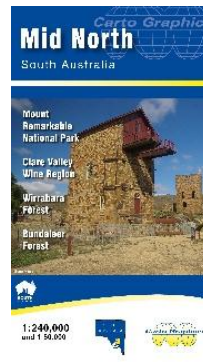
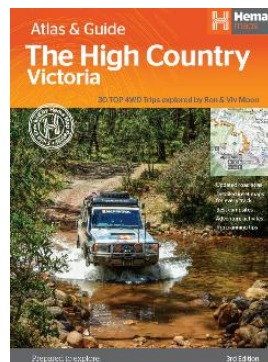
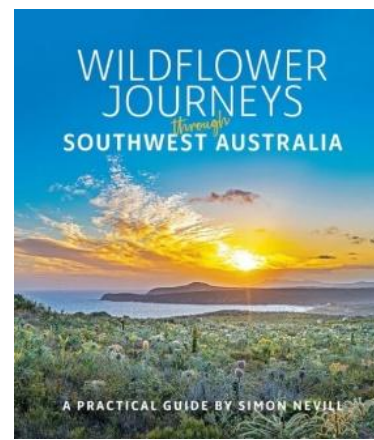
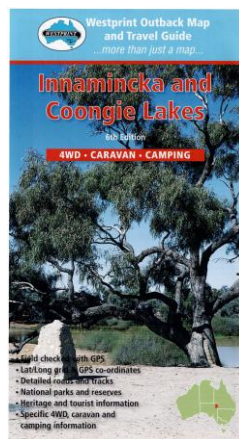
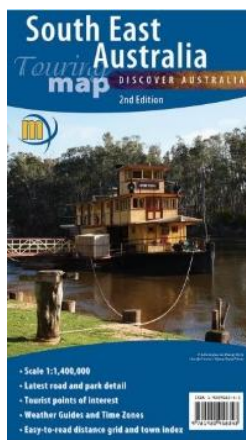




The Meridian Line - Sunday 22.06.2025

“Adventure is worthwhile.” - Aristotle



South East Australian Touring Map – from \$12.95

This 1:1,400,000 scale wall map of South East Australia covers the most densely populated region of the country. Spanning from Port Augusta in South Australia, across all of Victoria, and reaching as far north as Newcastle in New South Wales, the map offers an impressive combination of size and regional coverage. Designed for both business users and travellers who frequently commute between state capitals, the map provides clear, detailed information across the entire area. Features include a Major Town Index, Distance Grid,

Time Zone references, and Weather Charts—making it a practical and informative resource for planning and navigation.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/south-east-australia-touring-map/>

Innamincka and Coongie Lakes – from \$14.95

The Innamincka and Coongie Lakes region offers outstanding opportunities for camping and fishing along the tranquil lakes and waterholes of Cooper Creek. Accessible only by 4WD, the area promises a true outback experience. While no permit is required to reach Innamincka via the Strzelecki Track, travellers heading from Innamincka to Coongie Lakes must obtain a permit. This is covered by the Desert Parks Pass, which is valid for 12 months and grants access to all parks within the desert region. For those only visiting Coongie Lakes, a short-stay pass is available from the local ranger stationed in Innamincka. The map also includes fascinating historical insights into the Burke and Wills expedition, including details about their campsite at the famous Dig Tree.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/innamincka-coongie-lakes/>

Wildflower Journeys through Southwest Australia – \$49.95

Local author Simon Nevill draws on four decades of wildflower research and photography to present *10 Wildflower Journeys*, a stunning guide to exploring the remarkable floral diversity of southwest Western Australia. This globally recognised biodiversity hotspot is home to over 7,000 species—many of which are found nowhere else on Earth. The book features ten carefully curated journeys that showcase the region's extraordinary wildflowers, ranging from easily accessible locations to more remote areas requiring a 4WD. Each route is accompanied by detailed mud maps and illustrated with hundreds of vibrant wildflower photographs, making it both an inspiring and practical companion for nature lovers, photographers, and travellers alike. The journeys include Ellis Brook Valley Reserve, The Wandoo Woodland, A Shorter Northern Journey, A Longer Northern Journey, Wotto Nature Reserve to Mullewa, The Rocks, The Inner Wheatbelt, The Outer Wheatbelt, A Big South Coast Journey, and A Deep South West Journey.

