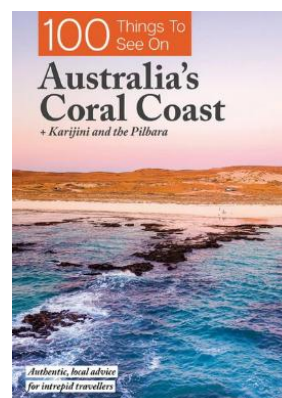
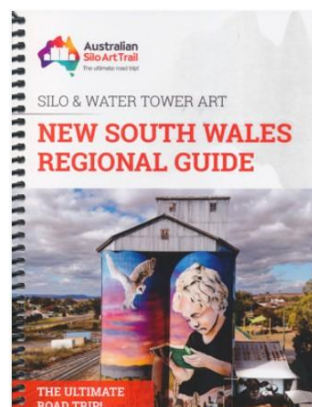
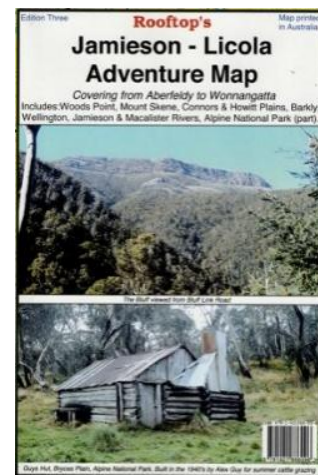
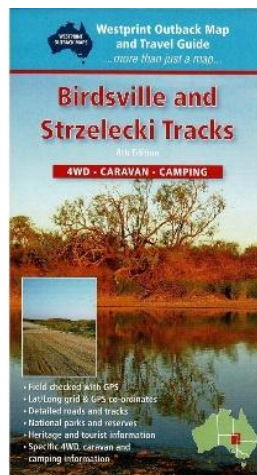




## The Meridian Line - Sunday 16.03.2025

**"I invite everyone to choose forgiveness rather than division, teamwork over personal ambition." — Jean-Francois Cope**



### ***Mornington Peninsula Walks Map Guide – from \$10.95***

Leave the busy streets of Melbourne behind and immerse yourself in the stunning landscapes of Mornington Peninsula National Park. Stretching from Portsea to Flinders, this coastal haven is a favourite escape 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 trek that takes you along dramatic cliffs, through lush coastal bushland, and past sweeping ocean views. Packed with essential details, this map highlights must-see attractions, wineries, picnic spots, and walking trails, plus 25 detailed track notes. You'll also discover fascinating insights into coastal formations, park history, and more. This edition includes the latest updates on the Two Bays Walk, Bay and Coastal Trails, as well as camping and cycling information for Point Nepean National Park.

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

### ***Birdsville & Strzelecki Tracks – from \$14.95***

Explore the breathtaking landscapes and remote attractions of outback Australia with the Birdsville & Strzelecki Tracks Map from Westprint Maps. Covering the vast stretch from Betoota in the north, through Birdsville, and down to Marree, this map also includes key routes from Birdsville to Innamincka and Cameron Corner to Tibooburra—an iconic gateway to this rugged region north of Broken Hill. Designed for outback adventurers, this map provides detailed road and track information, GPS coordinates, distances, fuel stops, and camping areas, making it the perfect companion for those traveling by 4WD or on foot. The map features clear symbols referencing detailed descriptions on the reverse side, offering insights into points of interest, local history, and the region's unique flora and fauna. You'll also find essential travel tips, including safety advice, trip planning guidance, and contact details for local services and emergency assistance. With GPS coordinates for the legendary Birdsville Track—once an infamous outback challenge but now a well-travelled 4WD route—this map is an indispensable guide for anyone looking to explore this iconic part of Australia.

