

CHANNEL CHATTER

Published each April - August - December

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

Austravel Safety Net Inc.

VMD 750

HF Radio Network

AGM DETAILS INSIDE



DISCLAIMER

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News & Information For Austravel Members

August 2023 EDITION

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Austral Travel SafetyNet Inc. Committee

Kim Rhodes	President	7880
Peter Schrader	Vice President	2513
Rick Shea	Secretary	3097
Ken Fischer	Treasurer	9618
Bob Carne	Committee 1	1750
Joe Rubio	Committee 2	5759
Michael Henderson	Committee 3	6041

Committee Support Roles

Channel Chatter Editor	John Hall	6014	Social Media	Pim Cahill	7255
Sked Coordinator (east)	Ken Fischer	9618	IT Support	Andrew Griffin	4053
Sked Coordinator (west)	Roy Watkins	6001	IT Support	Peter Schrader	2513
			Web Master	Joe Rubio	5759



Presidents Report

President Report

Austravel is still growing rapidly with about two new members per week. We are seeing more yachts come on board and some younger members taking up HF. I have had comment from some that the SAT phones still very flaky, but I don't know which service specifically, so those people are moving back to HF. The growth in membership is great.

There has been a lot going on in the technical background of Austravel workings in the last few months. This is all part of future proofing Austravel. Peter (2713) mentioned in the last magazine that Scott at Take This had handed free usage of the Telcall software and apps to Austravel. This has meant changing a number of servers, locations of API data bases, changing software in the apps and Telcall computers to addresses the new locations of equipment and play store accounts to bring full control of all the technical stuff under Austravel management. Quiet a considerable task for a few to do in their spare time not at work time. Thankyou, Peter (2713), Andrew (4053) and Joe (5759).

Out-n-About is now available again for Android devices and the Apple version may be available by the time this goes to print. It may take a little longer to get the app re-released on the international play stores for your overseas friends. The Austravel committee has decided to make the Out-n-About app free to users whether they are a member of Austravel or not. Being free is every reason for your family and friends to also get the app to follow and message you.

There maybe some new members that joined around January to June that may not have their pin numbers to operate the app. Others may have lost the original SMS message that included the pins for Out-n-About. You can get your pins any time by sending a page call message GET MY PINS to any base on HF using your radio. The base computer will send your pins to your phone as an SMS. If you don't have a radio that can send a message please send me an email and I will initiate it for you.

A reminder to get the new app see the Out-n-About re-load KISS sheet on the web member login.

Social events are coming back on line and we have our AGM in September plus Austravel is invited to the Gathering of the Clans end of September and Take the Road Less Travelled fund raiser in October. All on the web page.

I would still like a volunteer club member for the organisation of WA events.

See you all at the AGM.

Kim (7880)

FROM THE SKED OPERATOR'S DESK

Thanks to the superb efforts of the Austravel sked operators since the last Channel Chatter in April. A special thank you to the members both travelling and in the home base, for making the effort and taking the time to call into the [skeds](#). Your calls are welcomed by our operators who volunteer their time to be voices transmitting from the bases. Many of you transmit your GPS positions prior to your calls into skeds, making the job of the sked operator easier to accurately record your location in the sked log.

There comes a time when sked operators for a variety of reasons "hang up the microphone." A special acknowledgement of 1928 Terry Clinch, the sked coordinator for the West for the last few years for his dedication and commitment to organizing the sked roster in the West and being on air on for so many evenings. In radio terms, Terry is going QRT or hanging up the microphone.

Our club is incredibly dependent on you as members volunteering to becoming a sked operator. We never have enough. If you ever have an inkling to give it a go, send an email to skeds@austravelsafetynet.org.au It is rewarding and at times a challenging role from which one derives great satisfaction and pleasure.

Regards

Ken Fischer 9618

Date Range 2023-04-01 to 2023-06-05 Statistics

Item	East	West	Total
Number of answered calls (all members)	2485	1555	4040
Number of travelling member calls	888	581	1469
Number of individual members using skeds	87	109	196
Number of travelling members using skeds	61	82	143

From The Secretary

The AGM will be on the 9th of September this year and we have 5 positions on the committee to fill, The Treasurer and Secretary are eligible for another term.

The Vice President is for a two-year term, and we have two committee positions one for a two year term and the other for a one year term.

Nomination forms will be sent early August and we will include job descriptions with the nomination forms.

If you are interested in any position, contact a committee member for more information, the forms are to be returned electronically in PDF format - other formats will not be accepted.

There will be get-togethers at Lowood in Qld ,Boomi in NSW and Narrogin in WA. These meetings will be linked with Zoom. If you are unable to attend one of these venues but would like to be involved, please send you email address to the secretary and request to join the meeting.

Safe travels



Sked Operators Wanted

Cliff 9363

Cliff Herod 9363 REMEMBER Cliff ??

Who could forget Cliff? Cliff was always there.

In fact he was there from the very start of Austravel Safety Net.

After finally going through all the hoops & red tape for compliance for ACMA to grant a licence for VMD750 Austravel to transmit on the 10 selected frequencies I was ready to get on air.



Jane 6001 & Cliff 9363

Cliff was there from the Whitsundays with his big signal from his 9 metre big antenna. He could be heard around Australia on most of our frequencies and started running scheduled transmissions from these early days. It was October 7th 2010 when I commenced operations and both Cliff 9363 and Denny 1226 were also Foundation members of AUSTRAVEL SAFETYNET inc. I had a stroke whilst 'on air' conducting a sched on 28th April 2011. Cliff was there as was Denny, Cliff from memory was first to ask what I was talking about because he could not understand what I was saying. Apparently I was speaking incoherently and he suggested that I was having a STROKE. To me hearing my speech, I was speaking normally. I was completely unaware of my situation and wondered what all the fuss was about. Cliff offered to call an Ambulance. I said no that was not necessary but my wife Jane was monitoring from afar (as she did always) and she called the Ambulance. I still was not aware of my serious condition and drove a manual 4WD down to unlock the front gate, drove back and reverse parked the 4WD, walked inside and had a shower, packed a bag and waited for the Ambulance. I was symptom free except for my speech, apparently. I still was unaware of any problem but went along with the decision to check out my phantom stroke convinced that I would be home again the next day having had a little bit of excitement.

