

The Meridian Line - Sunday 21.06.2026

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.” — Malala Yousafzai



Focus on Five

Victoria's Deserts 4WD Map – from \$15.95

Covering the Mallee and northern Wimmera regions of Victoria, along with far eastern South Australia, this map has been designed specifically for 4WD travellers exploring an area with very limited commercial map coverage. Renowned for its striking mallee landscapes, rich history and abundant wildlife, Victoria's desert country offers a unique and rewarding touring experience. The Victoria's Deserts 4WD Touring Map is produced at a scale of 1:350,000 and includes detailed coverage of some of Victoria's best-known desert parks and forests, including Little Desert, Wyperfeld, Murray-Sunset, Hattah-Kulkyne and Big Desert. It also extends into accessible areas of South Australia, featuring Murray River National Park along with Ngarkat and Scorpion Springs Conservation Reserves. Seven detailed enlargements on the reverse highlight popular destinations including the Pink Lakes, Border Track, central Wyperfeld, Lindsay and Wallpolla Islands, Raak Plain, Mt Arapiles and the Little Desert region. Packed with practical touring information, the map includes campground and facility details, major 4WD routes such as the Border Track and Murrayville Track, important regional contact information, and extensive road and track coverage including many walking tracks. It is an essential companion for 4WD travellers, holidaymakers, tourism

operators and anyone exploring this remarkable part of Victoria and South Australia.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/victorias-deserts-4wd-map/>

The Beadell Roads – \$39.95

Len Beadell was one of Australia's most legendary surveyors and road builders, responsible for constructing more than 6,500 kilometres of roads through some of the most remote desert regions in central Australia. This spiral-bound atlas and guide combines detailed mapping with fascinating historical insight, featuring 26 double-page maps and more than 60 points of interest explained throughout the text sections. The Westprint Maps *Beadell Roads Atlas and Guide* covers remote areas across South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, including the Great Victoria, Great Sandy, Little Sandy and Gibson Deserts. It provides practical touring information such as road conditions, fuel availability and limited supplies at remote roadhouses, along with background on the early European explorers who travelled through the region before Beadell's road-building work opened it up to outback travellers. Road conditions throughout the atlas range from sealed highways to heavily corrugated tracks, washouts, rocky sections and soft sand, making preparation essential. The guide recommends travelling with at least two self-sufficient vehicles carrying adequate fuel, food and water, particularly on the more isolated routes away from the Great Central Road. Clear, easy-to-read maps are complemented by notes on local history, flora and fauna, landmarks and points of interest, along with photographs, GPS coordinates, road distances, rest areas, caravan parks and fuel stops. The *Beadell Roads Atlas and Guide* is an invaluable companion for anyone planning to explore Australia's remote desert heartland.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/beadell-roads/>

The Kimberley featuring the Gibb River Road – \$15.95

This regional map of the Kimberley showcases one of Australia's most iconic outback journeys — the Gibb River Road. Designed for touring and 4WD travel, the map includes extensive trip information and detailed drive coverage for the Gibb River Road, helping travellers plan and navigate this remarkable region. Produced in Hema's updated cartographic style, this latest edition combines detailed topographic mapping with Hema's extensive database of remote roads, 4WD tracks and touring points of interest across the Kimberley. Printed on waterproof stock, it is built to handle the demands of outback travel. On the reverse are detailed inset maps covering Purnululu National Park, the Dampier Peninsula and the Parry Creek region. Additional trip notes and journey information for the Gibb River Road provide practical guidance for

travellers exploring the area. The map also includes national park information and useful contact details to assist with both pre-trip planning and on-road navigation, making it a valuable companion for anyone touring the Kimberley.

