



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 23, September 2016

Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to Issue 23 September 2016, of the 'Out and About in VK5' newsletter which focuses on VK5 activities relating to Summits on the Air (SOTA), Parks (including WWFF and the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award), portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc.

Well after my plea for articles last month, I did receive a positive response, which was very pleasing to see. Now to see if that continues. Many thanks to Col VK5HCF, Ian VK5CZ, Andy VK5AKH, Grant VK5GR, Les VK5KLV, Rob VK4FFAB, and Peter VK3YE, who all contributed articles for inclusion in this issue of Out and About. Remember that the survival of this newsletter is entirely up to you. Any contributions are welcome. You might think that your article it isn't worth sending in. Let the readers be the judge of that.

We are now starting to come into the warmer weather and SOTA & Parks activators are starting to venture out a bit more often. Despite the days of sunshine however, we did have a very wet and wild August in South Australia at times. Often 4 seasons in a handful of days.

Les VK5KLV sent me some photos taken recently at Mount Arden in the Mid North of the State, which shows that with the warmer weather, the snakes are now on the move. In the next issue I will include an article on snake bite. Fortunately I have only encountered a few snakes during all of my activations.

During August I added a further 81 South Australian parks to the World Wide Flora Fauna program. They include Recreation Parks, Marine Parks, Wilderness Protection Areas, and Game Reserves. There is now

definitely no excuse for not finding a park to activate from.

I have started planning a SOTA & Parks symposium, similar to what was held a few years ago. It will include presentations from a number of experts in the field, a linked dipole construction session, and some portable sessions out in the field. I'll keep you all updated as this progresses. If the last symposium is any indication, this event should prove to be extremely popular. It will be a great way of honing your skills, or perhaps giving you enough confidence to try your very first SOTA or Park activation.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) took place again in August, with lighthouses being activated all around the world. Together with 4 other amateurs from the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS), I headed over to Kangaroo Island. There we operated from the Cape Willoughby lighthouse, which is located within the Cape Willoughby Conservation Park. I would welcome any articles from other VK5's who activated from a lighthouse over the 2016 ILLW.

Whilst on Kangaroo Island I activated a further 10 Conservation Parks, a number of which had never previously been activated. You can read about that trip in this issue.

A reminder that thanks to a number of enthusiastic amateurs, the VK Shires program has been 'relaunched'. A net takes place on 20m and 40m each Friday and the award is being reviewed. Allen VK3ARH has even integrated VK Shires into the already brilliant

parksnpeaks program. You can read more about the VK Shires program in this issue of Out and About.

Also a reminder that later in the year we have the VKFF Team Championship (on 16th October); the 6th annual Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award Activation Weekend (11th-14th November); and then the VKFF Activation Weekend (26th and 27th November). So there are plenty of opportunities coming up to get out into the field.

Enough from me for this month. Please remember that if you have any information that you would like to see in the next issue, please drop me an email at....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

It would be nice to receive articles, rather than chasing people for them.

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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Gabo Island OC-196

By Craig VK5CE



Hi guys

I'll be activating Gabo Island OC-196 as a one person operation.

Details are at.....

<http://oc196.blogspot.com.au/>

It involves 1300km drive to the east coast, then I need to pay for a charter light aircraft to and from the island and then a 1300km drive back home. Its not the most expensive DXpedition but still costs \$3000 for the plane charter and lighthouse accommodation, Then there's the cost of 2600km fuel and 2 nights of road trip accommodation. So any financial support would be much appreciated.

Seems the IOTA's are getting more and more expensive these days. My next one after Gabo is going to be very very expensive!!

More details on bands I'll be operating from and scheduling will be published later.

73s de Craig VK5CE

<http://oc196.blogspot.com.au/>

Please keep 7.125 clear

By Paul VK5PAS



Just a reminder to keep 7.125 clear if at all possible. That frequency is set aside for AM operation. A number of months ago I received a complaint from an AM op regarding Park & SOTA activators using that frequency.

I was contacted AGAIN recently by the same amateur who has complained previously regarding 7.125. He again complained that over the weekend of 6th/7th August there was a park activator on 7.125. As it turned out this was NOT a VK5 park activator, but actually a VK3 SOTA activator.

I know it very rarely occurs, but if at all possible, please keep that frequency clear to avoid any potential issues.

A submission has recently been submitted for that frequency to be included in the bandplan.

Keith Roget weekend

By Tony VK3XV



I am now beginning to record proposed activations for the upcoming 2016 activation weekend, which will be held across the 4 day period, **Friday November 11 - Monday November 14.**

I have downloaded proposed activations as best I know them as of today, in the Files section. Remember, there is no problems with activation "clashes" If you need to activate a particular park or group of Parks for your Award point/s then activate away! History has proven the chances of a dual activation are very slim anyway, so plan your trip to suit **your** activities and requirements. And keep in mind all VK3 National Parks are eligible for the VKFF award program for Hunters and Activators.

Please send me your proposed activations via direct email or via the Group and remember

you must be registered to be eligible to receive the 2016 Activators Certificate. These proposed notifications are just that... *proposed*. You can change your agenda at any time. (I have already done that twice!)

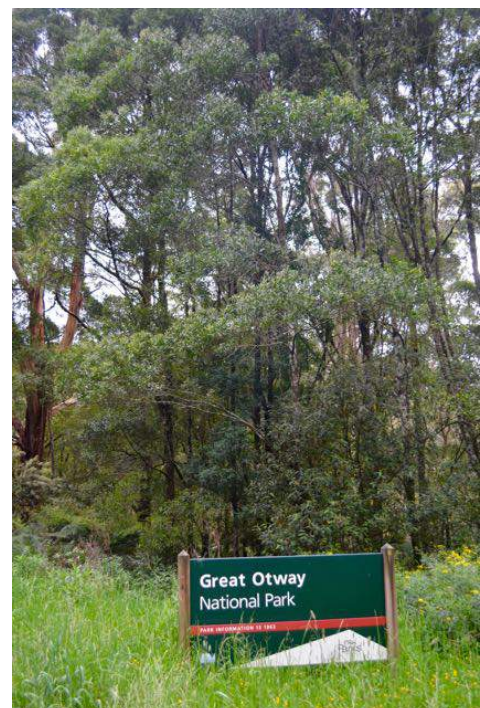
In the Files section of this Group you will find a brief report on the **2015 activation weekend.....**

Should you have any questions regarding the weekend please ask away, either via the Group or direct. I can be contacted also via mobile at any time on 0423 635 152 or via email.

Thanks for your support in the previous 5 years. I trust 2016 will be just as successful as past KRMNPA weekends.