However, it was quite a different scenario that unravelled... After 4-5 hours laying in Emergency with no treatment, my stroke developed into a normal? Full blown stroke. My left arm and left leg stopped working and I spent the next 7 weeks learning how to walk again. My arm was still not working when I was discharged from Hospital. The point of this is that Cliff kept the Network going while I was incapacitated for the next 2 months. He was there everyday backed up by Denny from his "home Paddock" in the Whitsundays until my return, saving the Austravel Safety Net from 'falling into a hole'. Cliff could be heard as Sched Operator for many years afterwards until he finally hung his microphone up. He can still be heard from time to time from his mobile house on wheels, however he is no longer in Bloomsbury Queensland. After the passing of his wife Marj in January 2023, Cliff and has relocated to WA . He is a great bloke and he is was always good for a chat and a joke or two... or three. Thank you Cliff for all your past assistance.

Roy 6001.



GOOD ONYER Cliff.

Treasurer's Report July 2023

Annual Audit.

It is that time of the year when the club's financial documents go to the nominated accountant for an audit of the club's financial records for the 2022/2023 financial year. This important process is a part of accountability to you as members. Thank you for your continuing support of the club with your membership fees and a welcome to the new members who have joined us in the last few months. I trust your time as a member will be extended into the next membership year and should you have any issue with your membership, please call a committee member so we can resolve any issue to your satisfaction.

Membership Fees 2024

There will be no rise in membership fees for the next membership year remaining the same as 2023. Full membership will remain at \$100, Basic membership at \$70 and social membership \$30. The membership year currently runs from 1 December to 30 November.

Your committee decided to change the end of the membership year. Currently it is the 30th of November but will change this year to the 28/29 February.

The driver of change is twofold. Firstly, the new membership year commences after the AGM, when newly appointed treasurers, new into the role, face the challenges of managing the rollover of the new membership year, a busy time with invoices and membership income. Secondly, from a membership perspective, bills at any time are not welcomed but perhaps after Christmas is better than before Christmas.

The invoice you receive this year in early October will be from 1 December 2023 to 28 February 2025, a period of 15 months.

For full membership with Telcall+, your invoice will be \$100 from 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024, plus \$25 for the three months from 1 December 2024 until 28 February 2025, a total of \$125.

For basic membership without Telcall+, your invoice will be \$70 for 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024, plus \$17.50 for the three months from 1 December 2024 until 28 February 2025, a total of \$87.50.

For social membership, your invoice will be \$30 for 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024, plus \$7.50 for the three months from 1 December 2024 until 28 February 2025, a total of \$37.50.

Future membership years will be from 1 March until the end of February in the following year.

Thank you for your membership of Austravel. It would be great to have you as a member for as long as you have your HF radio, after which we would [love you](#) to remain as a social member.

Regards

Ken Fischer 9618

Treasurer Austravel.

Members,

Joe Rubio has tendered his resignation as a committee member and web master, the committee has accepted Joe's resignation with regret. Joe has done a huge amount of work for the club developing our data base, integrating the financials and the sked operator's portal. Joe is continuing as a sked operator 5759 if you hear him give him a call, he loves to have a chat. On behalf of the committee and all the members thank you Joe.

Rick

Thanks Joe 5759



AGM

PERTH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
9TH SEPTEMBER 2023
NARROGIN, WA

**Address: LOT 238 Williams-Kondinin
Rd, Narrogin WA 6312
-32.9261528763436, 117.2019598097644**

- \$10 Per Vehicle Per Night
- Limited Powered Sites available for an extra cost
- Email for arrival times
- Dogs Allowed - On Leads At All Times & Scoop The Poop

RSVP: John Hall 6014
email: hfradio@bigpond.com



AGM

Boomi New South Wales 9TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Boomi Co-op and Caravan Park - 35 Boomi St Boomi NSW 2405

- Ken and Jan 9618 will be in Boomi 8-11 September 2023 for the AGM and will happily share their Zoom connection to the meeting with any members travelling in the area.
- Should you wish to join us for the AGM, book your site at www.boominsw.com
- Please Notify Ken & Jan by Email: 9618@austravelsafetynet.org.au
- BYO Group BBQ Friday evening after Happy Hour
- Hotel Meal On Saturday Night
- Dogs Allowed - On Leads At All Times & Scoop The Poop

For further information, Phone Ken on 0439 749 449



Austravel Muster

AGM and GM 2023

Plan ahead and join us at
Lowood Showgrounds!

We are planning the next Austravel muster at Lowood Showgrounds north-west of Ipswich to allow members to participate and join the AGM/GM - via zoom.

When? September 7, 8, 9, 10 , 2023

Powered sites and unpowered sites currently \$20/\$15 per site

All facilities are nearby - pubs, bakery, butcher supermarket etc all within easy walking distance.

WHATS ORGANISED :

Sausage sizzle Friday night:

Morning and afternoon teas and every day happy hour

Looking to head up to the Pub for dinner on Saturday night. Well priced catering on site should we get the numbers. A choice of two meats and 5 veg together with a sweet for \$22 ph.

The local bakery is also worth a visit

Whilst this gathering will encompass the AGM/GM via Zoom connection on Saturday it will generally be a very relaxed and social event to enjoy the company of fellow club members and friends

Generally, it will be an open forum and committee members will do their best to answer your questions openly.

