

"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 31, May 2017

Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to the Issue 31 of 'Out and About in VK5', April 2017. The 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.

April was an extremely busy month. It saw a lot of park activity mostly due to the special activation weekend to help celebrate the 4th year anniversary of the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award. Activity was down a little compared to previous years. I am unsure why. Nether less a number of keen VK5 activators ventured out into parks all across South Australia to take part. A special thankyou to Tony VK3XV who travelled over to VK5 from Victoria to take part. And also to

Andrew VK5MR who activated the Lake Torrens National Park in the north of South Australia. This park is quite remote and is rarely activated. Thankyou to everyone who took part as either an activator or hunter. Once I receive all activators logs I will be forwarding out a participation certificate to all those who participated as an activator. Matt VK5MLB and Col VK5HCF have submitted some articles in this issue about the activation weekend.

During April, a new park was gazetted, Lawari Conservation Park. And it didn't take long for it to be put on air, with Bob Vk5AFZ venturing to Hindmarsh Island for a first time activation.

Ian VK5CZ continued to fly the SOTA flag with a handful of activations in the Mid North, and

has an article in this issue about one of those activations.

I activated a few VK3 summits during my visit to Foster in Victoria. This was for the Antennapalooza event hosted by the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club. This year's theme was 'operating portable'. I had a display table with various tx's, antennas, etc. And I also delivered a number of presentations on operating portable. Other portable gurus who gave presentations included Tony VK3XV, Peter VK3PF, and Joe VK3YSP. I activated a number of parks and summits during the trip. This was a very enjoyable trip and I will be doing my very best to get to Antennapalooza next year.

I would like to thank lan VK5IS, who has supplied a very interesting article on his Plessey military tx.

You can also read about the 2017 WIA AGM/Convention Award in this issue, thanks to Grant VK5GR. And also some of the activations from parks I have conducted using the special call of VK5WOW. There is also a small article on the planned Park & SOTA activations which will take place during the 2017 WIA AGM/Convention in Hahndorf.

And of course all the regular columns including recent SOTA & Park activations.

Upcoming events include....

- ➤ 19th-21st May 2017.....WIA AGM at Hahndorf, South ustralia
- > 19th-20th August 2017.....International Lighthouse & Ligtship Weekend
- ➤ 22nd October 2017.....VKFF Team Champtionship
- ➤ 10th-13th November 2017.....Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation weekend
- > 25th-26th November 2017.....2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

Please remember that <u>if you have any</u> <u>information that you would like to see in the</u> <u>next issue</u>, please send me an email to....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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WWFF Agenda By Paul VK5PAS

If you are thinking about heading out to a park to undertake an activation, then please consider using the WWFF Agenda as another alerting tool. It will give you international exposure.

The WWFF Agenda can be located at.....

http://wwff.co/agenda/

Details on how to use the Agenda can also be found on that page.



Use of drones in SA National Parks

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder to VK5 parks activators that the use of drones has been banned in all South Australian National Parks. This is in an 'effort to curb their impact upon animal behaviour'.

Using a drone in a SA National Park without permission will incur a \$75.00 fine.

Check out the video below of a Wedge Tailed Eagle attacking a drone....

https://youtu.be/Hr-xBtVU4lg

Please bear this in mind, as an infringement by one park activator is likely to reflect poorly on us all by DEWNR.

Logs for WWFF

When providing your logs for a VKFF activation, please remember to name your logs in the following fashion.....

callsign@referenceYYYYMMDD

e.g. VK1ABC@VKFF011520150501

The 2017 WIA AGM/Convention Award



The theme for this year's WIA AGM & Convention in Hahndorf, South Australia, is all about inspiring people to explore Amateur Radio and its diversity. We are promoting the idea that "Radio is Magic" to new people

outside the hobby. We also want to rekindle that magic into new areas of exploration for those of us already engaged in this fantastic hobby of ours.

Inspiring new people to take a look at our hobby means inspiring that feeling of wonder and amazement as they realise what they are witnessing.

Find and demonstrate something that makes students go "WOW" is the common theme that educators tell us inspires young people to come and take a closer look. As a technical hobby with fantastic community engagement potential, no other individual or group pursuit has the ability to draw together science, community, technology and a spirit of exploration all from your own back yard!

To promote these themes, the VK5 organising committee is pleased to announce the following special event callsigns will be active in the lead up to the Convention weekend. VK5WOW will be heard on various bands, channels and modes starting from the 1st of April through to the 12th of May. Then, from the 12th of May through until the end of the AGM, the special callsign VI5WOW will be on air.

There will be a special award available for stations who work one or both callsigns as follows:

The General Award

- 5 contacts with VK5WOW or VI5WOW
- · Among the 5 contacts, at least two different

modes or channels (eg SSB and RTTY, or analogue FM Echolink and CW) need to have been used, OR, at least one contact has to be with the callsigns when they have been activated from a Park under the terms of the VK5 Parks awards. (watch the usual parks activation alert sites for times and parks)

The Gold Award

•5 contacts with VK5WOW & 1 contact with VI5WOW – must include a digital data or voice modes contact and contact with at least one VK5WOW or VI5WOW parks activation

Contacts via HF (Voice, Digital Voice, Digital Data and CW), VHF, UHF, Microwave, ATV, EME, Echolink, DSTAR, DMR, FUSION, IRLP, Satellite, Balloon Repeater will all count for this award.

The aim here is to encourage people to explore the diversity of the hobby, so time to start scanning the bands and give us a call!



Plessey RT-320.

By Ian VK5IS



I have an old Plessey military radio called RT-320 and sometimes called a PRC-320 made in the 1970s. They were used in the Gulf and Falklands and other wars. There is an enthusiastic group of hams world wide who enjoy the challenges of using them.

An all solid state rig built like a tank, it covers from 2mhz up to 30mhz in 100hz steps with 6 decade knobs and USB only. A good working radio will put out 3 watts on low and 30 watts on high power. Mine is running at about 2 and 15 watts at the moment and as there are 28 screws to remove the cover.

