The Meridian Line - Sunday 22.11.2026

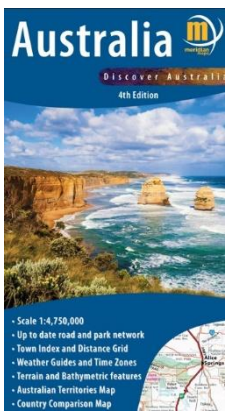
“An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day” – Henry David Thoreau

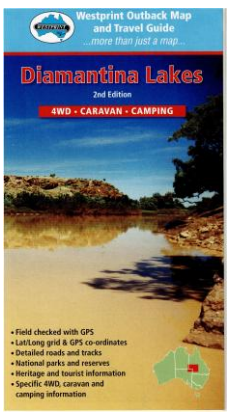


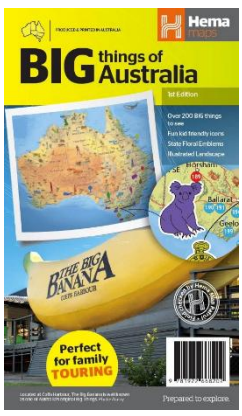
Check out our Black Friday Sale at:

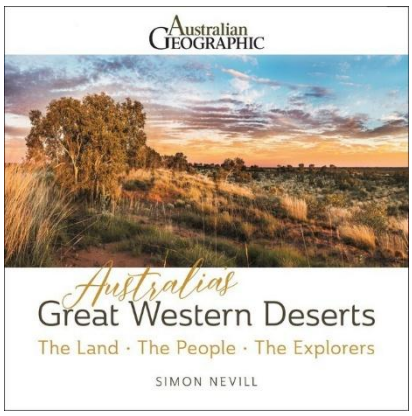
https://meridianmaps.com.au/product-category/black-friday-specials/

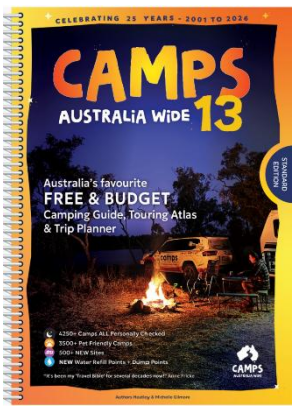
Focus on Five











Australia Wall Map – from $14.95

A 1:4,750,000 scale wall map of Australia featuring all the nation's top tourist sites, parks and points of interest clearly marked. Designed for clarity and ease of use, this map is ideal for business settings or for planning and tracking your travels around Australia. It includes inset maps of Australia's Territories, as well as a country comparison with Europe. With distance grids, time zone clocks and weather charts for all capital cities, this map is a practical and informative guide to navigating Australia. Available Folded, Folded & Laminated, Flat and Flat Laminated.

https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/australia-map-meridian/

Diamantina Lakes – from $14.95

The ultimate guide for adventurers exploring the rugged beauty of outback Australia, this map covers more than 15,000 square kilometres of the spectacular Diamantina Lakes region. It highlights iconic routes and destinations such as the world-famous Birdsville Track, Boulia, Winton, Longreach, Windorah and many other points of interest. Perfect for travellers by 4WD or on foot, the map features detailed road and track information, all field-checked with GPS for accuracy. It includes a Lat/Long grid and GPS coordinates, national parks and reserves, heritage sites, tourist attractions, and practical details for four-wheel driving, caravanning and camping. Symbols across the map link to text on the reverse side, offering in-depth explanations of points of interest along with insights into the area's flora and fauna. The back of the map also contains detailed historical notes and visitor information, complete with colour photographs, recreational activity suggestions and useful contact numbers. Produced by Westprint Maps – a trusted name with more than 30 years of experience creating reliable desert maps – the Diamantina Lakes map delivers accurate, up-to-date information and dependable navigation tools, making it an essential companion for your outback journey.

https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/diamantina-lakes/

Big Things of Australia – from $15.95

Australia is home to some pretty impressive landmarks, but not all of them are natural wonders! From giant fruit and oversized animals to enormous everyday objects, the country is dotted with quirky roadside attractions affectionately known as the **Big Things**.

