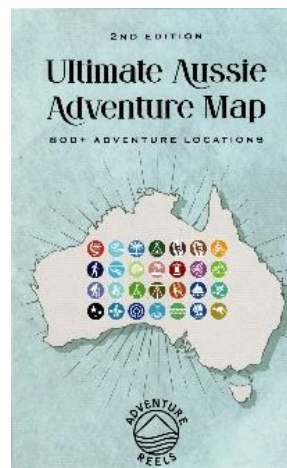
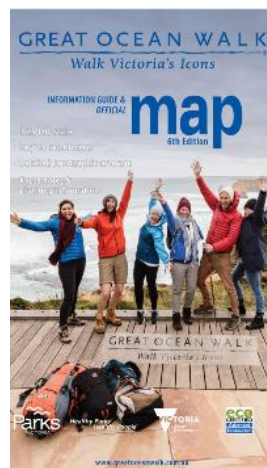
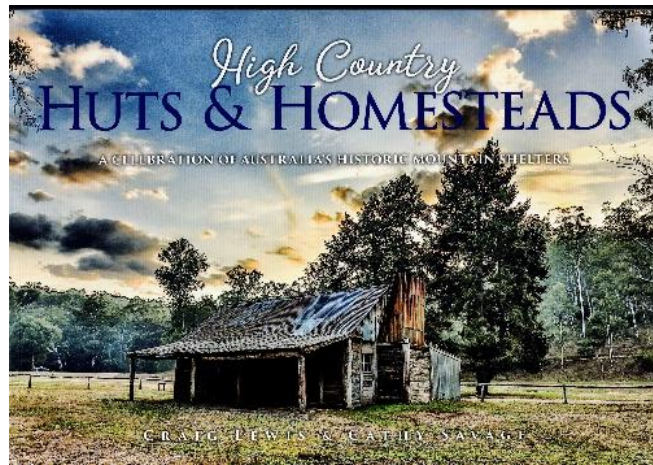
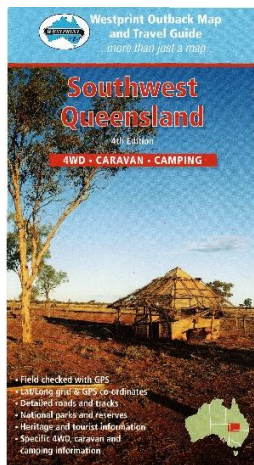




The Meridian Line - Sunday 26.04.2026

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." —C.S. Lewis



Focus on Five

Hattah-Kulkyne Map Guide – from \$11.95

Explore the remarkable landscapes of Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, where peaceful lakes sit beneath ancient river red gums, mallee woodlands stretch

across rolling sand dunes, and distinctive semi-arid grasslands thrive. Be sure to take in the striking salt lakes and the sweeping curves of the Murray River. Renowned as one of Victoria's most biologically rich regions, the park supports more than 200 bird species along with a diverse range of wildlife, including mammals, reptiles, frogs, and insects. To help you explore, we offer a newly updated topographic map at an enlarged scale of 1:70,000, covering both Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and the neighbouring Murray-Kulkyne Park. It includes a detailed inset of the permanent lakes—Lake Hattah and Lake Mournpall—along with clearly marked walking and cycling tracks, as well as camping areas. Whether you enjoy bushwalking, cycling, four-wheel driving, or canoeing, this map is an ideal companion for discovering this unique mallee landscape. It also features informative notes on the park's history, natural environments, and recreational opportunities—everything you need to plan a memorable experience in the outdoors. Available folded and folded/laminated.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/hattah-kulkyne-map-guide/>

South West Queensland – from \$15.95

This map covers the network of roads known as the Adventure Way, stretching from Toowoomba to Innamincka. It extends across a wide region bordered by Windorah to the northwest, Augathella to the northeast, Barrington on the NSW–Queensland border to the southeast, and Cameron Corner to the southwest. All key access roads into Innamincka are clearly shown. This edition has been field-checked using GPS and includes latitude/longitude grids and coordinates, along with detailed roads and tracks, national parks and reserves, and a range of heritage and visitor information. It also highlights important details for 4WD travellers, caravanners, and campers. As with all Westprint Maps, this map includes informative notes on local history, early explorers, points of interest, and surrounding flora and fauna, complemented by photographs of notable landmarks. Clear design and easy readability are paired with practical details such as road distances, rest areas, caravan parks, and fuel stops. Available folded and folded/laminated.

