



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 29, March 2017

Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to the Issue 29 of '*Out and About in VK5*', March 2017. The newsletter focuses on South Australian (VK5) activities relating to Summits on the Air (SOTA), Parks (including WWFF and the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award), portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc.

Following on from January 2017, this was another quiet month for SOTA & Parks activations here in South Australia. The hot weather again impacted on the Friday afternoon/evening events for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award. I managed to sneak in a handful of SOTA & Park activations whilst away in Ballarat in Victoria with the family. I also activated three unique South Australian parks for me. They being the Angove Conservation Park, the Brownhill Creek

Recreation Park, and the Greenhill Recreation Park. Detailed information and photos on those activations can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/>

I had very few contributors to the newsletter this month, so this issue is quite short. Again I am pleading for contributors. I'm aware that many read this production, but getting people to submit an article for publication is like pulling teeth.

A reminder that we have a few events coming up. Here are a few dates to be placed into your calendar.....

- 18-19th March 2017.....John Moyle Memorial Field Day
- 1st-2nd April 2017.....4th anniversary weekend VK5 Parks Award
- 7th-9th April 2017.....Antennapalooza
- 19th-21st May 2017.....WIA AGM at Hahndorf, South ustralia
- 19th-20th August 2017.....International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend
- 22nd October 2017.....VKFF Team Champtionship
- 10th-13th November 2017.....Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation weekend
- 25th-26th November 2017.....2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

It has been confirmed that at the WIA AGM coming up in May, myself, John VK5BJE, Adrian VK5FANA, and Les VK5KLV, will be taking people out into the field on the Sunday to activate Conservation Parks in the Adelaide

Hills. If you are also interested in hosting a group, please drop me a quick email.

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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WWFF newsletter

By Paul VK5PAS



For those that would like to keep up to date with all the latest WWFF news, you can automatically receive the WWFF Newsletter via email once you have registered on the WWFF global website at....

<http://wwff.co/>

Out and About in VK5 stickers

By Paul VK5PAS

The first batch of 'Out and About in VK5' stickers have been mailed to all those who ordered them. They worked out to be \$3.18 each plus postage.



Thanks to OzSticker in NSW.

I will look at another order in the very near future for those who might be interested. Please drop me an email if you are. My email address is.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

WWFF flags

By Paul VK5PAS

Thanks to Adam VK2YK, a number of WWFF activators and hunters are now in possession of a WWFF flag to either hang in the shack or fly during an activation.

I suspect further orders will follow in the future, for those who missed out the first time around.



Antennapalooza

By Paul VK5PAS



Antennapalooza 2017, hosted by the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club will be held in South Gippsland, Victoria, this year. The venue is Foster, on the doorstep to the Wilson Promontory National Park. The theme is SOTA, Parks, and portable operation.

It will be held on 7th-9th April 2017.

I will be attending to deliver presentations on the VK5 Parks Awards and WWFF. Tony VK3XV will also be in attendance, spreading the word about the KRMNPA.

More information is available on the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club website at.....

<http://www.ggrec.org.au/>

or by contacting Chris VK3QB at.....

vk3qb@hotmail.com

Some tips for working SOTA & Parks activators.

By Paul VK5PAS

Over the next couple of issues, together with some other amateurs, I will try to give you some tips when working SOTA and/or Parks activators.

Keep your overs short.

Please remember that chasing and/or hunting SOTA summits and parks, is generally done from the comfort of your shack. Warmth in the winter and cool in the summer. Not so, for the SOTA activator or the park activator. There are generally no such luxuries as a comfortable chair, a hot cup of coffee, or air-conditioning, etc.

So, when making contact with a SOTA or park activator, please remember that they may be sitting on a rock, or hiding underneath a bothy bag out of the rain, and may not want to engage you in conversation about topics such as the weather, when you became licenced, what your favourite radio is, and general chit chat.

There may also be a number of other chasers and/or hunters patiently waiting in line to work the activator. So please, try to keep your over/s short, with just the information that is required. That is a signal report, your name, and perhaps your location. Take the activator's lead. If they

are up for a chat, or ask for more information, then by all means provide it.

With WWFF, activators are looking for 10 contacts to qualify the park for VKFF, and 44 contacts to qualify the park for the global WWFF program. The 44 QSOs is not a walk in the park, so to speak. It is a challenge and takes time. So please keep your overs short and to the point, unless the activator is after a chat. The activator will appreciate this, and so will the other chasers/hunters listening on the side.