Best 73

Tony VK3VTH / VK3XV



Freeze your Butt Off

By Ian VK5CZ



The time has come to publish the results for the Down Under FYBO for 2016

The contest was trialled and run on 26th of June this year which seemed to be ideal weather for the contest with snow in some states and lots of rain in South Australia this winter.

We had entries for 2 of the 3 categories set aside for the contest and with out re writing the rules here no one entered a log for the portable section only logs for the FYBO and Home Station were submitted. Some FYBO operators took part in the contest in Parks and others on Summits I also received a log from a Station set up on the Beach and others just out in Bush land, a good selection of "walk in" type activity.

There was some confusion about the importance of the hourly repeat contact for some as the multiplier but I was able to check the logs and adjust scores accordingly.

So the winner for the Home section was Nev VK5WG who made 14 Qso's during the full time of the contest and because he maintained that hourly repeat exchange 12 times he was able to collect 12 multiplier point which boosted his score to 3768 points being the top score for the Home station section.



Top Score for the FYBO section was Paul VK5PAS who made 151 Qso's during the full time of the contest and maintained the hourly repeat exchange 50 times to use as his multiplier to give him a score of 22,550 points.



During my time in the contest I worked 8 SOTA peaks as a chaser, 4 Parks as a chaser, 1 operator on the beach 12 different home stations and 1 dx station from Europe.

Home section

VK5WG	300 + 14	x 12	3768
VK3FQSO	292 + 34	x 11	3674
VK3CAT	45 + 5	x 0	50
VK7CW	33 + 6	x 0	39

FYBO section

VK5PAS	300 + 151	x 50	22,550
vk5cz	300 + 52	x 19	6,536
VK2IO	152 + 44	x 14	2,744
VK6NU	209 + 18	x 3	681
VK2IB	130 + 21	x 3	453
VK3JBL	102 + 14	x 2	232
VK3YE	70 + 12	x 0	82
VK3BYD	65 + 8	x 1	73
VK3ARH	46 + 5	x 0	51
VK3XV	23 + 9	x 0	32

Congratulations to the highest scorers and thanks everyone for taking part, thanks to those who submitted a log.

VK1 Winter SOTA QSO Party

By Paul VK5PAS



For the VK1 Winter SOTA QSO Party, Marija VK5FMAZ and I headed to the Fleurieu Peninsula and activated Black Bullock Hill VK5/ SE-016. This was Marija's first SOTA summit on the Australian mainland, with her very first being Mount Bates on Norfolk Island.

Black Bullock Hill is a little one pointer located on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Marija qualified the summit, making a total of 9 contacts, which included 8 Summit to Summit contacts (19 S2S points).

I made a total of 64 contacts, including 35 S2S contacts (113 S2S points).

There was a large amount of SOTA activity on the bands due to this terrific little event, put together by the VK1 SOTA crew including Andrew VK1AD.



More information on our activation can be found at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/2016/08/09/black-bullock-hill-vk5-se-016-4/>

NZ amateurs come to the rescue

By Paul VK5PAS

Recently a man went missing whilst ‘tramping’ in the Mount Richmond Forest Park, and two New Zealand amateurs assisted in his rescue. For more information check out.....

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/82968345/injured-tramper-rescued-in-marlborough>

VKFF & SOTA Outback Expedition 2017

By Paul VK5PAS

Earlier this year I entered into conversations with Chris VK3PAT about an Outback 4WD trip. Chris’ idea was to do a 4WD trip out into the Australian outback, and whilst there activate a number of rare parks and SOTA summits. Out of this discussion came the VKFF and SOTA Outback Expedition 2017.

Accompanying us on the trip will be Marc VK3OHM. Our wives will also be with us during this outback odyssey.

Chris has put together a Wordpress site, where you can view our itinerary and various other news.



The Wordpress site can be located at.....

<https://wwffoutback2017.wordpress.com/>

There is also a Facebook site which can be located at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1016367611804849/>

In the snow in VK3

By Paul VK5PAS

Keith VK5OQ sent me in these photographs of him operating in the Victorian snow fields in the Alpine National Park VKFF-0619. Keith skied in to his operating location.



Images above are courtesy of Keith VK5OQ.

WWFF.co the website

By Danny ON4VT



WWFF is working very hard to make the WWFF.co website working as an interactive platform. Above items are already up and running.

-Please inform your activators to announce upcoming activations in the **WWFF AGENDA**

WWFF.co the website !
AGENDA Directory WWFFwatch
upcoming WWFF All WWFF
activations reference Spots in ONE
ADD YOURS ! listing DXcluster

-On your national pages please put a link to **WWFFwatch**, the WWFF DX cluster (has smartphone view button!) Courtesy GMA

-Latest version of the **WWFF Directory** is always available in .PDF or in interactive online version

-Don't forget about the **FLE WWFF** logging software for activators

What's coming up soon ?

-**LogSearch** integrated in the website

-**WWFF Forum** integrated in the website

-**WWFFmap** with references worldwide on Google Maps (courtesy GMA)

I will be glad to hear your comments, remarks and suggestions.
Your input is much appreciated !

Met vriendelijke groeten, Sincerely yours,
73 44

Danny ON4VT
WWFF Public Relations & Webmaster
WWFF Park to Park Award Manager



VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder that the 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend is fast approaching. It will be held on **Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November 2016.**

The weekend is designed as a promotion for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program here in Australia. It is NOT a contest. Just head out to a qualifying WWFF park and make contact with other amateurs.

The weekend is a great time to try activating for the very first time. Or use it as a great opportunity to add a number of parks to your Hunter tally.

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, PLEASE drop me a quick email with

your intentions. I am maintaining a spreadsheet which records all planned activations. The spreadsheet can be found on the WWFF Australia website, or on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group (in the Files area).

More information on the VKFF Activation Weekend and the WWFF program can be found on the WWFF Australia website at....

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

Or please drop me an email should you have any queries. I'm only too happy to answer any questions you may have.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)



VKFF Activation weekend.

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th

November 2016



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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Recent Park Activations

With the warmer weather (sometimes), out came the park activators during the month of August.

