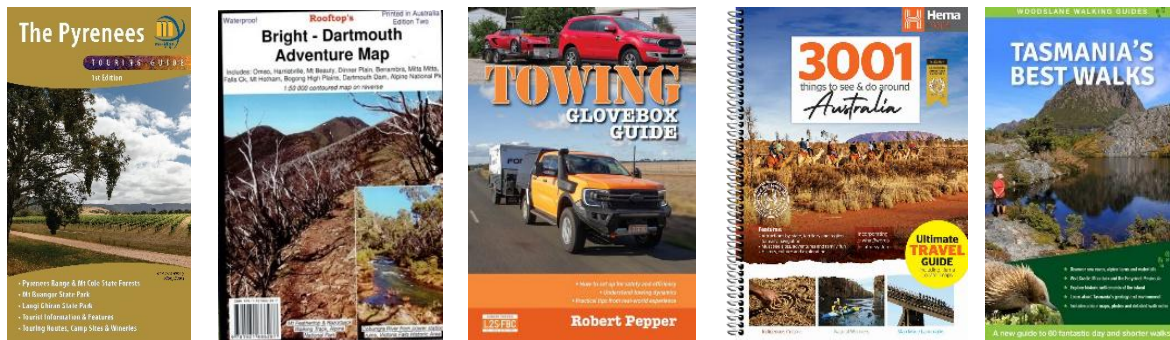




The Meridian Line - Sunday 09.11.2025

“A change in the weather is sufficient to recreate the world and ourselves.” - Marcel Proust



The Pyrenees Touring Maps – from \$14.95

With this map, the entire Pyrenees region is now mapped on a single double-sided 1:50,000 scale topographic map, covering Beaufort to Redbank and Navarre to Avoca. Designed for touring and 4WD adventures, it highlights key visitor attractions including wineries, historic sites, picnic spots and scenic lookouts. The map also features the Pyrenees Endurance Trail along with walking routes around Mt Buangor and Mt Cole, plus practical travel details such as pet-friendly campgrounds, accommodation options, local produce outlets, petrol stations, waterfalls and other useful visitor information to help you plan and enjoy your journey through this beautiful region.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/the-pyrenees-touring-map/>

Bright - Dartmouth Adventure Map – \$14.95

The Rooftop Bright–Dartmouth Adventure Map covers a wide stretch of Victoria’s high country, including Omeo, Victoria Falls, Dinner Plain, Falls Creek, Mount Feathertop, Harrietville, Bright, Mount Beauty, Dederang, Mitta Mitta, Lake Dartmouth, Glen Valley, Anglers Rest, Benambra, Tawonga and surrounding areas.

A special pictorial inset highlights the historic bush huts of the Bogong–Hotham region, featuring huts such as Wallaces Hut, Spargo Hut, Toms Hut, Deddicks Hut, Westons Hut, Kelly Hut, JB Plain Hut, Bogong Jack Hut North, Diamantina Hut, Kennedys Hut, Blairs Hut, Johnsons Hut, Cope Hut, Federation Hut on Mt Feathertop, Edmondsons Hut, Mt Wills Fire Tower Hut, Faithful Hut, Ryders Hut and more. On the reverse side, you'll find a 1:50,000 scale Forest Activities Map covering the Bogong, Bright and Mount Hotham region — ideal for walking, 4WD touring and outdoor exploring. The map is printed on durable waterproof paper, making it a reliable companion in all weather conditions.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/bright-dartmoith-adventure-map/>

Towing Glove Box Guide - \$34.95

This new easy-to-follow guide covers all the essential driving and loading techniques every caravan, camper-trailer and trailer owner should know. With its rugged cover and spiral binding, it's compact enough to fit in any vehicle's glovebox, yet comprehensive enough to cover the essentials of safe and efficient towing. Inside, you'll find guidance on setup for safety, understanding movement dynamics, and practical tips drawn from real-world experience. Learn specific driving techniques for different situations, loads and surfaces, and use the simple checklists at the end of each chapter to ensure you've mastered the key points. Perfect for both beginners and seasoned travellers, this guide is your go-to companion for confident towing on every journey.