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

Great Ocean Walk Map – from \$14.95

Covering the full length of the Great Ocean Walk, this detailed map includes comprehensive track notes and planning information—everything you need in a single resource. Suitable for anything from short walks to the complete eight-day journey, it guides you through the towering Great Otway National Park forests, rugged coastline, and dramatic coastal gullies. Available folded and folded/laminated.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-ocean-walk-map/>

High Country Huts & Homesteads - \$39.99

From the creators of Australia's most popular bush camping and 4WD guides comes a beautifully presented exploration of the High Country's most striking and historic huts. Richly illustrated with full-colour photography from across New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria and Tasmania, *High Country Huts* captures a nostalgic collection of abandoned homesteads, shearers' huts, travellers' shelters, and other remote structures. Each entry is accompanied by a brief history and a selection of engaging stories that bring these isolated places to life.

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

Ultimate Aussie Adventure Map – \$27.50

Australia is full of remarkable outdoor experiences, and the *Ultimate Aussie Adventure Map* brings together more than 700 destinations to help you explore them. Whether you're chasing adrenaline, immersing yourself in nature, or searching for lesser-known spots, this comprehensive map highlights some of the country's most exciting adventures—from scenic hikes and coastal trails to remote camping areas and unforgettable wild swimming locations. This double-sided map of Australia (700mm x 1000mm) features over 700 destinations, along with curated top 10 activity lists from across the country. More than just a map, it's a thoughtful gift for anyone who loves the outdoors—perfect for planning trips, marking off visited locations, and discovering new favourites along the way.

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

Meridian Musings

This weekend we commemorate Anzac Day which marks the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli in 1915 during World War1. Around the country, the day was commemorated with dawn services, marches, and moments of reflection, recognising not only those who fought at Gallipoli but all Australians and New Zealanders who served.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

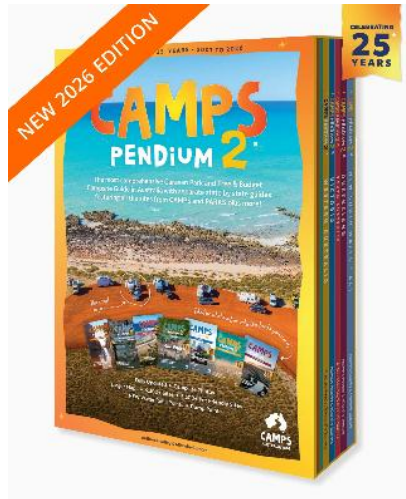
“Lest we forget.”



What's New to the Website

***Camps Pendium 2* - \$174.95**

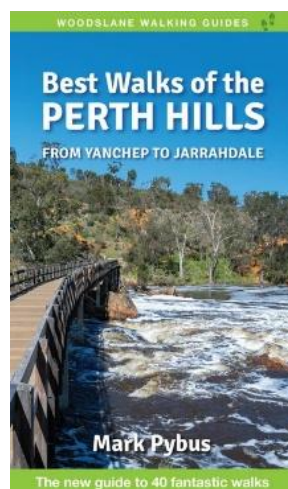
The 2026 *Camps Pendium 2* is a limited-edition seven-book boxed set that combines content from the *Camps and Caravan Parks* guides and the *Camps Australia Wide App* into a practical state-by-state format. It is the only guide in Australia to bring together a camping directory, touring atlas, and trip planner in separate state volumes, covering free camps, budget stays, and caravan parks in one place. Designed for flexibility on the road, it allows you to choose how you travel—whether that’s a free overnight stop, a fully serviced park, or a convenient site close to town. Backed by 30 years of on-road research, it’s a trusted companion for confident touring. The 2026 edition has been thoroughly updated across every state and territory, with new campsites added, existing listings revised, and water refill points now included on maps alongside dump points. At least two-thirds of sites are pet friendly, and the books feature refreshed layouts with updated full-colour mapping. The B4 easy-to-read format (35.3cm x 25cm) includes over 6,300 personally verified camps and caravan park sites, more than 500 new additions, over 5,300 pet-friendly locations, and detailed information on location, pricing, time limits, vehicle suitability, facilities, and amenities. With 640 pages of mapping and full-colour photos, the set covers all site types, including free, remote, outback, farm stays, and national parks. It is designed to be used alongside the app and offers the convenience of seven individual volumes covering NSW + ACT, QLD, VIC, WA, SA, TAS and NT, so you can carry the full set or just the guide you need for your trip.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/camps-pendium/>

