

CHANNEL CHATTER

Published each April - August - December

Austravel SafetyNet Inc.



The HF Radio Communications Network for ... Remote Area Travelling by Land or Sea

What's Inside This Edition ?

- Presidents Report
- The Great Artesian Basin
- Antenna Transmit Efficiency
- Incident Response Team
- Kimberley The Diamond of the North West
- AGM dates east and west
- Is there value in a PLB?
- What 3 Words
- Why HF with Austravel....a members experience
- Don't weaken your red button
- Easter event in the west
- New members list
- The Zero Obelisk
- How To Contact me sheet (back page).....and much more!



DISCLAIMER

The opinions and information contained within this newsletter are provided in good faith and whilst Austravel SafetyNet Inc. has taken all care in the preparation of the material provided, Austravel SafetyNet Inc. does not accept legal liability or responsibility related to articles placed by its members.

NEWS & INFORMATION

AUGUST 2021 EDITION

FOR AUSTRAVEL MEMBERS

Austravel SafetyNet Inc. Committee

Kim Rhodes	President	7880
Peter Schrader	Vice President	2513
Secretary	Rick Shea	3097
Treasurer	Janette Parkin	0116
Membership	Geoff Peck	0951
Committee 1	Bob Carne	1750
Committee 2	Roy Watkins	6001

Committee Support Roles

Channel Chatter Editor	Geoff Peck	0951	Social Media	Pim Cahill	7215
Sked Coordinator (east)	Ken Fischer	9618	IT Support	Andrew Griffin	4053
Sked Coordinator (west)	Terry Clinch	1928	IT Support	Peter Schrader	2513

A Message from the **PRESIDENT**

Austravel is still rapidly expanding and perhaps we will see even greater growth in these Covid-times of more local (Australian) travel. The committee see a need for further expansion of the base network to cater for growth and some planned improvements with additional features for the Telcall+ system.

Message to all Members Digital voice Up-date.

Digital Voice is available as an option on the newer HF transceivers. Although quite expensive to take up there are already a number of Codan and Barrett transceivers in Austravel that can use this mode of transmission. To allow legal usage of this new DV mode for the Austravel radios that have it fitted and to separate digital users from interfering with other club members we are introducing a new Channel 9 frequency of 4862 mhz USB. Members with digital voice capable radios may add this frequency to their Austravel network. This channel has priority for digital users, meaning that when talking DV users do not have to be concerned with causing interference to normal analogue uses. Channel 9 should be a very useful mobile to mobile frequency providing good medium range propagation. This frequency was chosen because at the moment it is reasonably clear of interference in the East and West day and night. After investigating the license possibilities for around 10 other frequencies it came up the best and we maybe the only user in Australia. Channel 9 can be used by analogue club members but the digital users do have priority on this channel. Channel 9 is also included for use in the Brisbane Base as an analogue channel. There is no urgency to have this channel 9 added to your analogue HF radio, you may add it if you wish but in reality only HF radios in Austravel with Digital Voice need to have this new channel fitted.



Brisbane Base 4299

What is that you say! Well due to rising noise levels we have decided to move the Casino Base to a specially quiet Brisbane location. This is to improve the receive quality of your mobile signals when talking to the base for skeds or radphone calls. Of course it will also make it easier to send GPS and messaging calls to this new base as well.

To stay in line with the selcall numbers of our bases we are changing the base from 2199 to 4299. This does affect Codan NGT and Envoy users as the phone links for bases are pre-programmed into your radios. However, this number change is very easily done from the microphone and does not require the radio to be addressed by a dealer or technician. We will put out a quick guide for owners to make this change on their radios.

South Australian Base 5199

Moving along with growth and developments the Austravel committee are putting members funds back into the network and have decided to add another base at the bottom of Australia. This will be as near as practical to the half way point of Perth and Shepparton. Its not that we do not have coverage there now, it is to make it easier and of course it adds another opportunity for members to be using the Telcall+ system simultaneously. i.e. While other bases are busy with phone calls, GPS, skeds etc this base will be available. Our numbers are growing rapidly and more people are travelling at the same time. Approximate installation time around Easter 2022 and we will be looking for helpers.

Kim Rhodes



The committee see a need for further expansion of the base network to cater for growth ...

THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN ARTESIAN BASIN

Geology

The water of the Great Artesian Basin is held in a sandstone layer laid down by continental erosion of higher ground many millions of years ago. During a time when much of what is now inland Australia was below sea level, the sandstone was then covered by a layer of marine sedimentary rock shortly afterward, which formed a confining layer, thus trapping water in the sandstone aquifer. The eastern edge of the basin was uplifted when the Great Dividing

Range formed. The other side was created from the landforms of the Central Eastern Lowlands and the Great Western Plateau to the west.

Most recharge water enters the rock formations from relatively high ground near the eastern edge of the basin (in Queensland and New South Wales) and very gradually flows toward the south and west. A much smaller amount enters along the western margin in arid central Australia, flowing to the south and east. Because the sandstones are permeable, water gradually makes its way through the pores between the sand grains, flowing at a rate of one to five metres per year.

Discharge water eventually exits through a number of springs and seeps, mostly in the southern part of the basin. The age of the groundwater, determined by carbon-14 and chlorine-36 measurements combined with hydraulic modelling, ranges from several thousand years for the recharge areas in the north to nearly 2 million years in the south-western discharge zones.



Water Source

Prior to European occupation, waters of the Great Artesian Basin discharged through mound springs, many in arid South Australia, such as Dalhousie Springs. These springs sustained a variety of endemic invertebrates, such as molluscs, and supported extensive Aboriginal communities and trade routes. After the arrival of Europeans, the springs facilitated exploration, and allowed the provision of faster communications between south-eastern Australia and Europe, via the Australian Overland Telegraph Line.

The Great Artesian Basin became an important water supply for cattle stations, irrigation, and livestock and domestic purposes, and is a vital life line for rural Australia.

To tap it, boreholes are drilled down to a suitable rock layer, and the pressure of the water often forces it up without the need for pumps. The discovery and use of the water in the Great Artesian Basin allowed the settlement of thousands of square kilometres of country away from rivers in inland New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia, that would otherwise have been unavailable for pastoral activities. European discovery of the basin dates from 1878 when a shallow bore near Bourke produced flowing water. There were similar discoveries in 1886 at Back Creek east of Barcaldine, and in 1887 near Cunnamulla.

In essence, water extraction from the Great Artesian Basin is a mining operation, with recharge much less than current extraction rates. In 1915, there were 1,500 bores providing 2,000 megalitres of water per day, but today the total output has dropped to 1,500 megalitres per day. *(continued next page)*



HF Radio Antenna Parts and Supplies

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ● Cable & Connectors | Contact: Mark Rawlings |
| ● Mobile | Austravel Member : |
| ● Wire Antennas | Selcall 6622 |
| ● Feed Systems & Baluns | Lot 25 Brand Hwy. Dongara |
| ● Parts | W.A. |
| ● CB Antennas | Ph: 0455 463 452 |

This included just under 2000 freely-flowing bores and more than 9000 that required mechanical power to bring water to the surface. Many bores are unregulated or abandoned, resulting in considerable water wastage. These problems have existed for many decades, and in January 2007 the Australian Commonwealth Government announced additional funding to bring them under control. However, many of the mound springs referred to above have dried up due to a drop in water pressure, probably resulting in extinction of several invertebrate species.

The Olympic Dam mine in South Australia is permitted to extract up to 42 million litres of water daily from the Great Artesian Basin under the *Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982*. The underground copper and uranium mine commenced operations in 1988 and is expected to continue operating until approximately 2060.

In addition, the Basin provides water, via a 1.2 km-deep bore, for a geothermal power station at Birdsville. Water emerges from the bore at 98 °C (208 °F) and provides 25% of the town's electricity needs. After being cooled, the water is also the source of the town's drinking water.



(article drawn from various internet sources)

As Austravel members who travel in and around Australia, we can take advantage of the Great Artesian Basin by “tapping in” to the many therapeutic hot baths and spas around Australia.