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

3001 Things To See & Do Around Australia – \$64.95

Prepare for your next adventure with Hema's 3001 Things To See & Do Around Australia. Compiled by explorer James Allen, travellers can browse comprehensive site listings across all states and territories, or select activities along their path using detailed Hema maps. Listings are categorised as Indigenous, Natural Landmarks or Man Made Landmarks making it easy to find 'things to do' on your trip. Key Features are 3001 indexed activities/landmarks, split into Indigenous, Natural Landmarks or Man Made Landmarks, Site information and facilities, 180 pages of maps showing site locations and an intuitive, easy to use design.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/3001-things-australia/>

Tasmania's Best Walks - \$27.50

Tasmania is a walker's paradise and one of Australia's best-known hiking destinations. This brand-new guide, part of Australia's bestselling walking guide series, features sixty walks with plenty of suggestions for variations.

Routes range from leisurely cliff-top strolls to rainforest and waterfall adventures, and more rugged tracks deep in the state's renowned national parks. Detailed descriptions and clear maps help readers explore Tasmania's stunning forests, glacial lakes, and dramatic coastline, while over 300 full-colour photographs bring the landscapes to life. The guide also includes dozens of maps, plus keys to birds, wildflowers and fungi. A handy summary table lists each walk's distance, elevation gain and highlights, making it easy to choose the right route for any occasion. Covering the entire island, this guide showcases both hidden gems and the state's iconic trails.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/tasmanias-best-walks/>

Meridian Musings

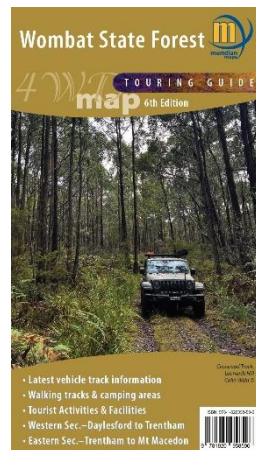
Next week, at 11am on November 11, we pause to commemorate Remembrance Day. This date marks the moment in 1918 when the guns on the Western Front fell silent, bringing an end to more than four years of continuous fighting in the First World War. The Germans had called for an armistice to begin peace negotiations. Originally known as Armistice Day, the occasion was renamed Remembrance Day after the Second World War to honour those who lost their lives in both conflicts. Today, it serves as a time to reflect on the sacrifice of all Australians who have served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Lest we forget.



The newest edition of our **Wombat State Forest 4WD Touring Map** arrived this week! The brand-new 6th edition of this popular double-sided 1:50,000 scale topographic map has just been released, covering the entire Wombat State Forest from Daylesford through Woodend and the Macedon Ranges. Perfect for 4-wheel driving, touring, bushwalking or a fun day trip, this updated map highlights the region's wineries, historic mines, mineral spas, picnic spots and more. Explore the Great Dividing Trail and the scenic Wombat Forest Drive and discover hidden gems you won't find anywhere else. This latest edition also includes pet-friendly campgrounds, accommodation, local produce stops, petrol stations, waterfalls and other essential tourist information, making

it the ultimate companion for anyone wanting to explore the beauty and adventure of this stunning region.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/wombat-state-forest-4wd-map/>

Our **Black Friday Sale** is just around the corner, and it's a great chance to start planning your next adventure. We'll be offering special deals across a range of our most popular maps, books, walking guides and atlases — perfect for summer road trips, hiking holidays or finding new hidden corners of Australia to explore. Whether you're stocking up for your own travels or looking for thoughtful Christmas gifts, Black Friday is the ideal time to save.

