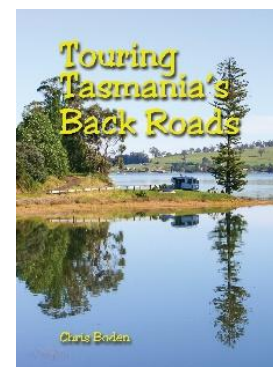
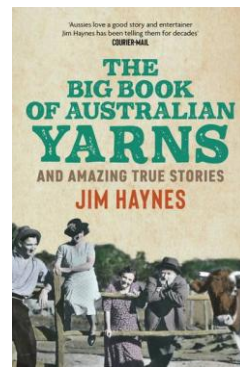
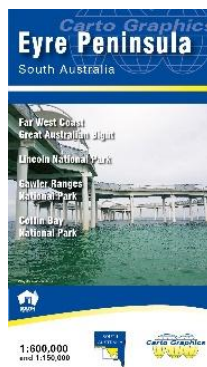
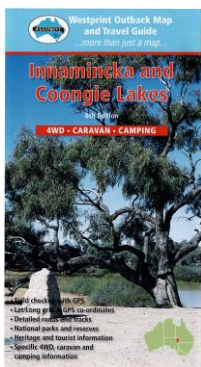
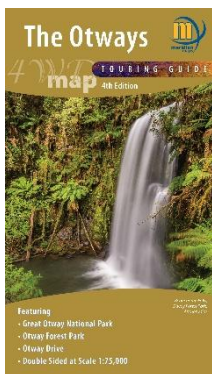




The Meridian Line - Sunday 02.08.2026

“Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it.” Greg Anderson



Focus on Five

The Otways 4WD Map – from \$15.95

The Otways 4WD Map is a detailed double-sided map designed for 4WD enthusiasts, campers and outdoor adventurers exploring the rugged Otways region. Covering the Great Otway National Park, Otway Forest Park and Otway Drive, it features detailed topographic information, contour lines, 4WD tracks, fire trails, walking tracks, campsites and points of interest. With a new scale of 1:75,000, the map covers the region from Anglesea to Apollo Bay on one side and Apollo Bay to Princetown on the other, including popular routes such as the Great Ocean Walk, Surf Coast Walk and Old Beechy Trail. It also includes useful tourist, history, caravan and camping information to help you plan your journey.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/the-otways-4wd-map/>

Innamincka and Coongie Lakes – from \$15.95

The Innamincka & Coongie Lakes area contains excellent camping and fishing locations along the lakes and waterholes of the Cooper Creek and is

accessible only by 4WD. A permit is not required to travel to Innamincka via the Strzelecki Track, but a permit is required to travel from Innamincka to Coongie Lakes, shown on this map. The required permit is the Desert Parks Pass, valid for one year covering all parks in the desert region. For travellers only requiring access to Coongie Lakes, a short stay pass is available from the Ranger based in Innamincka. The map also features a good deal of information about Burke & Wills and their camp at the Dig Tree.

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

Eyre Peninsula – from \$9.95

The Eyre Peninsula Map by Carto Graphics is a detailed 1:600,000 scale touring map showcasing one of South Australia's most spectacular coastal regions. It features major and minor roads with names, national parks, conservation areas, hill shading, a distance chart, town and locality index and other essential travel information. The reverse side includes an extension of the Far West Coast through to the Western Australian border, along with detailed 1:150,000 scale maps of selected national parks including Lincoln, Coffin Bay and Gawler Ranges. Ideal for touring, camping and exploring the diverse landscapes of the Eyre Peninsula.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/eyre-peninsula-map/>

Big Book of Australian Yarns – On sale \$29.95

The Big Book of Australian Yarns is master storyteller Jim Haynes' entertaining collection of true stories, fascinating facts and classic Australian humour. From the poignant to the hilarious, the heroic to the outrageous, these yarns celebrate the characters, events and quirky moments that have helped shape Australia's unique spirit. Featuring tales from the bush, colonial history, railways, sport and everyday life, this richly researched collection uncovers little-known stories and forgotten characters from across the country. Filled with larrikins, legends and unforgettable moments, The Big Book of Australian Yarns is sure to keep you smiling and sharing stories for years to come.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/australian-yarns/>