Best Walks of the Perth Hills from Yanchep to Jarrahdale - \$32.99

East of the Swan Coastal Plain rises the Darling Range, an ancient chain stretching nearly 350 kilometres and home to the rich and diverse Northern Jarrah Forests. The best way to experience this landscape is on the many walking trails that wind through the hills, leading to granite outcrops, waterfalls, forests, reservoirs, and sections of the iconic Bibbulmun Track. Published in 2026, this guide showcases the best walks of the Perth Hills, with detailed descriptions and clear maps to help you explore the region's varied terrain and seasonal wildflowers. Featuring more than 150 full-colour photographs, it also includes a handy summary of walks outlining distances, nearby cafés, and key highlights, making it easy to choose the right option. Covering the ranges from Yanchep to Jarrahdale, the guide highlights both well-known routes and lesser-known gems.



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

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/>

The entirety of the Grampians Peaks Trail has officially reopened to through-hikers once again this week, marking a major milestone in recovery from the devastating 2024-25 bushfire season.

Desert Parks remaining CLOSED due to Rain Event and Flooding.

Extensive rainfalls across Central Australia (>10 inches) have resulted in flooding and road closures. Desert parks will remain closed until access routes are re-opened and track conditions have been assessed.

Witjira NP, Munga-Thirri Simpson Desert NP and Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre NP, PAR No 8 Pedirka, PAR No 15 K1 Warburton, PAR No 16 Walkers Crossing, PAR No 2 Level Post Bay and PAR No 13 Halligan Bay Point are closed with an aim to re-open on 4th May 2026.

Significant falls of rain and flooding in the far north have resulted in the full closures of Innamincka and Malkumba – Coongie Lakes National Parks.

Birdsville Inside track closed due to flooding.

Birdsville Track - Cooper Creek causeway, Mungeranie to Cooper Creek, Mungeranie to Cooper Creek and SA Border to Mungeranie - Currently closed.

Birdsville Track - Cooper Creek to Marree - OPEN from Marree to Lake Harry to 4WD and heavy vehicles. The road remains closed from north of Lake Harry due flooded creeks, boggy sections, severe scours and gutters.

Marree - William Creek - Oodnadatta: Open to 4wd & heavy vehicles, including towing.

Oodnadatta - Marla: Open to 4WD and towing (under 3t).

Seasonal campfire bans have been lifted across many Tasmanian national parks and reserves.

Cradle Mountain Tasmania - The King Billy Track repairs are complete and the closure is lifted. Visitors can now access the entire circuit.

What's On

8 – 17 May: Scone Horse Festival in NSW. Events include a street parade, farrier demonstrations, sheep dog trials, yarns night, polo, 'neighbour' art competitions, equine exhibitions, stud farm tour, sportsmans luncheon, calcutta ending with the fireworks family picnic event.

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

9 May – Bourke Show in NSW. Activities and entertainment for people of all ages including a dog and pet show, animal nursery, and whip-cracking competition, young farmers challenge, dash for cash races, and Miss and Master Bourke competition, a fashion parade, ring events, bull sale, historic car competition, food stalls, sideshow alley, rides, mechanical bull, live music, and fireworks.

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

7 – 9 May: Roma Show in Queensland. A mix of competitions, demonstrations, arts and crafts, entertainment, sideshows and rides, allowing locals and visitors to enjoy the many facets of Agricultural life in the West.