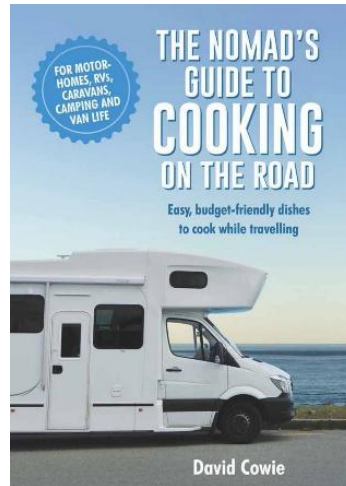
Our Black Friday Sale will run from **November 26 to December 2**. All discounted items will be available in our specially marked “**Black Friday Specials**” category, which you can find here:

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product-category/black-friday-specials/>

What's New to the Website

The Nomad's Guide to Cooking on the Road - \$29.99

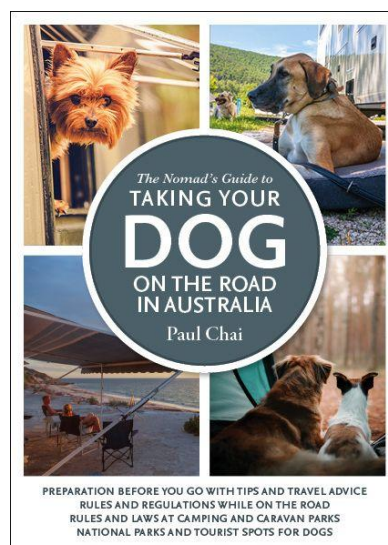
When you're away from home for a while, it doesn't take long to realise that cooking your own meals is not only cheaper but also far more nutritious. There will be times on the road when pre-prepared meals or your usual supermarket favourites aren't easy to find, so being flexible, organised and prepared is essential. Whether you're travelling in a van, caravan, camper or RV, having a well-stocked and thoughtfully planned kitchen makes all the difference. In this book, you'll find practical advice on how to prepare and stock your mobile kitchen, choose essential gear, and store your supplies safely and efficiently. You'll also discover a great collection of simple, tasty recipes designed to suit a range of cooking methods — from BBQs and gas stoves to air fryers. With a little preparation, you'll spend less time cooking and shopping, and more time enjoying your travels and the freedom of life on the road.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/the-nomads-guide-cooking-road/>

The Nomad's Guide to Taking Your Dog on the Road in Australia - \$29.99

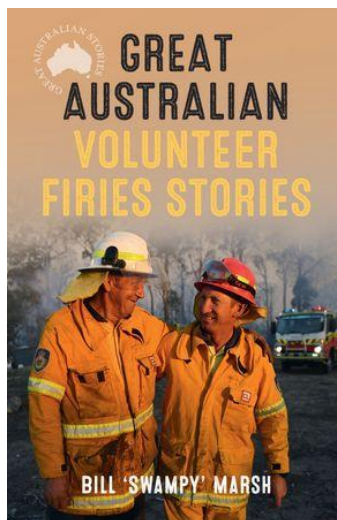
The Nomad's Guide to Taking Your Dog on the Road in Australia is your complete companion to travelling the country with your four-legged friend. When you hit the road with your dog, every stop becomes a little adventure — finding places to eat, explore, rest and, most importantly, places where your dog is welcome too. From dog-friendly attractions, beaches and parks to cafés, pubs and accommodation, this guide helps you plan ahead and travel with confidence. Packed with tips from experienced travellers, it includes practical advice on preparing for your trip, navigating pet rules and regulations, and finding campgrounds, caravan parks and hotels that welcome dogs. With the right preparation, your journey will be just as rewarding for your dog as it is for you.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/nomads-dog-guide-australia/>

Great Australian Volunteer Firies Stories - \$34.99

“Us firefighters do more than fight fires. We also assist those who have just gone through what’s probably the worst experience of their lives.” Australia’s volunteer firefighters are the quiet heroes of our communities — ordinary people doing extraordinary things. The Black Summer fires of 2019–2020 reminded us of their bravery, but their work goes far beyond the flames. From road and air accidents to cyclones, floods and rescues, these men and women are there whenever disaster strikes. Spanning stories from the 1880s to 2020, this compelling collection takes readers behind the sirens to reveal the courage, sacrifice and spirit of Australia’s volunteer firies. A powerful tribute to those who put others first — and to the enduring mateship that burns brightest in our toughest moments.