I haven't spent any time trying to get full power from it. It has a built in manual antenna tuner that can be used for the whip or long wire aerials.

To make it a usable radio on 80 and 40 meters I had to add an extra oscillator to shift the carrier to the other side of the filter. This

involved adding a couple of resistors, a diode and an PLL programmable oscillator on 1.7468mhz and installing a USB/LSB toggle switch on the front panel. The thinner piercing audio from the rig takes a little getting used too but it is fun to work stations with, especially while portable.

The rig and battery, which clips onto one end, weigh almost 9kg, so it is not portable by modern standards. I feel for the soldiers who had to carry one on a back-pack frame with a whip antenna, across country AND look out for the enemy too. Heaps of accessories are available including headset, handset, cw key, amplifiers both rf and af and power supply/chargers.

There is a crank generator that attaches to the side the rig with the battery that can be used to maintain a charge and allow communications indefinitely.

Here is a photo from my favourite portable spot, when I worked Phil VK2JDL who had just clocked up his 100th unique sota summit. Well done Phil.



Above:- The RT320. Image courtesy of lan VK5IS



Above:- Ian VK5IS operating the RT320. Image courtesy of Ian VK5IS

Some tips for SOTA & Parks activators.

By Paul VK5PAS

This month I thought I would discuss 'Planning your activation'. This is a very important part of any SOTA or Park activation. Here is a list of things to consider (it is far from exhaustive).....

- Checklist
- Equipment
- Research
- Weather
- Propagation
- Advertise
- Help & Safety

Checklist.

Make up a checklist of all of the equipment which you will need for the activation. There is nothing worse than leaving behind the antenna, mosquito repellant, or microphone. A quick checklist can prevent this.

Don't just limit it to amateur radio gear, also consider food & water, clothing, etc. Nothing worse than leaving behind your beanie or jacket on a cold day.

Equipment.

Ensure that all of your operating kit is working (before the activation). Are your batteries charged?

Do all this the day before your planned activation, not when you get there, only to find out that there is an issue.

Have your vehicle fueled the night before you leave.

Here is a list of equipment that is essential...

- Transceiver/s
- o Antenna/s
- Squid pole/s
- o Batteries
- First aid kit
- Food & water
- o GPS
- Clock/watch
- Log book
- o Pen/pencil
- o Camera/video
- Waterproof gear

- Bothy bag/raincoat
- Mobile telephone
- Suitable clothing
- Sturdy walking boots
- Insect repellant
- o Torch
- Sunscreen
- o Knife



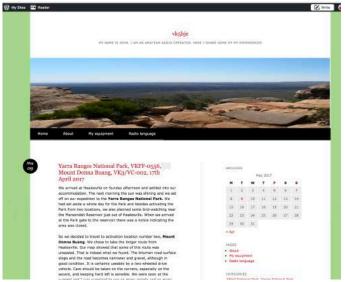
Above:- the shack of VK5BJE out in the field.

Photo courtesy of John VK5BJE

Research.

You cannot do enough research on your intended SOTA peak or Park. Has someone been there previously? Have they recorded information on their Blog?

Wordpress sites and blogs can provide a huge amount of information which may assist you in your planned activation.



Above:- Screenshot of the homepage of John VK5BJE's Wordpress site.

Do you know exactly where you are going. The various mapping sites and Google Earth also can prove to be very useful. GPS is also invaluable.

Is access allowed to the summit or the park? Is it on private property and have you got permission? Is the park closed due to bushfire risk or feral animal eradication?

Weather.

Yes it may sound silly, but have you checked the weather forecast? Have you got a contingency plan if the weather turns nasty? Do you have a bothy bag or an annex on your 4WD that you can shelter under?

Have roads been closed due to weather conditions?

Propagation.

Does your planned activation coincide with poor band conditions? If there has been a CME or severe solar flare, then it is likely that you won't fill up your log book.

http://www.solarham.net/

http://www.hamqsl.com/solar3.html

http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/HF Systems/1/1

Advertise.

We have discussed this previously, but if you really want to fill up your logbook, then post your intentions on as many forums as possible, e.g. parksnpeaks, SOTAWatch, Facebook, the Yahoo groups, the WWFF Forum.

Remember the famous saying by Winston Churchill.....

"He who fails to plain is planning to fail'.

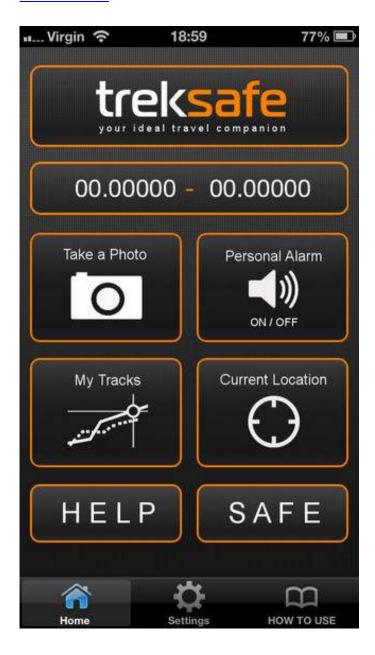


Help & Safety.

Let somebody know your intentions, e.g. your husband or wife. Advise them of your destination, route to get there, and approx. timing.

Consider using a safety app, e.g. Treksafe

https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/treksafe/id6339 22440?mt=8



Is the activation within your means, e.g. fitness level? Do not go out in bad weather, especially electrical storms or on high fire risk days. Consider terrain that could cause an injury, e.g. thick scrub, rocks.

New SA park

Thankyou to Greg VK5GJ for pointing out during April, that we have a new Conservation Park in South Australia. It is the Lawari Conservation Park and was gazetted on 21st March 2017.

Lawari has been added to the WWFF Directory with VKFF-1767 allocated. It has also been allocated 5CP-277 for the VK5 Parks Award.

