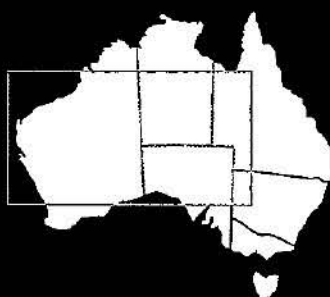
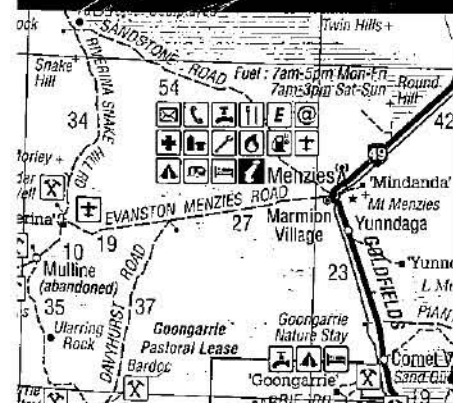


GREAT

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Atlas & Guide

by Ian Glover & Len Zell



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- Plants and Animals Guide
- Complete Great Desert Tracks Atlas

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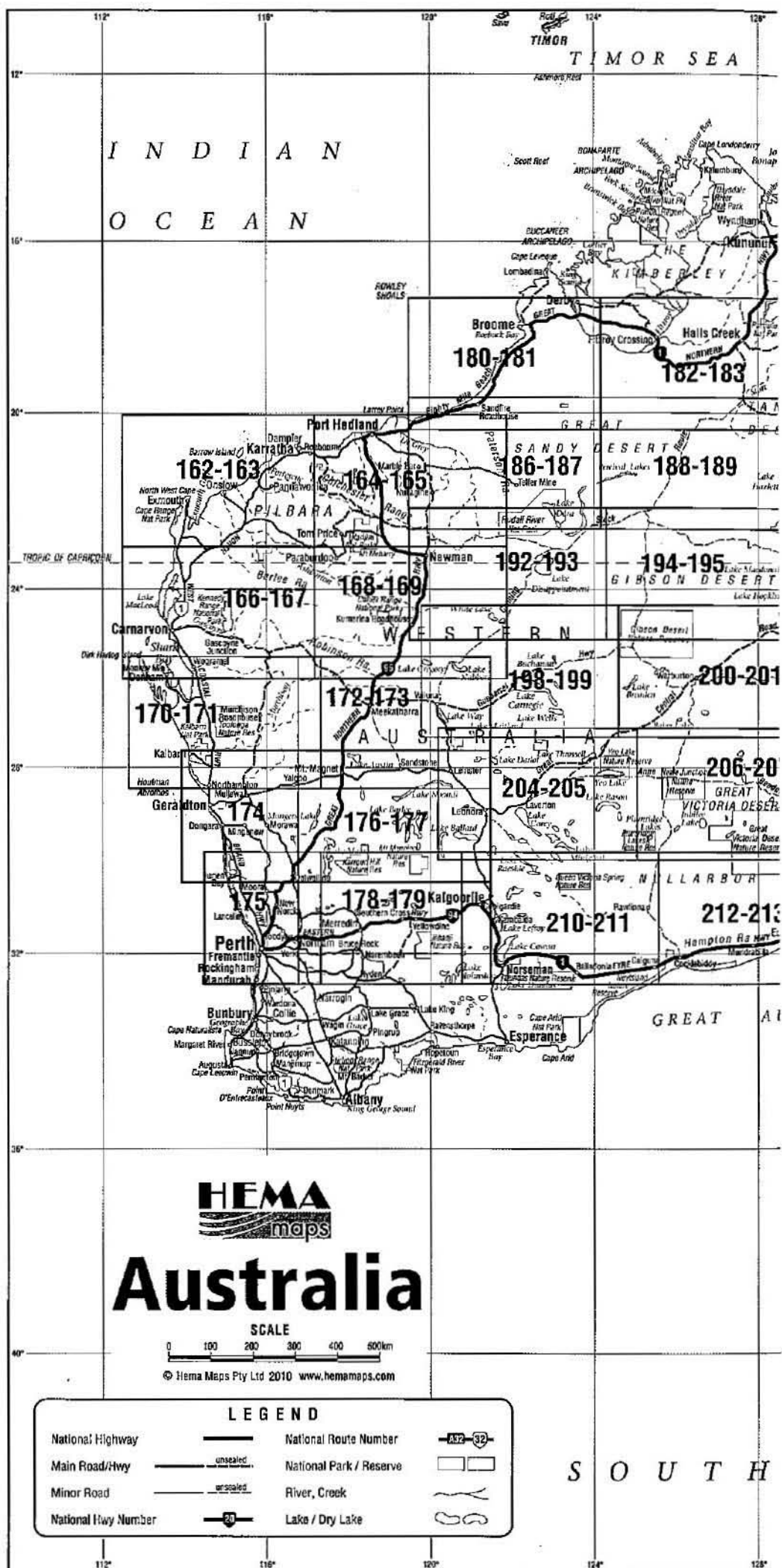
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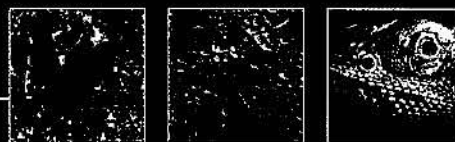
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Atlas Legend – inside back cover

