



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 15, January 2016

Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 15, January 2016, of '*Out and About in VK5*'.

The *Out and About in VK5* newsletter is dedicated to all things SOTA, parks, portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc from a VK5 perspective.

The month of December was a little quieter for me on the radio front compared to November. Work has been pretty busy for me, and along with a number of engagements to celebrate the festive season, chances for SOTA & park activations were limited during December.

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas and Santa may have been kind enough to have left some amateur radio goodies for you under the Christmas tree.

The very popular Friday afternoon/evening event for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award, was recommenced during December. Unfortunately hot weather and festive season dates have conspired against a number of the afternoons/evenings going ahead. A reminder, that if the predicted temperature for Adelaide is 25 deg C or above, then the afternoon/evening event is cancelled, due to safety reasons. I will do my best to post the cancellation on both the VK5 Parks Yahoo group, and also the VK5 Parks Facebook site.

I would like to thank the regular contributors to this newsletter, who sent me various articles during 2015. Without your continued support, there would be no newsletter.

However, I am always seeking material from new contributors. So if you have any stories that you think may interest your fellow hams, then please drop me an email to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Your input will be greatly appreciated. The information might include a new transceiver you've just acquired, a home brew antenna project, a favourite park, or something you've seen on the internet.

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting,

Paul VK5PAS.

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VK port-a-log launched

By Paul VK5PAS

Peter VK3ZPF has released VK port-a-log, which is an android logging app for phones and tablets, primarily for logging contacts in the field.

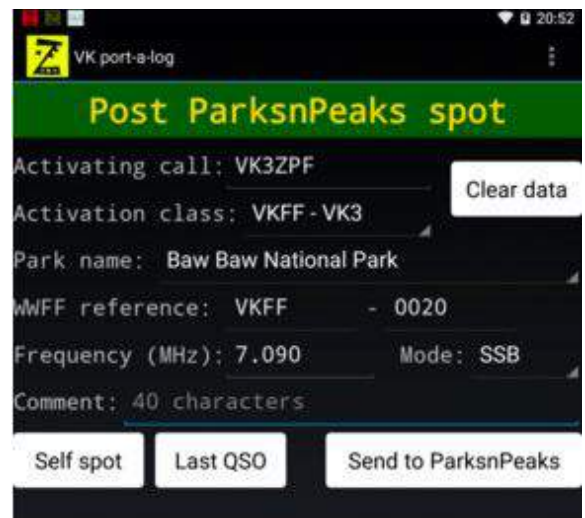
It is compatible with the following:-

- SOTA
- WWFF
- KRMNPA
- SANPCPA



It includes the following features....

- Captures QSO info
- Uses the inbuilt GPS
- Outputs CSV file.
- Outputs ADIF file
- Includes locator, SOTA reference, VKFF reference and GPS location in the comments field of ADIF file.



The app is available from the files section of.....

https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/vk3zpf_logger/info

For more information, please check out Peter's Wordpress site at.....

<http://vk3zpf.com/2015/12/vk-port-a-log-launched.html>

<http://vk3zpf.com/vk-port-a-log>

My pixie 40m transceiver

By Ian VK5IS



Ian VK5MA and I decided to try these little transceivers because the complete kit can be bought for less than \$5.00 including postage from eBay.

See this article.....

<http://www.al7fs.us/AL7FS2.html>

VK5MA has been a keen QRPer in the past so we thought this would be fun to try. Ian lives at Reynella, South of Adelaide and I am about 250 kilometers North of him at Beetaloo Valley.

The kit is supplied with a crystal on 7.023 mhz which can be shifted by a small amount either side of that frequency. It took only a short time to assemble and have it on the air.

I am about 20 km north of ABC broadcast station 5CK which caused some interference until I inserted an antenna coupler in the feed line. That eliminated almost all of the

interference.

Ian was a military cw operator in Sweden so his cw skills were considerably better than mine, however we set up a sked in the later afternoon and to our amazement we managed a 2 way contact. With a power output of around 1 watt, the signals were Q5.

This seems to be the ultimate in small qrp gear and it will run on a 9volt battery for a very long time. Just perfect for those who don't want to carry any weight up the hills.

Specification :

Power supply: DC 9V-14V

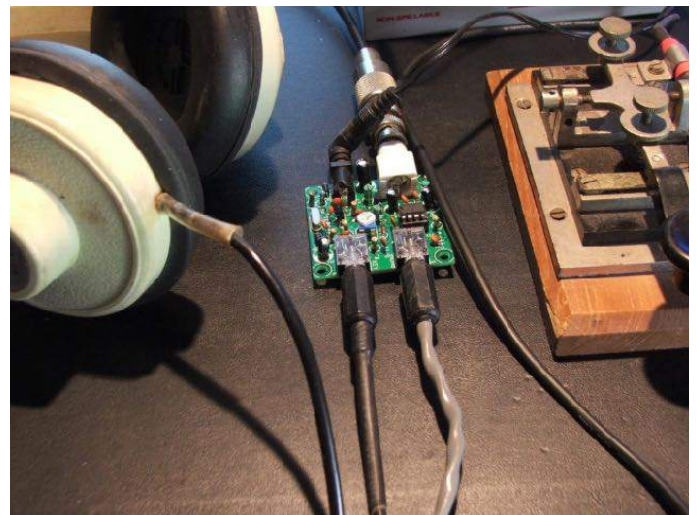
Antenna: 50 ohm, unbalanced

Receiving quiescent current: 10mA @ 9V

Transmit power: 0.8W @ 9V, 1.2W @ 12V

Frequency range: emission 7.023MHz, receiving 7.023-7.026MHz (7.023MHz crystal)

Working Mode: CW



I haven't managed an interstate qso YET but I'm sure, with good conditions and some patience that will happen.

Ian has also built the pititico one transistor transceiver and we had a successful qso with that too.