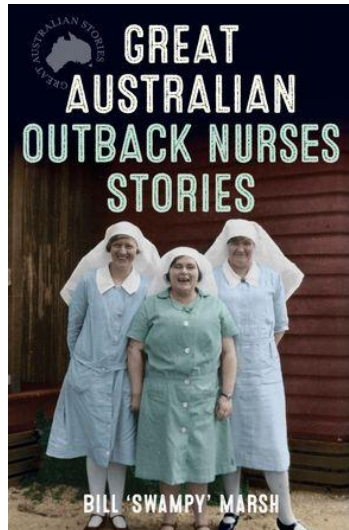


<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/volunteer-firies-stories/>

Great Australian Outback Nurses Stories - \$34.99

With hearts as big as the outback, Australia’s rural and remote nurses are a tough, caring and courageous bunch. Working in some of the most isolated and unforgiving corners of the country, they handle everything from broken bones and snake bites to labour pains, lost explorers and the odd sick cattle dog — and they’ve got the stories to prove it.

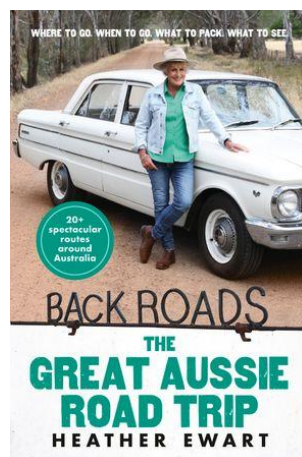
This unforgettable collection of true tales from outback nurses will make you laugh, cry and marvel at the grit and generosity of those who keep our bush communities alive. Award-winning author Bill “Swampy” Marsh knows these nurses well — while researching this book, he had a near-fatal fall in Kakadu and saw first-hand the extraordinary skill and heart of the people he writes about. A celebration of courage, compassion and country, *Outback Nurses* shines a light on the unsung heroes of the Australian bush.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-australian-outback-nurses-stories/>

Back Roads – The Great Aussie Road Trip - \$34.99

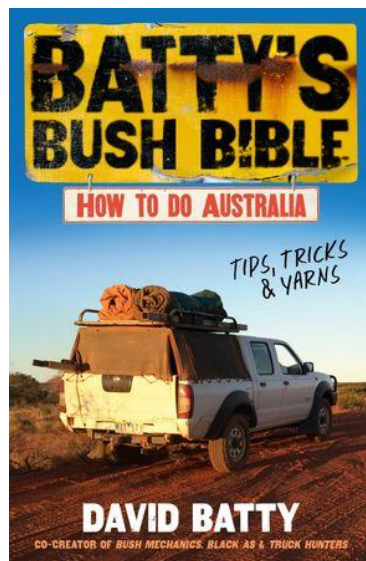
There's no better way to explore this incredible country of ours than by hitting the open road — whether it's cruising along the coast, winding through the mountains, or crossing the wide, open plains. As host of ABC TV's *Back Roads*, Heather Ewart has travelled thousands of kilometres across Australia — from smooth stretches of highway to dusty outback tracks — uncovering the stories, people and places that make regional Australia so special. Now, Heather shares some of her favourite journeys and personal tips to help you plan your own adventure. From the rugged beauty of the Oodnadatta Track and the stunning Great Alpine Road to the sparkling turquoise coastline around Esperance, her road trips capture the true spirit of Australia. Discover must-see sights, local festivals, town characters and a few well-kept secrets that only the locals know. So, if you've been dreaming of your next getaway, this is the perfect inspiration to pack your bags, fuel up and start exploring!