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

The High Country Victoria - \$15.95

This edition of Hema's best-selling *High Country* map, now printed on durable waterproof paper, showcases Hema's signature high-quality mapping alongside a wealth of touring and recreational information. Roads and 4WD tracks have been field-checked by the Hema Map Patrol, ensuring an exceptional level of accuracy and reliability for travellers exploring the Victorian High Country. The map combines Hema's comprehensive database of roads and 4WD routes with topographic details and a wide range of touring points of interest. It includes essential information such as seasonal track closures, camping areas, historic townsites, huts, accommodation options, and road distances—making it an invaluable companion for both planning and navigating your journey. Among the featured highlights are some of the High Country's most iconic 4WD tracks, including the Wonnangatta via Zeka Spur, Billy Goat Bluff, Ingeegoodbee Track, Mount Pinnibar, and the Blue Rag Range Track. Whether you're seeking rugged adventure or scenic alpine routes, this map offers the detail and confidence you need to explore the region with ease.

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

Mid North Map – from \$9.95

The *Mid North South Australia Map* by Carto Graphics is a detailed 1:240,000 scale touring map covering the diverse Mid North region of South Australia, stretching from Kapunda in the south to Quorn in the north. It encompasses the northern Mount Lofty Ranges and the southern reaches of the Flinders Ranges, providing full country road coverage along with long-distance trails such as the Heysen and Mawson Trails. Conservation and national parks are clearly marked, making it an essential resource for outdoor explorers. On the reverse, the map features a 1:100,000 scale map of the Clare Valley, highlighting local wineries, the Riesling Trail, and other key points of interest in the area. Additionally, it includes 1:50,000 scale topographic maps of Mount Remarkable National Park as well as the Bundaleer and Wirrabara Forests. These detailed sections feature 10-metre contour lines, a UTM grid for GPS navigation, marked walking trails, and campground locations—ideal for bushwalkers, campers, and adventure travellers.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/mid-north-map/>

Meridian Musings

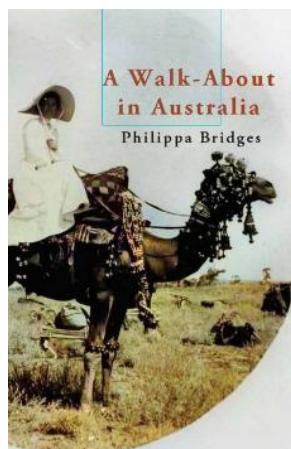
I loved the reading our reader's story this edition. Wily the Wanderer certainly inspired me with his stories of outback travel. At the moment Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre is filling with water caused by record-breaking rainfall are flowing from south-west Queensland into north-east South Australia and making its way into the lake. According to South Australia's National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre has filled to capacity just three times in the past 160 years. Partial fills happen every so often but are less spectacular. The benchmark is the 1974 flood. Considering this, we have decided to travel along the Oodnadatta Track and make our way to see Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre!

I'll keep you updated in a future edition. Would love to hear from anyone else who has seen Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre in flood.

What's New to the Website

***A Walk-About in Australia* – \$24.95.**

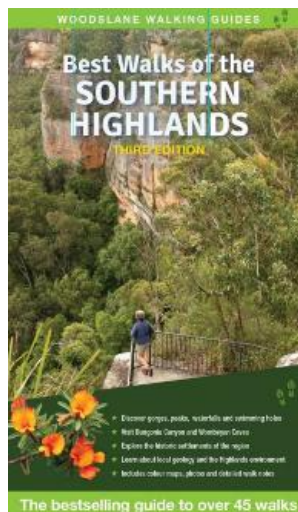
In 1923, Philippa Bridges, sister of the Governor of South Australia, set out to travel "overlanding across the Continent and taking a homeward bound ship from Darwin," with the intention of moving "unhurriedly in the same fashion as the dwellers themselves did." Her journey spanned over 2,000 miles from Macumba Station to Darwin, more than 600 of which she completed by camel. She was accompanied by an Aboriginal tracker known as Macumba Jack and a woman referred to as Topsy. Bridges later documented her experience in *A Walk-About in Australia*, writing: "I had a great wish to see the Never-never, and possibly a flicker of the nomadic instinct may also have urged me, for I know that the thought of the long northward march, which extended practically from the Great [sic] Australian Bight to the Arafura Sea, made a strong appeal."



