



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 33 July 2017

Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to Issue 33 (July 2017) of *'Out and About in VK5'*, June 2017. 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.

Despite us being in the grips of winter and some extremely cold temperatures, we have also been blessed with some amazing sunny days. As a result a small core group of South Australian SOTA & Parks activators have ventured out into the field. Ian VK5CZ, Hugh VK5NHG, and Ian VK5IS continue to be active, activating parks in the north of the State. Sadly, local propagation on the 40m band has proven to be very poor, so the 80m band has come in very handy. The 2 Ian's and Hugh

have been giving the 80m band and I am sure there are many VK5 SOTA chasers who appreciate that.

While on the subject of the 80m band, why not give it a go when you are next out on a peak or in a park. I was always taught that 80m only works during the night. Not so! I have had some excellent contacts on 80m even in the middle of the day, around VK5 and on the eastern seaboard. Being frequency agile on your activations can certainly be very rewarding.

Marija VK5FMAZ and I headed down to Mount Gambier in June for the South East Radio Group's annual convention, buy and sell, and the National Fox Hunting championships. This is an excellent event and I can highly recommend it. On the Sunday evening there is

a dinner held at the Scout Hall. This year Marija and I enjoyed the company of John VK5NJ and his wife Tanina, and Tony VK5ZAI and his wife Jill. Marija even won a BaoFeng hand held. Whilst in the South East Marija and I activated a number of parks. You can read about those activations in this issue.

I would like to thank John VK5BJE who has contributed a few articles for this issue. They include a summary of his Sunday morning trip out into the field during the WIA AGM, with some new keen park activators. And also a review of the ‘Wireless Men and Women of Australia’. Thanks John.

Rob VK4AAC has also contributed with an article on adding detail to parksneaks. Thanks Rob.

Out and About has now been going for about 3 years and enjoys readers throughout the world. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this newsletter. But I can always do with more articles. So please, if you have a favourite park, have put together a TX kit, built a portable antenna, or have any information which you think would be of interest, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Upcoming events include....

- 19th-20th August 2017.....International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend
- 22nd October 2017.....VKFF Team Championship
- 10th-13th November 2017.....Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation weekend
- 25th-26th November 2017.....2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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Interesting bit of software for SOTA

By Paul VK5PAS



I recently saw a post on the SOTA Australia Yahoo group from Andrew VK1DA, about an interesting bit of software from HB9TVK which allows you to enter your callsign, and another callsign. The software then lists out the summits the other guy has activated and you haven't.

It can be located at.....

<https://hb9sota.ch/sota-activator-diff/>

The website states:

“When looking for new SOTA Uniques, it is sometimes helpful to check the activated summits of known fellow activators. Especially if you know their level of fitness and usual choice of summits, it can result in new ideas for your own next tours. And: should you wonder about how to get there, parking opportunities,

route or antenna mounting options, you already know who to ask!

Out of this idea, this app was developed. Just enter your own call sign and the one of your colleague, and it will display a list of summits he or she activated but you haven't yet.

Here's an example of when I typed in Ian VK5CZ's call.

My Call:	<input type="text" value="VK5PAS"/>
Diff Call:	<input type="text" value="VK5CZ"/>

Diff

Activated by VK5CZ but not by VK5PAS	
VK5/NE-013 Mt Plantagenet	8 Point(s)
VK5/NE-031 VK5/NE-031	6 Point(s)
VK5/NE-035 Black Rock	6 Point(s)
VK5/NE-041 VK5/NE-041	6 Point(s)
VK5/NE-043 Marchant Hill	6 Point(s)
VK5/NE-047 Mt Jay South	4 Point(s)
VK5/NE-048 Depot Hill	4 Point(s)
VK5/NE-056 Prince Hill	4 Point(s)
VK5/NE-062 Black Hill	4 Point(s)
VK5/NE-066 Waite Hill	4 Point(s)
VK5/NE-069 Eke Hill	4 Point(s)
VK5/NE-071 Oulinina Hill	4 Point(s)
VK5/NE-081 Nackara Hill	4 Point(s)
VK5/NE-083 Mount Benjamin	4 Point(s)
VK5/NE-088 Coomaroo Hill	2 Point(s)
VK5/NE-089 Richmond Hill	2 Point(s)
VK5/NE-095 VK5/NE-095	2 Point(s)
VK5/NE-098 Peaked Hill	2 Point(s)
VK5/NE-102 Waroonee Hill	2 Point(s)
VK5/NE-104 Karkala Ridge	2 Point(s)
VK5/NE-107 Pualco Range	2 Point(s)

Inspiring Leadership: The Future of Amateur Radio

By John VK5BJE



Wireless Institute of Australia Annual General Meeting and Open Forum and the show-case event Radio is Magic.

Paul, VK5PAS, David, VK5KC and I have been the beneficiaries of interstate hospitality at previous WIA AGMs, and decided we would offer a similar experience to visiting amateurs. Here in the Adelaide Hills we have two summits, Mounts Lofty and Gawler together with many parks and five hosts were identified for the purpose of assisting those who wanted to try their hand at activating a park or summit. I arranged for a typed list of the five hosts and their nominated Parks to be placed on the notice board on Saturday morning to give everyone an equal chance of joining this Sunday morning activity. Parks, Summits and hosts were identified and visitors were invited to

add their names to the list and indicate whether they wanted transport or tag along using their own vehicles.

We had speculated about the likely numbers of amateurs who would respond. I checked the list a few times through the day and the sheet remained un-signed. We were competing with the visit to the National Motor Museum and the culinary delights of Hahndorf! Perhaps we might have to cancel the event?

At about 22:00 hours, when I decided to leave the Gala Dinner and return to my Unit, I checked the notice board. There were plenty of names on the board. I saw I had three volunteers and all were going to drive to Scott Creek Conservation Park, VKFF-0788 and 5CP-207. Scott Creek Conservation Park is a magnificent park and if contacts are slow and hard to come by a pair of binoculars and a camera can add to your enjoyment. I have added some of our photos of extra-curricula observations for your enjoyment.



Banksia at Scott Creek Conservation Park

I made sure all were familiar with my proposed location and would meet them at the Park. I decided to leave Hahndorf at about 08:30 local time and be set up ready for the visitors.



VK5BJE's SOTA station at Scott Creek: a previous training exercise.

I had no sooner begun to set up and a local amateur, Russell, VK5OB, arrived. Russell kindly helped with transporting some of my gear from the 4 x 4 to the site I use at Gate 8. About 50 metres inside Gate 8 there is an old house site and the land is degraded. I have activated the park from this spot on many occasions and it has good elevation for VHF and UHF experiments. Then Richard VK5ZNC and Sue, VK5AYL, arrived. My station for the day was the FT857D and a three band linked dipole. I had the RF power out set for 10 watts and the battery was a LiFePO4 battery rated at 8.4 amp hours backed up by a 33 amp hour 'thumper' if needed. I demonstrated with about five contacts on 40 metres:

VK1AD/2 Andrew, in VKFF-0269 and VK2/SM-027, Kosciuszko National Park and Mount Nungar

VK3PET/3, Chris, Cape Conran Coastal Park, VKFF-0744

VK3ARH/5 Allan, Cleland Conservation Park VKFF-0778 and VK5/SE-015 Mount Lofty and VK5FR/5 Chris as host at Mount Lofty.

Then it was Richard and Sue's turn followed by Russell. All made contacts and kept their own logs. Additionally contacts were made on 2 metres FM using hand held radios with Paul, VK5PAS and his crew in Mark Oliphant Conservation Park, VKFF-0782. Sue also had a great time posting spots using her new app for iPhones, demonstrated on Saturday evening at the WIA Gala Dinner.



