



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 38 December 2017

Welcome



Hello to all readers, and a warm welcome to Issue 38 (December 2017) of '*Out and About in VK5*'. The '*Out and About in VK5*' newsletter is all about promoting Summits on the Air (SOTA), Parks (including WWFF and the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award), portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc in South Australia.

The month of November was a very busy month for park activators across Australia. The always popular, Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) Activation Weekend (now that is a mouthful), was held between 10th to 13th November this year. The KRMNPA is well supported by many VK5's, not only as park hunters, but by many VK5's who often venture over the border to conduct Victorian National Park Award activations. This year David, VK3TUN activated the Terrick-Terrick National

Park and also the Heathcote-Graytown National Park, making a number of contacts. Marija VK5FMAZ and I also headed over to Victoria, and activated 4 Victorian National Parks: Lind, Alfred, Coopracambra, and Croajingolong. We made around 390 contacts from these 4 parks. Many thanks to Tony VK3XV, the KRMNPA Manager, for organising another fantastic KRMNPA weekend. Tony has provided a summary report of the weekend in this issue.

And a few weeks later, the 2017 VKFF Activation Weekend was held. This weekend is held each November and is all about promoting the World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF) program here in Australia. I have provided a brief rundown of the weekend in this issue. A total of eight (8) VK5 stations took part: Alan VK5AR, Adrian VK5FAJH, Marija VK5FMAZ, Norm VK5GI, Greg VK5GJ, Gordon VK5GY,

Les VK5KLV and myself VK5PAS. Once all of the logs have been submitted, I will do a final tally on QSOs, number of parks activated, etc. I will also forward out participation certificates to all those who took part as activators.

Marija and I didn't spend a huge amount of time at home in November, as we were away in Victoria (VK3) and New South Wales (VK2) for a little over 2 weeks on holidays, to coincide with the KRMNPA Weekend. Marija and I activated a total of 27 parks and 6 SOTA summits whilst we were away and we made around 1,700 contacts. And of course we were away for the weekend in the Riverland region of VK5, for the 2017 VKFFF Activation Weekend. As a result, this issue of Out and About, and the last, are a little late.

And now for the sad news. I am saddened to report that the next issue of '*Out and About in VK5*', Issue 39, will be the last. I am winding back my involvement in a number of areas of the hobby, and I have decided that producing this newsletter will be one of those. This is despite the fact that I know there are a lot of readers. Sadly I get very little in the way of contributions to the newsletter from VK5's, other than a handful of regular contributors. I will mention those individuals who regularly contribute, in the next issue, and I personally thank them immensely for their contributions over the years. I have been asked many times to make this a national publication, but quite frankly I just don't have the time. If there are any VK5's who may like to pick up the bat and run with the continuation of this publication, I would be very pleased to hear from you. Otherwise, Issue 39 will be the last.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed reading this newsletter over the past 3 years. And I hope that many of you, VK5's and perhaps others, might submit an article or two for next month's final issue.

Please drop me an email with any stories and/or photos. I can be contacted at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas. Thankyou to everyone who has contributed this year to the newsletter, and thankyou to those who have taken part in the VK5 Parks Award and the VKFF program.

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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Cable car proposed for Cleland Conservation Park

By Paul VK5PAS



A BILLIONAIRE Hong Kong entrepreneur has proposed building a cable car to link Cleland Conservation Park with the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden and the Mount Lofty summit, as part of a new vision for the much-loved wildlife sanctuary.

More information can be obtained by clicking on the link below.....

http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/sa-election-2018-major-announcement-at-cleland-national-park/news-story/0d69bca51a2cd9bd17fb3d17919073c8?utm_source=The%20Advertiser&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial

KRMNPA rundown

By Tony VK3XV



The Seventh KRMNPA activation period was held across 4 days. Friday November 10 to Monday November 13 2017.

The aim of the activation period was to stimulate Portable Amateur Radio “activity” in as many of the 45 VK3 National Parks as possible, to assist both Hunters and Activators to gain “credits” in order to progress their points tally towards achieving their Award program goals..... And, of course, to also have fun in the Great Outdoors.

In 2017 a total of 39 VK3 National Parks were activated across the 4 day period by 21 (possibly 22) Operators. This Data is extrapolated from Parks and Peaks “Spots” and contacts with other activators. The number of Parks activated was a slight decrease from the

previous record of 41 Parks (2016), as indeed was the number of park activators dropping by 4 Ops this year.

As a brief comparison: 2011: 11 Parks / 2012: 15 Parks / 2013: 26 Parks / 2014: 34 Parks / 2015: 28 Parks / 2016: 41 Parks/ 2017: 39 Parks

Again in 2017 the weekend attracted several much welcomed and appreciated Portable Activators from VK2 (John VK2AWJ) and VK5 (Marija VK5FMAZ & Paul VK5PAS). I also noted that Simon VK3/G7WKX was spotted in the Alpine National Park whilst undertaking a SOTA activation. A **BIG** thank you to you all! Your efforts contributed to the activation of many VK3 National Parks which would otherwise not have been available to Hunters.