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-aussie-road-trip/>

Batty's Bush Bible – How To Do Australia - \$34.99

Driving around Australia is one of life's great adventures — equal parts freedom, fun and a touch of madness! But as anyone who's broken down on the Nullarbor can tell you, heading into the big red isn't for the faint-hearted. That's where *Batty's Bush Bible* comes in. Written by filmmaker and storyteller David Batty — best known for the cult classic *Bush Mechanics* — this book is packed with practical advice, laugh-out-loud yarns and outback wisdom gathered from four decades spent filming in Australia's most remote regions. From being swept away by flash floods in the Kimberley to surviving on stingray in the Top End, David has seen (and survived) it all. Along the way, he's picked up priceless tips from First Nations friends and the original *Bush Mechanics* — including how to stuff tyres with spinifex, turn mulga wood into gear sticks and keep old cars running against all odds. Part travel guide, part survival manual and part outback comedy, *Batty's Bush Bible* is the perfect glove-box companion for anyone planning a road trip, dreaming of going bush, or just keen for a good laugh. So before you hit the open road — or even if you're just travelling from the couch — grab a copy and get ready for a wild ride through the heart of Australia!

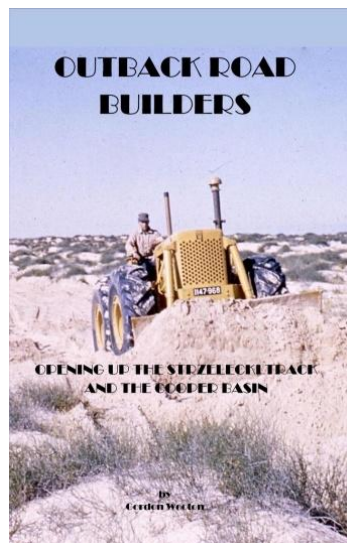


<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/battys-bush-bible/>

Outback Road Builders – Opening up the Strzelecki Track and the Cooper Basin - \$37.50

At sixteen, **Gordon Wooton** joined the Engineering & Water Supply Department's road gang in Burra, South Australia. It was 1958 — the year the State Premier promised Delhi Santos that roads would be built to reach the remote Cooper Basin if they explored for oil and gas. Gordon and the Burra

Gang were assigned to construct a route up the Strzelecki Track to Innamincka and across the Cooper Basin. From Blanchwater to Mount Hopeless, through the Cobler Sand Hills and along Strzelecki Creek, they built the roads that allowed access to the region for exploration and industry. Working under extreme heat, sandstorms, and remote conditions, these men developed strong camaraderie and left a lasting legacy. *Outback Road Builders* is Gordon's firsthand account of those years, documenting the challenges, work processes, and experiences of building roads in one of Australia's most remote regions. The book includes rare photographs from the time, providing a record of the roads, landscapes, and conditions faced by the road builders in the Cooper Basin.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/outback-road-builders/>

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>

Victoria

Mt Buffalo National Park is now fully open to the public

- Lake Catani Campground is now open for summer camping.
- Several seasonal road closures that were originally planned for reopening prior to Cup Weekend (from 30 October) need to be extended:
- Alpine National Park (Eastern region)

Snowy River National Park (Eastern region)

• Betts Creek Track is closed for track maintenance works until December.

South Australia

Birdsville Inside Track and the Birdsville Track – Cooper Creek causeway are closed until further notice.

Cooper Creek Ferry Crossing Access crossing site is now open.

Strzelecki Track - Mertly Mertly to Mt Hopeless – Strzelecki Crossing restricted to single lane only. No services at Moomba.

Strzelecki Track - Mt Hopeless to Talc Mine Rd and Talc Mine Td to Lyndhurst – 4WD only.

Birdsville Inside Track – Closed - Due to flooding until further notice.

Birdsville Track - Cooper Creek to Marree - Open With Warnings

Birdsville Track - SA Border to Mungeranie - 4WD / HV

Malkumba Coongie Lakes National Park and significant parts of Innamincka Regional Reserve are closed until further notice due to a major flooding event.

Western Australia

Mitchel River NP, Purnululu NP and Wunaamin NP – all Seasonally Closed through to April 2026.