Patience is a virtue.

The ‘old days’ of activating a summit or a park, and struggling to get contacts to qualify is long since gone. Now it is often a case of coming up on your alerted frequency, and asking if the frequency is in use, and having a number of chasers/hunters patiently waiting for you, telling you, ‘no the frequency is clear, we’ve been waiting’. So invariably there are mini pileups. These present challenges for both the activator and the chaser/hunter.

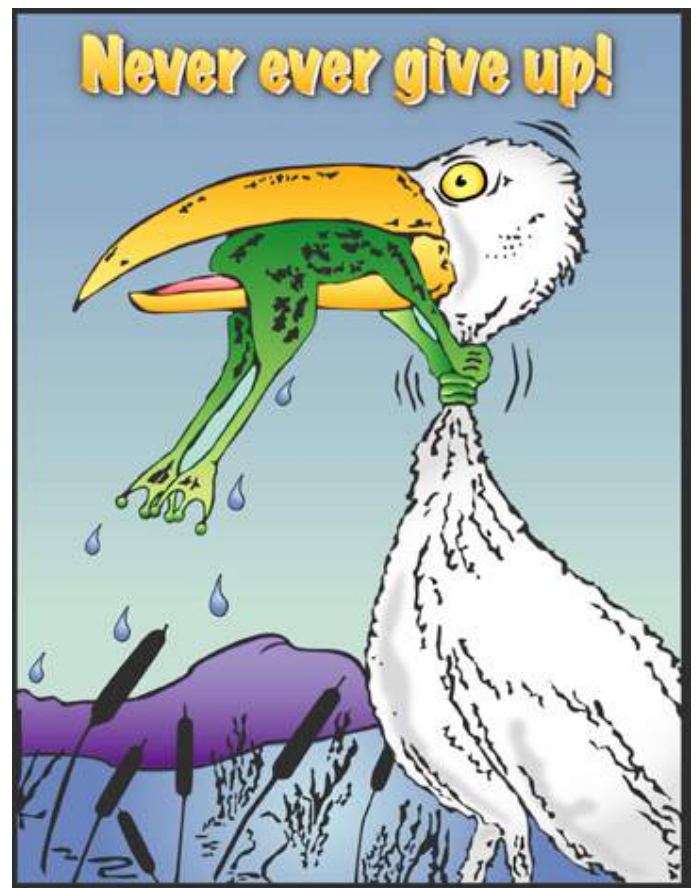
So how do you handle a pile up as a chaser/hunter and break through? Firstly, patience is incredibly important. You may not

get through the first time, nor the second, nor the third. In fact it may take several attempts before you make contact with the activator. But don’t give up.

You will hear different activators handling the pile up in different ways. Some will simply work the strongest station they hear during the dog pile, while others will ask stations to spread out their calls.

If the activator is listening for the strongest station in the dog pile, then try tail-ending the pileup. This is where you quickly throw in your call sign at the end of the dog pile. It can work.

You may also wish to sit back and just be patient, and wait for the rush to finish.



What's changed in radio - equipment

By Peter VK3YE



Amateurs continue to be inspired by waves of surplus or cheap equipment. Sixty years ago it was heavy war surplus gear. Then there was VHF AM and then FM gear as commercial users moved to higher frequencies, narrower bandwidths and trunked systems. Later we benefited from satellite or microwave cast-offs. More recently we've had the global marketplace that is eBay, and the availability of modern yet cheap equipment.

If you haven't looked at new transceiver prices lately you're in for a pleasant surprise. It's a buyers' paradise compared to 30 years ago.

Back then transceivers only covered the HF bands and cost maybe a month's wage. All-mode rigs for 50, 144 and 432 MHz were separate units and cost a similar amount each.

A 160 metre to 70 cm station could have easily cost three months' pay, and we haven't even counted the accessories yet.

Today an all-mode 160 metre to 70 cm transceiver can be yours for maybe two weeks' income. And a basic 100 watt HF-only transceiver is down to a week's average wage.

VHF/UHF handheld prices have plunged even more. A 2m/70cm handheld was an expensive luxury in the 1980s and early 1990s. Today the cheapest eBay handhelds from China cost under \$US50. They may lack the quality control of the established brands but their presence in the market has improved affordability for all models.