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

- Winninowie Conservation Park VKFF-0820, Chris VK4FR/5 (29/8/2016)
- Granite Island Recreation Park VKFF-1711, Craig VK5CE/p (27/8/2016)
- Yellabinna Regional Reserve VKFF-1761, Stuart VK5STU/p (27/8/2016)
- Para Wirra Recreation Park VKFF-1739, Stuart VK5STU/p (27/8/2016)
- Yumbara Conservation Park VKFF-1129, Ian VK6DW/5 (26/8/2016)
- Calpatanna Waterhole Conservation Park VKFF-1011, Charlie VK5KDK/p (25/8/2016)
- Baudin Conservation Park VKFF-1002 & 5CP-012, Paul VK5PAS (24/8/2016)
- Venus Bay Conservation Park, Charlie VK5KDK (24/8/2016)
- Lashmar Conservation Park VKFF-0902 & 5CP-113, Paul VK5PAS (24/8/2016)

- Marino Conservation Park VKFF-1056, Stef VK5HSX/p (24/8/2016)



- Pelican Lagoon Conservation Park VKFF-0925 & 5CP-174, Paul VK5PAS (24/8/2016)
- Latham Conservation Park VKFF-0903 & 5CP-114, Paul VK5PAS (23/8/2016)
- Beyeria Conservation Park VKFF-1005 & 5CP-017, Paul VK5PAS (23/8/2016)
- Nepean Bay Conservation Park VKFF-1067 & 5CP-159, Paul VK5PAS (23/8/2016)
- Cygnet Estuary Conservation Park VKFF-1130 & 5CP-273, Paul VK5PAS (23/8/2016)
- Parndana Conservation Park VKFF-0925 & 5CP-171, Paul VK5PAS (22/8/2016)
- Dudley Conservation Park VKFF-0809 & 5CP-058, Paul VK5PAS (22/8/2016)
- Simpson Conservation Park VKFF-1098 & 5CP-213, Paul VK5PAS (22/8/2016)

- Cape Willoughby Conservation Park VKFF-1014 & 5CP-033, Paul VK5PAS (20 & 21/8/2016)
- Cape Willoughby Conservation Park VKFF-1014 & 5CP-033, Chris VK4FR/5 (20 & 21/8/2016)
- Cape Willoughby Conservation Park VKFF-1014 & 5CP-033, Andrew VK5CV (20 & 21/8/2016)



- Cape Willoughby Conservation Park VKFF-1014 & 5CP-033, Mike VK5FVSV (20 & 21/8/2016)
- Cape Willoughby Conservation Park VKFF-1014 & 5CP-033, John VK5EMI (20 & 21/8/2016)
- Witjira National Park VKFF-0541 & 5NP-021, Mark VK5MK/p (17/8/2016)
- Paroo-Darling National Park NSW VKFF-0410, Lesley VK5LOL/2 (16/8/2016)
- Gundabooka State Conservation Park NSW VKFF-1324, VK5LOL/2 (14/8/2016)

- Totness Recreation Park VKFF-1754, Paul VK5PAS/p (14/8/2016)
- Fort Glanville Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (13/8/2016)



- Totness Recreation Park VKFF-1754, Paul VK5PAS (13/8/2016)
- Idalia National Park QLD VKFF-0241, Lesley VK5LOL/4 (9/8/2016)
- Idalia National Park QLD VKFF-0241, Hans VK5YX/4 (9/8/2016)
- Cox Scrub Conservation Reserve VKFF-1701, Paul VK5PAS/p (7/8/2016)
- Bullock Hill Conservation Park 5CP-265 and VKFF-0873, John VK5BJE/p (7/8/2016)



- Red Banks Conservation Park VKFF-1086, Marcus VK3TST/5 (6/8/2016)
- Tolderol Game Reserve VKFF-1752, Paul VK5PAS (5/8/2016)



- VKFF-0131 QUEENSLAND, VK5LOL/4 (1/8/2016)
- VKFF-0131 QUEENSLAND, VK5YX/4 (1/8/2016)

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/>

- Alpine National Park VICTORIA VKFF-0619, Keith VK5OQ/p (5/8/2016)
- Totness Recreation Park VKFF-1754, Paul VK5PAS/p (3/8/2016)

Recent SOTA activations



With the mild conditions, Ian VK5CZ headed out to activate a number of summits, before the hot summer reaches us. Ian continues on his pilgrimage to Mountain Goat. Well done Ian.

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

- Karkala Ridge VK5/ NE-104, Ian VK5CZ/p (27/8/2016)
- Karkala Ridge VK5/ NE-104, Hugh VK5NHG/p (27/8/2016)
- Waroonee Hill VK5/ NE-102, Ian VK5CZ/p (27/8/2016)
- Waroonee Hill VK5/ NE-102, Hugh VK5NHG/p (27/8/2016)
- Mount Arden VK5/ NE-034, Ian VK5CZ/p (21/8/2016)
- Mount Benjamin VK5/ NE-038, Ian VK5CZ/p (20/8/2016)
- Lagoon Hill VK5/ SE-008, Ian VK5CZ/p (14/8/2016)
- Lagoon Hill VK5/ SE-008, Hugh VK5NHG/p (14/8/2016)

- The Dutchmans Stern VK5/ NE-028), Ian VK5CZ/p (7/8/2016)
- Black Bullock Hill VK5/ SE-016, Paul VK5PAS/p (7/8/2016)
- Black Bullock Hill VK5/ SE-016, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (7/8/2016)

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

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

New VK5 Parks qualify for WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

The following parks now qualify for the World Wide Flora Fauna program (NOT the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award).

The parks added consist of Recreation Parks, Marine Parks, Game Reserves, and Wilderness Protection Areas.

They are valid as from 1st August 2016

- Anstey Hill Recreation Park, VKFF-1683
- Bernouilli Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1684
- Billiatt Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1685
- Blackwood Forest Recreation Park, VKFF-1686
- Bool Lagoon Game Reserve, VKFF-1687

- Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, VKFF-1688
- Buckleboo Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1689
- Bucks Lake Game Reserve, VKFF-1690
- Bunbury Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1691
- Bunkers Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1692
- Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1693
- Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1694
- Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1695
- Caratoola Recreation Park, VKFF-1696
- Chowilla Game Reserve, VKFF-1697
- Chowilla Regional Reserve, VKFF-1698
- Cobbler Creek Recreation Park, VKFF-1699
- Cortlinye Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1700
- Cox Scrub Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1701
- Cunyarie Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1702
- Currency Creek Game Reserve, VKFF-1703
- Dangali Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1704
- Desert Camp Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1705
- Eastern Spencer Gulf Marine Park, VKFF-1706
- Encounter Marine Park, VKFF-1707
- Far West Coast Marine Park, VKFF-1708
- Franklin Harbor Marine Park, VKFF-1709
- Gambier Islands Marine Park, VKFF-1710
- Granite Island Recreation Park, VKFF-1711
- Great Australian Bight Marine Park, VKFF-214
- Greenhill Recreation Park, VKFF-1712
- Hambidge Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1713
- Hardings Springs Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1714
- Hincks Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1715
- Innamincka Regional Reserve, VKFF-1716
- Investigator Marine Park, VKFF-1717
- Investigator Group Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1718
- Lacroma Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1719
- Lake Frome Regional Reserve, VKFF-1720
- Lake Robe Game Reserve, VKFF-1721
- Laura Bay Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1722
- Loch Luna Game Reserve, VKFF-1723
- Long Island Recreation Park, VKFF-1724
- Lower South East Marine Park, VKFF-1725
- Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park, VKFF-1726
- Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1727
- Moongi Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1728
- Moorook Game Reserve, VKFF-1729
- Mootra Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1730
- Mud Islands Game Reserve, VKFF-1731
- Neptune Islands Marine Park, VKFF-1732
- Nullabor Regional Reserve, VKFF-1733
- Nullabor Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1734
- Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park, VKFF-1735
- Nuyts Archipelago Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1736
- O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park, VKFF-1737