The park is located on Hindmarsh Island near the mouth of the Murray River. It is an important breeding ground for Magpie Geese.

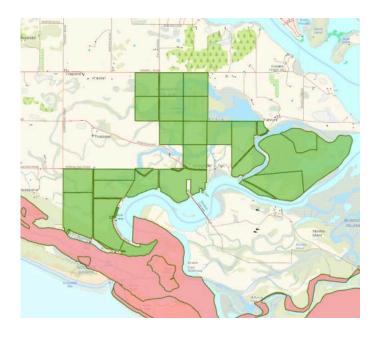


Above:- Magpie geese. Image courtesy of Wikipedia.

On the 16th of April Bob VK5AFZ who lives at nearby Goolwa, ventured down to the park and put Lawari on air for the very first time. Bob has provided a short article on his activation, which can be read at the next item in this newsletter.

John VK5BJE has an interesting post on his Wordpress site about the park. The post can be located here.....

https://vk5bje.com/2017/04/13/the-case-of-the-stolen-park-with-an-apology-to-agatha-christie/



Above:- Map showing the location of the Lawari Conservation Park. Image courtesy of Location SA Viewer.

Activation of SA's latest park

By Bob VK5AFZ



My operating location was just north of the car park at the end of Sugars Rd. I set up a link dipole antenna for 15 / 20 / 40 metres here, using a collapsible 8 metre guyed mast (constructed from 4 paint roller extension handles). Transmitting equipment was a Yaesu FT-897 transceiver running 75 Watts and powered by 2 x 20 Ah 12 V SLA batteries and 2 solar panels.

The weather was fine and mild with some high cirrus clouds, and a gentle breeze from the south east. Operations commenced at 1230 local time on 7.090 MHz and first in the log was Gerard VK2IO, who kindly offered to spot me on the parks and peaks site. From then on contacts were virtually non-stop for the next two hours, until the noise level on the 40 m band rose somewhat. By then I had made 60 contacts and I hunted further up the band to

make another dozen or so contacts, including park to park QSOs with Mike VK3XL (VKFF-0747), John VK5BJE (VKFF-0264) and Ken, ZL4KD and his XYL Margaret, ZL3YF who were operating portable from Lake Pearson ZLFF-0029, with signals being 5x6 to 5x7 both ways.



Historic activation VK5/ SE-010



We have had some early autumn rain so it is safe to start on my list of SOTA summits for 2017.

Tothill Range vk5/se-010 is not far from home and access is quite easy with just a phone call to the land owner to check if it's ok to go there.



It's a steady climb along the ridge heading south as long as you gradually gain some altitude as you go along the path made by the Kangaroos and Sheep, it only takes about 40 minutes to make the summit.



These two Sheoaks have grown considerably since my first visit to this summit, that is Lagoon Hill off to the south the only other summit in the Tothill Range.



This is my shack for the Activation . I started out on 15/17 metres with the link dipole hoping to contact my Japanese friend JP1QEC who was also activating but a mix up in the time difference made me miss Mot this time. I did get a surprise when Peter VK3PF/4 called me on 15m CW for a S2S QSO from VK4/SE-045 my first of many S2S for the day.

I set up the 40/20 m link dipole with 80 m extensions added and worked the locals VK5's MBD WG FMJC NWE on 3.6 mhz. Back to 40 m and lots of VK QSO's followed on 40m SSB and S2S with VK1AD/2 VK3ANL VK1FWBD/2 and VK2IO on 40 m CW. VK5BJE/3 VK3TUN were activating VKFF. Changed band to 20 m CW to work a group of vk4 ops and another surprise to get a call from Fred KT5X.

I was checking my phone for spots and noticed NJ7V on 18 Mhz CW on W7A/AW-040 sure enough I could hear him on 18.085 CW . I had already taken down the 15/17 m dipole so just to give it a go the kx3 tuned the 20m dipole so I started calling him. Once I heard a pause then a ..-.. from him I knew maybe he heard me. I may have confused him by including S2S with my call when I first called. I went to work just sending my call sign only but it was not really

working. I never had time to re deploy the proper antenna so I joined up one of the 40 m links in the dipole to make it an OCF. Much to my surprise he was able to get my call sign so then we went to work on the RST swap, he was 519 with QSB, I was hearing him quite well and he finally ended up sending 229 report back to me. That's an almost impossible signal level, so I was glad he must be a very experienced cw operator and did not give up on my chance at a first VK to USA S2S QSO.



Packed up ready to leave Tothil Range a memorable activation this time.

thanks for reading and see you on the next one.

Ian VK5CZ

BRL Gathering and Riverland parks

By Paul VK5PAS

During April Marija VK5FMAZ and I travelled up to the Riverland region of South Australia. On Saturday 22nd we attended the BRL gathering at the historic Overland Corner Hotel which was a terrific social function. This is organised by the Riverland Radio Club and an event which we have not missed in the 3 years it has been running.

This year's BRL Gathering featured a balloon launch by AREG which was a huge success. The balloon carried an array of payload including an experimental 2m/70cm repeater.

A video can be located in the 'Latest Videos' section of this newsletter.



Above:- inflating the balloon leading up to the launch. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

I also delivered a few presentations on operating portable and had a small display table which had various tx's, batteries, and antennas on display.



Above:- delivering one of the 'portable' presentations. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

Marija and I activated four parks whilst away and made a total of 293 QSOs between the 2 of us, including 40 Park to Park contacts.

Parks activated were:-

- Ramco Point CP
- Cooltong CP
- Hogwash Bend CP
- Morgan CP

I also operated on Sunday as VK5WOW from the Cooltong Conservation Park and made a total of 160 QSOs. Shaun VK5FAKV and his wife paid us a visit during that activation. More information on this activation in the next item of the newsletter.



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ on the mic at the Cooltong Conservation Park. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

Thanks to everyone who called us during our activations, and thanks to those who spotted us.