The Interstate visitor breakdown was as follows:

VK2AWJ/ 3, John, has been a regular Activator participant since 2011, and all look forward to chatting with John as he travels in his trusty Campervan visiting VK3 National Parks. John activated 6 Parks across the 4 day activation period and also added several more pre and post the 4 days, as he works towards the Merit Award. Only a few to go John!

Paul, VK5PAS/3 and Marija VK5FMAZ/3 again made the journey from the Adelaide Hills, taking two weeks to activate 27 Parks (WWFF included) and 6 SOTA activations in a major Parkpedition. Great effort Guys! Thanks Paul and Marija. See you again in 2018 I believe.!

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

Warren VK3BYD/P travelled to the Warby-Ovens National Park and was successful in making both SSB and CW Contacts. Thanks Warren for your continued support.

Peter VK3TKK/P was out and about across the weekend with activations in the Wilsons Prom NP and also from French Island NP. Thanks for the VKFF Parks to Parks Peter!

Mick VK3PMG/P, travelled from home town Stawell to the Budj Bim and Grampians National Parks. Thanks again for your participation Mick in 2016.

Chris, VK3FHCT joined Mick for his first Portable activation..... Thanks Chris. I hope it was an enjoyable experience! You have a good mentor.

Rex VK3OF/P and Greg VK3BRQ/P activated Barmah and Lower Goulburn National Parks. This year Rex and Greg managed to avoid any storm activity that made their 2017 activations difficult. Thanks Guys!

Hiro, VK3EHG/P, was putting out a great signal from the Organ Pipes National Park, both on CW and SSB once again in 2017. Thanks Hiro. Great to have you on board again.

Regular Park activator and hunter **Brett, VK3FLCS/P** was able to get out and about activating 3 Parks in 2017. Greater Bendigo National Park / Heathcote-Graytown National Park and Kinglake National Park. Excellent to

see another Foundation Licence in the mix. Well done Brett!

Brisbane Ranges NP was a late “registration” this year. **Allen VK3ARH** added this park to his other two in the North east of the state Burrowa-Pine Mountain and Chiltern-Mt. Pilot. Thanks for 3 also Allen! A lot of fast travel.

The dynamic duo, **Joe VK3YSP** and **Julie VK3FOWL**, were once again kept busy running the **VK3SRC** call sign..... School Amateur Radio Club Network..... this year from the Churchill National Park picnic shelter area. Well done guys. I enjoyed the QSO with student Arron!

David, VK3TUN visited VK3’s answer to Ayers Rock..... Terrick-Terrick NP and also the Heathcote-Graytown National Park. Thanks for making the Journey David!

Malcolm, VK3OAK worked hard to activate 4 Parks in the Lower West of VK3..... Cobboboonee, Lower Glenelg, Mount Richmond and the recently name changed Budj Bim.

VK3BFH, Bernard, headed to the Point Nepean National Park and made several contacts using his “Man Pack” Rig. Thanks Bernard for joining in from Point Nepean.

Marc, VK3OHM managed a few contacts before having some “political difficulty” with an over zealous ranger (very rare!) from the Mt. Dandenong NP. Thanks for your efforts Marc.

Peter VK3PF/P activated 3 Parks to assist many Hunters gain points. Mornington

Peninsular / Tarra-Bulga /and Morwell National Parks. Thanks Peter!

Peter VK3ZPF/P was once again busy across the weekend also assisting Hunters gain Parks..... Peter activated Lake Eildon and Yarra Ranges National Parks across the weekend. Thanks Peter!

And finally me..... **Tony VK3XV** managed to activate 6 Parks across the 4 days being Great Otway / Hattah-Kulkyne / Kara- Kara /Little Desert/ Murray –Sunset and Wyperfeld.

Sheryl and I managed a few bee stings between us when “buzzed” by an angry swarm and were also “attacked” by an angry Willy-Willy, all in Murray-Sunset NP. No harm done! Amateur Radio Victoria (ARV) will again be providing a 2017 Participants Certificate to all Activators. These will be designed afresh early in 2018 and posted when possible.

In closing, I note that many 2017 Activators have already reached **Merit Award** and in some cases the **Grand Slam Award** level but continue to support the Activation weekend by getting out and about in the VK3 National Parks. This dedication in assisting others to gain points and also get new Ops on the Air is duly noted and **most** appreciated! Thanks Guys and Girls!

And also special thanks to Allen VK3ARH (Parks N Peaks and AR publicity) Peter VK3PF (AR Publicity and supporter), Paul VK5PAS (Parks supporter/ VKFF Award Manager), Jim Linton VK3PC (ARV Publicity) and the Amateur Radio Victoria Council..... Without your interest and support of Portable activities, the

Bands would be a very different scenario from what we have now. Thanks to all!

