



# "OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 32, June 2017

## Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to Issue 32 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.

The cold weather has certainly set in here in South Australia, and as a result SOTA & Park activations will start to diminish as we go into the Winter months. I believe this has been the coldest start to winter on record. But despite, the chilly conditions, a number of SOTA & Park enthusiasts headed out during May.

That included a number of first time park activators, who accompanied some local VK5 activators out into the field as part of the 2017

Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) AGM & Convention which was held in Hahndorf. On Sunday morning, five team leaders took a keen and eager number of hams out to activate various parks in the Adelaide Hills. For many it was their first park activation. At least 1 member of my 3 person team, has been bitten by the portable bug as a result. Gerard VK2JNG has undertaken a number of park activations since. Gerard told me recently in an email:

*"See what you have done here mate, getting slowly hooked. Even the wife enjoys it out in the bush."*

I hope in the next issue to have a few reports from the Team leaders about their activations. Thanks to John VK5BJE, Peter VK5PET, Les VK5KLV, and Chris VK5FR.

And whilst on the subject of the 2017 WIA AGM & Convention, a huge congratulations must go to the Organising Committee who did such a sensational job organising and co-ordinating such an enjoyable event. The Committee included:

- David VK5KC
- John VK5BJE
- Jim VK5TR
- Shirley VK5YL
- Stuart VK5STU
- Roy VK5NRG
- Grant VK5GR
- Matt VK5ZM
- David VK5KK
- Ian VK5ZD
- Joy Robbins
- Daniel VK5DF

I was asked to deliver a presentation at the Convention on ‘Operating portable in the great outdoors’. It was a great opportunity of promoting the various parks awards to a large audience.

On Sunday afternoon at the Come and Try event at the Hahndorf oval, Chris VK5FR and I set up a small parks portable display table, which proved to be quite popular. Thanks Chris.

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....

- 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> August 2017.....International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.....VKFF Team Championship
- 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.....Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation weekend
- 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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## A day of one pointers

By Ian VK5CZ



Bumbunga Hill is SOTA summit VK5/SE-015 so Hugh and I decided to get a couple 1 pointers done while we were there.



Setting up on the western side of the summit by this log was a good place to activate and get some protection from the wind.



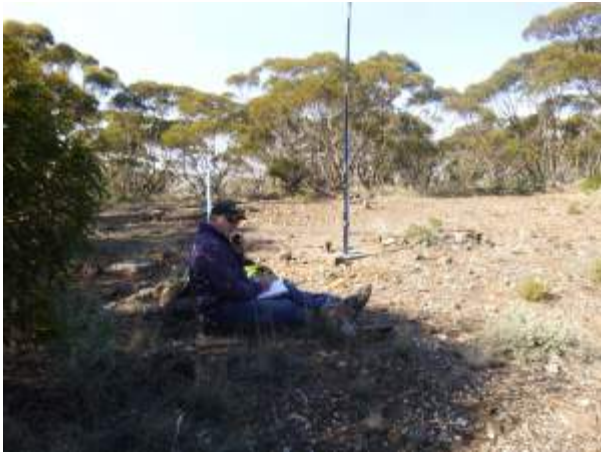
It's almost normal now to start the activation on 3.6 mhz first so we can work the locals more easily then progress to higher frequencies . I only managed 5 qso's for the activation and Hugh made about the same number on 80/40 m ssb. I did try to work my Japanese friend again S2S but we could not make the swap as signal levels were too low on 15m although I could hear him some of the time but the qsb made it fail.



Hugh working through his small pile up then pack up and off to South Hummocks VK5/SE-017.



Hugh and I had a short walk through the scrub for this one and got set up and the next activation under way.



Even at 02.00 UTC it is still possible to QSO locally on 80m, Hugh made contact with Paul VK5PAS/Mobile and the other VK states were much stronger on 40m by the second activation.



I was able to work some chasers on ssb and cw this activation with good signals into vk2 3 4 5 6 7 and a S2S with VK2NU on VK2/HU-047 in the Hunter Valley zone. VK2NU is a new activator for me to work and we had two QSO on ssb and then on cw later.

Thanks to the farmers for access to their land .

Regards,

Ian VK5CZ.

## Parks & Peaks app

By Paul VK5PAS



On the Saturday evening of the 2017 WIA AGM & Convention, Sue VK5AYL officially released her new Parks & Peaks app.

It can be downloaded from the iTunes store.....

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

The Parks & Peaks app allows Australian and New Zealand operators to alert, spot and chase portable radio activity.

Requires iOS 10.0 or later.

It is compatible with iPhone, iPad and iPod touch.

ParksnPaks - Spots			
May 14 07:26	<b>JS6TQS</b> JA6/ON-038 QRP Posted by: W6BJB	SOTA	14.285 SSB
May 14 07:24	<b>OK/SP9MA/P</b> OK/MO-018 [via SpotSMS] Posted by: SP9MA	SOTA	7.032 CW
May 14 07:19	<b>VK5PAS/P</b> Old laucke flour mill Strathalbyn Mills on the air weekend Posted by: VK5PAS	QRP	7.095 SSB
May 14 07:19	<b>F8GGZ/P</b> FFF-2244 DMF 01010 FFF 2244 Posted by: F5JNF	WWFFDX	7.0100
May 14 07:16	<b>F8GGZ/P</b> FFF-2244 FFF-2244 + DMF 01010 Posted by: F8FSC	WWFFDX	7.0100
May 14 07:14	<b>IA5/IZ5NRF</b> IFF-0005 WFF IFF-0005 EU-028 giglio isl Posted by: I1CHC	WWFFDX	14.2880
May 14 07:04	<b>IZ0VLL/P</b> IFF-0660 DLI IO-002 IFF-660 LV-008 Posted by: IZ4HBF	WWFFDX	7.1100
May 14 07:03	<b>IZ0VLL/P</b> IFF-0006 IFF-0006, DAV-LV008, DLI-IO-00	WWFFDX	7.1100