Many of these hot pools are obviously spread around the states where the Great Artesian Basin predominates. The reputed health benefits of taking advantage of soaking in these mineral-rich waters claim to:-

- re-hydrate your skin
- assist with detoxifying your body's lymphatic system
- replenish the body's cells; provide weightlessness and ease rheumatic complaints
- assist in the management of sciatica and nerve troubles
- provide analgesic and sedative effect
- great for those who have trouble sleeping
- provide relief of symptoms of psoriasis, eczema, and other common skin complaints.

Queensland

- ⇒ Mitchell
- ⇒ Bedourie
- ⇒ Innot (Atherton Tablelands)
- ⇒ Ilfracombe
- ⇒ Eulo Mud Baths
- ⇒ Yowah
- ⇒ Blackall

NSW

- ⇒ Lightning Ridge
- ⇒ Coonamble
- ⇒ Walgett
- ⇒ Burren Junction

- ⇒ Moree Aquatic Centre
- ⇒ Piliga Bore Baths
- ⇒ Goodooga Bore Baths
- ⇒ Mungindi
- ⇒ Boomi
- ⇒ Yarrangobilly Caves

Northern Territory

- ⇒ Mataranka Hot Springs
- ⇒ Bitter Springs
- ⇒ Douglas Hot Springs

South Australia

- ⇒ Dalhousie Springs
- ⇒ Paralana Hot Springs

Western Australia

- ⇒ Zebedee Thermal Springs (El Questro)
- ⇒ Wooramel River Side Retreat (Coral coast)
- ⇒ Peron Homestead Precinct (Coral Coast)

**ARTESIAN
HOT
SPRINGS**



(article drawn from various internet sources)

THE MAIDENWELL MUSTER May 27th. > 30th.

62 Austravel members travelled from as far away as Ayr, Mackay and Rockhampton in the north, to Chinchilla in the west.....and not to be outdone, interstate members came from NSW and South Australia as well.

Thank you all for supporting this muster and making it a pleasurable weekend for all.

Of course the ever present Covid-19 shadow prevailed; but over this particular weekend, the restrictions where not draconian, with the most notable Covid annoyance being the Saturday night pig on the spit meals where taken outdoors, and yes it was a bit chilly, even for our southern interstate visitors. !



The pig didn't look happy, but Austravel members "had a ball".



On a technical level, several members took the time to review their radio profiles and have them updated and this couldn't have happened with out 0116 Ian Parkin who worked diligently to get the job done.....many thanks Ian.

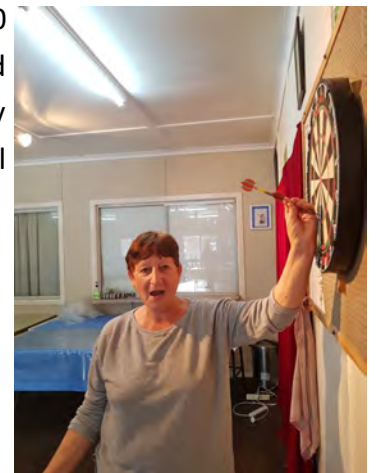
Sunday afternoon saw an Austravel versus the Maidenwell Hotel social club darts game. Didn't that bring out some Austravel "ringers"; especially 1949 Clemy Hurst and 1750

Carmel Carne demonstrating how good they where throwing a dart and trusting the aim and flight of the trusty dart to good luck rather than any "hidden" talent. There was strong consideration by the Maidenwell hotel dart team to demand a drug test of some sort, hinting that our ladies become more bolder and more accurate with each "Cactus Cooler" consumed.

A pub raffle was held and was well supported by Austravel members and the Saturday Austravel raffle yielded \$290 for our club.



Clemy (1949) and Lynn (2002) dividing up the winners gold..... (XXXX gold that is)!



Carmel (1750) with another winning throw of the dart





Walk-2-GPS this app could....

Save Your Life!

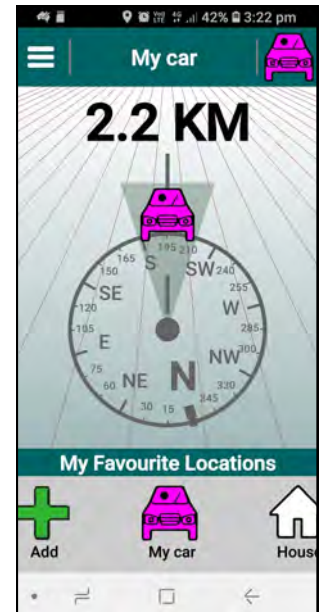
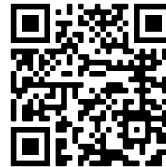
- Loading this simple to use app on your phone may truly save your life, by giving you easy guidance back to a known location, (i.e. your car) using your mobile phone.
- Find your car in a shopping centre car park. Find your way back to camp. (young or old can use this app.)
- This app operates regardless of mobile phone network coverage. (i.e.. In any remote area of the world.)

Application:

- Mark your location as you park your car.
Go for a walk and get lost. Keep your location icon in the big triangle and walk back to the car.

Features:

- Store and name locations with 3 clicks.
- Save many locations for re-use later.
- Show /display actual GPS coordinate information.
- Import/Export locations via clipboard with other applications.



Antenna Transmit Efficiency

A boring topic really, but I hope it helps members understand the network better and I will try and keep it very simple. In essence our vehicles have low transmit efficiency with our HF radio, but only because our mobile antennas are relatively small in comparison to the frequencies we are using. Let's say for comparison one of our base antennas has 100% efficiency and is about 50 meters long. A mobile antenna is about 2 meters long, or about 4% of the base antenna length. I know the technical readers will be scoffing about now as there are many factors that make up antenna efficiencies. It is not as dramatic as 4% compared to 100% may seem but this will do as a guide. For techs it is close to $(\text{difference in db}) = 20 \log 4/100$ as a comparison.



How does this affect us, as it usually seems to work OK? The base and mobile transmitter output power are the same, but our mobile transmission is not as strong as a base. Those astute among you will say but the base must receive 96% better than the mobile and make up for it, it does, but it also receives the sky noise, lightning and any interference stronger and your signal is no better above the noise.

For example when we Beacon (channel test) a Base and we hear the pseudo "Doe Ray Me" reversion, we are usually hearing a stronger signal from the base than what the base is hearing from us. So, if we do a Beacon call to a base and the reversion is not that great to us in the car, it may not be that easy to make a Telcall phone call or send a message. If you get your telephone call to connect, the person on the phone may not hear you as good as you hear them. It may also be difficult to get the call to connect at all even though you got a reversion, if the reversion is not strong.

This is very prevalent on the lowest channel 1 and particularly at night. Always do a few Beacon (Channel Test) calls on a number of channels and pick the best base and best channel reversion. If you feel it is not very strong on one base, try another further away but on higher channels. Also make sure your antenna is as big as practical. i.e. **If you have an extendable whip like on the 2019 Barrett antenna pull it up full height or the extender pole for the whip on a 3040 Codan tuner use it**, particularly on the lower channels. Bigger is better, up to about 3 meters of whip on our mobile auto tuners will give you the best transmitting result. You may not notice any difference by ear on your mobile receive but it does make a significant difference at the far end.



H.E.L.P.

4 3 5 7

INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

What Is Austravel's H.E.L.P.(4357) Incident Response?

An Austravel SafetyNet incident response is the action taken to manage a travelling members incoming H.E.L.P.(4357) call, regardless of the call method and/or if the nature of the call for assistance was required for medical emergency or welfare reasons.

The Austravel incident response team is not a triple zero "first responder" group in the traditional sense, but it is a HF radio communication pathway to emergency first responders in those situations that require a triple zero style response.

Call methods for H.E.L.P (4357) activation within remote areas include :-

- single push red button emergency calling via capable HF radio
- 4357 send selcall or position call on any Austravel channel
- via satellite phone call direct to a listed Austravel H.E.L.P (4357) responder

Why is the Austravel Incident Response Team important?

