



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 17, March 2016

Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 17, March 2016, of 'Out and About in VK5', a small newsletter centred on VK5 activities relating to SOTA, Parks, portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc from a VK5 perspective.

Another month down for 2016. February saw a lot of park activity, mostly due to the efforts of Rob VK4AAC/5 and Stef VK5HSX, who both remain very active travelling around the countryside with their respective wives. The weather was also kind, allowing a number of the weekly Friday afternoon/evening events for the VK5 Parks Award to take place.

On a personal level during February, I have not been able to get out as often as I would have liked. Work, family commitments, and my recent 'appointment' to the WIA Board, have all kept me very busy. But I have been able to

sneak out on a Friday night for a quick park activation.

I also had my VK9PAS call sign approved by ACMA, for operating on Norfolk Island during May 2016. I will try to get on air as often as possible, but this is first and foremost a holiday with my wife Marija, leading up to the WIA AGM. Whenever possible I will get on air, running the Yaesu Ft-857 and dipole antennas. I hope to activate Mount Bates for SOTA whilst on the island, and of course Norfolk Island is VKFF-0392.

From a propagation point of view, close in propagation on 40m continues to be very challenging, particularly during the mornings. However, this situation seems to improve as the afternoon goes on.

Long path propagation into Europe on 20m continues to be quite a challenge whilst out portable. During some of my activations in the late afternoon, the band has opened up and I have managed to get some Europeans in the log. I'm aware that Rob VK4AAC/5 has had some very good openings into Europe on the LP. Well done Rob.

During February, the 10m band continued to perform very well at times, with lots of the SOTA operators taking advantage of this for the final period of the 10m challenge.

The 3rd year anniversary for the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award is fast approaching. The special activation weekend will be held on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd April 2016. If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please send me an email so that I can record your park activation intentions on the spreadsheet.

The month of March 2016, will see the introduction of the VKFF Annual Photographic Competition. During March take a photo during one of your VKFF park activations and forward to me. At the end of March I will run a poll on the VKFF Australia Yahoo group, where the winner will be announced. The winner will receive a \$50.00 voucher from Jaycar & a certificate.

And then later in the year, in October, the VKFF Team Championship will be held. I am very pleased to report that the Championship now has a number of sponsors, including some cash

donations (from 2 amateurs who wish to remain anonymous), Pages of Cobram, Dale VK5FSCK, SOTABeams, and myself.

Finally, I'm really at a loss as to what to do for VK5 contributors to the newsletter. Despite many pleas over a long period of time, I am still getting very few VK5 contributors to the newsletter.

If you have any information that you would like to see in the next issue, please drop me an email at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au



Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.

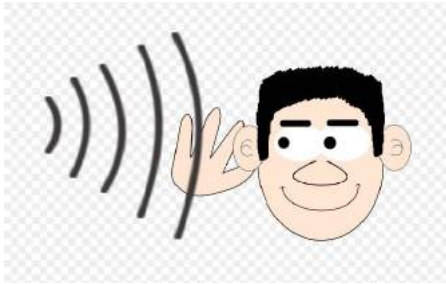
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What is that sound?

By Paul VK5PAS



Courtesy of the Kiwi Hams Facebook site, here is a link to a wiki.com site which will help you to identify radio signals that you may have heard on the bands through example sounds and waterfall images.

http://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Signal_Identification_Guide

Safety first

By Paul VK5PAS



I recently read on the SOTA Yahoo group that Andrew VK1DA, had suffered a misfortune during a recent SOTA activation. Andrew, whilst walking back to the car, after a good

activation, slipped on a patch of muddy ground and fell, with his right hand taking the impact.

Andrew suffered a fractured bone in his wrist and is now in a plaster cast and out of action for 6 weeks.

Firstly, I hope that Andrew is back up and at it, activating SOTA peaks soon.

Secondly, it is a timely reminder to take extreme care whilst out portable. Accidents can, and do happen.

Logging conundrum for SOTA

By Paul VK5PAS



The issue of logging a SOTA activation that ‘straddles’ the UTC rollover has been a subject raised many, many, many times on the SOTA Yahoo group and on other forums.

As much as many would strongly disagree, the SOTA moderators recommend that only ONE log be submitted. The activation date is that of the UTC date at the start of the activation.

VK5 Park identifier codes

By Paul VK5PAS

With the impending release of the VK5 Parks Award database, I would encourage all VK5 Park Award activators to start handing out the unique identifier codes for the VK5 Parks.

The unique codes start with 5CP. These were created by Allen VK3ARH (formerly VK3HRA) for parksnparks, and they have been adopted for use for the VK5 Parks Award and the VK5 Parks Award database.

A full list of these codes has been placed on the VK5 Parks website.

<http://www.vk5parks.com/qualifying-parks.html>

If there is any initial confusion as to what the code means, please take the time to explain to the VK5 Parks Award hunter/s, that identifiers will now be used for the VK5 National and Conservation Parks.

e.g.

Belair National Park 5NP-001

Murray River National Park 5NP-016

Aberdour Conservation Park, 5CP-001

Grass Tree Conservation Park 5CP-080

The benefit of quoting the 5CP code is also to alert that your activation qualifies for the VK5 Parks Award, along with WWFF. Remember, that for the VK5 Parks Award you need to be autonomous to your vehicle.