The Hema Big Things of Australia Map is a fantastic companion for anyone who enjoys exploring Australia beyond the usual tourist trail. It helps travellers discover these larger-than-life attractions scattered across the country, making

it easy to add a little fun and something different to your next road trip. Featuring a full list of over 215 big things of Australia and includes Hema's top 30 icons prominently displayed on the map plus a description of each on the reverse side of the map.

Whether it's stopping for a photo with the Big Banana, admiring the Big Merino or tracking down one of the many lesser-known giants, these attractions are part of Australia's unique roadside culture and often reveal a fascinating story about the towns and communities behind them.

So, next time you're planning a road trip, why not take the scenic route and see just how many Big Things you can tick off? After all, some of Australia's biggest attractions are a little bit unusual!

https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/hemas-australia-big-things/

Australia's Great Western Deserts - $39.95

For those who love the adventure of Australia's remote outback, *Australia's Great Western Deserts* is an invitation to explore some of the country's most spectacular and challenging landscapes.

Covering the vast desert regions of Western Australia, this book takes readers into a world of endless horizons, ancient landscapes, rugged tracks and remarkable natural features. From the sweeping sand dunes and rocky outcrops to remote waterholes and fascinating desert country, it showcases the unique beauty of Australia's western deserts.

Whether you're planning an outback adventure, researching a future 4WD journey or simply enjoy discovering Australia's more remote places, this is a wonderful resource to inspire your travels. It offers an insight into a part of Australia where distances are vast, history runs deep and the sense of isolation is all part of the experience.

For anyone with a passion for exploring beyond the bitumen, Australia's Great Western Deserts is a great addition to the bookshelf and a reminder that some of Australia's greatest adventures lie well off the beaten track.

https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-western-deserts/

Camps 13 – from $89.99

There's nothing quite like finding that perfect campsite at the end of a long day on the road. Whether it's a peaceful spot beside a river, a shady bush campsite or a beachside location with a view, knowing where to camp can make all the difference to an Australian road trip.

Camps 13 is a handy guide for travellers looking to discover great camping locations throughout Australia. Packed with information to help campers plan their next adventure, it takes the guesswork out of finding somewhere to pull up for the night.

The Camps 13 Standard Edition (A4) showcases over 4,250 free and low-cost campsites, including 500 new sites personally verified by the Camps Australia Wide team. Known as “The Traveller’s Bible”, it’s the only guide with unique symbols distinguishing between site types like farm stays, national parks, and free camps.

Whether you're travelling in a caravan, camper trailer, motorhome or simply heading off with a tent, this guide is a valuable companion for discovering new places to stay and making the most of your time outdoors.

From weekend escapes to extended touring adventures, *Camps 13* is the ideal guide for anyone who enjoys exploring Australia and waking up somewhere a little different.

https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/camps-13-standard-edition/
or consider the Easy Read edition
https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/camps-13-easy-read-edition/

Meridian Musings

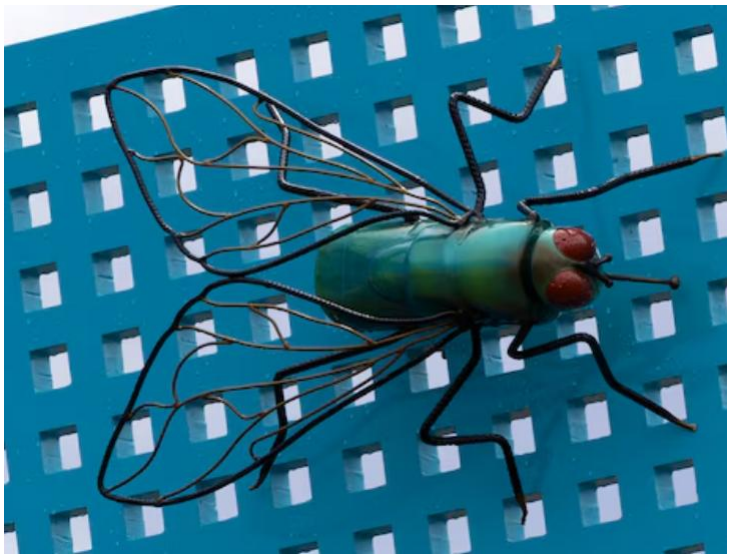
Newest Big Thing Swats a Fly

Visiting Big Things around Australia is a popular pastime of those who love to travel our wide brown (green at the moment) land. So we were amused to read of the latest addition to the growing list of over 200 Big Things to visit.