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

### ***Jamieson-Licola Adventure Map - from \$12.95***

Explore the breathtaking landscapes of the Upper Goulburn, Jamieson, and Licola region like never before with Rooftop's Jamieson & Licola Adventure Map. This 1:100,000 scale map covers the area from Goughs Bay, Jamieson, and the Howqua River in the north to Upper Thomson, Aberfeldy, and Licola in the south. It includes key locations such as Woods Point, Mount Skene, Alpine National Park, and the Macalister and Thomson Rivers, as well as Connors and Howitt Plains, Goughs Bay, Howqua Inlet, Enoch Point, Gaffneys Creek, and more. On the reverse side, a detailed 1:50,000 scale enlargement—the Jamieson–Sheepyard Flat Forest Activities Map—provides enhanced contour details. This section highlights tracks, scenic reserves, and historic sites,

including The Bastards Neck, Caledonia River Track, High Cone, Lickhole Creek Walking Track, Mt Darling, Mitchells Homestead, Mt Skene Scenic Reserve, Bluff Hut, Mount Lovick, King Billy No.1, and parts of the Alpine Walking Track. All national parks, reserves, and state forests are clearly marked, with GPS-accurate roads and tracks, making this an essential map for hikers, 4WD explorers, and outdoor enthusiasts.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/jamieson-licola-map/>

### ***Silo Art Trail – NSW Regional Guide - \$24.95***

Discover the vibrant world of silo and water tower art across regional New South Wales with this essential guide. Showcasing 53 stunning silos, water towers, and street art murals, this compact and handy guide is the perfect companion for exploring the Australia Silo Art Trail.

Whether you're a road trip enthusiast or an art lover, this book will lead you to some of the most breathtaking outdoor artworks in the state, turning your journey into a visual adventure.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/silo-art-trail-nsw/>

### ***100 Things to See on Australia's Coral Coast - \$29.95***

Discover the best-kept secrets of Tropical North Queensland with this insider's guide to the region's most breathtaking destinations. From ancient rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef to remote outback adventures, this book uncovers the true magic of the far north—far beyond the usual tourist trails. Written by travel journalist Catherine Lawson and featuring stunning photography by David Bristow, this guide is shaped by more than 20 years of exploration—on foot, by 4WD, train, bike, and even aboard their sailing yacht, *Storyteller*. Inside, you'll find 100 unforgettable experiences, including hidden swimming holes, ancient rock art sites, and incredible wilderness escapes. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a seasoned traveller, this book will inspire you to see Tropical North Queensland like a local.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/100-things-coral-coast/>

## Meridian Musings

We've been working behind the scenes to enhance your shopping experience, making it easier than ever to find and purchase your favourite products. Here's what's new:

- ✓ Clearer Navigation: We've added subcategories (e.g., Books → Cookbooks) to help you find what you need faster.
- ✓ Simplified Menu: Maps is now Products, giving you a more intuitive browsing experience.
- ✓ Improved Cart Visibility: A number indicator now appears on the Cart icon, so you can easily see when you have items awaiting checkout.
- ✓ Smarter Search: Our search function now includes product names, descriptions, and even partial words, ensuring better results.
- ✓ More Organized Search Results: We've refined the layout so you can quickly spot the products you're looking for.
- ✓ Promo Code Update: When we run special promotions, you'll now see "Promo Code" instead of "Coupon Code" at checkout.
- ✓ Clearer Order Replies: Order confirmations and updates will now come from Meridian Maps instead of a generic "My Company" name.
- ✓ Newsletter Page: Now easier to access and download past copies.

We'd love your feedback! If you have any suggestions for further improvements, please email us at [sales@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:sales@meridianmaps.com.au)—we're always looking for ways to make your experience even better.

Happy exploring!

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

If you are looking for something to do this weekend, March 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. Come and visit us at the Outdoor Living and Caravan Expo this weekend at Mornington Racecourse! We'll be at Site 94, ready to chat about all things outdoor adventure, travel, and maps. Whether you're planning your next road trip or just looking for inspiration, we'd love to see you there!

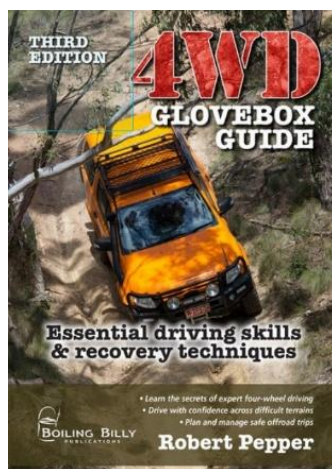
<https://www.outdoorlivingcaravanexpo.com.au/mornington/>

## What's New To The Website

Always trying to find new and exciting products to add to the website! Have a product you'd love to see? Let us know! We're always open to suggestions.