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

My Memories of Pushing Googs Track - \$32.50

Googs Track is a 120-kilometre 4WD route through the rugged landscapes of Yellabinna Regional Reserve. Running from the dog fence north of Lone Oak, near Ceduna, to the Trans-Australian Railway, the track crosses 363 sand dunes and has earned a reputation as a “mini Simpson Desert crossing” among outback travellers and 4WD enthusiasts. In this heartfelt memoir, Jenny Denton shares the remarkable story behind the creation of the track by her husband, John 'Goog' Denton. Written with warmth, humour and honesty, the book recounts the four-year journey of carving a road through remote country, along with the challenges, determination and sense of adventure that drove the project forward. From their farm at Lone Oak, Goog would often look north towards the vast bushland and wonder what lay beyond. Driven by curiosity and a pioneering spirit, he set out to explore the unknown and eventually completed the track in 1976. Along the way, the Dentons uncovered striking desert landscapes and hidden natural features that continue to draw travellers from across Australia. More than just the story of a track, this memoir is a tribute to resilience, partnership and the enduring appeal of outback adventure.

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

Bright – Dartmouth Adventure Map – \$14.95

The Rooftop Bright Dartmouth Adventure Map covers a large section of Victoria’s spectacular High Country, including Bright, Omeo, Falls Creek, Dinner Plain, Mount Feathertop, Harrietville, Mount Beauty, Mitta Mitta, Lake Dartmouth and many surrounding alpine and forest regions. The map features a pictorial inset showcasing the historic bush huts of the Bogong–Hotham region, including well-known huts such as Wallaces Hut, Kelly Hut, Cope Hut and Federation Hut near Mount Feathertop. These huts are an iconic part of the Victorian High Country and add historical and navigational interest for walkers, campers and four-wheel-drive travellers. On the reverse is a detailed 1:50,000 Forest Activities Map covering the Bogong, Bright and Mount Hotham region, ideal for bushwalking, camping, touring and outdoor recreation. Printed on waterproof paper, the map is built to handle alpine conditions and extensive outdoor use.

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

Meridian Musings

We received an email from a reader after the last newsletter was published in reference to one of the jokes that was published stating “ am very disappointed to read the “joke” in the latest one.

Misogyny is everywhere so reading about the missing letter in UNT to describe a woman is a bit much.

I am so tired of crappy not funny “Jokes” so I’m not going to let this one go by.

No it isn’t a joke, yes I do have a sense of humour. It’s just that I don’t find insulting Blokey sexism funny.”

To anyone else who was offended by this joke I apologise and so no offence was intended. As I said in my response to this reader “I sincerely apologise if you were offended by the joke in this edition of the newsletter. It is certainly never my intention to upset or offend readers.

We receive a large number of jokes from readers, and not all of them are included in the newsletter. From time to time, we reject submissions that we consider sexist, racist or otherwise offensive.

This particular joke prompted some discussion before publication, and ultimately I made the decision to include it. While I understand your perspective, my interpretation was not that it was misogynistic, but rather that it was commenting on societal attitudes, particularly those of some men. The answer itself is entirely innocent and factually correct: "aunt" is a four-letter word ending in "unt". The humour relies on the fact that some people may immediately assume a different answer, and it is that assumption that forms the basis of the joke.

My reading of the joke was that the person asking for the eraser is, in effect, recognising and correcting their own inappropriate thought process. Viewed in that way, the humour is directed at the assumption itself rather than at women.

To me, it is similar to the old riddle, "What word starts with F and ends with UCK?" The answer, of course, is "firetruck". Again, the joke depends on the listener's expectations rather than on any offensive content in the answer.

That said, I appreciate that humour is subjective and that not everyone will interpret a joke in the same way. I value your feedback and will certainly take your comments into consideration when making editorial decisions in the future.

I would also be delighted if you would like to contribute a joke or two for consideration in a future newsletter.”

We also heard from Ken who said “Thank you for your maps and regular email full of information and humour. I am glad that you enjoyed your visit to the Macedon Regional Park.

Reading that has prompted me to let you know there are 3 free guided park walks at Mt Macedon, ranging from a short immersive forest walk, a 3k easy forest experience, and a 10.9k bushwalk taking in some great parts of the mount.

I am the co-ordinator for a small group of volunteers that run these walks every month on behalf of Parks Victoria. So if you or any of your customers are interested please go to Parks Victoria <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/healthy-parks-healthy-people/park-walks> and select "Macedon Regional Park" or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/parks-victoria-park-walks-17090208863> and look for Macedon.”

So if anyone is heading out to the Macedon Ranges or anywhere else in Victoria for that matter, you may wish to check out these resources. And on a more personal note, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteers, no matter the role or the amount of time you are able to give. Whether you're helping in your local community, supporting a charity, assisting at events, serving on committees, or simply lending a hand when needed, your contribution makes a genuine difference.