Striated Pardalope JCD Photo

These little guys are hard to spot feeding in the tree canopy.

My visitors were also interested in exploring the details of my station and the reasons for my choices. We had some very interesting discussions.

It was a beautiful late Autumn day in the Adelaide Hills and my XYL, Jenny, was working with the *Friends of the Scott Creek Conservation Park* about two kilometres away from Gate 8.

<http://users.on.net/~rkwilliams/FoSCCP/>

Jenny arrived in her car with three additional chairs and morning tea. She stayed for a while, but the comfort of enough chairs for the four of us, together with morning tea put an end to the radio activities and we socialised before packing up to go to the Hahndorf Oval for the *Radio is Magic* showcase event. The *Friends of Scott Creek* undertake bush-care and a long-standing bird-banding program. They recently caught a 10+ year old male Superb Fairy Wren which may be the second oldest one recorded for Australia.

I am sure we had a great time and as Paul, VK5PAS, had said in his presentation on Saturday Open Forum, the visitors were impressed with the lack of noise.



Bassian Thrush JCD Photo

These indigenous vulnerable birds are to see amongst their home in the undergrowth. Creek-line clearance reduces their habitat.

73, John VK5BJE

Upcoming Field Radio event

By Paul VK5PAS



Europe/UK Field Radio event - Saturday 8th July 2017.

More info on the Field Radio website at.....

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

Some ‘dubious’ contacts

By Paul VK5PAS



In the last few weeks I have heard a few dubious contacts in the WWFF program and I have received one email raising this issue with me.

By that I mean hunters who are clearly not hearing the activator well and not successfully exchanging a valid signal report.

If you cannot hear the activator and cannot get your signal report, then please do not log the contact. Understandably you will be frustrated by not making the contact. Perhaps it may have even be a new reference that you have missed out on.

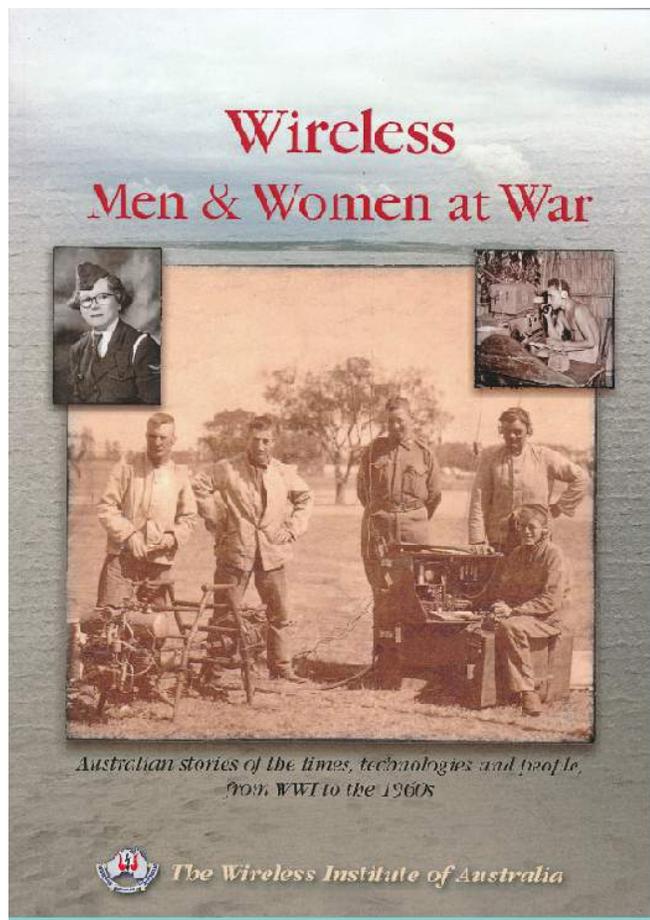
Also, please remember, do not relay signal reports. It makes the contact invalid.

Wireless Men and Women of Australia, WIA, Aust 2017 Book review

By John VK5BJE



Wireless Men and Women of Australia is an edited collection of articles and historical snippets mainly about radio amateurs, covering World Wars 1 and 11 and the Modern Era. There are 19 chapters and the project was led by Peter Wolfenden, VK3RV, WIA Historian together with members of the WIA Historical and Archive Committee. The book is soft-covered, A4 size with clear text and many black and white photos.



There are so many fascinating stories to summarise, so I thought I would consider the book through the modern lens of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, STEM. What comes through most clearly is that amateurs were experimenters, that they epitomise the goal of self-learning, indeed life-long learning. This all took place against the back-drop of the nation needing skilled personnel for the war effort and the amateurs would step up to the task.

Austine Henry, VK3YL, was one of those persons. She 'was issued with Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency number 619, dated 14th May 1930 and signed by J Malone, Chief Inspector (Wireless). An interesting side-line is that Mr Malone wrote the

words "with congratulations" above the typed "Yours faithfully" and his signature'. She built much of her own equipment and a home-brew transmitter won first prize in its class at a Victorian WIA display in 1933. She joined the RAAF Reserve in the Wireless Section. She also taught Morse code to service personnel and others, presumably aspiring amateurs among others.

Well known South Australian amateurs, VK5LP, Eric Clifford Jamieson OAM, Phil Williams, VK5NN and Ray Deane, VK5RK appear in the book. These amateurs will be known to many, especially those of my generation. Phil was a member of AHARS and a significant figure in the development and refinement of radar systems during World War 11. He was also a keen portable operator and I have fond memories of having a contact with Phil while he and his XYL were holidaying in the Flinders Ranges National Park.

Why is book relevant to the Newsletter?

Well the book profiles skilled amateurs. Amateur radio is a 'broad church' as anyone who attended the recent WIA AGM and Forum at Hahndorf will attest. It is incumbent on all amateurs, no matter what their special interests, to be skilled operators and understand the hobby as providing a platform for life-long learning. I like to add an extra letter to STEM and turn it into STEAM, (adding the letter A).

You will all have had the experience of contacting an operator who is a good communicator, who makes you feel at ease and helps create a conversation you will remember.

Have you ever wondered why some operators, all other things being equal, get more contacts? This book skilfully portrays, not only people who ‘activated’ in the scientific and technological aspects of wireless but also the *art* of using the technology. I commend the book to you.

Please call the activators

By Paul VK5PAS



I recently saw a post on the WWFF Australia Facebook page from a VK2 who had ‘heard’ Marija VK5FMAZ during one of our recent South East park activations. Sadly the VK2 didn’t call Marija. Not sure why?

If you hear park activators, please give them a call. WWFF park activators are looking for 2 QSO targets. The first is 10 QSOs to qualify the park for the Australian (VKFF) program. The second target is 44 QSOs to qualify the park for the WWFF global program.

So even if you are not chasing the hunter certificates, please give the activators a call.

PARKSnPEAKS Helpful notes

By Rob VK4AAC



Hi all, lately I have been wondering how to pass on certain information from my park activations to assist other activators.

For me, the biggest concern is phone coverage to spot myself. Other things like ease of access, directions for access, facilities such as toilets, picnic benches, space for antennas, etc.

I confirmed with Allen VK3ARH, owner of PnP, that any specific park information you may have can be added as “NOTES”, so I have begun sending short emails to Allen, after each park activation, for him to add.

The notes will appear under the type of park.

See screen shot below, from Parks N Peaks...