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

This easy-to-follow reference is a must-have for all four-wheel drive owners, covering the essential driving and recovery techniques you need to navigate any terrain with confidence. Designed for practicality, this guide features a rugged cover and spiral binding, making it compact enough for your glovebox yet comprehensive enough to cover everything from 4WD systems, suspension, wheels, and tyres to advanced driving techniques for mud, water, sand, and rock. Learn why steep hills can be the trickiest 4WD challenge and master clear, step-by-step recovery techniques to get yourself out of trouble when needed. Each chapter includes handy checklists to help you prepare for your trip and ensure the safety of both driver and passengers. Whether you're new to off-road adventures or a seasoned explorer, this guide is your go-to resource for safe and skilled 4WD driving.



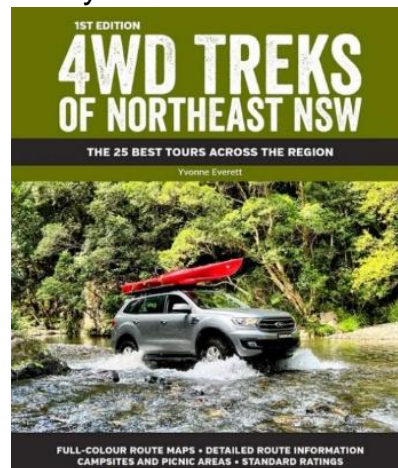
<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/4wd-glovebox-guide/>

### **4WD Treks of Northeast NSW - \$44.95**

Embark on 25 of the best 4WD adventures across Northeast New South Wales, from stunning coastal tracks to rugged trails over the Great Dividing Range. Whether you're looking for a leisurely day trip along the beach or an overnight camping escape to a remote wilderness, this fully field-researched guide is your perfect travel companion. Discover hidden gems only accessible by 4WD—high plateaus with breathtaking views, secluded rainforests with waterfalls, and historic sites like abandoned settlements, mine workings, and timber mills. Alongside the region's classic treks, the author shares their favourite local spots, offering fresh inspiration for those eager to explore



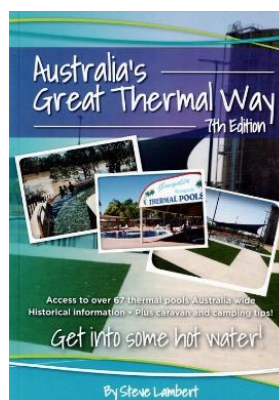
beyond the beaten path. Packed with essential details and expert insights, this book is a must-have for any 4WD enthusiast ready to uncover the wild beauty of Northeast NSW.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/4wd-treks-northeast-nsw/>

### ***Australia's Great Thermal Way - \$34.95***

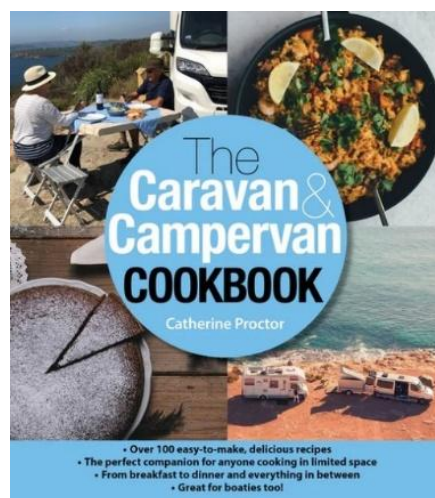
Your ultimate guide to hot springs, bore baths, and natural springs across Australia! With over 67 incredible locations to discover, this book will take you on a journey through soothing, mineral-rich waters from coast to coast. From the serene Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs in Tasmania to the healing waters of Innot Hot Springs in Far North Queensland, this guide covers every must-visit thermal destination. Whether you're venturing west to Perth, Monkey Mia, and El Questro, or exploring the south and east with Moree, Lightning Ridge, Boomi, and the Peninsula Hot Springs, you'll have all the details to plan the perfect hot springs adventure. This 7th Edition also dives into the fascinating history behind Australia's thermal springs, exploring the pioneering efforts and drilling techniques that tapped into these natural wonders. Designed for ease of use, the guide features a user-friendly layout, colour-coded sections, and numerical coding, making navigation a breeze. No matter your destination, this is the perfect travel companion for exploring Australia's most relaxing and rejuvenating natural escapes.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-thermal-way/>

