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CHANNEL CHATTER



Austravel Safety Net Inc.

HF Radio Communications Network for Trips, Treks, Tracks & Tours

Registered Office: 23 Ferguson Ave, Northgate Qld. 4013 (ABN 40 741 597 454)

WHATS INSIDE THIS EDITION ?

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DISCLAIMER

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

AUSTRAVEL "TELCALL+" (GPS, SMS & MAILBOX)

It's been spoken about for awhile, but now its being fully tested and almost here.....GPS logging and position reporting along with SMS (texting) from your HF radio via the Austravel HF radio network is now a reality and will be launched soon. With the assistance of a new Android mobile phone app, family and friends will also be able to send your HF radio a message via MAIL BOX.

Depending on your HF radio brand and model, it will be now possible to :-

GPS

Send your GPS coordinates from anywhere in Australia via an Austravel (primary) base station, have it uploaded so it can be viewed by family and friends via an Android mobile phone app (Out-n-About™).

SMS

Send a SMS (up to 64 characters long text message) via a (primary) Austravel base station to any mobile phone within Australia.

MAIL BOX

Send a MAIL BOX message to another Austravel members HF radio....*they aren't listening or in propagation range?* it doesn't matter as MAIL BOX is designed to accept and store messages for later retrieval by the intended Austravel mem-

ber. The undelivered MAIL BOX message will be stored (for up to 7 days) then the simple action of selcalling a (primary) base or logging your GPS position, will trigger the MAIL BOX message delivery.

MAIL BOX works for your family and friends too....via the Android app, messages can be sent to any Austravel Telcall+ subscriber for storage and later retrieval.

DIRECT DIAL PHONE

Make a telephone call (i.e. radphone call) via any Austravel base station to any mobile or landline phone within Australia.

All of these HF radio services are available through Austravel Safety Net Inc. under the "banner" of the Telcall+ program name.

One low cost Telcall+ annual subscription of \$30 will allow you:-

- Unlimited GPS logs / year
- Unlimited SMS & MAIL BOX messages/year
- Up to 100 minutes/month telephone calls to any mobile or landline phone in Australia.
- Out-n-About™ android app available via Google Play store for \$19.90.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Most recent models of Barrett and Codan HF radios have inherent GPS and SMS capabilities.

CODAN MODEL

- ENVOY
- NGT
- 9323

BARRETT MODEL

- 2050
- 950

All have the capability of sending and receiving GPS coordinates and SMS messages to another HF radio, but not to a base station without the appropriate technology to manage and distribute the data. (note Barrett 950 can't send/receive messages)

Each Austravel member will need to assess their HF radios capabilities, and while sending and receiving an SMS message via HF radio is inherent in those radio brands and models listed above, the GPS capabilities are usually available only when a GPS receiver is fitted and the radio is configured (technical support required).

Check your radios manual for listed call types and confirm you HF radios capabilities.

(continued page 2)

TELCALL+



Telephone Interconnect



GPS Logging & Reporting



SMS



Mail Box

AUSTRAVEL "TELCALL+" WITH GPS, SMS & MAIL BOX

NGT Model



- "Send Position?" - GPS
- "Message?" - SMS/TEXTING
- "Phone?" - Radphone or interconnect phone call

Envoy Model

- "Send GPS" - GPS
- "Message" - SMS/TEXTING
- "Phone" - Radphone or interconnect phone call

9323 Model

- "Send GPS Info" - GPS
- "Page Call" - SMS/TEXTING
- "Telcall" - Radphone or interconnect phone call

Barrett 950



+



- GPS

No message capability for model 950



- Radphone or interconnect phone call

Barrett 2050

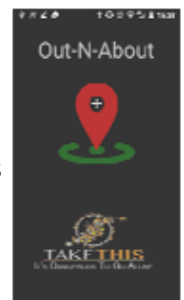
- "GPS Send" - GPS
- "Page Call" - SMS/texting
- "Telcall" - Radphone or interconnect phone call

How do you find out more information on this exciting new Austravel development?.....

First of all, the new Telcall+ package is not yet launched, however news has been getting out, so it was necessary to tell our members what's happening and inform them on the current status. Continued testing and refining of the new system is still in progress, but when (officially) launched, there will be printed materials which will come to all members as a launch package, explaining in more detail how the Telcall+ program works, in particular, how you can participate in the new technology, and where you may attain technical assistance in adding and configuring the GPS receiver (if you don't have one already).

Members with android phones or tablets can search the "Google Play Store for the Out-n-About™ app (\$19.90) and upload it if they wish, or this can be done later when the need arises.

The Austravel web page also needs upgrading to cater for the new Telcall+ features, in particular the GPS logging.



As a reminder, it's worth remembering that Austravel Safety Net always had telephone interconnect capabilities, but recent "behind the scenes" work by several members over the last twelve months or so have re-built the technical aspects to the telephone and IT systems that are needed to accommodate the new GPS and SMS programs.

Importantly, the Austravel committee, along with a key group of members with the technical skills, are steering the club towards a new era in HF radio capabilities; capabilities that are both genuinely useful to our travelling members, where safety in remote areas of Australia drives the need to have more than just one pathway in attaining help and assistance in urgent times of need.

