



# "OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 26, December 2016

## Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to Issue 26 December 2016, of 'Out and About in VK5'. This newsletter focuses on South Australian (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.

November was a very busy month for me. I travelled to Victoria to participate in the annual Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) activation weekend. I make the journey over each year to take part in this fun weekend. This year I travelled to the Victoria/New South Wales border and activated the Gunbower National Park, the Barmah National Park, and the Terrick Terrick National Park. A full report on the KRMNPA weekend

prepared by Tony VK3XV/VK3VTH is contained in this issue.

Whilst interstate I also activated a number of other parks and SOTA summits in Victoria. Some of those were with Andrew VK6AS. Andrew had flown into Albury and we had teamed up from there, to present a number of presentations in Tangambalanga, Melbourne, and Geelong on the Wireless Institute of Australia.

All up I activated a total of nine (9) parks, five (5) SOTA summits, and delivered four (4) WIA presentations. I clocked up around 2,400 km. Although I would have preferred not to be discussing the current issues surrounding the

WIA, it was a great opportunity of catch up with amateurs from VK2 & VK3.

A few weekends after returning home, the VKFF Activation Weekend was held (Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016). And what a great weekend it was. Preliminary stats show that 31 activators ventured out on Saturday and activated a total of 36 unique parks. On Sunday a total of 27 activators headed out and activated a total of 34 unique parks. My wife Marija VK5FMAZ headed out with me on the Saturday and we activated two parks. On Sunday I headed out and activated three parks.

The annual AHARS Buy and Sell was also held during November, and as has been the case in previous years, Ian VK5CZ and I set up a SOTA and Parks display at the Buy and Sell. We had a large amount of interest shown in the display, with plenty of questions asked.

The regular VK5 Parks Award Friday afternoon/evening events will commence on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and will continue during the summer months. These afternoon/evening sessions have proven to be very popular in the past, and I hope that popularity continues this summer season.

I have had a few contributors to this issue including John VK5BJE/VK5PF who has a very interesting article on the impact of trees on

radio propagation. Ian VK5CZ gives us a run down of his recent SOTA activities in the Mid North, whilst David VK5PL talks about Log4OM. Col VK5HCF tells us about his involvement in the VKFF Activation Weekend.

However I always welcome MORE. 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](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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# The impact of Trees on Radio Propagation

By John VK5BJE/VK5PF



This paper came about because Paul, VK5PAS, was told by a European amateur, who in responding to a photograph of Paul's portable station, suggested his antenna was too close to trees and that this would impact negatively on propagation. Paul asked me to write something on this topic for *Out and About*.

I should declare at the outset that I do not have formal qualifications in physics and simply hold an AOCP (1977).

However, I said I would tackle the topic as an amateur radio operator.

Trees belong to a class of organic objects which include shrubs and ground cover plants, such as native grasses, which might all have a potential impact on radio propagation. The factor of interest is *absorption*, but could include other factors such as *directivity*. If trees and

other foliage absorb radio frequency energy (RF), is this a serious matter and likely to adversely affect a portable amateur radio station? Many objects are able to absorb RF, for example, people, cars, rocks, hills as well as foliage.

In my experiments on 23 cm with Brian, VK5BC, Brian noted that an increase in signal strength at his home station occurred if he turned his beam towards the local silos at Gawler. I know from *Amateur Radio Magazine*, that Justin (VK7TW) reported that amateurs in Hobart use Mount Wellington as a passive reflector for 23 cm transmissions around the city and environs. Those of you with two metres and 70 centimetres transmission capability in your vehicles will know that antenna placement is critical in determining the radiation pattern. Roof top centre-mounted antennas are more likely to result in a donut-shaped radiation pattern and perform better. You are also likely to have experienced 'flutter' on our mobile VHF and UHF, as well as with FM broadcast transmissions caused by objects, including plants, in the propagation path.

When it comes to absorption of radio waves by foliage this has been researched for several decades (see Goraishi, Takada & Imai, 2013, ch 6).

More recently telephone companies have driven this research on the impact of foliage on their UHF and microwave transmissions because they want to know how foliage might change the radiation patterns from their phone towers, especially when foliage is suggested as a factor in persuading the local neighbourhood

to accept a tower, as was the case recently at Bridgewater in the Adelaide Hills.

An internet search revealed a plethora of articles, some scientific, of absorption at UHF and microwave frequencies and many articles by amateurs about foliage and HF. The latter were more subjective and observational as one would expect from amateurs who do not have the resources available to research institutions, government and military.

When I later conducted a search using *Google Scholar* I found over 100 refereed journal articles. A meta-analysis of these is beyond my capacity and time. So returning to observational approaches to understanding absorption has been the field of amateurs. Carefully recorded observations can be useful. I know from my own experiments on 70 cm using ATV (AM), SSB and FM foliage has an impact on signals. Flutter noise and fluctuating signals resulted, especially when the foliage was wet (see Meng et al, 2009) and the impact on ATV was more noticeable because of the 7MHz channel. With digital television signals, at home if I walk through the signal from channel 44 the picture pixilates.

At the empirical level many of the reported experiments targeting the interaction of radio waves with vegetation in a spatial sense used directional antennas (beams). This is the simplest approach (see Ghoraishi et al, 2013). Their conclusion ‘is that the airy spaces in the vegetated area can have a crucial influence in directing the signal toward specific directions, to be re-directed by foliage with the line of sight towards the receiver’. Or, in my words, such a situation can have unintended consequences in terms of the target area for your signal.

What about foliage at HF frequencies?

Should we give up using trees as antenna supports for our stations in the field or at home? My answer is a strong NO! Experiments at HF are much more difficult to construct. There are simply too many variables to control, for example, the sun (the K and A indices, the solar flux, the time of the year and the season), antennas, structure, type, direction, the skill of the radio operator (the art of communication) and equipment. What we can say is that trees are small, relatively in terms of wavelength. Australian trees, especially eucalypts, are generally less dense than trees that grow in colder climates, Europe and North America for example. And our portable experiences would be poorer if we couldn’t find a magnificent shade tree to keep the sun away in an extended activation while the tree also supports one end of the antenna. My view is that the losses in miss-matched antennas, batteries with reduced voltage and lack of operator skill are more likely to impact on the success of your day out.

Just beware that some Australian eucalypts can drop branches, especially on a hot day after wind. So be careful!

## References

Giles-Clark, Justin, VK7-News, Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania (REAST), *Amateur Radio Magazine*, October 2016, pp 62-63

Ghoraishi, Mia, Jun-ichi, Takada and Imai, Tetsuro, (2013), *Radio Wave Propagation Through Vegetation*, Chapter 6. Accessed 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/52571>

Meng, Y. S., Lee, Y. H. and Ng, B. C., 2009, STUDY OF PROPAGATION LOSS PREDICTION IN FOREST ENVIRONMENT, Progress in Electromagnetics Research, B, Vol 17, 117 - 133

## A new way to test antennas

By Paul VK5PAS



DXplorer™ is a unique web-based system providing facilities for on-air antenna system testing and comparison as well as real-time HF propagation analysis. DXplorer™ has been designed to be used with WSPRlite™. DXplorer™ is available for all radio amateurs to use, and works on mobile phones, desktops and tablets.