In the tiny town of Kingoonya in outback South Australia, they have unveiled The Big Fly Swat. Kingoonya, is located about 40 kilometres west of Glendambo (on the Stuart Hwy), and has a population of 13, a pub, a café, a caravan park and not a sealed road in sight.



Thought up by the caravan park owner and publican when considering what to do with their community grant, the Big Fly Swat has already made news across Australia. It was funded by the Outback Communities Authority and managed by the Kingoonya Progress Association. The swat was manufactured by South Australian contractors and the fly was made from recycled materials.



So when traveling the SA outback, especially if you are doing Googs Track or heading north to the NT, stop in and see what is a classic Australian utensil now made BIG.

What's New to the Website



The Meridian Maps Black Friday Sale is here. From today through to midnight November 30th we have some great specials for you. Ideal Christmas presents, holiday reading or for planning your next holiday

All books 15% off

Black Friday Specials – 20% off

Check all our special offer at:

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

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/**

More details are available from:

SA - https://dit.sa.gov.au/outbackroads
WA - https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/travel-information/driving-in-wa/roadworks-closures/
QLD - https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/
NSW - https://www.livetraffic.com/
NT - https://roadreport.nt.gov.au/
TAS -https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/roadworks/roadworks_map

VIC - https://traffic.transport.vic.gov.au/

WA

Great Central Road between Cosmo Newberry and Tjukayirla Roadhouse - Weather Event. ROAD CLOSED. For further updates contact Shire of Laverton 08 9031 1202

SA
Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park:
Public Access Route 13 Halligan Bay Point – open
Public Access Route 2 Level Post Bay–Closed for safety purposes due to flood damage

Tallaringa Conservation Park: Open
Public Access Route 6 Tallaringa– Open to 4WD.

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

Witjira National Park – Now OPEN
Dalhousie Campground – OPEN
Three O'Clock Creek Campground – OPEN
Dalhousie Campground to Purni Bore – OPEN
The Dalhousie airstrip – OPEN (Closed to the public)
Pedirka Track (on park) — OPEN
Bloods Creek Ruin to Federal Waterhole Track – CLOSED
Binns Track – OPEN
Public Access Route Number 8 Pedirka – OPEN to 4WD
Public Access Route 13 Halligan Bay Point – OPEN
Public Access Route 2 Level Post Bay–Closed for safety purposes due to flood damage

Munga-Thirri – Simpson Desert National Park OPEN.
Colson Track – Open
Poeppels Corner – Open
Public Access Route 15 K1 Warburton Crossing – Closed
Public Access Route 16 Walkers Crossing - Closed

Birdsville Track - SA Border to Mungeranie

CLOSED. No public access due to significant flooding between Clifton Hills Station and Mungeranie. It is necessary to make alternative travel plans for the foreseeable future. Caution due to washouts and holes between Natarannie Sandhills and Mungeranie. No services or fuel at Mungeranie.

Strzelecki Track – Innamincka to Della/Dullingari Rd Junction, Merty Merty to Mt Hopeless, Moomba to Merty Merty, Mt Hopeless to Talc Mine Rd, Talc Mine Rd to Lyndhurst - open to 4WD/HV only.

Strzelecki Track - Della/Dullingari Rd junction to Moomba
No access west towards Moomba (Della Rd) due to flooding and severe damage. No services at Moomba. It is necessary to make alternative travel plans for the foreseeable future.

Riecks Rd - Merty Merty to Cameron Corner
Road is impassable to all vehicles due to severe washouts and scouring through sandhills.

Many other roads closed with warnings..

NSW
Hewart Downs Road between Cameron Corner Road and Waka Road – Road Closed in both directions.

