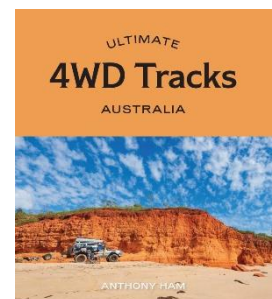
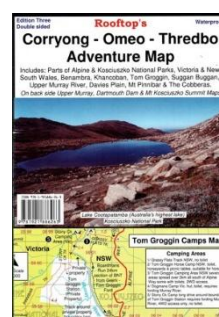
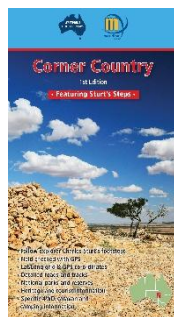
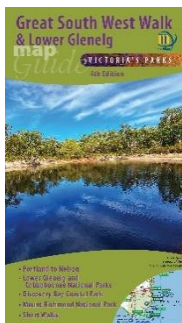




The Meridian Line - Sunday 11.05.2025

“The most important thing is to enjoy your life—to be happy—it’s all that matters.” —Steve Jobs



Great South West Walk & Lower Glenelg Map – from \$14.95

The Great South West Walk is a spectacular 262km loop in Victoria's wild south-west, starting and ending in Portland. This top-rated long-distance trail takes you through coastal cliffs, serene forests, sweeping sand dunes, and quiet beaches—showcasing some of the state's most stunning natural landscapes. Whether you're up for the full hike or just a short stroll, the trail is easy to tailor to your plans. With well-spaced campsites and clearly marked sections, it's perfect for both seasoned bushwalkers and casual explorers. This 4th edition topographic map is your go-to guide, covering the entire trail at a 1:50,000 scale. It includes all the essentials: campsites, emergency markers, and highlights across Lower Glenelg, Cobboboonee, and Mt Richmond National Parks, plus Discovery Bay Coastal Park. Also great for canoeists, fishers, and 4WD adventurers, the map features extra details like the Wood, Wine & Roses Forest Drive and the Great Cobboboonee Horse Trail—everything you need for a safe and unforgettable journey.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-south-west-walk-map-guide/>

Corner Country – Featuring Sturt's Steps – from \$12.95

The Corner Country is where Queensland and South Australia meet the remote northwest of New South Wales—a vast Outback region rich in rugged beauty, history, and wildlife. Discover the striking landscapes of Sturt National Park, from the red dunes of the Strzelecki Desert and the mesas of the Grey Range to the ironstone-strewn Gibber Plains and the legendary Dingo Fence. Wander through the historic goldfield towns of Milparinka and Tibooburra, and enjoy sweeping drives through a land shaped by time and resilience. Nearby, Mutawintji National Park offers a powerful connection to Indigenous culture and dramatic natural scenery—perfect for those seeking a deeper experience of the Far West. Follow Sturt's Steps Touring Route, which roughly traces explorer Charles Sturt's 1845 journey, and immerse yourself in one of Australia's most extraordinary outback regions. This new map is your essential guide to navigating the Corner Country safely and confidently. It's a place of unforgettable beauty—one that deserves both your curiosity and your respect.

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

Flynn of the Inland - \$34.95

Discover the extraordinary story of John Flynn—the man who brought medical care to the heart of the Outback. In the vast, unforgiving interior of 1920s Australia, Flynn's bold vision gave birth to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a lifeline that still connects remote communities today. Travelling by camel across the wide, sunbaked landscapes, Flynn saw firsthand the desperate need for accessible healthcare. What followed was a lifetime of determination—transforming an ambitious dream into a groundbreaking reality. From camel tracks to the crackle of early radio, and the whirl of the first aircraft, Flynn helped shape an inland network with Alice Springs at its heart. First published in 1932, this inspiring tale was written by Ion Idriess, one of Australia's most beloved authors and a close friend of Flynn. With vivid storytelling and deep personal insight, Idriess brings to life one of the most remarkable chapters in Australian history.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/flynn-inland/>