Queensland

Camerons Corner Road - Road closed to all traffic in both directions

Hungerford Eulo Road (Hungerford Road)

Hungerford Road and Hungerford Road (Achernar Street)

All lanes affected in both directions

Urandangi North Road (Waverley to Urandangi Township, Piturie)

Road closed to all traffic in both directions

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

11 November: Remembrance Day Services at RSLs throughout Australia.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we commemorate. Every Remembrance Day, RSL Victoria hosts a number of events across our state

to help Victorians commemorate those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in global conflicts – and those who serve today.

To find a service in your area please refer to their website.

<https://www.rembertoremember.com.au/plan-your-remembrance-day#map>

13 – 17 November: Rainbow on the Plains Festival in Hay, NSW. 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/>

15 November: Bicheno Food & Wine Festival in Tasmania. Tasmania's favourite coastal ritual returns to the shores of Waubs Bay for a one-day beachside bash packed with flavour, fun, and cult-level vibes. World-class Tasmanian wine, bold local brews and spirits, tasty bites from local producers, and a soundtrack of live music.

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

15 November: Bordertown Spring Festival & Show in South Australia. Face painting, rides, show bags, trade, market, and food stalls. Horse Challenge on Saturday and the Heavy Horses on Sunday. There's also the Ute & 4x4 Muster, Fashion Parade, adult Speed Shear, and more!

<https://southaustralia.com/products/limestone-coast/event/bordertown-spring-festival-show>

16 November: Goulburn Car and Motorcycle Show in NSW. Enjoy a day admiring the cars and motorbikes on display and treat yourself to the various food and beverages stalls.

<https://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/goulburn-area/goulburn/events/goulburn-car-and-motorcycle-show>

22 November: Yass River Co Yass Rodeo in NSW. Adrenaline-fueled program, live music, amusement rides, western vendors, food and family friendly fun.

<https://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/yass-area/yass/events/yass-river-co-yass-rodeo>

22 – 23 November WA Day Festival in Burswood Park, WA. The day is designed to bring together all people who call Western Australia home, no

matter how long they have lived here, in a shared expression of pride in the state and its achievements.

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

28 – 30 November: Geelong Caravanning & Adventure Leisurefest in Victoria. This brand-new event is your gateway to a summer of coastal adventure. Set on the doorstep of the Great Ocean Road, it's the perfect place to gear up, get inspired, and start planning your ultimate holiday escape.

<https://www.caravanshow.com.au/shows/geelong-caravanning-adventure-leisurefest/visitor-information/>

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 . We recently heard from Katie and Tim, who shared this thought-provoking story. Progress is important, and good roads and rail lines are essential — but should it come at the expense of preserving the history of our small outback towns? What do you think? Have you discovered towns like Cook on your travels around Australia?

Access to Cook

In 2012 Tim and I travelled from Perth to Adelaide on the Indian Pacific. Despite what some people might think, for us there was nothing Nullar-Boring about it for, as long as it was light, we sat with our eyes glued to the window the whole way. The fare included a stop at Cook, not for an outdoor meal but just a wander around the little community/town where, in 2012, only 4 people resided.

In 2023 we crossed the Nullarbor again, but this time in our campervan. We wanted to revisit Cook as we hoped it was being loved and maintained as an important part of Australian history should be. As we left the Eyre Highway there was a sign advising that it was 105 kilometres to Cook where there are “No Services”.



Historical Marker

Our expectations were high as we turned north from Eyre Highway. Half way along the track we were treated to the sight of 2 bustards. They were unusually bold, for they stood in our pathway for 5 minutes or more and allowed us to admire them. When we had seen them in the past they had never lingered so it seemed like a good omen. Ahead we could see the buildings of Cook, as we got closer, we became increasingly aware that we would not be welcome there. A few hundred metres from the line there were unfriendly signs warning against unauthorised entry. "Pacific National access only". However, it was late in the afternoon and having travelled up from the highway, we were not wanting to go back in the gathering twilight. As is the nature of the area, there were no sheltering trees, so we just pulled off the track half a kilometre away, feeling somewhat exposed. We could see people in hi-vis clothing moving around and they must have been able to see us. However, no-one came and asked us to move on, so we had an undisturbed night.

