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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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- Secretary's housekeeping notes to members
- New "Telcall System Messages"
- Time to look at H.E.L.P. (4357) again
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- Here's an Idea !
- Change to Channels By ACMA
- Vice Presidents Reort (AGM date announced)
- Feral Bees (Westprint article)



### DISCLAIMER

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### AUSTRAVEL BASE NETWORK EXPANDING

Its been in the planning stages and spoken about for awhile, but its now on!

Kim Rhodes (7880) is inviting Austravel members and friends to come along on the drive and installation of the new Kununurra Base. He points out clearly that it's under your own steam that you join, meaning Kim is not running in the true sense a tag along tour. If you are self sufficient and would like to help the team you are welcome. Austravel is not covering any costs or any liability to do with the installation travel, ie no fuel, no accommodation, no food, you would be choosing to come alone.

All that said we (the team) are leaving Yarloop driving through Perth on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018 arriving in Kununurra on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and starting work on the 21<sup>st</sup>. It will take about a week to install the base. The trip up

will be slow with a heavy load on the car and intending to stop for 2 nights each stop. In Kununurra we are staying in the Lakeside Caravan park.

You don't have to be technical to help, there are a number of different jobs to do. Even if we could get some help with community meals for the workers that would be great.

To travel with us you will need at a minimum a UHF CB radio fitted in your car that stays on when the ignition is off. (Kim has his reasons) If you have HF as well that is great and I will program radios with the new frequencies along

the way.

We will not be staying in caravan parks on the way up. Camping out every night until Kununurra. There is a hope to do a little prospecting on the way.

You can come from a different direction and meet in Kununurra if you wish.

For the moment if you are interested let Kim know by Email:

[7880@westnet.com.au](mailto:7880@westnet.com.au)

**More news on the new Kununurra Base when the installation and commissioning is complete, will come by email and SMS around June 2018.**

**THE EDITOR**



Year 2018 is off & running with mast erecting, base preparation and interference chasing. An Interfering transmission on Channel 3 (5270 kHz) has been noticed by Geoff (0951), Bob (1750), & other sched operators in the eastern states. This interference is very strong, very disruptive and very annoying.

Members in the west are not as impacted by this interference, simply because Austravel Perth Base 6199 does not operate scheds on channel 3 (5270 KHz).

The interference was recognized some time back by the Treasurer (Peter Hackett 5584) when he was controller associated with the Variety Bash using HF radios for communications and safety a couple of years ago. Operating was very tedious for Peter in that the same interference (QRM) became unbearable, impacting a base station he was using in Broken Hill. A little bit of detection work by listening either side of the offending signal gave Peter an approximate allocated frequency, then checking the ACMA register, finding a culprit south of Adelaide with a Wave Height Determination service.

Peter found that the Cook University in Cairns was the license holder, and that service was shut down for the duration of the Variety Bash. Rolling forward to the present time, Peter identified that the service had been transferred to University of Western Australia and another wave height determination radar had popped up at Green Head (Lancelin).

Representation by Austravel Safety Net to ACMA didn't initially deliver the desired result, with the typical "push back" by ACMA via a written reply to me (President Roy Watkins). The problem is that the University of Western Australia have a 'Wave Height' radar on the NSW coast licensed for 5262.5 kHz + /- 12.5 kHz, (25K ONON) and because of the 'pulsed' characteristics of the transmissions it is wider than the allocated 25KHz.

The fact that it is only 7.5 KHz from our allocated centre frequency of 5270 KHz causes it to spill over on to our channel 3. Also, it operates 24/7. If the licence for these transmissions had been the normal +/- 1.5 KHz, that we have, it would have possibly, not been a problem.

A piece of good news is that Kim Rhodes (7880) has had both phone and face-to-face conversations with the University of Western Australia oceanographic research center and their consultant for their spectrum allocation. The offending HF equipment is for ocean studies and there a great number of them around the world. Hence the world international telecommunications union (ITU) has made the HF spectrum allocations available for these types of transmitters world wide.

Whilst at the university, we did some tests and proved that the two radio determination transmit sites in NSW both cause interference with our base at Casino. After dialing into Casino we remotely switched each site off and on.

ACMA here just plonked them in one of these (ITU) bands just below our Chan3 and covers our Chan3. ACMA did not consult with any existing users nor did they see if any existing users were there. In our favor though, they did put a condition on the license of the UWA that the radio determination system will not cause interference to any other users. (US)

#### **Where we are at:-**

1. In the short term to minimize interference the UNI has turned the transmitter power down to 3 watts and narrowed the sweep to the minimum. It still impacts Chan3 but perhaps a little less. We need feed-back from members on that.
2. The consultant is reviewing other licensing possibilities as they recognize they need to move frequency as a condition of their license.
3. We have halted the licensing of another unit at Exmouth WA that would have been on the same frequency.
4. They recognize that if they continue on the present frequency they will impact, WA parks and wildlife, NSW SES, NSW police. These other HF users (quoted) just haven't complained yet.

It is still work in progress but it is being addressed at an amicable level at the moment and I think it will get resolved.



Greetings from your Secretary, time for a little bit of organisational housekeeping.

By way of background Austravel Safety Net Inc, is an incorporated association registered by the Department of Fair Trading (DFT) in the state of Queensland. We had to do this for the Club to own assets and hold accounts with ACMA and Telstra. Initially to secure incorporation the Club adopted the Model Rules provided by the DFT. Our model rules are located in the member's only area of the website.