The number of events featured in the What's On section this fortnight, and in the last Meridian Line, is a timely reminder that this weekend marks the winter solstice—the darkest, shortest day of the year. The sun barely seems to get going before it's dipping back down again, and the nights feel long and properly wintry.

From here, winter has technically peaked, and the days will slowly start to stretch out and warm up again. For those who enjoy the colder months, it's still a great time to head for the snowfields and make the most of the crisp air and winter landscapes. For others—myself included—it's reassuring to know we're now on the gradual slide back toward longer, warmer days.

We also received this note from John Greig regarding the Surveyor generals Corner and the two posts at the corner

Re the short article on a refreshed map covering Surveyor-General's Corner in last Friday's "Meridian Line", and particularly the reprint of a part of the original Westprint Map's commentary, I assume you are aware that the WA/NT/SA Border is NOT a straight line"? The border at Surveyor-General's Corner itself consists of two (2) Right Angle Corners , both marked by the usual cylindrical post, with a brass illustration on top showing the particular Corner and it's relationship to WA/NT/SA. The two corner posts are joined by a short stretch of east-west border 127 metres long. So at that point, the ends of the two north-south straight border lines are 127 metres apart.

The reason for this as I understand it is that Longitudes are slightly curved as a consequence of the earth's spherical shape, and that putting the two right angle corners into the border line was the best (and only) way that the Surveyors could actually honour and abide by the specific directions of the three State Premier's to the effect "that the border was to be a straight line following the 129th Longitude, between the two nominated coastal points".

Kindest regards, and keep up the great work,

Thanks for this John.

Indeed, we are aware of the kink in the WA/SA/NT Border. Below is text from the Surveyor Generals Corner Map, which I think adds to John's comments.

When surveyors were marking the Western Australia border the time error is estimated to have been 0.2 of a second at the Deakin Obelisk and 0.3 of a second at the Austral Pillar (Total ½ second). Because the surface of the earth is moving at several hundred kilometres an hour, half a second in time introduced an error of approximately 130 metres in distance. Global Positioning Systems have the advantage of being linked to an atomic clock, believed to be the world's most accurate and is also completely computerised therefore eliminating human error. Even the most inexpensive GPS unit is now capable of determining a position to within 10 to 30 metres although this accuracy has only been possible since February 2000 when the USA allowed an improved signal to be transmitted from its system.

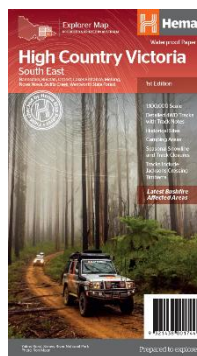
The full explanation is on the **Surveyor Generals Corner map**

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

What's New to the Website

High Country Victoria – South East 2nd edition - \$15.95

The map covers key areas including Dargo, Licola, Mount Howitt, the Wonnangatta Valley, Alpine National Park and surrounding regions, providing comprehensive coverage of Victoria's iconic High Country. It clearly identifies 4WD routes, seasonal track closures, campsites, huts, river crossings and key points of interest, making trip planning both straightforward and reliable. Detailed topographic information, including elevation contours and distance markers, helps travellers better understand the demanding nature of this rugged alpine terrain. Road classifications and access notes further assist in assessing track conditions, while the clear, practical layout ensures excellent readability even in challenging environments or poor weather. Ideal for serious off-roaders, weekend adventurers and High Country enthusiasts alike, the *Victorian High Country – South Eastern Map* is a trusted companion for exploring one of Victoria's most remote and rewarding regions. Whether you're chasing sweeping alpine views, historic cattlemen's huts or secluded bush camps, it helps ensure you travel better prepared and with greater confidence. Key features include detailed 4WD tracks with accompanying notes, historical sites and old townships, camping areas and alpine huts, road distances for route planning, seasonal snowline indicators and track closures, accommodation options, key routes such as Jacksons Crossing and Timbarra, and updated bushfire-affected area information.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/high-country-victoria-se-2nd-edition/>