The next morning two trucks came away from the buildings, heading south towards the highway. I gave them a friendly wave and in return they stopped to say good morning. I told them we had wanted to revisit Cook but had been put off by the authoritative signs. The workers dismissed our concerns and told us to go ahead and have a look, only telling us to keep away from the tracks. Once there, we discovered that the condition of the town was no better than at our last visit – probably worse. The information boards were more faded and crumbling and the buildings were in a very sad state. It was no wonder that dongas were provided for the railway workers as the buildings were unliveable. We were saddened by the whole experience.



Historical Remains

Yes, there are plenty of sites on the internet that tell that story but actually visiting the place helps bring the story alive and encourages visitors to understand the way in which the railway and these now almost non-existent towns played such an important role in the history of our country.



Historical remains

Our feeling is that of shame that Pacific National does not recognise the importance of Australians and international visitors learning our history and seeing it for themselves. I understand that Pacific National is a large company

whose main objective is that of ensuring the smooth running of passenger and freight trains across the country – and yes, that is an important function, but it seems the company has been given exclusive access to property which is of interest to the public. The “Do not enter” signs seem severe and unnecessary - if people travelling by train are allowed to set foot in Cook, why not others who have taken the effort to make the drive? Maybe marking out a designated camp area for self-contained vehicles, in a safe location not adjacent to the tracks, would be possible, and could be promoted as Pacific National supporting the wider community.



When we arrived back in Perth I decided to do something about it. I wrote 2 letters expressing our concern that this heritage town was so neglected and, that as a consequence, the significance of this town to the growth of Australia and the stories it has to tell, would likely disappear in a few more years. One letter to Heritage South Australia received a polite reply that said nothing more than “Your email has been received and will be actioned accordingly”. The letter to the CEO of the Pacific National Railway received no reply. A few weeks later I sent a follow up letter but still no reply.

So there it is. Unless something has changed in the last 2 years, this interesting little town is gradually disappearing from view, and its stories are going with it. And my feeling is that anyone who should care, actually does not.

Meridian Mirth

To share your jokes, please send them to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.
Many thanks to Vince and Paul for their contributions!
Sorry if anyone is offended by the jokes in this edition – I thought they were amusing, but I understand they might not be for everyone.



I had a phone conversation today with a very nice young chap This is how it went:

"Hello sir, how are you today?"

"I'm very well, thank you for asking. And how are you? And, more to the point, WHO are you?"

"Sir, I'm calling you from Microsoft".

"Microsoft, eh?"

"MICROSOFT, the computer company. I'm calling to tell you that we have found a problem with your computer and -"

"REALLY?? Well, that's quite concerning....."

"Yes sir, it can become very serious indeed, but thankfully I will be able to fix it for you. Now, if you -"

"No, I meant it's very concerning because you see I don't HAVE a computer".

"You don't?"

"I don't".

"Ahh, it must be a problem on your laptop sir -"

"Don't have one".

"Ipad?"

"Nope".

"Tablet?"