At the last AGM the meeting discussed a number of revisions to the Model Rules of the Incorporation. The main addition is related to the number of consecutive terms that a member can be part of the management committee. In the past, in other similar organisations there might be a group of members that can dominate the operation of a Club. It can be common practice to limit the number of consecutive terms to ensure there are fresh ideas coming into the management committee.

Hence the proposal is to add a set of by-laws to our model rules -

1. The Austravel Safety Net management committee (executive) consists of seven roles that are elected every 12 months at the Annual General Meeting.
  - President,
  - Vice-president,
  - Secretary,
  - Treasurer,
  - Sked Coordinator,
  - Membership Officer,
  - Committee member.
2. Any outgoing funds of the association must have two approvers from the executive (any two to sign).
3. Reimbursements to any executive must be approved by two other executive, that is, self-approving a reimbursement is expressly forbidden.
4. A co-opted position is decided by the management committee executive as required. Examples of co-opted roles are (but not limited to), Tech Advisor, IT, Sked Ops, Emergency Contacts, Event Organiser. A co-opted member is not permitted to approve expenditure.
5. No member can hold a management committee position for more than 2 years consecutively. If there are no nominations for the position at the Annual General meeting special consideration may be made for one further term (in addition to the two year served), thereafter the member is not permitted to hold any other management committee position for 1 year.



The model rules state that we don't need to present these additions at an AGM. However to ensure all members are in agreement before these are added to our constitution. Please let me know if you have any issues and/or improvement suggestions to [secretary@austravelsafetynet.org.au](mailto:secretary@austravelsafetynet.org.au)

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**NOTE:** all Austravel bases are now primary bases, meaning all bases are full Telcall+ status.

System Messages available from Austravel Bases, available to Telcall+ subscribers-

1. "Who Am I" SMS to a base will return reply with your selcall number ID.
2. SMS "Base Channels" to a base to identify which channels are available/scanned.
3. "Time Please" will return a message with the date and time (WST)



As you all know, Austravel introduced Telcall+ to the majority of the network bases in 2017. Moving on from that earlier position, we now have all bases functioning with Telcall+ system and that will also include Kununurra base when its commissioned later in the year.

The Out-n-About app were developed by TakeThis specifically for Austravel. Austravel has decided to continue rolling out Telcall+ meaning that the licenses' associated with the Out-n-About have been fully funded and paid for.

In consideration of Austravel's continued roll out and confidence of the Telcall+ technology, TakeThis has added a few new small features which do not appear in current documentation.

You can send what are called "**System Messages**" to a Telcall+ base. What are they? you ask, well I think they will be self explanatory.

- In a message or page call write "**WHO AM I**" and send to a base. The base will read your selcall number and return a message, "**YOUR SELCALL NUMBER IS nnnn**". Sometimes when you are programming a radio it is nice to be able to check the identity.
- Next, not all bases have the same channels. The Out-n About app shows the channels a base is scanning but if you don't have phone coverage and you want to know what other channels are in say, Kununurra Base try this. Send a message page call to 6299 "**BASE CHANNELS**" the base, (any base) returns the message showing the channels it is scanning. Yes you need to know at least one channel at that base to make a start. In this instance the return message from the base is "**6299 IS SCANNING CHAN 2 4 6 7**"
- All of us are in the lucky position of sometimes not knowing the day, or time. Send "**TIME PLEASE**" to a base and it will return as a message the **date/time in WST**. It is West Australian time as that is where the system cloud is at the moment. The time will be accurate to within the minute. You will have to mentally adjust your hours for where you are located in Australia.

I am open to other suggestions that may be suitable for System Messages that receive some kind of reply from a base with information. You can send ideas to Kim Rhodes [7880@westnet.com.au](mailto:7880@westnet.com.au) or to the app developer at [scott@takethis.com.au](mailto:scott@takethis.com.au)

Your editor received some questions from a Queensland member recently which revolved around that member attaining a clearer understanding of how the Austravel H.E.L.P. (4357) worked.

Those questions I answered by return e-mail to him directly but the level of questions to me triggered in my mind that Austravel as a club, needs to continue re-stating or reviewing how the H.E.L.P. (4357) emergency activation system operates **within** and **without** the framework of the Telcall+ technology and the Out-n-About app.

As this magazine issue is delivered in April, that signifies to me that summer is over and the winter travelling season is soon upon us; meaning it is a good time to review the H.E.L.P. (4357) call system as our membership hits the road.

### Why Is it Called H.E.L.P. (4357)?

Austravel founding father Roy Watkins (6001) wanted to provide a HF radio emergency assistance system for all Austravel members, that was safe, simple and sure in its total operation.....therefore Roy devised the single selcall number for all bases within the Austravel network, which connected the caller in remote areas with an Austravel emergency operator - by interconnect phone in those early days.

That simple easy to remember emergency call system H.E.L.P. (4357) is still used today, except the **Telcall+** and **Out-n-About** app technologies have leaped from what was a **good system**, into a **great system**.

### Who has access to H.E.L.P. (4357)?

Any member with a HF radio that has selcall capability, has access to

H.E.L.P. (4357). Every financial member has access to H.E.L.P. (4357) which is covered within your standard \$70/year membership.

### Then why do we have Telcall+ and Out-n-About?

Austravel members who subscribe to the Telcall+ system (\$30/year flat fee) do so because they wish to:-

- be able to make Interconnect telephone calls from their HF radio to anyone in Australia.
- be able to send SMS messages to any mobile phone in Australia.
- be able to receive short messages to their HF radio (*radio make/model dependant*) from any one who has the Out-n-About app, and the members "Friends PIN".
- be able to log their position via HF radio, and have it seen on a map via the Out-n-About app for family and friends, including Austravel emergency responders in times of need.