Details
 Clouds overcast clouds, 9.00° ,wind WSW at 0.00mps 99% Humidity and
 Latitude - -34.0706 Longitude - 148.4545
 Zone - 55H Northing - 6229061, Easting - 634214
 Grid - QF45fw (Bearing - 227°)
 Area - 1863.11ha
 Mon Jun 26 2017 AEST Sunrise - 07:15 Sunset - 17:02
 State - VK2
 Type - National Park

← Your notes will be added here under park type.

My suggestion is to keep it short and simple.

When indicating phone coverage, I state
“Telstra phone coverage ok.”

If you use a different carrier it might be prudent to name the carrier you use, because the next park activator may be using a different company and may not get coverage.

Advice about space for antennas (dipoles) is helpful. I have been to parks where there is virtually no space to erect a full size dipole and I have had to use a smaller antenna such as a vertical.

Access directions to a park is very useful information due to the fact that some obscure out of the way parks are difficult to find. Your emails to Allen don't have to be long, just to the point, see example of one of my emails below...

Hi Allen,

Goonoowigal State Conservation Area VKFF-

1322

Goonoowigal Picnic Area

Telstra phone coverage ok.
 Park bench, BBQ and ample parking.
 Enter off Goonoowigal Rd.

Kings Plains NP VKFF-0265

Ironbark Campground

No Telstra phone coverage.
 Ample room for camping and antennas.

No toilet.

Kings Plains Creek Campground

No Telstra phone coverage.
 Toilet and park bench.
 Quite small parking area, limited space for dipole type antenna.

Cheers
 Rob
 VK4AAC

I have already passed on notes regarding several parks I have activated recently, including VKFF-0274, VKFF-0033, VKFF-0606 and VKFF-0230.

Here is a screen shot of the notes added to Sea Acres NP VKFF-0606...

Details
 Clear clear sky, 19.00° ,wind SSW at 0.00mps 42% Humidity and 1,020.00hPa
 Latitude - -31.4641 Longitude - 152.9326
 Zone - 56J Northing - 6518960, Easting - 493596
 Grid - QF68lm (Bearing - 224°)
 Area - 70.93ha
 Mon Jun 26 2017 AEST Sunrise - 06:51 Sunset - 16:51
 State - VK2
 Type - National Park
 Notes - Lighthouse car park (approx 300m before lighthouse) Telstra phone coverage ok. Parking only. Great view.

↩ Notes added

Of course, this also applies to the SOTA activators. This might include information such as easiest route to climb to the summit.

Anyway, I know this is extra work, but it could be quite helpful to the next Park or SOTA activator and ultimately benefit the parks and SOTA programs.

73's and 44's

Rob
VK4AAC

Do your homework

By Paul VK5PAS



A word of caution.....there are some private properties which allow overnight stays, and lay claim that they are a Conservation Park.

They are private parks and not gazetted by the State Govt, so therefore DO NOT count towards the VK5 Parks Award or WWFF.

There have been a few issues in recent times with activators believing they are in a Conservation Park, when they are not.

Please consult the list on the VK5 Parks website & the WWFF Australia page to ensure that you are in a qualifying park.

VK Shires Contest 2017

By Paul VK5PAS

Marija and I had a bit of fun during the recent 2017 VK Shires Contest. We were in the South East of VK5 at the time and activated the Telford Scrub Conservation Park, the Lower Glenelg River Conservation Park, and the Lower Glenelg National Park (in VK3) during the contest.

Marija made a total of 78 contacts with 62 different Shires and 1 Zone logged. Her claimed score was 4.914 points.



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ in the Telford Scrub CP. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS.

I made a total of 193 QSOs with 151 different shires and 2 zones logged. My claimed score was 29,529 points.



Above:- Paul VK5PAS in the Lower Glenelg River CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

We are now patiently waiting the results of the contest.

Who else entered into the contest whilst out portable? Drop me an email so I can place some information in the next issue of Out and About.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Apps

By Paul VK5PAS

I was recently contacted by Stef VK5HSX re a parksneaks app he was using and that a particular park was not in the database. It turned out that Stef was using the parksneaks

app created some years back by Andrew VK3ARR.

Please note that Andrew no longer supports this app. It is suspected this app is missing about 1,000 VKFF references in the add spot options.

If you are an Apple Mac user, don't forget Sue VK5AYL's excellent Parks & Peaks app which can be downloaded from the iTunes store at....

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/parks-peaks/id1218671045?mt=8>



The 2017 WIA AGM/Convention Award

By Grant VK5GR



The 2017 AGM award is now available to those who qualify. To apply for your award you must use the WIA online award system via this Link.....

<http://www.wiaawards.com/login.php>

and upload your log with all qualifying QSO. Don't forget that you must "Verify DXCC" before any of them count. Then select "Show Award Status" and select "2017 AGM". If you qualify you should have an "Apply" link shown.

Your award will be approved within 2 weeks (probably much sooner), and available for you to download as a PDF and print out at home.

Don't forget that all those contacts with VK5WOW and VI5WOW whilst in parks count towards the award.

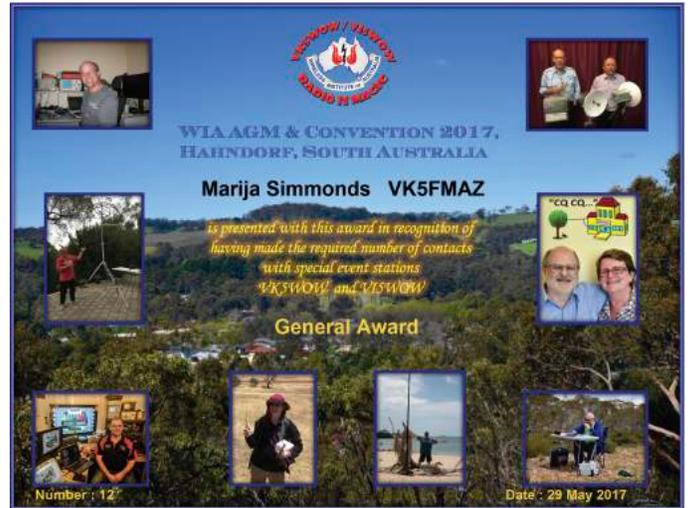
The General Award

- 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

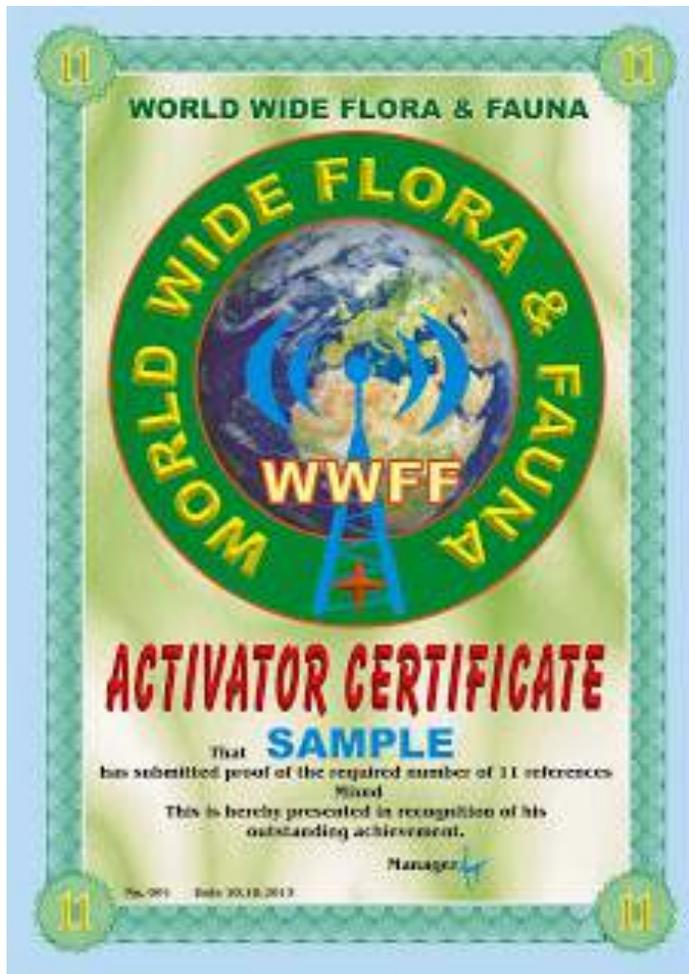
Contacts via HF (Voice, Digital Voice, Digital Data and CW), VHF, UHF, Microwave, ATV, EME, Echolink, DSTAR, DMR, FUSION, IRLP, Satellite, Balloon Repeater will all count for this award.



