Reserve and Malkumba Coongie Lakes National Park and significant parts of Innamincka Regional Reserve are closed until further notice due to a major flooding event. [Details](#)

Witjira National Park Open: Witjira National Park – Open

Dalhousie Campground – Open

Three O’Clock Creek Campground –Open

Dalhousie Campground to Purni Bore – Open

The Dalhousie airstrip – Closed

Pedirka Track (on park) — Closed

Bloods Creek Ruin to Federal Waterhole Track – Closed

Binns Track – Open

Public Access Route Number 8 Pedirka – Open to 4WD

Public Access Route 13 Halligan Bay Point – OPEN

Public Access Route 2 Level Post Bay–Closed for safety purposes due to flood damage

Munga-Thirri – Simpson Desert National Park Open.

Birdsville Track - Mungeranie to Cooper Creek

Closed due to deep scours and washouts. Open to local 4WD and essential traffic only under exemptions.

Strzelecki Track – Innamincka to Della/Dullingari Rd Junction, Merty Merty to Mt Hopeless, Moomba to Merty Merty, Mt Hopeless to Talc Mine Rd, Talc Mine Rd to Lyndhurst - open to 4WD/HV only.

Strzelecki Track - Della/Dullingari Rd junction to Moomba
No access west towards Moomba (Della Rd) due to flooding and severe damage. No services at Moomba. It is necessary to make alternative travel plans for the foreseeable future.

Riecks Rd - Merty Merty to Cameron Corner
Road is impassable to all vehicles due to severe washouts and scouring through sandhills.

Cordillo Downs Road - Arrabury turn off to SA/QLD Border
Please exercise care and adjust speed to suit road conditions.

Mt Hopeless Rd - Mt Hopeless to Balcanoona via Moolawatana
4WD only, no towing. Use caution: rough, sharp gutters, wheel-rutted sections and bulldust holes. Heavy silt, sand & debris creeks. HVs only between MM60-MM105

Oodnadatta Track – Bopeechee to Marree, Marla to Oodnadatta, Oodnadatta to William Creek, William Creek to Bopeechee – currently open to 4WD.
Use caution at creek crossings and floodways, some are rough and have uneven surfaces. Use caution at flagged sections due to scouring and wheel rutting.

William Creek Rd - Coober Pedy to William Creek
Use caution at flagged section due to scouring and wheel rutting.

NSW

Westwood Downs to Border Downs Sanpah Road between Borona Downs Road and Jounie Road – Road Closed in both directions

Hewart Downs Road between Cameron Corner Road and Waka Road – Road Closed in both directions.

NT

Santa Teresa Road between Mac Clark Park T/O and Old Andado Homestead is closed due to road damage.

Sandover Highway - Ammaroo Elkedra Boundary to Austral Downs closed due to damage road surface.

What's On

30 October – 1 November: Reynoldson Reserve Wildflower Festival in Wongan Hills, Western Australia. Starts with a Sundowner on the Friday evening with food, drinks, and live entertainment. Then continues on the Saturday with market stalls, wildflower displays, an art exhibition, bus tours to Reynoldson Reserve, a stargazing & astrophotography excursion, botanical talks, books, rides & activities for the kids, plus lots more.

<https://wongantourism.com.au/reynoldson-reserve-wildflower-festival/>

31 October - 1 November: New England Garden Festival and Spring Garden Trail in Armidale NSW. Guest presenters, market stalls, food vendors, workshops, Naturehood Picnic activities for children, live bands and more to keep the whole family having a blooming great time.

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

3 November: Noonamah Frog Races in Noonamah NT. Join us at the Noonamah Tavern for a truly Territorian take on Melbourne Cup Day with the much-loved Noonamah Frog Races! This laid-back, fun-filled event features live Green Tree Frog auctions, with frogs racing for glory – and all for a great cause. Proceeds go to Variety NT, CareFlight, and the lucky owners of the winning frogs! Watch the race that stops the nation on the big screen! Dress to impress for your chance to win – race day style is a must. Enjoy Live music by Camp Dog and a festive atmosphere all day.

<https://northernterritory.com/darwin-and-surrounds/events/noonamah--frog-races-and-melbourne-cup-day>

6 – 15 November: The Lakes Festival on the Central Coast NSW. A 10 day celebration of waterways across the Central Coast to enjoy exciting family-friendly activities, cultural and educational programs hosted by local organisations and businesses. A great opportunity for everyone to get out and about, rediscover places right and celebrate the diverse lakes and waterways.

<https://www.lovecentralcoast.com/lakesfestival>

6 – 8 November: Millicent Show in Millicent SA. Get set for three big days of rides, food, entertainment, animals and country tradition! Take a thrill-seeking ride, explore the displays and exhibits, or simply wander the grounds and soak up the atmosphere. For well over a century, the Millicent Show has proudly celebrated our district's agricultural heritage, community spirit and the people who make our Show what it is today.

<https://millicentshow.com/>

7 November: Pemberton Avocado Festival in Western Australia. One-day celebration of food, fun, and the flourishing avocado industry at the heart of

the Southern Forests & Valleys. Experience the region like never before - from smoky BBQs and avo-inspired gourmet feasts to live music, local produce, wellness, and family friendly fun.