PLEASE RSVP : Bob Carne, bobandcarmel@gmail.com Ph 0407 936 289

Gathering Of The Clans

Don't forget the combined gathering of clubs with common interests organised by the 4X4 Club of WA. All Austravel members are invited.

Long Weekend-Camp Hart Kulin 23-25 September

General Info:

A Long weekend in the Western Australian Wheatbelt near the town of Kulin at Camp Hart. Hosted by the 4WD Club of WA. Gathering the Clans for a weekend of fun 4WD and other social activities, talks and touring around Kulin, come for the company and enjoy the camping at Camp Hart.

Joining us from another Club [BOOK HERE](#)

Trip: Gathering of the Clans-Sept Long Weekend-Camp Hart Kulin 23-25 September

Trip End Date: September 25, 2023

Trip Leader: Karl Fehlauer

Trip Leader Mobile: 0418 613 246



Trip Leader Email: karlandwendy@bigpond.com

Departure Time: No Early Arrivals - Gates open at Camp Hart Friday 22 September from 2pm - Stay earlier or longer at Kulin CV Park Contact Shire Directly admin@kulin.wa.gov.au

Departure Point: Camp Hart Kulin

Cost: \$52 Per Vehicle - Any refund for cancellation or double booking will incur a small transaction fee.

WA DAY LONG WEEKEND Friday 2 June – Tuesday 6 June 2023

By Lyn Mitchell and Ron Mitchell (1968)



About 16 HF Austravel Safetynet members braved the rainy conditions to camp in their caravans, campers and buses in a paddock on Kim and Toni Rhodes' farm south west of Busselton in Western Australia.

The camp was held over the WA Day long weekend, celebrating our history and the contribution that all Western Australian's have made to this State. It was a pretty wet old long weekend but that didn't dampen anyone's spirits. Everyone was there to catch up with new and old friends, to have a good time and to learn more about the dark art of HF Radio.

While HF radio waves were first proved to exist by Heinrich Rudolf Hertz way back in 1888 and they were then adapted into a communication system by Guglielmo Marconi in the 1890s, HF radio technology has continually been updated and improved over the years and that innovation continues today.

One of the information sessions that Kim Rhodes conducted for the attendees was about the new version of the Out-n-About app. In the past, this app cost \$20 but the new version is now available for free.

The app, which can be used anywhere in the world with phone or WiFi access, links your HF radio with friends and family's mobile devices. It provides GPS map positioning and also two way message sending and receiving via the Australia HF radio network.



Kim guided everyone who had an Android phone through a step-by-step explanation of how this app and its features work. At that time, the Apple iPhone version wasn't available but Kim said he expected that version would be obtainable within weeks.

Kim also ran a training session on the Walk-2-GPS app, a safety app that can guide you back to a known location when you are out bush, such as your car or your camp. The app operates in any remote area of the world using the inbuilt GPS in your mobile phone, regardless of whether there is internet or mobile coverage. The app also uses GPS satellites and the built-in magnetic sensors to help show you the way back to exactly the same location you came from.

To operate the app, it's as simple as marking your location as you park your car, then go for a walk and if you get lost, keep your location icon in the big triangle on the app and follow that to walk back to your car. Everyone was impressed with how easy the app is to use and how vital it could be for your safety if you have the misfortune to become lost in the bush.

Kim also personally helped individual members to check their HF Radio set ups in their vehicles and to tweak things if needed so they could get the maximum out of their HF equipment.

Each evening over the weekend, everyone got together for drinks, nibbles and tall tales under a rustic shed near the campsite. The campfire was stoked and helped to warm up the area and several people availed themselves of the barbecue plate to cook their tea.

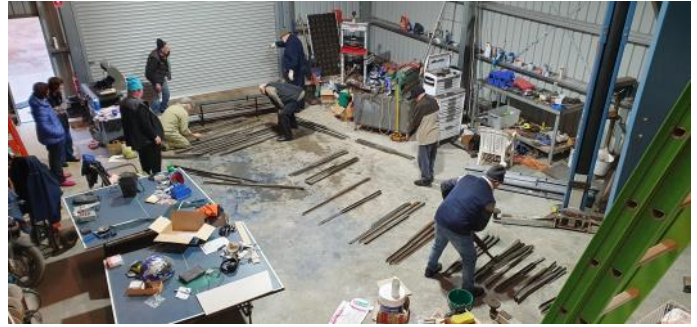
Another fun interlude for the members was when Kim brought his hydraulic wood splitter up to the camp. With many hands helping, a large pile of cut logs were split and loaded on to the bucket of Kim's fork-lift and deposited under the cover of the bush shed ready for the campfire.



On the Monday morning - yes it was still raining - it was decided to start construction on one of two HF radio towers that have been donated. These towers, an 18m tower and a 15m tower, will eventually become operational when the Perth base is moved to Kim Rhodes farming property.

It was decided to start construction of the 18m tower in Kim's nearby huge workshop/shed.

The first issue was to sort all the metal struts and braces of the tower into groups and sizes.



Next, the top was selected and then the cross-struts in size order so bolts, washers and nuts could be fitted. Over the day, the three-sided tower had to be turned regularly to ensure the bolts on the underside were fixed in place and tightened appropriately. Finally, the tower was completed and the group called it a day.

That evening there were more drinks and camaraderie by the warm fire before everyone turned in for a relatively early night.

Tuesday morning saw several people head for home due to commitments. However, a few were able to stay and spend some time rechecking the bolts before the decision was made to attempt to move the tower up to a paddock close to its designated permanent position.

With the raining still persistently falling, the tower was loaded on to a large car trailer and Kim towed it up to the paddock with his forklift. Once that was done, it was decided to call it a day given the atrocious weather.

Another working bee will be needed to build the 15m tower. Then both towers will need to be concreted into their designated positions in Kim's paddock before further technical work can be done to make the towers operational.