More information can be found at.....

[http://dxplorer.net/?mc\\_cid=c1bd216587&mc\\_eid=76223bdaa4](http://dxplorer.net/?mc_cid=c1bd216587&mc_eid=76223bdaa4)

## A reminder about snakes

By Paul VK5PAS



Above; Red-bellied black snake. Image courtesy of Adelaide Now.

I recently read on ‘Adelaide Now’ that snakes are in great numbers across South Australia.

Five snakes to keep a watch out for here in SA are:

1. Eastern brown
2. Red-bellied Black
3. Copperhead
4. Western Brown
5. Tiger

Some suggestions are that if you are bushwalking, try to stick to well-used open trails. And also use a walking stick in scrub areas to alert a snake of your approach. Snakes can hear low frequency sounds like the thud of approaching footsteps and movement of a large object, and will either move away or hid to avoid detection.



Avoid walking through thickly vegetated areas. Do not disturb a snake on a walking trail: give it a wide berth and step onto, rather than over, fallen logs as there may be a snake on the other side.

Most snakes are not aggressive and will not chase you, so, if you leave them alone, they will leave you alone. Almost all snake bites occur when people try to handle, kill or harm a snake.



*Above:- Western brown snake. Image courtesy Adelaide Now*

What do you do if you are bitten by a snake? For all snake bites, emergency care is needed. Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance, apply a pressure immobilisation bandage and keep the person calm and as still as possible until medical help arrives. Avoid washing the bite area because any venom left on the skin can help identify the snake. Do not apply a tourniquet, cut the wound or attempt to suck the venom out.



## SOTA

By Ian VK5CZ



This week in November Hugh and I finally got the chance to get back up north and finish off these out standing summits on our list. I have a cabin in the Orroroo Caravan park and the air conditioner was very nice when I got back this afternoon. Early this morning I went to The Bendleby Ranges property to meet up with Hugh as he was staying there in the sheering Quarters accommodation. Its about 50km extra for me to travel but I like this cabin here and it can be a good escape from hay fever that has been bothering me for about 6 weeks this year.





While I was waiting for Hugh I had a chat with Ian VK5IS on 3.680 mhz using my trusty old Hustler set up with good signals on the band this morning.

Hugh came along and we headed for Price Hill about 30 km further up the track and met the station manager who was busy fencing when we turned up. He was a very nice fellow and he knew about Amateur Radio from when he was a boy scout as he had taken part in several JOTA camps. After a rather long chat and showing him my KX3 he agreed it was a lot smaller than the big Valve radios he remembered from his scouting days.



As you can see the grass is very thick long and dry, we were very careful not to park the hot

vehicle in the long grass and seeing the track was completely over grown we decided to walk from here.



Hugh was setting a great pace and we were still not sure how far it was, but Hugh's GPS said about 3 km so we just had to head in the general direction as long as we gained height as we went. The summit is further south from the hill in the back ground of the picture so finding the best way there is always a bit tricky on a first time visit.



Break through at last the summit range is in the back ground and Hugh is on a Goat track now so that should take us up into the higher parts of the range . Typical stony rough terrain for the Flinders with low trees and native grasses and

lots of Spinifex Grass to stick in you through your jeans.



Its a nice feeling when you finally reach the top of a range and you can see even further beyond the sight of a steep climb in front of you , This is my view towards West and Quorn is way off in the blue hills, my other favourite SOTA destination. We then had to walk about 1 more Kilometre along the top of the range to arrive at the old fallen down Trig that is now used as a Roo shelter on a windy day.



Had the shirt undone , as it was not cold but we did have a nice breeze from the south east direction causing us to find a spot on the western side to set up as it was probably too windy right on top.



The Solar Panel runs a UHF CB repeater on channel 1 which was quite active and very handy for the local land owners to keep in touch on their daily jobs around these large Pastoral properties.



Hugh is the proud owner of a KX2 which we were able to give a run this activation . As we got to the summit a bit later than we thought the gang of chasers on 80m were all doing other things so we made no qso on that band.

But after much calling we finally attracted some chasers but not many, Hugh just making 4 qso's and I made 6 after him. That is a bit too close for comfort .

I must say I like the KX2 it works just like my KX3 in lots of ways but it has a better speaker that can handle higher output or volume levels so even with quite a strong wind it was easy to hear everyone. Getting a few of the function buttons worked out and turning off a few unnecessary settings was achieved without the hand book . One thing with the Tune button being used for a second function it can take you into a menu if you push and hold instead of tapping it for a short period of time. I think the KX3 with two fold out legs makes it more stable when perched on a rock too as the KX2 only has one fold out leg and the stiff mic cord can make it easy to pull the radio off its footing if you are not careful.

On the hike back down we took a different way trying to find a track that might give more chances to drive in a bit closer but we found the track was washed out quite badly with lots of short sharp creeks running across out path and it was 4 km to walk back so our more line of site way up was shorter and no harder.

Bit of a foot note here near the end, I called this summit Price Hill which is it's rightful name but in the SOTA summit list it is named Prince Hill which I will request an update soon.

Thanks to the chasers and thanks Hugh for organising the permissions for the properties and thanks for reading my Blog.

Regards Ian VK5CZ

## Aussie Backyard bird count

By Paul VK5PAS



You may recall that a few weeks ago I headed out to operate portable as part of the Aussie Backyard bird count & National Bird week.

More than 61,000 people participated this year, submitting over 45,000 checklists and counting 1.4 million birds!

The Top 10 most counted bird species in Australia remained unchanged for the third year running, with the Rainbow Lorikeet once again claiming the number one national spot.

Here in South Australia the top ten were as follows:

1. Rainbow lorikeet
2. New Holland Honeyeater
3. Australian Magpie
4. House Sparrow
5. Noisy Miner
6. Red Wattlebird
7. Galah
8. Silver Gull
9. Crested Pigeon

## 10. Welcome Swallow

More information can be found at.....

<http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/2016-results/>

## Silent key

By Paul VK5PAS

It is with great sadness that I report the sudden passing of Gyula HA6OB of Hungary.

Gyula was ranked number 8 in the world in the WWFF Hunter list. He was also a great supporter of the VKFF program and had reached Sapphire VKFF Hunter level.

Gyula appeared in many of my logs as I am sure he did with many other VKFF activators.

Vale Gyula HA6OB.



## Park to Park

By Paul VK5PAS

I am sure that most of you would have noticed that the Park to Park award is still not live on the wwff.co website. It is hoped that it will be available again soon.

Andrew MOYMA, the Logsearch Admin stated:

"The main problem with P2P (and Top Operators) is that the current [Plesk] server config does not allow me to run PHP scripts as timed-jobs. Everything else is working fine, albeit Directory Manager is still on the old server."

## Please vet your WWFF logs

By Paul VK5PAS

Can I please implore activators to DOUBLE CHECK their logs before sending them to me for upload to WWFF Logsearch.