ParksnPaks - Alerts			
Afternoon Sun May 14	<b>VK5AYL</b> Coorong National Park Test saved alert		7.095 SSB
Afternoon Mon May 15	<b>VK3PMG/P</b> Crossover Regional Park also 20m		7.144 SSB
Afternoon Wed May 17	<b>VK6NU/P</b> Monadnocks Conservation Park Look for spots als Mt.Cooke VK6/SW-031 CW-7-14-18 etc		14.310 SSB
Afternoon Fri May 19	<b>VK3PAT</b> Cape Conran Coastal Park Will also try 14.144 and 3.644		7.144 SSB
06:00 Sat Jun 10	<b>VK3XV</b> Terrick Terrick National Park VK shires contest & park activation		7.100 SSB
06:00 Sat Jun 10	<b>VK3XV/P</b> LS3 - Loddon Shire Council Rover section - VK Shires Contest		7.100 SSB
All day Sun Jun 11	<b>VK3XV</b> Barmah National Park VK shires contest & park activation		7.100 SSB
All day Sun Jun 11	<b>VK3XV/P</b> MO3 - Moira Shire Council Rover section - VK Shires Contest		7.100 SSB
Morning Mon	<b>VK3XV/P</b> Broken-Rosey State Park		7.144 SSB

## Diyode magazine

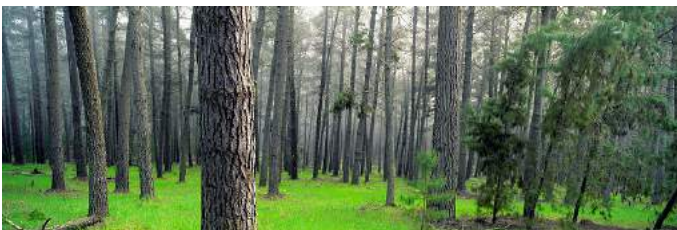
By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder that Diyode magazine is soon to be released. If you send the magazine some info/photo on a project you are building, your article may be featured in an upcoming issue of Diyode.

## Forests to be sold

By Paul VK5PAS



The following information was brought to my attention by David VK5PL who on a Facebook post stated:

*‘The government may be selling off some forest areas that may affect access to at least one*

*SOTA summit SE-007. Mt Campbell Hill and maybe The Bluff at Wirrabara.’*

The South Australian State Government has been conducting the Mid North Forests Future Strategy to determine the future for Bundaleer, Wirrabara, Leighton and Yarcowie Forest Reserves. Led by Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), the Strategy is nearing its conclusion.

As this process ends, ownership and management of Bundaleer and Wirrabara Forests may soon change.

To address community concerns, and ensure the significant recreational trails which pass through these iconic forests continue to be protected and enjoyed, the State Government is proposing to use provisions under the ***Recreational Greenways Act 2000*** to create a greenway over sections of the Heysen and Mawson Trails within Wirrabara and Bundaleer Forests that are proposed to be sold to private parties.

More information can be found at.....

<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/greenways/about>



# 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.



## Use an ALC meter to avoid distortion & interference

By Paul VK5PAS

Rob VK4AAC brought the following to my attention.....

<http://www.hamradioandvision.com/how-to-use-an-alc-meter/>

## Becoming a shack sloth

By David VK5PL

It was 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 when I first made contact with a radio operator on a summit. Ian VK5CZ was activating New Campbell Hill up near Jamestown for the Summits On The Air awards programme, SOTA for short. I had read about SOTA and I think that rekindled my interest in radio that had waned back in the early '90s. I had interests in bushwalking by then and thought it would be an interesting way to combine the two.

At home with high and low voltage powerlines just across the street, the noise level made it difficult to hear weaker stations a lot of the time and only having an 80m OCF dipole fixed in a

North South alignment meant there was not much help there.

Around this time I also found out about a local South Australian award for working amateurs in or from National Parks and Conservation Parks so I also started hunting park activators and soon I was venturing into parks myself to operate.

The noise level in most parks is like chalk and cheese compared to the home environment. You could literally hear a pin drop, apart from the birdsong and trees whispering in the breeze. It was in Sandy Creek park that I worked my first 10 point summit with Mt Kosiusko coming in loud and clear and also a few others in Victoria. This was with a dipole rigged as an Inverted Vee at just about 8m in the centre and running just 5watts from a little Xiegu X1M I had bought. It was exciting in those first few months to add each new summit score.

With the solar cycle coming towards it's low point it has been difficult at times to hear activators. Many time you can hear chasers sending their call and getting reports from an unheard summit and then 10 minutes later the activator is 5/9 to you and if you manage to break into the pileup you have more points for your tally. Those fortunate enough to be able to have an antenna with some gain/directivity have a better chance to pull the weak signals out from the noise, while those with limited space or cash must struggle at times for a contact.

You must know when a activation is taking place to be able to be on air when they are, so

the SOTA cluster was well watched early on. Then Allen VK3ARH developed the Parks'n'Peaks website ([www.parksnpeaks.org](http://www.parksnpeaks.org)) that caters for SOTA and various parks awards to enable activators to provide advanced warning of their activations and to enable spotting when they are actually on air. I am sure many amateur ears are attuned to the alarms going off to signify an activation in progress, a kookaburra for parks and a bleating goat for summits.