<https://romashow.com/>

9 May: Moree on a Plate in NSW. One of regional Australia's premier food and wine festivals, celebrating the diversity of produce and talents from across North West NSW, and beyond.

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

10 – 16 May: Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival in South Australia. Celebrate Cornish heritage and traditions, while enjoying the best of the region's food and beverage, culture, and of course, welcoming hospitality.

<https://www.kernewek.org/>

11 – 12 May: Mitchell Agricultural Show in Queensland. Sample a real slice of Outback Queensland life. From ring events to captivating exhibits, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

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

15 – 17 May: La Fiera Italian Festival in Victoria. family fun, authentic Italian cuisine and incredible regional wines to the heart of Myrtleford
15 – 24 May: Ord Valley Muster in WA. Nine days of music, art, comedy, dining, rodeo, and cultural experiences. It is a true bucket-list "Must'er" that combines breathtaking scenery with authentic local spirit, making it one of the nation's most unique tourism and cultural experiences.

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

16 – 17 May Lismore Gemfest in NSW. A celebration of all things lapidary, featuring an extensive range of minerals, gemstones, fossils, jewellery, lapidary tools, and equipment.

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

24 – 25 May: Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival in Victoria. A festival of fibre art, a feast of fabulous beanies, workshops, stalls and more.

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

Do you have a story?

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

When the Map Doesn't Match the Ground

For most travellers, a map carries a quiet promise: that what is shown will, in some form, exist. A line suggests a road. A symbol marks a structure. A faint track hints at a possible way through. Whether printed on paper or displayed on a screen, maps are trusted as representations of reality.

Yet anyone who has spent time beyond major highways knows that this relationship is not always exact. Roads fade, shift, or disappear altogether. Tracks shown clearly on a map may be overgrown, gated, or rerouted. In some places, the map remains unchanged while the ground has moved on.

The gap between map and landscape is not necessarily a mistake. More often, it reflects time.

Mapping has always involved interpretation. Early surveyors worked with limited tools, difficult conditions, and incomplete information. Even as methods improved, the process of recording and updating data has never been immediate. In a country as large as Australia, where many areas are remote and infrequently visited, that delay can be significant. A road marked on a map may reflect a survey carried out years — sometimes decades — earlier.



Government mapping authorities such as Geoscience Australia recognise that spatial data is continually evolving, but not always uniformly. State-based agencies, including NSW Spatial Services, similarly note that minor roads and tracks can change more quickly than official datasets are updated.

On the ground, those changes can take many forms. A track that once saw regular use during a period of pastoral activity may fall into disuse as land management practices shift. Without maintenance, it begins to narrow. Grasses and scrub encroach. Wheel ruts soften and disappear. After enough time, it may be difficult to distinguish from the surrounding landscape, even though it remains clearly marked on a map.

In other cases, roads are deliberately altered. Rerouting may occur due to erosion, flooding, or changes in property boundaries. What was once a through road may now terminate at a gate, or divert around areas that have become inaccessible. Creek crossings shown on older maps may no longer be reliable, particularly after repeated seasonal change.



Digital mapping has shortened the gap between change and representation, but it has not removed it. Navigation platforms rely on a mix of official data, satellite imagery, and user input. While this allows for faster updates, it also introduces inconsistency. A newly formed track may appear quickly on one platform while remaining absent from another. Conversely, an old route may persist digitally long after it has ceased to function on the ground.

The assumption that digital information is always current can create a false sense of certainty. Land management agencies such as Parks Victoria and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service regularly advise that access conditions can change rapidly due to weather, fire, or operational requirements. Maps, whether digital or printed, are most effective when used alongside up-to-date local knowledge.

Fire can alter the landscape quickly and in ways that are not immediately reflected in mapping. Tracks may be cleared or blocked by fallen timber, signage can be lost, and familiar reference points removed. In the period following a fire, the difference between what is mapped and what exists can be particularly noticeable.



Flooding presents a different challenge. In low-lying or riverine areas, roads may shift alignment or become impassable for extended periods. Unsealed surfaces are especially vulnerable, changing character after heavy rain. While major routes are usually repaired and updated relatively quickly, minor tracks may remain altered for much longer.