And thanks to the Riverland Radio Club and AREG, for organising such a terrifi event. We will certainly be there again next year.

An interesting aspect of our activation of Cooltong Conservation was that Craig VK3CRG streamed our audio via VK3RTV, Digital amateur television in Melbourne.

More information and photographs can be located on my Wordpress site at....

https://vk5pas.org/

Cooltong and WOW

By Paul VK5PAS

This was the second time I had used the special call of VK5WOW from a Conservation Park. After Marija had qualified the park I jumped on the mic and it didn't take long for a fairly substantial VK pile up to ensue. Contact number 44 was reached in just 30 minutes, that being with Kevin VK2VKB. In about 1 hour & 20 minutes I had logged 100 stations.

A total of 161 contacts were logged on 20m, 40m, & 80m SSB into VK1, VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5, VK6, VK7, Japan, New Zealand, and Spain. This included 1 Park to Park contact.



Above:- Paul VK5PAS working 40m during the evening as VK5WOW from Cooltong CP.

Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

Come and try operating portable



2017 WIA AGM & Convention, Hahndorf, South Australia.

Sunday Parks Portable activation teams: Come and try portable in a park event.

The following local VK5 amateurs are going to make themselves available to take teams of 3 out into the parks around Hahndorf on the Sunday morning of the WIA AGM & Convention weekend.

John VK5BJE.....Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207 & VKFF-0788
Peter VK5PET.....Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park 5CP-104 & VKFF-0781
Les VK5KLV.....Mount George Conservation Park 5CP-147 7 VKFF-0784
Paul VK5PAS.....Mark Oliphant Conservation

Park 5CP-127 & VKFF-0782 Chris VK5FR.....Cleland Conservation Park 5CP-042 & VKFF-0778, and SOTA VK5/ SE-005

We plan to meet at 9.00 a.m. SHARP on Sunday morning, outside the Gums Bistro at the Hahndorf Resort Tourist Park, and then depart from there to the relevant parks/summit.

There will be sheets pinned up on the wall at the Hahndorf venue so that people can register their interest in a particular park on the Sunday.

Bring your 2m equipment with you too as you can work between many of these parks on VHF too!

VK5WOW at Scott Creek By Paul VK5PAS

Thankyou to everyone who called Marija VK5FMAZ and I on 16th April during our activation of the Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207 & VKFF-0788.

Marija started off first and qualified the park with 53 contacts including 11 Park to Park contacts (including with Ken ZL4KD/p and his wife ZL3YF/p in ZLFF-0029).



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ/p on air in the Scott Creek CP. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

I made 5 contacts under my call (all being Park to Park).

I then operated under the special call of VK5WOW (to celebrate the WIA AGM/Convention in Hahndorf next month). I made a total of 157 contacts including 10 Park to Park contacts.

More information & photos can be found on my Wordpress site at

https://vk5pas.org/

Dont forget that contacts with VK5WOW and VI5WOW go towards the special award....

http://www.wia.org.au/members/wiaawards/agm2017/

Corporate sponsorship for parks



The following recently appeared on 'Adelaide Now'......

McDONALD'S walking trails and Harvey Norman education centres could soon be appearing in the state's national parks, with corporate sponsorship being spruiked as the answer to funding shortages.

The push by the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife comes as other conservation groups warn State Government funding cuts mean parks are not being properly maintained.

The foundation's chief executive Ian Darbyshire told the Sunday Mail the future of parks funding was in the corporate sector.

"You can raise money to actually help preserve species and create more parks," he said.

Under Mr Darbyshire's plan, corporate partners would provide funding and support for park infrastructure, education facilities and interpretative signs – adorned with company logos – in return for a "huge kick" in exposure.

"It is has to be the way to go," he said.

"You need more than just the Government to fund the parks."

Environment Department parks boss John Schutz said the Government was interested in more commercial relationships.

"We are very open to further input from communities and the private sector in managing South Australia's significant conservation areas," Mr Schutz said, pointing to the huge increase in land area the department looks after. "In 2002, just 70,000ha of South Australia had wilderness protection status.

"This level of protection has since more than doubled to approximately 1.8 million hectares of land."

State Budget figures show the Government is spending \$145 million on national parks and other reserves this financial year – about \$10 million less than the previous year.

Conservation Council SA chief executive Craig Wilkins said there were not enough financial resources for the state's reserves – highlighted by a Birds SA submission to State Parliament during the week that said the loss of bird species in South Australia was a "catastrophe".

"The investment getting people to parks is not being matched by investment to preserve them," Mr Wilkins said.

Mr Schutz said visitation to the state's wild places had exceeded expectations.

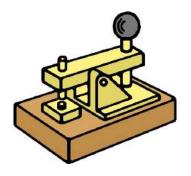
"More than two-thirds of South Australians are visiting parks every year," he sa .

"Investments in new trails and facilities make it easier for South Australians to get active in our parks.

"These investments are part of a State Government election commitment to provide \$10.4 million for upgrades in seven national parks in or near metropolitan Adelaide."

The Government is seeking proposals from private sector investors interested in building and operating eco-sensitive accommodation facilities for walkers on the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail.





Following up on a recent post by Warren VK3BYD, it would be nice if more park activators and hunters tried CW. I myself am going to go on an all out CW learning spree over the coming months, so I can give this mode a go whilst out portable.

Recent Park Activations

Lots of park activity this month, mostly due to the 4th year anniversary weekend for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award.