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/walk-about-australia/>

Best Walks of the Southern Highlands - \$34.95

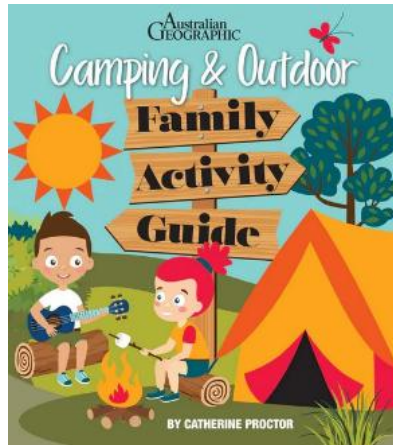
Nestled between Sydney and Canberra, the Southern Highlands and its surrounding countryside offer a walker's paradise—home to crystal-clear creeks, secluded swimming holes, intriguing rock formations, and charming historic villages. This diverse landscape of hidden gullies and dramatic escarpments invites exploration, no matter your fitness level or hiking experience. Now in its third edition, *Best Walks of the Southern Highlands*—part of Woodslane's popular walking guides series—features a curated collection of the region's finest trails. From gentle strolls through heritage towns and wildflower-filled heathlands to challenging climbs up ancient volcanic hills and descents into river valleys, this guide has something for every walker, whether local or just passing through.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/walks-southern-highlands/>

Australian Geographic Camping & Outdoor Family Activity Guide - \$24.95

Engagingly illustrated and bursting with inspiration, this book is packed with hundreds of fun-filled outdoor activities for families to enjoy—whether you're camping, exploring your local park, or just hanging out in the backyard. Perfect for family campers, it covers everything you need to know: what to pack, essential equipment, campfire recipes, outdoor games, and bush skills. Teenagers will love using their devices in new ways—like geocaching, becoming a citizen scientist, or filming a nature documentary. Even at home, the fun continues with backyard camping ideas, outdoor movie nights, DIY Olympic Games, and sensory play experiences for younger kids. Whether you're planning your next adventure or just looking for ways to get your kids off their screens and into nature, this book offers endless ways to embrace the great outdoors together as a family.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/ag-campoutdoor-family/>

End of Financial Year Sale!

It's hard to believe the end of the financial year is nearly here — we're already halfway through 2025! What better time for a sale? Enjoy 10% off any book in our **Atlas** section with the code **EOFY25** (postage excluded). Take advantage of this limited-time offer to start planning your next big adventure. Offer valid until 30 June 2025.

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

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>

Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) National Park and Dimalurru (Tunnel Creek) National Park have reopened.

The road access to Kimberley parks is has re-opened after recent heavy rainfall closed many unsealed roads across the region.

Please be aware that roads may still be wet and boggy in sections. Take care, be prepared and drive to conditions. Many roads are 4WD high clearance , check before you go. <https://alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au/>

Walarra mindi (Mount Hart) in Wunaamin Conservation Park contact Mount Hart Lodge for bookings

Dulundi (Silent Grove), Dalmanyi (Bell Gorge) in Wunaamin Conservation Park

Purnululu National Park

Access to the following parks remains limited due to the unsafe conditions of the Northern section of the Fairfield Leopold Road not being accessible from the Gibb River Road.

Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) National Park

Dimalurru (Tunnel Creek) National Park

Parks Victoria has assessed 27 climbing areas in the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and are reopening 18.

Reopened climbing areas:

- Cave Cliff
- The Sun Gate
- Watchmen
- Centurion Walls
- Dreamtime Wall**
- New Era Wall
- Labour Ward
- Superbia
- Barbican Rocks**
- Barbican Wall**
- Gallery Creek
- Pastoral Buttress
- Blind Mans Bluff**
- Rural Rocks
- HB Wall**
- Dead Explorers Slab**
- Back of Beyond**
- The Garrets

**Some climbing areas remain temporarily closed due to recent fire impacts.

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

28 June: Obsidian Dark Beer Festival in Ballarat, Victoria. Celebrate the rich tapestry of dark beer styles, weaving together the warmth of community, the depth of flavour, and the spirit of discovery.