I finally reached my goal of 1000 points and shack slothdom last weekend during my activation of Charleston CP in conjunction with activations during the WIA AGM. During the previous week I had managed to work Mitch VK3XDM on The Horn, a 10 point summit, either side of the UTC rollover so gaining 20 points then worked Mt Gawler (which is just over the hill a few kilometres away) twice in a couple of days by a couple of visiting amateurs over for the AGM. Next I worked Mick VK3GGG on 2 different summits over 2 days to get within about 6 points of the 1000 mark.

I had worked a few parks on the Sunday morning and tuning around heard Andrew VK1AD on a summit (Mt Nungar worth 10 points) so called him and got the final points to push me over my target.

I have worked just 90 different callsigns on 131 different summits over the 5 years I have been chasing. Paul VK5PAS is my most worked activator, making contact 13 times. Mount Gawler is my most worked summit with 21 times, the next being a couple of Victorian summits at just 7 each.

I suppose the next thing will be to get 1000 points as an activator, which might take a while as I am still only on 1 activated so far.

David Poole  
VK5PL

## Cycling through the Flinders Ranges

By Paul VK5PAS



Have you ever thought about cycling through the Flinders Ranges and slipping in some park activations along the way? If so, this article may interest you.....

<http://www.weekendnotes.com/flinders-ranges-by-bike/?sb=1&i=1&j=3&k=1&wemid=68954&wuid=813104&ap=Rf1wgwDedd>

## World Lakes Award

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently read a post on one of the SOTA Yahoo groups suggesting the creation of a Lakes on the Air program. It was brought to the attention of the Swiss gentlemen suggesting this, that there was already a World Lakes Award program.

So I did a bit of digging around and found the World Lakes award website. It appears at this stage that the program is limited to Spain, Portugal, and Belgium, with only 6 lakes listed. Many of the links were also dead, so I am not sure on just how active this program is.

Anyway, if you are interested, more information can be found at.....

<http://worldlakes.blogspot.com.au/>

## Revised classes of activations on parksnparks

By Paul VK5PAS

Recently I've been involved in a bit of discussion via email with Allen VK3ARH (the parksnparks creator), Joe VK3YSP, & Tony VK3XV about the addition of more classes of activation on parksnparks. This has all come

about as a result of a suggestion by Joe that more classes be added.

What is being looked at are things such as:

- School Amateur Radio Clubs (SARCNET)
- Lighthouses on the Air
- Museums on the Air
- Mills on the Air
- Islands on the Air
- ANZAC Day
- Special event
- and a few others

Allen is also looking at adding GridSquare.

I will report on the progress of this in future issues.

Parksnparks can be located at.....

<https://parksnparks.org/>

## CAPAD data

By Paul VK5PAS



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Every two years, the Australian Government collects information on protected areas from state and territory Governments and other protected area managers. This information is published in the Collaborative Australian Protected Area Database (CAPAD).



I have been patiently waiting for the release of the CAPAD data, with a view to adding more VKFF reference areas. Sadly, there has been delay after delay after delay. But I am on a mailing list, so as soon as the Minister signs off on the document, I will get stuck into adding a few more VKFF reference areas in each State and Territory.

## 2017 WIA AGM & Convention

By Paul VK5PAS

Well the 2017 Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) AGM & Convention which was held in Hahndorf has been and gone. Firstly I would like to congratulate the VK5 Organising Committee for putting on such a terrific event. I am sure that all who attended, enjoyed themselves, as did Marija and I.



I was asked to deliver a presentation on 'operating field portable in the great outdoors',

which I delivered on the Saturday afternoon. This included showing the group how quick a portable station can be erected. It was a great opportunity of plugging both the WWFF program and the VK5 Parks Award.



On Sunday morning, I was part of 5 team leaders who took people out into the field to activate parks. For many, this was their very first park activation.

Team leaders and parks were as follows....

- John VK5BJE.....Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207 & VKFF-0788
- Peter VK5PET.....Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park 5CP-104 & VKFF-0781
- Les VK5KLV.....Mount George Conservation Park 5CP-147 7 VKFF-0784
- Paul VK5PAS.....Mark Oliphant Conservation Park 5CP-127 & VKFF-0782
- Chris VK5FR.....Cleland Conservation Park 5CP-042 & VKFF-0778, and SOTA VK5/ SE-005

My team activated the Mark Oliphant Conservation Park.



*Above:- Stuart VK3STU on air at Mark Oliphant Conservation Park*

All 3 of my team appeared to have been bitten by the portable bug. Gerard VK2JNG has since headed out to activate a park in VK3.

And on Sunday afternoon, Chris VK5FR and I manned a small ‘parks portable’ display at the Come and Try displays at the Hahndorf Oval. Thanks Chris.



*Above:- Chris VK5FR and myself at the display table talking to an interested onlooker.*



*Above:- Al VK2OK/5 & Gerard VK2JNG/5 at the Mark Oliphant Conservation Park*



*Above: Robbie VK5FRSM at the display table, with Tony VK5ZAI also viewing some of the display*



## VK5WOW & VI5WOW activations

By Paul VK5PAS



On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May whilst in the Mark Oliphant Conservation Park 5CP-127 & VKFF-0782, I snuck in a quick 20 minutes on air as VK5WOW. I worked 31 stations.

And then later in the day, when things had slowed down a little at the Hahndorf Oval, I snuck out to the Mylor Conservation Park 5CP-156 & VKFF-0785. I was on air for around 60 minutes and logged a total of 56 stations as VI5WOW.