The **2018 KRMNPA** activation weekend will take place **Friday November 9 - Monday November 12**. Please put this Date in your Diary now & tell your friends!

73 Tony VK3XV

Change to the WWFF Agenda

By Paul VK5PAS



WWFF has a newly developed Agenda, which can be found at.....

<http://wwff.co/agenda>

If you do intend to activate a park, please consider placing an alert on the Agenda, along with other excellent platforms such as

parksnpeaks. It will alert a lot of park hunters of your intentions, and will no doubt increase the number of callers you receive.

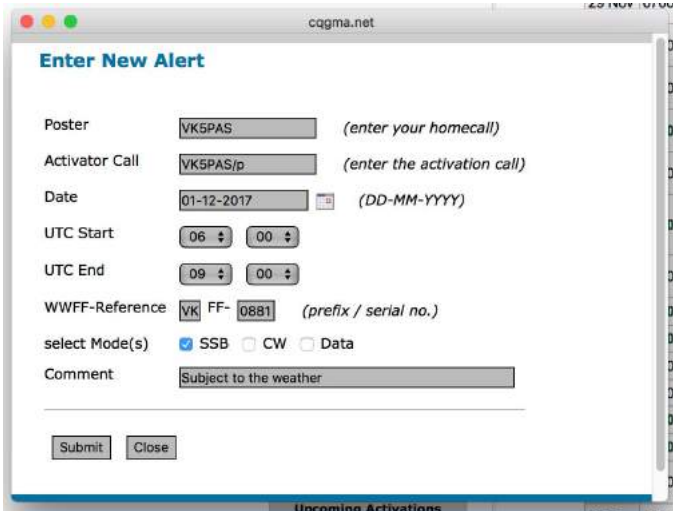
One of the advantages of the new Agenda, is that alerts appear immediately, and do not require Admin approval.

Adding your alert is quick and easy.

Some screen shots from the new Agenda can be found below.

Latest Alerts						New Alert
29 Nov	0700-1400	IFF-0542	ssb, data		IQ5QO/1	Band 30-40-20 mt
29 Nov	0700-1400	IFF-0548	ssb, data		IQ5QO/1	Band 30-40-20 mt
29 Nov	0700-1400	IFF-1115	ssb, data		IQ5QO/1	Band 30-40-20 mt
29 Nov	0700	HCF-0004	ssb, cw		HC8LUT	https://hc8lu.blogspot.be/
29 Nov	1000-15	KFF-0311	ssb		WA5KBH	CANCELLED. PERMIT DID NOT ARRIVE
29 Nov	1530-1730	KFF-3868	ssb, cw		N4EX/P	14043-cw,14284-ssb,7043-cw,7194-ssb,10114-cw,18092-cw,19144-ssb
30 Nov	0300-0700	VKFF-0619	ssb		VK3PAT/P	7.144; 14.310; 3.644 There 5 days
30 Nov	1600	KFF-3023	cw		N5PHT	Be there for 8 days
01 Dec	0600-0900	VKFF-0881	ssb		VK5PAS/P	Subject to the weather <input type="button" value="Edit"/>
01 Dec	1600	KFF-3023	cw		N5PHT	
02 Dec	0330-0600	VKFF-0050	ssb		VK1LAJ/2	Subject to favourable Wx
02 Dec	0830-1030	9AFF-0034	ssb		9A1WFF/P	I hope no rain...
02 Dec	1600	KFF-3023	cw		N5PHT	
03 Dec	1600	KFF-3023	cw		N5PHT	
05 Dec	1900	DLFF-0125	144-ssb		DM7N	GMAC
09 Dec	0900-13	OEFF-0667	ssb		OE1GOA/1	
26 Dec	0800	ONFF-0674	ssb		ON5SWA/P	KOTA Christmas Activation
26 Dec	0800-1100	ONFF-0438	ssb, cw		OT4V/P	KOTA Christmas Activation
26 Dec	0800	ONFF-0647	ssb		ON3YB/P	KOTA Christmas Activation
26 Dec	0800	ONFF-0176	ssb, data		OR7Z/P	KOTA Christmas Activation
26 Dec	0800	ONFF-0135	ssb		ON/PD3JAG/P	KOTA Christmas Activation
26 Dec	0800	ONFF-0544	ssb		ON3EA/P	KOTA Christmas Activation
26 Dec	0800	ONFF-0467	ssb, data		OP7A/P	KOTA Christmas Activation
05 Jan	1900	KFF-3013	cw		N5PHT	Plan to be QRV 10 days

WWFFAlert Version 0.0.6 fm 22-Nov-2017



80 x different parks were activated (in all States & Territories, incl VK8).

Once all of the logs have gone in I will prepare a final report on the weekend and start issuing participation certificates for the Activators.

For those that did not register, but did go out to activate a park, please drop me a quick email, so that I can send out an Activator's participation certificate.

Thanks to everyone who took part, either as an Activator or a Hunter.