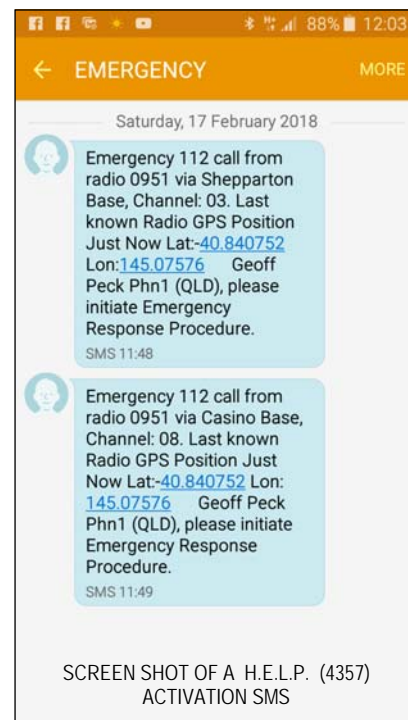
Telcall+ and Out-n-About, whilst not mandatory technology for H.E.L.P. (4357) are two key tools that combine to elevate the level of responsiveness in emergency situations.

With Roy's original H.E.L.P. (4357) system, one selcall to H.E.L.P. raised one telephone call to one Austravel emergency responder.....today one selcall to H.E.L.P. raises awareness for:-

- up to ten Austravel emergency responders across Australia
- all at the same time
- all having reliable data as to:-
  1. The caller ID
  2. The caller location (GPS)
  3. The base ID's
  4. The channel ID's
  5. The call timeline

### Can more than one Austravel base register a H.E.L.P. (4357) selcall?

Yes, as all bases in the network are listening for a 4357 selcall 24/7.



Depending on your location and the time of day, your selcall may be heard by multiple Austravel bases.

The best way to explain this is to look at the above (picto) which is the SMS received as a result of a test H.E.L.P. (4357) call. This particular H.E.L.P. call was a **"red button"** call sent from my Codan NGT from north west Tasmania and instigated to test Shepparton Base.

The outcome of this test from Tasmania shows:-

- The call was a "red button" call
  - \* Indicated by the 112 code
- The call was activated by 0951
  - \* my selcall number
- The call was heard by
  - \* by Shepparton Ch3
  - \* and by Casino Ch8
- The location is recorded
  - \* because I have GPS connected to my NGT
  - \* As a responder the location is displayed on the Out-N-About map

**4357** the only selcall number to remember if you need Austravel help / assistance while travelling in remote areas of Australia.

The H.E.L.P. (4357) system operated by Austravel members for Austravel members.

No third party involvement means your call is managed by an experienced Austravel HF radio operators, with the skills and knowledge of HF radio and how it works.

H.E.L.P (4357) is integrated within the new technology Telcall+ and Out-n-About systems for increased operational efficiency and reliability.

H.E.L.P. (4357) available to all financial members with any HF radio that is selcall capable.



In my case, I have both my wife's and my mobile phone are set down as emergency responder contacts :-

- \* Meaning if I momentarily miss seeing the activation SMS, my wife may not, doubling our ability to respond swiftly
- \* Austravel currently have 10 emergency responders in the SMS activation system.
- \* All H.E.L.P (4357) activations from travelling members, are responded to by an Austravel emergency responder who contacts the travelling member by base interconnect on the channel (or channels) listed in the activation SMS.

#### **What Happens If I Don't Have a GPS Fitted to my HF Radio?**

It doesn't matter if your HF radio is equipped with a GPS system or not, as the H.E.L.P. (4357) activation system records everything the same as the example on the earlier page, just no GPS data will be available. The Austravel emergency responder still has good data/information from your H.E.L.P. (4357) activation in which to make informed decisions and take action.

However, if you have a working Garmin / Navman style of street navigator in your vehicle, it would be worthwhile finding the "where am I" section and record what you see by way of Lat & Long data. You may be asked, or you could offer GPS data from this source.

**NOTE:** all Austravel emergency responder's have the Out-N-About app. Their version of the app has additional features unseen by ordinary app users.

#### **What type of remote area assistance can I use H.E.L.P. (4357) for?**

The short answer to this question uses the old saying ....how long is a piece of string?

H .E.L.P. (4357) activations are typically categorised as: -

- **Medical Emergency**
- **Urgent** (life threatening but not medical emergency)

- **Non-Urgent** (roadside assist, reporting a dangerous situation and/or event)

#### **I don't have red button activation on my radio!**

It doesn't matter how you call H.E.L.P. (4357), it can be a "traditional" single selcall to 4357 on any channel you feel is relevant to the time of day.

Remember when selcalling the traditional way , there is only one selcall number to remember (4357) and all bases are listening. Select a channel, send 4357 selcall, wait and listen.....no revertive try again using the same channel, if still no revertive heard, change channel and try again.

Remember though only Perth base (at the moment) has all the channels, the other bases have a selected four or five channels only (typically 3,5,7,8) . You need to keep reviewing your selcall list as the front page has the list of all bases and their available channels.

The committee suggests that you start a trip with a fresh selcall list and while travelling, beacon call the various bases using the various channels, and teach yourself which of these bases and channels respond to your beacon calls. There is no harm in practicing beacon calling, as a beacon call has no detrimental effect on the base. In fact the committee encourages members to beacon call while tripping around. You will be pleasantly surprised of what you learn.....you just never know when your attained knowledge is needed at critical times. (*radio etiquette required*)

#### **One last thing!**

If you use the red button (*currently available for Codan 9323/NGT/Envoy*) once the red button sequence is complete (and you won't hear a revertive), make sure your radio is scanning. If you don't get a base calling back within say 5 minutes, repeat the red button process.