Corryong – Omeo - Thredbo Adventure Map - \$14.95

This Rooftop map is an essential companion for exploring the stunning Wonnangatta Valley and surrounding regions in Victoria's High Country. At a scale of 1:100,000, it covers a vast area stretching from Licola to Mount Hotham and from Briagolong to the Buckland Valley, including key access routes to iconic destinations such as Wonnangatta Station, the Crooked River and Upper Dargo goldfields, and Mitchell River National Park. The map features detailed road and track information, along with helpful travel tips and warnings for various routes, making it ideal for 4WD enthusiasts, bushwalkers,

and outdoor adventurers. Highlighted locations include Licola, Dargo, Moroka, Wonnangatta Station, Hotham Village, Grant Historic Area, Mount Wellington, Dinner Plain, Talbotville, and parts of the Australian Alps Walking Track, as well as natural features like the Avon Wilderness, Ben Cruachan and Valencia State Forests, and major rivers including the Mitchell, Moroka, Dargo, and Wonnangatta. On the reverse side, a 1:50,000 scale Dargo–Howitt Plains Forest Activities Map provides enhanced detail for the Wonnangatta Valley, Crooked River, and the Howitt Plains near Licola. Printed on waterproof paper, this map is built to endure the elements and will guide you confidently through one of Victoria’s most breathtaking and remote landscapes.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/corryong-omeo-thredbo-adventure-map/>

Ultimate 4WD Tracks: Australia - \$45.00

If you're keen to discover Australia's wild and remote corners, Ultimate 4WD Tracks: Australia is the perfect companion. Showcasing 40 of the country's best off-road adventures, this guide takes you through every state and territory, with something for every kind of explorer. Travel writer Anthony Ham highlights tracks close to major cities—like Red Centre Way and K'gari (Fraser Island)—as well as legendary routes such as the Gibb River Road, Birdsville Track, and Oodnadatta Track. With a range of difficulty levels, from beginner-friendly drives to rugged challenges, there's a journey here for everyone. Each track includes detailed descriptions, suggested itineraries, maps, and stunning photography, making this book both a practical guide and a source of inspiration for your next four-wheel drive adventure.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/ultimate-4wd-tracks/>

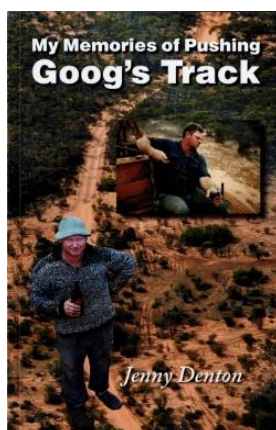
Meridian Musings

I've recently been struck by the irony of how the same floods that caused such devastation in Queensland are now breathing life into Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre. Although the lake hasn't been completely dry in years, the amount of water flowing through the channels and rivers that feed into the lake should be enough to fill it - a phenomenon that last occurred in 1999-2001 and before that in the historic flooding of 1974. Birds are expected to flock in from thousands of kilometres away, wildflowers will bloom and locals brace for an influx of tourists. Although I have never had the opportunity to see the lake in flood, I believe that is a breathtaking spectacular.

What's New To The Website

My Memories of Pushing Goog's Track - \$30.00

Goog's Track is a legendary 120-kilometre 4WD-only route that carves its way through the remote, red-sand landscapes of South Australia's Yellabinna Conservation Park. Beginning at the dog-proof fence just north of Lone Oak—about 40 kilometres from Ceduna—and stretching to the Trans-Australia railway, the track rolls over 363 east-west sand dunes. Often described as a “mini Simpson Desert crossing,” it's a rite of passage for off-road enthusiasts. In this captivating memoir, Jenny Denton—Goog's widow—shares the remarkable tale of how the track came to be. With warmth, humour, and heartfelt honesty, she recounts the trials, triumphs, and sheer determination that fuelled their four-year mission to carve a road through the wild. Driven by a pioneering spirit and relentless curiosity, Goog set out to forge a path through the unknown, finally completing the track in 1976. Along the way, they uncovered striking natural beauty that continues to draw and inspire adventurers today. This is more than just a story of a track—it's a celebration of resilience, love, and the untamed spirit of the Australian outback.