Touring Tasmania's Back Roads - \$45.00

Off the Beaten Track Tasmania features over 60 back roads across the state, with detailed maps to help travellers navigate each route. Each journey includes road distances, access information, historical details, points of interest, campsites and facilities, providing everything you need to explore Tasmania's lesser-known destinations. Combining practical touring information with fascinating stories about the places you visit, this guide is an

essential companion for anyone wanting to discover Tasmania beyond the main highways. Companion book to Off-road Tasmania.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/backroads-tasmania/>

Meridian Musings

It was great catching up with so many of you at the recent **Caravan and Camping Show**. The weather was perfect which made for a lovely weekend of planning for your next great Australian escape.

We recently received this enquiry from Ron,

“we’ve been driving through the NT through roadworks indicating ‘callup points’, what should caravan drivers do at these situations, is there a protocol we ‘greys’ should follow or would we simply be regarded as a nuisance??”

Here is what we found when doing a search on the internet.

In the Northern Territory (NT), "call-up points" refer to designated locations on outback roads, mines, or single-lane tracks where drivers are required to use a UHF radio to broadcast their position, direction of travel, and intentions to avoid collisions with heavy vehicles or other traffic.

Call-up points are an essential safety measure in remote areas and mine sites across the territory.

Key Aspects of Call-Up Points

- **UHF Communication:** Drivers must tune their radios to a specific, signposted UHF channel (frequently Channel 40 for highways, or site-specific frequencies for private mining roads).
- **Blind Spots & Intersections:** They are typically placed at blind corners, single-lane bridges, and intersections where passing oncoming traffic or large multi-trailer road trains is dangerous.
- **Safety Broadcasts:** At a call-up point, drivers state their location and direction (e.g., "Heading northbound, passing the 50km mark") so that approaching heavy vehicles can respond or hold their position.

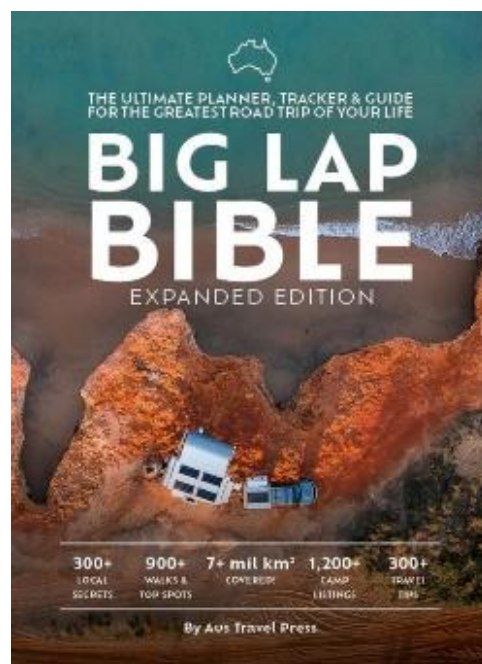
Road Safety Context

Call-up points are vital for unsealed remote roads (like the Plenty Highway) and industrial haul roads.

What's New to the Website

Big Lap Bible – Expanded Version \$99.95.

The ultimate planner, tracker and guide for Australia's greatest road trip. Developed through conversations with hundreds of tourism organisations, locals and travellers, this refreshed edition provides practical advice, regional insights and timeless travel knowledge to help you plan your journey with confidence. Covering everything from preparation and route planning to regional highlights, camping options, travel conditions and local secrets, the Big Lap Bible helps you create an itinerary that suits your style of travel. Each region of Australia features must-sees, must-dos, hidden gems and practical information, supported by regional maps to make planning easier. With dedicated planning pages, trackers and a travel diary, the Big Lap Bible becomes a companion throughout your adventure — helping you organise your trip, record your progress and capture memories along the way. It also includes access to over 300 travel discounts, making it an essential resource for anyone planning to explore Australia by road.