In the next few issues I thought I would explain some of the global WWFF awards which are available.

To start off, let’s have a look at the WWFF Activator certificate.

For this certificate you need to have activated a minimum of 11 different WWFF reference areas with a minimum of 44 QSOs logged per reference. There are upgrades of 11 references.



The award can be applied for on-line via the wwff global website.

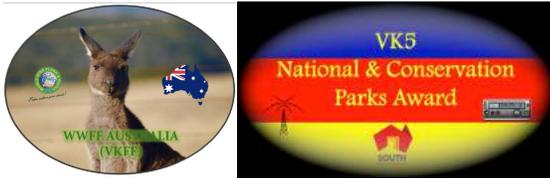
<http://wwff.co/logsearch/>

On the Logsearch page, do a search under your call. This will take you to your Summary Stats page. Then click on ‘Apply for WWFF-A if you have qualified.’



In the next issue I will explain the global WWFF Hunter certificate.

Recent Park Activations



June was a fairly quiet month for park activations around South Australia.

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

- Kaisertuhl Conservation Park 5CP-097 & VKFF-0897, Paul VK5PAS/p (24/6/2017)



Above:- the shack of Paul VK5PAS at Kaiserstuhl CP. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

- Hale Conservation Park 5CP-086 & VKFF-0889, Paul VK5PAS (24/6/2017)

- Paroo Darling National Park NSW VKFF-0410, Stef VK5HSX/2 (18/6/2017)
- Padthaway Conservation Park 5CP-169 & VKFF-0924, Paul VK5PAS (12/6/2017)
- Padthaway Conservation Park 5CP-169 & VKFF-0924, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (12/6/2017)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ/p in Padthaway CP Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

- Glen Roy Conservation Park 5CP-077 & VKFF-0797, Paul VK5PAS (2/6/2017)
- Glen Roy Conservation Park 5CP-077 & VKFF-0797, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (12/6/2017)
- Lower Glenelg National Park VICTORIA VKFF-0296, Paul VK5PAS/3 (11/6/2017)
- Lower Glenelg National Park VICTORIA VKFF-0296, Marija VK5FMAZ/3 (11/6/2017)

- Lower Glenelg River Conservation Park 5CP-122 & VKFF-0905, Paul VK5PAS/p (11/6/2017)
- Lower Glenelg River Conservation Park 5CP-122 & VKFF-0905, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (11/6/2017)
- Telford Scrub Conservation Park 5CP-226 & VKFF-0805, Paul VK5PAS/p (10/6/2017)
- Telford Scrub Conservation Park 5CP-226 & VKFF-0805, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (10/6/2017)
- Douglas Point Conservation Park 5CP-057 & VKFF-0795, Paul VK5PAS/p (10/6/2017)
- Douglas Point Conservation Park 5CP-057 & VKFF-0795, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (10/6/2017)
- Bucks Lake Game Reserve VKFF-1690, Paul VK5PAS/p (10/6/2017)
- Bucks Lake Game Reserve VKFF-1690, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (10/6/2017)
- Mount Boothby Conservation Park 5CP-144 & VKFF-0913, Paul VK5PAS/p (3/6/2017)
- Messent Conservation Park 5CP-133 & VKFF-0799, Paul VK5PAS/p (3/6/2017)
- Martin Washpool Conservation Park 5CP-129 & VKFF-0907, Paul VK5PAS/p (3/6/2017)

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.wffaustralia.com/>

Recent SOTA activations



The boys from the Mid North, Ian VK5CZ, Hugh VK5NHG, and Ian VK5IS continued to fly the SOTA flag with a number of SOTA activations in the Mid North of SA.

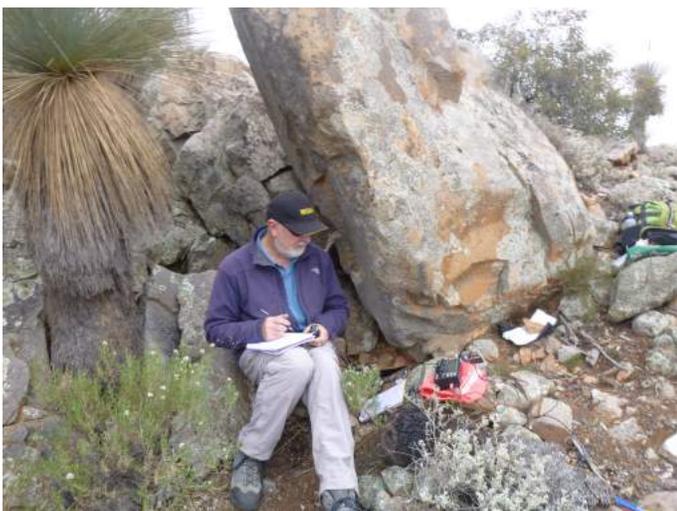
Here is a list of known recent VK5 SOTA activations.....

- Karkala Ridge VK5/ NE-104, Ian VK5CZ/p (25/6/2017)
- Karkala Ridge VK5/ NE-104, Hugh VK5NHG/p (25/6/2017)

- Waroonee Hill VK5/ NE-102, Ian VK5CZ/p (24/6/2017)
- Waroonee Hill VK5/ NE-102, Hugh VK5NHG/p (24/6/2017)
- VK5/ NE-095, Ian VK5CZ/p (24/6/2017)
- Oulnina Hill VK5/ NE-071, Ian VK5CZ/p (24/6/2017)
- Oulnina Hill VK5/ NE-071, Hugh VK5NHG/p (24/6/2017)
- VK5/ NE-095, Hugh VK5NHG/p (23/6/2017)
- Pualco Range VK5/ NE-107, Ian VK5CZ/p (23/6/2017)
- Pualco Range VK5/ NE-107, Hugh VK5NHG/p (23/6/2017)
- Mount Bryan VK5/ SE-001, Ian VK5CZ/p (17/6/2017)
- Mount Bryan VK5/ SE-001, Ian VK5IS/p (16/6/2017)
- Illawarra Hill VK5/ SE-014, Ian VK5CZ/p (10/6/2017)
- Lagoon Hill VK5/ SE-008, Ian VK5CZ/p (10/6/2017)
- Lagoon Hill VK5/ SE-008, Hugh VK5NHG/p (10/6/2017)
- Stokes Hill VK5/ NE-050, Ian VK5CZ/p (3/6/2017)

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

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



Above:- Hugh VK5NHG/p at Pualco Hill. Photo courtesy of Ian VK5CZ

- Brown Hill Range VK5/ SE-004, Ian VK5CZ/p (17/6/2017)
- Brown Hill Range VK5/ SE-004, Ian VK5IS/p (17/6/2017)

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

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

VKFF Team Championship

By Paul VK5PAS



An event poster for the VKFF Team Championship. At the top, there are two circular logos: one showing a kangaroo and the other showing the WWFF logo. Below the logos, the text 'VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP' is written in large, bold, green letters. Underneath, the date and time 'Sunday 22nd October 2017 0000 UTC - 0600 UTC' are displayed in yellow text on a black background. The poster contains several sections of text: 'What is it all about?', 'How do I take part?', 'Prizes', and 'More information?'. At the bottom, a URL 'http://www.wffaustralia.com/' is provided. The entire poster is enclosed in a dashed black border.