Mutawintji Road – Closed in both directions due to water over road
Wilangee Road/Mcdougalls Well Road – from Silverton to Broughams gate - Closed in both directions due to water over road
Corona Road – Yanco Glen to Teilta - Road closed in both directions due to flooding

Noonamah to Urisino: Garden Vale Road – Road Closed in both directions.

Milparinka: Hewart Downs Road between Cameron Corner Road and Waka Road – Road Closed in both directions.

Westwood Downs to Border Downs: Sanpah Road between Borona Downs Road and Joulnie Road – Road Closed in both directions.

Mulga Valley to Cobham-Yancannia Road, Mulga Valley To Cobham Road – Road Closed in both directions.

Victoria Pass is currently closed on the Great Western Highway between Mount Victoria and Little Hartley. All highway traffic between Mount Victoria and Lithgow is detoured via the Darling Causeway and Chifley Road. Road is expected to reopen in the second quarter of next year.

NT

Santa Teresa Road between Allamby and Mac Clark Park T/O and Old Andado Homestead is closed due to road damage.

Sandover Highway - Ampilatwatja turn off to Austral Downs closed due to flooding and damage road surface.

QLD
Significant flooding and roadworks across central outback Queensland, closing many roads.

What's On

4 December: Cloncurry Community Christmas Festival in Cloncurry, Queensland. Features live performances, a visit from Santa and Mrs Claus, family activities, and a free community BBQ.

https://www.experiencecloncurry.com/ATDW/Events/Cloncurry-Community-Christmas-Festival-645c7e09b08cf506052b3e5e/

5 December: Mannalargenner Day in Little Musselroe Bay, Cape Portland, Tasmania. Our annual Mannalargenna Day Festival is our main community event of the year. Mannalargenna Day celebrates our great Ancestor and formidable warrior/leader Mannalargenna, who was born on Tebrakunna Country in the far northeast and died on 4th December 1835 in exile at Wybalenna. Mannalargenna Day is a free event and also a great opportunity for us to share culture with people. This year's event will feature live music and a focus on saltwater connections.

https://mtwac.org.au/event/mannalargenna-day-2026/

12 December: Manjimup Cherry Harmony Festival in Manjimup, Western Australia. The 25th Anniversary of this exciting event. This positive and harmonious festival belongs to the community - we celebrate our agricultural richness and the resilience of the people that live in the beautiful Southern Forests Region of Western Australia. Includes music, food, workshops, exhibition, competitions and more

https://www.cherryfestival.com.au/

12 December: Moulemain Cup in NSW. The thrill of country racing set against the vibrant atmosphere of Moulamein's track. A day filled with delicious food vans, a fully licensed bar, and fun children's activities to keep the whole family entertained. Dress to impress and take part in the ever-popular Fashions on the Field, or soak up the action.

https://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/the-murray/events/moulamein-cup

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.

Thanks to John Parker, former Surveyor General of Victoria for this great report on Victoria's Borders, explaining just how our borders got to be where they are.

If you have stories to tell of your trips or experiences or want to know about some interesting facet of Australia and its past, please let us know. Everyone loves a good story, especially form fellow readers.

Victoria's Borders

Let's start with a question where and how can someone walk from Victoria to Tasmania without walking on water. The answer appears later in this article.

Most people rarely give much thought to state boundaries. They cross them on the way to Adelaide or Sydney, or by sea on the way to Tasmania, and assume that the lines shown so neatly on a map are fixed and certain. The reality is much more complicated. As Surveyor General I had responsibility for Crown boundaries and became closely involved with several of Victoria's border questions. Some were created by the limitations of 19th century surveying, some by ambiguities in legislation, and others by rivers which have changed course since the boundaries were first defined.