A team of experienced Austravel members nominated as "incident responders" with complimentary HF radio experience, skills and knowledge, a common framework and goals, delivers a comprehensive response mechanism in times of need. The team of responders typically means that several Austravel incident responders may act to provide various layers of incident management - an Austravel H.E.L.P.(4357) caller may hear only one responder when communicating by HF radio, without realising other Austravel incident responders may be converging "off air" to assist where required.

Once the situation of the H.E.L.P.(4357) caller is established, the communications conduit between the H.E.L.P.(4357) caller, and the assistance they need is potentially communicated with greater speed and accuracy via the Austravel incident responder team than a member attempting it on their own via an Austravel radphone connection.

Austravel Systems and Tools

Austravel SafetyNet has a network of HF radio base stations that allow two-way communication with the Austravel incident responder and any H.E.L.P.(4357) caller.

Additionally there are two (2) "listen only" base stations, located in interference free locations in the east and west of Australia....invaluable when weak incoming signals are experienced in H.E.L.P.(4357) activations.

Austravel's interconnect phone network is geared for "on air" conference calling. If circumstances allow, there are opportunities to conduct a three (3) way hook up :-

1. the remotely located member activating H.E.L.P.(4357)
2. the Austravel incident responder
3. the service or organisation required

A Pathways database supports the H.E.L.P.(4357) responder with a wide range of contacts for first responder teams and obscure organisations and businesses like road side assistance or vehicle recovery.

(T&C's Apply)

The word HELP is defined as a verb "to make it easier or possible for somebody to do something that one person cannot do alone by providing assistance".

At Austravel, we offer a broad range of assistance, not only medical emergency call responses.

The H.E.L.P.(4357) call system is monitored by a team of experienced HF radio operators, spread across Australia who are proficient at communicating with callers via one or more of the Austravel SafetyNet base stations.



Austravel Safety Net Inc.
Registered Office
33/54 Macalister St.
Park Avenue Qld. 4701
(A not-for-profit club)

For more information:-
Phone:- 07 2101 3456
E-mail:-
secretary@austravelsafetynet.org.au



KIMBERLEY W.A.

THE DIAMOND OF THE NORTH WEST

(PHOTOS AND STORY FROM VARIOUS SOURCES)



The Kimberley Region (Western Australia)

Other than the fact that one of Austravel's HF radio bases is situated in the Kimberley region (Kununurra Base 6299), here are a few things that you may be interested in about the Kimberley W.A. region.

The history of Australia's Kimberley region is a long one with the first arrivals landing about 40,000 years ago from the islands of what is now Indonesia.

The area was first explored by Alexander Forrest in 1879. Forrest was the first European man to discover and name the Kimberley district, the Margaret and Ord rivers, the King Leopold Ranges, and the fertile area between the Fitzroy and Ord rivers.

'The Kimberley District' was named for the Earl of Kimberley, secretary for the colonies, in 1880. He also gave his name to a region in South Africa which, like the Australian Kimberley, is famous for producing diamonds.



Australia entered commercial production of diamonds in 1981 and quickly became the top producer of gem-quality diamonds. In recent years, production in Australia has fallen sharply as deposits have been depleted with insufficient discoveries to replace them.

In 2013 Rio Tinto opened the new Argyle underground diamond mine in the Kimberley region. The open pit mine at Argyle has been a steady producer of diamonds since 1983 and the world's leading source of natural fancy-coloured diamonds. The underground mine extended Argyle's life until closure in November 2020.

Kimberley, Northern Cape (Sth. Africa)

Kimberley (S.A.) is the capital and largest city of the Northern Cape Province of South Africa and its connection with the Kimberley region of Australia is that both carry the Kimberley

name and both were named after the 1st Earl of Kimberley and both mined diamonds.

The south African Kimberley area in the 1870's was originally called "New Rush"but with its new name and financial stature, Kimberley prospered. In September 1882 Kimberley S.A. was the first city in the Southern Hemisphere and the second in the world after Philadelphia in the USA to integrate electric street lights into its infrastructure and the first Stock Exchange in Africa.

The largest diamond mine, the **Kimberley Mine** or "Big Hole" covering 170,000 square metres (42 acres), reached a depth of 240 metres (790 ft) and yielded three tons of **diamonds**. The **mine** was closed in 1914, while three of the holes – Dutoitspan, Wesselton and Bultfontein – closed down in 2005.

The 2016 top 10 countries who mine diamonds, include:-

- Russia
- Botswana
- Australia
- DR Congo
- Canada
- Angola
- South Africa
- Zimbabwe
- Namibia
- Sierra Leone

The Kimberley Region and the Austravel HF Network

Measuring the Kimberley Region at 423,517 Sq km's makes it twice the area of Victoria. Kununurra base (6299) has been set up to cover the Kimberley region and cater to its popularity with travellers. The range of frequencies, together with the combination of a vertical and a series of log periodic antennae, has been designed for optimum HF range and conditions for this region.

Which are the best channels (frequencies) for this area?

Optimum channels are those listed in your sked timetable i.e. :-

Channel 1 (3175 Khz)

Channel 2 (5127 Khz)

Channel 4 (6793 Khz)

Channel 6 (9323 Khz)

Of course you can't openly use these channels at sked time, but the list demonstrates which channels should provide good HF comms within this region.



AUSTRALIAN EVENTS
CALENDAR



- **October 8th. > 10th. 2021**
AGM/GM East Australia
Casino N.E. NSW

Casino Holiday Village (Big4)
69 Light St. Casino (02)
(02) 6662 1069

Email: info@casinoholidaypark.com.au

\$30 per night powered sites - 10% discount available for 4 night stay (arrive earlier if you wish).

Sausage Sizzle planned for Friday afternoon the 8th

Saturday night dinner planned for the Cecil Hotel (drop menu \$30 p/p)

Contact Geoff Peck Venue Organiser (0951) 0403 309 020

Contact Rick Shea Club Secretary (3097) 0418 185 155



- **October 8th. > 10th. 2021**
AGM/GM West Australia
Chittering W.A.

Roy Watkins Place
119 Toody Glen
Chittering

Contact John Hall Venue Organiser (6014) 0412 493 866

Contact Rick Shea Club Secretary (3097) 0418 185 155



**MORE DETAILS
WILL BE PROVIDED
CLOSER TO THIS
OCTOBER 2021
EVENT... VIA EMAIL
TO ALL MEMBERES.**

These east and west meetings are planned,
bearing in mind Covid 19 restrictions may im-
pact our ability to continue!



TET-EMTRON



TE-EA Emergency Antenna

\$99.00

or 4 payments of **\$24.75** with
Afterpay



SKED OPERATORS WANTED

What Is an Austravel Sked?

A 'Sked' (Scheduled Net) is a regularly scheduled communications session operated by Austravel members for Austravel members.

Primary Function:-

- Stay in touch daily while travelling and log your position.
- Convey messages received from family, friends and various agencies dealing with road and weather alerts.
- Emergency voice contact point for all members
 - * an extension to H.E.L.P. (4357)
- Radio check - frequently test your radio and antenna systems
- Broaden HF radio skills and knowledge

Who Operates Austravel SafetyNet Skeds?

Any Austravel members including social members can operate a sked. There is a lot of fun and satisfaction operating a sked, but on the odd occasion can be challenging.

If I Volunteer, What Do I Have To Do?

Training is available for volunteer sked operators. Experience in the use of a HF radio is an advantage, but we have successfully trained a social member who didn't have a HF radio, and still doesn't.

After training, it is up to the sked volunteer to nominate when and how often they are available to conduct skeds. The sked coordinator provides a sked roster with most volunteers dedicated to a five day week, some just weekends, some just wish to be on stand by to fill in for other volunteers.

Does Where I Live Matter?

Where you conduct a morning and afternoon sked session is entirely up to the volunteer. Skeds by phone interconnect via a base station can be completed from any reliable mobile phone coverage area or WiFi access point. Volunteers can be a resident of W.A. and conduct an East Australia sked and vice versa.

What equipment do I need?