<http://py2ohh.w2c.com.br/trx/pititico/pititico.html>

It is incredible that a contact between us could be made with such a simple rig.

Best 73, Ian VK5IS

CSV log V1.2

By Ian VK5IS

Hi Chaps,

v1.2 of the log for what it is worth

There was a problem with the date, and Ian suggested to leave the FF Ref as entered to save re-keying it for every contact (Thanks Mr CZ)

https://www.dropbox.com/s/qInsm2x1ifza71o/WFF_log.exe?dl=0

best 73,

IS

Parks, Peaks and Local Government Areas

By Peter VK3PF



In Issue 14 of “Out & About in VK5”, Paul gave a good pointer to some of the resources available on the Parks and Peaks website. He also mentioned a file that I uploaded to the KRMNPA Yahoo group in 2014. The lists that I created were to assist me in tracking contacts for other awards and I decided to share them with others. As always, use as you see fit but take care to check the details!

Whilst these resources are valuable and provided as guidance, each Activator needs to take care and check carefully the EXACT location of their operating site with respect to relevant boundaries.

This should be easy for all the Parks Activators: you simply need to check that you are actually operating from within the Park boundary. The

exception to this is for the Marine Parks: the WWFF rules permit operation from within 100 m of the Park boundary. For Marine National Parks (MNP), the shore boundary of the Park is usually the High Water Mark (high tide mark). All Activators should ensure that they are within the Park boundary (or within 100 m for a MNP) by checking their maps carefully. I usually do the carefully checking during my pre-Activation planning and then take a hard copy map with me.

The rules for a valid SOTA operation are also clear: you must be operating inside the Activation Zone: an area within 25 m vertical of the actual summit peak and without a saddle that is more than 25 metres vertical below the main summit between your site and the summit.

Paul VK5PAS pointed to the resources to help identify which SOTA summits are located in a particular Park. This may NOT be so simple: many Parks have a ridgeline as part of their boundary. Summits occur at the high point of a ridgeline. So your operating site may not be inside the relevant Park whilst still being inside the SOTA Activation Zone (AZ). This is unlikely to be an issue for a SOTA summit well inside a Park, provided that the entire AZ is inside the Park boundary.

It can become complicated! Let me give three examples:

1. Beetoomba Spur VK3/VE-120 lies on the western edge of the Wabba Wilderness Park VKFF-0944. Checking the best mapping system for Park boundaries in VK3 (Forest Explorer), one finds that the Park boundary is on the eastern edge of

the track that runs along the ridge line. So one can activate both the SOTA summit and VKFF-0944 at the same time, provided that you are in the scrub on the eastern side of the track.

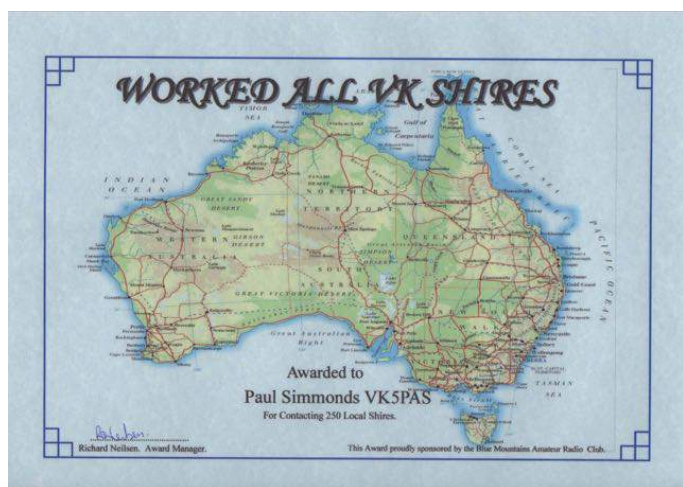
2. Mount Coree VK1/AC-023 lies at the SW end of the straight line section of the ACT/NSW boundary in the northwest of the ACT. The land on the ACT side of the boundary inside the AZ is part of the Namadgi National Park VKFF-0377. The land on the NSW side is inside the Brindabella National Park VKFF-0054. Therefore, which Park you can claim to be activating depends on your exact location within the summit AZ! I note that at the time of preparing this item, Mt Coree is not on the list of summits in Namadgi NP.
3. Mount Hotham VK3/VE-006 is within the boundary of the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort, so is not part of the Alpine National Park, which surrounds the Alpine Resort.

Yet another award scheme

By Peter VK3PF

Many will be aware of the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) offered by Amateur Radio Victoria (ARV). ARV also offer a Victorian Local Government Award

– check the ARV website for the rules. There is also the VK Shires Award (<http://vkshires.vk2bo.com/>). The astute reader will quickly realise that most contacts from a Park or from a summit (or both) will most likely be from within a local government area (LGA). So here is another list (or two) to start collating! But again, be careful!



There are still some traps: in VK3, there are several “Unincorporated Areas”. Examples of these are the Alpine Ski Resort management areas – usually surrounded by a National Park BUT not part of the National Park – and French Island. These unincorporated areas are technically outside of normal Local Government Areas. So a contact with a SOTA

activator on Mount Hotham will NOT count for the Alpine Shire, as the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort is an unincorporated area. However, a contact with a SOTA operator on nearby Mt Loch VK3/VE-005, just outside the Alpine Resort, also counts for the Alpine National Park and for the Alpine Shire, so is one tick for the KRMNPA and a tick for the VK Shires Award.

So the key message here is for the Activator: check your planned activation site against the maps before heading out and once on location. Check which other links are valid – so for Mt Coree, decide which side of the border will be your operating site and note the correct Park reference.

For the Chaser/Hunter: do not simply rely on the information displayed on the ParksNPeaks spot: also ask the Activator to confirm if you are not sure of the correct reference. I guess that question is less critical for the VKFF Hunter, as it is the job of the Activator to be inside the correct boundary and to upload the log so that we as Hunters receive credit for the contact.