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Dedications

To my father Trevor who introduced me to travelling, camping and instilled in me a great love of the open spaces of Australia. My wife Sharon, very early in our marriage, insisted on a desert trip, and together we have visited every desert (both real and imaginary) on this great continent. My sons Brecon, Tyrer and Leigh can't wait for their first **real** desert trip (the Great Sandy is a frequent request). To all of them, this book is dedicated, and to Len Zell, who gently prodded me into writing something I should have done years ago.

Ian Glover

To my daughter Sarah and her husband Peter Onions for their continuing enthusiasm for deserts and the assistance in the book's development and to their families for being them. To Donald and Patricia Hood for all they have done. To my father Andy Zell, who came with me for the shakedown stages, of life and the deserts.

Len Zell



Introduction

Preface

Our purpose with this book is to help you discover our Australian deserts, how to explore them safely following the right rules and what life lives there – all underpinned with their geology, geomorphology, habitats, human history and uses. The atlas component provides the best possible mapping available for safe navigation in these areas with additional hints and information. We have included some pictorial guides to the most commonly seen plants and animals with information about each.

For the purposes of this book we have concentrated on those 'deserts' recognised by the official names given by the Geographical Names Board. There are 17 such named deserts. The other deserts – whether real deserts, small areas of so-called deserts or similar – we cover as well but in less detail or explain our coverage. There are several massive areas of unnamed deserts and we offer a remedy to that situation as well.

We are great believers in the idea of using common sense in any driving expedition. Our experience shows that generally only those who fail to plan the basics suffer at the hands of nature or themselves. Our hints, checklists and suggestions come from a combination of more than 60 years of motoring experience in all parts of Australia. Whilst we have attempted to be totally comprehensive we still find people in situations that defy description of how they got there – please don't join that list!

Our lists are based on the minimum required and for many items, such as clothes and food, that is all that is needed – deserts are not places for fashion shows, especially when you overload a vehicle and reduce your safety. Our priority is to

prepare you well by not compromising on safety. Any time you add more to the vehicle you equally increase the risks unless it is a safety required item – balance it carefully.

We often will 'signpost' a site or piece of information allowing you to explore it yourself, ideally enhancing your personal discovery process. Many we have left out because they will be obvious or there wasn't enough space. So **always** maintain an eye out for places not mentioned or only signposted in this book. There are many more places out there than are covered in the book.

This book is the condensation of our combined desert experiences and we often chat around the fire about how humbled and awed we are by the 'immensity' of our deserts. We often get this sensation as we experience the desert environs, watch sunrises and sunsets and the incredible subtle changes happening out there every minute of each day. You will only see it if you stop and look and this will take experience in how to see it. 'Reading the landscape' is an ability that lets you see the geological, geomorphological and climatological features and habitats and their associated living organisms in this massive changing series of processes called Australia. Once you develop some of these observational skills you too will be similarly humbled by the desert world. That is when their power will envelop you, as it has done us, and many others. Soak it in and place high values on the privilege to be able to do so.

So get out there, learn to look, be humbled and above all go safely and sensibly and ideally leave our deserts in better shape than how you found them.

Red sandy dunes are typical of Australian deserts, some still a little mobile and others stable, fossilized and vegetated.



The Authors



MATT RAJONOVICS

Ian Glover

Ian is an automotive/remote area travel journalist of some 30 years standing, beginning his career with *Overlander Magazine*, which he later edited. Over the years he has contributed to such diverse titles as the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Wheels*, *Indian Auto Journal*, *4x4 Japan* and *4x4 International*, though now much of his time is spent on the family farm 'Pyngerra' (in mid-western NSW), inherited after his

father died in 2008. Here he is establishing a number of Australian native food crops and related value-added products. However, he still finds time to write for *Overlander 4WD*, the *Sunday Telegraph*, *Top Gear Australia* and a personal favourite, *RM Williams Outback Magazine*. Ian is also working on another travel-related book and three novels.