1. A mobile phone with earbuds or over the ear blue tooth headset
2. An Apple Mac or Microsoft Windows computer or tablet
3. Internet access

Are there Costs Involved?

All of our sked operators use their own mobile phone, computer and internet accounts to operate skeds. Sked operators report that conducting skeds by phone does not financially burden their phone/internet plans.



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE ?

Technically speaking, operating a sked via the world wide web can be accomplished anywhere there is internet access.

The Austravel sked operator could be in China, USA or in the UK... or it could be someone living in Australia who is house bound for one reason or another and looking for something worthwhile and rewarding to do.

Our current sked volunteers represent a diverse range of experiences and capacities. Some are long term operators, others new to the role. We particularly encourage our female members to consider becoming sked operators.

As an inclusive not-for-profit club, Austravel SafetyNet would welcome an opportunity to change someone's life, by sharing our HF network experiences with those who are looking for interaction with our travelling members, and doing something positive

For more information:-

East Sked Coordinator
Ken Fischer (9618)
Phone:-0439 749 449

West Sked Coordinator
Terry Clinch
Phone: 0414 532 070

As an introduction to this story, I had reason recently to update a members details which included recording his PLB information.

Austravel SafetyNet currently has 48 members who have registered their PLB as well as their HF radio, after we incorporated HELP-PLB into our range of "emergency call" offerings a couple of years ago.

Bear in mind that Austravel has no direct control over the PLB system here in Australia. All emergency PLB activations are managed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) based in Canberra. The connection between AMSA and Austravel - is our ability (potentially) to provide AMSA (if requested) with background information of a members recent travel history and other metadata that may provide useful information confirming location, circumstance and situational awareness.

This is the members experience/story using a PLB....the member gave Austravel permission to use this story here in Channel Chatter and it serves as an insight on what happens if you ever need to activate a PLB.

Is there value in a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) ?

Actually Geoff, over the years I have used the PLB twice.

Both times in the high country, once was a Xmas down here when it snowed and caught us by surprise and we couldn't get out in the 4WD. Then one of the people I was with, a bloke and another car, had a serious knee injury.

I tried to walk out with him but he just couldn't make it so I returned him to the 4WD and activated the PLB. I had police frequency radio in the 4WD at the time and being an ex-copper I could hear how quickly it all started from there.

I remember hearing Mansfield station calling the local unit asking if he was busy, he said no, they just told him to ring the station. I could hear it in us. Later I could hear him enroute "GPS tells us they are in a very tight ing over the radio stating they had knew they were near to us I then into my sick mate. We were pulled the following week when weather

On another occasion I had a crazy next to us at night, one had tried to cle and tent when he threw petrol take rescue with me and my kids I'm a deer hunter and yes I had one, been my last resort, it was packed calm, talked him into walking to-knew his crazy mate was stalking next house was a furphy, I wanted his mate showed up he would leave te.

As I talked to him I pulled the trigger on the PLB that time too, it took some time but VicPol showed up, arrested the other crazy asleep next to the burnt out vehicle. The response from Police and rescue were just brilliant, they would prefer to do a job like these rather than pull a body out. Now you can understand my desire with Austravel and HF radio, particularly as I get longer in the tooth.



the voice and knew it was a response to and the operator saying things such as spot", then the air wing (chopper) com-to turn back due to the weather. Once I took the portable UHF and guided them out within 5 hours, rescued the vehicles improved.

drug impacted couple of blokes in a camp kill his mate and had set fire to their vehi-on them and his mate. This mate tried to and wanted to know if I had a gun.

but would not let him know, it may have high in the roof top tent. I remained wards the next house to get help as we him and I needed him away from us. The him out of the camp. I was hoping that if me and the kids alone and chase his ma-

The Austravel member went onto saythe greatest message that I took from this was :-

1. How efficient things went into play, particularly as I could hear what was happening, it gave me comfort. What I found out later was also how important it is to have your contact details updated. On each time they called my contacts first, they asked if they knew me, what sort of medical issues I may have, my level of bush experience, how well equipped I was. I could hear this information being relayed to our rescuers and found all this out later. I am experienced and what also sank home is that the people I had nominated had to know me well enough to answer these questions when that call comes.
2. The second thing was that I expected to get a bill of some sort and was happy to pay, but no, there was no questioning or ridicule or an account, it was to them just a days job without hesitation, I wrote to the CC of Police after that and they called me thanking me, and it was they who told me they would prefer to put the effort in while alive rather than have to rescue a body, hence I am such an advocate.

Article by Geoff Peck (0951)



WHAT 3 WORDS

This article is an extension to (or it relates to) a previous Channel Chatter story published in April 2021. The April 2021 story focussed on a safety while travelling app called "Emergency Plus" (a free triple zero connect app).

I remarked then that the "Emergency Plus" app as being a companion tool that compliments Austravel's H.E.L.P. (4357) HF radio emergency calling system.....i.e. you have one easy to use Austravel emergency call system, via HF radio when outside mobile phone coverage areas, and another system triple zero (via the Emergency Plus free app), when a mobile phone network is available.

This article is to explain what is "WHAT 3 WORDS" ?

Yes its is another mobile phone where am I location app that is free.

I suggest that you review this app via an internet search so you can understand a little more about "What 3 Words" is. It is different and you can find a short video presentation that will discuss what it is that's different to other location identifying systems.

[what3words /// The simplest way to talk about location](#)

My wife and I carry the "EMERGENCY PLUS" (triple zero) app with us and could see that this app included "WHAT 3 WORDS" as a secondary, or supporting where am I data source.

DO YOU NEED THIS "WHAT 3 WORDS" APP ?.....I suggest you don't as its already included within the "EMERGENCY PLUS" (triple zero) app.

More to the point is it's our suggestion that you do upload the "EMERGENCY PLUS" (triple zero) app and learn where the GPS data is displayed and know that a secondary location identifier in the form of "WHAT 3 WORDS" is included.

In an emergency the triple zero operator may ask you for the GPS coordinates and/or the What 3 Words. Given that you review the video I suggested for What 3 Words, you and your family have another layer of emergency response when travelling in unfamiliar or rural areas where a mobile phone network is available, and an Austravel H.E.L.P. (4357) incident responder may also need this location data via voice over the HF radio.



For anything and just about everything 12 volt.....JGM Direct will have a product and price to suit.

Your Channel Chatter editor visits this favourite "men's toy shop" often when needing a 12 volt this or that.

Check their webpage, delivery Australia

Looking for great quality stand alone Solar or LED lighting?
You don't need to leave the South Burnett!!!

- * Caravan Installation
- * Off-Grid Installations
- * Micro Solar Systems
- * DIY Components
- * Rigid & Folding Solar
- * Solar Regulators
- * Deep Cycle Batteries

Nanango's Solar & 12 Volt Shop

www.jgmdirect.com

Mon-Fri 9.00am -5.00pm
13,912 D'Aguilar Hwy, Nanango
Ph: 41633109 Mob:0413 669 112

WHY HF WITH AUSTRAVEL SAFETYNET?.....a members experience!

Remote Australia can be a lonely place. Even when you take every precaution things can go wrong. We set off for Oodnadatta via Dangalli and Gammon National Parks with two vehicles, both the route itinerary and Austravel's "How To Contact Me" instructions posted on three fridges, and the Out-n-about app loaded on to a non-travellers phone, first aid kits in both cars.

It feels good to be prepared for the trip ahead. We were looking good, time to head off and enjoy ourselves, *then "Murphy's Law" raised it's ugly head.*

One minute I was happily driving on one of Australia's typical outback roads.....the next minute I came to, to find the Land Rover on its side, front window gone and the bonnet and roof not where they should be. The shiny side was definitely not up! A quick check showed no major bleeds, broken bones, feeling in toes and fingers seemed ok, all good, physically.

My daughters voice broke through the strange silence. I could hear her calling as she ran across the road, dad, dad are you ok? I managed to climb out through the broken windscreen as she went to reassure the two grandsons Pa was ok.

While one grandson quickly retrieved the required components of the first aid kit and his mum dressed my wounds, I was able to gather my thoughts.