- Onkaparinga River Recreation Park, VKFF-1738
- Para Wirra Recreation Park, VKFF-1739
- Pinkawillinie Reservoir Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1740
- Poocher Swamp Game Reserve, VKFF-1741
- Poolgarra Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1742
- Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1743
- Shepherds Hill Recreation Park, VKFF-1744
- Simpson Desert Regional Reserve, VKFF-1745
- Sir Joseph Banks Group Marine Park, VKFF-1746
- Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park, VKFF-1747
- Southern Spencer Gulf Marine Park, VKFF-1748
- Strzelecki Regional Reserve, VKFF-1749
- Sturt Gorge Recreation Park, VKFF-1750
- Thorny Passage Marine Park, VKFF-1751
- Tolderol Game Reserve, VKFF-1752
- Tola Conservation Reserve, VKFF-1753
- Totness Recreation Park, VKFF-1754
- Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park, VKFF-1755
- Upper South East Marine Park, VKFF-1756
- Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park, VKFF-1757
- West Coast Bays Marine Park, VKFF-1758
- Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park, VKFF-1759
- Western River Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1760
- Yellabinna Regional Reserve, VKFF-1761
- Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area, VKFF-1762

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

➤ Nil for this period

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.

Cape Willoughby lighthouse

By Paul VK5PAS

For the 2016 International Lighthouse & Lighthship Weekend (ILLW), a team of 5 operators from the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS) headed over to Kangaroo Island OC-139 and the Cape Willoughby lighthouse. The lighthouse is located in the Cape Willoughby Conservation Park 5CP-033 and VKFF-1014.

Operators were:-

1. Chris VK4FR/5
2. Andrew VK5CV
3. John VK5EMI
4. Mike VK5FVSV
5. Paul VK5PAS



Above:- Chris VK4FR/5 and Paul VK5PAS in the old weather station. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

Four autonomous stations were set up, with equipment including a Yaesu FT-450, Flex Maestro, linked dipoles, and a Hex beam.



Above:- Our 160m antenna. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

Due to the relatively good weather we had quite a few visitors out at the lighthouse, a number of which showed a lot of interest in what we were doing.



Above:- John VK5EMI on air. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

A total of 547 contacts were made on the 160, 80, 40, 30, 20 & 2m bands on PHONE, CW, PSK & JT65. We worked a total of 36 different countries.



Above:- sunrise at Cape Willoughby. Courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

More information on the activation can be found at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/2016/08/28/illw-2016-and-cape-willoughby-conservation-park-5cp-033-and-vkff-1014/>

Should you desire a QSL card, please check out QRZ.com for QSL details. QSL is OK via the Bureau, Direct, eQSL, of LOTW.

Until next year.

73 from the VK5CWL team.



Granite Island

By Craig VK5CE

Hi everyone

I'm pleased to announce to the group that I'll be activating Granite Island OC-228.

I can only operate from there 2200 to 0800 UTC in daylight hours so I'll be making numerous visits there until demand is satisfied. Full explanation is at

<http://oc228.blogspot.com.au/>

Sponsors will be emailed about future activation dates and sponsors will automatically receive a free QSL after the QSO.

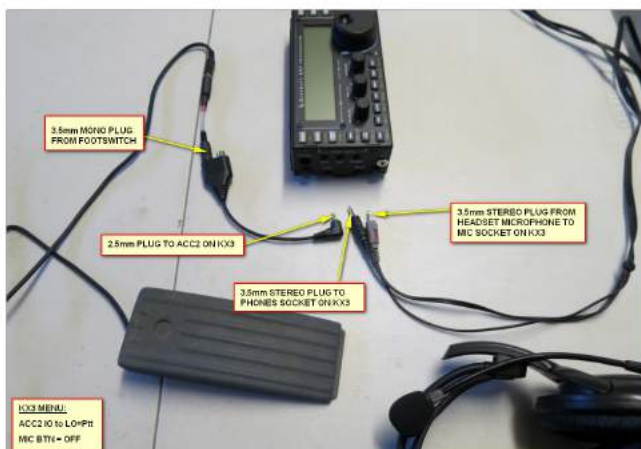
I'm looking to do the first activation on August 27 – see website for details.

73s de Craig VK5CE



Wiring a footswitch for use with computer type headset on the KX3

By Col VK5HCF



This is a really simple little project. All that is required is:

1. a headset.
2. The Elecraft KX3 Packet cable accessory set. (You only need the ACC2 module)
3. A suitable foot switch.

On the cable from the footswitch you will need a MONO 3.5mm plug.

This goes into the socket on the ACC2 module, (alongside the RCA socket).

The 2.5mm stereo plug on the other end of the module plugs into, (you guessed it) the ACC2 socket on the KX3.

The headset speaker stereo plug goes into the “PHONES” socket on the KX3 and the stereo plug from the headset microphone plugs into the “MIC” socket on the KX3.

All that remains to complete the installation is to press and hold the “MENU” button on the KX3 and change the following two items. MENU ITEM: ACC2 IO.....

Change value from “OFF” to “Lo=Ptt” and MIC BTN.....Change value to “OFF” That’s it.

If your standard Elecraft mic has ptt and up / down buttons you will need to change the MIC BTN menu back to “Ptt” after you have finished using the headset and the ACC2 IO menu will need to be returned to the “OFF” state. Also the latest revision to the KX3 software has the voice recorder module activated so that you

now have 2 15 second voice message slots available for “CQ” calls or whatever.

73,

Col VK5HCF

Almost 4 years in SOTA

By Ian VK5CZ

Its been almost 4 years now since SOTA started in vk5 so it was time to go back to my first summit this year for the annual activation. I walked in this time from a neighbouring vineyard on the northern side of the summit property and it was only about 2 km to hike in. The country is very wet now after lots of rain and even over 500 metre above sea level there were a couple of boggy soaks I had to pass through in the paddocks.



Very pretty country side and the weather was nice and cool for hiking.



Nice views to all parts of The Clare Valley from up here .



Some of the ponies who live up here, they are the horses the Police use for their Mounted Brigade and the government have been buying these horses from Kadlunga for many years.



Right at the top now near the trig point and GRN comms tower so I set up slightly north of the trig near an old fallen tree that is good for mounting my squidy.