High Country Victoria – South West 2nd Edition - \$15.95

The *Victorian High Country – South Western Map* delivers detailed topographic coverage of one of Australia's most sought-after 4WD and touring regions. Renowned for its rugged terrain, winding river valleys and historic cattlemen's huts, this map provides the essential detail needed for confident navigation and trip planning. It is an invaluable tool for exploring both well-known tracks and lesser-travelled routes that reveal the quieter side of the High Country. Clearly marked 4WD tracks with difficulty gradings, distances

and detailed elevation shading, make it easier to select routes that suit both driver experience and vehicle capability. Camping areas, picnic spots and key points of interest are carefully identified, helping travellers plan everything from overnight stays to longer wilderness adventures. The map also highlights seasonal road closures, alpine access points and important natural features such as state forests, rivers and lookout locations. This level of detail supports safer travel in a region known for rapidly changing weather and challenging terrain conditions. Ideal for 4WD enthusiasts, hikers, campers and nature lovers alike, the *Victorian High Country – South Western Map* is built for durability and designed for those who want to fully immerse themselves in the landscape. It combines practical navigation with rich geographic detail, making it a trusted companion for exploring this remarkable part of Victoria. Key features include detailed 4WD tracks with accompanying notes, historical sites and old townships, camping areas and huts, road distances for trip planning, seasonal snowline indicators and track closures, accommodation options, key routes such as Zeka Spur, King Billy and Billy Goat Bluff, and updated bushfire-affected area information.

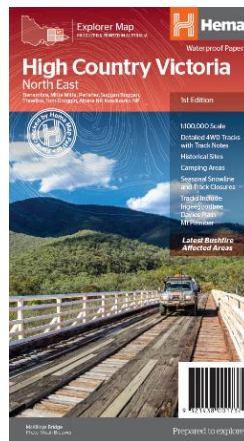


<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/high-country-victoria-south-west-2e/>

High Country Victoria – North East 2nd Edition - \$15.95

Explore the north-east region of the Victorian High Country with this new edition of Hema's popular 1:100,000 High Country Victoria series. Featuring Hema's trusted, field-checked cartography, the map details key areas including Mount Hotham, Falls Creek, Dinner Plain, Omeo, the Cobungra River region and surrounding alpine terrain. It clearly marks 4WD tracks, seasonal road closures, camping areas, huts, rivers and points of interest — all essential information for safe and enjoyable travel in high-country conditions. Detailed topographic shading, contour information and distance markers provide valuable insight into terrain and elevation changes, helping travellers better understand the challenges of alpine environments. Road classifications and track notes further assist in assessing difficulty levels and access requirements, making this map a valuable resource for 4WD touring, camping, hiking, fishing and snow-season planning. Whether you're tackling steep alpine tracks, tracing historic stock routes or exploring scenic backroads, the *Victorian High Country – North Eastern Map* delivers accuracy, clarity and reliability. It is designed for adventurers who want to experience the

High Country's wild beauty with confidence, preparedness and respect for the landscape. This map forms part of Hema's Victorian High Country Map Series and covers the Northern Borderlands area, extending to the ranges that border Victoria and New South Wales from Omeo through to Jindabyne. It includes destinations such as Benambra, Perisher, Tom Groggin, Thredbo and Kosciuszko National Park. Printed on durable waterproof paper, it features an extensive range of points of interest. Also included are seasonal track closures, camping areas, old townsites, huts, accommodation and distance markers, making it an essential companion for exploring this remarkable region. Key features include detailed 4WD tracks with accompanying notes, historical sites and old townships, camping areas and huts, road distances for trip planning, seasonal snowline indicators and track closures, accommodation options, key routes such as Ingeegoodbee, Davies Plain and Mount Pinnibar, and updated bushfire-affected area information.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/high-country-victoria-north-east-2e/>