Such low prices are now seen on HF as well. At the time of writing the Bitx40 prebuilt 7 MHz SSB transceiver module is available for \$US59. Solder a few wires and be on the air in an hour. The cheapest Morse transceiver kits go for under \$US10 but their low output power and crystal control makes achieving contacts 'challenging', to put it politely.

Online purchasing and payment systems have further cut prices. Thirty years ago most large cities had several radio shops but are now lucky to have one. Instead, a great deal of amateur gear is available online from both domestic and overseas suppliers. Online suppliers have lower overheads and prices but you need to weigh this up against support provided by local dealers.

Warranties have lengthened on the established brands. At one time HF transceivers were

guaranteed for 12 months only. Now warranties as long as five years are offered. This, coupled with lower prices, makes buying new gear more attractive than it used to be.

Enjoyed the read? There's more in '*Getting back into Amateur Radio*' by Peter Parker VK3YE. It's available as an ebook through Amazon for \$6.99. Search the title on Amazon, like 'VK3YE Radio Books' on Facebook or visit vk3ye.com for more details.

WWFF elections

By Paul VK5PAS

The WWFF program is currently undergoing some structural change to hopefully make the WWFF program even more exciting and fun than it currently is.

Recently there was a call for a Chair (international position) and Continental representatives.

Myself and Peter VK3ZPF were successful in obtaining positions on the new WWFF Committee. I was voted in as the WWFF Chair, and Peter was voted in as the representative for Oceania.

If you have any suggestions, comments, criticisms of the WWFF program, I am more than happy to hear from you. Drop me an email at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

4th anniversary VK5 Parks Award – Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

The 4th Year anniversary Activation Weekend for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award will be held on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April 2017.

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please drop me an email at...

vk5pas@wia.org.au

so I can add your details to the spread sheet which is being maintained to record all intended activations. The spread sheet is maintained so that everyone can see who is activating which park, and so that double up activations do not occur.

The spread sheet can be found on the VK5 Parks website at.....

<http://www.vk5parks.com/>

or in the Files section of the VK5 Parks Award Yahoo group which can be located at.....

<https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sanpcpa/info>

or on the VK5 Parks Award Facebook page which can be located at.....

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

PLEASE do not leave your intentions to the last minute. This is a very popular weekend, so reserve your favourite park ASAP.

A number of parks have already been nominated as being put on air that weekend. This includes a number of intended activations by Tony VK3XV/VK3VTH in the South East region of South Australia.

**VK5 NATIONAL & CONSERVATION
PARKS AWARD**



**4TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY ACTIVATION
WEEKEND**



**SATURDAY 1ST AND SUNDAY 2ND APRIL
2017**

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

More information can be found at..... <http://www.vk5parks.com/4th-year-anniversary.html>

Friday afternoon/evening events

By Paul VK5PAS



The Friday afternoon/evening events for the VK5 Parks Award continue to be very slow this year. Unfortunately I have been tied up on a few Friday nights, preventing me from heading out.

Friday 3rd February 2017

- NIL participants known

Friday 10th February 2017 was cancelled due to the extreme heat and the threat of bushfire.

On Friday 17th February 2017 the following activators took part:

- Paul VK5PAS, Mount George Conservation Park.

Friday 24th February 2017.

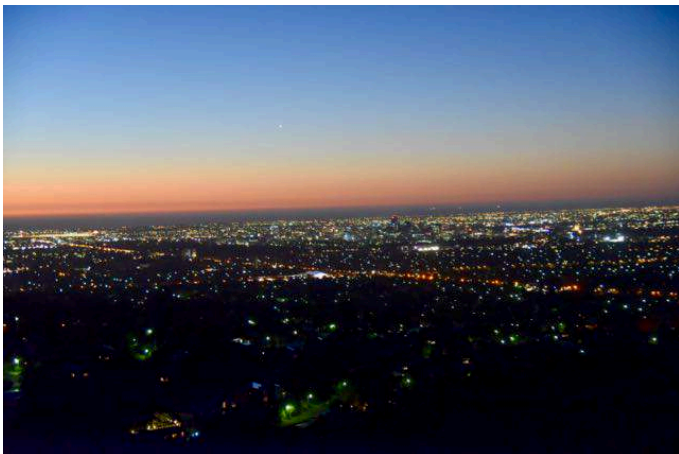
- NIL participants known

Recent Park Activations

Another relatively quiet month for park activations.