I have received a few logs in the past week from the VKFF Activation weekend which have contained simple errors, which have required correcting. These simple errors have included wrong dates for QSOs and incomplete/incorrect call signs. Basic errors that could have been prevented if activators had vetted their log.

Please remember that once your log has been uploaded, I cannot delete the log here in



Australia. I need to send a request off to the Logsearch administrator in the UK.

It is also important that activators accurately record their Park to Park (P2P) contacts.

I often get inquisitive and sometimes angry emails from other activators wanting to know why their contact with another amateur doesn't show up in the P2P list. The reason is generally that the other activator has not accurately recorded the P2P contact.

I highly recommend Fast Log Entry (FLE) for ADIF files. This program is WWFF friendly and has a specific area for P2P contacts. Or the CSV file template has a specific P2P column to record P2P activity.

Please remember, a simple vetting process of your log will most likely save a lot of extra work.

73 & '44',

Paul,  
VK5PAS  
VKFF co-ordinator

## New National Park

By Paul VK5PAS

South Australia has a new National Park, the **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park—Winaityinaityi Pangkara**. It was declared on 27 October 2016.

The park which is about 2500 hectares in size, is north of Adelaide. The park will safeguard the habitat of migratory birds.

## VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



The 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend took place on **Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November 2016.**

Preliminary stats show that 31 activators ventured out on Saturday and activated a total of 36 unique parks. On Sunday a total of 27 activators headed out and activated a total of 34 unique parks.

The following activators took part:

- VK1AD
- VK1AT
- VK1DI
- VK2IO
- VK2QR
- VK2XSE
- VK2YK/4
- VK3ARH

- VK3BYD
- VK3FLCS
- VK3FOWL
- VK3MTB
- VK3PF
- VK3PMG/VK3GGG
- VK3SG
- VK3TKK
- VK3XCI
- VK3XV
- VK3YSP
- VK3ZPF
- VK4AAC/3
- VK4HNS
- VK5AFZ
- VK5EE
- VK5FANA
- VK5FMAZ
- VK5GI
- VK5GJ
- VK5GY
- VK5HCF
- VK5KLV
- VK5KPR
- VK5NIG
- VK5PAS
- VK5PET
- VK5PL
- VK5ZGY
- VK6ADF
- VK6LDX
- VK6XN

- VK7DW
- VK7FOLK
- VK7JON

I will forward out a participation certificate to each of the activators in the coming weeks.

Thankyou to everyone who took part in the weekend. It appeared to be a great success and a lot of fun.

## KRMNPA Weekend

By Tony VK3XV



This is the report on last weekend's Keith Roget Memorial National Park Award 2016. (Formerly the VK3 National Parks Award)

The activation period was held across 4 days. Friday November 11 to Monday November 14. 2016 was the 6th annual activation weekend.

The aim of the activation period was to stimulate Portable Amateur Radio “activity” in



as many of the 45 VK3 National Parks as possible, to assist both Hunters and Activators to gain “credits” in order to progress their points tally towards achieving their Award program goals..... And, of course, to also have fun in the Great Outdoors.

In 2016 a total of 41 VK3 National Parks were activated across the 4 day period by 25 (possibly 26) Operators. The number of Parks activated was a substantial increase from the previous record of 34 Parks (2015), as indeed was the number of park activators braving the elements and the QRN.

As a brief comparison: 2011: 11 Parks / 2012: 15 Parks / 2013: 26 Parks / 2014: 34 Parks / 2015: 28 Parks / 2016: 41 Parks.

Again in 2016 the weekend attracted many; much welcomed and appreciated Portable Activators from VK2, VK4 and VK5. A **BIG** thank you to you all! Your efforts contributed to the activation of many VK3 National Parks which would otherwise not have been available to Hunters.

The Interstate visitor breakdown was as follows:

**VK2AWJ/ 3, John**, has been a regular Activator participant since 2011, and many look forward to chatting with John as he travels in his trusty Campervan visiting VK3 National Parks. John teamed up this year with **Peter, VK3ZPF**, to successfully activate French Island on Friday and later travelled to Wilsons Promontory NP, Morwell NP and finally Tarra-Bulga NP Thanks John!

**VK5AV/3**, Tim travelled from Mt. Gambier to activate the much sought after Mt. Eccles NP. Unfortunately, Tim was plagued with an intermittent transceiver problem and was forced to abandon operations early in proceedings. Thanks for giving it a go Tim!

**Paul, VK5PAS/3** once again made the journey from the Adelaide Hills, visiting the Murray River region with activations of the very wet Gunbower and Barmah National Parks. Paul also visited Victoria's answer to Ayers Rock..... Terrick Terrick National Park. While in the region Paul was able to activate several VKFF Regional Parks and one SOTA peak. Thanks Paul!

**Lesley VK5LOL/3** and **Hans VK5YX/3** travelled once again to enjoy a weekend in Wyperfeld National Park and the Murray – Sunset National Park. The weather conditions in this area were very taxing as I understand it. Thanks for being there Folks and assisting with the KRMNPA weekend.

**David, VK3TUN / VK5DG** made 35 contacts from the Lower Glenelg NP. Three of those Park contacts were via the Oscar-29 Satellite. David also bagged 8 new VK3 National Parks. David has also achieved the basic Award across the weekend as **VK3TUN** with 15 Parks worked. Well done David.

While travelling around Australia with XYL, Doris, well known activator **Rob, VK4AAC/3** has been busily going Portable in the Parks. Rob was heard with his usual big signal from Heathcote-Graytown NP on Friday and Little Desert National Park. Keep up the good work

Rob, and thanks for being there.

The remaining Parks were activated by an equally keen group of VK3 Amateurs:

**Warren VK3BYD/P** travelled to the rarely activated Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park on Sunday after a full day in the Alpine National Park working from Mt. Nelse on Saturday. Warren used CW and SSB for his many contacts (40 & 80m) including SOTA activations. Warren reports one P2P with Peter VK3PF (Baw Baw) on 80m. Thanks Warren for your continued support.

**Tim VK3MTB/P** again supported the weekend with activations from The Lakes NP and Tarra Bulga NP with great results for many Hunters. Thanks Tim for participating in 2016.

**Peter VK3TKK/P** was out and about across the weekend with activations in the Chiltern- Mt. Pilot NP, Warby-ovens NP, Mount Buffalo NP and the Churchill NP and on Sunday the Organ Pipes NP. Peter also added a few VKFF activations during his travels. Thanks Peter for your support and providing a few VKFF new ones at the same time!

**Mick VK3PMG/P**, travelled from home town Stawell to the Kara Kara NP Saturday morning followed by a quick trip to the Grampians in the afternoon.

Mick was also spotted deep in the Warby – Ovens NP giving out much needed contacts. Thanks again for your participation Mick in 2016.

**Norm, VK3XCI/P** travelled from Mildura on Friday to the Wyperfeld NP..... Reports indicate Norm suffered huge QRN due to the local

severe storm activity as did **Rex VK3OF/P** and **Greg VK3BRQ/P** who were also in the Park on Friday night. When questioned about the Storm activity Rex commented “it was an interesting night. Let’s leave it at that” So the message is “it’s not *always* fun!”