When using the traditional single selcall method, after receiving a revertive, stay on the successful channel (do not scan).

**Did You Know?**

Austravel Safety Net Inc. has secured a \$5,000 /year donation from Microsoft for Office Enterprise Essentials (E1).

**Did You Know?**

Austravel operates a state of the art secure VOIP and IP platform to connect HF bases to sked operators and a high speed VPN carried by Telstra 4GX for Telcall+.

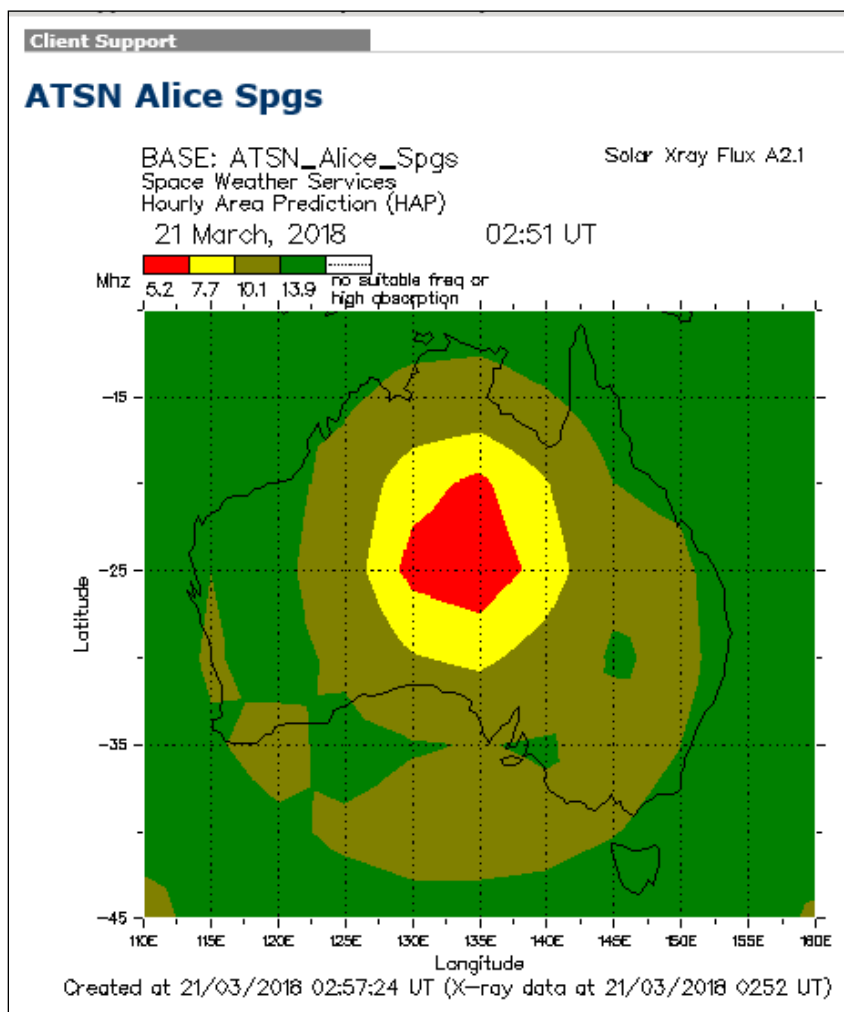
**Did you Know?**

That Austravel Safety Net has a Space Weather Service (SWS) portal.

[http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/Products\\_and\\_Services/5/20](http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/Products_and_Services/5/20)

SWS provides support for a wide range of systems and technologies affected by space weather. These include:

- **HF radio systems**, such as communications and surveillance systems
  - Geophysical exploration, power systems protection and the cathodic protection of long distance pipelines
  - Satellite and spacecraft operations
- By using SWS products and services, customers can best manage the effects of space weather on their systems. For example, **HF systems operators can determine in advance the frequencies most appropriate for their needs**, while aero-magnetic surveyors can schedule their surveys for the most favourable geomagnetic conditions.

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*"HF systems operators can determine in advance the frequencies most appropriate for their needs"*

*Picto on the left is a propagation forecast for Austravel Alice Springs Base for the four channels dated Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 12:51PM AEST (02:52 UTC).*

*Note total Australia coverage via Alice Springs Base for channel 8 (13.910 MHz) at around midday.*

Stewart & Carol Tonks	7839	NSW
Stan & Helen Ashlin	1077	NSW
Garry & Mary Jane Keppell	0127	NT
Geoffrey Luckman	1611	QLD
Dino Pertile	1612	VIC
Ian Cuthbertson	1613	VIC
Ace Gordon	1614	VIC
Bradley Foot	1616	VIC
Damian Huss	1878	VIC
Andy & Louassa Goss	2716	WA
Neil Beeson	6061	WA
Kim & Maria Lang	8225	WA
Allan & Vicki Elari	6042	WA
Allan Wood	6066	WA
David Goddard	3367	WA
Lloyd Goddard	3366	WA
Ross & Lucy Roberts	1954	WA
Chamilla .G	6022	WA

Terry & Val Bourke	3677	WA
John & Nicole Gardeniers	0274	VIC

**WELCOME!  
NEW MEMBERS  
ACROSS THE  
COUNTRY**

## HERE'S AN IDEA!

Members; here's an idea that you may wish to take up, and follows on from the previous page discussion on the Space Weather Service HF propagation (HAP) charts which are updated daily.