Good activating, hunting and award chasing. My apologies for the references to areas outside of VK5, but I am sure that many readers may find the information useful.

Do you use a Buddipole?

By Paul VK5PAS



If you use a Buddipole, then I am sure this article by Jonathan will be of great interest to you.

<http://www.fieldradio.org/251/buddipole-getting-started>



ARRL National Parks on the Air

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder that in 2016, the National Parks Service in the USA will celebrate its 100th anniversary. As a result, the ARRL has organised an event called National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) to help mark the occasion. The fun commences on January 1st 2016.

For more information please see.....

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-national-parks-on-the-air-event-to-mark-national-park-service-centennial>

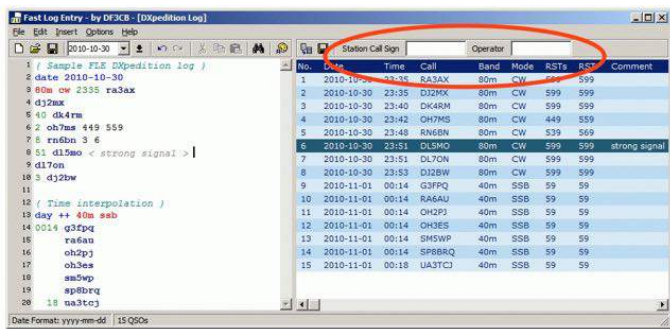
A reminder about FLE

By Paul VK5PAS and Andrew M0YMA

Just to remind everyone, that if you use Fast Log Entry (FLE), one of the biggest mistakes that people are making is placing their NAME in the Operator field. Please do NOT do this.

Your call sign goes into the Station Call Sign field. The Operator field is an optional area,

should the Operator call sign differ to the Station Call sign.



For example, you may use a special event call sign, or a club call sign during your activation. That call sign would go into the Station Call Sign field, and your own individual call sign would go into the Operator field.

e.g.

Station Callsign = the full callsign used on air....

e.g. MXoWFF/p

Operator – your own home call

e.g. MoYMA

Please read the FLE instructions if in doubt.

With regards to the WWFF Log Search system, ‘Operator’ is optional. If it is not present, Log Search tries to work it out, e.g. by stripping off prefixes and suffixes from the station call sign), but if you are using a Club or Special callsign, unless you specify the operator call, you will not get personal credit.

Note, that if you are part of a multi op DXpedition, the Operator should be the person who makes the QSO...and can (will) be different throughout the log.

Shack in a (Makita) Box

By Peter VK5PET



What do you get when you mix a Yaesu 817 with a Makita angle grinder box? A perfect portable “shack” for activating National Parks of course! I needed some tidy way of taking the radio out to activate parks, so when the Makita angle grinder died, the box it was in became the inspiration for a portable setup and transport.

I used a Dremel tool to cut out the moulding of the box to make a perfectly acceptable case in which the shack could be fitted.



A \$1 speaker from AHARS Buy, swap and sell, along with my 9aH 'SLAB' and a salvaged CB mike holder, with a 'cigarette lighter' plug were easily fitted to the gutted box.

Some blue plastic foam from a car fridge box was cut to support the radio, including a piece on which to support the radio during use. The radio lies flat during transport and is inclined during use.



A hole drilled in the back of the case behind the radio enables connection of the coax – I use the rear PL259 socket for HF.

The battery is fitted with twin tags for connection to the radio and car/solar charging. Currently, I carry the case flat, but with some carefully placed brackets, it could be carried with the handle.



Space Weather

By Paul VK5PAS



Here is an exceptionally good website which will keep you up to date on all the latest solar activity and space weather. It is produced by Dr. Tamitha Skov and is called 'Space Weather TV'.

<http://spaceweather.tv/>

There is also a Space Weather Facebook page which can be located at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/spaceweatherwoman/?fref=photo>

So – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – catch you in the Parks.

73s

Peter VK5PET

Friday afternoon/evening event

By Paul VK5PAS



The 2015 / 2016 weekly Friday afternoon / evening event for the VK5 Parks Award has had a very SLOW start.

It kicked off on Friday 11th December, with the following activators heading out.....

1. Peter VK5PET, Monarto CP
2. John VK5BJE, Mark Oliphant CP
3. Mark VK5QI, Horsnell Gully CP
4. Gary VK5FGRY, Horsnell Gully CP
5. Paul VK5PAS, Mount George CP.

But since then, the event has been cancelled twice due to extreme heat, and also Christmas/New Year period has also taken precedence.

**VK5 NATIONAL & CONSERVATION
PARKS AWARD.**



**FRIDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING TWILIGHT
ACTIVATION EVENT.**



Yes, they are back, following on from some very successful Friday afternoon/evenings last Summer.

Each Friday during Summer, commencing Friday 11th December, 2015, VK5 park activators are encouraged to head out and activate a South Australian National Park and/or Conservation Park.

Please don't forget to post an alert on parkspeaks if you are going to head out to activate a park.

Mark Oliphant CP, VKFF-0782

By John VK5BJE



Today, 11th December 2015, was set aside for a late afternoon, early evening, activation day for those interested in portable operation from

South Australian national and conservation parks. I chose to return to **Mark Oliphant Conservation Park**, the closest protected area to our home. I set myself a goal of 25 contacts, which, when added to my score from 28th June 2015 would give me at least 44 contacts so as to successfully activate the Park for the WWFF award. It was not to be. The 40 and 20 metre bands were in poor shape! The bands were noisy (QRN or natural noise: today from stormy weather on the east coast of the country). I made just nine contacts. I was using my Ten Tec Argonaut VI, set for ten watts. There was no propagation close in around Adelaide and the only VK5 station I contacted was Neville (Nev) VK5WG at Crystal Brook in the mid-north of the State. I spotted myself on Parks and Peaks and Nev told me he was waiting for me: **Mark Oliphant** was a new Park for him!



Above:- Mark Oliphant CP plaque. Courtesy of John VK5BJE

Here is a link to my previous activation of this Park.