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

- Greenhill Recreation Park VKFF-1712, Paul VK5PAS/p (26/2/2017)



Above:- View of Adelaide at night, from the Greenhill Recreation Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

- Brownhill Creek Recreation Park VKFF-1688, Paul VK5PAS (19/2/2017)
- Mount George Conservation Park VKFF-5CP-147 & 0784, Paul VK5PAS (17/2/2017)



Above:- The set up of Paul VK5PAS in the Mt George Conservation Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

- Angove Conservation Park 5CP-005 & VKFF-0867, Paul VK5PAS/p (11/2/2017)
- Angove Conservation Park 5CP-005 & VKFF-0867, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (11/2/2017)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ operating Angove Conservation Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

- Creswick Regional Park VIC, VKFF-0964, Paul VK5PAS/3 (3/2/2017)

- Scott Creek Conservation Park VKFF-0788, Peter VK5PET (3/2/2017)



Above:- The 'shack of Peter VK5PET in Scott Creek CP. Image courtesy of Peter VK5PET

- Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park VKFF-, Adrian VK5FANA (1/2/2017)
- Para Wirra Conservation Park 5CP-275 & VKFF-1739, Paul VK5PAS (1/2/2017)

For more information on the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award please have a look at.....

<http://www.vk5parks.com/>

And for more information on the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, please have a look at.....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/>

Recent SOTA activations



March was a very quiet month for SOTA activations here in South Australia. Even the SOTA gurus Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG didn't venture out.

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

- Mount Buninyong VIC, VK3/ VC-018, Paul VK5PAS/3 (4/2/2017)
- Mount Buninyong VIC, VK3/ VC-018, Marija VK5FMAZ/3 (4/2/2017)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ operating from the top of Mount Buninyong VK3/ VC-018, with step daughter Olivia watching on. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

- Mount Warrenheip VIC, VK3/ VC-019, Paul VK5PAS/3 (2/2/2017)
- Mount Warrenheip VIC, VK3/ VC-019, Marija VK5FMAZ/3 (2/2/2017)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Paul VK5PAS (1/2/2017)

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.....

- NIL for this period

A reminder that the VK5 Parks Award Yahoo group can be found at.....



Above:- Paul VK5PAS with Allen VK3ARH, who was an unexpected visitor during Paul's activation of Mount Buninyong VK3/ VC-018. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

<https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sanpcpa/info>

It is a great way to keep up to date with the latest news, who is activating what park and when, etc.

It is FREE and EASY to join. Why not check it out and consider joining

VKFF Team Championship

By Paul VK5PAS



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

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

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au



VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 22nd October 2017
0000 UTC - 0600 UTC

What is it all about?.....Over a 6 hour period, teams of amateurs compete against each other, with the goal of obtaining the most number of contacts, whilst activating from a qualifying VKFF park.

How do I take part?.....Create a team of 2 or more amateurs. Come up with a name for your team. Register with VK5PAS, VKFF co-ordinator. Head out to a qualifying VKFF park and compete against other teams of activators.

Prizes.....The winning team will receive a glass etched trophy. Second & Third place certificates will be awarded. Each team member will also receive a participation certificate.

More information?.....Detailed information on the VKFF Team Championship can be found on the WWFF Australia website at.....
<http://www.wwffaustalia.com/>

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

**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@wfa.org.au

The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 89 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

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

➤ NIL for this period

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

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

**New VK5 Parks
Facebook members**

By Paul VK5PAS



**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)

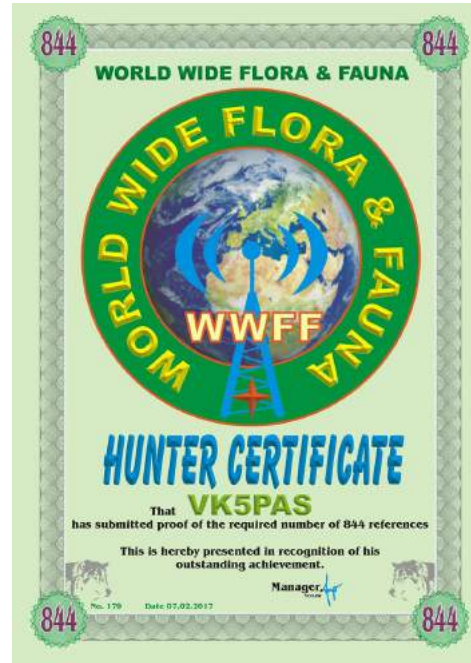
- **NIL known**

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Adrian VK5FANA**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 500



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - Global Hunter 844 references



VK5 Parks Award

- **NIL KNOWN**

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **NIL KNOWN**

Other.