*Above:- My set up at Mylor as VI5WOW.*

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

<https://vk5pas.org/>

## Summits in the Mid North

By Ian VK5CZ



Today Ian VK5IS and I met at Appila in the Midnorth to head out to Hogshead VK5/NE-051 for another SOTA day of activating. We decided on the day to call by Mount Nadjuri VK5/NE-058 in the afternoon on the way home while we were close by.

Hogshead is a hard walk from the parking spot as far up as we can drive and ends up being about 2.4 km round trip. We noticed the new owner of the property is making a track up to the top which will be a steep 4x4 track once it is finished. Looks like the bulldozer driver may have chickened out up near the end of the track as it gets pretty steep and a big slope angle

across the hill to make the rest of the way to the top tricky unless they can bench it somehow.



A nice stone Cairn on this one built many years ago on top of the huge rock slab that makes up the top area.



Ian into the pile up of locals on 80m first off with really good signals using the extensions again on the antenna. It was quite windy so we set up behind this rock ledge on the eastern side which was very comfortable in out of the wind. Had problems with the dipole later in the activation as some of the vk3's on 40m ssb could detect a fault with our antenna. We even lowered it down to check but found nothing obvious until I got home and had a closer look

finding the link alligator clip hanging on by maybe 2 strands of wire and in the wind, it may have been losing continuity.

Ian had a good pile up of chasers on 40m ssb and we both qualified with plenty of chasers gathering points.

## Recent Park Activations



May 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).....

- Mount Arapiles State Park VICTORIA  
VKFF-0765, Mark VK5MK/3 (29/5/2017)
- Ikara Flinders Ranges National Park  
5NP-007 & VKFF-0176, Peter VK5PET  
(24/5/2017)





*Above:- Peter VK5PET in the Ikara Flinders Ranges National Park. Image courtesy of VK5PET*

- Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park 5CP-104 & VKFF-0781, Peter VK5PET/p (21/5/2017)
- Mount George Conservation Park 5CP-147 & VKFF-0784, VK5KLV/p (21/5/2017)
- Cleland Conservation Park 5CP-042 & VKFF-0778, Chris VK5FR/p (21/5/2017)
- Cleland Conservation Park 5CP-042 & VKFF-0778, Allen VK3ARH/p (21/5/2017)
- Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207 & VKFF-0788, John VK5BJE/p (21/5/2017)

- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park 5CP-127 & VKFF-0782, Stuart VK3STU/5 (21/5/2017)
- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park 5CP-127 & VKFF-0782, Al VK2OK/5 (21/5/2017)
- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park 5CP-127 & VKFF-0782, Gerard VK2JNG/5 (21/5/2017)
- Mylor Conservation Park 5CP-156 & VKFF-0785, VI5WOW/p (Paul VK5PAS) (21/5/2017)
- Mount George Conservation Park 5CP-147 & VKFF-0784, VI5WOW/p (Paul VK5PAS) (17/5/2017)



*Above:- Paul VK5PAS operating as VI5WOW at the Mount George Conservation Park*

- Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park 5CP-104 & VKFF-0781, VK5WOW/p (Paul VK5PAS) (13/5/2017)
- Ferries McDonald Conservation Park 5CP-067 & VKFF-0881, Paul VK5PAS/p (6/5/2017)

- Totness Recreation Park VKFF-1754, VK5WOW/p (Paul VK5PAS), 4/5/2017



*Above:- Set up of VK5WOW at Totness Recreation Park. Photo 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/>

## Recent SOTA activations



Ian VK5CZ continued on his quest to become Mountain Goat with a number of SOTA activations in the Mid North of SA. He was accompanied by Ian VK5IS, Roger VK5WE, and Hugh VK5NHG on a number of these activations.

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

- Mount Nadjuri VK5/ NE-058, Ian VK5IS/p (27/5/2017)
- Mount Nadjuri VK5/ NE-058, Ian VK5CZ/p (27/5/2017)



*Above:- Ian VK5IS at Mount Nadjuri. Photo courtesy of Ian VK5CZ*

- Hogshead Hill VK5/ NE-051, Ian VK5CZ/p (27/5/2017)
- Hogshead Hill VK5/ NE-051, Ian VK5IS/p (27/5/2017)



*Above:- Ian VK5IS at the stone cairn on Hogshead Hill. Photo courtesy of Ian VK5CZ*

- Mount Jay South VK5/ NE-047, Ian VK5CZ/p (13/5/2017)
- Mount Jay South VK5/ NE-047, Roger VK5WE/p (13/5/2017)
- Tothill Range VK5/ SE-010, Hugh VK5NHG/p (13/5/2017)
- Maurice Hill VK5/ NE-049, Ian VK5CZ/p (13/5/2017)
- Maurice Hill VK5/ NE-049, Roger VK5WE/p (13/5/2017)
- Bumbunga Hill VK5/ SE-015, Ian VK5CZ/p (9/5/2017)
- Bumbunga Hill VK5/ SE-015, Hugh VK5NHG/p/p (9/5/2017)

- South Hummocks VK5/ SE-017, Ian VK5CZ/p (9/5/2017)
- South Hummocks VK5/ SE-017, Hugh VK5NHG/p (9/5/2017)
- Coomaroo Hill VK5/ NE-088, Ian VK5CZ/p (4/5/2017)
- The Devils Peak VK5/ NE-080, Ian VK5CZ/p (3/5/2017)
- Richmond Hill VK5/ NE-089, Ian VK5CZ/p (3/5/2017)
- Mount Remarkable VK5/ NE-010, Ian VK5CZ/p (2/5/2017)

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.....