<https://hullabalooevents.com.au/obsidian-dark-beer-fest>

28 June: 2025 Winter Harvest Festival in Kalbar, Queensland. Scenic Rim Food Ambassador chefs, growers, producers, and flavour artisans showcase

the region's culinary treasures through displays, workshops and cooking demonstrations. Produce stalls, tastings, sample local wines, beers and spirits, and witness the famous Tractor Pull!

<https://events.humanitix.com/2025-winter-harvest-festival>

5 July: Fire & Ice at Metung in Victoria. Celebrate winter with live music, ice carving, face painting, kids' activities, dumpling eating contest, food, cocktails and a fire show. End the evening with a lakeside lantern parade.

<https://lightwavefestival.au/about/>

6 July: NAIDOC Community Fun Day in Chinchilla, Queensland. A fun, free and family-friendly day to celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC Week – a time to honour and elevate Indigenous voices, culture, community and connection at this year's NAIDOC Community Fun Day!

<https://www.chinchillacommunitycentre.org/events/naidoc-community-fun-day>

11 – 13 July: Lightwave Festival in Nubeena, Tasmania. An annual winter arts festival celebrating 'people and place' across Turrakana Tasman Peninsula. Lightwave fosters community connection and collective warmth in the darkness of winter. Lightwave takes the phenomenon of light as a catalyst for the festival's multi-artform programme.

<https://lightwavefestival.au/about/>

18 – 20 July: Boulia Camel Races in Queensland. Australia's most prestigious camel race, being the longest and the richest in Australia! It's the culmination of 2 days of professional camel races. Beyond the camel races there is live entertainment, food, fireworks, children's amusements and a host of novelty races.

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

19 July: Grawin Show in NSW. Bringing local communities together for a fun, affordable day out, while helping to raise money for charity. Free entertainment for families, activities for the kids, and loads of stalls along with the backbone of every Show - the Competition Entries.

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Grawin-Show-100093822948931/>

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 Edward Drake, also known as Wily Wanderer for the story which outlines another one of his amazing trips .

Another Outback Adventurer from Wily Wanderer and Jolly Jackaroo

North West Victoria, 1999 - Part 1

It is now five years since I bought my 4WD vehicle and I'd planned one outback trip a year. Last year when mum and aunty (80 and 82 years young) wanted to be taken somewhere they couldn't go by bus, I set my sights on a trip that would take them on the back roads. It was a grand plan but too far outback to go solo. My brother, who has had his 4WD longer than I, agreed to supply the second vehicle and the two of us with sister, mum and aunty packed up all of our camping gear and set off for the Kimberley. We all enjoyed our last trip so much that 1999 would have to see another safari with the same group. And so it did.

I planned to go west then south to the Mallee country of northwest Victoria. I allowed two weeks for the tour and we were to leave on a Tuesday. On Monday, aunty took a train from Nowra to meet mum and brother at Sydney. Sis got a train from Coffs Harbour at 2am to meet me at Maitland. We were to meet for the first night at Molong, equidistant from Sydney and Maitland and stay in a motel so that any delay of either vehicle would not inconvenience the other. I carried all the tents, cooking and camping gear and anything heavy and bulky on my tray back whilst my brother had all the personal gear in his wagon.



Before leaving Molong, we checked our gear and had a final inventory, then headed off and travelled through Manildra to Parkes for a late breakfast. We

tried our new UHF CBs and were most disappointed with their performance. They were next to useless. As luck would have it, when we reached Condobolin we found a fellow who was a whiz with radios. Now I know very little about radios and what makes them work and was totally confused by the myriad of different advice given by a myriad of different people. Everyone I asked had a different idea and was wholly willing to give conflicting and confusing advice. This bloke, however, knew what he was talking about. First of all he said we needed a ground plane for aerials. We had ours mounted on the bull bars. So it was down town to buy another lead and then around to the local engineering shop. Even though the shop was working late to finish a welding job making steel bridge trusses, they took the time to help us out with our fiddly job. For me they cut and drilled a ten inch square plate and bolted it onto the backboard of my tabletop where I mounted the aerial. My brother took a drill and punched a hole straight through the turret of his wagon, dead centre. After wiring everything up we went back to the radio man who was ecstatic that we had taken his advice literally (apparently others who thought they knew better hadn't) and when he tested the input and output they were perfect. We were indebted to this fellow for giving us the right steer and enjoyed excellent radio communication for the rest of the trip. We never tried them over more than 20km, but we knew that they were good for that at least.