The Austravel committee recommends this service which is available on line, but not as an app for your phone. When travelling on an extended trip, where you have internet access, the HF propagation forecast tool is useful in that it may reveal to you why HF propagation doesn't seem the best in your current timeline or area..... a quick check of the Austravel SWS HF forecast may provide you with some answers.



I know sked operators review these forecasts often. I do it routinely to check if I'm in for a good or bad day at the mike.

No one can fix the propagation difficulties and make it better when their poor, but at least you can make some informed decisions on what looks like the optimum Austravel channels for you geographic location in the period you are travelling.

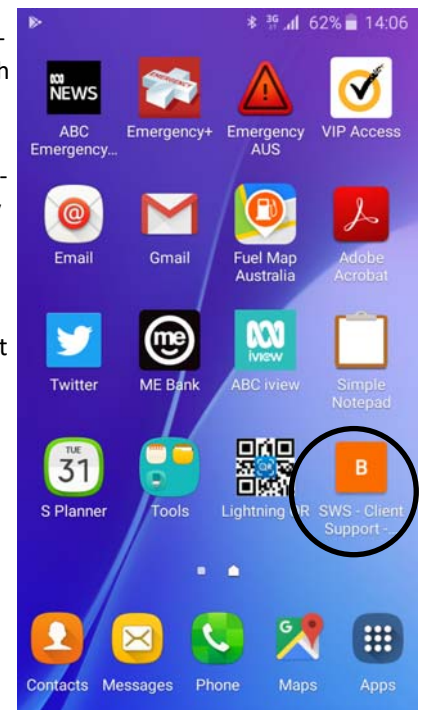
**HERE IS MY IDEA.....**you may choose as I have, to make the SWS HF propagation forecast for all the Aus-

travel bases easier to locate and use on you android mobile phone or tablet.

As I said before, there is no mobile phone app for this service (*I couldn't find one*) but you can open up the web address on you phone.....[http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/Products\\_and\\_Services/5/20](http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/Products_and_Services/5/20) (*mine is an android but I suspect iPad and iPhone are similar*) and once you have the web page open you can now find and select the three vertical dots (more) found in the right hand bottom of your screen, then find the "add to home screen" and tap. This should save that web address to your phones home screen (*see my phone screen above*)

What I have circled on the upper right picto is how my android phone dealt with my request, your phone or tablet might look a little different, but the outcome should be the same. Now when I'm travelling and in internet access areas, I can take a quick peek at my Out-N-About app, check for messages, log my position and then check the SWS forecast ...good luck, tell me how you went!

**The Editor**





### Channel 1 moving :-

- From 3.176 MHz
- To 3.175 MHz.

### We are adding a new :-

- channel 4 (6.793 MHz)
- channel 6 (9.323 MHz)



Kim and all the committee members wish to acknowledge the most valuable work undertaken to flush out solutions for Austravel by Mike Ryan (9305) as our ACMA consultant.

Without Mike's help the task would be so much more difficult and time consuming.

Contact Kim (7880) on 0427983329 or email 7880@westnet.com.au for more information.

### Why do we need to change frequencies?

(Report by Kim Rhodes 7880)

I know, it's a pain to get HF radios re-programmed. Well first, Austravel is a progressive HF network and we are punching well above our weight in regards innovative HF radio technologies. Changes are happening to enable the best operational performance for club members as the network grows. ***It sounds like a bit of HF spin but this is necessary.***

We, (the committee) wanted to add a low frequency channel to Shepparton base to allow access from Northern Victoria, the high country bush and surrounds early morning and evening/night through to Tasmania. A lot of that Victoria high country is not conducive to mobile phones; logical choice was adding channel 1 due to the distance from these areas to Shepparton.

However Channel 1 just impinged on a defense frequency in the East disallowing it in Shepparton or any eastern states base.(e.g. Casino Base). Rather than having two channel 1's, the decision was made (and it's a difficult decision to make) to move channel 1 down a bit getting it through licensing for Shepparton (3199) hence becoming (3.175Mhz) **our new channel 1** for the whole network.

That allowed me to go ahead with Chan 1 for Kununurra for a night frequency in the North saving money as I don't have to make a change later (ACMA never miss on charges to change).

Kununurra, a base planned to cover from Gove down to Broome, is an area traditionally poorly covered by any HF network. Certainly we have all heard the north Australia complaints with HF users from any HF network. This means Kakadu, Gibb River road, Mitchel Falls are all in the north, and great locations to visit, with Kununurra Base (6299) operating there, we should provide Austravel members 24/7 access.

Yes Kunnunarra Base (6299) should also cover into the north of QLD on the new channel 6. However the top of QLD may be the next area to address as a plan for another new base (growing quick aren't we!).

To get licensing through the ACMA system on an Australia wide basis we have had to shift and add some frequencies. Kununurra will have a new **channel 4 (6.793Mhz)**, the old channel 4 (6860Mhz) is used by Paspaley Pearls in many locations and not available. In addition a **new channel 6 (9.323Mhz)** is added for all members to use mobile to mobile and into the new Kununurra Base (6299).

Your committee have tried not to affect Eastern area scheds and normal base operation yet at the same time enhance Shepparton Base and introduce Kununurra by doing all frequency changes in one re-program of your radio. It is WA members that loses access into channel 1 & 4 at Perth Base until all HF radios are re-profiled.

Only members going to the north of WA need to re-program their radio in the short term. Others can do it as they attend gatherings or have time to get it done.

Sorry for the changes but we as a club are moving forward faster than any other HF club. I know, we have a great system as our network and we are becoming the envy of other clubs. We are trying to have as little impact as possible to existing members in the East in particular.