<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](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

## VKFF Team Championship

By Paul VK5PAS



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



### VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.wffaustralia.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](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

### World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)



### VKFF Activation weekend.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**

**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](mailto: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....

➤ 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.

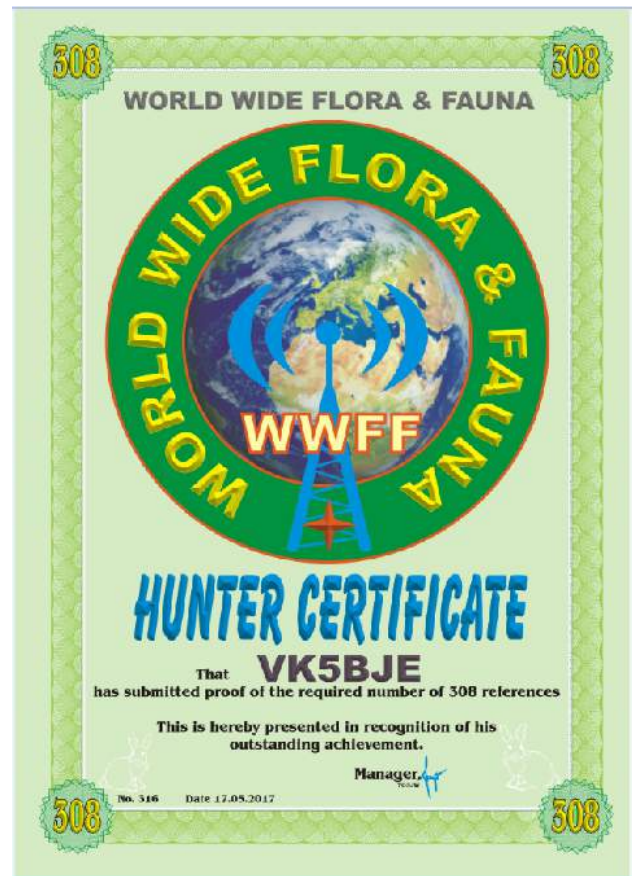
[vk5pas@wia.org.au](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

### Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- **David VK5PL**
  - Shack Sloth

### World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **John VK5BJE**
  - Park to Park 44
  - WWFF Hunter - 308





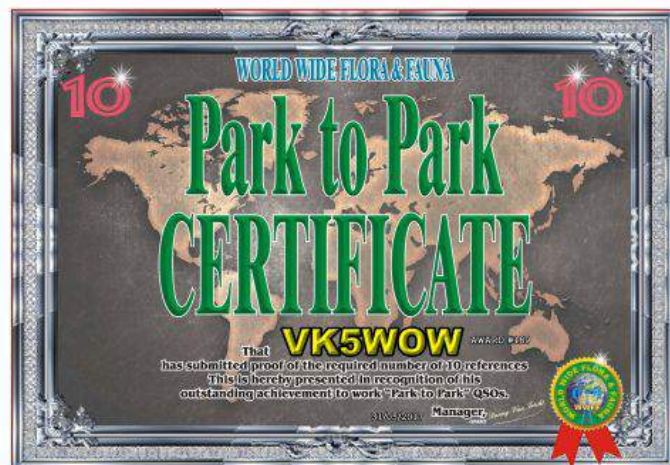
- **Mike VK5FMWW**

- Global Hunter 88
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 100

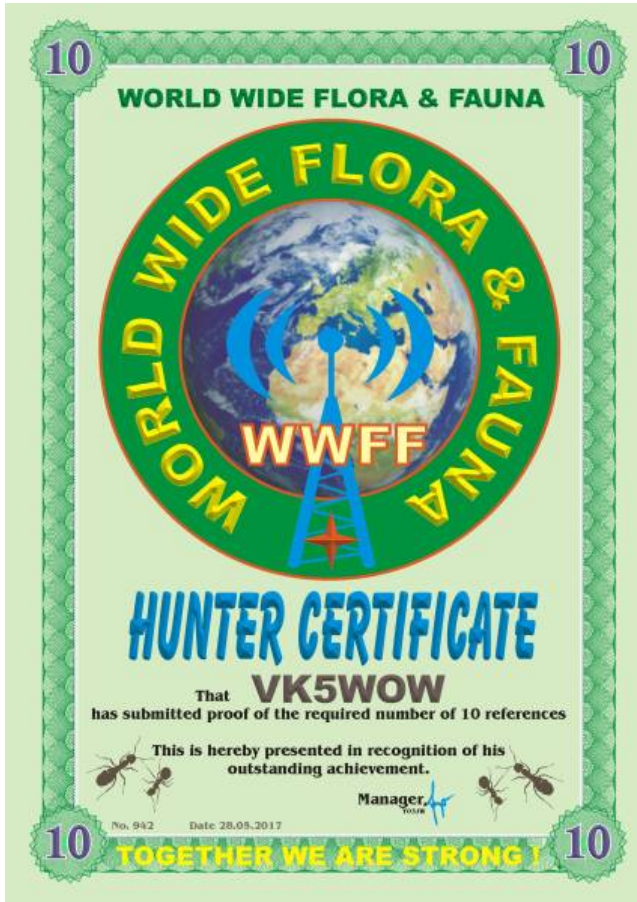


- **VK5WOW**

- Bronze VKFF Hunter
- Silver VKFF Hunter







- **Marija VK5FMAZ**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 125
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 150



- **Paul VK5PAS**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 650
- WWFF Activator – 154 references
- WWFF Park to Park - 308