Plans were discussed for another working bee in a few weeks time to construct the 15m tower. Then, the bottom ends of both towers can be partially disassembled so the legs of each tower can be concreted into their designated position in the paddock on Kim's property. Once the concrete has set, the top sections can be reconnected and the towers will finally be operational.

Despite the wet weather, it was a fun few days with everyone enjoying the technical sessions and pulling together to pool their various talents to get the important tower project started.

**Thank You
Ron + Lyn**



Blackbutt Gathering 25-28 May 2023

The Blackbutt Show Grounds turned on some welcomed blue skies and sunny days, unlike the wet of 2022. Members settled in early to meet and greet and enjoy the camaraderie of others with some travelling great distances to be part of the gathering - from Cairns in the north to Coffs Harbour in the south and (2047) returning from SA. In all, 55 members attended over the weekend, and a special mention of the Barrett Brothers arriving with an Escort Vehicle and LED lights scanning the words:

"THE BARRETT BROS COMMAND POST"

that set the friendly rivalry for the rest of the gathering. The suspect organiser being Peter 4050, no doubt encouraged by Ken 9618. It was a great entry and drew the crowd and plenty of comments - very well done.



Friday night's sausage sizzle was well attended with one short of 150 sausages consumed along with 5 loaves of bread and accompanying sauces. Thanks to Keith 4430 for stepping up to the BBQ - the "feedback" was all very positive. Raffle tickets for Saturday night's raffle were sold on the basis of purchase a ticket and get a free sausage and for non-gamblers it was purchase a sausage and get a free ticket. Many thanks to Hazel 6455 for her endless efforts in selling the tickets.

Special thanks to Ray 7506 for wonderful entertainment on the keyboard. It certainly was a great way to kick things off, belting out many of the old favourites. Yep, Cookie sure can tickle the ivories! It's always something to look forward to, so book in early Ray for the next gathering.



Saturday got off to a slightly earlier start with morning tea around 9:30 progressing to an information session with Joe 5759 coming in via Zoom from Alroy Station (Nth of Eulo and NE of Yowah). Ken was able to project the connection to a mobile screen for all members to see and listen as Joe went through the Members Area and the volume of information that is available there.

As a matter of interest there are still 263 members who have not registered a password and are missing out on very interesting information and videos such as: up to date selcall lists, Channel Chatter, Financial reports, committee reports and minutes. Also of interest and available on this site is the recently added "Location/Messenger" where family and friends can follow your travels and actually send a short message direct to your radio from their device - simply Google members.austravelsafetynet.org.au and follow the prompts - you'll be so glad you did.



Following Joe's information sharing was an official presentation of a framed Life Membership Certificate to Hazel Sleep 6455. Life membership was bestowed upon Hazel many years ago but never formally recognised. This occasion was special as Roy 6001, the founder of Austravel, was able to connect via phone from WA to make the presentation and acknowledging the donation of equipment to enable the establishment of the Frank Sleep Memorial Base in Townsville. Many kind and memorable words were shared by Roy.

Well deserved Hazel and now an acknowledgment to hang on the wall at home.

Ken (9618) followed up with a treasurer's report and sked operator information.

There was one final presentation of a "CODBAR" to the Sked coordinator Ken 9618 to assist in long distance transmissions. It was a jam tin Codan (COD) and a jam tin Barrett (BAR) connected by a string Balun demonstrating that the Codan and the Barrett are equally great radios. Thanks to the unnamed designer (7506).



Saturday arvo 4:30 pm Ken (9618) did the Skeds from the undercover area. Interested members were given an insight into how the bases are accessed and how Log In details are entered, and everyone was able to listen to travelling members calling in. It's an easy process and you get to talk with members out in the field.

Consider helping out if you can, even on a casual basis; it's good to give a bit back to your Club.

Afternoon tea merged into happy hour following the skeds and the raffle draw followed. Enough tickets were purchased to well and truly cover the cost of the sausage sizzle and the balance was donated to the club, which in future would be nice to see go to the RFDS. All prizes were donated from a "Grillz" fire pit, a \$100 voucher from JGM Direct, wine, glasses and other items. We had 10 prizes up for grabs so congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all for supporting the Club.



Members then moved out around several fire pits to continue telling stories and enjoying a beverage or two. Don't know what time it all wrapped up, but it was very dark!!!

Sunday was a slow start with many members wandering through the camp site warming up their hands with a cuppa and chatting about the last few days and how much they had enjoyed the gathering. Some were packing up for an early departure and others still hadn't emerged to greet the day.

It was, by all accounts, a very successful and enjoyable gathering and testament to the friendship and camaraderie existing within the Austravel membership.

Hope to see you at Boomi or Lowood for the September GM/AGM.

Cheers all
Bob and Carmel
1750



Austravel Safety Net (Eastern) Muster

Blackbutt Queensland

26 to 29 May 2023

Blackbutt is a rural town located in the South Burnett Region of South-East Queensland. It's approximately 166 kilometres (103 miles) north-west of Brisbane. The first family settled in the area in 1842 and the area's population grew after gold was discovered in the late 19th century. The town's name comes from the "Eucalyptus Pilularis" trees that grow locally; commonly known as "Blackbutt".

The town of Blackbutt was linked to Brisbane in 1911 by railway, but the line was closed in the 1980's. However, the station and some railway equipment still form part of the local tourist attractions found at the entrance to the showground (GPS: S26.52'52 / E152.06'06).

During the weekend of 26 to 29 May 2023, the Austravel Safety Net club held its second annual unofficial muster. The benefits of this muster were to offer attendees a chance to catch-up with the voices they listen to on the club's HF frequencies, plus the opportunity to meet and interact with committee members, and receive technical assistance and advice from more experienced operators.