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 W: www.tetemtron.com.au

**NOTE:** *Austravel Safety Net AGM 25th of August 2018 at the Kellerberrin Speedway.*

Speedway Address: Hoyle Road Kellerberrin, WA 6410.

#### AGM Co-Ordinator's

Christina and Tom Collis (2714) PH; 0408 928 279

Austravel members are urged to indicate their attendance as soon as possible.

#### EASTERN STATE MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

A muster at Casino Lifestyle Village, Light St. Casino (N.E. NSW) has been planned for the 24th, 25th, & 26th, August 2018 to coincide with the Kellerberrin AGM.

Members are invited to attend the AGM at Casino linked by Skype to Kellerberrin.

Casino Muster organiser Geoff Peck (0951) 0403 309 020 (more details to follow)

Hello Members

Between myself and Kim Rhodes (7880), Roy Watkins, (6001) John Hall & Jodie Cleverly (6014) we have been looking for a venue for our 2018 AGM. John and Jodie went up north to look at a venue at Waddi farm and on looking at the facilities and the location John and Jodie made the decision that it was not what we wanted for the AGM. Thanks to John and Jodie for your efforts on behalf of myself and the committee. On Boxing Day Cristina and myself went to the eastern states for 6 weeks. On the way home we went to have a look at the Kellerberrin Speedway track for a possible venue for the AGM. After a meeting with Roy, Kim and myself it was decided that Kellerberrin was a good venue. **The AGM will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.**

Kellerberrin is about 200km's east of Perth between Northam and Merredin. The venue is about 4kms east of Kellerberrin. There are toilets and showers with mostly unpowered sited with only one or two powered sites for those who require power for medical reasons. On Saturday after the AGM the Kellerberrin speedway club will be putting on a dinner with bar facilities, but please bear in mind that there will be NO BYO. Fire pits will also be available.

I have been in contact with Kim Rhodes 7880 and he has informed me that the Kununurra base is on track and should be installed in May. It will benefit our northern members and travellers going through the North of Western Australia. I have installed a Barrett 2050 HF in my bus but I did not change the auto tune aerial which means I'm not on air at the moment. I have just had a full knee reconstruction so after I have recovered from my operation I will be changing over the aerial so that I can get better reception from where I will be camping. I will be the camp host for the weekend at Kellerberrin so please let myself or John and Jodie know if you are coming along to the meeting.

Tom & Cristina 0408 928 279

John & Jodie [vk6fjon@gmail.com](mailto:vk6fjon@gmail.com) (6014)

**See you at the AGM**

**Tom and Cristina Collis 2714**



#### AUSTRAVEL LAUNCHES YOUTUBE TUTORIAL VIDEOS

Pim Domen (7255) Austravel's devoted "Social Media Officer" has been working hard on producing tutorial videos on how to use the various Telcall+ features associated with a HF radio set up with the Austravel network. The first of these tutorials is focussed on the popular Codan NGT model, with other tutorial's in the pipe-line for other brands and models.

These Codan NGT tutorials are now posted on You Tube for members to see and review.

Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/YouTubeAustravel>

There are several ways of learning how to use your HF radio with all the new technology Telcall+ system, but having someone talk you through the process using YouTube videos provides another level of member education.

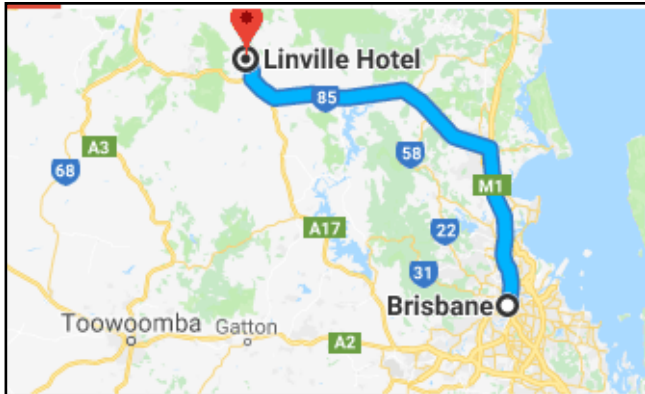
Not sure how to send an SMS, make an interconnect telephone call, or see what happens when you press the red button Austravel emergency call????

Now you can for the Codan NGT. Learn "how to" in the comfort of your armchair in your own time. If you still have questions or need answers, then talk over the phone with Kim Rhodes (788) or Geoff Peck (0951) phone numbers listed in the selcall list.



YouTube tutorials now available for Codan NGT HF radios

Austravel Muster In S.E. Qld.  
Where?..... Linville Rd,  
Linville Qld. Ph: (07) 5424 7280



Announcing an Austravel Muster at Linville Qld, which is about 140 Km's north west of Brisbane. Open to members and visitors, especially those visitors wishing to know more about HF radio and / or Austravel's new technology platforms "Telcall+" and "Out-n-About".

**Friday May 25th. > Sunday 27th.  
2018**

**Free Camping Across from the Linville Hotel**

Toilets available at the camp spot, \$3 showers (for those who need it) at the pub

Dinner Saturday Night \$20

**RSVP to: Geoff Peck (0951) 0403 309 020**

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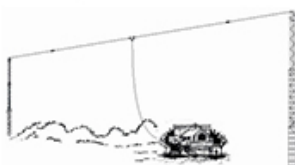
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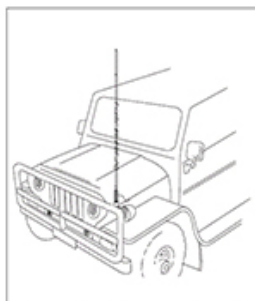
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## Austravel Social Media Pages



<https://www.facebook.com/austravel>



<https://twitter.com/AustravelSafety>



<https://tinyurl.com/YouTubeAustravel>

Trouble with Austravel Social Media pages Facebook or any questions?