- Ivan VK5HS

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 175



- Adrian VK5FANA

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 500





- **Bob VK5AFZ**
  - Sapphire VKFF Hunter



- **Les VK5KLV**
  - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 375



### VK5 Parks Award

- **Bob VK5AFZ**
  - Bronze Park to Park

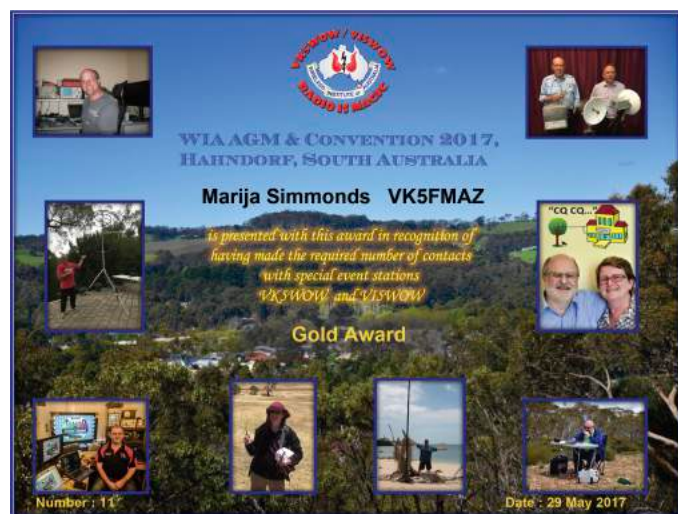
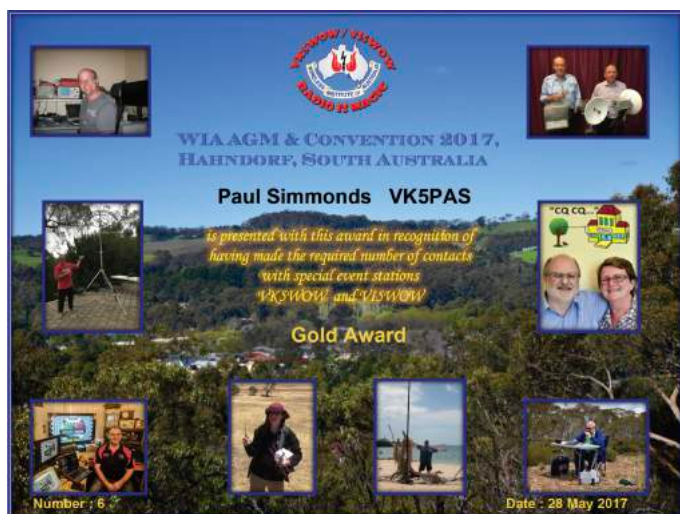
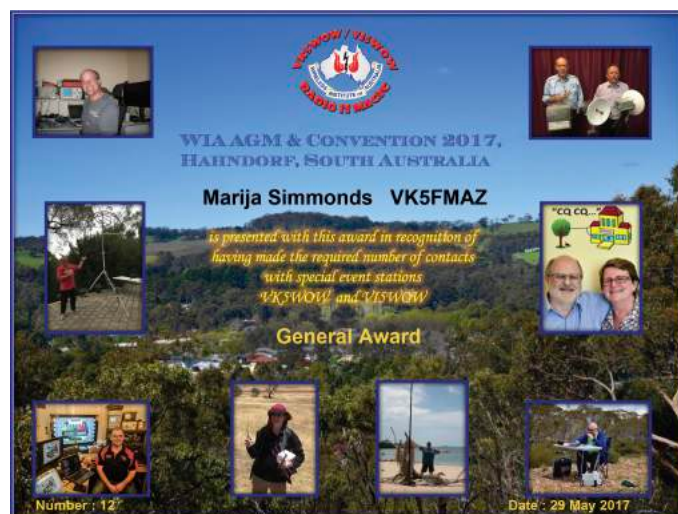
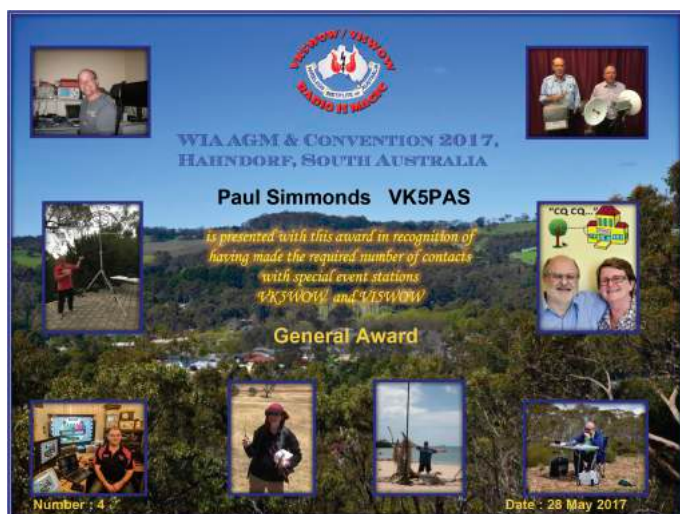


### Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **NIL KNOWN**

### Other.

- **Paul VK5PAS**
  - WIA AGM – General
  - WIA AGM – Gold



- **Marija VK5FMAZ**
  - WIA AGM – General
  - WIA AGM – Gold

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.



## Mills on the Air weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



The Mills on the Air Weekend was held on the Sat 13<sup>th</sup> and Sun 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017. On Sat morning 13<sup>th</sup> I headed over to the old Nixons Mill at Hahndorf. I set up right alongside the old mill. I made a total of 89 contacts including contact with VK5ALM/p at Dunn Mill at Mount Barker S.A. and VK3BI/p at Andersons Mill at Smeaton in VIC.