We were heading for Euabalong and intended to camp in Mt Hope that night. A storm was building in the west and we were driving straight into it. Camping might be out of the question. When the storm hit, the sky opened up and the dirt road we were on turned into an instant quagmire. We slipped and slid into Euabalong West where we fuelled up just before 5pm, and there being nowhere to stay in town, pushed on to Mt Hope. It was a difficult drive in difficult conditions and camping was definitely out of the question – unless there were no rooms in the Mt Hope pub. So we got to the pub and stayed overnight and it rained all night. It wasn't supposed to rain because we were on holidays. But rain it did!



Well the locals were happy anyway. It was the best rain they had seen for some time and they thanked us for bringing it.

There was no way now that we could get off the bitumen. I had planned to follow that railway to Roto or Trida, then drop south to Willandra National Park and take the back tracks to Lake Mungo and then Mildura. But this route was a no go! Our group had suffered a downpour on the Ivanhoe Plains just the previous year and had already had the experience of camping beside an impassable road, knowing that nobody was going anywhere until it dried out.

We would re-route via Hillston following the newly built Kidman Way, which now allows bitumen to surface all the way from Melbourne to Karumba on the Gulf of Carpentaria. Then to Goolgowi, southwest to Hay, then west to the Sturt Highway through Balranald to Euston on the Murray River.



None of us remembered the fruit fly exclusion zone and we had to unload all of our lovely fresh fruit to protect the area's fruit industries from the possible introduction of the fruit fly pest into the region, I wondered if our fruit hadn't come from there originally anyway!



Our first camp at Euston was on the banks of the Murray, or at least on an anabranch of the Murray and the next day saw us pass through numerous orchards on our way to Wentworth, where the Darling meets the Murray. We were now south of Mungo and our original route and all the roads leading into that area were still closed to all traffic.



Where the Murray River meets the Darling River

We turn north from Wentworth for a short distance to find the track that leads to Renmark and stays north of the Murray. This was the original track of the overlanders moving their sheep from the plains of southern NSW to markers in Adelaide. We pass through timbered country and open plains on this southwest corner of NSW and skirt a huge lake known as Lake Victoria – and we're still in NSW!!

Camp that night was on Punkah Creek and an afternoon swim was tempered by the many snags and spikes of fallen and submerged trees. We crossed the border at the ruins of the old customs house where state levies were applied to every traveller and every head of stock during the colonial days. Cobb and

Co travelled the route picking up the takings for deposit in the State coffers. It came to mind that there were not many crossings of this western NSW border and we had done them all over the years. Over the length of this 560km border there is only this Chowilla crossing in the south, Cameron Corner in the very north, and in the middle, the Barrier Highway south of Broken Hill. Westen NSW is very much the Outback.



Punkah Creek

So we cross into South Australia and take a lovely scenic drive into beautiful Renmark. Orchards and vineyards pattern the landscape and a tower lookout just out of town allows for panoramic views of the surrounds. Here we cross the Murray, the first road crossing since the other side of Wentworth and make our way northeast to nearly the northernmost bend in the river and where the South Australian and Victorian borders meet. We are not far, as the crow flies, across the creek from our camp on Punkah Creek and here too is a customs house. This one was built for the same purpose, but to catch all the ferrymen and paddle steamers as they plied their trade up and down the waterway, I'm told they had to pay both ways too.

We were at the northernmost point of the State of Victoria and along every border fence there is a track. Our plan was to follow this border track due south – and we did for 240kms. The NSW border strikes the Murray on the 141st meridian, but this borderline is a few degrees to the west. As was the case in Northern Australia, the survey equipment was not as good as today's and a dispute broke out between the States over this narrow strip of land. Before the dispute was settled by the federal government, it was virtually no man's land with neither State having overall jurisdiction. The story has it that the area along the disputed border became a haven for outlaws who could roam the countryside and then seek refuge in the disputed zone. (See ***The Disputed Country*** book for more information on this fascinating history).



Border Track

The border track runs due south and can be pretty rough going. After crossing the Sturt Highway, the track swaps into the Victorian side of the border fence and, as we found, back and forth. Sometimes you're in Victoria, sometimes in South Australia. When we camped, we could park the vehicles in one State and sleep in the other or collect firewood in South Australia and burn it in Victoria or vice versa.