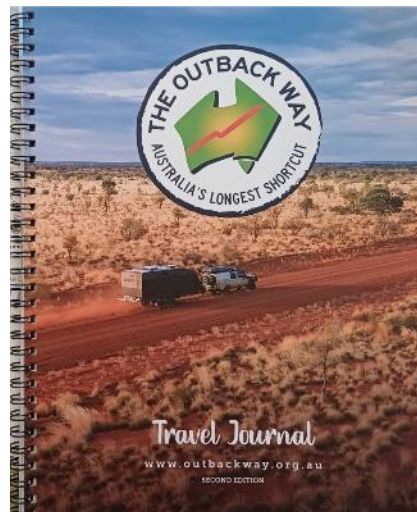


<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/big-lap-bible-expanded/>

Outback Way Journal - \$38.95

The Outback Way is Australia's longest shortcut, stretching 2,700km from Laverton in Western Australia to Winton in Queensland via the Northern Territory's Red Centre. This iconic route takes travellers through the heart of

Australia, showcasing spectacular landscapes, remote communities, Indigenous culture, pioneering history and unforgettable outback experiences. Packed with practical touring information, this guide includes detailed Hema Maps map excerpts, route information, trip planning options, itineraries, accommodation suggestions, fuel stops and supply points. Whether travelling the full length of the Outback Way or exploring sections along the route, this guide helps you discover the natural beauty, history and hospitality of Australia's remarkable interior.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/outback-way-journal/>

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/>

Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park is open.

Innaminka Regional Reserve and Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park closed due to flooding.

Witjira National Park is open.

South Australian Munga-Thirri – Simpson Desert National Park Open. A crossing of the Simpson Desert via the Eyre Creek bypass track can now be completed. The QAA line crossing is still impassable.
Old Andad – Mt Dare (start of the Binns Track) closed due to recent rain between Mt Dare and the border.

Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park in NT - campground will be closed from 3 to 17 August while repair works to the access road and campground are undertaken.

What's On

7 – 9 August: Mt Isa Mines Rodeo in Queensland. The largest rodeo in the Southern Hemisphere, attracting the country's top riders and thousands of spectators for a thrilling weekend of bull riding, bronc riding, barrel racing and true outback entertainment in Queensland's mining heartland.

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

8 August: Crystal Brook Show in South Australia. Featuring livestock displays, agricultural exhibits, horse events, competitions, local produce, entertainment and family-friendly activities that showcase the region's rural community spirit.

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

8 – 9 August: Heritage & Bullock Festival in Tasmania. Celebrates the pioneering spirit and rural heritage of the region, featuring historic displays, working bullock teams, traditional crafts, local produce, entertainment and family-friendly activities that bring the stories of Australia's early settlers to life.

<https://www.discovertasmania.com.au/things-to-do/festivals-and-events/heritage--bullock-festival2/>

11 – 13 August: Eyre Peninsula Field Days in South Australia. The biennial event showcase the latest in agriculture, machinery and rural innovation, with hundreds of exhibitors, demonstrations, local food, entertainment and activities.

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

14 – 16 August: Coolgardie Outback Festival in Western Australia. A celebration of Western Australia's Goldfields heritage, bringing together the excitement of a professional rodeo with the best of country hospitality and outback entertainment.

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

15 August: Henley on Todd Regatta in the Northern Territory. Teams race bottomless boats along the dry bed of Alice Springs' Todd River in a fun-filled celebration featuring costumes, novelty races, family entertainment and plenty of outback humour.

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

15 – 18 August: Historic Leyburn Sprints in Queensland. Hundreds of classic, vintage and high-performance cars racing through the streets of the historic Queensland town alongside vehicle displays, live entertainment, markets and a lively festival atmosphere.

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

16 August: Mallee Almond Blossom Festival in Victoria. Showcases the products, people and art of the Mallee District. The Festival coincides with the blooming of the almond trees at the beginning of spring.

<https://www.mabf.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.

Colin Blunt spoke to us on July 22nd 2026 about how the Million Dollar Corner on the Old Gunbarrel Highway got its name.

Million Dollar Corner Story

My wife and I were travelling west along the Gunbarrel Highway, heading towards Carnegie Homestead back in 1996. We were travelling with another couple who were ahead of us at the time. He was the map expert. He came on the CB Radio and said that they had come across an intersection and that they had to turn right. Straight away I said, 'No we don't'. So we, chatted on the CB Radio and I said "KD you are wrong and we have to turn south (left)". He said "No you don't", I said "Ok, Don't move until I get there". So we caught with he and his wife, and he was adamant that we should go north. I said "Well, I am not moving as I am not wasting petrol going out there as it is the wrong way." So he and his wife and the two young boys with them (their son and a mate from school), took off into the distance, clouds of dust billowing behind them and disappeared over the horizon. About half to three-quarters of an hour later the dust started coming back towards us. He stopped and we had a discussion and we eventually convinced him we were going left. I said

we have to go left as we have to get to Jackie Junction, where we turn right and head west.