There are also times when the ground offers more than the map suggests. Informal tracks, created through repeated use by vehicles or walkers, may not appear on official maps at all. These can provide access, but they can also lead to confusion if relied upon without context. Their presence is a reminder that mapping is selective — not everything that exists is recorded, and not everything recorded continues to exist.

Looking at older maps adds another perspective. Routes that were once considered important may no longer appear on current editions, replaced by more direct or practical alignments. Occasionally, traces of these earlier roads can still be found — a cutting through bushland, a line of cleared ground, or a subtle change in vegetation. These remnants sit somewhere between map and memory, part of the landscape but no longer part of the active network.



For travellers, these differences are not necessarily a problem, but they do call for a level of awareness. A map is a guide, not a guarantee. Reading it well involves more than following a line from one point to another. It means considering terrain, land use, and recent conditions, and being prepared to adjust when the ground does not match expectation.

This is where practical navigation skills remain important. Recognising how a road is likely to behave based on contours, understanding how watercourses affect access, and simply observing the landscape all help build a clearer picture. Even with reliable digital tools, these skills provide context that a screen alone cannot always offer.

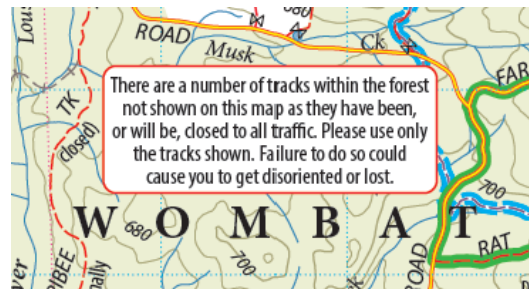
Paper maps continue to play an important role. Publications from Meridian Maps and Westprint Maps are developed with a strong focus on real-world accuracy and are field-checked wherever practical. This process is supported by local knowledge, including input from park rangers and land managers, helping to ensure mapped routes reflect current, usable conditions as closely as possible. While no map can capture every recent change, this level of verification provides a reliable foundation for navigating in environments where conditions can shift.

At Meridian Maps, accuracy and currency are central to the mapping process. Updates draw on a wide range of sources, including consultation with local

park rangers, liaison with councils, and cross-checking against other mapping data. The result is a dependable resource suited to navigation on foot or by vehicle, available in both digital and print formats.

At times, tracks may be visible in national or state parks that do not appear on maps. In cases like these, it is often because park authorities have requested their removal. This may occur where tracks are undergoing revegetation, are legacy forestry routes not open to the public, or have been closed due to lack of maintenance and safety concerns.

Meridian Maps places the following notes on our maps in the interest of safety.



However, the presence of a track on the ground does not always mean it remains open. Park management may request tracks be removed from maps for reasons such as revegetation, safety concerns, or because a forestry track is no longer accessible to the public.

Ultimately, the relationship between map and ground is dynamic. Each map represents a particular moment, based on the information available at the time it was produced. The landscape, meanwhile, continues to change — through use, weather, and time.

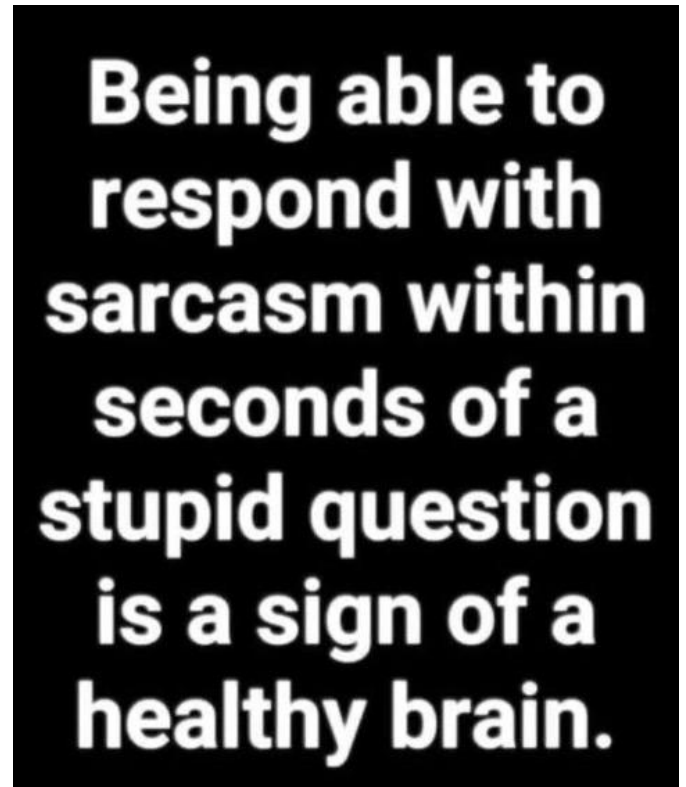
Recognising that difference does not diminish the value of a map. Instead, it adds depth to how it is used. A road that fades out, a track that diverts unexpectedly, or a route that no longer exists becomes part of the experience rather than a failure of navigation. It is a reminder that the map is not the landscape itself, but an interpretation of it.