Rex and Greg also activated Hattah-Kulkyne with solid signals while Norm moved to the Little Desert NP and had serious problems keeping the Squid Pole standing. 22 Park contacts for Norm from Little Desert and on Monday with an audience of mystified Asian and European tourists Norm managed 10 quick contacts before the Squid Pole went horizontal and it was QRT. Thanks Rex, Greg and Norm!

**Hiro, VK3EHG/P**, was putting out a great signal from Dandenong Ranges National Park, both on CW and SSB once again in 2016. Thanks Hiro. Great to have you on board again.

**Bernard VK3AV/P** was also very busy out and about activating the Lake Eildon NP with 11 contacts including DX contacts with Christchurch, Fiji, and Tonga. And 4 other VK3 Parks: Brisbane Ranges, Organ Pipes, Kinglake and finally the Yarra Ranges NP on Sunday afternoon. Bernard reports many trees were down in the area following the wild storms of the weekend. Thanks Bernard for your efforts.

Regular Park activator and hunter **Brett, VK3FLCS/P** was able to spend a few hours on Saturday, activating the Greater Bendigo National Park and adding to his growing list of portable activities. Excellent to see another Foundation Licence in the mix. Well done Brett! Brisbane Ranges NP was, as usual, a well

activated Park with **Malcolm, VK3MEL** joining in the fun across the weekend. Thanks Mal.

The dynamic duo, **Joe VK3YSP** and **Julie VK3FOWL**, were kept busy running the **VK3SRC** call sign..... School Amateur Radio Club Network..... from both the Mornington Peninsula and the Point Nepean National Parks. **VK3SRC** worked over 25 VK3 National Parks across the weekend and has already applied for the Level Two KRMNPAward. Well done Joe and Julie.

Over in the east of the state, activity was also high with well-known Calls working from National Parks.....

**Allen VK3ARH** reports a “big and successful weekend”. Allen worked hard to activate all of his 5 registered parks including Lind, Alfred, Croajingolong, Coopracambra and Errinundra Parks. Great effort Allen and much appreciated by all.

**Peter VK3PF/P** reports working from home QTH on Saturday morning with 10 National Parks worked and 10 VKFF references as a bonus. Baw Baw was visited by Peter in the afternoon with 48 contacts including 13 VK3 National Parks. Peter went portable again on Sunday in the Mitchell River National Park, (one of the rarer parks) to ensure as many Hunters as possible were able to secure Mitchell River. From Mitchell River NP VK3PF/P made a contact with David VK5PL which resulted in a KRMNPA Merit Award. (see below) Well done Peter.

**Peter VK3ZPF** was once again busy across the weekend. Peter joined **John VK2AWJ/3** on

French Island on Friday and later moved to fill some spots in the much need Snowy River and Errinundra parks in a camping trip to the region. To break the drive home, Peter reports he caught up with **Tim VK3MTB** in the Morwell National Park and later with **Peter VK3TKK** while he was activating the Bunyip State park during his travels. Peter logged 126 QSOs which included 7 DX and 13 VK3 National Parks. Thanks Peter.

Amateur Radio Victoria (ARV) call sign, **VK3WI**, was available from the Birsbane Ranges for a short period on Friday evening making 37 contacts before going QRT.

And finally me.....**Tony VK3XV** managed to activate 5 Parks across the weekend being Lower Goulburn, Greater Bendigo, Chiltern-Mt. Pilot, Heathcote-Graytown and Warby Ovens. Sheryl and I got just a little wet on the Sunday which slowed us down, however overall we were able to contribute 170 contacts for park hunters. And the best part of those 170 contacts was hearing “thanks for the new one”. Like many activators across the weekend that was a regular exchange. Terrific.

And one of these Happy Hunters was **David, VK5PL**, who after chasing VK3 National Parks for the Award for 2+ years finally snared the elusive Park 45 with a contact to the Mitchell River National Park being operated by **Peter VK3PF/P**.

**David, VK5PL** has already successfully applied for the Hunters Merit Award. Well done David. I will let David tell his story:

Before the weekend I had worked 43 of the National Parks so I was looking for just 2 to

complete the set. Mitchell River NP and Warby Ovens NP. On Friday I had a short time at the radio and worked 3 parks but not the missing two. Conditions had improved from previous weeks where I had only been able to hear a couple of parks over the past 3-4 weeks. On Saturday I was able to spend a bit longer on the radio and picked up 7 parks including Warby-Ovens NP courtesy of Tony 3XV, so now only one to go! Sunday now and conditions are not too good, a little local rain and quite a bit of noise about. I saw a spot that 3PF Peter was in Mitchell River but on tuning the frequency I could hear his voice but was unable to make out words so was unsure when he was calling or listening to another call so I tuned around looking for others but kept coming back in case conditions improved. I worked Paul 5PAS in Barmah, listened for Peter then heard Rex 3OF booming in at 59 and gave him a call. I wasn't really listening to his next contact as I entered the contact in the log, but thought he mentioned 3PF so my ears perked up. He then called me back and told me to go up 5 to try a contact, as Peter had heard me & I think he knew I needed the park. On 7.140 I called in and I could now make out words, exchanged reports and I became emotional about the final park to complete the award and almost could not finish the contact, but a deep breath and I had done it. Thanks to Amateur Radio Victoria for supporting the award that has taken me 2 years to finish. Thanks to all the activators who have braved all weathers to enable us Hunters to have fun chasing them. I have worked quite a lot of the parks several times as the Activators also need us Hunters to get the award for themselves as activators.

As the ARV Awards Manager I have no doubt I

will also be getting other applications in the next few weeks as other Hunters and Activators tally up their totals. I look forward to receiving applications in due course and these will be announced on the Group as usual.

Again in 2016 ARV will be providing a 2016 Participants Certificate to all Activators. I will begin processing these in the next few weeks and will soon begin posting Certificates to activators.

The **2017 KRMNPA** activation weekend will take place **Friday November 10 - Monday November 13**. Please put this date in your diary now.

In closing, sincere thanks to ALL who participated.....both Hunters & Activators.

And also special thanks to Allen VK3ARH (Parks N Peaks and AR publicity), Peter VK3PF (AR Publicity and supporter, Paul VK5PAS (Parks supporter/VKFF Award Manager), Jim Linton VK3PC (ARV Publicity) and the Amateur Radio Victoria Council. Without your interest and support of portable activities, the bands would be a very different scenario from what we have now. Thanks to all.

73 Tony VK3XV

## Recent Park Activations

With the VKFF Activation Weekend, there was quite a bit of park activity in South Australia.