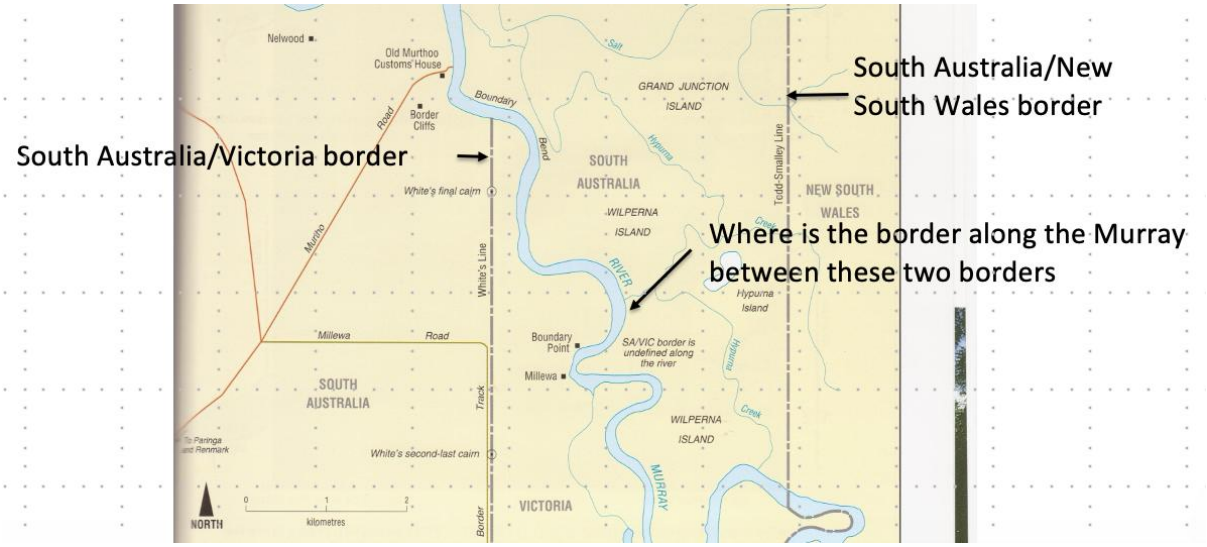


Perhaps the most remarkable story concerns the border between Victoria and South Australia. The boundary was intended to follow the 141st meridian of

longitude, but in the 1840s fixing longitude accurately was extremely difficult. Captain Henry Tyers attempted to establish the starting position on the coast using chronometers, triangulation and lunar observations, but the methods produced differing results.

The surveyors then charged with marking the boundary on the ground faced extraordinarily difficult conditions. Edward White and Henry Wade worked in remote country with little water while food and supplies had to be carried over great distances. At one stage the party ran out of water completely. White attempted to reach the Murray River alone. Both of his horses died on the journey and, in a desperate effort to survive, he drank the blood of the second horse after it died.

The border was eventually marked with posts, cairns and other survey marks, but fire later destroyed much of the physical evidence. Even today, the exact position of parts of the original surveyed boundary is uncertain. The problem is complicated further at the Murray River, because the Victorian-South Australian border does not meet the New South Wales-South Australian boundary where it theoretically should. As a result, there is a stretch of the Murray for which the precise Interstate boundary remains unsolved.



Attempts were made to settle the border dispute more than a century ago with South Australia arguing that the border should be where their 141st meridian actually lay. The courts ruled instead that the boundary was where the surveyors had marked it on the ground. That decision created another problem: in places, no one knows exactly where these original marks were.

In a remarkable recent development while travelling in Portugal only a few months ago, I happened to speak with an Englishman whose son had recently

retired as chief archivist in the United Kingdom. The conversation turned to the missing border records and, as an amazing consequence, two substantial volumes of Privy Council material relating to this dispute have now been located in the National Archives in London, one of them apparently containing plans. I intend to travel to England later this year to examine the papers myself and hope that the long missing field notes may also survive.

The Victorian Tasmanian border presents a different problem when Van Diemen's land was separated from New South Wales in 1825, its northern boundary was described both as the southern extremity of the Australian mainland and at latitude 39 degrees 12 minutes south. Unfortunately, these two lines are about seven kilometres apart. The discrepancy arose from an error in the geographical information available at the time, but it later became a very practical issue.

