

Hello All,

This is the wrap up report on last weekend's Keith Roget Memorial National Park Award 2015.
(Formerly the VK3 National Parks Award)

The activation period was held across 4 days. Friday November 13 to Monday November 16. 2015 was the 5th annual Activation weekend.

The aim of the activation period was to stimulate Portable Amateur Radio "activity" in as many 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 2015 a total of 28 VK3 National Parks were activated across the 4 day period by 19 Operators.

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

Again in 2015 the weekend attracted many, much welcomed and appreciated Portable Activators from VK2 and VK5. A BIG thank you to you all! Your efforts contributed to the activation of 11 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 participant since inception and many look forward to chatting with John as he travels in his trusty, Campervan visiting VK3 National Parks. I believe this year John and Peter VK3TKK met for an Eyeball after both activated Heathcote – Graytown NP. John activated 4 Parks. Heathcote –Graytown, King Lake, Lake Eildon, Yarra Ranges. Great effort John!

VK5AV/3, Tim travelled from Mt. Gambier and activated two Parks: Lower Glenelg and Cobboboonee. Tim has been a strong supporter of the program for many years and recently achieved the Hunter Merit Award. Thanks Tim!

VK5PAS/3 Paul again made the journey from Adelaide visiting the Great Ocean Road area, with XYL Marija, activating not only Two National Parks but also a host of VKFF Parks and 10 SOTA Peaks. Not sure if Paul fitted in an Aeronautical Mobile during the Ocean Road Helicopter trip? Paul activated Port Campbell and Great Otway. Well done Paul!

VK5FLEX/3, Peter travelled across the border and was a surprise activation from Murray-Sunset National Park. Many Thanks Peter!

Lesley VK5LOL/3 and Hans VK5YX/3 travelled with their Caravan to enjoy a weekend in Wyperfeld National Park. Suffering a broken squid pole early in the trip did not slow down Lesley and Hans. Many Contacts were provided across the entire weekend. Thanks to Hans and Lesley for a great effort.

Tom VK5EE and Col VK5HCF travelled from Mt. Gambier to provide the Mt. Richmond National Park for Hunters. Col reckons he did most of work while Tom was off chasing Koalas..... At least that's the allegation! Thanks Guys!

The remaining 16 Parks were activated by an equally keen group of VK3 Amateurs:

Johnno VK3FMPB/P reported heading to the Barmah National Park to add that one to his list. Johnno is working towards finishing 45 Parks/ Mixed worked and activated. Thanks Johnno!

Warren VK3BYD/P travelled in his 4WD for a weekend of camping and SOTA activations in the Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park East of Albury. Warren used CW for his many contacts. Thanks Warren for your continued support.

Tim VK3MTB/P activated the Morwell National Park in between some farming activities. Thanks to you also Tim for your efforts.

Terry (VK3UP) set up again using the Amateur Radio Victoria Call sign VK3WI/P in the Brisbane Ranges National Park. As well as providing a Park contact Terry assisted callers with Award information and details on where some Operators could be found. Terry reports very hard going on the Saturday due to the Band conditions but still logged many Hunters none the less. Thanks Terry!

Peter VK3TKK/P was out and about on the Friday with an activation in the morning from Greater Bendigo NP and later the Heathcote-Graytown NP. Peter also added a few VKFF activations during his travels. Thanks Peter for your support and providing a few VKFF new ones at the same time!

Mick VK3PMG/P, travelled from home town Stawell to the Grampians on Sunday and to the Little Desert National Park on Saturday. Thanks to Mick for activating these Parks. More on Mick later.

Norm, VK3XCI/P travelled from Mildura and did his first activation ever and clocked up over 40 contacts from Hattah-Kulkyne National Park. Thanks Norm. I know you enjoyed the experience and I hope we can entice you into the Parks in the future. A very well done.

VK3FQSO/P Amanda was planning on completing a SOTA / Park activation from Kara- Kara National Park. Sadly the Bands conditions did not work for Amanda on the Saturday. Amanda reports she will be heading out again across the VKFF activation weekend to have another go. Thanks Amanda for being there!

Rex, VK3OF/P and Greg VK3BRQ were worked from Hattah- Kulkyne and Terrick Terrick National Parks by many and I believe Rex and Greg enjoyed their time at "the rock" from what I heard on the air. Thanks Rex and Greg for making the trip. Most appreciated.

Joe VK3YSP/P and Julie VK3FOWL/P travelled again to French Island. As usual, the dynamic duo, were kept busy before heading home mid-afternoon on Sunday. Both Joe and Julie are Grand Slam recipients and have supported the KRMNPA program for many years. Thanks Guys!

And finally me..... VK3VTH/P: This year XYL Sheryl and I travelled to East Gippsland to activate a planned 4 National Parks. As well as providing the Alfred, Coopracambra, Croajingolong, & Errinundra NP for Hunters I wanted to increase my contacts for the WWFF Activators Award. This was easily done as these Parks proved to be popular. I also snuck in a totally unplanned activation of Snowy River National Park after realising how close were to the North West boundary after finishing the Errinundra activation. By doing this I was able to provide Mick VK3PMG with Park 45 to complete his 45 Park Merit Award. A very well done to Mick!

If I have missed any 2015 activators please accept my apologies and ensure you correct me via the Group postings.

As the ARV Awards Manager I have no doubt I will also be getting Applications in the next few weeks as other Hunters and Activators tally up their totals. I look forward to receiving applications in due course and these will be announced on the Group as usual.

This Year ARV will be providing a 2015 Participants Certificate to all Activators. I will begin processing these next week and will soon begin posting Certificates to Activators.

The 2016 KRMNPA activation weekend will take place **Friday November 11- Monday November 14**. Please put this Date in your Diary now.

In closing, a sincere thanks to **all** who participated Both Hunters & Activators. And also a special thanks to Allen VK3HRA (Parks N Peaks and AR publicity) Peter VK3PF (AR Publicity and supporter), Paul VK5PAS (Parks supporter/ VKFF Award Manager), Jim Linton VK3PC (ARV Publicity) and the Amateur Radio Victoria Council..... Without your interest and support of Portable activities, the Bands would be a very different scenario from what we have now. Thanks to all!

73 Tony VK3VTH