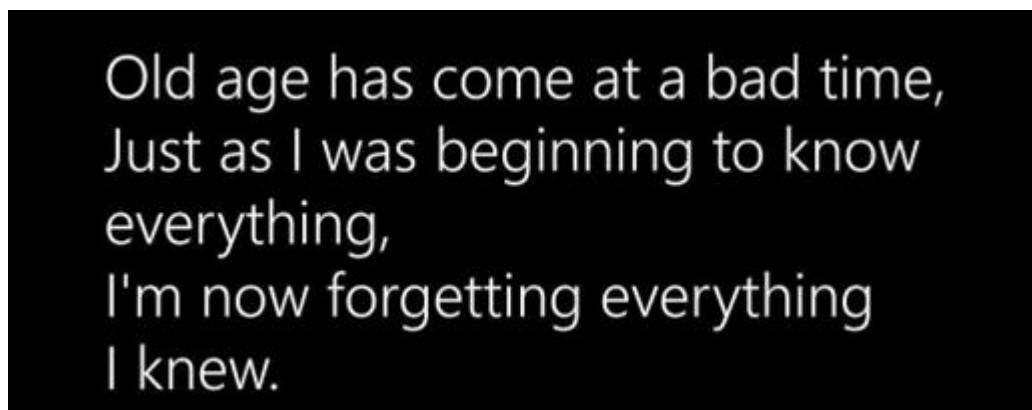
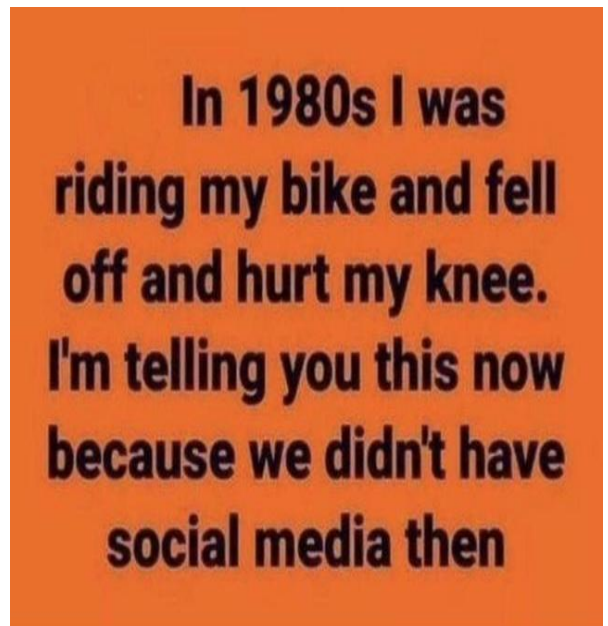
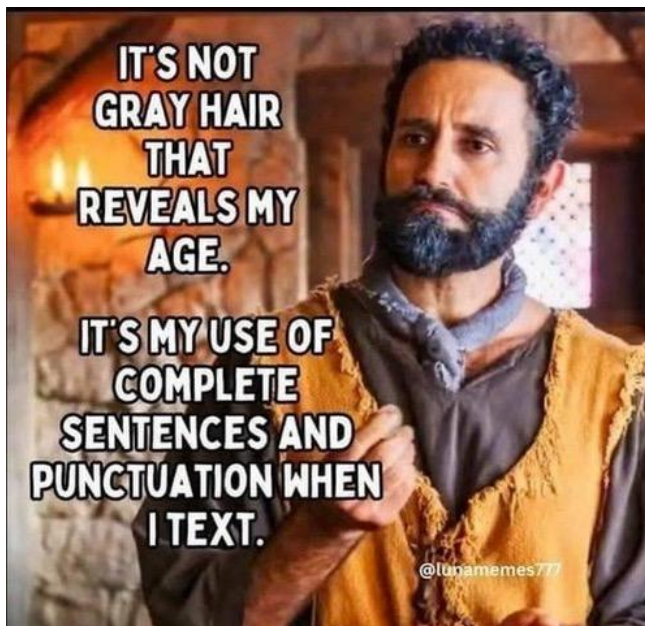
"Nope, I have none of those things. As a matter of fact, I don't even have a telephone".

After a few seconds of silence he said "Ah, sir, you are lying to me now!"
I said "Well, you started it!!" and put the phone down.

**All of us older folks
know all about living
on the edge. We
used to answer the
phone without
knowing who it was.**

**My mind is
exceptionally quiet....
I'm suspicious that I'm
up to something i dont
want myself to know
about.**

- Frog parking only – All others will be toad!
- If your car is running – I'm voting for it!
- I want to grow my own food – but I can't find any bacon seeds!
- What happens if you get scared half to death – twice!
- This is my step ladder – I never knew my real ladder!
- My wife said I never listen – or something like that!
- I checked into the hokey okey clinic and turned myself around!



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.

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