This is a shot of the clip on extension I am using to get my 20/40 link dipole to work on 80m I have around 9.6 m of extra wire to clip onto both ends of the dipole once it is erect . The clip on wires are then run out further to make a 80m dipole. So far it has worked very well for contacts around vk5 if I am activating in the morning. I usually operate on 3.680 ssb first then cw on the same frequency . Today no one came back on cw but I did make a qso on ssb with Nev VK5WG and Ian VK5IS. Then onto 40m cw thinking I could qualify before roll over then hand out some more chaser points after. I

had 3 in my log with only a few minutes to spare and VK2IO called me but the qsb was so bad I could not get a responding report from him and the clock ticked over and I was into the next UTC day so I had to start all over again.

Thankfully some of the chasers were aware of my plight and came back to chase again after roll over and this time Gerard could hear me better to make a good qso after all. Peter VK3PF and Ron VK3AFW were the only other qso's I had made so I went to 20m hoping ZL1BYD might still be on his summit but I could not hear him there and lucky for me VK6NU and VK6RZ gave me a call to put me over the required amount of qso's. Even though I had Nev and Ian in my log they could not be counted for the new day activation but the VK6's saved my ass.

After I relaxed a bit and just for fun I tried 15m cw just in case my JA friend could hear me as he sent a message to say he was listening on his mobile whip but later txt again to say he could not hear me. Much to my surprise NQ7R answered my cq on 15m along with JS1IFK who must use a Yagi antenna because he is always strong if he calls.

It was a busy activation but it is in the bag now until next year so i packed up and headed off the hill then drove to Laura to meet up with VK5IS VK5MA VK5NWE VK5MBD for lunch which was a nice catch up and first time meeting with VK5MA . We told war stories of course and had a nice lunch at the pub .

Regards from Ian VK5CZ .

Kangaroo Island parks

By Paul VK5PAS

I would like to thank everyone who called me whilst I was away on Kangaroo Island.

I activated a total of 11 Conservation Parks (including Cape Willoughby CP for the ILLW). Unfortunately my 12th planned park (Lesueur CP) was a no go due to time and weather.

I made a total of 860 QSOs.



Here are some stats.....

Cape Willoughby Conservation Park VKFF-318 contacts as VK5CWL (all will be uploaded to Logsearch).

Simpson Conservation Park VKFF-1098 - 54 contacts

Dudley Conservation Park VKFF-0809 - 47 contacts

Parndana Conservation Park VKFF-0925 - 60 contacts

Cygnet Estuary Conservation Park VKFF-1130 - 53 contacts

Nepean Bay Conservation Park VKFF-1067 - 54 contacts

Beyeria Conservation Park VKFF-1005 - 71 contacts

Latham Conservation Park VKFF-0903 - 48 contacts

Pelican Lagoon Conservation Park VKFF-0926 - 45 contacts

Lashmar Conservation Park VKFF-0902 - 49 contacts

Baudin Conservation Park VKFF-1002 - 61 contacts



I will add photos and info re each activation on my Wordpress site in the coming weeks.

Again, thanks to everyone who called, and a special thanks to those who took the time to spot me on either parksnparks, the DX Cluster, or Facebook. It certainly helps.

More information on each activation can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/>

Best 73 and '44',

Paul,
VK5PAS



Geocaching and Waymarking

By Paul VK5PAS



Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a global positioning system (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called 'geocaches' or 'caches'. More information can be found at.....

<https://www.geocaching.com/play>



Waymarking is a way to mark unique locations on the planet and give them a voice. For more information on waymarking, please have a look at.....

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

VK Shires Award

By Bill VK4FR

The VK Shires Award will be broken into various sections as below. There is a weekly net held every Friday at 06.30UTC on 14.240MHz followed by one on 7.185MHz as net controllers see fit. All contacts on or after 1.1.2014 will be eligible to be counted. A copy of your log must accompany your application and be posted to VK SHIRES AWARDS COMMITTEE, C/- Bill Horner, 11 South St, Wondai, Qld 4606, Australia or emailed to spiritdreaming11@bigpond.com Cost per certificate will be \$5USD for overseas or \$5AUD for all VKs.

Basic award VK : 75 shires (must include a minimum of 1 shire from each state) Silver award VK : 150 shires Gold award VK : 300 shires Platinum award VK : all shires

Nomad award :

Basic 25 Shires, Silver 50 Shires, Gold 75 Shires and Platinum 100 Shires . This is a special award for those who travel about and activate shires. Please note you need to work a minimum of 5 stations from each shire.

VK1 award : 1 shire VK2 award : Basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK3 award : Basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK4 award : basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK5 award : basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK6 award : basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK7 award : basic 10 shires, silver 20 shires,

gold all shires VK8 award : basic 5 shires, silver 10 shires, gold all shires **Please note that all VK9 and VK0 call areas do not count for this award.

***For those who actually go and activate a shire you must work a minimum of 50 stations to be eligible to claim the shire for yourself for all parts of the award except the Nomad Award as above. A copy of your log must be sent to the awards manager for verification.

**** Endorsements for SSB or CW or specific bands or QRP etc are available.

***** All National Parks, State Forests, SOTA etc within the boundaries of a shire shall count for that very shire.

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 89 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

Welcome to the following new members to the site....

➤ Chris VK5CP

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.

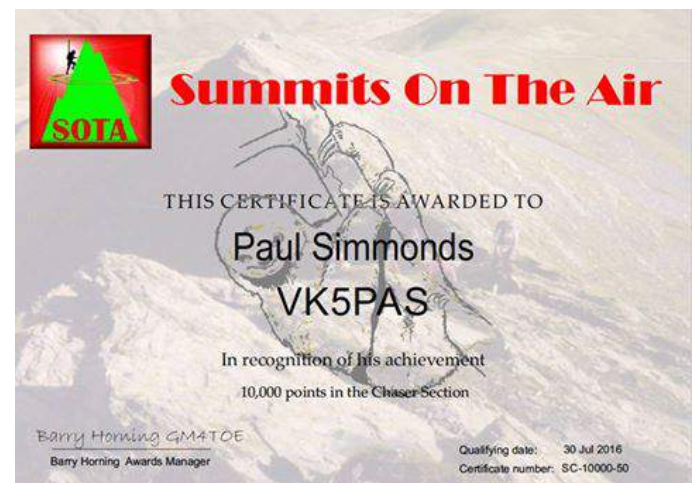
Interstate recipients of the VK5 Parks Award are also included.