High Country Victoria – North West 2nd Edition - \$15.95

The *Victorian High Country – North Western Map* provides detailed topographic mapping of one of the most adventurous sections of the High Country. Renowned for its challenging 4WD tracks, historic huts, rugged peaks and sweeping alpine views, this region demands reliable navigation, and this map delivers exactly that. It clearly highlights 4WD routes with difficulty ratings, key access points, river crossings and elevation shading, helping travellers select suitable tracks based on capability, prevailing conditions and vehicle setup. Camping areas, huts, walking trails, lookout points and natural landmarks are all clearly identified, making it easier to plan overnight stays and explore the more remote parts of the region with confidence. Seasonal road closures and important alpine travel notes are also included, ensuring travellers are well informed in an environment where conditions can change rapidly. Durable and highly accurate, this map is an essential resource for off-roaders, hikers and adventure seekers exploring the North Western High Country. Key features include detailed 4WD tracks with

accompanying notes, historical sites and old townships, camping areas and huts, road distances for trip planning, seasonal snowline indicators and track closures, accommodation options, and key routes such as the Blue Rag Range Track and Craigs Hut, along with updated bushfire-affected area information.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/high-country-victoria-north-west-2e/>

Simon's Monthly Spotlight

Laminating of Maps

Most of the maps available through Meridian Maps also come in a laminated version, while a small number are already printed on waterproof or tearproof material, so laminating those doesn't really add any extra benefit.

Laminated maps are made by sealing a regular paper map between thin layers of plastic film. This gives them a protective coating that makes them more durable, water-resistant, and easy to use outdoors. They can be used in the rain, wiped clean if they get dirty, and they hold up much better with repeated handling. They're also less likely to tear along fold lines, which is handy if you're using them in remote or rough conditions. On top of that, lamination can make the colours look a bit brighter and sharper.

Another handy feature is that you can write on them. A whiteboard marker can be used to plan or sketch out routes, and then simply wiped off if you change your mind. If you want to mark a final route, you can use a permanent marker.

Both flat and folded maps can be laminated, depending on how you prefer to use them.

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/>

Seasonal road closures in Victoria, generally operate from after the King's Birthday long weekend in June through to the end of October, but the closures may be extended if conditions are not suitable to safely re-open the roads. A full list of closures can be found at [List of 2026 seasonal road closures](#).

What's On

25 – 28 June: Laura Rodeo & Campdraft in South Australia. A few days of dust, action, good music and even better company. It's a proper bush get-together where locals, station crews, and visitors all come to catch up, kick back, and watch some top-class riding.

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

26 – 28 June: Birdsville Campdraft and Rodeo in Queensland. Action-packed event showcasing the talents of professional Bushmen and women. Watch as teams compete to brand cattle using traditional methods, keeping the spirit of the bush alive.

<https://www.thediamantina.com.au/Whats-On/Birdsville-Campdraft-Rodeo-and-Bronco-Branding>

28 June: Beer Can Regatta in Darwin. A Darwin beach event where people race homemade boats built from beer cans and other recycled materials.

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

30 June – 1 July: Pine creek Gold rush Festival in Northern Territory. celebrates the area's gold mining past, which dates back to the 1870s when gold discoveries helped establish Pine Creek as one of the region's early mining towns.

<https://activatekatherine.nt.gov.au/whats-on/pine-creek-gold-rush-festival>

3 – 4 July: Alice Springs Show in Northern Territory. Celebrating outback life through agricultural competitions, livestock displays, and local skills from surrounding stations and towns. It also includes traditional show attractions like sideshow rides, food stalls, and fireworks.

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

4 July: Jundah Camel Races in Queensland. Unforgettable outback race day combining the thrills of camel racing with the skill and excitement of sheep team penning.

<https://www.outbackqueensland.com.au/event/jundah-camel-races-and-sheep-team-penning/>

5 July: Lisamore! in NSW. Celebration of Italian culture — a vibrant festival that brings locals and visitors together for a joyful day of authentic flavours, music, dance and la dolce vita energy.

<https://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/Community/Community-events-and-venue-hire/Whats-on/Lisamore>

5 July: Mary Poppins Festival in Maryborough. Celebrate the art of storytelling and be transported into a world full of play and imagination at the Mary Poppins Festival. Maryborough's heritage streetscapes and riverside parks are transformed through a storytelling program that transcends genres and presents a mix of art, culture, music and literature.

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

11 July: Canungra Rodeo in Queensland. Showcases classic rodeo sports, including bull riding, saddle bronc riding, bareback riding, and barrel racing, where riders compete on horseback for the fastest times or best ride scores.