The showgrounds offered VMD 750 members: motorhome; caravan and tent sites, both powered and unpowered, with or without water connections. Other amenities included a clean ablutions block containing hot and cold showers, toilets (with disabled facilities), a covered area for our get-togethers plus the use of a free clean BBQ. There was also a Dump Point at the entrance to the Showground, and TV, telephone and internet access.

The weekend started early with some early arrivals taking prime positions from Tuesday 23 May, with larger numbers arriving on the Wednesday. By the muster's planned start of Friday (26 May 23), many friendships had already formed.

The "welcome-in" BBQ on Friday night had more of a party feeling with plenty of banter and teasing remarks flying between newly formed friendship groups, focusing mostly on the brand of radio owned and operated by members ("Codan" v what's that other brand "Barrett").

Saturday's morning tea meeting turned out to be a little early for some members after Friday night's late finish. The fire pits attracted and held warm friends every night, with communication and travel stories being the centre of interest. Partners were not left out with their added additional and sometimes more interesting background to the, possibly embellished stories, described by some story tellers. Additionally, Saturday afternoon found members moving between vehicles, discussing communication and vehicle set-ups. A test of the Red Button function available to Austravel members took place under the supervision of our long-standing member and very capable, Geoff Peck 0951.

Sunday saw some further discussions, as members traversed the campsites and again the banter continued over radio capabilities between "Codan" and that other brand. Sunday afternoon saw some departures; mostly by members who had work commitments the next day. However, remaining members and partners gave the fire pit another workout when the sun went down.

Monday saw more departures, but this time by more dedicated travellers heading in all directions. New and old friends took advantage of being away from home to continue travelling after meeting at Blackbutt. I felt sorry for the SKED operator the following days (Ken Fischer 9618) as he coped with the flood of travelling members calling to report nightly stop-over camping locations, not just far and wide, but north, south, east and west.

All in all, a great and successful muster. The quality of the muster could be seen, as departing members highlighted their commitment to attending next year's event, should it eventuate.

A great deal of thanks must go to Bob Carne 1750 who coordinated this event along with a number of supportive members. I should also recognise Ken 9618 and Geoff 0951 who provided large amounts of firewood for the event. Camp fire attendees also provided additional back-up wood to keep the fires burning.

May 2023 Blackbutt Muster



Meeting time.



Austravel community (above) and night meeting (below)



All views expressed in this blog are that of the author and they may not be the views of the Austravel committee.

Blog by Keith Skinner 4430





WHAT'S IN YOUR TOOLBOX?

When on the road we need to be prepared for almost any problem that can arise.

Do you have appropriate tools for your skill level, without taking the whole workshop with you?

Jenny and I once had a blowout on a tyre on our very first Roadmaster caravan. After safely pulling off the road, I quickly noticed that I did not have a spanner large enough to take the huge nut off the spare tyre bracket. I had to ask a local farmer's wife for assistance, and she loaned me a large shifter that did the job.

Since then, I have made sure I have a variety of tools to cover most situations.

For example, I have a very large shifter and socket to tighten my tow hitch. On my previous Landcruiser I had a 5t Hitch-Ezy hitch post that had a very large locking nut. A set of chain tongs will hold the tow ball or post while tightening the nut.

Tools can be very heavy, as can be the toolbox to store them in. I carry a 'tool bag' in the Ranger that is lighter and can be used as packing to help stop my fridge or other items from moving.

My van has very little tools as I see no need to carry two sets of heavy tools and I only keep a small mallet for tent pegs in the tunnel boot box on the van. If I am at the van, my Ranger will be there with the tools.

I have a 5t bottle jack for changing a caravan tyre or lifting the A frame if needed.

For levelling the van, I have the usual plastic ramps but very rarely use them, but also carry some treated pine blocks that can be used with the jack, under the van stabilisers in soft sand or under the wheels for levelling the van. A 1.2m treated pine stair tread cut into 4 make 4 x 300 x 300 blocks. I also have another cut into 3 making 3 x 400 x 300 blocks. They are lightweight very handy and used in some way on every trip.

A cross wheel brace with the 4 x different socket ends painted a different colour is used for the stabiliser legs on my van and can be used on the wheel nuts as well.

When an old boat trailer 2nd leaf spring snapped going up to 1770 many years ago, I was able to pull the axle and springs back into position with a ratchet strap so that I could carefully get the trailer to a place to have it repaired.

I have seen some travellers have two separate toolboxes, one in the car and another in the van, which may be an unnecessary weight and expense.

So, what do you all carry in your tool bag or box when on the road?

YES, DUCT TAPE IS COMPULSORY.

Large plastic bags and duct tape can make a temporary broken window cover to keep the dust out.

I saw a motorhome recently that had obviously hit something at the top corner, and it had duct tape covering a 1.5 square meter section of the top corner of the motorhome front to keep the weather out.

WHAT SHOULD WE HAVE IN A TOOLBOX WITHOUT TAKING TOO MUCH WEIGHT?

I would love to hear your thoughts and share your ideas.

What can have multiple uses?

What can we do without?

Where, and how do you store the tools?

We all have different skills and trades so there will be some that take more technical tools and gauges etc.

Some work on the road.

Above all stay safe.

Cheers

Ken Wilson

Truck Friendly caravan road safety program.



TO CALL OR NOT TO CALL

South Coast 'Emergency' April 2023

The south coast of WA offers some beautiful opportunities, and as Perth locals we decided to take advantage of the weather and our relatively close proximity and head off before the Easter rush and school holidays.

We had a pleasant stay at Banksia Hut for a while and all was well until the Monday morning as we were packing up to head off back home.

Another camper approached us and asked if we had binoculars, we did and my wife Daniela went to retrieve them from the car.

With no mobile coverage available the next question was if we had satellite communication.

I sensed there was a potential issue and asked what the problem was.

It turned out that two young adults from Victoria had ventured to sea in a small boat from the beach and the mother of one of them was getting concerned as they were now out of sight.