Safety in the outback is still linked to HF radio in Australia. The Telcall+ system when launched will provide a high standard of innovative technologies that fills a gap in HF radio communications with fellow Austravel members, family, friends and emergency first responders.



Presidents report for March 2017

The Austravel Safety Net Muster will be held 13th to 17th April (Easter holiday) at Yarloop, Scarp Road (Kim's place) We are looking forward to another good attendance. This Easter muster is replacing the usual September muster held in the colder time of the year. My thanks to Kim once again for the use of his hilltop campsite.

You may arrive earlier and leave later than the dates stipulated. Kim (7880) has a very busy 'drop-in for a cuppa & stay awhile' camp so if you are travelling any where near Yarloop on the South West Highway and can spare some time, you are welcome to drop in.

There are some exciting new developments to discuss and share with members. "We live in exciting times" You may have heard that quote *ad nauseam* in recent times. I can assure you that our excitement can barely be contained compared with that other ho hum.

New operators Jim(3086) & Paul (5577) have been operating through Perth Base during the morning and evening sessions along with Cliff Herod (9363) and Bob Carne (1750) holding up the east side of Australia conducting sheds via mobile in Mackay and interconnect through Casino. If you hear them 'ON AIR', please give them a call and say G'day and if you are looking for something interesting to do, become an operator too and travel Australia from your lounge chair. It is a bit of fun & you get to learn about all these strange places of which no-one else has ever heard. A lot UPS & DOWNS and unpronounceable names with silent *gee's* & *jay's* with lots of aa's. Ngaanyatjaraku for instance pronunciation N,N,Nna, impossible but it is fun trying.... Have a go!!

We will be trialling channel 1, (3176Khz) in the schedule from Perth base this winter as propagation on the higher frequencies is unpredictable and unreliable. Check your sched channel list for the new times and frequencies (channels).

Jane is back in hospital since December 31st. Yes New Years eve, She had 2 minor falls and needed a few stitches and has not been allowed to escape since except for a couple of days when I managed to "break" her out of her hospital cell. I may have to do the same again soon however her medication has been altered and Jane is getting better by the day.

Enjoy your travels. Don't forget to change your times for cessation of daylight saving and please do call in to various Bases during sched times.

Our Club remains **Forever Friendly** , "The FRIENDLIEST NETWORK."

Cheers. TALK SOON!!?

Roy Watkins (6001)

President

AUSTRAL SAFETY NET.inc



- Do you enjoy travelling and being outdoors?
- Are you planning to see Australia?
- Would you like friends to contact as you travel?
- Join other like-minded people for a great time at our get-togethers.
- We have National, State and Regional rallies all over Australia.
- Club e-magazine, The Traveller, issued bi-monthly.

- Friendship list of members all around Australia whether it's for socialising or if you need a helpful hand.

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN AUSTRALIA'S ONLY TOURING CLUB FOR CARAVANS, MOTORHOMES AND CAMPERS?

Club website www.atcmcc.org.au for updated information on joining, events, travelling information and breaking news.

Contact us: **Mobile:** 0458 220421

Australasian Touring Caravan Motorhome & Caravan Club Inc (ARN0038452P)



Vice President Tom
Collis 2714

Don't Forget Your Sked Times!

West Coast Morning (WST)		
Ch1	3176	8:00am
Ch2	5127	8:05am
Ch5	7652	8:10am
Ch7	10203	8:20am
Ch8	13910	8:30am
Ch10	17463	8:40am
West Coast Afternoon (WST)		
Ch8	13910	4:30pm
Ch7	10203	4:40pm
Ch5	7652	4:50pm
Ch2	5127	5:00pm

NOTE: Channel 1 introduction for Perth morning sked as a trial moving forward.

East Coast Morning (EST)		
Ch3	5270	8:00am
Ch5	7652	8:10am
Ch7	10203	8:20am
Ch8	13910	8:30am
East Coast Afternoon (EST)		
Ch8	13910	4:30pm
Ch7	10203	4:40pm
Ch5	7652	4:50pm
Ch3	5270	5:00pm

Dear Austravel Members

Last year the newly appointed Collis / Stewart Clan had Christmas in Yarloop at Kim's bush camp. Danny Sharp (1226), Jim Hall (3086), myself and Cristina Collis (2714), along with my newly appointed Son In-law and his wife Steven & Hanna Stewart (715), John Hall & Jodie Cleverly (6014) were all there for a few days over the Christmas period eating drinking and playing card games.

Kim even dropped in for a few casual beverages while we were there. Unfortunately for the Collis Stewart clan we had to come home early as 3 out of 4 members of the family became sick and warmth and their own bed was calling them all, so before new year's, we retreated home so that everyone could get their health back up to scratch.

In mid-January we had a working bee at Roys place in Bullsbrook to fix the base station aerial which went up a lot higher than it originally was before. That's wasn't hard to do as it was on the ground when we got there. We will be having a working bee at Kim's Bush camp to re build the camp shower.

We need to have the shower up and running before we have our bush camp at Kim's property in April. We are having the gathering in April instead of September as it is much warmer and better suited time wise for some of our members. Date will be confirmed by Kim 7880 at a later date.

Members in the west would like to wish Christine Peck (0951) a speedy recovery from her past operations and also have a safe trip to Tasmania.