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

- Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park VKFF-0866, Greg VK5GJ (27/11/2016)
- Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park VKFF-0866, Norm VK5GI (27/11/2016)
- Moana Sands Conservation Park VKFF-1061, Greg VK5GJ (27/11/2016)
- Moana Sands Conservation Park VKFF-1061, Norm VK5GI (27/11/2016)
- Upper Spencer Gulf Marine National Park VKFF-1757, Les VK5KLV (27/11/2016)
- Upper Spencer Gulf Marine National Park VKFF-1757, Peter VK5KPR (27/11/2016)
- Springmount Conservation Park VKFF-0789, Bon VK5AFZ (27/11/2016)
- Douglas Point Conservation Park VKFF-0795, Greg VK5ZGY (27/11/2016)
- Eastern Spencer Gulf Marine Park VKFF-1706, Adrian VK5FANA (27/11/2016)

- Calectasia Conservation Park VKFF-1010, Col VK5HCF (27/11/2016)
- Calectasia Conservation Park VKFF-1010, Tom VK5EE (27/11/2016)
- Dingley Dell Conservation Park VKFF-1025, Greg VK5ZGY (27/11/2016)
- Penola Conservation Park VKFF-0803, Col VK5HCF (27/11/2016)
- Penola Conservation Park VKFF-0803, Tom VK5EE (27/11/2016)
- Para Wirra Conservation Park VKFF-1739, Nigel VK5NIG (27/11/2016)
- Cox Scrub Conservation Park VKFF-0824, Gordon VK5GY (27/11/2016)
- Reedy Creek Conservation Park VKFF-0931, Col VK5HCF (27/11/2016)
- Reedy Creek Conservation Park VKFF-0931, Tom VK5EE (27/11/2016)

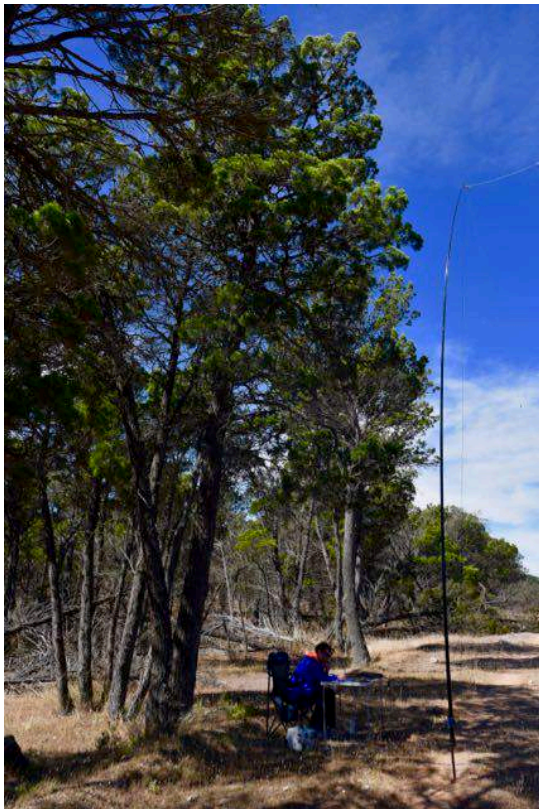


Above:- Tom VK5EE & Col VK5HCF at Reedy Ck CP. Image courtesy of VK5HCF

- Ridley Conservation Park VKFF-0932, Paul VK5PAS/p (27/11/2016)



- Swan Reach Conservation Park VKFF-0832, Paul VK5PAS (27/11/2016)
- Marne Valley Conservation Park VKFF-0906, Paul VK5PAS (27/11/2016)
- Ewens Ponds Conservation Park VKFF-0796, Greg VK5ZGY (26/11/2016)
- Mount Remarkable National Park VKFF-0360, Les VK5KLV (26/11/2016)
- Cox Scrub Conservation Park VKFF-0824, Gordon VK5GY (26/11/2016)
- Mowantjie Willawaur Conservation Park VKFF-0919, Paul VK5PAS (26/11/2016)
- Mowantjie Willawaur Conservation Park VKFF-0919, Marija VK5FMAZ (26/11/2016)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ at Mowantjie Willawaur CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

- Poonthie Ruwe Conservation Park VKFF-1082, Paul VK5PAS (26/11/2016)
- Totness Recreation Park VKFF-1754, Peter VK5PET (26/11/2016)



Above: the set up of Peter VK5PET at the Totness Recreation Park. Image courtesy of VK5PET

- Poonthie Ruwe Conservation Park VKFF-1082, Marija VK5FMAZ (26/11/2016)



- Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park VKFF-1755, Adrian VK5FANA (26/11/2016)
- Picaninnie Ponds Conservation Park VKFF-0927, Greg VK5ZGY (26/11/2016)
- Ewens Ponds Conservation Park VKFF-0796, Greg VK5ZGY (26/11/2016)
- Wiljani Conservation Park VKFF-1159, David VK5PL (26/11/2016)



*Above: the operating spot of David VK5PL at Wiljani. Image courtesy of VK5PL*

- Ararat Hills Regional Park VKFF-0958 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (16/11/2016)
- Mount Baranduda Regional Park VKFF-0959 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (14/11/2016)
- Wodonga Regional Park VK3/ VE-237 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (14/11/2016)
- Murray Valley National Park VKFF-1178 NEW SOUTH WALES, Paul VK5PAS/2 (13/11/2016)
- Barmah National Park VKFF-0739 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (13/11/2016)
- Terrick Terrick National Park VKFF-0630 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (12/11/2016)
- Gunbower National Park VKFF-0740 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (12/11/2016)



*Above:- Paul VK5PAS at the Gunbower National Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

- Kerang Regional Park VKFF-0970  
VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3  
(11/11/2016)
- Leaghur State Park VKFF-0762  
VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3  
(11/11/2016)
- Montacute Conservation Park VKFF-0910, Paul VK5PAS (6/11/2016)
- Montacute Conservation Park VKFF-0910, Marija Vk5FMAZ/p (6/11/2016)



*Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ on the mic at Montacute.  
Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

- Kinchina Conservation Park VKFF-1764,  
Paul VK5PAS (3/11/2016)

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/>

## Recent SOTA activations



As has been the case in recent times, Ian VK5CZ & Hugh VK5NHG headed out to activate a few summits in the Mid North of South Australia. While Paul VK5PAS activated a handful of summits in Victoria whilst on his VK3 road trip.

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

- Peaked Hill VK5/ NE-098, Ian VK5CZ (19/11/2016)
- Peaked Hill VK5/ NE-098, Hugh VK5NHG (19/11/2016)
- Eke Hill VK5/ NE-069, Ian VK5CZ (19/11/2016)
- Eke Hill VK5/ NE-069, Hugh VK5NHG (19/11/2016)
- Marchant Hill VK5/ NE-043, Ian VK5CZ (19/11/2016)
- Marchant Hill VK5/ NE-043, Hugh VK5NHG (19/11/2016)
- Prince Hill VK5/ NE-056, Ian VK5CZ (18/11/2016)

- Prince Hill VK5/ NE-056, Hugh VK5NHG (18/11/2016)
- Point 756 Pyrenees VK3/ VS-018 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (17/11/2016)
- Blue Mountain VK3/ VS-015 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (17/11/2016)
- One Tree Hill VK3/ VS-036 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (16/11/2016)
- Mount Baranduda VK3/ VE-189 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (14/11/2016)
- Huon Hill VK3/ VE-237 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (14/11/2016)

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.....

- 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.