Despite the binoculars and several people sweeping and watching the area none of us had a sighting of the small boat. The mother was becoming increasingly worried and emotional and was in a quandary over what to do. By this time the boat had been out of sight for around 45 minutes.

We discussed the issue with her and advised we could initiate an emergency call, but the final decision to do that rested with her as we did not know the people or background of those on board the boat.

She made the decision to make the call. It is a decision we understood and supported as parents ourselves.

I duly pushed the emergency button on our Codan radio set, an action we have never performed before, and waited while it went through the automated motions. Within a few minutes Kim (7880) responded and the wheels were set in motion.

To the best of our knowledge Kim (7880) notified the water police who in turn contacted the volunteer Walpole sea rescue group to prepare their vessel to respond to a potential sea search and rescue.

However, a short time later, the missing boat was spotted and through binoculars we could establish that both persons were on board and the boat appeared to be under power and in no difficulty.

I immediately contacted Kim (7880) and informed him of this development. We could not contact the boat directly as they had no radio onboard but we continued to observe the vessel and all appeared well.

Mum was now considerably happier and confidence grew that the boat and its occupants were in good shape and by our collective assessment did not need assistance. Our outlook was further boosted when we learnt that the boat owner was very experienced.

We duly reported these further developments via Kim (7880) and on the information available we all agreed, Mum included, that all was well and the 'emergency' could be cancelled, and everyone could be stood down.

However the powers that be informed Kim (7880) that until the boat had returned to shore the response would not be stood down. So we waited with Mum while the occupants in the boat enjoyed the fishing. In due course two National Park Rangers from Walpole arrived at the request of the Walpole sea rescue group (they all know each other in Walpole) to find out what was going on.

A little later the WA Police turned up from Denmark as the Walpole officers were unavailable. Once the police arrived I asked them if they required us for communication or whether we, and indeed our network, could now stand down and 'hand over' to them. They affirmed this was the case and I let Kim (7880) know.

Cont...

The boat did return safely to shore, though I understand with not that much fish. Mum was happy and the police and park rangers were glad of a good outcome, as we all were. The police did go and speak with the boat owner, but we discreetly left to finish our packing.

On reflection some observations come out of this episode and we pass them on in the hope it may help the network and members when dealing with this type of situation.

Talking with the park rangers it was clear that they had no idea how this incident was communicated to the authorities. They received their call from the Walpole sea rescue group who were also unaware how the whole thing got launched.

The two police officers were also unaware of how the incident was reported until I explained it to them. Though all were thankful, I got the impression there was minimal understanding as to how it all worked. Interestingly though when I walked up from the beach I did notice the police vehicle had a Codan HF antenna fitted.

From a personal standpoint and though we are not 'boaties' we thought the boat was a bit small for that trip despite it being relatively calm at the time, especially considering how things can change quickly in the Southern Ocean. But that is a personal opinion.

However we were pleased to see the radio and the network all worked 'as advertised' and we extend not only our thanks but especially those from 'Mum' who was eternally grateful for all your (the networks) efforts in getting this underway, without fuss, drama, or fanfare in a professional and succinct manner.

When faced with such a situation and you are on the scene you will inevitably have to judge the situation and very likely have to make some decisions regarding it. To those members who may find themselves in such a position I can only say that without reservation the authorities who attended said that in their view the correct call was made despite a search and rescue NOT being required in the end. Furthermore they stated they would rather see a good outcome than pick up the pieces from an unmade call.

Please bear that in mind, and after making your assessment, if there is any doubt we can only advise from our recent experience that you err on the side of caution and make the call.

Once again thanks to everyone involved.

Sent in From Andy Cooper 8672

Trent 2378 Sent In The Following



Hello. Just wanted to give a huge shout-out and thank you to all the sked operators and others who offered their assistance with my 4357, H.E.L.P.

I was bogged to the eyeballs! Unfortunately my Barrett failed yet again which sent me in to a bit of a panic on the 2nd day, but the sked operators where there to assist. I now know the weak parts of my vehicle and the Barrett and are taking steps to rectify the issues.

I was in the right place at the wrong time. Thank you once again to all who assisted and thank you to ATSN.

Stay safe out there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

if you wish to add any events email:
newsletter@austravelsafetynet.org.au

September: Our AGM 9th September 2023

- AGM W.A. - Narrogin, Western Australia
- AGM NSW - Boomi, New South Wales
- AGM QLD - Lowood, Queensland

Gathering Of The Clans 23rd to 25th September

October:

Take the road less travelled on wesCarpade (Austravel Invited)

Friday 13th October to Saturday 21st 2023



<https://fundraise.campquality.org.au/event/wescarpade>

The new web page **contains everything you need to know** about Wes-Carpade 2023.

Alternatively, you can contact Elle

wescarpade@campquality.org.au or Ph: (08) 9388 8533

For further information.

Please head to our web page austravelsafetynet.org.au <EVENTS > Tab

<https://www.austravelsafetynet.org.au/node/53>

MEMBERS TAKING BROCHURES

Have you ever found yourself chatting to a fellow traveller about the antenna on your car and what you can do with the HF radio, but then have nothing to give them as a take away from the conversation? If you talk about Austravel now and then, to others and would like to see a new member or two evolve from your conversation, we do have brochures you can give out.



This helps people remember your conversation and gives contact information for follow up.

How do you get some? Simple, just send me an email with your postal address, a bit of a note about this and I will post a few to you.

Remember if you help get new members it helps keep your fees lower, not to mention that you are helping someone get a lifeline from the bush.

Kim Rhodes Email:- president@austravelsafetynet.org.au

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

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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 Austravel's 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	Gauff Peck	0403 309 020
1750	QLD	Bash Carver	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 Hamel & Girel, 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!