Thanks to all of the State/Territory reps, for uploading a lot of logs (and more to come).

The 2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



Preliminary analysis of Logsearch, submitted logs, parksnparks, etc for the 2017 VKFF Activation Weekend shows.....

50 x different amateurs took part (this includes 2 clubs).



Comments re VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



I have added a comments area on the WWFF Australia website on the VKFF Activation Weekend page.

Please leave any comments there about your involvement with the VKFF Activation Weekend.

All feedback is welcome.

Here is a link to the page.....

<https://www.wwffaustalia.com/vkff-activation-weekend.html>

6 parks in the Riverland

By Paul VK5PAS

Many thanks to everyone who called Marija VK5FMAZ and I during the 2017 VKFF Activation Weekend.

We stayed at Morgan on Friday and Saturday night. I may have also recruited the motel owner as a Foundation op. He was very interested in our activities, showing him our portable gear and the mobile set up. He was previously involved with VKS737 and was given my business card and will hopefully be calling me to tee up a Foundation course.

Marija and I activated 2 parks on Friday - Brookfield Conservation Park VKFF-0822 (a new park for Marija) & Hogwash Bend Conservation Park VKFF-0892 and made 46 QSOs. Also did a lot of touristy activities and visited one of the local wineries (which Marija had to drag me out of).

On Saturday & Sunday for the VKFF Activation Weekend we activated 4 parks - Morgan Conservation Park VKFF-0911, White Dam Conservation Park VKFF-1122, Swan Reach Conservation Park VKFF-0832, & Ridley Conservation Park VKFF-0832.



*Above:- VK5FMAZ/p on air at Morgan CP.
Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

We made a total of 454 contacts, including 177 Park to Park QSOs. Park to Park activity was quite amazing.

All this despite rather poor band conditions each morning, and then very very loud static crashes each afternoon, making operating difficult.

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the weekend, and many thanks to everyone who called us. And as always, huge thanks to those who took the time to spot us, as at times we had no internet coverage.

More info and photos on each of the activations can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/>

5th year anniversary weekend

By Ian VK5CZ

Next years 5th anniversary activation weekend will be held on **Sat 10th & Sunday 11th March 2018.**

Please drop me an email if you intend to take part as an activator.

VK5 NATIONAL & CONSERVATION PARKS AWARD



5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY ACTIVATION WEEKEND



SATURDAY 10th AND SUNDAY 11th MARCH 2018

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

More information can be found at.....
<http://www.vk5sparks.com/5th-year-anniversary.html>

Change to VKFF Award process

By Paul VK5PAS

The change to the award process for VKFF awards has now taken place. It will NOT affect hunters on how they apply for awards. The change is just an administrative change.

As of 28/11/2017 if you apply for a VKFF award, you will receive that award from the relevant State/Territory VKFF rep, and not from me.

I will continue to issue awards to overseas recipients, the OCCFF awards, and the various special awards, e.g. Boomerang. And will also be issuing awards for the VK5's.

But VKFF Hunter, VKFF Hunter Honour Roll, VKFF Activator, Murray River, will now come from the reps.

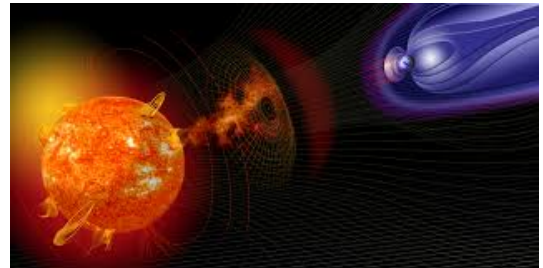
I would again like to acknowledge and thank the VKFF State/Territory reps.....

- Ian VK1DI
- Gerard VK2IO.
- Mick VK3GGG.
- Mark VK4MSA.
- Hans VK6XN
- Jonathan VK7JON.

Their time is greatly appreciated.

Space weather

By Paul VK5PAS



Official Space Weather Advisory issued by
NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center
Boulder, Colorado, USA

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK #17-49

2017 December 3 at 5:18 p.m. MST (2017
December 4 0018 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For November 27-December 3

No significant space weather storms were
observed during the summary period.

Outlook For December 4-10

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storms are likely on
04-06 Dec with G2 (moderate) geomagnetic
storms likely on 04-05 Dec due to CH HSS
effects.

No additional significant space weather is
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 <http://swpc.noaa.gov>

Official Space Weather Advisory issued by NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center Boulder, Colorado, USA

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK #17-48

2017 November 26 at 8:21 p.m. MST (2017 November 27 0321 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For November 20-26

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels were observed on 21 Nov due to CH HSS effects.

No other significant space weather was observed during the summary period.

Outlook For November 27-December 3

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm conditions are likely on 29 Nov due to recurrent CH HSS influence coupled with effects from a CME observed on 25 Nov.