## ***The Caravan & Campervan Cookbook - \$39.95***

From roasts to rissoles, salads to savouries, and dampers to desserts, this cookbook is packed with easy, delicious, and road-friendly recipes to elevate your travel cooking. Whether you're camping in the outback or parked by the beach, these recipes are simple, practical, and made with readily available ingredients—all tested on the road by the authors themselves. Featuring full-colour illustrations, this guide goes beyond just recipes! It also includes essential tips on travel cooking gear, menu planning, and pantry must-haves, ensuring you're well-prepared for every meal on the go. Whether you're a seasoned traveller or just starting out, this is the ultimate companion for cooking in the great outdoors.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/caravan-campervan-cookbook/>

## **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/>

As I write this, the exact extent of damage, flooding and closures from ex tropical cyclone Alfred are being played out. Flood warnings were active from the Sunshine Coast to Lismore. Thousands of homes and businesses were without power in south-east Queensland and northern NSW. Authorities were also wary of potential flooding in south-east Queensland and northern New

South Wales. Even though Brisbane was relatively spared compared to surrounding areas, it still faced heavy rainfall and potential flash floodings. If you have plans to be in these areas in the near future, please be cognisant of the dangers of flood waters and the real possibility that areas are cut off. Please remember to check local websites as closures are likely to change.

The Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation is advising that now is not the time to visit national parks and recreation areas impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Severe weather conditions continue, with gale-force winds, large tides, and ocean swells affecting many island and coastal parks. Entering closed areas is illegal and can result in a \$645 fine. The advice is to stay out of closed parks while Rangers carry out clean-up and repair work as quickly as possible. Check their websites for regular updates.

<https://parks.desi.qld.gov.au/park-alerts>

The Walhalla tramway bridge in Baw Baw National Park is closed due fire and flood damage. An alternative route for hikers is south, via the Walhalla Road Bridge across the Thomas River.

Munga-Thirri Simpson Desert, PAR No 15 K1 Warburton, PAR No 16 Walkers Crossing, PAR No 2 Level Post Bay, PAR No 13 Halligan Bay Point are due to re-open on 16 March 2025. Please check website for latest updates.

<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/desert-parks-bulletin-2>

*Disclaimer: These events were correct at the time they were added to the Meridian Line; however, this may have been some time before the actual event. Please make your own enquiries before travelling to an event.*

## What's On

If you have an event which you would like to see included in the What's section, please send me the details at [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au).

**March 22: Bathurst Bike Show** in Bathurst NSW. A fantastic day for the whole family showcasing bikes of all makes and models, live music, trade stalls, food trucks, club displays and competition bikes, all lining the streets. And it's free!

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

**March 22: Wakool Sheep Races** in Wakool NSW. Event combines the excitement of sheep racing with live music, delicious food, and a vibrant atmosphere.

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



**March 22 -23: Clunes Book Town festival** in Clunes, Victoria. Running from dawn to dusk in the historic township of Clunes in Regional Victoria. A two day festival full of author and artist talks, workshops and live entertainment for the whole family.

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

**March 30: Wimmera Autum Merino Sheep Show** in Horsham, Victoria. This is an event to showcase stud merinos, fleeces and yard dogs at Maydale Reserve at the historic Horsham Showgrounds overlooking the Wimmera River.

<https://www.merinovictoria.com/sales-events/horsham-fabstock-merino-sheep-show-ch93n>

**April 5: 2025 Pyrenees Unearthed Wine & Food Festival** held along the banks of the Avoca River in Victoria. Wine, delicious food, local produce and live entertainment, the Pyrenees Unearthed Festival is a brilliant day out for all ages. Held along the banks of the Avoca River, the event brings together the Pyrenees & Grampians regions' best producers.