A self-confessed 'seriphile' (lover of arid areas), he has traversed every one of Australia's deserts – both real and illusory – preferring the Great Sandy and the Gibson above all others. He cites the Simpson as being 'too crowded'.

In 4WDs, Ian has followed the paths of many explorers, both here and overseas: John Oxley's trek to the Macquarie Marshes (1978); O'Donnell and Carr-Boyd in the Kimberley (1985); Lawrence Wells (the Discovery Well Expedition in 1992 and the Calvert Centenary Expedition in 1996); David Carnegie (Patience Well Expedition in 2004); even the Carthaginian general Hannibal over the French and Italian Alps in 1993! Other personal highlights were an exploration of the Channel Country back in 1981, when very few people went there, a solo trans-continental desert crossing from Broome to Sydney in 1987, participating in the Great Divide Expedition in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado (1989), travelling across ten Aussie deserts from Melbourne to Broome in 1990, and finally taking his family (wife Sharon, sons Brecon (14) and 12 year-old twins Tyrer and Leigh) into the Great Eastern, Strzelecki and Sturt Stony deserts in 2007.

Ian is interested in feedback about this book and can be contacted on ianglover2@bigpond.com.



DARREN HILDER

Len Zell

Len is a graduate biologist with more than 35 years' experience in marine and coral reef research, education, management and eco-tourism. He has travelled over much of Australia in a variety of vehicles and for many reasons.

He has written and illustrated several books including *Truth Prevails* (with Leonie Zell), *Lonely Planet Diving* and *Snorkeling*

Australia's Great Barrier Reef, *Wild Discovery Guides Kimberley Coast*, *Wild Discovery Guides Shark Bay Ningaloo Coast* and *Outback Pathways* (with Susie Bedford) and *Wild Discovery Guides Australian Wildlife Roadkill*. He also edited and published Andy and Dulcie – his parents' biographies.

Len is an adjunct senior lecturer in the School of Marine & Tropical Biology at James Cook University in Townsville. At

the University of Queensland he was instrumental in the establishment of AustraLearn and TravelLearn.

He has two species of coral named after him for his contributions to Marine Science, is a respected field guide with experience throughout Australia especially North Queensland, Great Barrier Reef, Kimberley and Shark Bay-Ningaloo as well as the South Pacific.

Len has travelled as a lecturer and field guide on many terrestrial expeditions by foot, 4WD and coach and marine expeditions on super yachts, small private vessels, expeditionary ships and luxury cruise liners. He has consulted for and appeared in Australian documentaries, news and current affairs programs as well as for Discovery Channel, BBC, Ushuaia Nature (France) and Fox. He chaired Dive Queensland for two years, was on the Council of the Australian College for Seniors and worked for six seasons on the wreck of the *HMS Pandora* with the Queensland Museum. His work as a stills photographer/videographer has contributed to the success of many books and expeditions.

He can be contacted at websites www.wilddiscovery.com.au and www.lenzell.com, or via email on len@lenzell.com.

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By Hema: Ian Glover and Len Zell for their ideas, writing, good humour and photographs.

Many others helped but a very special thanks to Elizabeth Sakker (travelling with Getabout Adventures and Desert Discovery Inc.) for her photographs as well as those from Sarah and Peter Onions, John Denman (Mulga Wire Publishing), Susie Bedford, Doug Blackburn, Liz Wake and Graham Stephenson.

Using the maps

Hema Maps produces an enormous variety of maps both for Australia and overseas. This book is an expansion of their *Great Desert Tracks*, *Pilbara* and *Mid West WA* maps. Each text section contains an inset from a Hema map that is relevant to the desert being covered. Each map in the atlas section at the rear of the book has the adjacent page numbers allowing you to navigate from one page to the next. You can also buy the map sheets or CDs, and the maps are also available on Hema's GPS unit, the Hema Navigator.

Use of scientific and common names for animals and plants

We have not used any scientific names of the plants or animals, unless absolutely forced to do so! If we use capitals on the name of an animal e.g. 'Red Kangaroo' it means that it is an identifiable species. If we don't use capitals, such as 'kangaroo', it means it is more than one species or it is unidentifiable to species level in this use.

Making the Guide – The Wild Discovery Guides story

Highly accurate and informative text and images are Wild Discovery Guide's primary service. Their philosophy is simple *to stimulate your imagination rather than satisfy your curiosity*. To meet this philosophy we hope to leave you asking more questions at the end, rather than at the start of a trip.