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

Monarto Conservation Park 5CP-138 & VKFF-0828, VK5WOW (Paul VK5WOW) (29/4/2017)



Above:- the shack of VK5WOW at the Monarto Conservation Park. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

- Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, Warren VK3BYD/5 (29/4/2017)
- Lincoln National Park, Warren VK3BYD/5 (29/4/2017)
- Monarto Conservation Park 5CP-138 & VKFF-0828, VK5WOW (Paul VK5PAS) (28/4/2017)
- ➤ Tolderol Game Reserve VKFF-1752, Marija AX5FMAZ/p (25/4/2017)
- Lake Tyers State Park VICTORIA VKFF-0761, John VK5BJE/3 (24/4/2017)
- Para Wirra Conservation Park VKFF-1739, AX5WOW/p (Bob VK5FO) (25/4/2017)
- ➤ Tolderol Game Reserve VKFF-1752, Paul AX5PAS/p (25/4/2017)
- Morgan Conservation Park 5CP-141 & VKFF-0911, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (24/4/2017)
- Morgan Conservation Park 5CP-141 & VKFF-0911, Paul VK5PAS/p (24/4/2017)
- Hogwash Bend Conservation Park 5CP-092 & VKFF-0892, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (24/4/2017)
- Hogwash Bend Conservation Park 5CP-092 & VKFF-0892, Paul VK5PAS/p (24/4/2017)
- Scott Creek Conservation Park VKFF-0788, David VK5HYZ/p (23/4/2017)



- Lake Tyers State Park VICTORIA VKFF-0761, John VK5BJE/3 (23/4/2017)
- Cooltong Conservation Park 5CP-046 & VKFF-0823, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (23/4/2017)
- Cooltong Conservation Park 5CP-046 & VKFF-0823, Paul VK5PAS/p (23/4/2017)
- Cooltong Conservation Park 5CP-046 & VKFF-0823, VK5WOW (Paul VK5PAS) (23/4/2017)
- Ramco Point Conservation Park 5CP-193 & VKFF-0930, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (21/4/2017)
- Ramco Point Conservation Park 5CP-192 & VKFF-0930, Paul VK5PAS/p (21/4/2017)
- Snowy River National Park, John VK5BJE/3 (20/4/2017)
- Black Hill Conservation Park 5CP-022 & VKFF-0776, VK5WOW (VK5SFA & VK5GR) (17/4/2017)



Above:- Steve VK5SFA and his 40m magnetic loop antenna. Photos courtesy of Grant VK5GR

- Morgan Conservation Park VKFF-0911, VK5ALR/p (16/4/2017)
- Kinglake National Park VICTORIA VKFF-0264, John VK5BJE/3 (16/4/2017)
- Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207
 VKFF-0788, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (16/4/2017)
- Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207
 VKFF-0788, VK5WOW (Paul VK5PAS) (16/4/2017)

- Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207
 VKFF-0788, Paul VK5PAS/p (16/4/2017)
- Murray River National Park, VK5WOW (David VK5KC) (15/4/2017)
- Anstey Hill Recreation Park VKFF-1683, VK5PAS/p (15/4/2017)
- Kara Kara National Park VICTORIA VKFF-0269, John VK5BJE/3 (15/4/2017)
- Mount Monster Conservation Park 5CP-149 & VKFF-0800, Paul VK5PAS/p (10/4/2017)
- Mount Buangor State Park VICTORIA VKFF-0766, Paul VK5PAS/3 (10/4/2017)
- Mount Remarkable National Park VKFF-0360, Greg VK5ZGY/p (10/4/2017)
- Creswick Regional Park VICTORIA VKFF-0964, Paul VK5PAS/3 (9/4/2017)
- Shallow Inlet Marine Coastal Park VKFF-0749 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (8/4/2017)
- Wilsons Promontory National Park VKFF-0539 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (7/4/2017)
- Enfield State Park VKFF-0757 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (6/4/2017)
- Langi Ghiran State Park VKFF-0760 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (6/4/2017)
- Ararat Hills Regional Park VKFF-0958 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (6/4/2017)

- ➤ Eric Bonython Conservation Park 5CP-062 & VKFF-0877, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (2/4/2017)
- Eric Bonython Conservation Park 5CP-062 & VKFF-0877, Paul VK5PAS/p (2/4/2017)
- Lake Torrens National Park 5NP-013 & VKFF-0278, Andrew VK5MR/p (2/4/2017)



Above:- Andrew VK5MR operating from Lake Torrens NP. Image courtesy of VK5MR

- Stipiturus Conservation Park 5CP-220 & VKFF-0936, Greg VK5GJ/p (2/4/2017)
- Morgan Conservation Park 5CP-141 & VKFF-0911, Chris VK5FR/p (2/4/2017)
- Eastern Spencer Gulf Marine Park VKFF-1706, Adrian VK5FANA/p (2/4/2017)
- Waitpinga Conservation Park 5CP-243 & VKFF-0940, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (2/4/2017)

- Waitpinga Conservation Park 5CP-243 & VKFF-0940, Paul VK5PAS/p (2/4/2017)
- Ewens Ponds Conservation Park 5CP-064 & VKFF-0796, Tony VK3XV/5 (2/4/2017)
- ➤ Tantanoola Caves Conservation Park 5CP-225 & VKFF-0804, Col VK5HCF/p (2/4/2017)
- Gower Conservation Park 5CP-079 & VKFF-0798, Col VK5HCF/p (2/4/2017)



Above:- Col VK5HCF on the mic in the Gower Conservation Park. Photo courtesy of VK5HCF

- Munyaroo Conservation Park 5CP-154 & VKFF-0920, Les VK5KLV/p (2/4/2017)
- Munyaroo Conservation Park 5CP-154 & VKFF-0920, Peter VK5KPR/p (2/4/2017)
- Kyeema Conservation Park 5CP-107 & VKFF-0826, Bob VK5AFZ/p (2/4/2017)
- Minlacowie Conservation Park 5CP-135
 VKFF-0909, Adrian VK5FANA/p (1/4/2017)

- Carpenter Rocks Conservation Park 5CP-038 & VKFF-1018, Greg VK5ZGY/p (2/4/2017)
- Beachport Conservation Park, Greg VK5ZGY/p (2/4/2017)
- Bullock Hill Conservation Park 5CP-265
 VKFF-0873, Tony VK5NRT/p (2/4/2017)
- Deep Creek Conservation Park 5CP-054
 WKFF-0780, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (1/4/2017)
- Deep Creek Conservation Park 5CP-054
 WKFF-0780, Paul VK5PAS/p (1/4/2017)



