

SOS on the Canning Stock Route

We can all relate to tales about travellers and holidaymakers losing their way; taking a left instead of a right or even reading the road map incorrectly.

It appears whether travelling in a built up, highly populated city or on the open roads of the Australian outback, we're all as likely to end up on a road less travelled, looking for someone or something to guide us back.

Peter Joyce of Registration Services received a phone call recently, from a distressed traveller who had lost his way in the Great Sandy Desert near Tobin Lakes.

The gentleman had been enjoying a trek along the Canning Stock Route (CSR) when he discovered he had veered off track. Fortunately, he came across a very old, wooden survey post which had been erected back in the 1930's, with a sign identifying it as a Department of Lands and Surveys survey mark.

The sign listed a telephone number for enquiries so the gentleman made the call on his satellite mobile phone, making contact with Peter. Following some direction from Peter, he located a number engraved on the side of the 70 year old post and read it over the phone.

Peter conducted a search of Landgate's databases, which identified the latitude and longitude of the survey post. He phoned the gentleman back with the coordinates, enabling him to plot his position and trace his steps back to civilisation.

In August 2007 as a part of the CSR centenary celebrations, a Landgate survey expedition is venturing out to the northern section of the route to upgrade the position of all survey marks and other points of interest.

The value of the upgrade is demonstrated in this case, where potentially life saving information can be easily obtained in the case of an emergency.

While this event may not have been necessarily life threatening, the traveller was understandably distressed and more serious consequences could have resulted had he not have discovered the post.

Well done to Peter for his efforts - not the usual run-of-the-mill enquiry but handled with equal efficiency.