- **NIL KNOWN**

Peakery

By Paul VK5PAS



Peakery is a great site where you can *‘explore and share your mountain experiences.’*

The site features over 330,000 peaks from all around the globe. In Australia, a total of 4,028 peaks are listed.

You can view the world’s mountains in 3 different views: List View, Map View, and Photo View. Or you can browse mountains by location on the Regions page.

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

<https://vk5pas.org/2017/01/31/peakery-2/>

Or on the peakery website at.....

<http://peakery.com/>

Trip to VK3

By Paul VK5PAS

Marija VK5FMAZ and I (and our daughter Olivia) travelled to Victoria in early February for a short holiday. Our main reason for heading to VK3 was to go to Sovereign Hill at Ballarat. But whilst away, I did manage to squeeze in a little bit of radio time during our tourist adventures.

For SOTA we activated Mount Warrenheip VK3/ VC-019 and Mount Buninyong VK3/ VC-018. And for WWFF we activated Creswick Regional Park VKFF-0964.



Above:- View from Mount Buninyong. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

During our activation of Mount Buninyong, Allen VK3ARH called in to say hello.

More info and photos can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/>

Thanks to everyone who called us and thanks to those who took the time to spot us.



Above:- Paul VK5PAS enjoying a Mount Goat beer after the activation of Mount Buninyong. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

DX Code of Conduct

By Paul VK5PAS



- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.

- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

More info on the DX Code of Conduct can be found at.....

<http://www.dx-code.org/>

Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS



If you have worked an overseas SOTA or WWFF station, please send me the details to....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

...and I will include it here.

To work the SOTA & WWFF DX, keep an eye on SOTA Watch....

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

And WWFF Hamspots.....

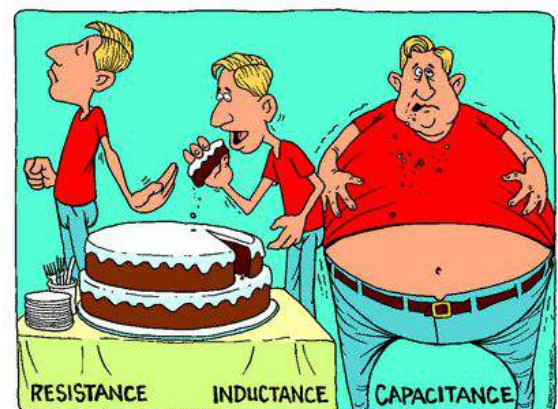
<http://hamspots.net/wwff/>

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

Paul VK5PAS.

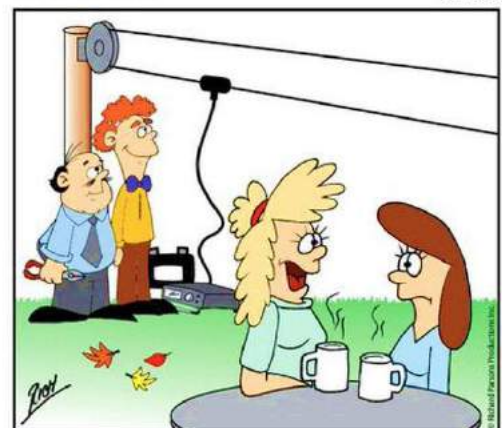
- NIL worked for this period

Ham humour



SUCH A HAM

SH-005



Stan & Cliff have been working all day on installing my clothesline, Mary.

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.

NIL for this period

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>

New award to be released shortly

By Paul VK5PAS

A new award for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award will soon be officially announced. It is the Larry Munns Memorial Murray River Award. The award is to honour Larry Munns, VK5LY (Silent key). The award will be issued for activating/working all South Australian Murray River Parks. Further info to follow in the very near future.

Don't be tempted

By Paul VK5PAS



The DEWNR/National Parks SA website recently contained a warning to those who may have been tempted to eat wild blackberries which are often found in parks. Here is a link to the story.....

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2017/03/wild-blackberries>

Park of the month

By Paul VK5PAS

Each month, the DEWNR website features a 'Park of the month'. The park of the month for February was the Hallett Cove Conservation Park. More information can be found at.....

https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/Home/Media_Centre/News_Events_Listing/170202-park-of-the-month