

2017 Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation period report

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