DON'T FORGET.....a copy of the "How To Contact Me" sheet is included in this newsletter (last page) and all future new editions. Tell people where you are going and show them you can be contacted in a hurry if the situation arises. If it's an urgent message that needs to find you, double down on the urgent message delivery:-

- 1** family & friends can send an urgent message via the Out-n-About app MAILBOX.
- 2** and also...family & friends can request an urgent message be passed on via a morning or afternoon sked . To have an urgent message passed on, call Austravel's 24/7 VOICEMAIL service or phone an Austravel responder PERSON to PERSON .

(details found within the "How To Contact Me" sheet)



FOLLOW WHAT WE'RE UP TO ON SOCIAL MEDIA
PIM CAHILL (7255) SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER
 Email: socialmedia@austravel.org.au

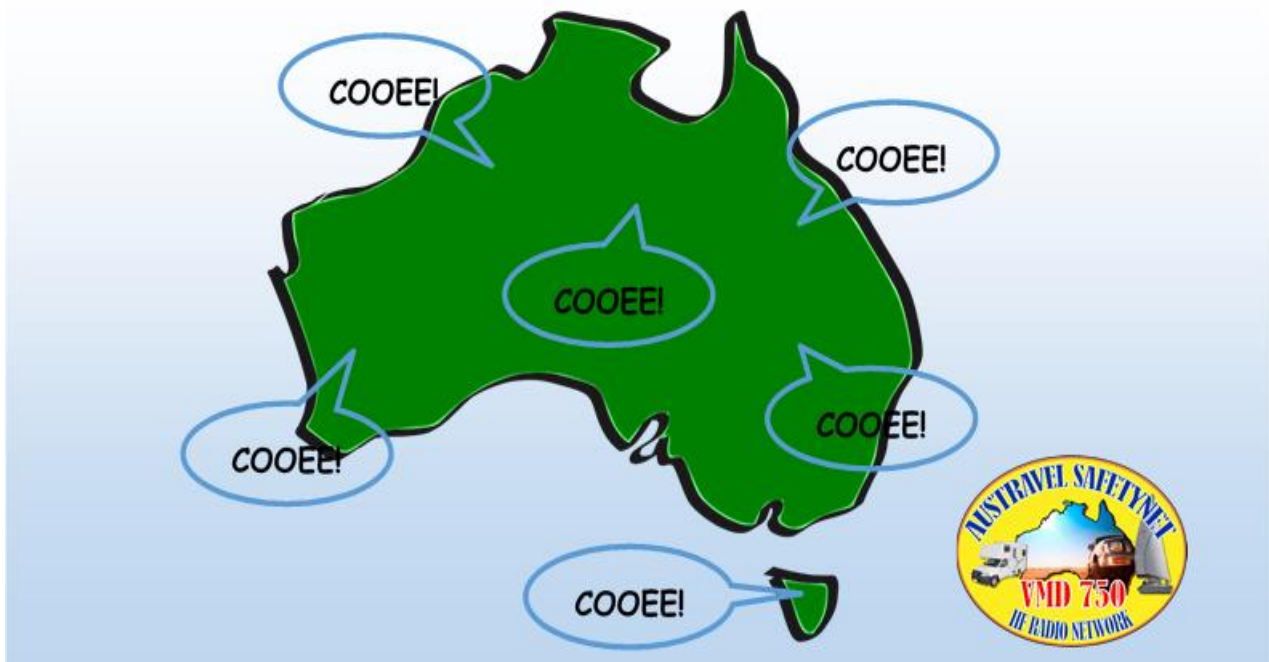


Welcome New Members

1602 Neil Warnock	2220 Steve Boutle
1305 Dave McLean	6776 Drew Paskins
1992 Nancy Fielding	2802 Kevin Porter
1227 Lynne Stevings	9591 Greg Nowakowski
2050 Jamie Sonego	4266 Anders Carlsson
3327 John Kent	4252 Simon Purdell
6112 Brian Geilman	0058 Harry Williams
0167 Luke Voiti-Flatow	0996 Sean Stewart
2255 Jack Temisgian	0159 Kevin Bates
4304 Phil Sharples	8436 Theodore Polites
1906 Peter McGuckian	1385 Mathew Bonser
0080 David Staples	1778 David Thornborough
1476 Mark Connors	0125 Garry Hussey
2662 Finbar Duggan	0126 Jonathon Hussey
0432 Michael Buckley	1956 Keith Gilbert
0038 Luke Hodge	0191 Errol Chittick
0079 Clint Jackson	1522 David Bell
0095 Greg Hollis	7092 David Hussey
6010 Ray Hoes	1676 Neil Simmons
1514 David Edwards	6734 Paul Ratcliff
1516 Rod Bower	1745 Kerry Fielding
0154 Mark Bogaers	1964 Cathy Mudge
1048 Allpower Electrics	5529 Glyn Davies
1231 Max Bickford	6281 Morgan Flower
3990 Shane Bradford	6521 Myles Williamson
2040 Ermes Tegon	0194 Roger Speldewinde
0220 Stephen Hartley	0950 Steve Costaras
4730 Terry Griffith	5253 Peter Hoare
1436 Zachery West	1028 Dean Webster

**DON'T FORGET TO DOWNLOAD THE LATEST
SKED TIMETABLE
FROM THE
AUSTRAVEL WEBSITE**





The COOEE! call

Many members have enquired about a way they could informally talk to each other outside of sked times. We have come up with the idea of the **Cooee Call**.

Cooee! is a shout originated in Australia to attract attention, find missing people, or indicate one's own location. It is also known as a call of help, distinct amongst the natural sounds of the bush.

The word "cooee" originates from the Dharug language of Aboriginal Australians in the Sydney area. It means "come here" and has now become widely used in Australia as a call over distances.

We think this is a fitting name for the call Austravel SafteyNet members can use to call each other across this fantastic country of ours.

How does it work?