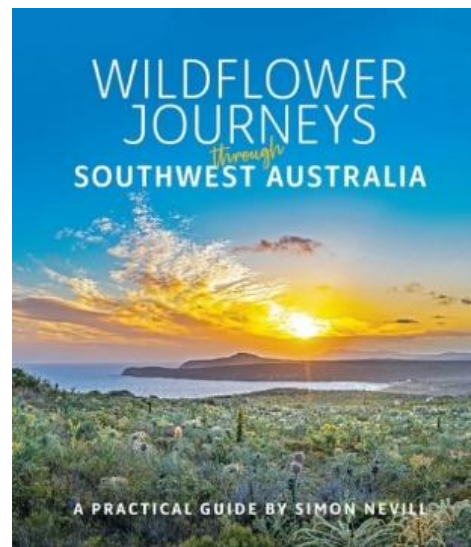


<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/googs-track-book/>

Wildflower Journeys through Southwest Australia - \$49.95

Local author and photographer Simon Nevill draws on over 40 years of wildflower research to present *10 Journeys of Wildflower Discovery*—a stunning guide to the breathtaking floral diversity of southwestern Western Australia. Home to more than 7,000 species, this region is one of the world's few officially recognised floral hotspots, and Nevill's expert knowledge brings its vibrant beauty to life. Carefully curated to showcase a wide range of landscapes and blooms, the ten journeys range from easy, accessible walks to more remote tracks that require a 4WD. Each route is richly illustrated with hundreds of brilliant wildflower photographs, alongside detailed mud maps highlighting the best viewing spots. Explore places like Ellis Brook Valley Reserve, the ancient Wandoo Woodlands, and sweeping journeys through the Wheatbelt, up to Mullewa, and along the spectacular South Coast. Whether

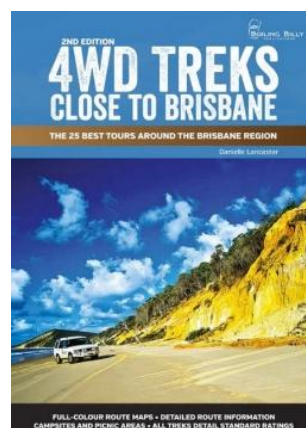
you're a seasoned botanist or a weekend wanderer, this book is an inspiring companion for discovering Western Australia's wildflower wonders.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/wildflowers-southwest-australia/>

4WD Treks Close to Brisbane - \$49.95

Whether you're planning a quick day trip or a relaxing weekend getaway, *4WD Treks Close to Brisbane* is your ultimate guide to 25 of the best four-wheel drive adventures within easy reach of the city. Packed with detailed itineraries, this guide is your ticket to discovering top spots for picnicking, hiking, camping, swimming, fishing—and of course, off-road exploring—all right on Brisbane's doorstep. From island escapes and lush rainforest tracks to scenic bush drives and coastal runs, this edition highlights the most rewarding destinations the region has to offer. Venture through D'Aguilar National Park near Woodford, explore the stunning Scenic Rim beyond Boonah, cruise through Cooloola National Park north of Noosa, and uncover hidden gems along the Burrum Coast near Woodgate. You'll also find exciting treks around Gympie, Kilcoy, Beerwah, and even a few adventures that stretch just across the border into the rainforests of northern New South Wales.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/4wd-treks-close-to-brisbane/>

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/3>

Although several key roads have reopened following recent flooding in Queensland, there are other roads in the region that remain closed. These are constantly being reassessed for safety and damage. Please check conditions before travelling. <https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/>

Stevensons Falls and the day visitor area in the Otways in Victoria will be closed on weekdays for the month of May to allow work on extending the visitor carpark. The site will be open on Saturdays and Sundays.

