

# Is michaelthorntonbooks.com.au safe? TrustSniffer's moderate-trust assessment: 50/100

michaelthorntonbooks.com.au

## Verdict



**50**  
OUT OF 100

**MODERATE TRUST**

michaelthorntonbooks.com.au is moderately trusted.

Most signals looked ordinary, and some evidence was missing. Read the checks below before you pay or hand over personal details.

Sensitive Interaction Risk

Governance Risk

Assessed 2026-08-21 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 55%.

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What this site appears to be | Author Michael Thornton site containing book descriptions, a long-form post about 'Pissed Off: 3,300 Baby Boomer Gripes', promotion for JACKAROO and pilgrimage narrative; links to external book retailers. No forms requesting credentials or payments directly on site. |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Evidence status and limitations

Evidence completeness: **UNKNOWN**

- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
- Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

## At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

|                           |                                                                   |              |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Malware engines           | <b>2 flagged it</b><br>VirusTotal                                 | <b>RISK</b>  |
| Google Safe Browsing      | <b>Not listed</b><br>Google                                       | <b>CLEAR</b> |
| Abuse reports on the host | <b>0 reports</b><br>AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count | <b>NOTED</b> |
| Domain age                | <b>15 years old</b><br>Registered history                         | <b>CLEAR</b> |
| Web archive               | <b>Archived since 2011</b><br>Public history exists               | <b>CLEAR</b> |
| Certificate               | <b>Encrypted connection</b><br>Issued by YR1                      | <b>NOTED</b> |

## The page as captured

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

# Michael Thornton Books



## Homepage

What michaelthorntonbooks.com.au served when TrustSniffer captured it on 2026-08-21. The page may look different now.

## Key findings

- Automated classification: Sensitive Interaction Risk.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- Public web-archive history exists since 2011.
- At least one reputation service TrustSniffer consulted had flagged this domain at assessment time.

## Full analysis

### Overview

This is a personal author website presenting Michael Thornton's books, author biography, pilgrimage writing, and promotional material, with apparent monetization through book publicity and links to external retailers rather than direct on-site payments or account services.

### Scam/Impersonation Risk

The site's visible content is consistent with an informational author website: the homepage describes \*Pissed Off: 3,300 Baby Boomer Gripes\*, promotes \*JACKAROO\*, and includes a pilgrimage narrative, while retailer links direct visitors externally. The pages contain no login, credential, payment, wallet, or other sensitive-data forms, and no brand impersonation or phishing behavior was observed in the site content. However, this benign page profile is materially outweighed by external threat intelligence showing a confirmed blacklist placement, including two malicious detections and one suspicious detection. Accordingly, the site should not be treated as suitable for sensitive interactions solely because its published content appears ordinary.

#### EVIDENCE

- The homepage presents book descriptions, including *\*Pissed Off: 3,300 Baby Boomer Gripes\**, and links to external book retailers; no sensitive form is present.
- The About, JACKAROO, and pilgrimage-related content identifies an author-oriented publishing model rather than a financial or credential-collection service.
- External reputation assessment recorded 2 malicious detections, 1 suspicious detection, and a confirmed blacklist result.

#### Regulatory Verification Notes

The available pages present an author and publishing activity, not a regulated financial service. No license or registration claim is made, and the site does not provide independently verified evidence connecting the published author identity to the real-world operator; the registration record names Richard Hill Thornton and lists Synergy Wholesale Accreditations Pty Ltd as registrar, but those details do not by themselves establish control of the website. This is a verification and disclosure consideration rather than an independent finding of fraud. The site's limited metadata and absence of structured identity information further reduce the strength of independent validation.

#### EVIDENCE

- The contact and About navigation identifies the site as an author/personal publishing presence and does not present a regulatory license number.
- The domain registration record lists Richard Hill Thornton as owner and Synergy Wholesale Accreditations Pty Ltd as registrar.
- The domain age is 15.093771389459274 years, based on registration continuity; archive records span 2011-07-18 through 2026-05-16 across 16 tracked years.
- The site's TLS certificate uses DV validation, was issued by YR1, and is valid to 2026-11-03.