<https://canungrashowsociety.org/rodeo/>

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.

Lasseter

Lewis Harold Bell Lasseter, also known as Harold Lasseter, was an Australian gold prospector who claimed to have discovered a fabulously rich gold reef in central Australia, later known as Lasseter's Reef. He remains one of the most enigmatic figures in Australian history, a man whose name is inseparable from

one of the country's most enduring outback legends. His life story sits at the intersection of ambition, mystery and tragedy, bound forever to the belief that somewhere in the remote deserts of central Australia lies a vast and immensely valuable gold deposit. Whether this reef ever existed has been debated for nearly a century, yet the story of the man who claimed to have found it continues to capture the Australian imagination.



Lasseter was born on 27 September 1880 in Bamganie, Victoria. He grew up in modest circumstances and received little formal education, instead developing a reputation as a self-taught man with wide-ranging interests and a strong belief in his own abilities. From an early age he displayed a restless nature, travelling widely and working in a variety of occupations. He spent time in Western Australia and New South Wales and later travelled to the United States, where he claimed to have worked as a civil engineer and prospector. Many of these assertions were difficult to verify, and even during his lifetime questions were raised about the accuracy of his personal history. What is clear, however, is that Lasseter possessed enormous confidence and an unwavering belief in his own story.

Lasseter rose to prominence following his sensational claim, first asserted publicly in 1929, that he had discovered an extraordinarily rich gold-bearing quartz reef in central Australia. According to Lasseter, he had first encountered the reef years earlier while travelling through the desert, after

becoming separated from his companions and wandering for weeks before eventually finding his way back to civilisation. During this ordeal, he claimed to have stumbled upon a reef of astonishing size and richness, with gold visible in the rock and extending for miles across the landscape. He maintained that the reef was so significant it could rival any gold discovery ever made in Australia.

These claims emerged as Australia entered the Great Depression, a time of widespread economic hardship and rising unemployment. The promise of a major gold discovery carried enormous appeal, and Lasseter's story attracted the attention of prospectors, investors and members of the public who were eager for hope in difficult times. Despite this interest, government officials and geologists remained sceptical. Lasseter was unable, or unwilling, to provide precise directions to the reef's location, instead offering vague descriptions based on landmarks, estimated distances and compass bearings that often contradicted one another. Nevertheless, his persistence and conviction eventually secured backing for an expedition to search for the reef.

In 1930, a well-funded expedition set out into central Australia with Lasseter acting as guide. It was one of the most ambitious inland exploration efforts undertaken since the nineteenth century, employing motor vehicles, camels and even aircraft to search the vast desert region west of the MacDonnell Ranges. Almost from the outset, the expedition encountered serious difficulties. Lasseter's directions proved unreliable, the terrain was harsh and unforgiving, and tensions developed between Lasseter and the expedition's leadership. His recollections of the landscape did not align with what was encountered on the ground, and his explanations shifted as the search continued. Eventually, confidence in him collapsed and Lasseter was dismissed from the expedition deep in the desert.

Determined to prove himself right, Lasseter chose to continue searching for the reef on his own. Accompanied for a time by a dingo shooter and a small string of camels, he ventured further into remote country. This decision would ultimately prove fatal. The camels eventually bolted, leaving Lasseter stranded with limited supplies in one of the most isolated regions of Australia. For a period, he was assisted by local Aboriginal people, who provided him with food and shelter and attempted to persuade him to remain with them rather than continue alone. Lasseter, however, remained convinced that he was close to the reef or that he could still reach a known landmark or settlement.

Weakened by hunger, dehydration and exhaustion, Lasseter eventually left the safety of the Aboriginal camp and set out alone. He carried a diary in which he recorded his thoughts, observations and growing despair. In its pages, he wrote of his belief that the reef lay close by, while also expressing regret and desperation as his physical condition deteriorated. The diary

reveals a man torn between hope and reality, clinging to the conviction that his discovery was real even as his strength failed him while he continued searching for the legendary reef of gold.



Lasseter believed he had found vast reefs of gold in central Australia and, during the Depression, persuaded others to fund an expedition to recover them. When the expedition went disastrously wrong, he died in the Petermann Ranges in early 1931. His body was later found and buried near where he died. In June 1958, his remains were exhumed and reinterred in the Alice Springs cemetery.