Travelling with that understanding encourages a more attentive approach. It shifts the focus slightly, from simply following a route to observing how that route sits within the landscape. In doing so, it brings the act of navigation closer to what it has always been — a balance between what is recorded and what is found along the way.

If you would like to comment on our articles, please email rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au and we will look to include your comments in the next newsletter.

Meridian Mirth

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



An Italian woman was at her hairdresser's getting her hair styled for a trip to Rome with her husband. She mentioned the trip to the hairdresser, who responded:

"Rome? Why would anyone want to go there? It's crowded and dirty. You're crazy to go to Rome. So, how are you getting there?"

"We're going Continental Airlines," was the reply. "We got a great rate!"

"Continental?" exclaimed the hairdresser. "That's a terrible airline. Their planes are old, their flight attendants are ugly, and they're always late. So, where are you staying in Rome?"

"We'll be at this exclusive little place over on Rome's Tiber River called Teste."

"Don't go any further. I know that place. Everybody thinks it's gonna be something special and exclusive, but it's really a dump."

"We're going to go to see the Vatican and maybe get to see the Pope."

"That's rich," laughed the hairdresser. "You and a million other people trying to see him. He'll look the size of an ant."

Boy, good luck on this lousy trip of yours. You're going to need it."

A month later, the woman again came in for a hairdo. The hairdresser asked her about her trip to Rome.

"It was wonderful," explained the woman, "not only were we on time in one of Continental's brand new planes, but it was overbooked, so they bumped us up to first class. The food and wine were wonderful, and I had a handsome 28-year-old steward who waited on me hand and foot."

And the hotel was great! They'd just finished a \$5 million remodeling job, and now it's a jewel, the finest hotel in the city. They, too, were overbooked, so they apologized and gave us their owner's suite at no extra charge!"

"Well," muttered the hairdresser, "that's all well and good, but I know you didn't get to see the Pope."

"Actually, we were quite lucky, because as we toured the Vatican, a Swiss Guard tapped me on the shoulder and explained that the Pope likes to meet some of the visitors, and if I'd be so kind as to step into his private room and wait, the Pope would personally greet me.

Sure enough, five minutes later, the Pope walked through the door and shook my hand! I knelt down and he spoke a few words to me."

"Oh, really! What'd he say?"

He said: "Who on earth gave you that horrible hairdo?"

**If you're attracted to
both women and men
but neither of them are
attracted to you that
means you are
Bi-Yourself**

Wanted:

**Someone to brush my teeth,
because 9/10 dentists say
brushing alone won't help
tooth decay. No weirdos!**

Winston Churchill once raised his glass and said: "I prefer not to wish anyone health or wealth, but only luck. Because most people on the Titanic were both healthy and rich. But very few of them were lucky."

It's Monday again...



Oh wait, I'm retired!



Oldtimers

**IF YOU USED ONE OF THESE
BACK IN THE DAY**

**CHANCES ARE YOU'RE
IMMUNE TO EVERYTHING**

**Really pleased to get
a full tank of petrol
for \$90 today.**

**Admittedly it was
for the lawnmower,
but I'm trying to
stay positive.**



😞 he wanted to have dinner somewhere really expensive 😂



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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