Safe travels to All HF Radio club members and hope to see you all in the new year

Cheers

Tom Collis (2714)

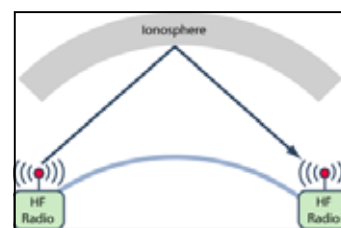
11 YEAR CYCLE

The Sun is moving to a quiet time in its sunspot 11 year cycle. Apart from Russian Scientists Alexander Chizhevsky study on sunspots and mass excitability (look him up on Wikipedia) it is having effect on the performance of our club HF frequencies.

In brief and only as a rule of thumb, we need lower channels to cover the same distances as before. This will take place for a few years yet. We still have the correct channels to do the job. To cater for this on skeds, the Perth morning sked will now start on channel 1 for 5 minutes then channel 2.

We will see how this goes and perhaps channel 1 will get a bigger roll later in the year. Remember skeds start at 8.00am WST we would love to hear you there exercising your radios and your PTT finger.

Kim Rhodes (7880)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of Austravel Safety Net Inc., we take this opportunity to welcome our new members.

Kevin & Jeanette Hegner (2136) **NSW**, Bruce Morris, (1567) **S.A.**, Barry Smith, & Dawn Justice (1411) **NSW**, Mark Henderson & Kristy Walsh (2079) **W.A.**, John Clayton, (2512) **S.A.**, Grant & Julie Jones, (1041) **Victoria**, Eric & Joy Morgan (6888) **W.A.**, Ralph & Dawn Olson (3758) **S.A.**, Jason Ryan (1371) **Qld.**, Ian Armstrong (1706) **W.A.**, Mike & Marg Holden (2495) **Qld.**, Sandra Sampson (2116) **Qld.**, Peter & Marie Kelleher, (4076)

WELCOME!
NEW MEMBERS
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY



Did you know that
Antennae are only for
the bugs?



So what do you call
these then, eh?

According to the
Oxford Dictionary,
they are Antennas !

Antennae is the
plural form of
"antenna," or one of
the paired, flexible,
segmented sensory
appendages on the
head of an insect.

Antennas is the
plural form of
"antenna," or a
metallic apparatus
for sending or
r e c e i v i n g
electromagnetic
waves.

Submitted by Allen Lawrence
4453.

NEW MULTI TAP ANTENNA DESIGN!



Ian Parkin (0116) thought he would share this photo with everybody, figuring we
would all want to know about new technology coming our way.....or perhaps
not!

Ian, how does it handle the overseas skip???????

AUSTRAVEL EASTER WEEKEND MUSTER

13th. > 17th. APRIL 2017

All HF radio enthusiasts are welcome to Kim Rhode's property at Scarp Rd. Yarloop
W.A.

Enjoy the camping and rubbing shoulders with other HF radio
users who come along to share or learn something more about
HF radio.

Any prospective new members are especially welcome, as this is
the opportune time to get acquainted with Austravel as a HF
radio club.

Contact Tom Collis (2714) on 0408 928 279 for more informa-
tion





This article on lithium batteries suitable for caravans and motor-homes was written by an Austravel member that I met last year in our travels around Western Australia.

I have an interest in any new 12 volt DC battery technology and listened to the authors personal experiences with lithium batteries in his own caravan.

I feel the author had something to offer fellow Austravel members by way of what he has learnt, and I asked him to share his experience with us in this newsletter; which he has.

Appreciation to Kevin & Kim Conoplia (5456) for taking the time to write up this article, and share his views.
THE EDITOR



Did you know?

Lithium Ion batteries have a high energy density and are perfect for cyclic applications. They offer savings of up to 70% in volume and weight compared to traditional lead-acid batteries. Lithium batteries offer ultra-fast charging and discharging, high efficiency and three times as many charging cycles (≥ 1500 full cycles) compared to traditional lead acid batteries.

OUR OWN LITHIUM UPGRADE (By 5456 Kevin Conoplia)

We started out in 2002 with a Hilux 4x4 and Camper Trailer, and in 2004 upgrading to a Toyota Landcruiser and 22' Boroma Caravan. Now in 2017 and still happy travelling full time for the last 15 years.

Original Battery Info :-

- (Van) AGMs: 400 Ah, with 50% usable. Weight 134 Kgs,
- Fixed Solar on Van Roof: 610 Watts

Lithium Battery Info:-

- (Van): 400 Ah, with 85% usable. Weight 60.4.

Original Battery Info:-

- (Ute Aux): AGM: 100 Ah. Weight 33 Kgs.
- Fixed Solar on the Ute Canopy: 300 Watts.

Lithium Battery Info:-

- Lithium Battery Info (Ute Aux): 100 Ah. Weight 14.4 Kgs

So nearly half the weight of the AGM's plus twice the life span of AGM's, Time will tell??

After reading many online forum reports over 3 years about lithium batteries especially one particular person (T1 Terry), practical fitting and using of lithium on the Forums and having the chance to view and chat with the owner Brian, of one of Terrys' first lithium conversions on a Hino Rainbow motor-home; I decided that the benefits obtained were well worth the effort.