Send me an email, I am happy to help.

My email address is;  
pimdomen@icloud.com  
Pim Domen (7255)

## LOOK OUT!

### MEMBERS

Did you receive your "new"

- Base Frequency List / Sheet
- Scheduled Net Time Table
- Member Selcall List

This information is one file sent to your email system along with this newsletter or for those without emails, it will be delivered by Australia Post.

Contact Geoff Peck  
(0951) 0403 309 020

E: membership  
@austravelsafetynet.org.au

### STOP THE PRESS

**Last Minute Item  
"For Sale In Qld."**

**Codan NGT Yellow Face complete with Auto tune and GPS receiver**

**In Good Condition, member no longer travelling.**

Contact Brian Hickey

**0427 257 853**

**Price: \$1,500 O.N.O.**





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# 4050 D



**Feral Bees**  
Info from Westprint Mob



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

[www.westprint.com.au](http://www.westprint.com.au)

6 Park St, Nhill Victoria 0353911466

We all know about our strict quarantine laws in Australia but what about unintended hitchhikers? Have You Seen a Bumblebee on the Australian Mainland?

Bumblebees are large, hairy, social bees belonging to the family Apidae (subfamily Bombinae). Bumblebees are not native to Australia, however one species, the large earth bumblebee *Bombus terrestris*, has established in Tasmania. The large earth bumblebee is black with one yellow/ochre band across the front of the thorax, and another yellow/ochre band across the abdomen. An important identifying feature of the large earth bumblebee is the tip of the abdomen, which is buff or white.

Bumblebees are not believed to occur on mainland Australia. There have been occasional reports of bumblebees in Victoria, however none of these reports have been confirmed.

If you see a bumblebee on the mainland you are asked to report it to the closest Department of Primary Industries. Please be aware that bumblebees can sting repeatedly if they feel threatened.

Information from: Agriculture Victoria

*Westprint - Outback Maps, Books and Travel Guides*

[www.westprint.com.au](http://www.westprint.com.au) 6 Park St, Nhill Victoria 0353911466

For similar information check out the Westprint Friday Five newsletter. Subscription is free. <http://westprint.com.au/newsletter>

THATS FUNNY!



**Here is a piece of Greek history regarding the Olympic games.**

2500 years ago a slave call girl from Sardinia named Gedophamee (pronounced Get-offa'-me) was attending the first athletic festival in Greece.

This festival had no name at that time. In those days the athletes performed naked and to prevent unwanted arousal while competing, the men imbibed freely on a drink containing saltpetre.

At the opening ceremonial parade of this first great event, Gedophamee observed the first wave of naked athletic males marching toward her and she exclaimed: "Oh! Limp pricks!".

Over the next two and a half millennium that expression morphed into the word "Olympics."

So Now you know.... I enjoy learning about and discussing history.

The Editor

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# AUSTRAL SAFETY NET Inc.

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Connecting Austravel Members To HF Radio Sales / Service Providers  
(Last update April 2018)



<b>Watts Communications</b>	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Bushcomm Antennas www.wattscom.com.au / sales@wattscom.com.au	Fyshwick ACT 02 6280 6416
<b>Wes Follett</b>	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Bushcomm Antennas wfollett@bigpond.com / 0412 885 817	Deniliquin 03 5881 3189
<b>Eacom Communications</b>	Codan www.eacomm.com.au / ian.blackburn@eacom.com.au	Griffiths NSW 02 6964 2033
<b>D.L. Communications</b>	Codan, Barrett dlcerv@hotmail.com	Merimbula NSW 0418 280 270
<b>Newcastle Pro Sound</b>	Codan, Barrett www.npsonline.com.au	Newcastle NSW 02 4965 6899
<b>Fettell Communications</b>	Barrett www.fettell.com.au	Port Macquarie NSW 02 658 11341
<b>Action Communications</b>	Icom www.actioncommunications.net.au	Kingswood NSW 1800 802 948
<b>Karera Communications</b>	Icom www.karera.com / sales@karera.com	Tuggerah NSW 02 4355 1599
<b>Phoenix HF Communications</b>	Servicing most brands of HF	Kareela NSW 02 9544 6355
<b>Independent Communications</b>	Servicing most brands of HF radios www.independentcommunications.com.au	Tamworth NSW 02 6765 7555
<b>Illawarra Communications</b>	Codan www.illcom.com.au / scott@illcom.com.au	Wollongong NSW 02 4229 7300
<b>Central Communications</b>	Codan, Barrett www.centralcomms.com.au / sales @centralcomms.com.au	Alice Springs NT 08 8952 2388
<b>Comspec (NT) P/L</b>	Codan, Barrett www.comspec.com.au / sales@comspec.com.au	Alice Springs NT 08 8953 1903
<b>Combined Comms Solutions</b>	Barrett www.combinedcom.com.au / info@combinedcom.com.au	Darwin NT 08 8941 0644
<b>ITS Communications</b>	Codan, also servicing most brands of HF radios info @itscomm.com.au	Winnellie NT 08 8984 4855
<b>Territory Comms Services</b>	Codan, Barrett, Scout tcs@territorycomms.com.au	Tennant Creek NT 0418 814 978
<b>HF Radio.Com On-Line Store</b>	Codan, Barrett Sales Service and Installation www.hf-radio.com.au / david@hf-radio.com.au	Brisbane Qld. 0408 345 208
<b>Mobile Communications</b>	Codan, Icom www.mobilecomms.com.au	Brisbane Qld. 07 3373 2345
<b>RF Technologies</b>	Servicing most brands of HF radios www.rftech.com.au / maxr@rftech.com.au	Brisbane Qld. 07 3279 7177
<b>Kyle Communications</b>	Codan, Barrett, Icom www.kyle.com.au / kylecomms@specsafes.com.au	Burpengary Qld. 07 3888 7899
<b>Miles Electronics</b>	Codan, Barrett www.mileselectronics.com.au / john@mileselect.com.au	Cairns Qld. 07 4035 1133
<b>Reids Radiodata</b>	Codan reidsradiodata@bigpond.com	Cowra NSW 02 6341 1544