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

**April 5: Armidale Autumn Festival** in Armidale, NSW. Showcase of Armidale local talent and autumnal colour. Street parade, including pipe bands, school musicals, school bands, New England Conservatorium of Music, Aboriginal dancers, UNE colleges, Highland dancers, food trucks and entertainment.

<https://www.visitarmidale.com.au/event/armidale-autumn-festival>

**April 5: Nungarin Vintage Rally and Search Light Party 2025** in Nungarin, Western Australia. Join the Nungarin Heritage Machinery and Army Museum for the afternoon at the annual Vintage Rally in Nungarin where everything's vintage from the cars, trucks, tractors, army tanks and even your hosts!

<https://www.australiasgoldenoutback.com/products/nungarin-vintage-rally-and-search-light-party>

**April 11 – 14: Experience Karijini** in Karijini National Park in Western Australia. A diverse and inclusive program of authentic arts and cultural experiences designed to connect people to the Homeland of the Banjima people and the landscape of Karijini National Park, Western Australia.

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

## Do you have a story?

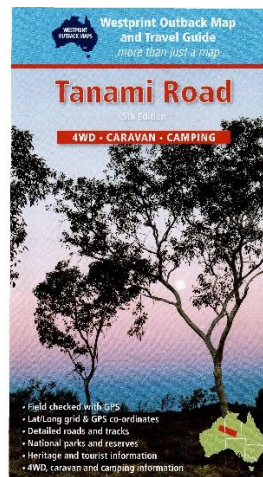
This edition, we continue the adventure sent in by Edward or as he signs off his adventures Wily Wanderer! Since Wily undertook his trip in 1998, the Tanami Track has seen a number of upgrades and a greater portion has been sealed! Sounds as if it was an amazing second leg of his journey!

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) .

## Forty Miles of Bad Road Part 2

### Alice to Broome

Len's vehicle is booked in for a service in the morning and we leave Alice after lunch. We're tackling the Tanami Track one of Australia's longest and loneliest dirt roads across the dry expanses of the inland, from Alice Springs to Halls Creek.



We first sail along 200kms of bitumen before we hit the dirt road and it's the time of day now to make camp. We have been led to believe that we are allowed 50m from the entire of the road for the length of the track. Plenty far enough for a camp.



In the morning, we start off again on the dirt track and from here on we're really in the desert. It appears that to make this road, a dozer and grader have simply run across the countryside and pushed to one side the larger rocks. The rolling hills are simply sand and rocks. Over one rise we come upon a bloke on a camel with another bloke leading it. What the hell are they doing out here? They're actually doing a trek, trying to raise money for cancer research. We gave them a donation...and think there must be other ways...



Comes lunchtime and where do we stop? There's just sand and rocks, no trees, no shade, no cars, no birds, no anything. We just pull up on the edge of the track and have lunch. We're each carrying 20 litres of extra fuel and we put it into our tanks. That's probably the best place to carry it. We're yet to change our clocks to central time. We weren't in Alice long enough to make a difference and we're heading to Western Australia. So, I suggested we go back one hour now and one hour when we get to the end of the Tanami, rather than take a two-hour hit on one day.



There are not many stops along the route and we pass the turn off to Tilmouth Well and then on to Yuendumu. This is a large Aboriginal community and we thought we'd visit, but we are deterred by a big sign at the turn off. Apparently a "dry" community, the sign says there are huge fines, even confiscation of vehicles and jail time for even bringing alcohol into the place. Wow! Under the tarp on my wagon, half my load is beer for me and Len. And then there's the bottle of Scotch and another of Baileys. I'm not going in there!

So, we stayed on the track and carried on. There are termite mounds everywhere and a particularly large one is right by the roadside. Time for a photo.



And we saw brumbies all looking fit and healthy. We wonder what they can find out here to eat. According to our maps it is just over 300kms to the roadhouse at Rabbit Flat, and that's our target. But well before we get there we find a major intersection and a well-worn track leading off. We read the signs. "The Granite Mines." We are literally miles from anywhere. It makes you wonder who found what? And how did they find it way out here? After the turn off the track deteriorates. Maybe the mine helps with the track maintenance back to Alice. Either way, it was less maintained after the mines (is this where those other vehicles shook to bits?)