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)

- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - **10,000 points Chaser**

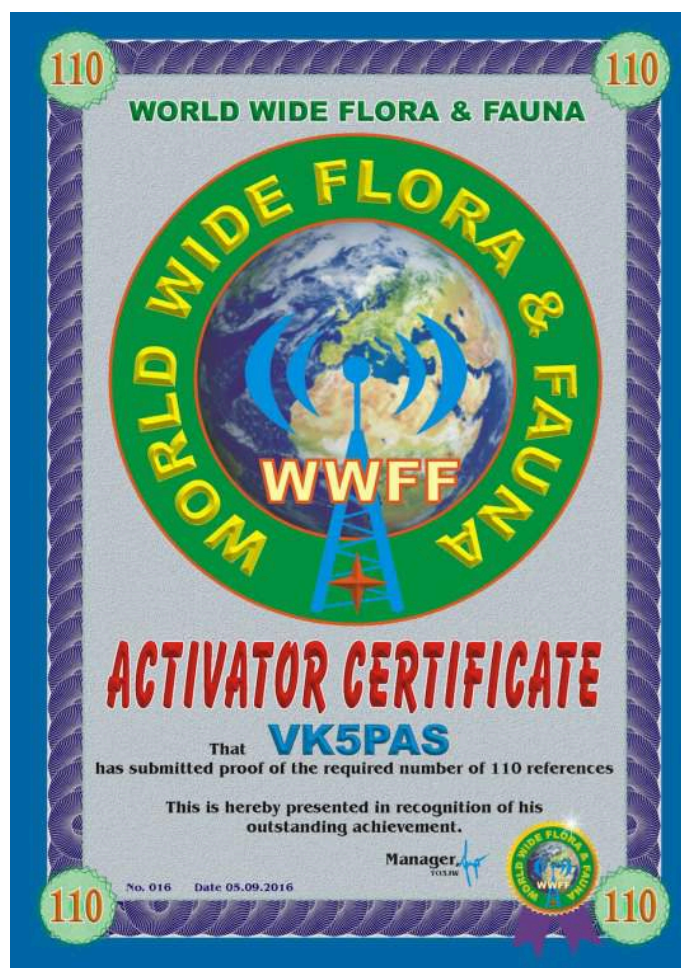
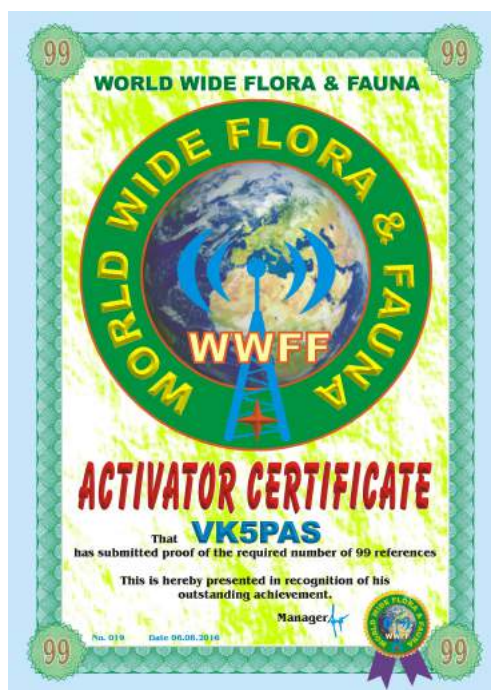


World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Adrian VK5FANA**
 - VKFF Global Hunter – 396
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Toll 400



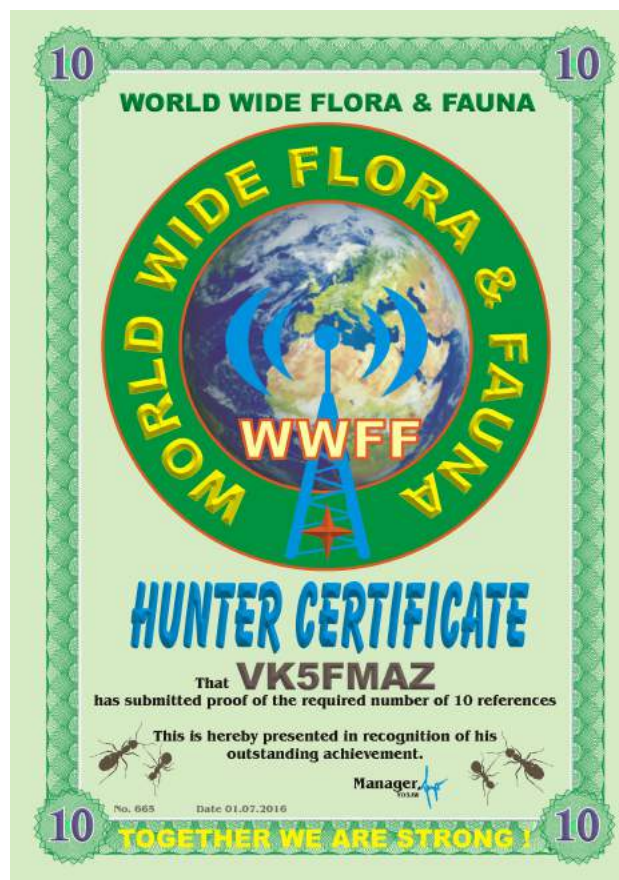
- Paul VK5PAS
 - VKFF Global Activator – 99
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 475
 - Global Activator – 110 references



- **Stef VK5HSX**
 - Platinum VKFF Activator



- **Marija VK5FMAZ**
 - WWFF Global Hunter-10
 - OCCFF-H-7
 - Silver VKFF Hunter



- **Damien VK5FDEC**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 100



- **John VK5BJE**

- WWFF Global Hunter-264



- **Stuart VK5STU**

- OCCFF-H-7
- Diamond VKFF Hunter



- **David VK5PL**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 250

- **Les VK5KLV**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 250



VK5 Parks Award

- **NIL for this period**

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **NIL known**

Other.

- **NIL**



My ideas on setting up your squid pole & portable antenna

By Les VK5KLV

As you would all be aware locating the base of your squid pole is critical to keeping your portable antenna in the air during a park activation. I have used a number of methods and offer a few ideas for your consideration.

1/ Probably the simplest method is to strap the pole to a convenient fence post or similar. I like to use double sided "velcro" strapping in this method, see photos 1 & 2.



2/ Where you don't have a convenient post you can drive in a "star dropper" or similar post into the ground and use the "velcro" strap in the same way as the fence or sign post.



3/ My favourite method involves using a "quadpod" made from the base section of a cheap collapsible aluminium clothes line. I purchased mine from the local "Cheap as Chips" store for \$25.00. See photo 3 for assembled unit in its intended form. Photo 4 shows the "quadpod" which simply uses the base section of the line fitted to the squidpole after removing the original centre section of the clothesline.