No other significant space weather is 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 <http://swpc.noaa.gov>

Official Space Weather Advisory issued by NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center Boulder, Colorado, USA

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK #17-47

2017 November 19 at 10:58 p.m. MST (2017 November 20 0558 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For November 13-19

No space weather storms were observed.

Outlook For November 20-26

No significant space weather storms are expected.

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 <http://swpc.noaa.gov>

WWFF logs

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder that all VKFF logs need to be sent to the relevant State/Territory VKFF representatives, who in turn will upload the log/s.

They are.....

VK1 ACT.
Ian VK1DI.
mr_ian_sinclair@yahoo.com.au

VK2 New South Wales.
Gerard VK2IO.
vk2io@amsat.org.

VK3 Victoria.
Mick VK3GGG.
cqcq@mail.com.

VK4 Queensland.
Mark VK4SMA.
vk4sma@optusnet.com.au

VK5 South Australia.
Paul VK5PAS.
vk5pas@wia.org.au.

VK6 Western Australia & VK8 Northern Territory.
Hans VK6XN.
hansfair@gmail.com.

VK7 Tasmania.
Jonathan VK7JON.
vk7ff@vk7jon.com.

More info can be found at.....

<https://www.wwffaustralia.com/vkff-team.html>

Many thanks.

Why has it been so noisy?

By Paul VK5PAS

The 40m band has been so noisy of late, with lots of QRN (static crashes), particularly during the afternoons.

If you are ever keen to see where all that banging and crashing is coming from, here is an excellent website. It is the South Australian Radar and lightning page on Weatherzone.

<http://www.weatherzone.com.au/radar/sa>



Another interesting site is LightningMaps.org which can be found at.....

<https://www.lightningmaps.org>

Recent Park Activations



November saw a little bit of an increase in park activations around South Australia, mostly due to the VKFF Activation Weekend.

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

- Ridley Conservation Park, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (26/11/2017)



*Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ/p in the Ridley CP.
Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

- Ridley Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS/p (26/11/2017)
- Swan Reach Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS/p (26/11/2017)
- Swan Reach Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS/p (26/11/2017)
- Whyalla Conservation Park VKFF-0808, Les VK5KLV/p (26/11/2017)
- Newland Head Conservation Park VKFF-0922, Alan VK5AR (25/11/2017)
- Mount Remarkable National Park VKFF-0360, Adrian VK5FAJH (25/11/2017)
- White Dam Conservation Park VKFF-1122, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (25/11/2017)

- White Dam Conservation Park VKFF-1122, Paul VK5PAS/p (25/11/2017)
- Morgan Conservation Park, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (25/11/2017)
- Morgan Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS/p (25/11/2017)
- Bandon Conservation Park VKFF-0999, Greg VK5GJ/p (25/11/2017)
- Bandon Conservation Park VKFF-0999, Norm VK5GI/p (25/11/2017)
- Red Banks Conservation Park VKFF-1086, Gordon VK5GY/p (25/11/2017)
- Hogwash Bend Conservation Park VKFF-0892, Paul VK5PAS (24/11/2017)
- Brookfield Conservation Park VKFF-0822, Marija VK5FMAZ (24/11/2017)
- Brookfield Conservation Park VKFF-0822, Paul VK5PAS/p (24/11/2017)

- Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207 & VKFF-0788, John VK5BJE/p (2/11/2017)
- Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207 & VKFF-0788, Paul VK5PAS/p (2/11/2017)



Above:- John VK5BJE & Paul VK5PAS in the Scott Creek CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

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/>



Above:- Paul VK5PAS in the Tarra Bulga NP with a couple of feather friends. Image courtesy of VK5FMAZ

Recent SOTA activations



I couldn't see any VK5 SOTA activations during the month of November. Marija VK5FMAZ and I activated a number of summits in VK3 during our visit there.

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

- Mount Lonarch VK3/ VS-013, VIC, Paul VK5PAS/3 (18/11/2017)
- Mount Lonarch VK3/ VS-013, VIC, Marija VK5FMAZ/3 (18/11/2017)
- Mount Cole VK3/ VS-008, VIC, Paul VK5PAS/3 (18/11/2017)
- Mount Cole VK3/ VS-008, VIC, Marija VK5FMAZ/3 (18/11/2017)
- Goonmirk Rocks VK3/ VG-048 VIC, Paul VK5PAS/3 (8/11/2017)
- Goonmirk Rocks VK3/ VG-0148 VIC, Marija VK5FMAZ/3 (8/11/2017)
- Mount Macedon VK3/ VC-007 VIC, Paul VK5FMAZ/3 (5/11/2017)
- Mount Macedon VK3/ VC-007 VIC, Marija VK5FMAZ/3 (5/11/2017)
- Mount Moliagul VK3/ VN-024 VIC, Paul VK5PAS/3 (5/11/2017)

- Mount Moliagul VK3/ VN-024 VIC, Marija VK5FMAZ/3 (5/11/2017)
- West of England Fire Tower VK3/ VW-016 VIC, Paul VK5PAS/3 (4/11/2017)
- West of England Fire Tower VK3/ VW-016 VIC, Marija VK5FMAZ/3 (4/11/2017)

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.....