I reached in to the cabin and picked up the handset of the HF radio, checked that it was on scan and pressed the emergency call red button.

Had the radio and the auto tune antenna survived?

We heard the auto tune work up and watched as the handset began to confirm transmission. Shortly after, the radio came to life with **"1501 what is the nature of your emergency Phill"**. The relief on my face was clear, I was so glad to hear a voice. I began to describe where we were and was assured that the Austravel responder knew exactly where we were. I had forgotten about the GPS!

I was able to describe the nature of the accident, my injuries what resources we had and how many of us there were. Help was arranged immediately and solutions relayed to us.

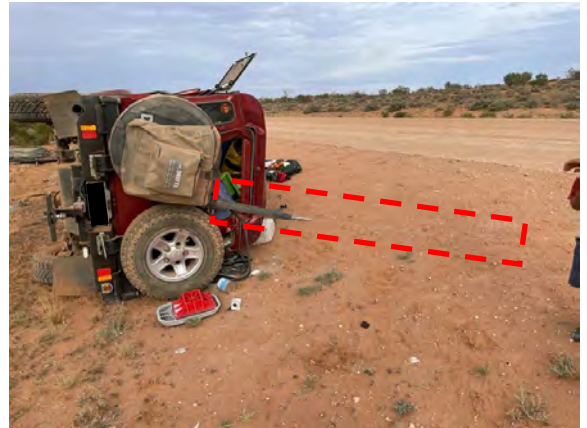
The manager of the nearest cattle station was with us within half an hour and we were quickly on our way to his place. We spoke with the ambulance service via the station phone. I was able to call through to Geoff Peck to confirm with him we were no longer by the radio but could be reached by the station telephone.

The following day my daughter drove me the 250 km via tracks and back roads to the nearest hospital.

Finally, my sincere thanks goes to each of the Austravel operators who responded to the red button emergency call. The processes and structures that Austravel SafetyNet had in place ensured that there was little stress on all involved and that information was rapidly relayed between all parties ensuring a positive outcome.

Was I glad I had a HF radio and was a member of Austravel SafetyNet?, most assuredly!

Editors Note



Note the Codan 9350 auto tune antenna. It survived the roll over as did the radio, but the antenna whip appears to be almost (or is) touching the ground.



Despite the extensive vehicle damage, not only did the HF radio still operate, but the red button activation was heard by four Austravel bases.

- **Perth Base**
channel 7 (10.203 Mhz)
- **Mareeba Base**
channel 7 (10.203 Mhz)
- **Casino Base**
channel 8 (13.910 Mhz)
- **Shepparton Base**
channel 5 (7.652 Mhz)



Emergency 112 call at 4:38pm (EST) 9/Apr/21 via Shepparton, Ch: 05. From radio 1501 (Phill Loader Phn 0433743560) Last known Radio GPS Just Now Lat:-31.232084 Lon:139.680206

Emergency 112 call at 4:39pm (EST) 9/Apr/21 via Mareeba, Ch: 07. From radio 1501 (Phill Loader Phn 0433743560) Last known Radio GPS Just Now Lat:-31.232084 Lon:139.680206

Emergency 112 call at 4:39pm (EST) 9/Apr/21 via Casino, Ch: 08. From radio 1501 (Phill Loader Phn 0433743560) Last known Radio GPS Just Now Lat:-31.232084 Lon:139.680206

Emergency 112 call at 4:39pm (EST) 9/Apr/21 via Perth, Ch: 07. From radio 1501 (Phill Loader Phn 0433743560) Last known Radio GPS Just Now Lat:-31.232084 Lon:139.680206

I am the Austravel Emergency Responder that was first  to dial into an Austravel base and talk to Phil 1501 after receiving four of the Austravel HELP (4357) SMS alerts. (see SMS alerts top of page).

Other Austravel responders were also alerted focused on identifying the location driven by Phils' mobile phone number to evaluate if this Unresponsive mobile phone call indicates that



at the same time and listening on the side, while others the GPS coordinate's we received, while others dialed emergency call was perhaps inadvertently activated. the HELP (4357) call is genuine.

Quickly establishing contact on HF that the situation was in fact a vehicle accident in a remote area with some injuries, I called with my phone to "000" in Western Australia and asked to speak to the police in South Australia. I was quickly put through and I reported the accident and GPS position to the officer and left my details for the ambulance service and RFDS to ring me, which they did shortly after. When I knew the intended method of response which in the beginning was to respond with assets from Coober Pedy, I called Phil back via HF radio through Shepparton base and let him know the intent of the emergency services. (I used HAP charts and beacon calls to decide to use a different base.)

After several more phone calls from ambulance and RFDS services and many queries as to the location, it seemed the official emergency services had some difficulty with GPS information. I explained....*just type the numbers I have given you into Google Maps directly in the search field and it will show the spot.* I also explained that the GPS was electronically sent and that there would be no error in the position and the accident would be within 4 meters of that spot. RFDS had contact information for the nearby station homestead which was now identified as the better initial response. The rest is in Phil's' article and from the pictures I would say he was very lucky and we all wish him well for his recovery.

Just remember that the Australian outback is un-forgiving. HF radio is also fail-able for variable reasons including the radio or the antenna (or both) being damaged in an accident.

You can see from Phil's pictures that the HF antenna was compromised but still worked. Largely, because he had chosen to mount it on the rear of the vehicle and not the roo bar up front. A wire emergency antenna would also have worked if deployed. It would be wise to also carry secondary emergency communications. For example a PLB could have been used here if the HF was damaged. If you have registered Austravel into your AMSA setup for the PLB our operators can at least confirm from your GPS logging history to AMSA your trajectory of travel confirming you in remote areas and most likely being a real PLB emergency. Or from the AMSA call we would have tried calling Phil's radio from an appropriate base and may have contacted him if his emergency call had not been sent or worked. (Author Kim Rhodes (7880))

**The Austravel
H.E.L.P. (4357)
Responders View!**

Qmac Radio Service

The Qmac HF90 transceiver is the world's smallest high power HF SSB transceiver. The HF-90 is a commercial grade transceiver, designed for long-range manpack, portable, vehicle and fixed base station applications.

For service support contact Keith Perry
Austravel Member 1701
Email: Vk6qa@inet.net.au



DON'T WEAKEN YOUR RED BUTTON!

This button may save your life, particularly if a passenger, not familiar with operating the radio needs to make a call for you.

I have mentioned last year in Channel Chatter about this issue of getting the RED button set up correctly to activate the Austravel H.E.L.P.(4357) emergency call system.

I mentioned that the RED button can only operate correctly if set up for the Austravel Network only. **Or don't use the RED button for Austravel Network for emergency call at all.** You can still use the H.E.L.P.(4357) emergency call procedure without the red button (See our *Kiss Emergency call sheet for further information on the web page*)

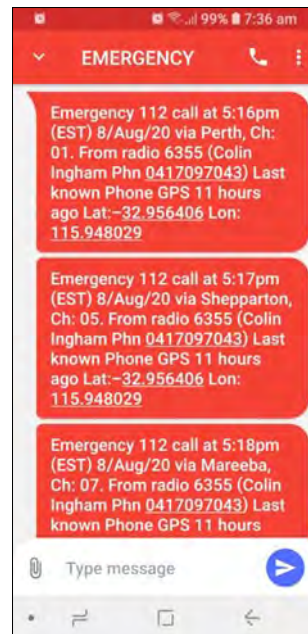
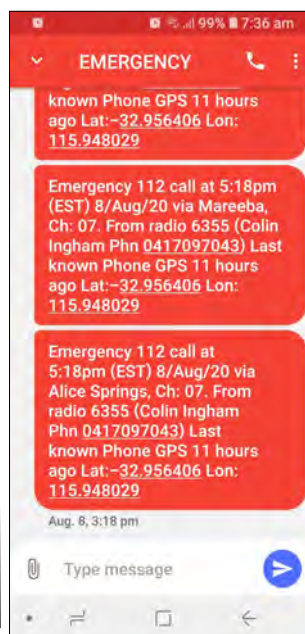
If you are a member of multiple networks and a "technician?" says they can set it up for both networks; it **will not** work correctly. **This will make the Austravel H.E.L.P.(4357) red button configuration most likely to fail you.** Austravel has a reliable and proven track record for red button calls, but it needs to remain true to the Austravel profile.