I did initially phone T1Terry and quizzed him about a few things to do with lithium's and he was very helpful. He has since relocated to Mannum SA where he has started his lithium conversion business.

In 2014 I purchased 1x 200 Ah and 1 x 100 Ah Lithium cell packs from "Drive By Nature" at Kuttatubul, Mackay, Qld and freighted to us in Cairns. Included were 12 x 100 Ah/3.2 volt cells, all connectors, strapping, balance charger, relativities x 2 (Cell Balancers, Photos No.3 & 4). Cost was \$2,505 including freight and packing.

I fitted the 200 Ah pack (8 x 3.2 volt cells, photo #1) in the van and the 100 Ah pack (4 x 3.2 volt cells, Photo #2) in the ute as an auxiliary.

The caravans Plasmatic PL40 was reset to the custom settings for Boost/Absorption 14.0 volts and Float 13.7 volts and the utes PL20 was reset the same. Two x Junsli Cell Logger's (Photo #3 & #4) costing \$43 were purchased from Hobby King and wired to each battery pack using the smaller gauge seven core trailer connector wire. This has a slightly larger wire size, but is easier to handle than ultra fine seven core computer wire. These are set for alarms to alert of the cell and pack voltage limits dialled in to them.

After numerous trials of this new technology and liking what I experienced on our way south from Cairns we called into "Drive By Nature" and purchased another 1 x 200 Ah cell pack (4 x 3.2 volt cells in series) cost \$1,438 which I then fitted in parallel with the other (8 x 100 Ah cells – 200Ah Pack) already installed plus an extra Junsli Cell Logger.

I used appropriate sized insulated welding cable and a large heavy duty manual cut off switch so I can operate/isolate either/all or operate each pack Individually with appropriate sized heavy duty fuses. To date (over 2 years on) this is working great at up to 200 Amps draw.

During the last 2 years I have played (practised) with the cell balancing and charging so I fully understand what is involved. I also have a bank of 6 x 100 watt Halogen bulbs (for lowering high cells) and 3 x 3.7 volt cell balance chargers (to raise the lower cells) should they be needed in the future.

So far in the 27 months I haven't needed to re-balance either packs in the van or ute. The Relativities (Balancers) appear to be doing their jobs and voltage difference between both parallel van pack cells or ute battery cells is at anytime no more than 20 – 150 mv. As is the voltage difference between the paralleled van packs (i.e. 30 to 80 mv)

The ute aux battery cops a hiding as I also connect the start battery/alternator when travelling in winter time in the southern states to assist charging of the van batteries via an Anderson plug to a 30 Amp ABR Sidewinder DC/DC Charger (non lithium profile). This is due to poor sun power in winter and bad weather conditions even with 600 watts of solar on the van and 300 watts on the ute canopy. So apart from having a 110 Amp Alternator pumping power into it, the Aux is also being drained by the DC/DC Charger as well.

With this regime 1 to 2 hours of driving is all that is required to charge the van batteries to 100%. I initially would stop every half hour or so assess how long was required to fully charge but have now purchased a "Quanam" digital telemetry remote volt meter system (Photo #4). These Quanam units are used for remote control aircraft.

This unit has a one kilometre range and cost approx \$125 from the U.S.A. So now while driving I can keep an eye on the van battery charge voltages from the drivers' seat.

I have in the van a 14 year old 240 Volt/25 Amp Beehive battery charger and in the ute a 14 year old Baintech 240 Volt/15 amp battery charger (French made), as well and have used these to charge the lithium's without a problem. I have not needed to use these much since the lithium upgrade so really redundant these days.

We are still coming to grips with and amazed at how much power can be harvested from the lithium's compared to lead AGM batteries capabilities (i.e. *not having to worry too much about going below 50% SOC as with leads*). Also how much quicker these batteries recharge with the same solar array size as the previous leads, sometimes it is twice to three times as fast than before. This is attributed to the lithium's much lower internal resistance allowing acceptance of whatever power can be pumped in. We very rarely go under 60% SOC, when using the following appliances running off an EL Cheapo 2000 watt Inverter (\$279) since changeover, **not all at once though!**

- 800 Watt Toaster
- 1,200 Watt Elec Kettle
- 1900 Watt Induction Cooktop
- 1,400 Watt Nescafe Pod Coffee Machine
- 500 Watt Frother
- 1,400 Watt Truma hot water element
- 2 x 150 Watt each Electric Blankets when needed
- Fridge is a Waeco Coolmatic 220 litre 12 volt Compressor (max draw on start-up close to 7 amps)
- All lights are now LED converted for 10 years, Previous Amp Draw was 14 Amps with all on, now 4.3 Amps
- 600 Watt vacuum cleaner

I have had a Hyper Engineering soft start device (Photo #5) fitted to our 14 yr old Dometic 3.2 Kw cooling output air conditioner which before fitting, would draw approx 140 amps (DC) now 80 amps (DC) which should assist in running of the lithium's when required. I have tested and it works great for approx 30 mins but it was only a test.

The soft start also allows the Honda EU20 to operate the A/C with "Eco Throttle" switch on now, whereas before it would only be able to run the air conditioner with the "Eco Throttle" in the off position. This also allows the air conditioner cycle now and the Honda can cope with the restart between cycles. Before it would overload and shut the power supply off. This also helps with fuel usage as well.