*Above:- Paul VK5PAS operating from the old Nixon Mill at Hahndorf. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.*

On Sun morning 14/5 I drove down to Strathalbyn where I activated the old Laucke Flour Mill which dates back to 1849. I operated from right alongside the old mill and made a total of 87 contacts.



*Above:- Paul VK5PAS operating from the old Laucke Flour Mill at Strathalbyn. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.*

During the activation I gave Tony VK5MRT a call on the phone and he popped down for an hour or so and got on air as well, making a number of contacts.





Above:- Tony VK5MRT on air at the old Laucke Flour Mill. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

- 20 amateurs took part (including Tony VK3XV)
- 3 of those were Foundation licence holders
- a total of 29 different parks were put on air.
- A total of 1,311 QSOs were made
- Included 410 Park to Park contacts

Thanks to everyone who took part, either as an activator or a hunter.

I have forwarded a participation certificate to all those who took part as an Activator.

## Results from the 4<sup>th</sup> year anniversary weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



The final results of the 4<sup>th</sup> year anniversary activation weekend for the VK5 Parks Award are as follows....

# KRMNPA

By Paul VK5PAS

For those chasing the KRMNPA, here is a list of the 45 qualifying Victorian National Parks (including recent name changes).....

1. Alfred National Park
2. Alpine National Park
3. Barmah National Park
4. Baw Baw National Park
5. Brisbane Ranges National Park
6. Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park
7. Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park
8. Churchill National Park
9. Cobboboonee National Park
10. Coopracambra National Park
11. Croajingolong National Park
12. Dandenong Ranges National Park
13. Errinundra National Park
14. French Island National Park
15. Grampians National Park
16. Great Otway National Park
17. Greater Bendigo National Park
18. Gunbower National Park
19. Hattah-Kulkyne National Park
20. Heathcote-Graytown National Park
21. Kinglake National Park
22. Lake Eildon National Park
23. Lind National Park
24. Little Desert National Park
25. Lower Glenelg National Park
26. Lower Goulburn National Park
27. Mitchell River National Park
28. Mornington Peninsula National Park

29. Morwell National Park
30. Mount Buffalo National Park
31. Budj Bim National Park (Formerly Mount Eccles National Park)
32. Mount Richmond National Park
33. Murray-Sunset National Park
34. Organ Pipes National Park
35. Point Nepean National Park
36. Port Campbell National Park
37. Snowy River National Park
38. Kara Kara National Park
39. Tarra-Bulga National Park
40. Terrick Terrick National Park
41. The Lakes National Park
42. Warby-Ovens National Park
43. Wilsons Promontory National Park
44. Wyperfeld National Park
45. Yarra Ranges National Park

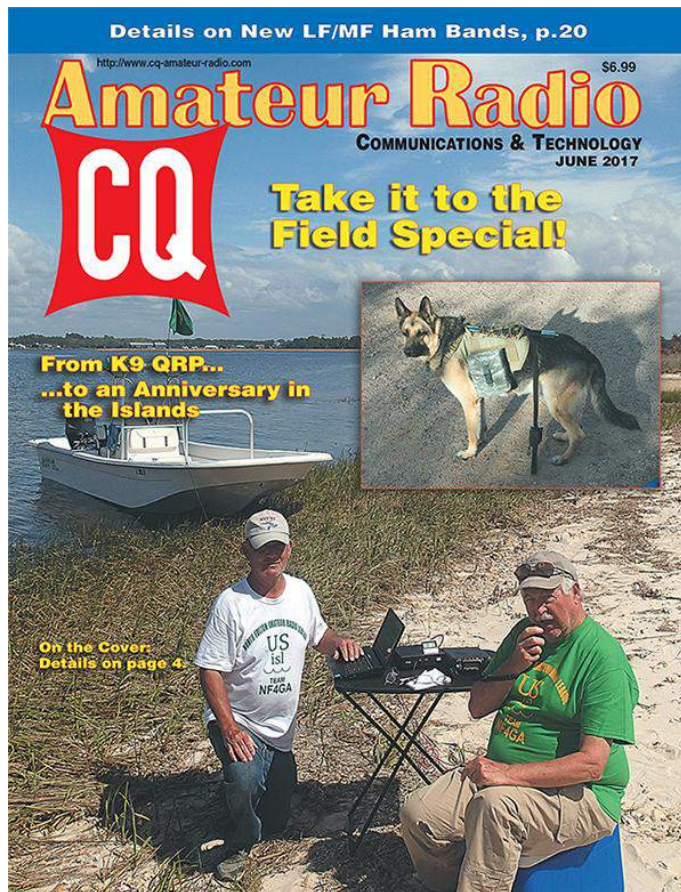


## CQ magazine

By Paul VK5PAS

For those that subscribe to CQ magazine, the June issue features a ‘Take it to the Field Special’.

It features the interesting and innovative ways that hams are getting on the air from the great outdoors.



## Harry Angel Sprint

By Paul VK5PAS

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 I took part in the Harry Angel Memorial Sprint. I activated the Ferries McDonald Conservation Park 5CP-067 & VKFF-0881.