<http://vk5bje.com/2015/07/04/mark-oliphant-conservation-park-vkff-782-28th-june-2015/>

I commenced calling at 05:03 on 7.105 after checking to see whether the frequency was occupied.

05:03 VK5WG

05:07 VK3PF

05:10 VK3FQSO

05:15 VK3XDM/P Mitch was on SOTA summit **VK3/VE-007**, Mt McKay (10 points)
05:19 VK2VW

05:21 VK3PMG

05:24 VK3RW

05:28 VK3AV

05:31 VK3DBP

I then moved to 14.310 and once again put up a spot on *Parks and Peaks*.

05:35 I called CQ and VK2IO, Gerard, was 5 and 7. I called him back but he could not hear me. I called quite a few time and was not successful in gaining a contact.

I then moved back to 40 metres and after listening around the band decided I could not hear any of the VK5 park activators so I dismantled my station and drove home.



Above:- Main gate at Mark Oliphant CP.
Image courtesy of John VK5BJE

After arriving home I checked *Parks and Peaks* and saw that Paul, VK5PAS, was activating **Mount George Conservation Park, VKFF-0784**, just a few kilometres from my place and I thought I would have a listen for him. I had a great contact with Paul: he was 5 and 7 and I was 5 and 9.

QSL cards

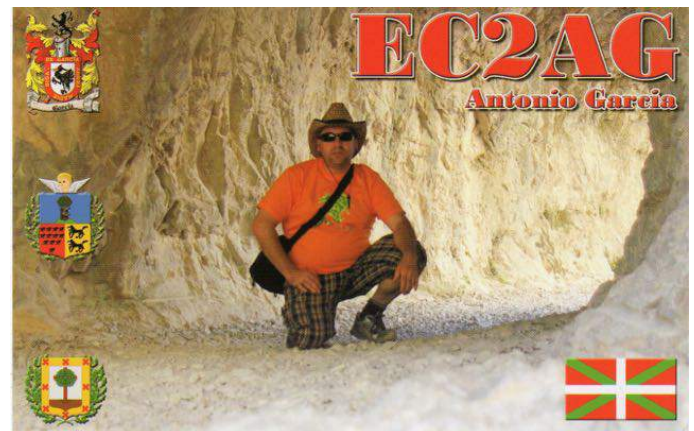
By Paul VK5PAS

This area is set aside for any QSL cards received from SOTA or park activators.

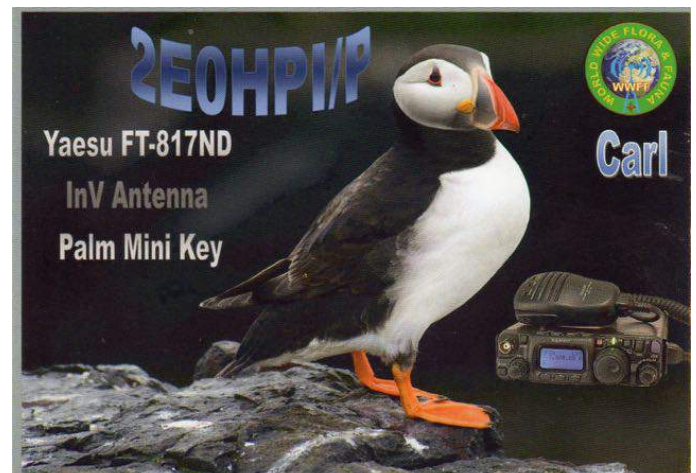
If you have received any QSL cards from a WWFF reference, please send me a copy and I will include them here.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Antonio, EC2AG, SPAIN.



Carl 2EOHPI/p



VK5 Parks Friday event

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder, that if the predicted temperature for Adelaide is 35 degrees C or over, the weekly VK5 Parks Award Friday after/evening event will be cancelled.

I will do my best to post any cancellations on both the VK5 Parks Yahoo site and also the VK5 Parks Facebook site.

Recent Park Activations

Band conditions during December were quite challenging again. It was a little quieter this month after the flurry of activity in late November with the VKFF Activation event.

Here is a list of recent park activations by VK5's (that I am aware of).

- Cleland Conservation Park VKFF-0778, Paul VK5PAS/p (31/12/2015)
- Mount Scott Conservation Park VKFF-0918, Stef VK5HSX/p (31/12/2015)
- Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park VKFF-0927, Tony VK3VTH/5 (30/12/2015)
- Martins Washpool Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (29/12/2015)
- Coorong National Park VKFF-0115, Stef VK5HSX/p (28/12/2015)
- Messent Conservation Park VKFF-0799, Stef VK5HSX/p (28/12/2015)



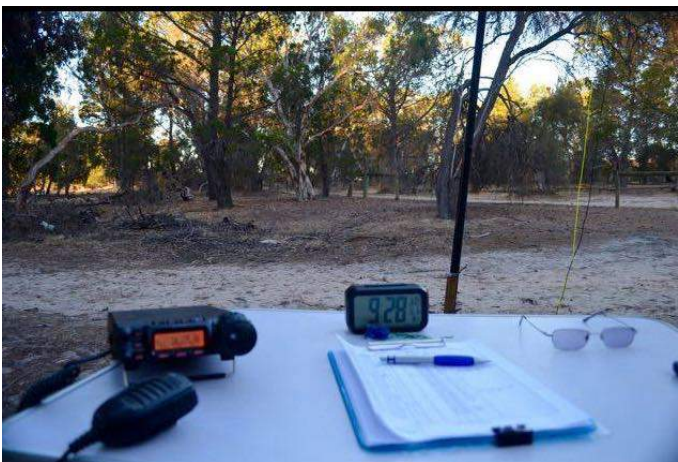
Above:- Stef in the Messent CP.

