

More than a mobile

Did you know that 87per cent of our country is not covered by the mobile network?

Hard to believe, considering almost everyone you see appears to have one semi-permanently attached to one or other ear. But it's true. Nearly every Oz lives in a coastal city, because that's where they can go surfing, we guess.



However, if you get out of your coastal comfort zone and head across the big sunburnt patch, you'll need something other than an iPhone to chat to the boss, girlfriend, wife, consort, partner or emergency services. Sure, you can have your vehicle fitted with a huge radio, big aerials, et al, or you can just hire a satellite phone from Crikey Camper Hire.

As easy to use as a mobile phone, the compact Motorola Iridium SatPhone ensures 100per cent coverage, and includes voicemail and SMS facilities. It comes in a neat travel case, complete with battery chargers and everything you need to ensure communication, no matter where you are. Crikey can arrange delivery and pick-up anywhere in Oz too.

Orange attraction

There's a lot to be said for things orange.

For one, that's the national colour of Holland – and everyone knows what a great show they put up in the World Cup.

GEAR TO GO

For another, it's the colour of the NuFinish brand of polishes. The US product has been around for a while and is distributed in the Land of Oz by Trico, they of the



windscreen wipers. What's new is two more just-arrived NuFinish products: a car wash (which we understand works on 4WDs too) and an "instant detailer," which provides a shine in between polishes. The car wash comes in 473ml and 1.89litre containers and is a concentrate, so you need just a capful in a bucket of water.

It uses orange oil extract to thoroughly clean the vehicle and leaves a streak-free shine.

The instant detailer goes by the sexy name of Cling. It's in a 443ml bottle and you just spray on, wipe off with a microfibre towel or terry cloth, and you've got a sparkling car, RV, motorbike, 4WD or wheelbarrow that will make you, and every Dutchman, glow with pride.

Look out for the wash (\$10.99) and the Cling (\$19.99) at accessory shops. Being bright orange, they're hard to miss, ja?

Are you ready?

If AC/DC is a rock band, what can BCDC be?

Well, it's an advanced

electronic device from those bright sparks at Redarc and yes, it is indeed a band, in a tenuous sort of way.

What we mean is it will provide not only power for your vehicle's audio system so you can listen to Bon Jovi, but also, and slightly more importantly, ensure your vehicle's battery has enough zap to start the engine.

The new Smart Start BCDC 1240 is a successor to the earlier 1220 and, Redarc says, it will charge your batteries faster and handle much more current, thanks to its efficient solar regulator.

It employs MPPT, maximum power point tracking, which ensures the output from the solar cell provides the maximum current possible, even in low light conditions.

So you can be in a really gloomy place before sunrise, switch on, and the MPPT thingo will silently go scurrying about, finding the point at which the solar cell delivers its top output, and hey, presto, your heap will fire up eagerly and you can be on your way to a happier spot.

The device has a 40amp output, a three-stage charging profile (no, Nigel, nothing to do with the police) and a load



of other features.

If you're an electronics nut, you can find out all the details from the lads at Redarc on 08 8322 4848.

Onya, wild thing, rock on.

Shine a light

You need to check the UBD, but it's midnight in Dopeville, so what do you do? Get out and page through the map by the glow of your headlights? Or you've come home to your block of 169 lookalike units and can't see the number on the door. OK then, just imagine any other situation where you might need some illumination.

The answer could be on your car's keychain, in the form of a mini light from Narva. Although it's so tiny it can be recharged from the car's cigar lighter, it has a big name: Narva



Rechargeable LED Dash Torch.

Don't try saying it fast.

Best is to write it down, give the bit of paper to the checkout chick and let her point you to it.

If that's too hard, try quoting the part number: 81036BL, which is probably easier to say than Narva Rechargeable LED Dash Torch.

Oh yes, it costs \$14.95.

Worth every cent, especially at midnight in Dopeville.