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

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

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....

➤ Bert VK5FBJC

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

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

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)



VKFF Activation weekend.

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th

November 2017



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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

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.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- Nil known

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- Les VK5KLV
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 400
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 30



- **John VK5NJ**
 - Diamond VKFF Hunter

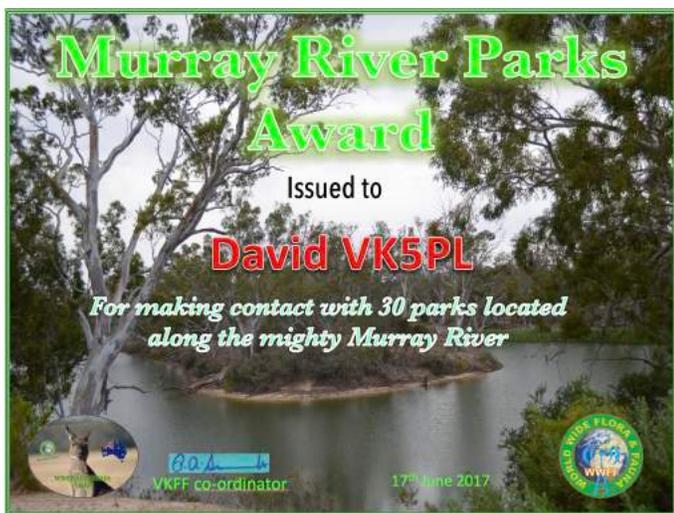


- **Marija VK5FMAZ**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 175
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 10
 - Gold VKFF Activator
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 200



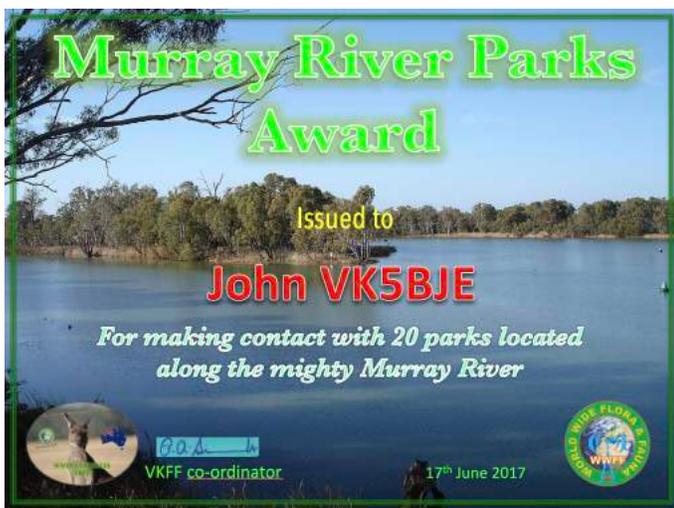
- **David VK5PL**

- Murray River Parks 30



- **John VK5BJE**

- Murray River Parks Hunter 20



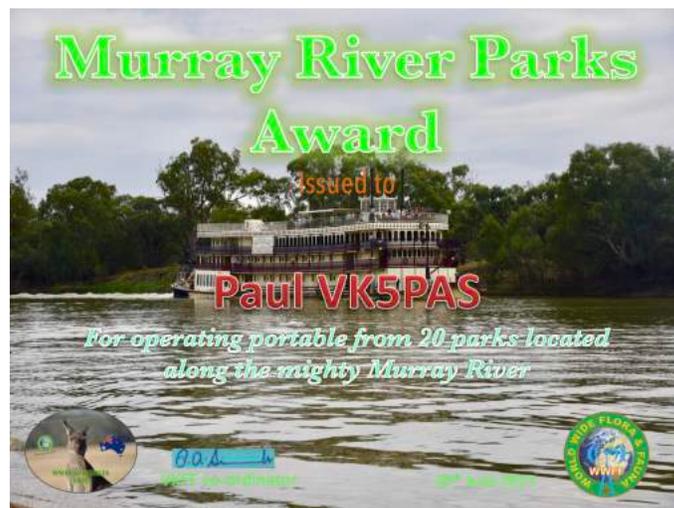
- **Adrian VK5FANA**

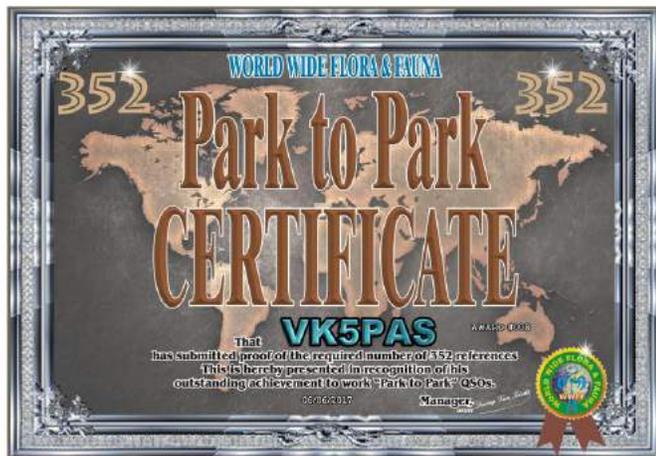
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 575



- **Paul VK5PAS**

- Murray River Parks Activator 20
- VKFF Activator Honour Roll 175
- YOFF Activator diploma
- Global Park to Park 352