<https://www.pembyavofest.com/>

7 – 8 November: Bundarra Garden Festival in NSW. Lots to see and do, gorgeous gardens, plenty of food, stalls and good old fashioned country hospitality. Includes tour of local open gardens (including new gardens and returning favorites with new projects).

<https://regionaleventsguide.com.au/event/bundarra-garden-festival/>

12-15 November: Rainbow on the Plains Festival in Hay NSW. The Rainbow on the Plains is a festival of fun, support, inclusion and celebration of LGBTQIA+ community, people from culturally diverse communities and anyone who loves to celebrate inclusion.

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

14 November: Parndada Show & Field Day on Kangaroo island in SA. Entertainment for the whole family. Showcasing the best in competition from home cooks to farm produce. Horses in action, shearing competition, animal nursery, show bags & rides

<https://parndanashow.com/>

14 November: Bordertown Spring Festival & Show in Bordertown SA. Step forth into a realm of merriment and marvel at the Bordertown Spring Festival & Show — a grand gathering filled with all the revelry of a traditional country fair, reimagined in true medieval spirit!

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

Do you have a story?

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

Thank you to Nick Barker who agreed to let us re-use this great story below on his Border Track trip posted on the facebook **SA/Vic 4x4 Border Track Info...** page. Pictures are Nick's or his fellow travellers.

If you have stories to tell of your trips or experiences or want to know about some interesting facet of Australia and its past, please let us know. Everyone loves a good story, especially from fellow readers.

Doing the Border Track from the Murray to the Sea

We finally got around to doing the whole Border Track from the Murray to the ocean last weekend, rather than just the well-known section south of Pinnaroo.

Before we went, I tried to find some decent information on doing the entire route, particularly realistic driving times and whether it could sensibly be done from Adelaide in a long weekend. There really wasn't much out there, so I thought I'd put our experience up for anyone considering doing the same thing.

And if there's one thing I took away from it, it's this: the sections north and south of the famous Border Track are every bit as good as the bit everyone knows about. Do the whole thing and it becomes much more than a 4WD track – it becomes a proper mission.

The idea came from reading ***The Disputed Country*** by Bob Dunn, and we basically followed the recommended route and mapping in the book. There were 3 of us, me in my slightly spicy Jimny and two mates in a stock standard work spec triton ute (2026).

Day 1 – Adelaide to the Murray, then Pinnaroo

We left Adelaide early and drove approximately 3½ hours to the Customs House car park on the Murray, arriving in time to start the actual border route at around 10am.

From there we spent roughly seven hours on the route, reaching Pinnaroo at around 5pm. So Day 1 was about 10½ hours from Adelaide to Pinnaroo, including the run up to the Murray.

The route starts off pretty tame on fast dirt roads, but that doesn't last long. The further south we went, the more it turned into proper 4WD country.



Northern section of the Border Track

By the end of the day I'd say probably 70% of what we'd driven was genuine 4WD track, with some decent dune climbs, bog holes and increasingly interesting terrain. The Jimny needed a couple of goes at a few of the dunes, although that was mostly me being cautious and trying to crawl things that needed a little more 'send it'.

The scenery was fantastic too. Wildflowers were everywhere and, with everything so green, it was a brilliant time to be travelling through that country. Only saw 1 other 4wd on the whole track this day.

Honestly, the northern section was every bit as enjoyable as the famous Border Track further south.

Day 2 – Pinnaroo to Bordertown

We got going at about 9am and tackled the well-known Pinnaroo–Bordertown section.

Most people already know this bit, so I won't labour the point. Bigger dunes, plenty of whoops and mud holes, although most of the really questionable stuff can be avoided if you aren't specifically looking to get bogged.



Sandy track in the central section between Pinaroo and Bordertown

It's a great section of track, but it was also noticeably busier than everything either side of it. Lots of groups and plenty of waiting around as some groups decided to stop on the track, block it and take photos/film TikTok's or whatever....



Dunes in the central section between Pinaroo and Bordertown

This was actually our shortest day, finishing at around 4:30pm – about 7½ hours travelling.

Day 3 – Bordertown to the ocean

We started at about 8am, and this was probably the biggest surprise of the trip.



Serviceton Historic Station

South of Bordertown the route changes character completely. Through Little Desert we hit heaps of bog holes, flooded claypans and sections where the track had basically turned into a lake. We'd go from sand dunes straight onto wet clay and then back into sand again.

In places it was actually more technical than the famous section.



Frances General Store

The stock Triton eventually managed to get itself hung up on its diff and had to be snatched by the Suzuki 😂.

There was generally no reason to be silly about the water though. Where the track had disappeared under a large amount of it, we went around. At one point the country was so sodden that even the exit route looked questionable, so we rerouted rather than burying a vehicle just for the sake of saying we'd driven through it.

From there the landscape changed again.

We came out into farmland and the route became a mixture of 4WD tracks, dirt roads and occasional bitumen. Some of the tracks through the long grass were barely visible and you found yourself slowly feeling your way along, working out where the route actually went.