- Cromer Conservation Park, VKFF-0779, Stuart VK5STU/p (28/12/2015)
- Cromer Conservation Park VKFF-0779, Nigel VK5NIG/p (28/12/2015)
- Cromer Conservation Park VKFF-0779, Allen VK5LAM/p (28/12/2015)



Above:- The Three Stooges at Cromer. L-R: Stuart VK5STU, Allen VK5LAM, and Nigel VK5NIG.

- Grampians National Park VKFF-0213, John VK5BJE/3 (28/12/2015)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS/p (27/12/2015)



Above:- VK5PAS set up at Sandy Creek

- Coorong National Park VKFF-0115, Stef VK5HSX/p (27/12/2015)
- Dangali Conservation Park VKFF-0825, Peter VK5FLEX/p (27/12/2015)

- Mount Ainslie Nature Reserve VKFF-0850, John VK5BJE/1 (24/12/2015)
- Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve VKFF-0989, John VK6BJE/1 (23/12/2015)
- Warby Ovens National Park VKFF-0742, John VK6BJE/3 (15/12/2015)
- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park VKFF-0782, John VK5BJE/p (11/12/2015)
- Mount George Conservation Park VKFF-0784, Paul VK5PAS/p (11/12/2015)
- Horsnell Gully Conservation Park, VKFF-0894, Mark VK5QI/p (11/12/2015)
- Horsnell Gully Conservation Park VKFF-0894, Gary VK5FGRY/p (11/12/2015)
- Monarto Conservation Park, VKFF-, Peter VK5PET/p (11/12/2015)

For more information on the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award please have a look at.....

<http://www.vk5parks.com/>

And for more information on the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, please have a look at.....

<http://www.wwffaustalia.com/>

Recent SOTA activations



Very quiet on the South Australian SOTA front the month of December. Why not give SOTA a go. There is a very easy summit right on the doorstep of many VK5's, that being Mount Lofty. Mount Gawler is also very accessible.

Here is a list of known recent VK5 activations.....

- Mount Lofty VK5/ SE-005, Paul VK5PAS/p (31/12/2015)
- Mount Ainslie VK1/ AC-040, John VK5BJE/1 (24/12/2015)
- Mount Stromlo VK1/ AC-042, John VK5BJE/1 (23/12/2015)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Bob VK5FO/p (20/12/2015)

For more information on SOTA in VK5, please check out.....

<http://www.sota.org.uk/Associations/viewAssociation/prefix/VK5>

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



Welcome to the following new members of the VK5 Parks Yahoo group.....

- NO new members for December

A reminder that the VK5 Parks Award Yahoo group can be found at.....

<https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sanpcpa/info>

It is a great way to keep up to date with the latest news, who is activating what park and when, etc.

It is FREE and EASY to join. Why not check it out and consider joining.

VK5 Parks 3rd year anniversary

By Paul VK5PAS



The 3rd anniversary activation weekend for the VK5 Parks award is coming up early next year.

It will be held on **Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd April, 2016.**

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please send an email to Paul VK5PAS at....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

It is important that you drop me an email with your intended activations.

Firstly, it prevents double up activations. I will be keeping a spreadsheet which I will regularly update and post on the VK5 Parks Facebook site and the VK5 Parks Yahoo group, so everyone will be able to see what parks are going to be activated and by who. Last year there were a few who did not send me info

about their intentions, and there were instances of amateurs bumping into each other in parks.

Secondly it will help me to prepare stats at the end of the weekend. I am likely to send off an article for AR magazine.

**VK5 National & Conservation
Parks Award**



3rd YEAR ANNIVERSARY ACTIVATION WEEKEND

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd April 2016.



**If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please
send an email to Paul VK5PAS, at vk5pas@wia.org.au**

VKFF Activation weekend.

By Paul VK5PAS



The inaugural VKFF Activation weekend was held on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November 2015.

Unfortunately I have had no response from 4 activators, so I can't get completely accurate stats. But here are the results as best as I can compile them.....

A total of 51 activators took part.

All States were represented, except for VK7. Here's hoping that some VK7 park activators come on board next year.

Here is a breakdown of participation.....

VK1 – 3

VK2 – 3

VK3 – 16

VK4 – 1

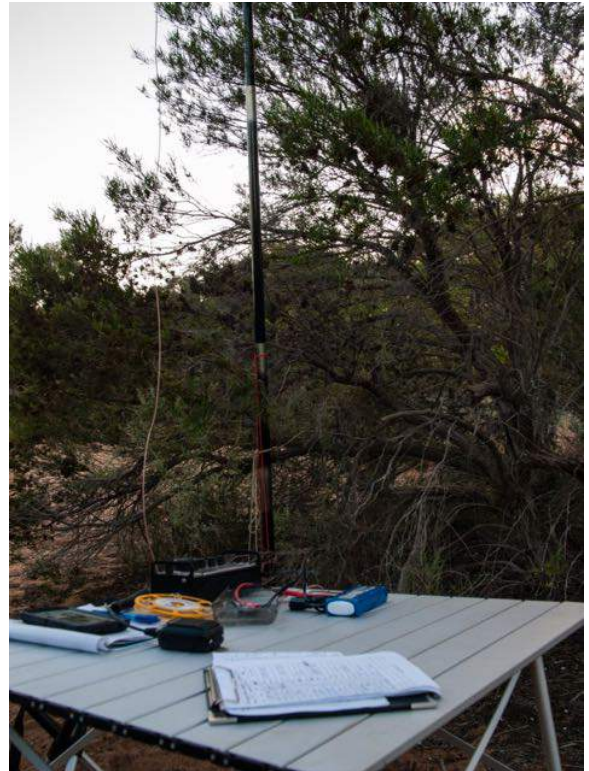
VK5 – 24

VK6 – 3

VK7 – 0

VK8 – 1

A total of 77 unique parks were activated.



*Above:- Set up of Bob VK5FO at Ramco Point.
Image courtesy of VK5FO.*

Here is a list of activators who took part.....