Above:- Paul VK5PAS operating at the homestead in the Deep Creek Conservation Park. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

- Talisker Conservation Park 5CP-223 & VKFF-0790, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (1/4/2017)
- Talisker Conservation Park 5CP-223 & VKFF-0790, Paul VK5PAS/p (1/4/2017)

- Lower Glenelg River Conservation Park 5CP-122 & VKFF-0905, Tony VK3XV/5 (1/4/2017)
- Warren Conservation Park 5CP-247 & VKFF-0941, Mark VK5QI/p (1/4/2017)



Above:- Mark VK5QI in the Warren Conservation Park. Photo courtesy of VK5QI

- Clements Gap Conservation Park 5CP-043 & VKFF-0812, Adrian VK5FANA/p (1/4/2017)
- Onkaparinga River National Park, Matt VK5MLB/p (1/4/2017)
- Lake Frome Conservation Park 5CP-108
 VKFF-0900, Greg VK5ZGY/p (1/4/2017)
- Hesperilla Conservation Park 5CP-108 & VKFF-1038, Greg VK5GJ/p (1/4/2017)
- Hesperilla Conservation Park 5CP-108 & VKFF-1038, Norm VK5GI/p (1/4/2017)
- Hogwash Bend Conservation Park 5CP-092 & VKFF-0892, Ray VK5RR/p (1/4/2017)

Morialta Conservation Park 5CP-142 & VKFF-0783, Gary VK5FGRY/p (1/4/2017)



Above:- the shack of Gary VK5FGRY in the Morialta CP. Photo courtesy of VK5FGRY

- Bullock Hill Conservation Park 5CP-265
 VKFF-0873, Tony VK5MRT/p (1/4/2017)
- Penambol Conservation Park 5CP-175 & VKFF-0802, Tony VK3XV/5 (1/4/2017)



Above:- Tony VK3XV/5 in Penambol. Photo courtesy of Col VK5HCF

- Cleland Conservation Park 5CP-042 & VKFF-0778, Peter VK5PET/p (1/4/2017)
- Cromer Conservation Park 5CP-049 & VKFF-0779, Mark VK5QI/p (1/4/2017)
- Lake Torrens National Park 5NP-013 & VKFF-0278, Andrew VK5MR/p (1/4/2017)
- Beachport Conservation Park 5CP-014
 VKFF-0791, Greg VK5ZGY/p (1/4/2017)
- Mount Remarkable National Park 5NP-015 & VKFF-0360, David VK5HYZ/p (1/4/2017)
- Hale Conservation Park 5CP-086 & VKFF-0888, Mark VK5QI/p (1/4/2017)

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.wwffaustralia.com/

Recent SOTA activations



March was a very quiet month for SOTA activations here in South Australia.

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

- Tothill Range VK5/ SE-010, Ian VK5CZ/p (23/4/2017)
- Mount Donna Buang VK3/ VC-002 VICTORIA, John VK5BJE/3 (17/4/2017)
- West of England Fire Tower VK3/ VW-016 VICTORIA, John VK5BJE/3 (15/4/2017)
- New Campbell Hill VK5/ SE-007, Ian VK5CZ/p (13/4/2017)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Marcus VK3TST/5 (11/4/2017)
- Mount Fatigue VK3/ VT-057 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (7/4/2017)
- One Tree Hill VK3/ VS-036 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (6/4/2017)
- Mount Lofty VK5/ SE-005, Peter VK5PET/p (1/4/2017)



Above:- Peter VK5PET at Mt Lofty/Cleland CP. Photo courtesy of VK5PET.

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

VKFF Team Championship

By Paul VK5PAS



A heads up that the 2017 VKFF Team Championship will be held on **Sunday 22nd October 2017**.

This was a very popular event last year and it is hoped that even more teams will participate this year. More information re sponsorship & prizes will follow.

You can register, by sending me an email to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au



2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

The 2017 VKFF Activation Weekend will be held on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November 2017.

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please drop me a quick email with your intentions, so I can place the details on the activator spreadsheet.

vk5pas@wia.org.au



New VK5 Parks Facebook members



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/5289802339 08284/

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.

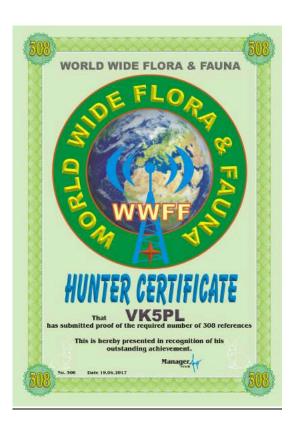
vk5pas@wia.org.au

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

NIL known

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- David VK5PL
 - Global Hunter 308



• Greg VK5GJ

- o VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 225
- Silver VKFF Activator





Marija VK5FMAZ

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 100
- Silver VKFF Activator





• Les VK5KLV

Bronze VKFF Activator



Adrian VK5FANA

o VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 525



• David VK5DG

o Bronze VKFF Hunter



Paul VK5PAS

o DXFF 40



VK5 Parks Award

NIL KNOWN

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

NIL KNOWN

Other.

NIL KNOWN

ANZAC Day at Tolderol

By Paul VK5PAS

For ANZAC Day Marija VK5FMAZ and I activated the Tolderol Game Reserve VKFF-1752, which is located about 77 km south of Adelaide. Tolderol is about 428 hectares in size and is located on the north eastern side of Lake Alexandrina. It is a very well regarded bird watching location.



Above:- Paul VK5PAS/p operating in the Tolderol Game Reserve. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

Marija and I used the special AX prefix to held commemorate ANZAC Day.

Marija made a total of 55 contacts on 40m and 80m SSB, whilst I made a total of 121 contacts on 20, 40, & 80m SSB.