I recall disputes between Victorian and Tasmanian cray fishermen over exactly where the border lay, with the disagreement becoming serious enough for shots to be fired. Eventually Victoria and Tasmania adopted 39 degrees 12 minutes south as the practical boundary. That line passes through tiny Boundary islet in Bass Strait, providing an answer to the question with which I had begun this article: it is indeed possible to walk from Victoria to Tasmania by crossing the island from one side of the border to the other.



The Murray River border with New South Wales has produced its own legal puzzles as have the islands within the river. There was a court case arising from a murder in which the victim was found partly in the water and partly on the Victorian bank the exact position of the border mattered because the penalties differed between Victoria and New South Wales. The case helped

establish that the boundary was the top of the southern bank of the river's average winter-flow channel.

Years later I became involved in determining the border at Echuca, under the wharf, based on where the river was determined to have been in 1855. A marker was placed to show the agreed position, amongst much publicity.

By contrast the Black -Allan line from the source of the Murray to Cape Howe was an extraordinary surveying achievement. Despite the rugged and largely inaccessible country, the 19th century surveyors brought the line to within a few metres of the agreed coastal point.

In summary, the lines which appear so precise on a modern map are anything but simple. Victoria's borders are the product of difficult surveys, legal argument, changing rivers, human endurance and, in some cases, unresolved questions. More than 170 years after some of them were first marked, the story of Victoria's borders is still not quite finished.

Meridian Mirth

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





A man is driving down a rural country road when he spots a hand-written sign outside a run-down farmhouse: **TALKING DOG FOR SALE - $10.**

Intrigued, the man pulls over, walks up to the porch, and asks the owner about the sign.
The owner points to a scruffy mutt sleeping near the rocking chair and says, "Go on, ask him yourself."

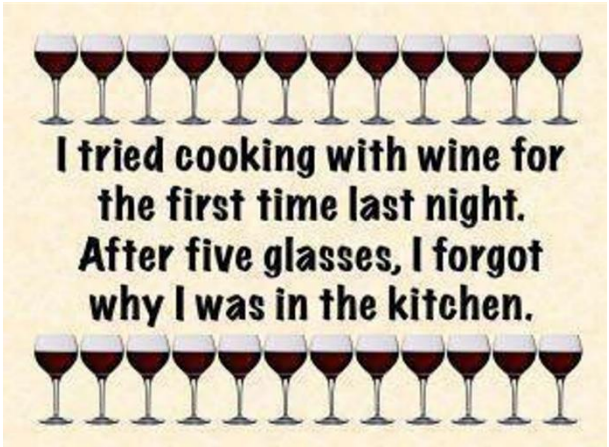
The man kneels down and says, "Hey, can you really talk?"
The dog opens one lazy eye, yawns, and says, "Yep. Sure can."

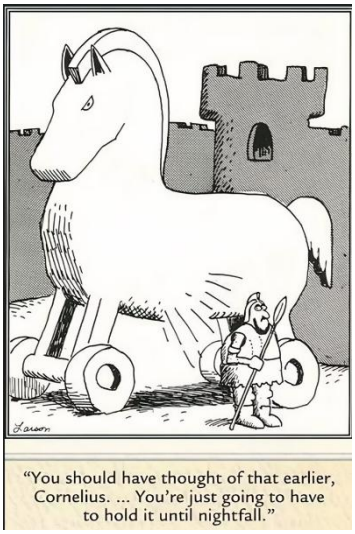
The man's eyes go wide. "No way! What's your story?"

The dog sighs and says, "Well, I discovered my gift pretty young. I wanted to help out, so I joined the CIA. They flew me all over the world. I sat in dark rooms with foreign leaders, listened in on secret espionage, and translated top-secret enemy chatter. I won a bunch of medals, retired early, and now I just like to hang out on the porch."

The man is completely flabbergasted. He rushes back to the farmer and says, "Are you out of your mind?! That dog is a genius! Why on earth are you selling him for just ten dollars?!"

The farmer scratches his chin, looks down at the dog, and says, "Because he's a liar. He was never in the CIA."





A young boy is walking along the edge of a quiet lake when he accidentally kicks a dusty old brass lamp hidden in the mud. He picks it up, rubs it with his sleeve, and *poof*—a giant genie appears in a cloud of blue smoke.