1. Jim VK1AT
2. Ian VK1DI
3. Tony VK1VIC
4. Gerald VK2HBG
5. Gerard VK2IO
6. Cliff VK2NP
7. Nick VK3ANL

8. Warren VK3BYD
9. Tony VK3CAB
10. Fred VK3DAC
11. Julie VK3FOWL
12. Amanda VK3FQSO
13. Johnno VK3FMPB
14. Allen VK3HRA
15. Tim VK3MTB
16. Peter VK3PF
17. Mick VK3PMG
18. Peter VK3TKK
19. Marcus VK3TST
20. Tony VK3VTH
21. Joe VK3YSP
22. Peter VK3ZPF
23. Rob VK4AAC/5
24. Rob VK4FFAB
25. David VK5AAH
26. Andy VK5AKH
27. Ian VK5CZ
28. Tom VK5EE
29. Adrian VK5FANA
30. Brendon VK5FFCC
31. Gary VK5FGRY
32. Bob VK5FO
33. Greg VK5GJ
34. Giles VK5GK
35. Pat VK5HAE
36. Col VK5HCF
37. Stef VK5HSX
38. Les VK5KLV
39. Peter VK5KPR
40. Lesley VK5LOL
41. Nigel VK5NIG
42. Paul VK5PAS
43. Peter VK5PET
44. David VK5PL
45. Stuart VK5STU
46. Greg VK5ZGY
47. Hans VK5YX
48. Lewis VK6FLEW
49. Jonathan VK6JON
50. John VK6NU
51. VK8AR



*Above:- Tom VK5EE at Douglas Point CP.
Image courtesy of Col VK5HCF*

There were over 3,200 QSOs.

There were hundreds of park to park contacts. Gerard VK2IO reported that of his 161 contacts, 72 were park to park contacts.

Amanda VK3FQSO reported:

“I had a great time activating today and there was quite a few park-to-park contacts which was terrific. It was also special for me today as it was my very first completely solo activation trip, so feeling pretty happy with myself in that I didn't manage to wreck anything and made contacts!”

Peter VK3ZPF's highlight of his activations, was having a park to park contact with a French station activating a WWFF park.

Unfortunately a few planned activations did not go ahead. Garry VK2GAZ reports that his planned activation of the Blue Mountains National Park was washed out by rain. Tony VK5FTVR suffered a puncture on his vehicle which halted his activation of Ferries McDonald Conservation Park. And Kym VK5FKYM was eaten alive at the Coorong National Park and cancelled his plans.

There were some notable achievements by Hunters. That included Tim VK5AV who worked 47 different VKFF references over the weekend.

Many thanks to everyone that took part.

This will certainly become an annual event.

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)



VKFF Activation weekend.
Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th
November 2015



*****If you do intend to intend to activate a park on this weekend, please send an email to Paul VK5PAS, at vk5pas@wia.org.au**

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



Welcome to the following new members of the VK5 Parks Facebook site....

➤ Rick VK4RF

- Andrew VK5FABH
- Steve VK5FSPJ
- Grant VK3GWS
- Michael VK5FMTR

The VK5 Parks Award Facebook site can be found at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/528980233908284/>

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS

Here is a list of VK5's who have recently qualified for SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, VK5 Parks, and KRMNPA awards.

Interstate recipients of the VK5 Parks Award are also included.

If you do receive a certificate, please drop me an email to let me know, with preferably a copy of the certificate, so I can include it here.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

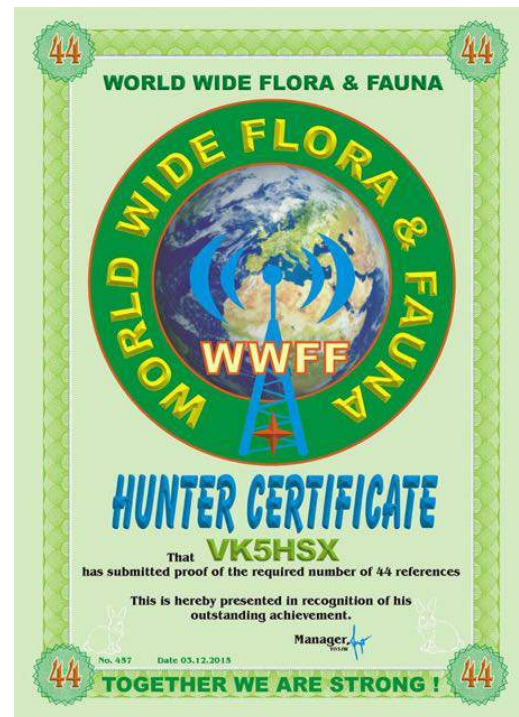
- NIL known

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Stef VK5HSX**
 - Diamond VKFF Hunter