Also fitted is an RVD (Residual Voltage Device, Photo #6) in combo from the supplier with an RCD to better protect us in the van when running the inverter or generator when required.

Some would baulk at fitting lithium's without a BMS System (Battery Management System), but our setup is really no different than our previous lead battery system, in as far as management goes. I can actually see/hear more with regards to the Cell Loggers with alarms showing Individual cell voltages on the three battery packs in combo with the Plasmatic PL 40(van) and PL20 (Ute) custom program settings being adjustable.

But as we are fulltime caravanner's, there is not a problem with daily observation and I am not a slave to the system either.

When was the battery invented?

One of the most remarkable and novel discoveries in the last 400 years was electricity.

We might ask, "Has electricity been around that long?" The answer is yes, and perhaps much longer. Its practical use has only been at our disposal since the mid to late 1800s, and in a limited way at first.

Some of the earliest public works gaining attention were streets lights in Berlin in 1882, lighting up the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 with 250,000 light bulbs, and illuminating a bridge over the river Seine during the Paris 1900 World Fair.

The use of electricity may go back further. While constructing a railway in 1936 near Baghdad, workers uncovered what appeared to be a prehistoric battery, also known as the Parthian Battery. The object dates back to the Parthian empire and is believed to be 2,000 years old. The battery consisted of a clay jar that was filled with a vinegar solution into which an iron rod surrounded by a copper cylinder was inserted. This device produced 1.1 to 2.0 volts of electricity.

(see illustration below)

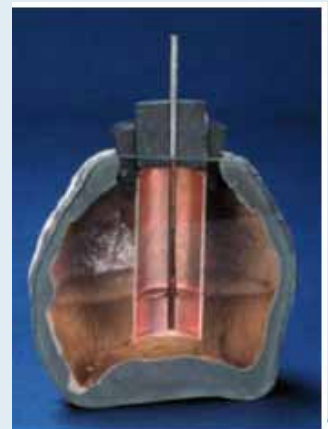




Photo #1 8 x 3.2 volt cells and parallel / series connection



Photo #2 4 x 3.2 volt cells series connection

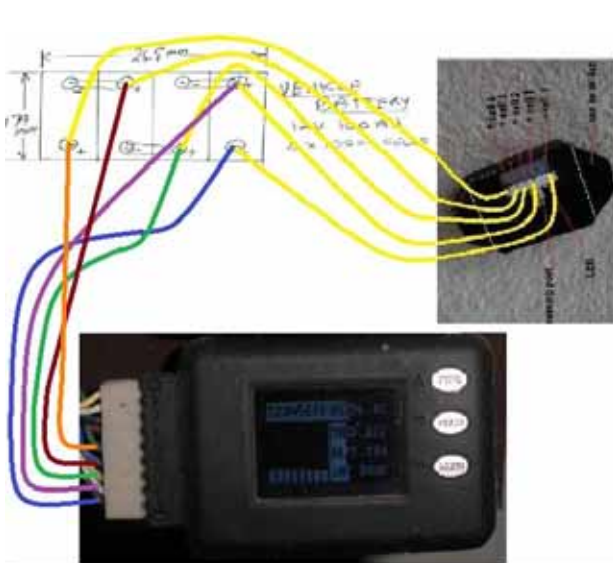


Photo #3 Junsi Cell Logger wired to 4 x 3.2 volt cell pack (series connected) with Relativity (cell balancer)

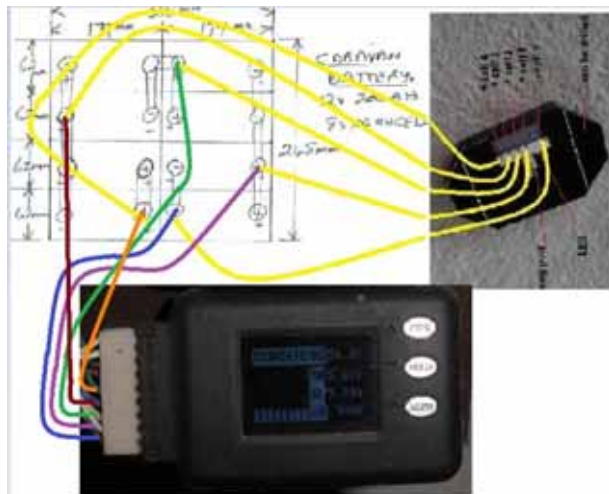


Photo #4 Junsi Cell Logger wired to 8 x 3.2 volt cell pack (series connected) with Relativity (cell balancer)



Photo #5 Quantum digital telemetry remote voltage meter with transmitter RHS



Photo #7 RVD from Safelec



Photo #6 Hyper Engineering soft start device for air conditioner

Peak communications body ACMA reverses decision ruling thousands of CB radio sets illegal

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has reversed its decision to make 40 channel UHF radios illegal from June 2017. It is estimated there are thousands of UHF, or citizens band (CB) radios on farms and in trucks, caravans and businesses throughout Australia. Upgrading to 80 channel radios was going to cost some businesses tens of thousands of dollars.