So we took off and of course next morning came to Jackie Junction. But everyone was very polite and no one said you were right or you were wrong or anything like that. So off we went heading west towards Carnegie Homestead. Two nights later we were camped and things were a bit testy at the other campsite. All of a sudden KD's wife bursts out with "And when do I get my million dollars KD". My wife and I pricked up our ears and said "what's the million dollars about", and she said "This AH bet me a million dollars while we were on our little trip the other day that he was right and you were wrong". We all had a bit of chuckle about it and that was the end of the discussion on Million Dollar Corner. Except every time something came up about the trip later on, we would say "was that before or after Million Dollar Corner". So everything rotated around Million Dollar Corner.

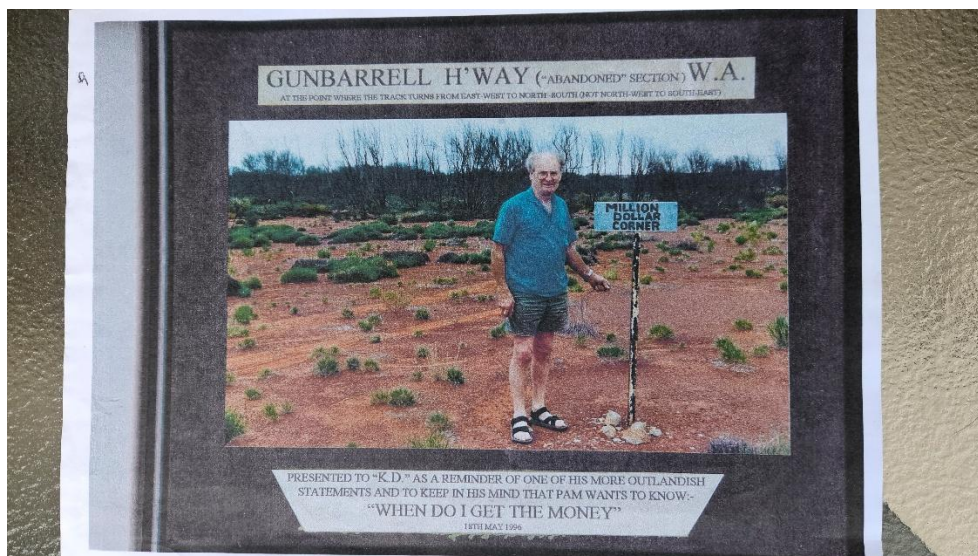


Section of the Gunbarrel Highway

While we were away on the trip, the guy who was the MC at our wedding had passed away. We were involved in a movement where the guy who died was chairman of that group. So I went to the memorial service for him. In the social gathering after the service we were chatting with a number of people about the good ol' days, when a one guy (Eric) came up to me and said "what have you been up to"? I said we have just got back on Monday from doing the Canning (Stock Route), and he said "Your joking, we are leaving on Saturday to go the Canning." I said "Oh – how about that". He said "Hang on a sec, let me call my wife and see if you can come over before we go". I said "Ok, that's fine". So when I was driving home from the memorial I thought wouldn't be