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<b>Linemaster Marine Electronics</b>	Barrett <a href="http://www.linemaster.com.au">www.linemaster.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:sales@linemaster.com.au">sales@linemaster.com.au</a>	Maroochydore Qld. 07 5479 6851
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<b>Capricorn Communications</b>	Codan, Icom <a href="http://www.capcom.com.au">www.capcom.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:sales@capcom.com.au">sales@capcom.com.au</a>	Nth. Rockhampton Qld. 07 4926 1172
<b>Beaney's Communications</b>	Barrett, Icom <a href="http://www.beaneys.com.au">www.beaneys.com.au</a>	Rockhampton 07 4927 5049
<b>Advance Communications</b>	Codan, Barrett <a href="mailto:sales@advancecomms.com.au">sales@advancecomms.com.au</a>	Roma 07 4622 5842
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<b>Navcom Electronics P/L</b>	Barrett <a href="mailto:navcomadmin@bigpond.com">navcomadmin@bigpond.com</a>	Townsville Qld. 07 4771 2422
<b>Norcomm P/L</b>	Codan, + servicing of most brands of HF radios <a href="http://www.norcomm.com.au">www.norcomm.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:sales@norcomm.com.au">sales@norcomm.com.au</a>	Townsville Qld. 0408 722 833
<b>Digital Radio Solutions</b>	Codan, with service to most makes of HF <a href="http://www.marktek.com.au">www.marktek.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:contact@marktek.com.au">contact@marktek.com.au</a>	Adelaide S.A. 0418 845 518
<b>Electric Bug</b>	Codan, Icom, Barrett <a href="http://www.electricbug.com.au">www.electricbug.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:sales@electricbug.com.au">sales@electricbug.com.au</a>	Adelaide S.A. 08 8346 9234
<b>International Comms. Systems</b>	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Wagner, Hawk <a href="http://www.intcomsys.com.au">www.intcomsys.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:intcomm@intermode.on.net">intcomm@intermode.on.net</a>	Port Adelaide S.A. 08 8447 3688
<b>Marktek Installations</b>	Codan, servicing most brands of HF <a href="http://www.marktek.com.au">www.marktek.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:mark@marktek.com.au">mark@marktek.com.au</a>	Adelaide S.A. 08 8250 2888
<b>Northern Communications</b>	Service of all brands of HF radios <a href="mailto:phil.48@bigpond.com">phil.48@bigpond.com</a>	Gawler S.A. 08 8522 6081
<b>HF Radio Solutions</b>	Codan & Codan Auto Tune Repair <a href="http://www.hfradiosolutions.com.au">www.hfradiosolutions.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:ivan@hfradiosolutions.com.au">ivan@hfradiosolutions.com.au</a>	Renmark S.A. 0428 882 719
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<b>AA Radio Services</b>	Codan, Icom, + service of most brands of HF radios. <a href="http://www.aaradio.com.au">www.aaradio.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:sales@aaradio.com.au">sales@aaradio.com.au</a>	Vermont Vic. 03 9264 8333
<b>Earth 2 Ocean Communications</b>	Barrett, Codan, Icom sales and service <a href="http://www.earth2ocean.com.au">www.earth2ocean.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:sales@earth2ocean.com.au">sales@earth2ocean.com.au</a>	Bunbury W.A. 08 9721 1730
<b>Esperance Communications</b>	Barrett, Icom + servicing of most brands of HF radios <a href="http://www.esperancecomms.com.au">www.esperancecomms.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:service@esperancecomms.com.au">service@esperancecomms.com.au</a>	Esperance W.A. 08 9071 3344
<b>ACS Communications</b>	Codan, Icom <a href="http://www.acs-marcomm.com">www.acs-marcomm.com</a> / <a href="mailto:faith@acs-marcom.com">faith@acs-marcom.com</a>	Perth W.A. 08 9277 4655
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<b>Mobile Masters</b>	Barrett (sales no service) <a href="http://www.mobilemasters.com.au">www.mobilemasters.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:mail@mobilemasters.com.au">mail@mobilemasters.com.au</a>	Perth W.A. 08 9492 1777
<b>Transair Two Way Radio</b>	Codan, Icom <a href="http://www.transair.com.au">www.transair.com.au</a> / <a href="mailto:transair@transair.com.au">transair@transair.com.au</a>	Perth W.A. 08 9209 2225
<b>RF Waves Australia</b>	Codan, GME, Motorola HF VHF Repair & Service <a href="http://www.rfwaves.com.au">www.rfwaves.com.au</a> / email: <a href="mailto:cpg@rfwaves.com.au">cpg@rfwaves.com.au</a>	Hammersley W.A. 08 934 271 161

**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)