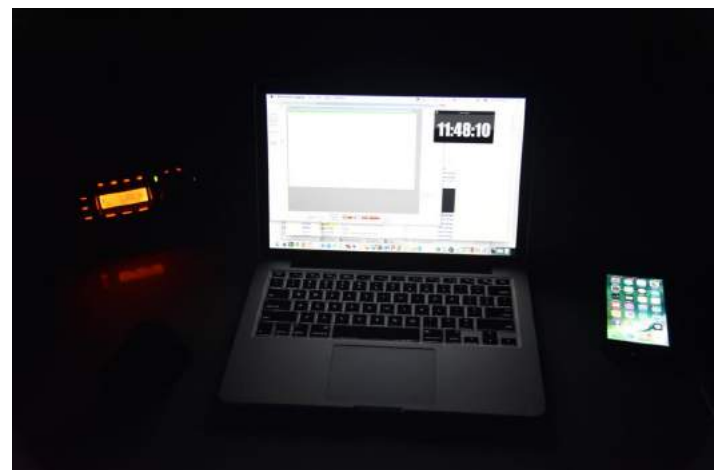
I made a total of 95 contacts, with 63 of those being in the Harry Angel Memorial Sprint on 80m.

Stations worked: VK1, VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5, VK6, VK7, VK8, New Zealand, & USA on 40m & 80m SSB.

Thanks to everyone who called.

More info & photos on my Wordpress site....

<https://vk5pas.org/>





## Upcoming events for VKFF

By Paul VK5PAS



There is now a page on the WWFF Australia website which lists upcoming VKFF events, relevant National Days relating to flora and fauna, and some International Days.

It can be found at....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/upcoming-events--calendar.html>

If you are aware of any other related days/weeks, please drop me an email.

You may wish to time some of your activations around these special days.

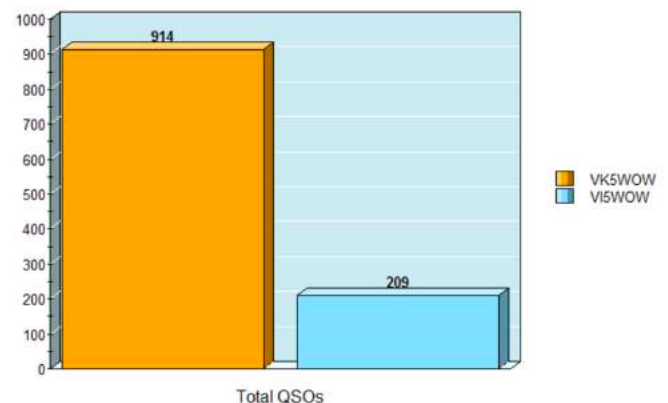
## VK5WOW & VI5WOW stats

By Paul VK5PAS



For those that might be interested I have added a post to my Wordpress site re portable activations by VK5WOW and VI5WOW.

**VK5WOW & VI5WOW Total contacts**

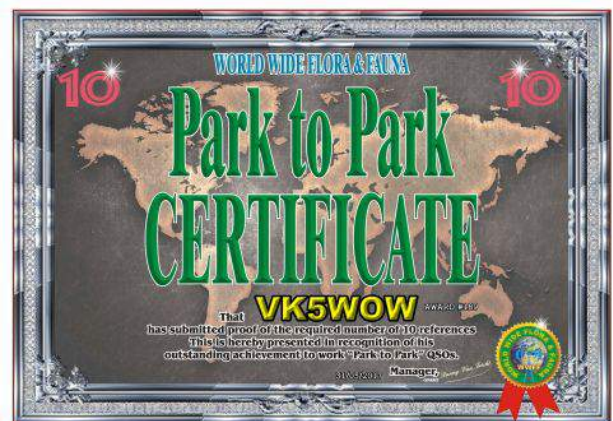
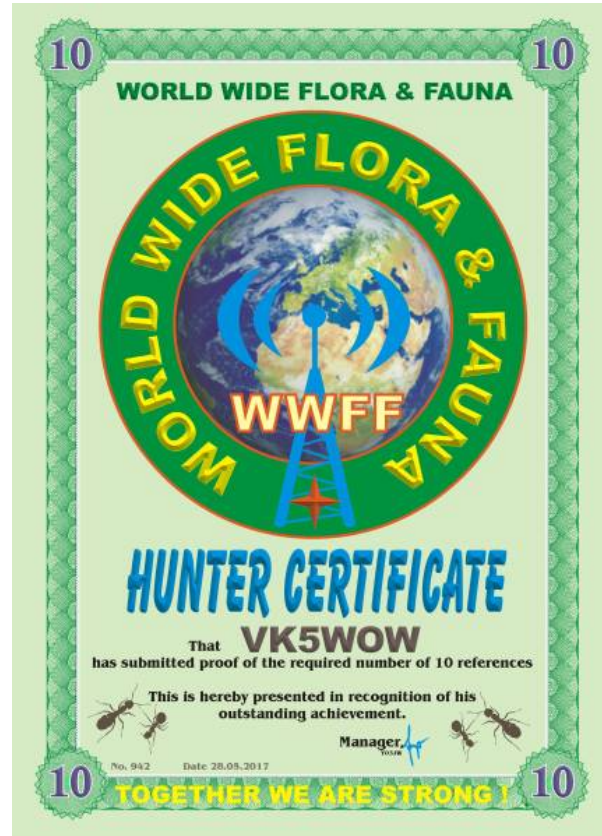




The post includes details of park activations undertaken, and statistics and graphs re stations worked.

It can be found at.....

<https://vk5pas.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](mailto: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-151 (16/5/2017)

## Ham humour



## 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.

### 2017 WIA AGM/Convention

<https://youtu.be/KdOOBNDf0Fk>

### SOTA activation in Switzerland

<https://youtu.be/9kr5mYLBhA>

### 4<sup>th</sup> year anniversary VK5 Parks Award

<https://youtu.be/pKuTOxAOyc0>

## 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>