The latest portable clotheslines I have seen in "Cheap as Chips" use 3 arms on the top line as well as on the base & require slightly less work to adapt to our use, on the down side, the price has risen considerably.

4/ Finally, once the squid pole is extended it will be necessary to anchor the ends of the antenna & the guying line. I currently use 3 litre milk bottles filled with water as shown in photo 5



5/ The final photo (6) shows the station on air when I spoke to Paul, VK5PAS, Paul, VK5MAP & Craig VK3WAR from the park opposite my home.



Happy activating, Les, VK5KLV.

They're coming out

By Paul VK5PAS

Les VK5KLV sent me these photographs taken recently at Mount Arden. Remember, we are now coming into the warmer weather so these critters will be coming out of hibernation. In the next issue I'll submit some info re snake bite.





VK Shires preferred frequencies

By Bill VK4FW

VK SHIRES

Preferred calling frequencies

80m..... 3.585 mhz ssb and 3.525 mhz cw

40m..... 7.185mhz ssb and 7.025 mhz cw

30m..... 10.105 mhz cw

20m..... 14.240 mhz ssb and 14.025 mhz cw

17m..... 18.140 mhz ssb and 18.075 mhz cw

15m..... 21.240 mhz ssb and 21.025 mhz cw

12m..... 24.940 mhz ssb and 24.895 mhz cw

10m..... 28.440 mhz ssb and 28.025 mhz cw

VKFF Team Championship 2016

By Paul VK5PAS

The VKFF Team Championship will be held on **Sunday 16th October 2016 between 0000 UTC and 0600 UTC.**

- Create a team of 2 or more amateurs (maximum of 4)
- Create a name for your team (please be sensible)
- Register your team with the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS (failing to register will make your activation void for the VKFF Team Championship).
- Activate from a qualifying VKFF park.
- Make as many contacts as possible within the 6 hour period (0000 UTC - 0600 UTC).
- Stay in the park for as long as you like.....6 hours, 3 hours, 1 hour. What ever you choose.
- Operate on as many bands (excluding the WARC bands) as desired (but remember VKFF rules, in that repeaters, IRLP, Echolink do not count for valid VKFF QSOs).
- Operate as many stations as you would like, e.g. one op on 40m, another on 10m, etc.
- Ensure you abide by all VKFF rules.
- There is no requirement for a contest exchange, e.g. 5/9 001.

- Suggested call: *CQ VKFF Team Championship*
- At the end of the VKFF Team Championship, submit your log to the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS.
- The log **MUST** be in ADIF format or by using the CSV file template.

A variety of prizes are on offer. Sponsors include.....

- **Pages of Cobram**
- **SOTABeams**



More information can be found on the WWFF Australia website at.....

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

VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 16th October 2016
0000 UTC - 0600 UTC

What is it all about?.....Over a 6 hour period, teams of amateurs compete against each other, with the goal of obtaining the most number of contacts, whilst activating from a qualifying VKFF park.

How do I take part?.....Create a team of 2 or more amateurs. Come up with a name for your team. Register with VK5PAS, VKFF co-ordinator. Head out to a qualifying VKFF park and compete against other teams of activators.

Prizes.....The winning team will receive a glass etched trophy. Second & Third place certificates will be awarded. Each team member will also receive a participation certificate.

More information?.....Detailed information on the VKFF Team Championship can be found on the WWFF Australia website at.....
<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/>

So far the following teams have nominated.....

- *'The Odd Couple'* - Julie VK3FOWL and Joe VK3YSP
- *'The Walkie Talkies'* - John VK5BJE, Paul VK5PAS & Marija VK5FMAZ
- *'Team Pezo'* - Peter VK5PET and Steve VK5ZEO
- *'Steptoe and Finger'* - Rob VK4FFAB and Brett VK4FTWO
- *'The Mad Mix'* - Mike VK6MB and Michael VK6MMB
- *'spiritdreaming'* - Bob VK4FW, Garry VK1ZZ, Eric VK4NEF
- *'Team Kookaburra'* - Mick VK3PMG and Tony VK3XV
- *'Tassie Devils'* - Jonathan VK6JON/7 and Helen VK7FOLK
- *'Special K's'* - Les VK5KLV and Peter VK5KPR

WWFF Facebook page

By Paul VK5PAS

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

The global WWFF Facebook page now has over 1,000 members. You can find it at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WWFF44/>

VK4 Park News

By Rob VK4FFAB



We have certainly been lucky with activations over the last month. With the addition of the existing national parks and also the conservation parks being added now to the VKFF list, we are blessed for choice and scope for activating. There has not been a better time

than now to be an activator, that is for sure.

Over the last month we have has the following activations:

- Neil VK4HNS activated Main Range NP, Mt Perry CP, and Pidna NP as well as handful of parks over the border in VK2.
- Fred VK4FE activated Mt Cook NP
- Jeff VK4XA and Gary VK1ZZ activated Forty Mile Scrub NP
- Lesley and Hans VK5LOL, VK5YX activated Moorrinya NP, Gundabooka CP, and Paroo-Darling NP
- Rob VK4FFAB activated Tuchekoi NP, Tewanin NP, Woondum Np, Great Sandy NP, Clear Mountain CP, Bunyaville CP, Samford CP, Buckley's Hole CP.

So that's been 16 VK4 parks being activated this last month. It would certainly have to be a record.

So keep looking out for the VK4 parks on parks and peaks and get in the log.

Best 73 and '44',

Rob VK4FFAB



Kangaroo Island coming up

By Grant VK5GR

OC-139 activation from Kangaroo Island with a digital bent (RTTY, PSK etc) tentative 10-16th October. VK5GR/P. Not in a park - just IOTA - will set up my RD station along side the holiday house.

Oceania DX Contest

By Grant VK5GR

VK5ARG/P plans to operate in the Oceania DX Contest portable QRO at the Para Wirra Recreation Park . 160-10m multi-op (4 station capable) setup - with (hopefully) beams for all bands from 40m and up. Visitors will be most welcome - 08:00 UTC Saturday 1st October to 08:00 UTC Sunday 2nd October 2016 (phone) (the station should be at least partially active from around midday Saturday - guest operators welcome if you want to come and try contesting for an hour or so. May also have some other activities running around the site like ARDF hunting on 2m etc.

RD Contest

By Andy VK5AKH

The VK5AKH 2016 RD Contest portable station.....



Power

Station was powered by a Honda EU20i Generator with extended run fuel tank. Generator did not stop the whole contest.



Home Away From Home

Tent and Camp Kitchen Setup.



Operating Station

Radio IC 7600 Amplifier KPA500 Logging MBP with Second monitor (for band Scope that did not work :() Rotator Controller Linear Power Supply. Not Shown: Foot Switch Flightcom Headset (that worked very well :D) 500W blower heater to attempt to keep feet warm. F Pile of empty Coopers Dark Ale and FUIC Strong Cartons.