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

17 May: 20 May: Yeoval Show in NSW. Animal exhibits, equestrian events, craft displays, competitions, delicious food and various games and activities.

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

23 - 25 May: Hunter Valley Caravan, Camping, 4WD, Fish & Boat Show in NSW. Over 300 sites plus a great variety of entertainment, food areas - a variety of products from the smallest gadgets through to motorhomes.

<https://www.ruralscene.com.au/events/hunter-valley-outdoor-show>

24 – 25 May: Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival in Alexandra, Victoria. A community event, a feast of fibre art, fabulous beanies, winter warmers and more

<https://www.victoriashighcountry.com.au/listing/murrindindi-beanie-and-fibre-festival-alexandra/>

31 May: Big Day Out in Harmony in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. Celebration of diversity beyond the stage – with many interactive activities for children and adults.

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

31 May: Tambo Races in Queensland. A day out at a country race meeting where the heart of the country beats to the rhythm of thundering hooves, stylish fashions, and the infectious cheers of a vibrant crowd.

<https://www.outbackqueensland.com.au/event/tambo-races/>

31 May – 1 June: Bollon Polocrosse Carnival in Queensland. Multi horse carnival held at the Bollon Showgrounds which offers local entertainment for everyone.

<https://www.stgeorgeregion.com.au/event/bollon-polocrosse-2/>

2 June: WA Day Festival in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Geraldton, Albany, Fremante and Carnarvon, Port Hedland (8 June), Newman (15 June) and Karratha (22 June). WA Day Festivals celebrate vibrant cultures, rich histories and the melting pot of diversity showcasing family entertainment and mouthwatering local delicacies.

<https://www.celebratewa.com.au/regional-events/>

7- 8 June: Central Coast Harvest Festival in NSW. Glimpse behind the farm gate and explore multiple rural farming communities and their picturesque heritage villages on the Central Coast.

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

13 – 15 June: Coober Pedy Opal Festival in South Australia. A celebration of everything that makes the community unique from the opals to the underground world and the vastness of the outback, this festival showcases the essence of the multicultural community.

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

Do you have a story?

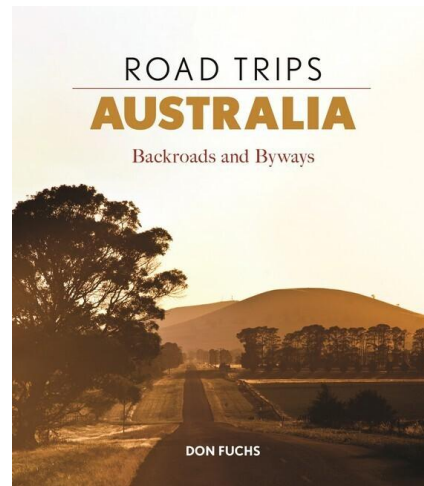
If you've got a trip or tips to share, we'd love to hear from you - rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au .

For something a bit different, this fortnight we have included a couple of book reviews.

Title: ***Road Trips Australia: Backroads and Byways***

Author: *Don Fuchs*

Published: 2023



Road Trips Australia: Backroads and Byways is a gorgeous book filled with stunning full colour photos and handy sections of maps for every road trip.

The book is laid out by region, covering all of Australia's States and Territories except the Australian Capital Territory. This wide coverage means that there is something for everyone—whether you are looking for trips close to home or want to explore a completely new part of the country.

Australia's huge network of roads and highways makes it a dream destination for road trip enthusiasts. This book is perfect for those who love self guided adventures and enjoy straying from the main roads. It doesn't aim to list every stop along the way but instead highlights the most scenic routes, charming small towns, and unique experiences. It's all about going beyond the usual tourist spots and really connecting with the landscapes, history, and culture that help make Australia so special.