## VK4 Activation News November

By Rob VK4FFAB

So when I sat down to pen this months review of VK4 activations, I was thinking that I would be reporting a slow month of activations as I have personally been out of the loop with work and commitments. However, as I started to tally up whom did what, I was pleasantly surprised to see that we managed 14 WWFF references and 4 SOTA references.

The better than I expected result was due all to the actions of Neil VK4HNS and Grant VK2GEL who were out quite a lot this month. Lawrie VK4SQ took the next step and had his first activation with VK4FFAB tagging along for moral support only. Lawrie is slowly building confidence being on the mic and is loving getting out portable and has even started



hunting park references from his home station.

With summer just about upon us and it going to be a hot one this year, we are already into 35 degree plus days, late afternoon is going to be the best time to get out portable in VK4, to take advantage of both the cooler time of the day and propagation down into vk3 and 5. So start to expect VK4 activations to be early evening.

With Christmas just around the corner I would like to extend seasons greeting from all the VK4 activators and chasers. Stay safe if you are on the roads over the holidays and we will catch you all from a park in the new year. A big thanks to everyone who has gone out and activated this month for both WWFF and SOTA.

Rob VK4FFAB

WWFF

VK4HNS: Ravensbourne NP, Hampton NP, Crows Nest NP, White Rock CP, Main Range NP, Moogerah Peaks NP, Flinders Peak CP.

VK2GEL: Nerang CP, Rosins Lookout CP, Lamington NP, Springbrook NP.  
VK4FFAB Beachmere CP, Lockyer (Recovery) NP.

VK4SQ Clear Mountain CP.

SOTA

VK4JAZ The Knobby, Kluvers Lookout, Spring Mtn Sth Pk.

VK2GEL Springbrook Mtn.

## Adding new parks to the Log4OM logger

By David VK5PL



After Paul's hard work in adding over 605 new parks to the WWFF award there were a large number of users of the Log4OM logging program wanting to add the parks into the database. People had asked on their website when the parks would be added and recently there was a post asking users to do the works themselves and then send the finished file to them for adding so everyone could use it. I had added some parks previously but only a small number and had forgotten how to proceed. I thought I would bite the bullet and read up on what is required and help everyone out. The parks can be added one at a time but with 605 new parks the bulk import is easier. The program needs a CSV file with the data separated and formatted in a precise way so it will integrate with the existing data.

The next step was getting the data. I asked Paul but he did not have a spreadsheet of what he had added, but later advised of a PDF of the whole WWFF listing. A PDF was not going to work as I tried to separate out the new VK

parks, but then found a site online to convert a PDF to a spreadsheet. This resulted in an enormous 65,000 line document, but it included lots of page headers and lists of each addition/deletion/change and when these were removed I had only 30,000 lines. Cutting and pasting to a new spreadsheet gave me the 605 new VK parks. Now I could add in the details required for the CSV, like DXCC and dates and get the format correct.

The dates were my downfall. I added the start dates which were in 2016 and added the end date as 2100 but in the date format it ended as just 00, which the program recognised as 2000, so before the start date as I found out when I contacted the Log4OM help desk. They advised a date format of 20/11/2100 instead of what I had of 20-11-2100.

My first import resulted in a totally blank WWFF file as I hadn't clicked the merge checkbox so it replaces what is there and as it did not import I had nothing. Easy fix, just delete the file and download the awards update and it was back. Next time I ticked the merge box, but no new parks appeared. Terry from the help desk got me to send him the file and he found quotation marks at the start and finish of every entry, so remove those, try again and again with different separators and eventually the parks appeared in the database but on entering a QSO you could not see them on the park drop down so delete the file, re-update etc etc. Eventually Terry removed the dates altogether and sent me back the file and hey presto!! Success!!! the parks had imported and could be selected for a QSO. I then exported the file to XML format and went to send it to the awards manager, but it was 19Mb oops! Found winzip and squished

the file down to about 500Kb and sent it in and is now available to all users when they download the award updates.

## 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....

➤ NIL for this period

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 South Australian amateurs who have recently qualified for award certificates for SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, VK5 Parks, and KRMNPA.

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](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

### Summits on the Air (SOTA)

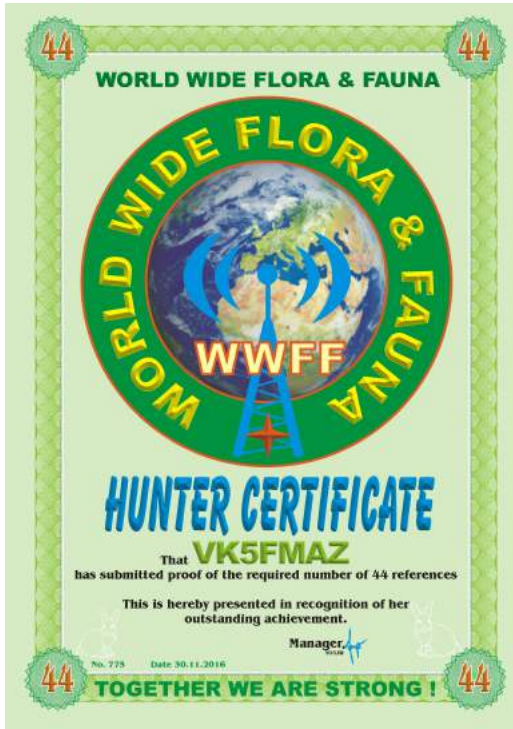
- NIL known

### World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Marija VK5FMAZ**
  - Diamond VKFF Hunter
  - WWFF global Hunter 44
  - Bronze VKFF Activator







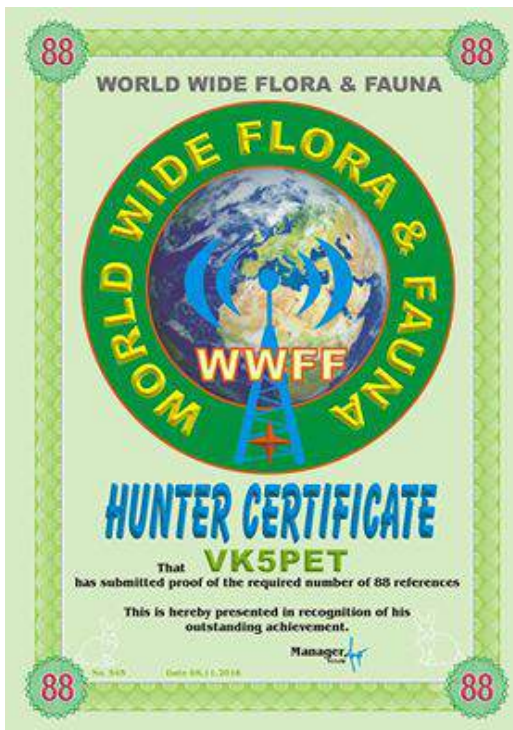
- **Paul VK5PAS**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 525
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 550



- **Peter VK5PET**

- WWFF Globa Hunter 88





- **Adrian VK5FANA**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 475



- **Charlie VK5KDK**

- Diamond VKFF Hunter



- **David VK5PL**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 275



- **Les VK5KLV**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 300
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 325





## Drones banned in SA National Parks

By Paul VK5PAS

Drones are banned from South Australia's National Parks in an effort to curb their impact upon animal behavior. More details can be found at.....