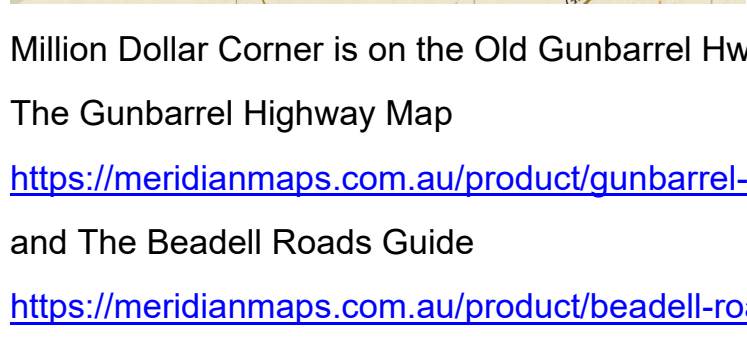
great if I made a sign and could get Eric to take a photo of the sign at the corner. Once I got home I suggested this to my wife about making a sign and getting a photo taken and give it to KD. She agreed, so I scrounged around and found some scrap metal, folded it in half and painted MILLION DOLLAR CORNER on it. We went over to Eric's place and socialised about the trip. As we were leaving I asked Eric if he would take a sign with him and take a photo at the corner, and explained to him which corner it was. Eric said no worries, so I went to car and retrieved the sign for them to take. I also gave him a small coil of wire to use to hang up the sign on a bush to take the photo.

So that was done and off they went on their trip. When they came back, Eric rang and said I have the photo for you CB (Colin). We arranged to get together and discuss both our trips. Eric gave me the photo and I was wondering what we could now do. Soon after we had another get together to discuss our Gunbarrel and Canning Stock Route trip with KD and his wife and the parents of the KD sons' mate. After a great discussion I said to KD, "Hang on a sec I have something for you." I pulled out the photo which my wife and I arranged to have mounted, framed and labelled, and present to KD with great fanfare, as a reminder about his claim to know which way to go at Million Dollar Corner.



So that was that, until I heard from Westprint Outback Maps, whom I had bought a heap of maps from long before we went on the trip. They had sent me the latest version of the Gunbarrel Highway Map. On the map was a red dot and the wording Million Dollar Corner along with a little text box with words to the effect of "The Warburton Shire has no knowledge of the meaning of this sign". So I rang Westprint Map and said "well I can tell you the story of what that is" and proceeded to do so.

But the story does not end there. It seems Eric had placed the sign at the wrong corner. If you look on the map you will see it about 9km short of the



The Gunbarrel Highway Map

<https://meridianmaps.com.au>

and The Beadell Roads Guide

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/p>

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

Believe it or not, the statements below are taken from actual insurance accident claims forms.

Incidents with Pedestrians.

- The pedestrian ran for the pavement, but I got him.
- The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.
- To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front I struck a pedestrian.
- The pedestrian had no idea which way to run as I ran over him.
- The car in front hit the pedestrian but he got up so I hit him again.
- A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.

Accidents with other vehicles.

- I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.
- The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention.
- When I saw I could not avoid a collision I stepped on the gas and crashed into the other car.
- I started to slow down but the traffic was more stationary than I thought.
- I was unable to stop in time and my car crashed into the other vehicle. The driver and passengers then left immediately for a vacation with injuries.
- The car in front of me stopped for a yellow light, so I had no choice but to hit him.

Collisions, calamities, and injuries.

- Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.
- I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.
- I thought my window was down, but I found it was up when I put my head through it.
- In an attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.
- I pulled in to the side of the road because there was smoke coming from under the hood. I realized there was a fire in the engine, so I took my dog and smothered it with a blanket.
- The claimant had collided with a cow. The questions and answers on the claim form were - Q: What warning was given by you? A: Horn. Q: What warning was given by the other party? A: Moo.

How some tradies manage to get the job done:



Safety first.





Bill was working in his front garden one day when, suddenly, a car came crashing through his fence and ploughed into his front lawn.

Momentarily startled, Bill quickly gathered his composure and rushed to help the driver.

He could see that the driver was quite elderly, so Bill helped them to get out of their car slowly and sat them down in a chair on his veranda.

"Forgive me," said Bill. "I don't want to appear judgmental, but you look to be a little too old to be driving."

"Well, I'll be 95 next month," they said, "and I've now reached the age where I don't even need a driver's license anymore."

"Really?" said Bill. "Why do you say that?"

"Well, when I had my physical recently, my doctor asked if I had a driver's license."

"Presumably, you told him you did?" Bill responded, quizzically.

"That's right and I handed it to him to prove it."

"And what did he say?" asked Bill.

“The doctor just took some scissors from a draw and cut the license into pieces, and threw them in the waste basket, before saying, ‘You don’t need this anymore!’”

“And what did you say?” asked Bill.

“Naturally, I thanked him for letting me know, and then I left”.

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

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