This is mallee country. Mallee is a multi-trunked eucalyptus and our information is that 80% of it grows in this area of Australia and that 75% of it has been cleared. The Mallee was seen to be worthless and easily fell prey to the bulldozers and ship's chain that cleared huge tracts of this area for crop growing. Also large areas were given over after the war under the soldier settlement program. They didn't give much away! The soil was poor and a larger holding was needed to support a family. Many a man lived a lonely and poverty stricken life before abandoning his plot of land after exhausting all efforts to eke out a living from this unforgiving country.



Charles Sturt, who, in 1830, explored the Murray River from the Murrumbidgee to Lake Alexandria described the mallee country as :barren and unproductive as the worst of the country we have passed through". Indeed, where the mallee still grows thick in its natural state I would consider it almost impenetrable and with no significant landmarks and having to twist and turn to proceed, the easiest country to get lost in, where you could be only a short distance from water and be completely unaware of it. Also fire is a great danger. Once started, there would be no stopping it – what with the amount of fuel from the debris of the myriad of trunks of the mallee and we all know how eucalyptus burns!

Along the track I had folded in my rear view mirrors to protect them from encroaching branches and underbrush. The foliage kept the view to a minimum except for on the crests of the sand dunes. We did travel for some miles in an area that had been burnt out and the defoliated trunks and stems could be seen to spread as far as the eye could see over rolling dunes and swales.

A short detour took us to some rock holes in the Murray Sunset National Park and they were an interesting feature of solid stone. At ground level, two holes had somehow been eroded into the rock and had each filled with surface water. Undoubtedly an Aboriginal watering place in this dry region, but woe become to any thirsty animal seeking a drink. If the water level had dropped. It would surely be a watery grave, incongruous in this hot dry area to drown, but there was no way out of the rock hole. In fact, National Parks had the area fenced off.



Further south, we strike the Mallee Highway and run the short distance into Pinnaroo for a tub and top up the fuel tanks. Again we handed over our fruit recently purchased in Renmark. Those men at the fruit gate seem to have a very uncompromising manner. On our return, a couple of hours later, our fruit had already been "destroyed".

Back to the border and a camp at Scorpion Springs, an area of permanent water and particular significance to the local indigenous people. In 1849, the party surveying the border stumbled upon these springs after their bullocks had perished and they were suffering from severe thirst themselves. It is one of the very few water sources in a large dry region.

Meridian Mirth

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

Today I was in a shoe store that sells only shoes, nothing else. A young girl with a tattoo and green hair walked over to me and asked, "What brings you in today, I looked at her and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator." She didn't quite know how to respond, had that deer in the headlights look.

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat" I just say, "No, it's for company!"

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, "An ambulance."

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Have you ever noticed: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice that when you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs"

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me.
I want people to know why I look this way.
I've travelled a long way and a lot of the roads were not paved.

Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.
May you always have:
Love to share,
Cash to spare,
Tires with air,
And friends who care."
Amazing Stuff

A full stop, comma or especially an exclamation mark after the first word would have negated any confusion:

Why do Americans (and many other English-speaking countries) say "unclear" when they mean something is unclear?

Because when it's unclear, the meaning is not clear. English— like other languages presumably— can be turned mistakenly into phrases that generate an opposite understanding of what's intended. By way of example:



Does the sign mean to convey that crocodiles may be in the water and so humans shouldn't enter the water to swim? Does it mean crocodiles should

refrain from swimming at this spot? Or is it idle conversation remarking on how crocs prefer to swim elsewhere?

Meaning can be clarified or muddled by subtle but essential changes in spoken tone indicating important punctuation or the lack of it. As in...

The Waltons: "Let's eat, Grandma!"

The Donners: "Let's eat Grandma!"

English is a robust language to the extent that its speakers and writers observe common rules to ensure clarity. Failure to ensure clarity results in hilarity or horror, depending on the circumstances.

What's 4 inches long and always disappoints women?

An empty toilet roll.

Childhood injuries:
Fell off my bike
Fell out of a tree
Twisted my ankle

Adult injuries:
Slept wrong
Sat down too long
Sneezed too hard



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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