➤ Aaron VK1LAJ

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

Trip to VK3 & VK2

By Paul VK5PAS

During November, Marija VK5FMAZ and I had a 2 week trip away to Victoria and New South Wales. This coincided with the annual Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) Weekend.



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ at the VK2/VK3 State border. Image courtesy of VK5PAS.

Whilst away we activated a total of six (6) summits for the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program in Victoria, and activated a total of twenty seven (27) parks for the World Wide

Flora Fauna (WWFF) program and the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (in VK3 and in VK2).

We put a total of 4,500 kms on the clock of the Toyota Hi Lux.



Above:- Paul VK5PAS/3 at the 90 Mile Beach Marine NP VKFF-0951. Image courtesy of VK5FMAZ



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ/3 activating the Mount Raymond Regional Park VKFF-0975. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

We made a total of 1,680 QSOs under some pretty trying band conditions at times. This included x 2 Summit to Summit contacts, and 138 x Park to Park contacts.

We met a number of hams whilst we were away, including Paul VK3SS, Peter VK3PF, Sergio VK3SFG, Brian VK3BBB, Ken VK3UH, and Peter VK3TKK. We enjoyed a great meal with a number of these guys during the trip.



Above:- in the shack of Paul VK3SS at Stratford, VIC. Image courtesy of VK5PAS.

Thanks to everyone who called us, and many thanks to those who took the time to spot us, as at many times we were in quite isolated areas and had no internet coverage.

I have placed more info and photos from each summit & park activation on my Wordpress site, which can be found at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/>



Above: with the Gippsland crew, enjoying a nice meal and some dinner. Image courtesy of VK5PAS



Above:- with Peter VK3TKK. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

Congrats to Greg VK5GJ

By Paul VK5PAS



Thanks to Marija, VK5FMAZ, and Paul VK5PAS recent Parkpedition, **Greg VK5GJ** was able to snare his last two, much hunted, VK3 National Parks to complete 45 Worked for the **KRMNPA Merit Award!**

Greg's first contact was with VK3VTH (me!) back in September 2013 from the Grampians National Park and his final two contacts were with Marija from the Lakes NP and Paul from Errinundra NP.

Congratulations Greg on a job well done. You have worked them all!

Greg is now starting on the VK3 LGA Award..... Good Luck.

Thanks for your support Greg. Your Certificate is on the way.

73 Tony VK3XV

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 97 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

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

➤ Nil for this period

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

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

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS



Here is a list of South Australian amateurs who have recently qualified for award certificates for SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, VK5 Parks, and KRMNPA.

Interstate recipients of the VK5 Parks Award are also included.

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

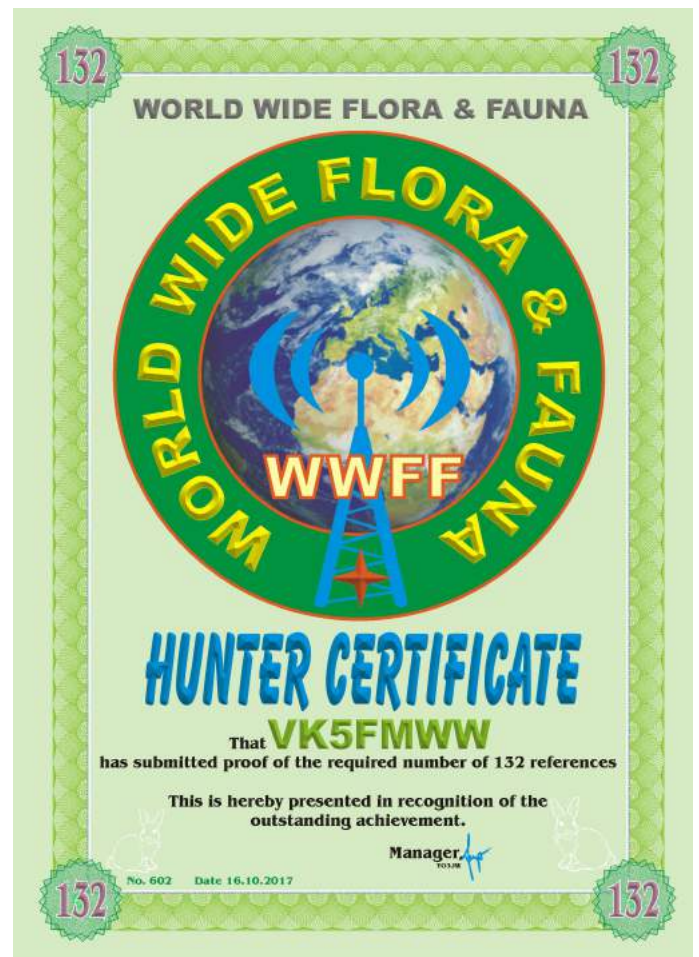
vk5pas@wia.org.au

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- Nil known

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Mike VK5FMWW**
 - WWFF Global Hunter 132



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 800



Parksnpeaks

By Allen VK3ARH



VK5 Parks Award

- **NIL for this period**

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **NIL KNOWN**

Other.