The manager of spectrum licensing policy at ACMA, Dominic Byrne, said the two systems are working well alongside each other so the authority had decided to remove the requirement to upgrade to 80 channel UHF sets.

"These changes were introduced to manage congestion and interference in the CB radio channels," he said.

As reported by the ABC 3rd. February 2017



Decision reversed to make 40 channel UHF CB's illegal as planned for June 2017



Members Market

A member in Beechboro W.A. is looking to buy a Metal Detector, must not be too old and also is anyone interested in going looking for whatever. No age limit Harry goes onto say.

Contact Harry Parker (6063) on mobile phone number 0448 550 159 or e-mail: dunolly321@outlook.com

MEMBERS...GOT SOMETHING TO SELL?

LOOKING FOR THAT THING TO BUY?

CONSIDER YOUR CHANNEL CHATTER NEWSLETTER "MEMBERS MARKET", AND PLACE AN AD.....NO COST!

Members Facebook



Trouble with Facebook or any questions?
Send me an email, I am happy to help.

My email address is;
pimdomen@icloud.com

Got a metal detector you want to sell?



Harry (6063) is looking for one!



DID YOU KNOW THE ABC EXISTED SHORT WAVE RADIO?

The ABC will end its short-wave transmission service in the Northern Territory and to international audiences from 31 January 2017.

The move is in line with the national broadcaster's commitment to dispense with outdated technology and to expand its digital content offerings including DAB+ digital radio, online and mobile services, together with FM services for international audiences.

The majority of ABC audiences in the Northern Territory currently access ABC services via AM and FM and all ABC radio and digital radio services are available on the VAST satellite service.

ABC International's short-wave services currently broadcast to PNG and the Pacific. Savings realised through decommissioning this service will be reinvested in a more robust FM transmitter network and an expanded content offering for the region that will include English and in-language audio content.

Michael Mason, ABC's Director of Radio said, "While shortwave technology has served audiences well for many decades, it is now nearly a century old and serves a very limited audience. The ABC is seeking efficiencies and will instead service this audience through modern technology".



.. The Vice President (alias 2714) has a VICE!



An Austravel member sent in this article in *(they shall remain nameless)*
Hi Geoff,

Whispers have it that the Vice President of Austravel has another passion, and is travelling to Victoria in Feb to buy a new body to play with !

Last seen he had the old model out for display in Esperance!

Gees Tommy, I know your quick on your feet, but looks as though you quick on the "go pedal" as well!

We assume Tommy that the body in Victoria doesn't have arms and legs?



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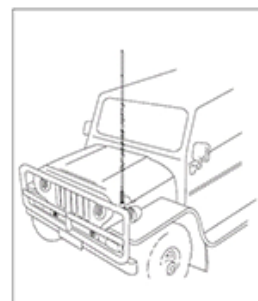
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Quality Mobile Antennas

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Perth : 08 6144 3204**

www.bushcomm-online.com

PayPal



Selcall List Updated for Telcall+

Austravel members please note, that as from March 2017 the published and distributed Austravel selcall list has an extra column displayed (highlighted in yellow see below) showing individual members who have subscribed to Telcall+.

This added information in regards individual members Telcall+ subscription will be a handy information addition as the Telcall+ program rolls out over the coming months..

Austral Safety Net inc.						
Selcall List						
Selcall	Preferred Name	Last Name	Town	State	Contact	Telcall+
0001	Matt & Alison	Craig	Nyah West	VIC	0438 580 540	
0027	Dom & Rachel	Capuzza	Mundaring	WA	0417 948 707	Y
0059	Steve	Potts	Brookvale	NSW	0428 257 744	
0085	Robert & Libby	Cook	Applecross	WA	0448 191 500	Y
0112	Reserved					
0116	Ian & Janette	Parkin	Chapel Hill	QLD	0405 327 015	
0165	Trevor & Pat	Bosley	Perth	WA	0447 087 594	
0198	Ken & Linda	Medway	Burrum Heads	QLD	0427 260 162	
0278	Peter & Fay	Fordham	Burpengary	QLD	0417 720 491	Y
0333	Kev & Marg	Howells	Esperance	WA	0427 178 330	
0444	Mark & Denny	French	Bonnie Doon	VIC	0427 016 717	
0446	Chris & Melanie	Baker	Rossmoyne	WA	0404 800 446	Y
0491	Peter & Trish	Gallagher	Casino	NSW	0408 460 751	Y
0720	Brian & Lyn	Cann	Narrikup	WA	0427 511 590	
0911	Reserved					
0914	Ted & Kate	Samuels	Airds	NSW	NFP	Y
0951	Geoff & Christine	Peck	Gayndah	QLD	0403 309 020	Y
1041	Grant & Julie	Jones	Avoca	VIC	0407 214 457	Y
1111	Dave & Sophie	Collins	Mt. Crosby	QLD	0408 345 208	
1154	Gary & Anne	Ellis	Glendon	NSW	0427 635 352	
1207	Ian	Butler	Laverton	WA	0429 080 913	Y

Austravel Channels Rationalised

BASE AND FREQUENCY INFORMATION

2017 VMD 750 CHANNEL LIST

Channel	1	2	3	4	5
Frequency(kHz)	3176	5127	5270	6860	7652
Channel	6	7	8	9	10
Frequency(kHz)	xxxxx	10203	13910	xxxxx	17463

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Channel rationalisation for the Austravel network has recently been undertaken to minimise the clubs operating costs.