"I am the Genie of the Lake!" booms the voice. "You have freed me from a thousand-year slumber. I shall grant you one wish."

The boy thinks really, really hard. Finally, he says, "Well, I've always wanted to visit Hawaii, but I'm terrified of flying and boats get me horribly

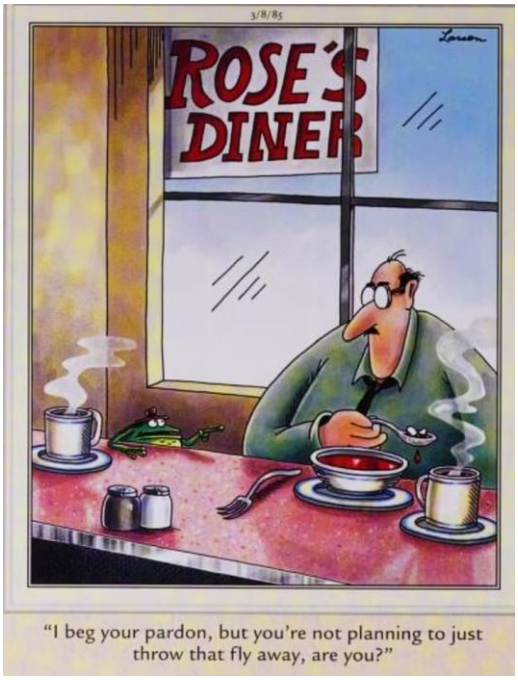
motion-sick. Can you build a massive, wide highway across the Pacific Ocean straight from here to Honolulu so I can ride my bike there?"

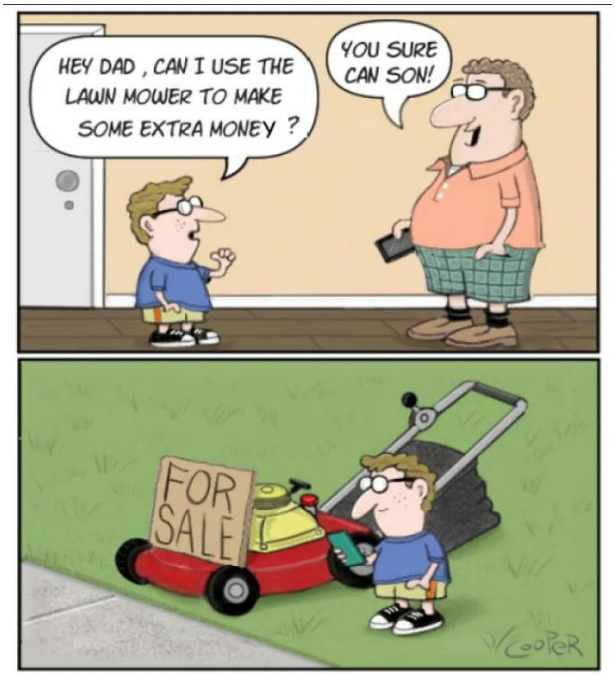
The genie frowns, rubbing his temples. "Oh, man. Do you have any idea how much concrete that would take? The steel pilings, the environmental impact, the deep-sea trenches? It's physically impossible. You're gonna have to pick something else."

The boy pouts and says, "Okay, fine. I have three older sisters. They are messy, they steal my stuff, they never listen to me, and they drive me completely crazy. All my life, I've tried to understand how girls' brains work, what they're thinking, and why they act the way they do. Can you help me understand women?"

The genie stands there in silence for a full minute, stroking his beard.

He looks down at the boy and asks, "Do you want that two-lane highway or four-lane?"





The Fine Print

At The Meridian Line

Wherever possible we try to acknowledge the source of all information contained in this newsletter. We offer no guarantees for accuracy, but we do our best.

Get the Word Out

Feel free to forward this newsletter to any family or friends who you feel might enjoy a good read. If they would like to receive this newsletter on a regular basis they can register at: https://meridianmaps.com.au/newsletter/

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Email: rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au

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