- **Nil known for this period**

Hi All,

ParksNPeaks supports receiving activity spots via SMS. This feature has been revisited (couple of bugs chased out) and improved in preparation for upcoming WWFF weekend activations.

You will need to [register an account](#) to use this feature. When registering an account you will need to add the number of the phone you intend to use. The format expected is to support international use so for 0488 123 456 use +61488123456. Note the leading 0 is dropped and +61 added.

There are no charges for using the SMS gateway except for your normal carrier costs.

Gateway numbers for ParksnsPeaks SMS Spots are;

- 0447 568 667

Park Activity Spotting

Example;

! WWFF VKFF-0619 7.155 SSB Here all day in the shade.

This example will place a spot on ParksnsPeaks.org for you the activator registered on ParksnsPeaks.org for Alpine NP under the WWFF award scheme.

The activator is on 7.155 SSB and is intending to take all day.

The format is - Callsign Class Location Frequency Mode Comments

Callsign: '!' will use the call sign associated with user in ParksnsPeaks.org. You can override this to spot someone else but expect this facility to be primarily used for activators spotting themselves.

Class: 'WWFF'.

Location: 'VKFF0619'. For WWFF locations use the WWFF id.

Frequency: '7.090' this is the frequency in MEGAHERTZ.

Mode: 'SSB' Operating mode.

Comments: 'Here all day in the shade' There is space for 60 characters of comment.

Examples,

! WWFF VKFF-0022 7.090 SSB

! WWFF VKFF-0022 7.090 SSB Currently in Alfred National

! WWFF VKFF-0619 7.090 SSB Morning activation of Alpine NP

Testing

To test the process or format the use of keyword 'TEST' in the comments will send what was received to the email account associated with your account.

! WWFF VKFF-0619 7.155 SSB Morning activation of Alpine NP TEST

And I receive the following email;

from: ParksnsPeaks
<parksnspeaks@gmail.com>

to: ARHARVIE@****.com

date: Mon, Nov 20, 2017 at 12:55 PM

subject: PnP SMS Test

2017-11-20 01:58:17 UTC

SMS

Headers

phone: [+61412345678](tel:+61412345678)

smscenter: [+61418706700](tel:+61418706700)

text: %21+wwff+vkff-

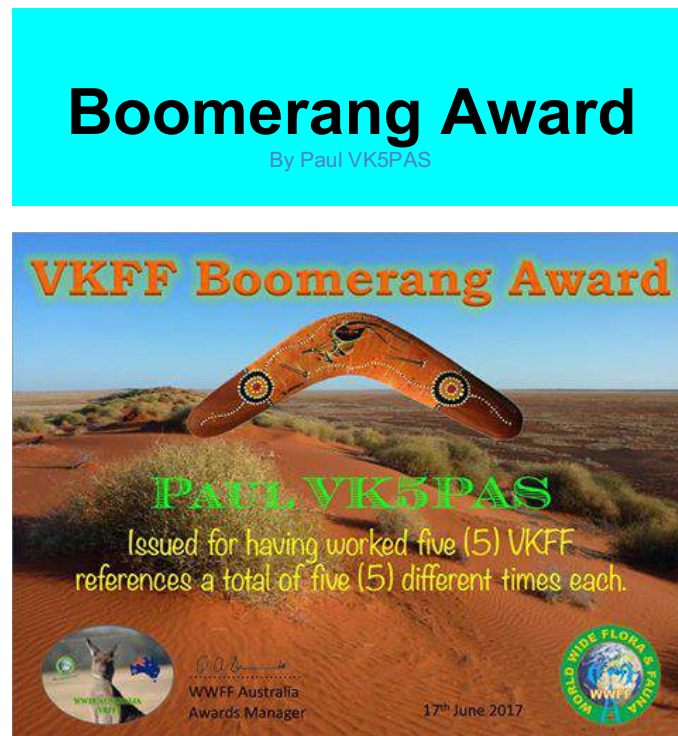
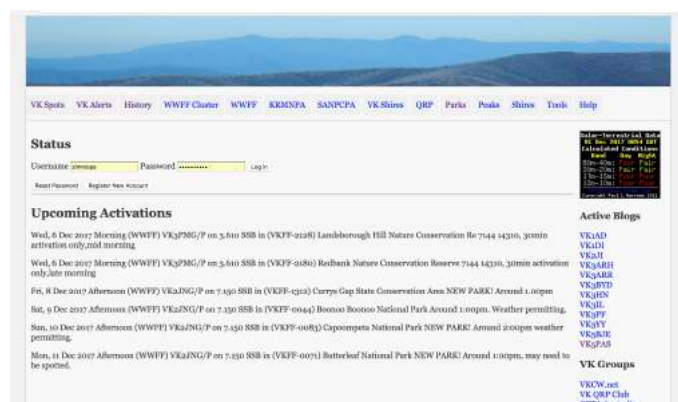
0619+7.155+Ssb+Morning+activation+of+Alpine+NP+TEST
 Host: parksnpeaks.org
 Connection: Keep-Alive
 User-Agent: Apache-HttpClient/UNAVAILABLE (java 1.4)
 PnP Processed Data
 From Phone = [+61412345678](tel:+61412345678)
 Call Sign = VK3ARH/p
 Class = WWFF
 Frequency = 7.155
 Mode = SSB
 Site = VKFF-0619
 actLocation = Alpine
 altLocation = (VKFF-0619) Alpine
 WWFFID = VKFF-0619
 Comments = Morning activation of Alpine NP TEST
 Invalid for SOTA
 Valid for NP