After his death, Lasseter's diary and personal effects were recovered and news of his fate spread quickly. Rather than ending the mystery, his death only deepened it. Some believed his final writings hinted at the true location of the reef, while others saw them as evidence of delusion brought on by hardship and isolation. Official investigations found no geological support for the existence of such a massive gold reef in the region Lasseter described, and inconsistencies in his life story raised further doubts. Records suggested that during the period when Lasseter claimed to have first discovered the reef, he may not have been in central Australia at all.

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LASSETER'S DIARY
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Lasseter's Last Ride



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<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/lasseters-reef-book-pack/>

Despite this, the legend of Lasseter's Reef refused to fade. In the years following Lasseter's death, prospectors and researchers closely examined his diary, sketches and recorded bearings in the hope of identifying clues to the reef's location. His descriptions of landmarks and distances were repeatedly reinterpreted, leading to differing theories about where the reef might lie, with suggested locations ranging from west of the MacDonnell Ranges to the Petermann Ranges and areas near the borders of Western Australia and South Australia.

Throughout the twentieth century, numerous privately funded expeditions set out into central Australia in search of the reef. These ventures varied in scale, from small prospecting parties to more organised searches employing vehicles, aircraft and, later, modern mapping tools. As geological knowledge advanced, explorers attempted to reconcile Lasseter's accounts with known landforms and mineral systems. Despite these efforts, none produced definitive evidence of a continuous gold reef of the size and richness Lasseter described.

In the latter half of the century and into the early twenty-first century, renewed interest emerged as modern prospectors applied aerial surveys, mineral sampling and geochemical analysis to areas thought to align with Lasseter's story. Some explorers reported finding traces of gold-bearing quartz, but these discoveries fell well short of confirming the existence of a vast, undiscovered reef. Government geological surveys also examined the regions most frequently associated with the legend, concluding that while gold does occur in

parts of central Australia, there was no evidence to support the presence of a massive reef consistent with Lasseter's claims.

The search for Lasseter's Reef was not limited to professional prospectors. Members of Lasseter's own family, particularly his son Bob Lasseter, devoted decades of their lives to pursuing the legend, firmly believing that the reef existed and that Lasseter's account was genuine. These personal quests added a further layer to the story, blending family loyalty with the enduring appeal of the mystery.

No maps showing the precise location of the fabled gold reef were ever found, and over time the tale of the reef and its discoverer assumed mythic proportions. It became perhaps the most famous lost mine legend in Australia and remains a kind of holy grail among Australian prospectors. Each unsuccessful search only reinforced its status as an enduring mystery, ensuring that the legend continued to attract those willing to brave the isolation and hardship of the outback in pursuit of hidden riches.

Lasseter's story has become deeply embedded in Australian folklore. It has inspired books, films, songs and countless retellings, each adding new layers to the legend. Landmarks such as Lasseter Highway bear his name, ensuring that his story remains part of the physical and cultural landscape of central Australia. To some, Lasseter represents the archetypal outback dreamer, driven by hope and imagination into a landscape that offers no mercy. To others, he stands as a cautionary tale about obsession and the dangers of believing too strongly in an unproven idea.

Whether Lasseter's Reef ever existed may never be conclusively proven. What is beyond doubt is that Harold Bell Lasseter's life and death left a lasting imprint on Australia's history. His story reflects the powerful hold that the promise of riches and discovery can exert on the human mind, particularly in times of hardship. In the vast silence of the central Australian desert, Lasseter's legend continues to echo. His death was not the end of the story. The tale of Lasseter and his fabled gold reef is one of hope, desperation and loss, woven deeply into Australian folklore and continuing to inspire expeditions into the nation's remote heart to this day.