Should you have logged me and would like to receive one of my special AX5PAS Anzac Day QSL cards, please send me a SSAE to PO Box 169 Mount Barker SA 5251.



Results from the 4th year anniversary weekend



I am still waiting on a few logs, but initial results of the 4th year anniversary activation weekend for the VK5 Parks Award are as follows....

- > 17 amateurs took part (including Tony VK3XV)
- > a total of 25 different parks were put on air.

Thanks to everyone who took part, either as an activator of a hunter.

Once I have all logs I will sent out participation certificates to all those who took part as an Activator.

Onkaparinga RiverNational Park activation

By Matt VK5MLB

As part of the VK5 National Parks award 4th year anniversary weekend, I made a last minute decision to activate the Onkaparinga River National Park (5NP-019 / VKFF0402). As this park is only two minutes from my home QTH, I was able to load my gear and be in the park in no time.

I parked at the Sundews Carpark (Gate 11 on Piggott Range road), and headed into the bush about 500 metres until I found I nice clearing with a few promising trees to hold my squid pole. With the home built linked dipole airborne, I tuned the KX3 to the 40metre band and was immediately pleased to hear a lot of signals.



The combination of reasonable weather, and the activation weekend meant that the band was packed with people operating portable, or just trying to make a contact with someone in a park. It actually became a little difficult for a while to find a free space of the band where you wouldn't be tripping over someone else.

As a relative novice to operating portable I wasn't after a lot of contacts, I just enjoyed getting out and being away from the S9 noise many of us suffer when operating at home.





The Onkaparinga National Park is a great place to activate, it is relatively close to suburbia, yet large enough that you can easily get away from anyone else and be surrounded by amazing views and tranquil bush. As part of a \$1.7 million investment, DEWNR are currently undertaking a number of initiatives to improve facilities in the park. The plans include a new lookout, new toilets at a number of carparks and new facilities for camping within the park. It is planned that this work will be completed by the end of the year.



Meet and greet with Tony VK3XV/5

As I was looking at Paul, VK5PAS's spreadsheet of activations for the VK5 4th Anniversary activation weekend I realised that Tony and XYL Sheryl would be activating Penambol C.P. on the Saturday afternoon.

As Penambol C.P. is only 15 minutes from Mt. Gambier I decided that I would arrange to meet them there and "catch up".



Tony has provided me with many contacts over the last few years, (From parks in both S.A. and Victoria and the odd S.O.T.A. summits as well), so I was keen to have a face to face and thank him personally for his efforts, particularly with The Keith Roget Memorial Parks Award scheme. (I am the fortunate holder of the "Worked all 45 Victorian Parks Award).

I arrived at the park at about 2 p.m. S.A. time to find a bloke sitting on a deck chair with a Heil headset on. A "Troopy" was parked inconspicuosly in a small clearing in the scrub that surrounds the operating spot – which I had suggested that Tony might like to try so I was pretty sure that I had the right bloke.

As I got out of the car Tony yelled out hello and away we went. I totally destroyed Tony's q.s.o. rate and he even lost his spot.

A short time later Sheryl walked into the park from the gate. She had been for a walk along the Butterfly Walk and, after introductions and a bit of a chat, she headed off along the Wombat Walk with her camera in hand.

Tony was using a Par 20/40 end fed antenna to good effect, no doubt helped along by his 100 watts from the Elecraft K3 and his 100 Amp/hour battery. Tony has an excellent setup for his portable operating although it does mean at times that he has a bit of heavy carrying to do.





Tony and XYL Sheryl are a very nice couple and they obviously really enjoy being out and about together in this great Country of ours.

At this point I moved a few hundred metres away and set up my new homebrew multiband antenna, (an 80 metre half wave dipole fed with 450 Ohm ladder line), to try it out. I had a listen on 80 metres, (it showed 1:1 swr on the

KX3 using the internal tuner but I heard nothing. I heard a few stations on 40 metres (1:1 indicated again) but Tony was so close that he swamped the band so I gave him a very quick call to help his tally, and then packed up. (I had not intended to activate this Park anyway).

Whilst I was setting up I walked down the track a bit and hung one of the dipole ends up in a tree branch when I noticed a movement on the track. About 3 -4 metres away was a sight to strike terror into the heart of any grown man. A couple copulating in plain view. Some have no shame.



I was a bit reluctant to leave the antenna where it was but decided that, as the Tiger snakes did not appear to know that I was there, it should all be OK and carried on with my testing.

Unfortunately the swr on 20 metres was an indicated 4.6:1 so further work is required on that one. (I will probably have to add / subtract a bit from the length of the feedline.

The snakes were still hard at it when I started to pack up. (Stamina?)

After I had finished my quick test I packed up and headed back across to Tony's operating spot and again interrupted his qso rate. (He lost his frequency again as well.)

I chatted to Tony and Sheryl for a short time then we said our goodbyes and I headed for home.

I am very glad that I decided to go to Penambol as it is always nice to put a face to a name or callsign and this afternoon was no exception.

Editors comment.....

Information and photos on Col's activations on Sunday for the 4th year anniversary weekend can be found on his Wordpress site at.....

https://vk5hcf.wordpress.com/

Fleurieu Parks for the 4th anniversary

By Paul VK5PAS

Marija VK5FMAZ and I travelled to the Fleurieu Peninsula, south of Adelaide, for the 4th year anniversary of the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award.

As always, we had a terrific time and enjoyed our stay south of Adelaide. This year we stayed for 2 nights in the homestead located within the Deep Creek Conservation Park. We can highly recommend this accommodation.

We activated a total of 4 Conservation Parks over the weekend and made a total of 532 QSOs. This included a total of 99 Park to Park contacts.



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ in the Talisker Conservation Park, south of Adelaide. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

More information and photographs can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

https://vk5pas.org

Quick activation of G/ CE-001 Cleeve Hill

By Mike 2E0YYY

Arrived at the summit far too early really. Got the Antron-99 in the air and had a listen to the 20m band. It was very quiet. My self spot appeared at 0650z and my first contact RN3QGL, made it into my log at 0659z.