- **Mike VK5FMWW**
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 10



VK5 Parks Award

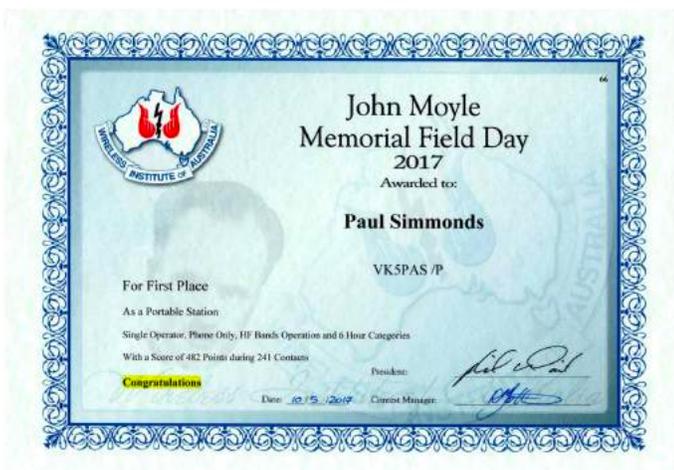
- Nil for this period

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

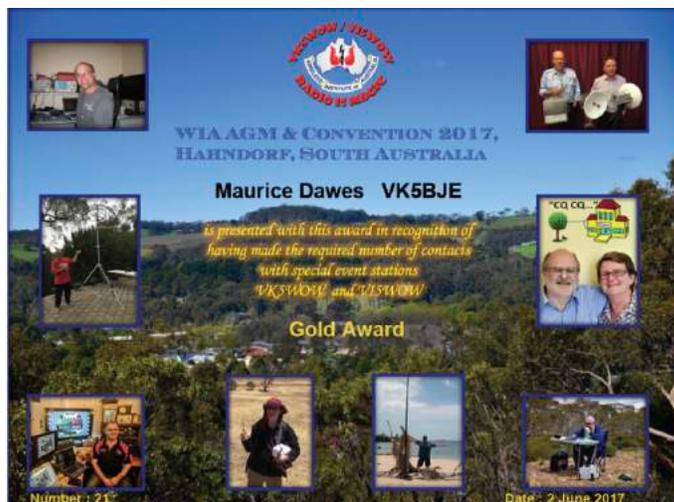
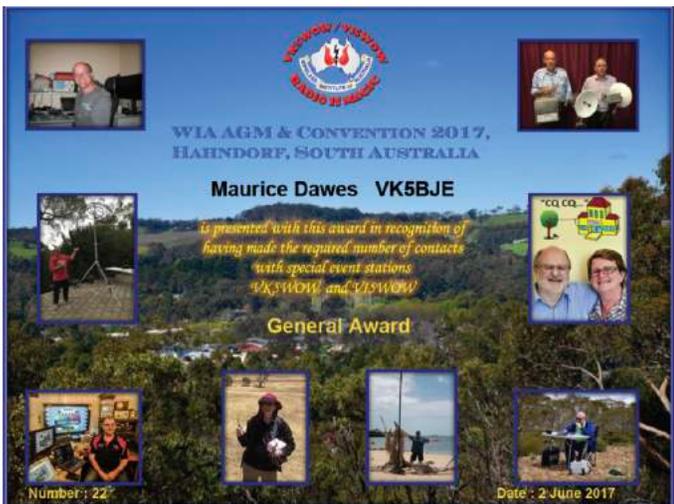
- NIL KNOWN

Other.

- Paul VK5PAS
 - John Moyle Memorial Field Day 2017



- John VK5BJE
 - WIA AGM Award



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.

Yunta 2017 trip

By Ian VK5CZ



Hugh and I took Friday off work to have enough time to activate 5 summits near Yunta, about half of the summits along the Barrier Highway. We headed off quite early about 6 am from Farrel Flat and took the road via Mt Bryan East

this time as it was dry. It took over 3 hours to make the parking spot at the base of Pualco Hill so we were a bit behind the Spot time on SOTA watch but did our best to be there asap.



One of the many gates to open along the way, with only about 10 km to go.



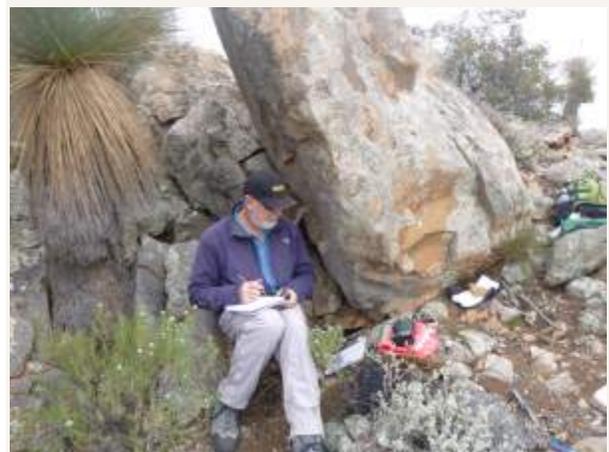
That's the summit about 40 minutes to hike with a rock scramble up near the top .



Biggest Yacca bushes I have ever seen, very healthy specimens .



The stone cairn has fallen down at the top.



Hugh made some 80 and 40 metres ssb contacts then I took over and made some good contacts on 40m cw .



Heading back down off the summit we stumbled across an Emu nesting in the Spinifex grass, lucky He took off in fright and did not attack us.



Over night in Yunta Pub we left quite early to head to vk5/ne-095 known as the Bluff by the locals, the first summit for Saturday .



A really nice sun rise before we hit the dirt road to the first summit.



Part way up to the summit which is about 1 hour to hike .



We set up behind this ledge out of the cool southerly wind.



Made some good contacts on 80 and 40m again this time working VK2UH on his brand new MTR rig, much excitement as it was the first qso with this rig, Andrew had a great signal at 3 watts of out put.

Not many contacts on this hill as we were quite early but we both made the score and qualified.

After the hike back down we headed off on station tracks to Oulina Park homestead to meet up with Michael and head to the next summit Oulina Hill. This summit is a drive up with a 4x4 track to the top which Mitsi did easily now we have the right line worked out for a rock ledge on the way up.

I only got a couple photos as the battery in my camera gave up again although I suspect it has a fault somewhere else because it has failed several time since I bought it.

We both worked vk5is and vk5wg on 80m even though it was after lunch by the time we made the summit with a small number of chasers on 40m ssb and cw. This time we gave Hugh's

KX2 a run which worked fine with his link dipole



Hugh working the pile up on 40m ssb



KX2 is a great rig amazing how much smaller than My KX3 it is.

Was intending to take a shot of Mitsi dropping of the famous rock ledge on the way down but camera had other ideas.

We headed back to Yunta via Oulina Park property travelling about 80km of station tracks and some better made roads nearer to Yunta.

We headed out Early again Sunday Morning to Teetulpa Station this time west of Yunta our

first summit was Waroonee Hill. This is a great summit about 10 km south from the main road west of Yunta so we have some station tracks again.



We need to hike about 3 km along the bottom edge to this rock uplift to make the summit on the northern end, it is a stony path made by goats but a nice easy hike once you get up on the path.



The way to the summit is at the end of this rock face.



Some scrub on the top and Spinefex Grass, looking out to the East.



Top of the ledge looking Southeast that may be Nakara Hill in the distance .



Hugh working chasers on 80 40 ssb then I took over to make some contacts on 80 ssb and 40 cw .

Back to Mitsi for the drive back to Teetulpa Homestead to meet the manager then we went north along station tracks heading for Karkala Ridge summit.

There are several gates on this trip and about 20 km of tracks to get there. We had a 2 km walk from the parking spot after some lunch.



Gradual hike along the ridge to the top.



Baron treeless place.



Even though it was middle of the day we both made enough qso's on 80 m to qualify. Hugh worked a pile up on 40 ssb and I made 12 cw qso's on 40 m and some double ups and other qso's on 20 m cw this time. Got to work Andrew again with his new MTR this time on 20 m with great 2 way signals. We used the KX3 this time and my 20/40 link dipole with 80m extensions. This antenna has been the best for me so far .

We had well over 600 km on the speedo by the time we got home Sunday night with 5 summits crossed off the list for this year.

Thanks to all the property managers and thanks to the chasers.

Thanks for reading,

Ian vk5cz

Accessing parks via private property

By Paul VK5PAS



I recently read on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group, some posts re access issues a park activator had experienced re a New South Wales National Park. Access to the park appeared to be only via private property. As a result I thought that it might be wise if I raise some points which I discussed in a post on my Wordpress site back in January 2015.

With respect to SOTA summits which have trig point and are located on private property, there was some suggestion that activators had a right of way to the summit, despite the fact that the summit was on private property.

Back in 2015 I undertook some research and I spoke with the Manager of Survey Operations at the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. His response was as follows:

‘the land owner has the right to deny entry to the said trig point to everyone except surveyors

carrying out their work.....Land owners are within their rights to deny access to trig points on their land for any purpose other than surveying’.

Only a surveyor or a person authorised by a surveyor, may enter private property, under the authority of the *Survey Act 1992*. There is no ‘freedom to roam’ or ‘everymans right’ as exists in the United Kingdom.