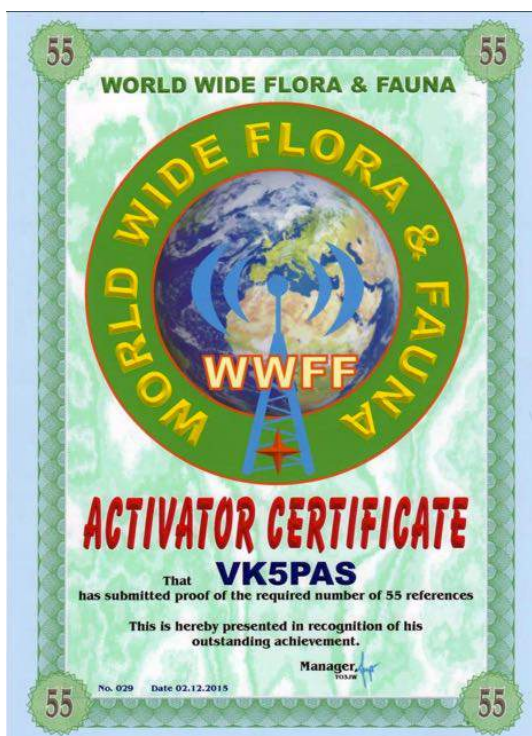
- **Stef VK5HSX**
 - Global 44 Hunter



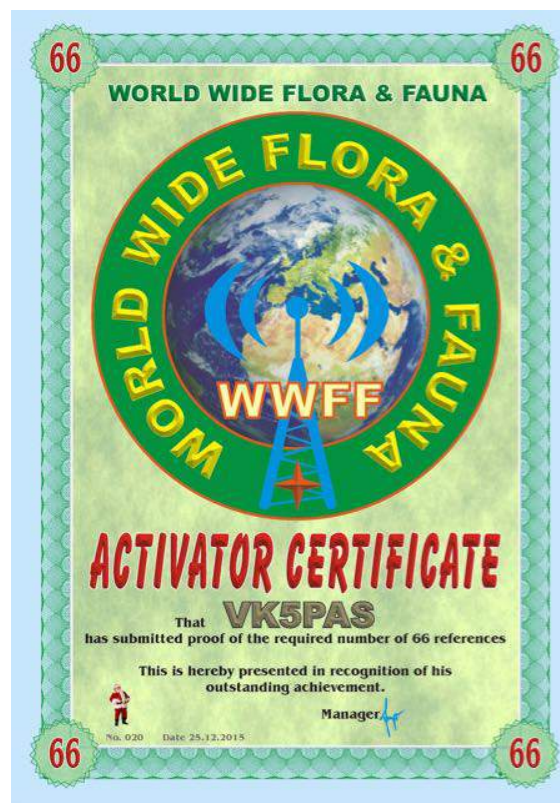
- **David VK5PL**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 150



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - Global 55 Activator



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - Global 66 Activator



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 325



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - OZFF 5 areas



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - ONFFA 50 references



VK5 Parks Award

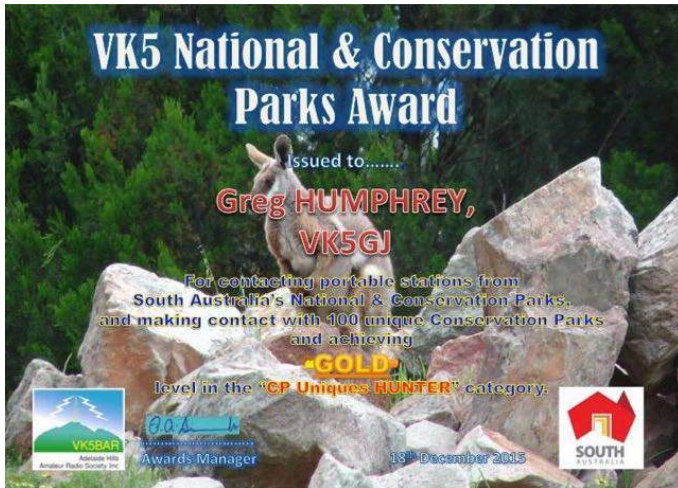
- **Adrian VK5FANA**
 - Gold CP Uniques Hunter



- **Adrian VK5FANA**
 - Platinum CP Uniques Hunter



- **Mick VK3PMG**
 - Platinum Hunter National Parks Uniques



- **Brett VK2VW**
 - Bronze Hunter



- **Mick VK3PMG**
 - Platinum Hunter National Parks Uniques



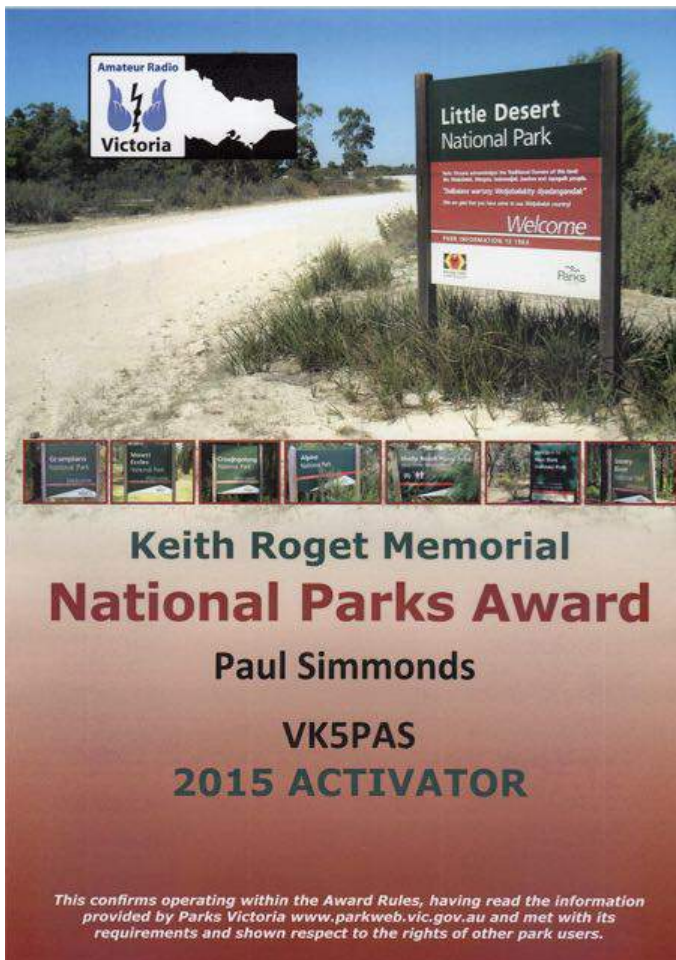
- **Brett VK2VW**
 - Silver Hunter



Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

▪ Paul VK5PAS

- 2015 Activator participant certificate



Logs for WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS



Good morning all,

Don't forget, that as an activator in the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, you need to provide your log to me so that it can be uploaded to the WWFF database which is called Log Search.

If the logs are not provided and uploaded, then you as the activator cannot claim the park. Nor can any of the keen park hunters who worked you.