Each road trip focuses on a specific region, with carefully chosen backroads and byways that capture its unique character. The itineraries are easy to follow and include distances, travel times, and suggested stops. There are also tips on road conditions, the best times to visit, and what type of vehicle you'll need—so you will feel prepared before hitting the road. The focus on small towns, local cafes, and hidden gems adds a personal touch, while mentions of historical sites, Indigenous heritage, and local traditions give the trips extra depth.

I found the Victorian itineraries particularly interesting since it is my home State. The Mallee Country itinerary (p. 120) felt especially familiar because it is so similar to a road trip we did last year. Reading it brought back memories

of all the fun we had and helped me relive that trip. It's clear that Don Fuchs actually went on this trip himself, which makes the details feel really authentic.

The friendly, conversational tone of the book makes it an enjoyable read. There's something for everyone here, and I loved how it included website links for easy access to extra information. This provided the opportunity to research further details and places to explore

The itineraries are presented as flexible guides rather than fixed plans, which is great if you like to tweak and personalize your trips. This approach encourages you to take the ideas in the book and build your own unique adventure. However, since the focus is on backroads and byways, you will need to look elsewhere if you are after urban specific travel tips.

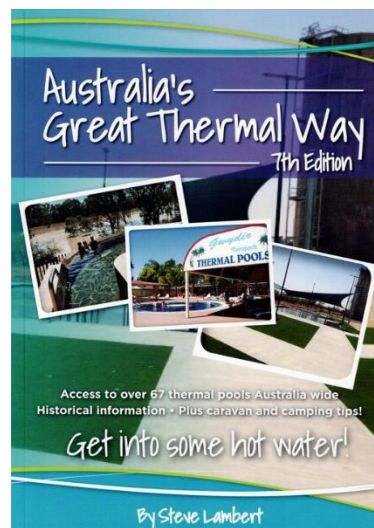
The maps in *Road Trips Australia* are great for planning and getting a general idea of the routes, but you might want to use more detailed maps while you're on the road

All in all, I think this book is an amazing resource that will inspire you to explore Australia's lesser known areas with its practical advice, detailed itineraries, and focus on hidden gems. I know it has given me the inspiration for planning our next road trip.

Title: ***Australia's Great Thermal Way***

Author: *Steven Lambert*

Published: 2024



Whether you're a seasoned traveller or just hitting the road occasionally, *Australia's Great Thermal Way* offers a wealth of options for a relaxing dip across the country.

When the book first arrived at Meridian Maps, we were genuinely impressed by how comprehensive and user-friendly it is—a perfect guide for winding down after a day of travel. Covering 67 thermal pools across all states and the Northern Territory, the book highlights the incredible diversity of these natural wonders. From soaking in the Artesian Mud Baths at Eulo (QLD), to drifting through the warm 34°C waters of Bitter Springs in Mataranka (NT), to indulging in the spa rooms at Hepburn Bathhouse and Spa (VIC), there's something here for everyone.

Inside the front and back covers, you'll find a detailed map marking each thermal pool mentioned in the book. Each region is colour-coded for easy navigation. Every location includes a photo and description, with many entries enriched by “History Notes” and background information to enhance your visit.

The guide was inspired by Steve Lambert's visit to Innot Hot Springs in 2007, during one of his around-Australia adventures. Since then, it has evolved into more than just a location guide—it includes insightful information on artesian basins, geothermal water use, towing tips, and even some fantastic recipes at the back.

This book is a must have for any traveller keen to discover one of Australia's lesser-known natural treasures. Try to visit them all—tick them off as you go and enjoy the journey!

Meridian Mirth

To share your jokes, please send them to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.

Two friends are driving together in a car when they approached a red light and instead of stopping, the driver drove straight through the red light.

“Hey, you just ran a red light, you’re going to get us killed!” yells the passenger.

The driver calmly responded, “Don’t worry about it. My brother does it all the time!”

They continue driving for another minute when they approach another red light. The driver runs through it without hesitation.

“Again???! You’re going to get us killed!!” says the passenger!

“Don’t worry about it. My brother does it all the time!” replies the driver calmly.