In England, there is the freedom to roam, or everyman’s right. This relates to the general public’s right to access certain public of privately owned land for recreation and exercise. In both England and Wales, public access rights apply to certain categories of mainly uncultivated land—specifically “mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land.” Developed land, gardens and certain other areas are specifically excluded from the right of access. Agricultural land is accessible if it falls within one of the categories described above. Some other European countries have similar rights of access. Here in Australia, we have no such rights of access.



The *Survey Act 1992* states that a survey mark is.....

- (a) *a mark or peg of a kind specified in survey instructions in force under this Act that is placed on or in land for the purposes of defining a boundary of the land; or*
- (b) *a permanent survey mark.*

Section 46 of the *Survey Act 1992* states.....

A surveyor, or a person authorised in writing by a surveyor, may-

- (a) *at any reasonable time, enter any land for the purpose of carrying out work in connection with a survey; and*
- (b) *take such action as is necessary to enable the survey to be carried out effectively (including excavating or breaking the surface of land to the extent necessary to uncover or place a survey mark).*

It is also an offence under the Act to hinder or obstruct a person in the exercise of a power conferred by the Act.

There are some exceptions to access across privately owned land here in South Australia. This includes the Heysen Trail, which is a long distance walking trail (1,200 km) stretching from the Flinders Ranges, via the Adelaide Hills, to the Fleurieu Peninsula. Part of the trail traverses private property. However this access would be documented and possibly included as right of way in the Title.

Section 17 of the *Summary Offences Act 1953* of South Australia states.....

Where-

- (a) *a person trespasses on premises; and*
- (b) *the nature of the trespass is such as to interfere with the enjoyment of the premises by the occupier; and*
- (c) *the trespasser is asked by an authorised person to leave the premises, the trespasser is, if he or she fails to leave the premises forthwith or again trespasses on the premises within 24 hours of being asked to leave, guilty of an offence.*

So PLEASE, ignore any RUMOURS you may have heard about being able to access private property. They are just that, ill-based rumours, which may land you in hot water with the law, and spoil things for other SOTA & Parks activators.

DO NOT access private property, unless you have the expressed permission of the land owner.

If you do gain permission to access a summit which is located on private property or a park via private property, then consider the following suggestions, to keep land owners happy.....

1. *Contact the land owner prior to accessing the summit. Imagine someone walking into your back yard*

- without seeking prior approval. Other than it being just plain rude, it is also Tresspassing.*
2. *Be polite & friendly.*
 3. *Explain to them what your intentions are and how long you plan to be on the summit.*
 4. *Explain the SOTA/Parks program/s to them and the hobby of amateur radio.*
 5. *If you strike a reluctant party, explain the role that amateur radio plays in disasters, and that its not all about a fun activity.*
 6. *If the land owner is reluctant, ask if they would like to accompany you. I have done this before and it has worked.*
 7. *If they do decline access, please place this information on the SOTA database, so that other activators don't ring & pester the land owner again.*
 8. *Pick up your rubbish. Don't leave anything behind.*
 9. *Leave things as you found them.*
 10. *Close all gates as you find them. If you are not familiar with 'cokies gates', ask the land owner if there are any tricky gates.*
 11. *Be cognisant of sheep and/or stock on the land that you are entering into or plan to operate from.*
 12. *Don't discard cigarette butts.*
 13. *Be aware of your own safety. Other than placing your own health at risk, land owners are not going to be keen to allow other people onto their land in the future, if you happen to break you leg and require to be helicoptered off the summit.*
 14. *Make sure you are on the right summit. An unhappy neighbour will more than likely get on the telephone to the correct land owner and have a whinge. The correct summit land owner doesn't need that.*
 15. *If you are driving across private land, be aware of the limitations of your vehicle. Land owners will be none to pleased if they have to come to tow you out after you've got yourself bogged.*
 16. *Phone the land owner following your activation to let them know you are safely off the hill, and to thank them for allowing you access.*
 17. *Send the land owner some photos of your activation, or a link to your Tube video of your activation. I have been doing this, and it is amazing how many of them really appreciate it, and enjoy looking at the photos and/or videos.*

Space weather

By Paul VK5PAS

I subscribe to info provided by the Space Weather Prediction Center.

Here is info via email I have received re Deprecated-Report of Solar Geophysical Activity....

18th June 2017

:Product: Report of Solar-Geophysical Activity
:Issued: 2017 Jun 18 0839 UTC
Prepared jointly by the U.S. Dept. of
Commerce, NOAA,
Space Weather Prediction Center and the
U.S. Air Force.

Joint USAF/NOAA Solar Geophysical Activity
Report and Forecast
SDF Number 168 Issued at 2200Z on 17 Jun
2017

IA. Analysis of Solar Active Regions and
Activity from 16/2100Z to 17/2100Z: Solar
activity has been at very low levels for the past
24 hours. There are currently 2 numbered
sunspot regions on the disk.

IB. Solar Activity Forecast: Solar activity is
expected to be very low with a slight chance for
a C-class flare on days one, two, and three (18
Jun, 19 Jun, 20 Jun).

IIA. Geophysical Activity Summary 16/2100Z to
17/2100Z: The geomagnetic field has been at
quiet to minor storm levels for the past 24
hours. Solar wind speed reached a peak of
599 km/s at 16/2100Z. Total IMF reached 9 nT
at 17/1613Z. The maximum southward
component of Bz reached -8 nT at 16/2105Z.
Electrons greater than 2 MeV at
geosynchronous orbit reached a peak level of
669 pfu.

IIIB. Geophysical Activity Forecast: The
geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to
active levels on day one (18 Jun), quiet to
unsettled levels on day two (19 Jun) and quiet
levels on day three (20 Jun).

III. Event probabilities 18 Jun-20 Jun
Class M 01/01/01
Class X 01/01/01
Proton 01/01/01
PCAF green

IV. Penticton 10.7 cm Flux
Observed 17 Jun 075
Predicted 18 Jun-20 Jun 075/075/075
90 Day Mean 17 Jun 077

V. Geomagnetic A Indices
Observed Afr/Ap 16 Jun 018/019
Estimated Afr/Ap 17 Jun 013/015
Predicted Afr/Ap 18 Jun-20 Jun 010/010-
009/008-005/005

VI. Geomagnetic Activity Probabilities 18 Jun-
20 Jun
A. Middle Latitudes
Active 10/10/10
Minor Storm 01/01/01
Major-severe storm 01/01/01
B. High Latitudes
Active 15/15/15
Minor Storm 15/15/15
Major-severe storm 05/10/10

26th June 2017.

Official Space Weather Advisory issued by
NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center
Boulder, Colorado, USA SPACE WEATHER
ADVISORY OUTLOOK #17-26
2017 June 25 at 6:42 p.m. MDT (2017 June 26
0042 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For June 19-25

No space weather storms were observed during the summary period.

Outlook For June 26-July 2

No space weather storms are expected during the outlook period.

Data used to provide space weather services are contributed by NOAA, USAF, NASA, NSF, USGS, the International Space Environment Services and other observatories, universities, and institutions. More information is available at SWPC's Web site at.....