"...a members recent successful H.E.L.P. (4357) activation sharpens our focus"

It is important that your radio is back on scan at the completion of the emergency call sequence. i.e About 3 mins after

the RED button is pressed and calls are completed. If you are handling the microphone be careful not to bump the PTT switch, particularly as you remove it from the mike cradle. Because the radio has sent or is sending multiple emergency calls, bumping the PTT will stop the sequence or scanning and you need to be scanning for us to call your radio back with selcall on the best channel. This lets a responder talk to you clearly and activate your requirements.

Below is an example of a typical response of Emergency SMS messages from the RED button call to our many emergency responders. This particular call was received 5 times across four bases. From this information we will choose the best way to call you back. So you see it is important that the radio is scanning Austravel Channels for us to contact you.



Westralian Images

Tag-a-long Photography Tours



Drones



Photography



Video

Take Your Photography To The Next Level

Visit Exciting Locations

Visit www.westralianimages.com for more information





0116
Ian & Janette Parkin
Qld.
H.E.L.P. (4357) Responder
Urgent Message Contact

1226
Denny Sharpe
Qld.
East & West Sked Operator
Urgent Message Contact

0951
Geoff Peck
Qld.
East Sked Operator
H.E.L.P. (4357) Responder
Urgent Message Contact

1228
Garry Sharpe
Qld.
East Sked Operator
Urgent Message Contact

3097
Rick Shea
Qld.
East Sked Operator
H.E.L.P. (4357) Responder
Urgent Message Contact

1750
Bob Carne
Qld.
East Sked Operator
Urgent Message Contact

2261
Brad Kark
NSW
East Sked Operator

9618
Ken Fischer
Qld.
East Sked Operator
Urgent Message Contact

3928
Henk Jonkers
Qld.
East Sked Operator

0331
Chris Featherstone
NSW
East Sked Operator

3840
Gavin Deneen
NSW
East Sked Operator

7245
Jeanne Socrates
Qld.
East Sked Operator

1386
Neil Burton
Qld.
East Sked Operator

4691
Mark Withers
Victoria
East Sked Operator

7880
Kim Rhodes
WA
West Sked Operator
H.E.L.P. (4357) Responder
Urgent Message Contact

5833
Michael Seotis
WA
West Sked Operator

6001
Roy Watkins
WA
West Sked Operator
H.E.L.P. (4357) Responder
Urgent Message Contact

5577
Paul Jones
WA
West Sked Operator
H.E.L.P. (4357) Responder
Urgent Message Contact

6041
Mike Henderson
WA
West Sked Operator
H.E.L.P. (4357) Responder
Urgent Message Contact

6442
Ross Ingham
WA
West Sked Operator

1928
Terry Clinch
WA
West Sked Operator
Urgent Message Contact

6014
John Hall
WA
West Sked Operator
Urgent Message Contact

6355
Colin Ingham
WA
West Sked Operator
Urgent Message Contact



**LET ME HIGHLIGHT THE HIDDEN
FEW THAT IS OUR MEMBER
SUPPORT TEAM....**

**A GROUP OF FELLOW MEMBERS
WHO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS
A COMMON GOAL.**

TRACK CARE W.A.

AUSTRAVEL INVITED TO ATTEND EASTER EVENT



The recent visit by some of the Austravel SafetyNet Club members to Narloo Station (abandoned) proved to be a very enjoyable event.

Narloo was a station property north of Yalgoo that has now been returned to rangelands and with the very willing and able members of Track Care WA they are slowly repairing the homestead and facilities to a suitable level to show visitors the conditions the homesteaders had to endure in the very harsh conditions of the outback Murchison area. Corrugated walls, wood floors, no running water, initially a wood stove and red dust and of course the outside drop loo.

The weekend was extremely hot with temperatures in the low 40 degrees so consequently no camp fires which I think we all were looking forward to.

Track Care WA organised the weekend and with the assistance of the 4WD Club of WA plus our organisation participating - the weekend was very informative and interesting.

There were those that went 4wd driving to the next station, Woolgarong, now in the care of Dept of Parks and Wildlife. Kim Rhodes gave a very simple but informative talk about the benefits of owning and using a HF Radio on the Saturday. There were art classes for those who wanted to experience whether their talents would take them further, a very well organised photography workshop by Westralia Images for keen amateur photographers who wished to hone their skills. On the Sunday morning Kim threw open a forum to all about any subject mainly batteries, solar panels 12volt etc. This was very well received and a very lively discussion could have gone on all day if Kim had permitted it. Toni spoke on her excellent topic of Pain Management to a large group, mostly ladies who were keen for alternative knowledge on this subject. All found it particularly enlightening and unfortunately had to finish so Kim could commence his forum.



On the Sunday night the ladies from the 4WD club had arranged to do cooking demonstrations in camp ovens however because of the extreme temperatures that had to be modified. The meal they produced for everyone was exceptional and their talent was appreciated by all. Curry, vegetable dishes, casseroles, roasts lamb and pork plus roasted veggies and then to complete the meal a lovely dessert with custard.

After this we all sat and enjoyed the film by Geoff Lewis of Serious Films "Road to Ruin" which I think was rather a hoot with comments flying in all directions about the issues that the Landrover encountered in its attempt to traverse the Canning Stock Route. Consequently it didn't get very far before it had to retire and return to Wiluna, to lick its wounds and prepare for a further adventure.

Overall there would have been 80 odd people in tents, camper vans, caravans all spread over the area most looking for their bit of shade.

There was some interesting Aboriginal Rock art to be viewed a short distance from the homestead which many of the group explored.

Some from our group found the only water in the area in the way of a slowly drying up slightly muddy pool and took the opportunity to take a dip even though it only came up to our thighs. Amazing how such a small amount of water can refresh and energise the

body. This was so good we returned on two consecutive days to participate in this spa in the outback.

All in all it was a very enjoyable and successful weekend everyone was very friendly and thanks to our President Kim for his participation and organisation on our clubs behalf.

Certainly if there was the opportunity to again experience such a well organised and friendly event with a group of like minded people we would be in line to attend.

Thank you Kim.


BARRETT
 COMMUNICATIONS

4050 D HF SDR



- Advanced fully software - defined architecture
- Intuitive and user-friendly touch screen interface
- Wireless operation via iOS, Android & Windows devices
- Selcall / Telcall
- SMS—Pagecall
- Multiple Self ID's
- Wi-Fi Adaptor
- 2019 Auto tune HF antenna with internal GPS receiver
- Address books

www.hfradiosales.com

Ph: 07 3118 5265

Designed and built in Australia for the world's harshest conditions, Barrett HF equipment thrives in the outback and has the track record to Prove it. The Barrett "Outback Traveller Pack" should be considered as standard equipment for anyone travelling in remote areas.

Utilising the "free to air" nature of HF communications, the "Outback Traveller Pack" provides access to essential safety and emergency services with no ongoing call charges.



The Barrett 4050 D handset app supports iOS, Android and Windows devices for wireless voice and radio control.



4050 D

WELCOME TO AUSTRAVEL SAFETYNET Inc.