We know we're getting close to Rabbit Flat because we were starting to see garbage on the roadside. The closer we get, the more there is. We arrive at the "roadhouse". What a sad portrayal of life in the Australian outback. The building looks like a jail, with steel bars and wire mesh on every window and door. Inside, from the serving counter to the ceiling is barred and meshed with a small opening at the centre of the counter just big enough to slide a case of beer through. The man and woman serving in the dingy interior appear like moles in a hole. Outside we unlock the fuel bowser which is so old that it doesn't cater for a fuel price over \$1. We need to double the price that the

meter reads. It's \$1.26 for diesel. (**Please note: The Rabbit Flat Road House closed in 2010 after 41 years in business.**)



The morning broke bright and sunny and after breaking camp we went back to the roadhouse and bought stubby holders as a memento of Australia's most remote roadhouse.

Back on the track and we pass another mine turn off, the Tanami Mine. Another 100kms and we arrive at the West Australian border where we remembered to turn our clocks back another hour. We are now on Australian Western Standard Time (AWST). As the track curls around to the north, there is a turn off to the south to the community of Balgo. The community recently became famous as the rest of the world became aware of the quality of painting and other art that is produced in this remote area. Further on there is another turn off to the left. This is the famous, or infamous, Canning Stock Route, designed to follow a series of wells for the purpose of taking stock from the grazing lands of the Kimberleys to the markets in the south.





We soon take the turn to Wolfe Creek Crater. This is the site where a meteor came to Earth. It was a long time ago, but it is still one of the larger meteors known to have hit the planet. We climb the rim and look down into the crater. Strange rocks lay about the ground, having been melted by the enormous impact. Inside the crater, the lower flat area, slowly filling over time, has a slightly different ecosystem to the surrounding plains and the rim we stand on is perfectly round. After a further 20kms we make camp on the creek, Wolfe Creek.



We leave camp from Wolfe Creek and after a further 100kms we hit the bitumen. We have done the Tanami and came out the other end unscathed (not like some). 1050 kms from Alice to Halls Creek with only 220kms of bitumen. Quite a trek...quite an experience.

We turn right and run the 15kms into Halls Creek for fuel and lunch. Then to Fitzroy Crossing where we pulled into a caravan park for the night. It was here we saw our first Boab tree. We stopped next at Geiki Gorge and the weather being quite warm, we all enjoyed a swim in the cool waters.

Broome is our western destination and we are almost there when we see a roadside sign advertising bananas. We'll have a look. Down a dirt track and we find a small cabin, a young couple with a baby and a small plantation. The story was that these newly weds were from the Woolgoolga area and from banana growing families. They were travelling and noticed that the bananas were not available in Broome. They decided to have a go themselves at growing them locally. They had bananas for sale, so were doing something right. We wished them luck.

Len reckoned he smelled salt water 50kms back and we finally got to see it. The Indian Ocean. We hit town at about 5 o'clock, booked into a cabin and went straight to Cable Beach for a swim. And here's another milestone. It was on Cable Beach that we drank our last stubby of brown beer that I had carted all the way from home. Symbolically from east to west. I can remember a

documentary made by the Leyland Brothers who symbolically took a bottle of water from the Pacific Ocean across the continent and poured it into the Indian Ocean. We'd done something similar only with a different kind of liquid.

We did the rounds of Broome. We drove along Cable Beach again to the nude section and exercised our eyeballs, we drove around Gantheaume Point lighthouse and saw the dinosaur prints in the rocks.



We drove on the headland and saw all the bright colours in the sand and to the new jetty where cattle were being loaded. A bloke was spearing crabs and a hovercraft was travelling around the shore. We saw pearl shell jewellery that was worked on by a lady in a shop and her husband lived on a yacht. Elaine tried on a necklace worth \$28,000 then a \$4000 one but bought neither. But she did buy a \$5 t-shirt. We'd had a good look at Broome and there was only one thing to do before heading out...visit the grog shop.

### **Meridian Mirth**

Thank you to Vince and Simon for sending in these jokes. Hope they were able to bring a smile to your face. To share your jokes, please send them to [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au).

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman. He was being cross-examined by a defence attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the police officer's credibility...

Q: 'Officer --- did you see my client fleeing the scene?'