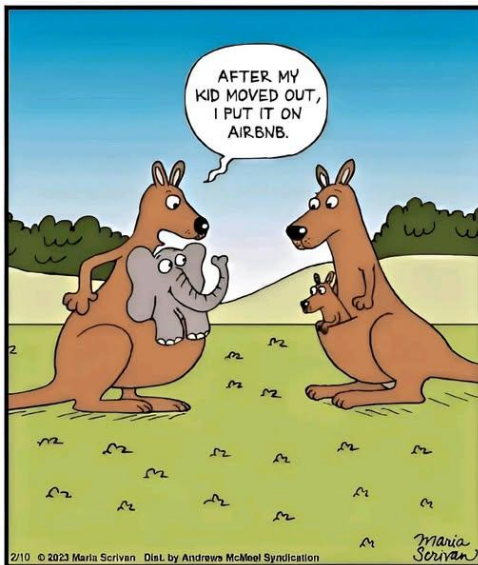
They approach a third red light and again, with no hesitation, the driver runs through it!

The passenger begins screaming at the driver to let him out of the vehicle.

They are quickly approaching another intersection and the driver slams on his brakes!

“Why did you stop? The light is green!”

The driver responded... “My brother might be driving through here. Are you trying to get us killed?”



A fellow was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help. Soon a man in a rowboat came by and the fellow shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you."

The stranded fellow shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me."

So the rowboat went on.

Then a motorboat came by. "The fellow in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you."

To this the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith."

So the motorboat went on.

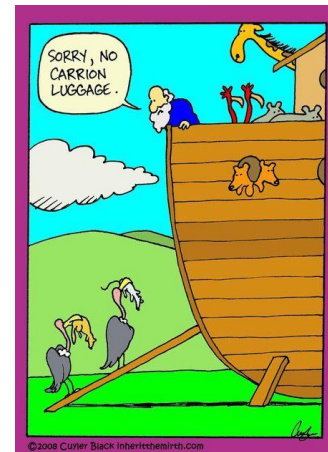
Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety."

To this the stranded man again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith."

So the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you but you didn't save me, you let me drown. I don't understand why!"

To this God replied, "I sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?"



One day, Einstein has to speak at an important science conference.

On the way there, he tells his driver that looks a bit like him:

"I'm sick of all these conferences. I always say the same things over and over!"

The driver agrees: "You're right. As your driver, I attended all of them, and even though I don't know anything about science, I could give the conference in your place."

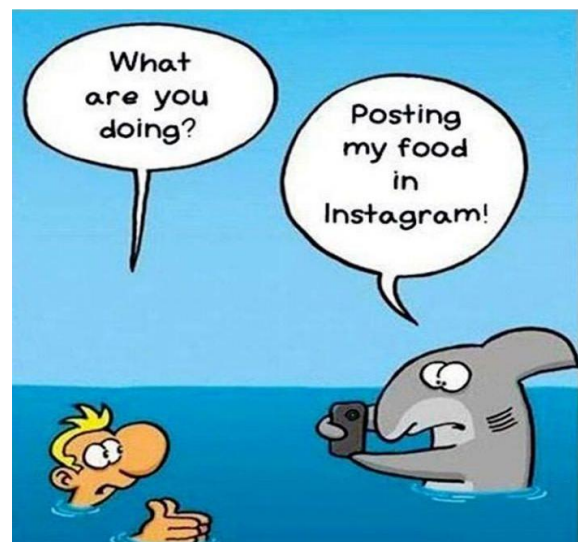
"That's a great idea!" says Einstein. "Let's switch places then!"

So they switch clothes and as soon as they arrive, the driver dressed as Einstein goes on stage and starts giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, attends it.

But in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress everyone and thinks of a very difficult question to ask Einstein, hoping he won't be able to respond. So this guy stands up and interrupts the conference by posing his very difficult question. The whole room goes silent, holding their breath, waiting for the response.

The driver looks at him, dead in the eye, and says :

"Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it for me."



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.

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