Any issues drop me an email –

support@parksnpeaks.org

Allen

VK3ARH



To encourage repeat activation of parks by activators, and to encourage hunters to log the same park more than once, I have created the VKFF Boomerang Award.

Activators

Activated 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated means for VKFF purposes (10 QSOs).

Hunters.

Worked 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

The award will be issued in increments of 5 different parks.

The award is currently not integrated into Logsearch. In the next few days I will place a spreadsheet on the VKFF Australia website which will need to be completed when applying for this award.

73 and '44',

Paul VK5PAS.



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) celebrates its 50 year anniversary this year.

To celebrate this event, the VKFF program is offering certificates to both activators and hunters, for having activated, or having made contact with 5 different NSW VKFF reference areas during October 2017.

Examples of the award certificates are shown below.

The award is not integrated into Logsearch, so please send an email to the VKFF co-ordinator Paul VK5PAS when applying for the award. Cut and paste from your stats on Logsearch will suffice.



FT8 supported

By Paul VK5PAS

A reminder that Version 3.0.6 of the ADIF specs was released on 13th August 2017, and includes the new FT8 mode.

As such, Logsearch now recognises FT8.



Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS



The past month has seen a dramatic improvement in propagation on 20, 15, & 10m. As a result I have logged a few overseas portable and mobile stations.

- ZL1WA/p, SOTA ZL1/ HB-135 (28/11/2017)
- ZL2ATH/p, SOTA ZL1/ WL-067 (23/11/2017)

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/>

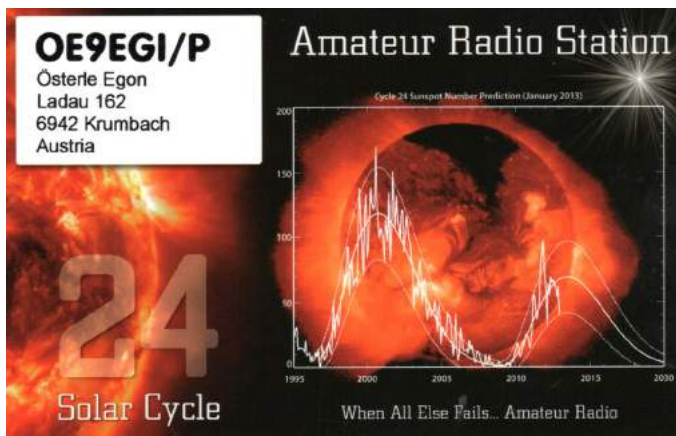
QSL cards received

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.

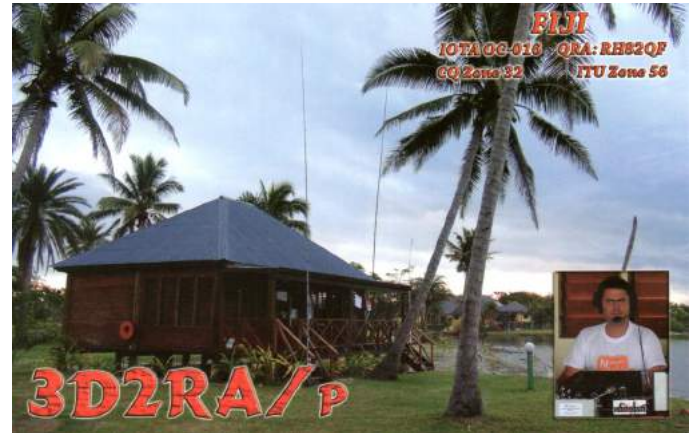
OE9EGI/p, AUSTRIA (SOTA)



JW9JKA, SVALBARD, IOTA EU-027



3D2RA/p, FIJI, IOTA OC-016



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.

Retro review: Dick Smith's Australian Amateur Radio Handbook

<https://youtu.be/79RKcIN5GiQ>

2017 Oceania DX Contest & AREG

<https://youtu.be/uugoLdHngAQ>

Ham humour