Half a dozen EU contacts were logged, when <u>Jonathan</u> VK7JON from Tasmania, came in with a nice signal. Next was Peter VK3PF and then <u>Ernie</u> VK3DET who was doing a great job with his QRP power! A very big signal was sent by Tony VK3CAT and then Geoff VK3SQ made the trip, for his first SOTA DX contact.



A few More EU contacts were logged before Paul VK5PAS gave me a call with another big signal...Cheers Paul. My last DX contact of the morning was Steve VK7CW, many thanks Steve.

As I'd taken the X-300 colinear with me for some 2m fm, I though I may as well have a play for an hour or so.. A total of 27 contacts were rattled off. Great to have a chat with Gez M0NTC and Steven G4TCU.

Thanks to a/I the callers. Nice mornings radio.

29 contacts on 20m ssb, 7 VK
27 contacts on 2m FM.

73

Mike 2E0YYY

Antennapalooza

By Paul VK5PAS

On Thursday 6th April 2017 I headed over to Foster in Victoria to attend Antennapalooza, hosted by the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club. I returned home last night, Monday 10th April.

The theme for this year's Antennapalooza was 'operating portable'. I delivered 3 short presentations on operating portable from parks. I also had a small display table. Other presenters

included Peter VK3PF, Tony VK3XV, Joe VK3YSP, and Ian VK3BUF.

Whilst away I activated 2 summits for the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program, and 8 Parks for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program & the VK5 Parks award. I made a total of 386 QSOs. Parks & summits activated were:-

- One Tree Hill VK3/ VS-036 & VKFF-0958
- Langi Ghiran State Park VKFF-0760
- Enfield State Park VKFF-0757
- Mount Fatigue VK3/ VT-057
- Wilsons Promontory National Park VKFF-0539
- Shallow Inlet Marine Coastal Park VKFF-0749
- Creswick Regional Park VKFF-0964
- Mount Buangor State Park VKFF-0766
- Mount Monster Conservation Park 5CP-149 & VKFF-0800



Above:- with Tony VK3XV, Joe VK3YSP & Marshall VK3MRG, at Antennapalooza.



Above:- Operating with Chris VK3QB & Chris VK3PAT at the Shallow Inlet Marine Coastal Park. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

Thanks to everyone who called during my activations, and special thanks to those who took the time to spot me on parksnpeaks, the DX Cluster, Facebook, etc.



Above:- Snake in the Wilsons Prom NP. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

Thanks also to Chris VK3QB for allowing me to stay at his home during my visit. This was a great event and I will certainly be doing my very best to be back next year

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

https://vk5pas.org/

Review of Mini lambic mini paddle

by Faul VNJFA3

Col VK5HCF brought this very interesting review to my attention. Thanks Col.

http://w2lj.blogspot.com.au/2017/04/product-reviews.html



Where is that park?



I have mentioned it previously, but do NOT entirely rely on Google maps when trying to find VK5 parks. Give these 2 sites a go.....

Protected Planet

https://www.protectedplanet.net/

Location SA Viewer

http://location.sa.gov.au/viewer/

Lightning Maps

By Paul VK5PAS

Want to find out where all that noise is coming from on the bands?

https://www.lightningmaps.org/



Diyode magazine

By Paul VK5PAS

Submit a few photos of your project and briefly explain what you have done. If it is selected to be published, the Diyode magazine team will write a full story about your build.

More information at.....

https://divodemag.com/submissions

Callsigns in Logsearch

By Paul VK5PAS

Recently a question was asked about callsigns in the WWFF database, Logsearch. The question related to some activators placing /p or /2, etc after their callsign and whether Logsearch credited the activator if they had not recorded that particular call, e.g. VK5PAS/2 in their Profile. The answer from Andrew M0YMA was that the database matched against the base callsign. So anything following the base callsign would be captured in the database.

WOW at Monarto

By Paul VK5PAS

On 28th April 2017 I activated the Monarto Conservation Park 5CP-138 & VKFF-0828 and operated as VK5WOW.

I made a total of 113 contacts on 20, 40, & 80m SSB, including 7 Park to Park contacts.

Contacts with VK5WOW qualify for the 2017 WIA AGM/Convention Award.

http://www.wia.org.au/members/wiaawards/agm2 017/

More information & photos can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

https://vk5pas.org/



Above:- the shack of Paul VK5PAS in the Monarto CP. Photo courtesy of 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://wwff.co/dx-cluster/

Below is a list of VK5 to DX (SOTA, Parks, IOTA, etc, contacts) that I am aware of.

Paul VK5PAS.

- o ZL2ATH/p, SOTA ZL1/ WL-103 (29/4/2017)
- ZL3YF/p, ZLFF-0026 (20/4/2017)
- o ZL4KD, ZFF-0026 (20/4/2017)
- o ZL3YF/p, ZLFF-0037 (17/4/2017)
- o ZL4KD/p, ZLFF-0037 (17/4/2017)
- 2E0YYY/p, SOTA G/ CE-001 (4/4/2017)

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.

Lightning Protection

https://youtu.be/JYILAHIx2lk

AREG Balloon launch at BRL Gathering.

https://youtu.be/Za-mXbyBfps

VK5WOW at Scott Creek CP

https://youtu.be/aH5UkSNXN2U

Ramco Point Conservation Park

https://youtu.be/K1Df0V6z7RQ

VK5WOW/VK5BRL cross band repeater

https://youtu.be/mXhbaocb9OU

Victorian Local Govt Challenge

By Paul VK5PAS



This unique and exciting **once off** special operating award has been initiated by Amateur Radio Victoria to encourage on air activity based on communicating with and between the 79 Local Government Areas (LGA) in the State

of Victoria, during the 2017 Calendar year. The "2017 Challenge" will encourage both Portable and Base activity with VK3 stations.

More information can be found at.....

https://www.amateurradio.com.au/awards