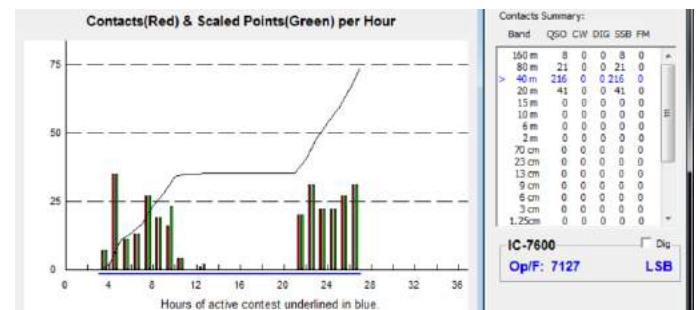
Antenna 20m

Folding HexBeam with Rotator



Antennas Low Bands

Foreground: SFA special, elevated feed vertical tuned with SGC230, with 8 tape measures as the radials. Background: 40m Inverted Vee on new Fibreglass Push Up.



Finished up with 286 contacts and 294 points, it was fair effort to build this station as a single op on Saturday morning and as hard as I was pushing I missed the start of the contest. The 3.5 + hours of assembly had its toll later in the evening when I was a little tired. Next time antennas will be set up in the Friday leaving me fresh for an evening. A good time was had.

More information at.....

<http://imgur.com/a/VYw8X>

OSPOTA

By Paul VK5PAS



Another Facebook page worth having a look at is the Ohio State Parks on the Air.

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

QSL cards

By Paul VK5PAS

If you happen to receive a QSL card from an overseas or local SOTA or parks or portable operator, please send me a copy to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Danny OT4V, BELGIUM (WWFF)



FISTS Downunder

By Paul VK5PAS



The FISTS Downunder – the club for morse code enthusiasts can be found at.....

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

More on VK Shires

By Paul VK5PAS

Gerard VK2IO recently submitted a very interesting post on his Wordpress site with regards to finding out what Shire you are in. It can be found at.....

<https://vk2io.wordpress.com/2016/08/30/find-your-vk-shire-activators/>

Personal safety

By Paul VK5PAS

A reminder, that the onus is upon you, the SOTA or Park activator, when you go out into the field.

An elderly man recently went missing whilst hiking in Wilpena Pound in the Flinders Ranges National Park. More info can be found at.....

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/elderly-man-hiking-in-wilpena-pound-flinders-ranges-last-seen-on-tuesday-afternoon/news-story/fa4e76b389abf06233e6afcdb6116ba9?>

Stop and take a think before transmitting

By Grant VK5GR



A note to SSB operators: Please think twice about transmitting over the top of that 'annoying' whine or whistle! It may not be a local birdy but instead be someone's DX Contact on a digital mode! LSB dial frequencies to think twice about using include:

3576-3581 (80m JT65/JT9 World Wide DX channel)

7076-7081 (40m JT65/JT9 World Wide DX channel)

7040-7060 (40m VK & WW Digital Modes segment)

Now while some of the voice signals I hear in here are clearly "illegals" there are enough legitimate signals to make you wince.

So, please, think twice about that frequency selection - you might just be killing someone's Greyline DX.....

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.

- ZL2AJ, SOTA ZL1/ WK-139 (28/8/2016)
- IZ1RDQ/p, Italian Abbeys and Italian Castles Award (26/8/2016)
- IZ5GST/p, IFF-0912 (26/8/2016)
-

Hand carried QRP antennas

By Peter VK3YE

Hand-carried QRP antennas is the new book that takes the mystery out of portable antennas. After inviting you to assess your needs, it discusses the pros and cons of popular types. Its style is brisk and practical with almost no maths.

Many ideas for cheap but good materials suitable for portable antennas are given. Beginners and those returning to radio after a break should especially find this section handy.

Finally there's construction details on a variety of simple but practical antennas and accessories suitable for portable operating. All have been built and tested by the author over almost 30 years of successful QRP activity.

Hand-carried QRP antennas is an ebook readable on most devices (free software available if you don't have a Kindle). It's Peter's

second book, following on from the popular *Minimum QRP*, released last year.

More information:

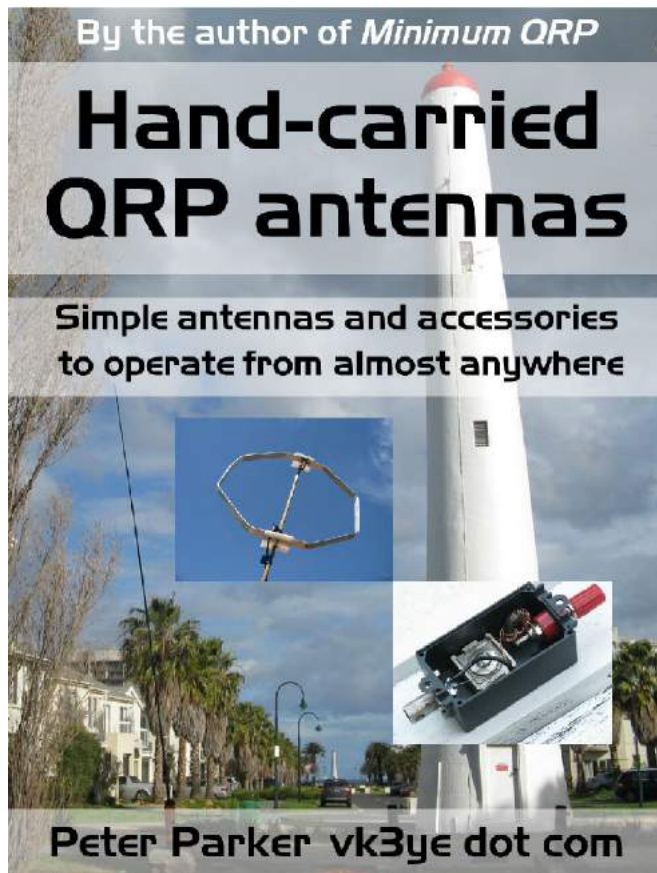
<http://home.alphalink.com.au/~parkerp/handqrp.htm>

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/vk3yeradiobooks/>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imFk17gARiA>



Ham humour



Look at you-folding laundry. Last night it was the dishes! What part of "NO, you're not buying ANOTHER RADIO!" don't you understand?

Latest videos

By Paul VK5PAS



If you have put together a You Tube video, or spotted a video of interest somewhere, please let me know.

VK5 Parks Award promotional video.

<https://youtu.be/ovguZtR8KUQ>