Meridian Mirth

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

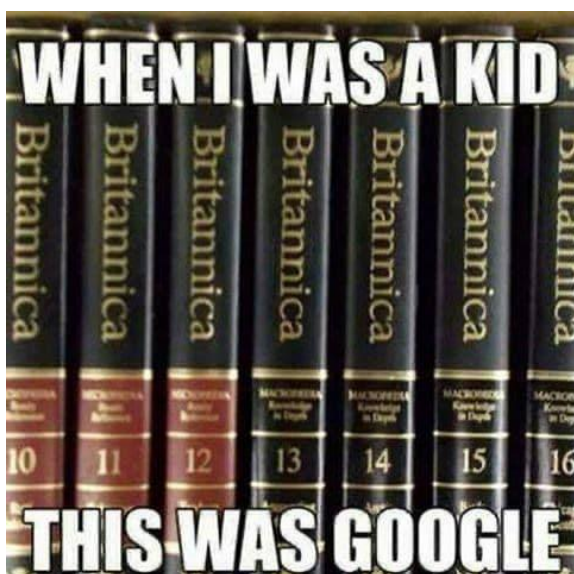
The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

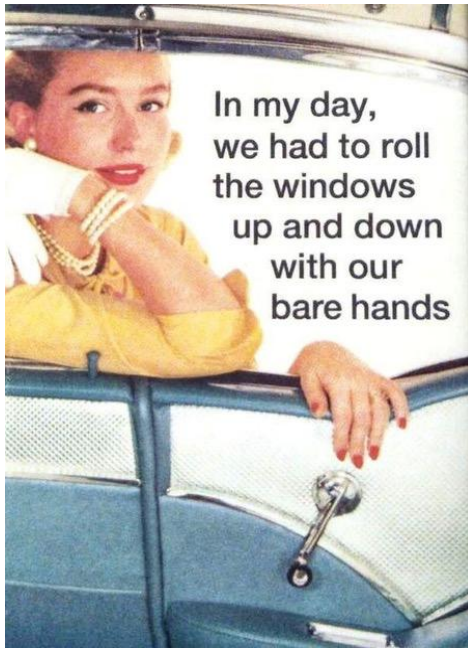
Have you ever noticed: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

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.





A cat died and went to Heaven:

God met the animal at the Pearly Gates and said. "You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking."

The cat thought for a moment and then said. "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard, wooden floors, I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on."

God said. "Say no more."

Instantly, the cat had a HUGE fluffy pillow.

A few days later, 12 mice were simultaneously killed in an accident and they all went up to Heaven together.

God met the mice at the Pearly Gates of Heaven, with the exact same offer that He made to the cat.

The mice said. "Well, we have had to run all of our lives from cats, dogs and even from people with brooms. If we could just have some little roller-skates, we would never have to run again."

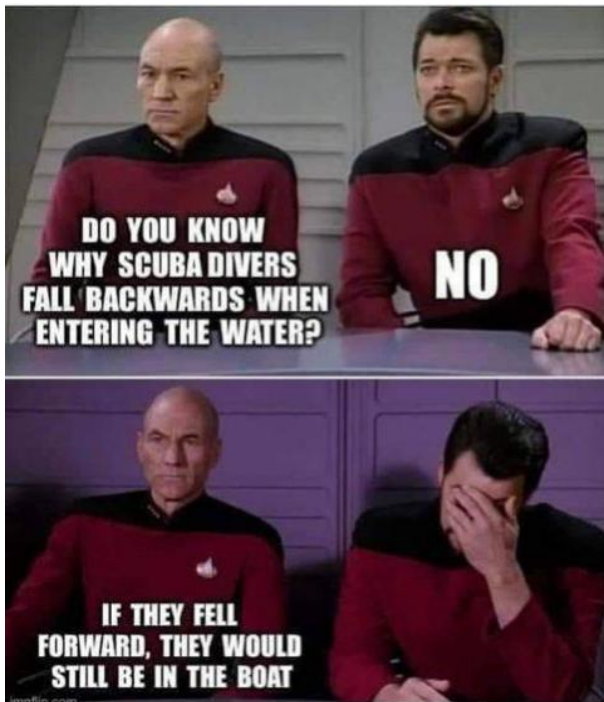
God answered. "It is done."

All the mice had beautiful little roller-skates.

About a week later, God decided to check on the cat. He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow.

God gently awakened the cat and asked. "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?"

The cat replied. "Oh, everything is just WONDERFUL. I've never been so happy in my life! My pillow is always fluffy and those little Meals-on-Wheels, that you have been sending over are delicious."



The Fine Print

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