

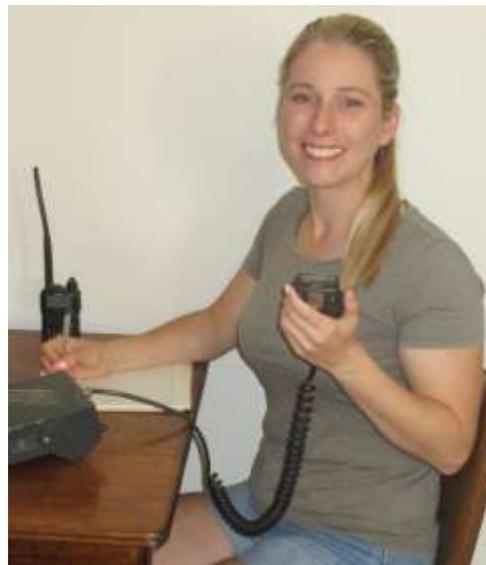
# What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur Radio is an amazing and fascinating hobby involving millions of people all around the world. It provides companionship, technological learning experiences as well as wide ranging communications techniques.

***Getting started can be as simple as attending a weekend course and completing a test.***

***To begin with you can use your phone or laptop to join in Echolink conversations or a handheld radio to make contacts via a local repeater.***

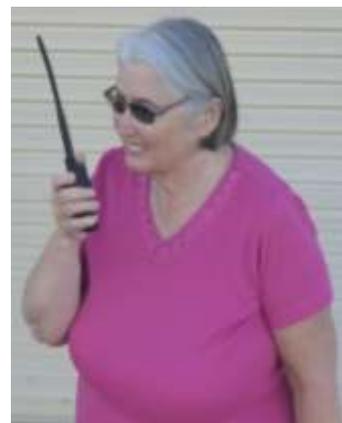
***Join a club and make new friends, further your knowledge and discover the many facets of the hobby.***



Having an Amateur Radio qualification will enable you to have improved communications whilst hiking, camping, sailing or travelling out of mobile phone range. During disasters radio amateurs are able to pass messages and coordinate emergency services when the internet and phone networks are inoperable or overloaded. They often help in search and rescue missions and volunteer to provide communications at community events.

***Amateur Radio is exciting and takes you beyond being just a device user.***

You can gain technical skills while having fun with direction-finding to locate hidden transmitters, building circuits, experimenting with antennas or contesting whilst amongst like-minded people. Many radio amateurs have gone on to gain high level qualifications and enter rewarding technological careers. Even the astronauts in the space station are radio amateurs.



As a radio amateur you never need to be alone. There is always someone awake and willing to chat. Take the challenge and gain your Amateur Radio certificate. There is something for everyone in Amateur Radio.

For more information about Amateur Radio look at these websites.

[Amateur Radio-A 21st Century Hobby - RSGB](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8x6x_6mDVIQ)

[What is Ham Radio? - ARRL](http://www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio)

[The Wonderful World of Amateur Radio - WIA](http://www.wia.org.au/discover/introduction/about)

[ALARA Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_EbcB1MYNp8)