Evan Schloss	1037	QLD
Craig deMol	2370	QLD
Bruce Fewtrell	5065	QLD
Mark Wilkie	0287	QLD
Peter Davies	7385	QLD
Sean Hurley	0982	QLD
Peter Kerby	0505	QLD
Tim Robertson	0984	QLD
Ken Collins	2346	QLD

Nicholas Bongiorno	1333	NSW
Pedr Danks	4646	NSW
Ian Russell	2441	NSW
Ken Knight	1891	NSW
Bryan Knight	0979	NSW
Robert Cox	0407	NSW
Solomon Ould	6360	NSW

Murray Bloye	2025	VIC
Paul Tesarsch	3213	VIC
Brendan Sullivan	2408	VIC
Mark Withers	4691	VIC


Zach Normandale	5245	SA
Norm & Karen Richards	8991	WA
Paul Howells	6122	WA
Iain & Fluer Robertson	6317	WA
Clifton & Gloria Parry	4910	WA
David Orchard	6057	WA
Danny Lewis	0128	WA
Dan Sutton	1173	WA
Simon Hall	6171	WA
Nick Carroll	5588	WA
Ted Moon	0518	WA
Glen Tyrrell	0985	WA
Richard Cmbi -Morrison	7739	WA
John & Jane Lutz	1751	WA
Colin Riley	1703	WA
Alan Skaffe	0270	WA
CJ Halvorson	1313	WA
Nick De Vries	1072	WA
Joe Czeschka	0152	WA
Richard O'Meara	5542	WA

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



How to Contact Me

Three simple methods to contact a travelling Austravel member who has a HF radio switched on.



Enter your name and telcall number in your radio: _____

There are three (3) methods of message delivery available to any Austravel member travelling in rural and remote areas, or mariner members, sailing in coastal waters:

- Voice Mail**
 - Family and friends can dial Austravel's 24/7 office number - 07 2101 3457 and leave a voice mail message for the Austravel member to be passed on via telcall contact, or morning and afternoon scheduled net.
 - Ensure the message contains the name and telcall number of the targeted travelling member. Please write it in the box above.
- Call a specialist Austravel member for assistance.**
 - Family and friends can call one of the listed Austravel members (in the list below) and detail their needs person-to-person. The specialist Austravel member will attempt to contact and pass on your message as requested.

Telcall	Location	Name	Phone
0951	QLD	Geoff Peck	0403 309 020
1750	QLD	Bob Carne	0407 936 289
9618	QLD	Ken Fischer	0439 749 449
7880	WA	Kim Rhodes	0427 983 329
6355	WA	Colin Ingham	0417 097 043
- Out-n-About MAILBOX**
 - Alternatively, family and friends can run the Out-n-About app on their mobile phones or tablets and send messages to your radio as well as monitor your travels. However, Out-n-About MAILBOX direct messages are not infallible so if it is your urgent it's advisable to "double up" on message delivery by initially contacting us via method 1 or 2 (or both if you wish).

Travelling members - to make the contact with you as above possible, please note!

For members travelling with a radio installed GPS, like Hansel & Gretel, leave an electronic breadcrumb trail by frequently logging your GPS position and/or log in via the morning and afternoon sked.


For members travelling without a radio installed GPS, log your position daily via either the morning or afternoon sked (or both).

This will provide H.E.L.P. (4357) operators with key information from which to assist in track and trace scenarios.

For telcall contact from a boat - leave your radio on and scanning, particularly while driving!

DON'T FORGET THESE "HOW TO CONTACT ME" SHEETS ARE INCLUDED IN EACH MAGAZINE EDITION BACK PAGE


Austravel members note - some reciprocal rights may be available.



Roustabouts RV Club Inc

Do you love to get away within south east Queensland and northern NSW on weekends? Do you dream of getting away on a longer trip to places within Australia? Do you like travelling our country in security and in the company of like-minded people? Do you enjoy caravanning and mixing with good friends at Club social events? Yes?

Then the Roustabouts RV and Caravan Club is for you.



This RV & Caravan Club is for young families, working, retired people who own a caravan, motor home, camper trailer, 5th wheeler, camper van or slide on campers who wish to be part of an active RV and caravan club. Our membership is primarily South East Queensland but extends along the Australian eastern seaboard from Cairns to Hobart.

Want further information?: Our website <https://roustaboutsrvcclub.com.au/>

Want to Join?: [Membership Info & Form](#)

Contact: Secretary 0412 614 260

FOLLOW WHAT WE'RE UP TO ON SOCIAL MEDIA

PIM CAHILL (7255) SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER
Email: socialmedia@austravel.org.au



BUY

SWAP

SELL

AUSTRAVEL MEMBERS MARKET

For Sale Codan NGT located in Cairns .

Asking price \$1,500

Member 6979 Jason Roach

0459 569 745



Home Services About

Netwest's Radio and Electronics Repair Centre

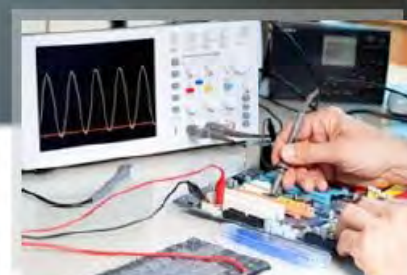
- Transceivers, Auto tuner repairs, Power supplies
Codan antenna repairs
- Commercial electronic devices can be quoted

Services

Contact Bruce Ingham

08 92255522 or 0418 376 541

41 Kensington St
East Perth WA 6004



Bushcomm
HF Antenna Systems

**Online Store
Now Open**

Sales - Support - Accessories

Australian Made - Delivered to your Door



Emergency Antennas



Base Station Antennas



Quality Mobile Antennas

Melbourne : 03 9017 6777
Brisbane : 07 3118 5265
Perth : 08 6144 3204

www.bushcomm-online.com

PayPal



Westprint - Outback Maps, Books, Travel Guides and Navigation systems.

www.westprint.com.au

6 Park St, Nhill Victoria 0353911466



The Zero Obelisk

In reference to corners on state borders.

This article is not about a "corner" but equally important to the establishment of Australia's state borders was the "zero obelisk", marking the beginning of the first official survey of the border between the colonies of Queensland and New South Wales.

"The official survey of the 29°S parallel, the border between New South Wales and Queensland was conducted by John Cameron (NSW) and George Watson (Qld) between 1879 and 1881. Astronomical observations were taken at the Barringun telegraph station to determine latitude and longitude. Following these observations, the *zero obelisk* was erected on the banks of the Warrego River just north of the town. From this mark, the border to the west was marked first followed by the section to the east" (Australian Longitudes by "Wire And Wireless" : http://xnatmap.org/adnm/docs/2013/long_aust.htm)



Barringun is about 150 kilometres north of Bourke and only a location on the map today. When the photo below was taken circa 2014 the *zero obelisk* had only just been found after being buried for many years.

That's a laugh !



As a senior at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, I often engage women psychology majors in heated discussions about male-female relationships. Once, my friend Shelly and I got into a hot debate about whether men or women make the larger sacrifice of their respective gender characteristics when they get married.

To my surprise, Shelly agreed with me that men give up far more than women.

"You're right, Steve," she said. "Men generally give up doing their cleaning, their cooking, their grocery shopping, their laundry..."

AUSTRAL SAFETY NET Inc.



Watts Communications	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Bushcomm Antennas www.wattscom.com.au / sales@wattscom.com.au	Fyshwick ACT 02 6280 6416
Wes Follett	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Bushcomm Antennas wfollett@bigpond.com / 0412 885 817	Deniliquin 03 5881 3189
Eacom Communications	Codan www.eacom.com.au / ian.blackburn@eacom.com.au	Griffiths NSW 02 6964 2033
Fettell Communications	Barrett www.fettell.com.au	Port Macquarie NSW 02 658 11341
Action Communications	Icom www.actioncommunications.net.au	Kingswood NSW 1800 802 948
Karera Communications	Icom www.karera.com / sales@karera.com	Tuggerah NSW 02 4355 1599
Phoenix HF Communications	Servicing most brands of HF	Kareela NSW 02 9544 6355
Independent Communications	Servicing most brands of HF radios www.independentcommunications.com.au	Tamworth NSW 02 6765 7555
Illawarra Communications	Codan www.illcom.com.au / scott@illcom.com.au	Wollongong NSW 02 4229 7300
Central Communications	Codan, Barrett www.centralcomms.com.au / sales@centralcomms.com.au	Alice Springs NT 08 8952 2388
Comspec (NT) P/L	Codan, Barrett www.comspec.com.au / sales@comspec.com.au	Alice Springs NT 08 8953 1903
Combined Comms Solutions	Barrett www.combinedcom.com.au / info@combinedcom.com.au	Darwin NT 08 8941 0644
ITS Communications	Codan, also servicing most brands of HF radios info@itscomm.com.au	Winnellie NT 08 8984 4855
Multi Voltage Maintenance	Codan, Barrett, Scout All HF radios catered for, older units channelized (Andrew Sutherland)	Yeppoon Qld. 0418 814 978
hfradiosales.com On-Line Store	Codan, Barrett Sales Service (incl. Qmac) and spare parts. www.hfradio.com.au / email: sales@hfradio.com.au	Brisbane Qld. 0408 345 208
Mobile Communications	Codan, Icom www.mobilecomms.com.au	Brisbane Qld. 07 3373 2345
RF Technologies	Servicing most brands of HF radios www.rftech.com.au / maxr@rftech.com.au	Brisbane Qld. 07 3279 7177
Kyle Communications	Codan, Barrett, Icom www.kyle.com.au / kylecomms@specsafes.com.au	Burpengary Qld. 07 3888 7899
Miles Electronics	Codan, Barrett www.mileselectronics.com.au / john@mileselect.com.au	Cairns Qld. 07 4035 1133
Reids Radiodata	Codan reidsradiodata@bigpond.com	Cowra NSW 02 6341 1544