A: 'No, sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away.'

Q: 'Officer, who provided this description?'

A: 'The officer who responded to the scene.'

Q: 'A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?'

A: 'Yes, sir. With my life.'

Q: 'With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?'

A: 'Yes sir, we do!'

Q: 'And do you have a locker in the room?'

A: 'Yes, sir, I do.'

Q: 'And do you have a lock on your locker?'

A: 'Yes, sir.'

Q: 'Now, why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?'

A: 'You see, sir, we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room.'

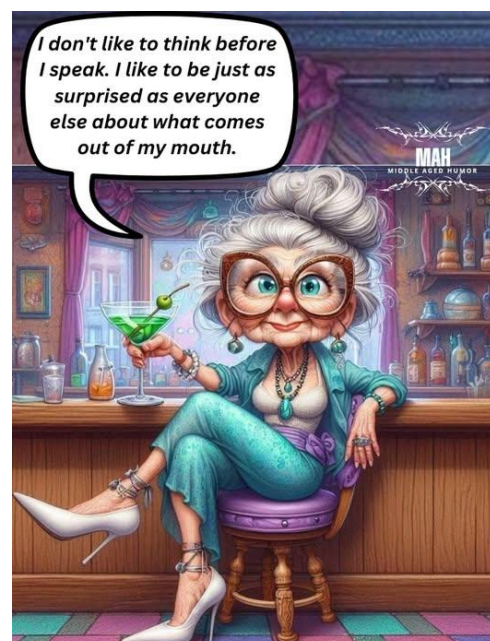
The courtroom EXPLODED with laughter, and a prompt recess was called.

The officer on the stand has been nominated for this year's 'Best Comeback' line -- and we think he'll win.

In an interview, General Norman Schwarzkopf was asked if he thought there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harboured and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America.

His answer was classic Schwarzkopf.

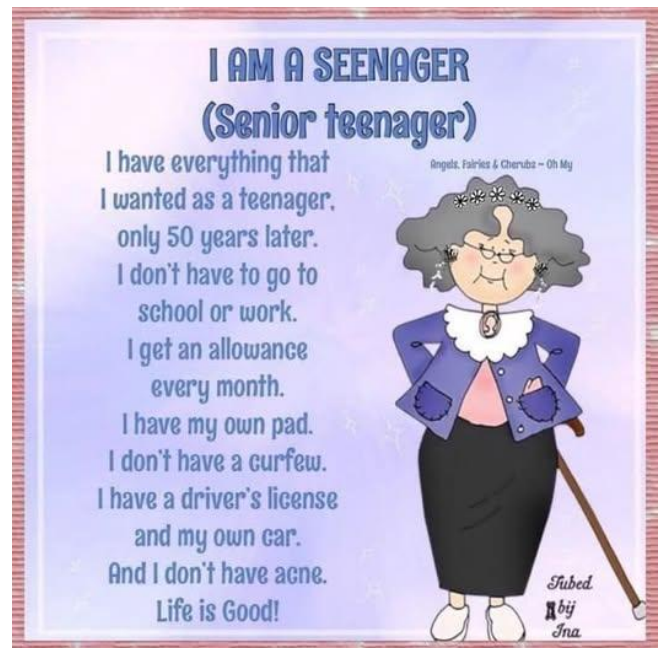
The General said, "I believe that forgiving them is God's function... OUR job is to arrange the meeting."







- Borrow money from a pessimist — they don't expect it back.
- I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian.
- No one is listening until you make a mistake.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- I've only been wrong once, and that's when I thought I was wrong.



## **The Fine Print**

### **At The Meridian Line**

Wherever possible we try to acknowledge the source of all information contained in this newsletter. We offer no guarantees for accuracy, but we do our best.

### **Get the Word Out**

Feel free to forward this newsletter to any family or friends who you feel might enjoy a good read. If they would like to receive this newsletter on a regular basis they can register at: <https://meridianmaps.com.au/newsletter/>

### **Using information from this newsletter**

You are welcome to use information from this newsletter, but we request that you kindly acknowledge that the information is from The Meridian Line.

### **Meridian Contact information**

Email: [rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au](mailto:rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au)

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