By far and away, the annualised costs for frequencies issued by ACMA are our highest operating costs, and these costs needed to be better managed.

In the same management strategy, a total of eight (8) channels are available for all members mobile HF radio units, but note that each base does not have the same number of channels (a short term consideration).

Perth base has the full eight (8) channels, whereas Casino, and three (3) new future bases will carry the mainstay four (4) channel selection.

Your committee's is resolute to both manage the clubs operating costs, whilst at the same time, increase our clubs HF services (e.g. Telcall+ and all its new features) with a view to increase the base network by adding bases in strategic locations around Australia.

With luck we will be able to announce new bases in central Australia and NW Victoria in the next Channel Chatter newsletter edition.



The Codan 9323 is one of those HF radio work horses, that pretty much go forever and can do nearly as much as the more modern Codan derivatives.

As the new Telcall+ information packages will tell you, texting or SMS from a HF radio to another HF radio is not all that new, most recent makes and models of HF radios can do this "radio-to-radio" messaging.

Now with Telcall+ you can send a text message to any mobile phone in Australia, or send a message via MAIL BOX to another Austravel members radio (who also has Telcall+) where its stored for up to seven days, waiting to be uploaded to that members HF radio, the next time they log in trough an Austravel primary base.

Never thought that your Codan 9323 can do all of this?.....thanks to John & Jodie (6014) have taken the time to write it down on one piece of paper.

If you want a better copy than the enclosed, please call or e-mail the Channel Chatter editor and I will make sure you get a copy.

Telcall+ SMS with a Codan 9323

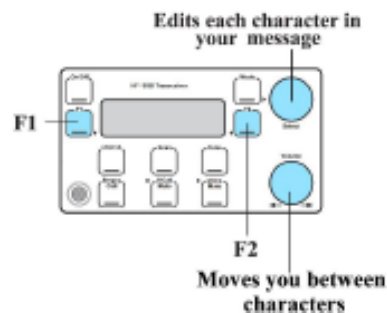
SMS - Text Messaging on the Codan 9323 & 9360

On the Austravel Network VMD750.....

This is what I found worked for me, and with the help and patience of Kim 7880 and Roy 6001, I managed to figure out how to send text messages.

Using the Base ID: 6399

The numerical keys on your microphone, and shaded buttons as on the diagram of your remote head on the radio. Hopefully using these steps will have you up and running and texting away. Currently only available on Channel 2 & 3, but may have changed at the time of this publication.



1. Turn the radio on.
2. Ensure the Radio is on channel:
Ch 2: 5127 Ch3: 5270
3. Try to Selcall 6399, if no reply from the base try moving your vehicle or waiting for the conditions to change. If there is no response from the base you won't be able to complete this task at the present time. However you can still try the procedure and familiarise yourself and see how it works.
4. Press the F1 "Call" button.
5. Press the F2 "Type" button repeatedly until you see the "Page Call" option.
6. Enter 6399 if not already present then hit the F1 "Call" button.
7. On the following screen you will see "Select Page Message" press the Edit option "F2".
8. Enter the phone number you wish to text followed by the text in the example: 0412345678EnterTextHere
9. Press the F1 "Call" button, will send the message then the radio will wait for call acknowledgment.
10. You will either get 1 of 2 responses hopefully the succeeded option.

Page call: 6399
USSD 2 5127
CALL Rx. TYPE

Page call: 6399
0412345678ENTERTEXTHERE
Enter page message
CALL Rx. CLEAR

Awaiting response
USSD 2 5127
CALL Rx.

No response
USSD 2 5127
CALL Rx.

Page Call succeeded
USSD 2 5127
CALL Rx.

- Factors why this may have not worked, is you don't have phone privileges on your current membership. But for a small fee it's definitely worth it in my opinion.
- The Selcall ID: 6399 has changed as it is in the testing stage.

A special thanks to Kim and his brothers Wayne & Scott for implementing this feature and getting it up and running.

Happy Travels and Texting

John & Jodie 6014

One of our Austravel members submitted this..... Paying tribute to our sked operators.
Hope this reminds members to log into a sked, there are many benefits for doing so.

AUSTRAVEL SAFETY NET MEMBERS
USE THEIR HF RADIOS TO CALL
SKED OPERATORS WHO ARE STANDING BY
THEY LOVE USING THEIR
RADIOS, BE IT A LOG IN OR JUST TO SAY G'DAY
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VARIOUS FREQUENCIES
EVERY MORNING AND EVERY NIGHT. THEY JUST
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For all sales enquiries

If you wish to contact a club member who is out of mobile phone range but has a HF radio then you make contact by contacting a BASE OPERATOR by phone. Call one of the operators listed and request that a message be relayed to a specific person as soon as possible.

Give the operator the persons name and selcal if known.

The base operator can initiate selcall to the mobile station requesting them to phone home via the HF network. Or if the message is not so urgent a similar message to phone home can be passed on at the normal schedule time of day.