<http://swpc.noaa.gov>

Tips from Peter VK3YE

By Paul VK5PAS



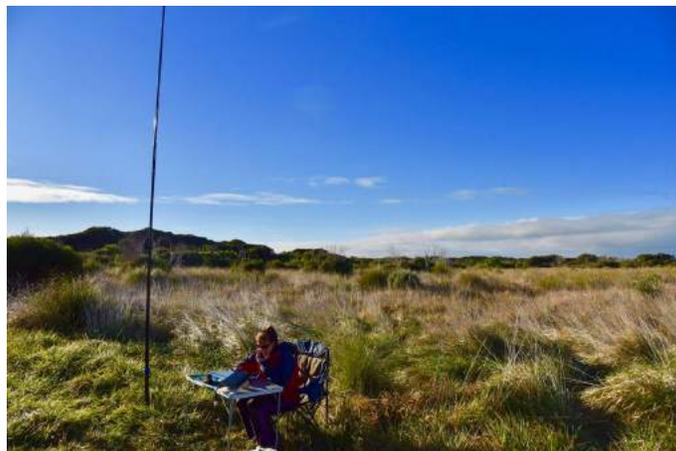
Peter VK3YE has a very good series of videos relating to 'Foundation guide to frequencies and getting contacts'. It can be found at.....

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

Trip to the South East

By Paul VK5PAS

Many thanks to everyone who called Marija VK5FMAZ and I during our trip away to the South East of South Australia. We attended the South East Radio Group (SERG) Annual Convention and had a great time. Well done to the crew down there for putting on such a great show.



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ on air in the Bucks Lake Game Reserve. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

Marija and I activated a total of 7 parks whilst we were away, and competed a bit in the VK Shires Contest. Six of those parks were in VK5 and one in VK3. We made a total of 567 QSOs including 44 Park to Park contacts, on 20, 40, & 80m SSB.



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ operating from the Lower Glenelg CP in the rain. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

More info and photos of each activation can be seen on my Wordpress site at

<https://vk5pas.org/>

Thanks again to everyone who called and thanks to those who spotted us.



Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

LIFE IS SIMPLE



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-093 (17/6/2017)

QSL cards received

Have you received a QSL card lately from a portable, mobile or QRP station? If so, please send me a copy.

Below are some QSL cards received by VK5PAS from stations whilst operating portable.

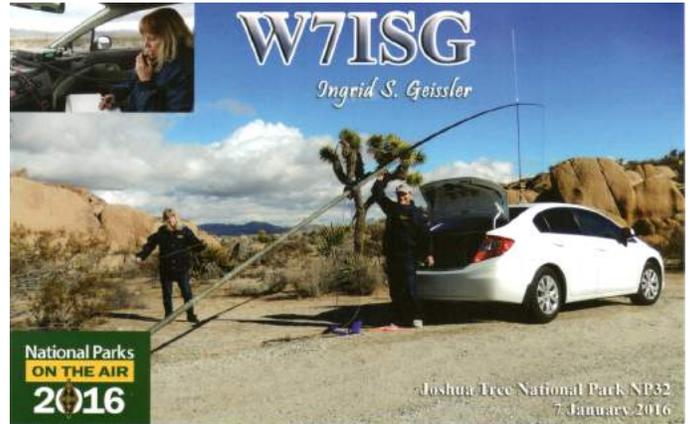
IU5HIV, Italy.

IU5HIV
 WWLOCATOR: JNA4WE
 REGION 1 - CQ ZONE 15 - IITU ZONE 28
 ITALIAN AMATEUR RADIO STATION

Lunigiana in Tuscany

I confirm a contact with VK5PAS on 07-04-2017 at 06:39 UTC
 Our QSO was on 20m/SSB, your RST was 42
 My station: Yaesu FTDX-1200 & antenna Delta Loop with 500w
 73 & Good DXing by IU5HIV op. Maurizio

W7ISG (NPOTA)



CT1EXS

WAZ 14
 ITU 37
PORTUGAL
CT1EXS
 JOSÉ FILIPE SIMÕES JÚLIO
 BELO ROMÃO E.M.1325 CX POSTAL 186 R
 8700-065 MONCARAPACHO

Câmara Municipal de Loulé

TNX QSL
 PSE QSL

Locator **IM67CB**

To amateur radio station:	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	MHZ	2 WAY	UTC	RST
PAUL VK5PAS/p	2017	03	31	7.155	SSB	7.46	5.5 5.7

2E0HPI/p

To Assist Others

Worked all Britain Awards
www.worked-all-britain.co.uk

Shetland Islands
 Scotland
 Ireland
 Wales
 England
 Channel Islands

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>

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.

Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) as Fast As Possible

<https://youtu.be/ysOq6ywTSzU>

Ham humour



Murray River Parks Award

By John VK5BJE



VK3BYD). I want to improve my number of cw contacts! The first contact, on 16th July 2013, was with Larry, VK5LY/3, now sadly deceased.

Count	Reference	DXCC	Activator	Chaser	Date	BandMode
1	VKFF-0069	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	VK5LY/3 (VK5LY)	VK5BJE/72014-	02-21	40mSSB
2	VKFF-0115	OC / VK (VK-SA)	VK5PAS (VK5PAS)	VK5BJE	2013-06-02	40mSSB
3	VKFF-0231	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	VK5LY/3 (VK5LY)	VK5BJE	2013-07-16	40mSSB
4	VKFF-0269	OC / VK (VK-NSW)	VK1NAM/2 (VK1NAM)	VK5BJE	2014-11-14	40mSSB
5	VKFF-0372	OC / VK (VK-SA)	VK5PAS (VK5PAS)	VK5BJE	2013-09-21	40mSSB
6	VKFF-0373	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	VK3VTH (VK3VTH)	VK5BJE	2013-09-11	40mSSB
7	VKFF-0547	OC / VK (VK-NSW)	VK2LAD (VK2LAD)	VK5BJE	2016-09-11	40mSSB
8	VKFF-0554	OC / VK (VK-NSW)	VK5PAS/2 (VK5PAS)	VK5BJE	2015-10-22	40mSSB
9	VKFF-0739	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	VK4AAC/3 (VK4AAC)	VK5BJE	2016-04-01	40mSSB
10	VKFF-0740	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	AX3VTH/P (VK3VTH)	VK5BJE	2015-04-24	40mSSB
11	VKFF-0741	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	VK4AAC/3 (VK4AAC)	VK5BJE/P2016-	09-11	40mSSB
12	VKFF-0767	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	VK3BYD (VK3BYD)	VK5PF	2016-06-25	40mCW
13	VKFF-0768	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	VK3VTH/P (VK3VTH)	VK5BJE	2015-09-20	40mSSB
14	VKFF-0823	OC / VK (VK-SA)	VK5PAS/P (VK5PAS)	VK5BJE	2015-05-01	40mSSB
15	VKFF-0827	OC / VK (VK-SA)	VK5PAS/P (VK5PAS)	VK5BJE/32015-	04-19	40mSSB
16	VKFF-0831	OC / VK (VK-SA)	VK4AAC/5 (VK4AAC)	VK5BJE	2016-02-25	40mSSB
17	VKFF-0911	OC / VK (VK-SA)	VK4AAC/5 (VK4AAC)	VK5BJE	2016-02-16	40mSSB
18	VKFF-0919	OC / VK (VK-SA)	VK5ZGY/P (VK5ZGY)	VK5BJE	2016-04-06	40mSSB
19	VKFF-0929	OC / VK (VK-SA)	VK4AAC/5 (VK4AAC)	VK5BJE	2016-02-18	40mSSB
20	VKFF-0961	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	VK4AAC/3 (VK4AAC)	VK5BJE/P2016-	04-02	40mSSB



Here is my log of contacts with operators in the 20 parks located along the Murray River. Four contacts were from portable locations, all in Parks, the remainder were from my home station and only one contact was made using CW (morse code) from my home station using my second call (VK5PF) (thanks Warren,

I am pleased to gain the award and it represents many great memories. A special thanks to those who have activated the parks making the award possible.