#### What to Verify Next

Before any material engagement, independently confirm that the person associated with the site is the same author represented by the external book retailers and any publisher or event records. External retailer destinations should be reached through independently verified retailer domains, and any request to move a transaction or communication away from those established channels should be treated as a reason to stop and reassess. Official contact channels should also be confirmed through an independent source rather than relying solely on the website.

#### EVIDENCE

- The site links to Amazon, Book Depository, Smashwords, and Booktopia as external retail or distribution destinations.
- The website contains five internal routes—home, About, contact, JACKAROO, and search—but no direct payment or credential-submission workflow.
- Independent page analysis classified the content as informational and identified no on-page red flags, while external reputation evidence remains adverse.

Summary Verdict

The overall posture is **moderate trust with elevated risk for sensitive interactions**. The site appears to serve a plausible informational publishing purpose, but the confirmed external reputation contradiction prevents the available evidence from supporting routine reliance for credentials, financial activity, or other high-impact actions.

Infrastructure Integrity

The website is protected by Cloudflare CDN/WAF infrastructure, which is a useful defensive control but does not establish legitimacy. The observed network path used AS24940, operated by Hetzner Online GmbH in Germany, and exposed only a CDN edge address; an origin server address was not observable in this assessment.

EVIDENCE

- Hosting infrastructure: AS24940, HETZNER-AS, Hetzner Online GmbH, DE.
- Cloudflare was identified as the CDN/WAF provider; 1 edge IP was observed and 0 likely origin IPs were identified.
- The transport certificate is DV-validated, issued by YR1, and expires on 2026-11-03.

Closing Assessment

Engagement should remain limited to passive review unless the operator identity and external reputation issue are independently resolved; sensitive credentials, payments, and other consequential interactions should not be undertaken on the basis of this assessment alone.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-21 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

2 findings contributed to this verdict, raised by registration and ownership, analysis engine.

01 Governance Risk

- The public registration record for this domain is incomplete.  
Registration and ownership rule:KF\_WHOIS\_INCOMPLETE

02 Sensitive Interaction Risk

- The analysis matched a pattern TrustSniffer treats as a direct threat to a visitor.  
Analysis engine signal:direct\_threat

Identity verification

|                                                                                        |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Status                                                                                 | UNVERIFIED |
| Identity score                                                                         | 55/100     |
| Identity verification confidence                                                       | 60%        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No on-site identity signals detected</li></ul> |            |

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

### What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of michaelthorntonbooks.com.au.

- The request stayed on michaelthorntonbooks.com.au. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- Registration is published under Synergy Wholesale Accreditations Pty Ltd. CLEAR
- DNS for this domain is served by cloudflare.com, across 2 name servers. NOTED
- The earliest public archive of this site is from 2011-07-18. CLEAR
- It is hosted on HETZNER-AS, from a server in DE. NOTED

### Domain intelligence

|                    |                                                                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Registrar          | Synergy Wholesale Accreditations Pty Ltd                                       |
| Hosting            | HETZNER-AS - Hetzner Online GmbH, DE                                           |
| Country            | DE                                                                             |
| Server IP          | 37.27.32.158                                                                   |
| Name servers       | bonnie.ns.cloudflare.com, ignat.ns.cloudflare.com                              |
| SSL issuer         | YR1                                                                            |
| SSL expiry         | 2026-11-03                                                                     |
| Domain age         | 15.09 years (continuous registration)                                          |
| Domain expiry      | Not available                                                                  |
| Archive first seen | 2011-07-18                                                                     |
| Archive snapshots  | Not counted (archive lookup incomplete)                                        |
| Reputation         | VirusTotal: 2 flagged   AbuseIPDB: 0 reports   Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches |

### About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about michaelthorntonbooks.com.au at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.