IN ADDITION TO THE AUSTRAL "H.E.L.P." SYSTEM

LIST OF OPERATORS THAT CAN ASSIST

	BASE OPERATORS	PHONE NUMBER	Local
1	Roy Watkins Home	08 95710612	W.A.
2	Roy Watkins Mobile	0427 000 995	W.A.
3	Kim Rhodes Mobile	0427 983 329	W.A.
4	Denny Sharp Mobile	0418 847 542	QLD
5	Geoff Peck Mobile	0403 309 020	QLD

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The Binns Track Info from Westprint Mob



Bill Binns. The man and the story - a 20 year project.

Officially starting in the Simpson Desert sand dunes in the south and finishing in the Tropical Savannah Rangelands more than 2,200 kilometres to the north, the Northern Territory Binns Track passes through many different types of spectacular natural scenery and enables travellers to visit significant sites.

Bill Binns 32-year career with the NT Parks and Wildlife Service from the 1960s to 1990s proves his passion for wildlife and conservation. During his years travelling throughout the Territory he formed the view that there would be benefits from increased four wheel drive visitation. He knew the Territory well and had driven all the stock routes, many abandoned since the 1960s. In 1993 Bill Binns contacted John Deckert from Westprint Maps with a view to develop a map series highlighting the stock routes and linking various parks and features of the Northern Territory.

John and Bev Deckert travelled many of the routes marked by Bill as they researched a proposed series of maps to be produced for the NT Government by Westprint. Two years later the first map featuring the East Macdonald Ranges was launched. Although this map was a successful start, a change of government shifted the focus on this project and only one map in the series was published. However, work quietly continued with the idea of linking tracks, culminating in the eventual launch of the Binns Track in May 2008.

The Binns Track is made up of varying road surfaces from bitumen highways to rugged, tyre-punishing rocky tracks and is not to be taken lightly. Bill Binns has now retired but still takes a personal interest in one of the longest tracks in Australia, the 2,200 kilometre Binns Track.

The Binns Track guide is available from Westprint. For similar information check out the Westprint Friday Five newsletter on our website. Subscription is free. <http://westprint.com.au/newsletter>



THATS FUNNY!

The missus bought a Paperback down Shepton Mallet way.

I had a look inside her bag
'Twas Fifty Shades Of Grey.

Well I just left her to it, and
at 10 I went to bed. An hour
later she appeared; the sight
filled me with dread...

In her left she held a rope;
and in her right a whip!
She threw them down upon
the floor, and then began to
strip.

Well fifty years or so ago; I
might have had a peek; but
Mabel hasn't weathered well;
she's eighty four next week!!

Watching Mabel bump and
grind; could not have been
much grimmer. And things
then went from bad to worse;
she toppled off her Zimmer!

She struggled back upon her
feet; a couple minutes later;
she put her teeth back in and
said....I am a dominator !!

Now if you knew our Mabel,
you'd see just why I splut-
tered, I'd spent two months in
traction for the last complaint
I'd uttered. She stood there
nude and naked bent for-
ward just a bit, I went to hold
her, sensual like and stood on
her left tit!

Mabel screamed, her teeth
shot out; my god what had I
done!? She moaned and
groaned then shouted out:
"Step on the other one"!!
Well readers, I can't tell no
more; about what occurred
that day.

Suffice to say my jet black
hair....

Turned fifty shades of grey

(Poem by Pam Ayers)

AUSTRAL SAFETY NET Inc.

HF Radio Allied Traders List

Connecting Austravel Members To HF Radio Sales / Service Providers
(Last update December 2015)



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
D.L. Communications	Codan, Barrett dlcerv@hotmail.com	Merimbula NSW 0418 280 270
Newcastle Pro Sound	Codan, Barrett www.npsonline.com.au	Newcastle NSW 02 4965 6899
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
Territory Comms Services	Codan, Barrett, Scout tcs@territorycomms.com.au	Tennant Creek NT 0418 814 978
HF Radio.Com On-Line Store	Codan, Barrett Sales Service and Installation www.hf-radio.com.au / david@hf-radio.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

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Goondiwindi Communications	Codan www.goondiwindicomcommunications.com.au sales@goondiwindicomcommunications.com.au	Goondiwindi Qld 07 4671 3641
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 sales@advancecomms.com.au	Roma 07 4622 5842
Comptel P/L	Codan www.comtel.com.au / enquiries@comptel.com.au	Toowoomba Qld. 07 4639 8999
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
Marktek Installations	Codan, servicing most brands of HF www.marktek.com.au / mark@marktek.com.au	Adelaide S.A. 08 8250 2888
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
Desmond Communications	Codan, Barrett, Icom desmondcomms@dodo.com.au	Howrah Tas. 03 6228 1331
Marcom Watson	Codan, Barrett, Icom, www.marcomwatson.com.au / info@marcomwatson.com.au	Launceston Tas. 1800 630 611
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. 03 5282 2751
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

AUSTRAL SAFETY NET Inc. HF Radio Allied Traders List

Connecting Austravel Members To HF Radio Sales / Service Providers
(Last update December 2015)



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
ACS Communications	Codan, Icom www.acs-marcomm.com / faith@acs-marcom.com	Perth W.A. 08 9277 4655
Allcomm Communications	Codan, Icom 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

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)