- Cooee calls are made on **channel 5** (on the hour for 15 minutes) or **channel 9** (for digital radios at 30 minutes past the hour for 15 minutes).
- Cooee calls should not be made during sked times (8:00am—8:45am or 4:30pm—5:15pm).

To comply with ACMA regulations we need to use the full club callsign on the initial call of each operator eg:

This is VMD750 Mobile 6789 calling Cooee! The response would be ***6789 this is VMD750 Mobile 2345 over.*** Once the initial call is finalised only Selcall numbers need to be identified on each over.

- Members should allow a short pause between overs to allow any other member to join in the conversation.
- Members should pause communication if they hear a Selcall being transmitted in case it is an emergency call.

We hope you enjoy calling Cooee to your fellow members and we hope to hear you on the air.



Netwest's Electronic & Repair Center

Services

- Transceiver's, Auto Tuner Repairs, Power Supplies & Codan Autotuner Antenna Repairs
- Commerical Electronic Devices Can Be Quoted.

Contact **Bruce or Colin Ingham**

Ph: 08 9225 5522
Mobile: 0418 376 541

41 Kensington St
East Perth WA 6004



DX Radio
SYSTEMS

Midland store is now open.

Visit us at Unit 4/17-19 Foundry Road,
Midland, 6056
08 6336 9610

Email: sales@dxradiosystems.com.au







Bushcomm
HF Antenna Systems

**Online Store
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Sales - Support - Accessories
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Emergency Antennas



Base Station Antennas



Quality Mobile Antennas

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

www.bushcomm-online.com







TET-EMTRON

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 |

FORSALE

Buy Swap & Sell

Netwest for all your Codan Needs

Radios & Complete Packages

Contact Colin
6355
0417 097 043



Codan 3040 Explorer Antenna



Codan NGT SRX Transceiver



Codan NGT SRX 3040 package



9350 Automatic Tuning Whip



Codan Envoy X2 Digital Mobile Package



Codan Envoy X2 Base Transceiver



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

AUSTRAVEL SAFETY NET Inc.

HF Radio Allied Traders List

Connecting Austravel Members To HF Radio Sales / Service Providers'



Watts Communications	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Bushcomm Antennas www.wattscm.com.au / sales@wattscm.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.eacomm.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@specsafe.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	Bushcomm 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.

HF Radio Allied Traders List

Connecting Austravel Members To HF Radio Sales / Service Providers'



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 www.rfwaves.com.au / email: cpg@rfwaves.com.au	Hammersley W.A. 0406 288 952 08 93427161
Netwest	Repairs & Service for a wide range of electronic equipment including HF Radios www.netwest.com.au / email: netwest@netwest.com.au	Perth, W.A. (08) 9225 5522

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 any 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)



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

Save Your Life!

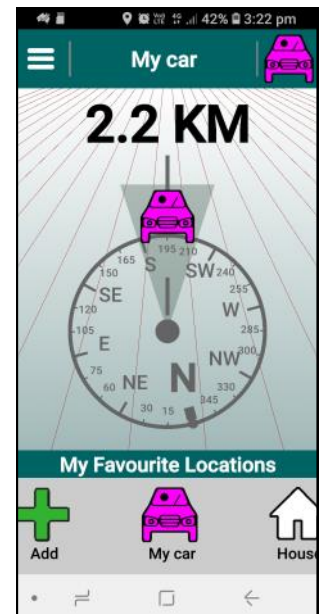
- Loading this simple to use app on your phone may truly save your life, by giving you easy guidance back to a known location, (i.e. your car) using your mobile phone.
- Find your car in a shopping centre car park. Find your way back to camp. (young or old can use this app.)
- This app operates regardless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



NEW SYSTEM FEATURES FOR AUSTRAVEL MEMBERS

Travel Member Information, HF to Email, GPS and Message forwarding

I hope you have all been practicing with your radios sending mailbox and SMS messages. Those skills will lead you directly to use the new email feature. Austravel have added three (3) new features and being proficient with the messaging ability of your radio you will make good use of these.

#1 Member Information:-



- Why has Austravel Added This Feature?

Enables members to update/include/change/add personal travel information for any back road's travel at any time. Members travel information, specific to the travel plans on the day, can be added into the Austravel member database, which in turn can be used by a H.E.L.P.(4357) incident responder if a travelling Austravel member activates a red button call.

This member information can be added using the Out-n-About app or by Telcall+ via your capable HF radio.

Added together with your baseline member information when you joined Austravel SafetyNet, this added "Member Information" potentially aids in any search and rescue (SAR) mission and the time taken by first responders.

A single text field (limited to max 64 characters) contains the member's information. There is a list of standard abbreviations that can be used to increase the amount of information contained in the 64 character message.

For example:- vehicle type, colour, registration and number of people travelling together. If remote, perhaps the range of fuel and the amount water. This information, in an emergency may help first responders find you from the air and locate all persons in your group. On joining Austravel you could perhaps just put in some information from your membership application form. Vehicle and rego and perhaps the area you are generally located in. You need to keep the information up to date if it is going to work for you and this information is only put in the system by you. Please change it for specific travels and activities like, going on a walk trail and remote rock fishing. Your name and phone number is not required as this is already included automatically in the emergency messages.

This small piece of SAR text can be changed at any time from the Out-n-About app (with data available) or from your HF radio when travelling in remote areas. This information is held in the system permanently until you change it. It is one of the tools provided by Austravel to assist you in a time of need

For example:- vehicle type, colour, registration and number of people travelling together. If remote, perhaps the range of fuel and amount water. This information, in an emergency may help first responders find you from the air and locate all persons in your group.

Article provided by Kim Rhodes 7880



How to Contact Me

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Leave your name and selcall number for your friends	Selcall

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- Ensure the message contains the name and selcall number of the targeted travelling member. Please write it in the box above.

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Selcall	Location	Name	Phone
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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

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

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