AUSTRAVEL SAFETY NET Inc.

HF Radio Allied Traders List

Connecting Austravel Members To HF Radio Sales / Service Providers'



Aust. Professional Electronics & Repairs	Repairs for a wide range of electronic equipment including HF radios Email: info@apear.com.au	Redlynch (Cairns) 0408 764 540
Linemaster Marine Electronics	Barrett www.linemaster.com.au / sales@linemaster.com.au	Maroochydore Qld. 07 5479 6851
TCQ Communications	Codan, Barrett accounts@tcq.net.au	Mount Isa Qld. 07 4743 4388
Capricorn Communications	Codan, Icom www.capcom.com.au / sales@capcom.com.au	Nth. Rockhampton Qld. 07 4926 1172
Beaney's Communications	Barrett, Icom www.beaneys.com.au	Rockhampton 07 4927 5049
Advance Communications	Codan, & Barrett (www.advancecomms.com.au) E: peter.wrensted@advancecomms.com.au (mobile 0418 987 356)	Roma 07 4592 1111
Navcom Electronics P/L	Barrett navcomadmin@bigpond.com	Townsville Qld. 07 4771 2422
Norcomm P/L	Codan, + servicing of most brands of HF radios www.norcomm.com.au / sales@norcomm.com.au	Townsville Qld. 0408 722 833
Digital Radio Solutions	Codan, with service to most makes of HF www.marktek.com.au / contact@marktek.com.au	Adelaide S.A. 0418 845 518
Electric Bug	Codan, Icom, Barrett www.electricbug.com.au / sales@electricbug.com.au	Adelaide S.A. 08 8346 9234
International Comms. Systems	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Wagner, Hawk www.intcomsys.com.au / intcomm@intermode.on.net	Port Adelaide S.A. 08 8447 3688
Northern Communications	Service of all brands of HF radios phil.48@bigpond.com	Gawler S.A. 08 8522 6081
HF Radio Solutions	Codan & Codan Auto Tune Repair www.hfradiosolutions.com.au / ivan@hfradiosolutions.com.au	Renmark S.A. 0428 882 719
Weeks Radio Communications	Codan sales@weeksradio.com	Alexandra Vic. 03 5772 1292
Bairnsdale Communications	Codan, Icom sales@bcomms.com.au	Bairnsdale Vic. 03 5152 4622
Lara Electronics	Codan & Codan Auto Tune Repair www.laraelectronics.com.au / sales@laraelectronics.com.au	Geelong Vic. 0418 599 355
Bushcomm Online Store	Buschcomm Antennas, Multi Tap Antennas, 2nd. Hand HF www.bushcomm-online.com / sales@bushcomm-online.com	Melbourne Vic. 03 9017 6777
Angus Communications	Codan, Barrett hofmann126.ph@gmail.com	Shepparton Vic. 03 5821 9155

AUSTRAVEL SAFETY NET Inc.



South Eastern Communications	Sales & service of most brands of HF radios. www.secomms.com.au	Rosebud Vic. 0434 720 006
AA Radio Services	Codan, Icom, + service of most brands of HF radios. www.aaradio.com.au / sales@aaradio.com.au	Vermont Vic. 03 9264 8333
Earth 2 Ocean Communications	Barrett, Codan, Icom sales and service www.earth2ocean.com.au / sales@earth2ocean.com.au	Bunbury W.A. 08 9721 1730
Esperance Communications	Barrett, Icom + servicing of most brands of HF radios www.esperancecomms.com.au / service@esperancecomms.com.au	Esperance W.A. 08 9071 3344
Gencomm	Specialist Barrett repairs and service Email: john@gencomm.com.au	Claremont WA 0409 376 006
Allcom Communications	Codan, Icom, GME, Motorola, & Tait, - all brands repaired/serviced www.allcom.com.au / allcom@allcom.com.au	Perth W.A. 08 9479 4997
Barrett Communications	Barrett www.barrettcommunications.com.au / information@barrettcommunications.com.au	Perth W.A. 08 9434 1700
Mobile Masters	Barrett (sales no service) www.mobilemasters.com.au / mail@mobilemasters.com.au	Perth W.A. 08 9492 1777
Transair Two Way Radio	Codan, Icom www.transair.com.au / transair@transair.com.au	Perth W.A. 08 9209 2225
RF Waves Australia	Codan, GME, Motorola HF VHF Repair & Service	Hammersley W.A.

Austravel Safety Net Inc. Members please note.....The purpose of this list of "Allied Traders" is to offer a ready reference which may provide you with a source of sales and/ or service assistance when travelling away or near your home location.

Please provide feed back to the "Channel Chatter" newsletter editor if you find information contained misleading or incorrect.

Allied Traders...please review your listing and advise the "Channel Chatter" newsletter editor of any listing detail that is incorrect or requires review. Additionally, if you wish to be removed from our Allied Trader e-mail contact list, please advise.
(editor contact details contained on page one)



How to Contact Me

Three simple methods to contact a travelling Austravel member who has a HF radio switched on.

Leave your name and selcall number for your friends	Selcall

There are three (3) methods of message delivery available to any Austravel member travelling in rural and remote areas, or mariner members sailing in coastal waters: -

1. Voice Mail

- Family and friends can dial Austravels' 24/7 office number - 07 2101 3457 and leave a voice mail message for the Austravel member to be passed on via selcall contact, or morning and afternoon scheduled net.
- Ensure the message contains the name and selcall number of the targeted travelling member. Please write it in the box above.

2. Call a specialist Austravel member for assistance.

- Family and friends can call one of the listed Austravel members (in the list below) and detail their needs person-to-person. The specialist Austravel member will attempt to contact and pass on your message as requested.

Selcall	Location	Name	Phone
0951	QLD	Geoff Peck	0403 309 020
1750	QLD	Bob Carne	0407 936 289
9618	QLD	Ken Fischer	0439 749 449
7880	WA	Kim Rhodes	0427 983 329
6355	WA	Colin Ingham	0417 097 043

3. Out-n-About MAILBOX

- Alternatively, family and friends can run the Out-n-About app on their mobile phones or tablets and send messages to your radio as well as monitor your travel's. However, Out-n-About MAILBOX direct messages are not infallible so if it is very urgent it's advisable to "double up" on message delivery by initially contacting us via method 1 or 2 (or both if you wish)

Travelling members - to make the contact with you as above possible, please note!

For members travelling with a radio installed GPS; like Hansel & Gretel, leave an electronic breadcrumb trail by frequently logging your GPS position and/or log in via the morning and afternoon sked.

For members travelling without a radio installed GPS, log your position daily via either the morning or afternoon sked (or both)

This will provide H.E.L.P. (4357) operators with key information from which to assist in track and trace scenarios.

For selcall contact from a base - leave your radio on and scanning, particularly while driving!