Southern section of Border Track

Dismal Swamp lived up to its name. We drove probably 100 m into one flooded section before deciding discretion was the better part of valour and reversing the Jimny all the way back out. We ended up going around what was probably only about 400 m of track, but flooding the Jimny wasn't really on the itinerary.

Then it changed yet again.

Once we got into the forestry country the roads became fast and sandy – Ranger Raptor territory – and that continued as we headed towards the coast.



Southern section between pine plantations

Eventually we reached the beach near Piccaninnie Ponds. There's a beach access and creek crossing and a short beach run to get right down to the border, but both were straightforward when we were there.

At about 4:30pm we reached the ocean, roughly 8½ hours after leaving Bordertown.

And suddenly that was it. We'd started beside the Murray and followed the SA/Vic border south through mallee, sand dunes, mud, wildflowers, flooded claypans, farmland, swamps and pine plantations until we'd literally run out of Australia at the Southern Ocean.



Entering the beach near Piccaninnie Ponds

There was a genuine sense of achievement standing there. It felt less like we'd spent three days four-wheel-driving and more like we'd been on a very low-budget Top Gear adventure.



End of the trip

From there we headed back to Penola for the night, leaving us with nothing more than the drive home to Adelaide the following day. Again only saw 1 other vehicle, ironically a cop in a Ford Ranger fangling it northbound who very nearly collected me at a slight rise in the track....

For anyone planning to do the whole route, our actual timings were:

Day 1: Adelaide → Customs House → Pinnaroo

Approx. 10½ hours total, including about 3½ hours Adelaide to the Murray and 7 hours on the route.

Day 2: Pinnaroo → Bordertown

Approx. 7½ hours, 9am–4:30pm.

Day 3: Bordertown → Southern Ocean

Approx. 8½ hours, 8am–4:30pm.

Day 4: Penola → Adelaide

Just the drive home.

We averaged roughly 30 km/h while actually travelling the route. Based on that, I'd say 3½ days from Adelaide is quite achievable if you keep moving and aren't stopping every five minutes specifically trying to get bogged. Four days would be more comfortable and give you more time to stop and look around. We did actually plan on doing it over 4 days, hence the Penola accommodation but made such good progress on the 3rd day that we decided to go for broke and finish it.

You don't need a 'game changer' vehicle either. We had basic recovery gear – a winch would be pretty useless on a lot of the track as there is not much to winch from – snatch straps for the win. We ran about 15 psi in the Jimny and 20 psi in the Triton, and the Triton was completely stock.

Obviously, conditions will make a big difference – particularly after rain – so our times are only a guide. But they're the sort of information I was looking for before we went and couldn't really find.

And if you've done the Pinnaroo–Bordertown section and assumed you've seen the best of the Border Track, I'd seriously consider going back and doing the lot. The northern section is every bit as good. The southern section is every bit as good. They're just different.

If you would like more information regarding travelling the Border Track you can look at the following resources:

The Disputed Country – Bob Dunn

Book on how and why the VIC/SA border is where it is – includes maps from the Murray to the sea.

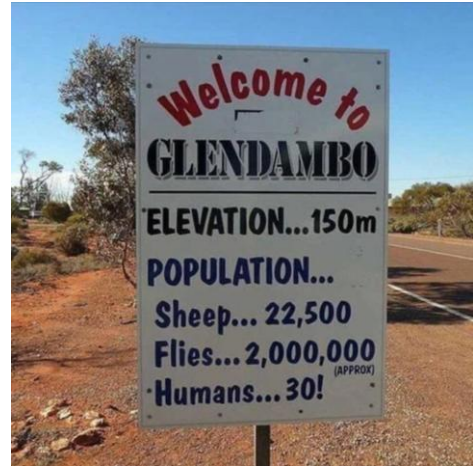
<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/disputed-country/>

The Disputed Country Book and Map Pack (inc *Victoria's Deserts 4WD Touring Map* by Meridian Maps).

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/disputed-country-map-pack/>

Meridian Mirth

To share your jokes, please send them to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.
Many thanks to our readers for these contributions!



The Defence Secretary in a briefing to Trump:

Sir, There has been a major terrorist attack in Chennia, India.

36 Tamillians have been killed.

Trump is silent. His lips quiver.

His hands shiver, his eyes well up. He is unable to speak.

The Defence Secretary is stunned

He never imaged that this event could affect him so badly.

After a few minutes, in a trembling voice, Trump ask.

“So how many millions are there in one tamillion?”



Australian sayings the world does not understand

1. "Just down the road"

Anywhere from 2 minutes to 2 hours.

2. "A couple"

Two... or whatever number feels reasonable.

3. "In a minute"

Not immediately. Possibly not today.

4. "A bit warm"

The steering wheel is melting.

5. "Bit chilly"

Anything below 20°C.

6. "Not far"

Pack snacks and fill the petrol tank.

7. "Around the corner"

There may be several corners.

8. "I'll be there shortly"

I haven't left the house yet.

9. "Just one drink"

No reliable measurement currently exists.

10. "Not bad"

This is the highest form of Australian praise

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/>

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