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-03/drones-banned-from-sa-national-parks/7811416>

### VK5 Parks Award

- NIL for this period

### Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- David VK3TUN/VK5DG
  - Basic Hunter
- David VK5PL
  - Hunter Merit Award

### Other.

- NIL

## 4<sup>th</sup> year anniversary weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



The 4<sup>th</sup> year anniversary activation weekend of the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award is to be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017.

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

[vk5pas@wia.org.au](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)





## First time activation at Kinchina

By Paul VK5PAS

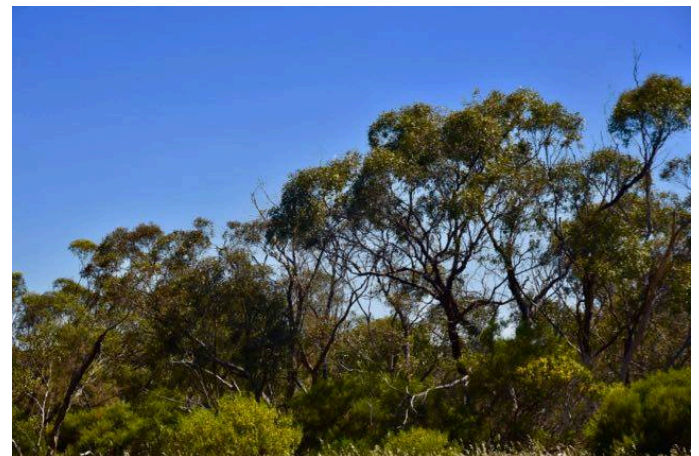
On November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, I had an enjoyable late afternoon at Kinchina Conservation Park VKFF-1764, which is located near the town of Murray Bridge.

This was the very first time that the park had been activated. It had only been gazetted a few weeks previously.



I qualified the park with a total of 61 contacts, on 20, 40, & 80m. This included 5 Park to Park contacts with Rob VK4AAC/3, Grant VK2GEL, Jarrad VK6FFAR and Andrew VK1DA.

Thanks to everyone who called and thanks to those who took the time to spot me.



I have posted more info and photos on my Wordpress site which can be found at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/>

For those that might be interested, I have a special QSL card on offer for anyone who

worked me whilst I was at Kinchina. Please mail me your QSL card to PO Box 169 Mount Barker SA 5251, and I will return one to you.



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ at the Poonthie Ruwe CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

On Sunday 27th I activated 3 parks: Marne Valley Conservation Park VKFF-0906, Swan Reach Conservation Park VKFF-0832, and Ridley Conservation Park VKFF-0932. I made a total of 191 QSOs including 48 Park to Park contacts.



Above:- Set up of Paul VK5PAS at the Ridley CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

## 5 parks for the VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

Thankyou to everyone who took part in the weekend's VKFF Activation Weekend. It appeared to be a great success with activator representation from all State/Territories, except for VK8.

With my wife Marija VK5FMAZ we activated 2 parks on Saturday 26th: Poonthie Ruwe Conservation Park VKFF-1082, and Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Park VKFF-0919. We made a total of 233 QSOs including 74 Park to Park contacts.

Thankyou to everyone who called us and thankyou to everyone who took the time to spot me us. A number of the parks I had no mobile phone coverage in.



I have placed more info about each activation, along with photographs, on my Wordpress site which can be found at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/>

## VKFF Activation weekend & parks in the South East

By Col VK5HCF

Tom, VK5EE and I decided that as we had not been out since April it was long past time that we got off our fat backsides and ventured out into the great outdoors.

This weekend is always a good one to get the airwaves hopping.

We had decided to activate three parks for the Sunday and so, after Tom had finished his duties as broadcast officer for the South East Radio Group we headed North from Mount Gambier toward Penola.

### PENOLA C.P. (VKFF-0803, 5CP-177)

Just before Penola we turned left on to the new heavy vehicle by-pass and skirted around Penola. (The by-pass stops at Clay Wells road, (which goes West toward Robe). We turned left onto Clay Wells Road and travelled for approx. 13 km to the Penola Conservation Park which is located on the right hand, or Northern side of Clay Wells road.



Just West of the start of the park is the Park sign on the main road frontage. We turned in there and drove in about half a km. Here the track opened out into a nice clear area with some signs about the park and a picnic table.



We threw a weighted line up into the gum just behind the picnic table and hauled the end fed half wave 40 metre antenna up so that the apex was at about 10-12 metres and we were good to go. (This was achieved after two or three massive tangles in the very light throw line that I use which was, of course, greeted with maximum laughter from Tom who sometimes is worse than no help at all)?

Apart from a large number of big Bull ant mounds this was a very nice spot to operate from. (Somewhat spoilt by the braindead idiots



who had been there before us and pulled track marker posts out of the ground and left rubbish lying about). The Bull ants did not bother us by the way.

I managed to work nine stations and I thank all of those who called while I was on the mike.

#### CALECTASIA C.P. (VKFF-1010, 5CP-028)

We turned right out of Penola C.P. and continued West on Clay Wells Road for approx. 15 kms. which brought us to Calectasia C.P. which is on the left hand, (Southern), side of the Clay Wells Road just before you get to Bakers Drain.

Unfortunately there are power lines running along the frontage of this park and they have provided us with shocking noise levels each time we have activated this park. It is hard to get the car off the road as well as the entrance is very soft sand and it is very easy to get bogged. (As I have managed to do three times now).

for antenna placement. We tied one part of the end fed to a tree 20 metres inside the park but the squid pole support and everything else was set up on the track leading to the gate. This is not strictly according to the rules but sometimes we just have to do the best we can.

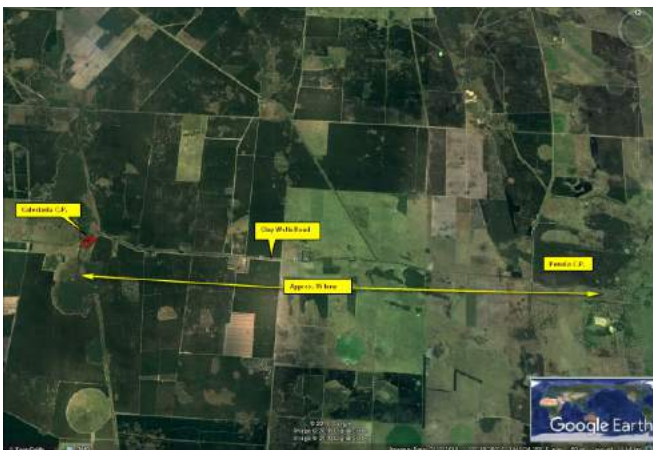


My apologies for the photo as it was taken last year when I did this park but I did not take any new ones this time as I totally forgot to do so.

I managed 6 contacts during my turn operating from here and I thank those who called.