Unlike other programs, activators do not upload their own log. The logs are created and forwarded to the relevant National co-ordinator, who in turn, uploads the logs.

Logs need to be provided as an ADIF file, or by using the CSV template.

ADIF stands for Amateur Data Interchange Format. Most electronic logging programs can

create ADIF files. Or you can use the CSV template. Where do you get the CSV template?

From either the WWFF Australia website, or the WWFF Australia Yahoo Group (in the files section), or on the main WWFF page at...

www.wwff.co.

I have mentioned it many times, but should you wish to create an ADIF file very quickly and easily, I highly recommend Fast Log Entry (FLE). Here is a link.....

<http://www.df3cb.com/fle/>

Should you be unclear on how to create and provide a log, please have a look at the following page on the WWFF Australia page.....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/how-to-create-an-activator-log.html>

Personal experience is that sometimes the first 1 or 2 logs provided by activators, have some teething problems. But these are generally ironed out after the activators become confident in creating the ADIF or CSV file. The main thing is to proof/vet your log prior to sending it to me, ensuring that there are no errors. And to ensure you name the log in the correct way, e.g.

callsign@referenceYYYYMMDD
(VK5ABC@VKFF098720151130)

Please note.....WWFF Hunters do not need to provide anything or have anything uploaded, The WWFF Log Search system does all the hard work for you.

Everything within the WWFF program is done within Log Search. Activators and Hunters can keep a track of their progress, apply for awards, check out what parks have been activated, and view a list of Top Operators with stats from each country.

You need to register to use Log Search.

Here is a link to WWFF Log Search.....

<http://logsearch.wwff.co/index.php>

Please drop me an email should you have any queries.

Best wishes,

Paul,
VK5PAS,
VKFF co-ordinator.
vk5pas@wia.org.au

VK5 Parks Award flag

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently designed an emblem for the VK5 Parks Award and gauged the interest in a VK5 Parks flag featuring the emblem. You can fly the flag atop your squid pole.

The final payment for these flags will shortly be required. Please send me your \$\$\$ ASAP as I will pay the total owed upfront. I will send out an email to all those who ordered a flag with payment details.

The flag works out to be \$26.40 each. They are made from 200D knitted polyester designed for outside use. It is single sided with two grommets so you can attach it to a squid pole.

If there is sufficient interest, I can always place another order.

If you are interested, please drop me an email at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au



Discovery Bay Marine National Park VKFF-0949 - 49 contacts

Merry Christmas from Field Radio

By Jonathan VK6JON

The admins of Field Radio wish all our group members a Merry Christmas and all the best for a prosperous New Year.

Thank you to all for your enthusiasm and contributions and for making this such a vibrant group - wow 1,828 members currently. It is great to be part of raising the awareness of portable operations and what one can achieve with fellow hams isn't it!

For the benefit of those new members and those that may not be aware, the group also has a website which can be accessed at...

<http://www.fieldradio.org/>

The website includes a number of helpful resources for group members including the following:-

- Member Spotlights where you can tell other group members about your ham radio interests and exploits.
 - * A facility to share your portable session details with other members.
 - * ## NEW ## A page where you can share any coming events that could be of interest to group members.
 - * ## NEW ## A page where you can share videos that could be of interest to

the group including a link to your YouTube channel.

We look forward to your continued involvement in the group and will see you in 2016!

Seasons greetings.

On behalf of the Admin Team

Jonathan,

VK6JON



It should not be long now and the ‘Park to Park’ award within WWFF will be officially released.

A screenshot of a web-based summary statistics table for call-sign VK5PAS. The table has columns for "Uniques", "Worked", and "Activated". The "Worked" column is further divided into "Apply for WWFF-H (644)", "Apply for DXFF-H (30)", and "ACFF-H". The "Activated" column is divided into "Apply for WWFF-A (58)", "Apply for DXFF-A (3)", and "ACFF-A". The "Park To Park" row is highlighted with a red circle.

Uniques	Worked	Activated
475	Apply for WWFF-H (644)	57 / 64
32	Apply for DXFF-H (30)	5 / 6
4	ACFF-H	2 / 2
	Confirmed 0 / 0 (Unique 0 / 0)	P2P
Park To Park		

ADIF logs can include the WWFF field in the SIG/SIG_INFO fields, or the appropriate column in the Excel spreadsheet template.

If you need to edit a log manually, it is easy enough, using a text editor...for each applicable contacts, add (before the EOR).

Where the reference is three digits.....

<SIG:4>WWFF<SIG_INFO:8>xxFF-xxxx

Where the reference is four digits.....

<SIG:4>WWFF<SIG_INFO:9>xxFF-xxxx

Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

If you have worked an overseas SOTA or WWFF station, please send me the details to....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

...and I will include it here.

To work the SOTA & WWFF DX, keep an eye on SOTA Watch....

<http://www.sotawatch.org/>

And WWFF Hamspots.....

<http://hamspots.net/wwff/>

Below is a list of VK5 to DX (SOTA & parks contacts) that I am aware of.

Paul VK5PAS.

- OH9XX/p, SOTA OH/ JS-067 (19/12/2015)
- IZ3GOS/p, SOTA I/VA-309 (19/12/2015)
- IK2SAV/p, Italian Castles Award (19/12/2015)
- DO7TP/p (13/12/2015)
- OZ1CX/p, OZFF-0147 (5/12/2015)
- EA5/ON4LO/p, EAFF-0570 (4/12/2015)

Slow CW practice

By Paul VK5PAS



Latest videos

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder of the Slow CW Practice Net for SOTA operators. Every Thursday night, currently on 3.540 MHz from 8:30 PM local time.

SSB check in followed by CW check in. Then some SOTA type QSOs or special practice exercises.

Speed – your speed, 5 to 18 wpm.

If you have spotted a video, please let me know.

**Tom VK5EE & Col VK5HCF at
Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park.**

<https://youtu.be/7PLY6VwhHOc>