#### REEDY CREEK C.P. (VKFF-0931, 5CP-196).

Carrying on West from Calectasia we travelled just over 32 km until we reached Kangaroo Inn. Just as we reached the Western edge of this little settlement we turned right into Jorgensens Road, (Good white metal road),



I am reluctant to bother with this park again as it is not pleasant at all with very limited options



We drove North for, (I am guessing this time) about 4-5 km, passing the bulk of the park on our right. At the Northern end of the park is a white metal intersection with the road to the right being a farm entrance driveway with a red mail box on a post, (I think it is an old milk churn painted red). We turned in and turned around and set up on the driveway as the park itself is really overgrown and it would be almost impossible to put up an antenna in there, let alone move around, without the risk of seeing a snake.

This park will be a huge fire risk when the reeds dry out.



Luckily for us the farmer had very thoughtfully mowed all the area along his driveway and we

were able to set up on nice clean ground. Again we slung the antenna up into the massive gum tree that stands there, (only two attempts required and no tangles), and we were able to orient the end fed as an inverted V without blocking the track at all.

This is another very pleasant spot to operate from with no noise at all registering on the KX3 meter. Fantastic.

Tom did most of the operating from this one but the band had died a bit and I only managed 2 contacts from here. Many thanks Greg, VK5GJ and Norm, VK5GI who were portable in the Aldinga Scrub C.P. VKFF-0866.



I would like to again thank all those who gave Tom and I a call during the day and I offer a special thanks to Paul, VK5PAS for his untiring efforts in promoting Amateur Radio in general and portable activity from parks and peaks in particular.

I look forward to my/our next outing in a park and hope to work you then.



Thanks for reading this. I hope that you enjoy it.

**Jim E51JD**

73 Col VK5HCF



## 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.....

**SP500YFF**

[vk5pas@wia.org.au](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

**Mark AF6TC**

**AF6TC**

Mark Magdaleno  
1731 Elser Ln.  
Escondido, CA 92026  
USA

Grid DM13kd  
San Diego County  
af6tc@arrl.net

☐ PSE ☒ QSL ☐ TNX

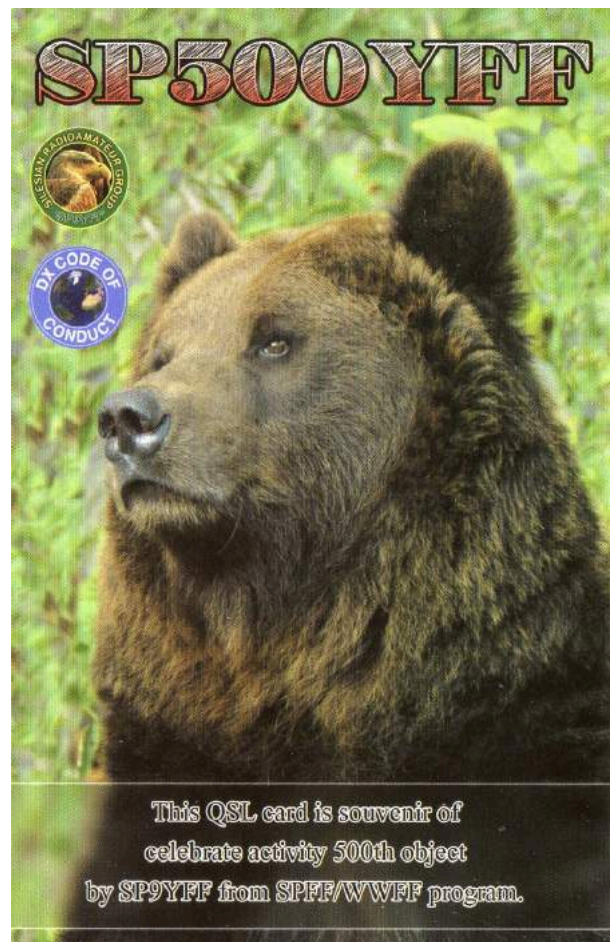
Confirming QSO with

D	DATE		UTC	MHZ	RST	2-WAY	
	M	Y					
VK5PAS	28	11	15	09:03	7.135	59	583

Escondido

CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

1000011 QSL Card - www.qslbureau.com



## **Philliippe FK4QX**



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, IOTA, etc, contacts) that I am aware of.

Paul VK5PAS.



- ZL2ATH, SOTA ZL1/ WL-103 (22/11/2016)
- YC3ARY/p, IOTA OC-237 Gili Labak Island (19/11/2016)
- JS6TQS/p, SOTA JA6/ ON-009 (5/11/2016)



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

[vk5pas@wia.org.au](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

...and I will include it here.



*Above: View from ZL1/ WL-103. Image courtesy of ZL2ATH*



## AHARS Buy and Sell

By Paul VK5PAS

Each year in November the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS) hold their annual Buy and Sell. And as has become practice, Ian VK5CZ and I set up a SOTA & Parks display at the Buy and Sell. The display promoted the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program, World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) & the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award.

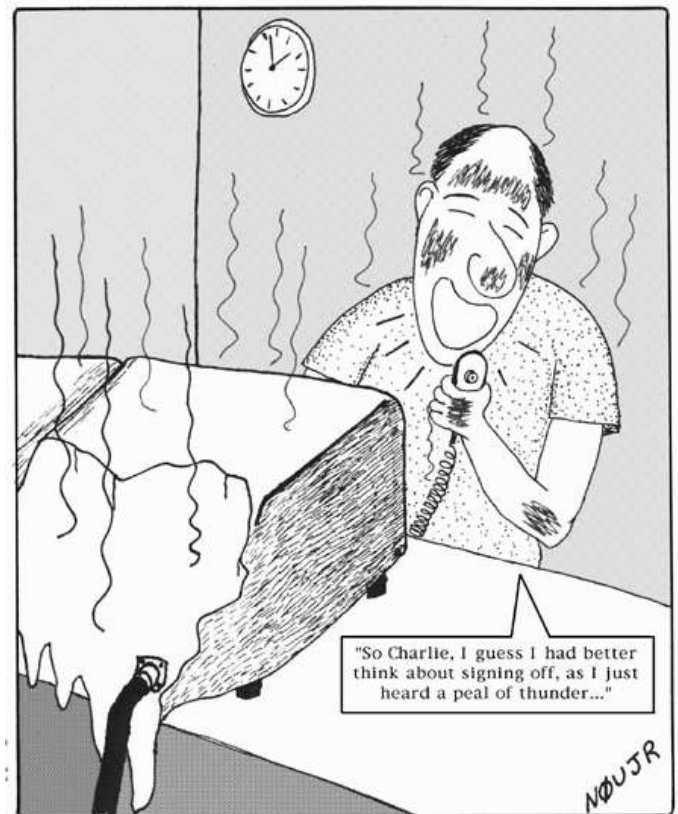
As is the case most years when we have set up this display, we had a lot of interest shown.

We had various equipment on display including various antennas, the Yaesu FT-817nd, the Elecraft KX3, the Yaesu FT-857d, various powers sources, and promotional pamphlets.

Hopefully we have sparked some more interest in these programs.



## Ham humour





## 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.