If you would like a list of South Australian parks with their 5CP references and matching VKFF references, you can also find this on the VK5 Parks website.

So please start handing out the unique 5CP references during your next activation.

BRL Gathering

By Ron VK5MRE



Gday to all,

The BRL gathering is on again at the idealic location of Overland Corner South Australia.

Attached is a flyer of the planned order of events for the weekend, please let us know if you plan to come by email or on one of the BRL nets, it would be great to catch up with you all

again.

The Riverland Radio Club has put a lot of effort to make the gathering a great success again and we extend a warm welcome to all hams and their partners.

Please pass this flyer onto as many hams as you wish.

73,

Ron

VK5MRE (VK5BRL Net controller)



BRL Gathering
16th & 17th APRIL 2016
Overland Corner
S.A

Saturday:
0730: Breakfast
0830: BRL Group
1000: Boot sale
1200: Lunch Riverland Radio Club cooking
1330: Meet and greet & photo's
1430: presentations
Dinner: Hotel meal
Sunday: 0730 Breakfast

WWFF Park to Park Award

By Andrew M0MYA



After much discussion, debate about the Rules, and then the technical challenges of implementing the award, WWFF is pleased to announce the launch of the new Park To Park award.

This will be awarded, initially, for 10 confirmed Park-To-Park references worked, with

subsequent levels to be added in due course.

To count towards the award, logs from both activations need to be uploaded to Logsearch, with both the Activator and Hunter references cross-matching (as well as date, band and mode being the same).

Many thanks to Danny ON4VT for agreeing to be Award Manager.

More info can be found at.....

<http://www.wwff.co/2016/02/wwff-introduces-park-to-park-award.html>



Editors comment.....

Andrew is working on a mechanism to allow existing logs to be updated for Park to Park (P2P) info.

A VK4 Out N About in VK5

By Rob VK4AAC/5



Hi all, well, my wife and I are still on the road travelling this great country with our 4wd and caravan.



We are currently in VK5 and since early January have spent a few weeks in the mid north of the state near the Clare Valley and on

the Yorke Peninsula at Pt. Hughes. Have been doing a little fishing and sightseeing and I was also lucky enough to meet up with Adrian VK5FANA and Steve VK5ZSW who showed me some local hospitality. It's always great to put faces to voices and gain some local knowledge in the area we are visiting, thanks guys.

So far this year I have activated Spring Gully CP with 46 QSO's including 1 ZL. We began the activation by 9am local time due to the forecast of very hot temperatures in the afternoon. By lunchtime the band was dead and I still needed 4 more to qualify the park. I could not get any more contacts no matter how much I called CQ, so we decided to go into the town of Sevenhill and had some lunch at the bakery...yum!! After lunch we went back to the lookout and managed 6 more contacts, finally I had qualified the park. This park is located in the Clare valley and is quite close to the town of Clare. The lookout from where I operated has a great view out towards the Hummock Ranges.

Two of the “locals” checking out the dipole.



At Wills Creek CP I managed 55 QSO's (all VK's) and is situated on the western side of

Yorke Peninsula. My operating location was right on Wills Creek just outside the town of Price, quite a pretty and serene spot to spend a few hours. We enjoyed a picnic lunch and a cup of tea whilst watching the birds and some of the local fishermen trying their luck. Adrian, VK5FANA, paid us a visit and we had a nice chat.

The activation of Bird Islands CP netted us 60 QSO's including 12 from Europe and Asia on 20m. This park is situated a few kilometers north of Moonta Bay. The islands are close, you can walk across to them on low tide, and the park includes the beach on the mainland. We were not alone here, this is a popular spot for “Kite surfers”, it was interesting to watch them as they worked their way around the mangroves. We had quite a stiff breeze and I was worried that the squid pole might come down.

I managed to qualify all 3 parks for VKFF due to the many hunters who made contact with me, thanks again for all your efforts.

Soon we will be heading east into Victoria (VK3), along the Murray River, in late February 2016. Looking forward to seeing as much of that state as possible through to December 2016, and of course activating a few parks along the way!!

This month I would like to touch on the subject of callsigns and eQSL.com. As you may know, eQSL is a great way of sending and receiving QSL's electronically. It's quick and easy, so much so, sometimes I return home from a park activation only to find eQSL's waiting in my INBOX for that very same activation. In this fast paced world it certainly beats waiting months for cards to arrive via the bureau. Don't get me wrong, I love getting paper cards and

look forward to each delivery from the VK4 bureau and also direct.

A little while back I stumbled across a small anomaly in eQSL that I was not aware of....

You will not see any eQSL's sent to you if your callsign on the incoming eQSL does not exactly match your account callsign.

For example, you have one eQSL account for your callsign e.g. VK4ABCD, if you make a contact and the other station sends you an eQSL with VK4ABCD/p, thinking you were a portable station, then you would not see that eQSL in your INBOX. You would need to register another account for VK4ABCD/p to be able to retrieve the eQSL.

If you operate solely from home then you would only need one account in your primary callsign.

If you like to operate mobile and portable then you need to register your callsign with a /m and another with a /p. If you occasionally operate from interstate then you would need to have another account for each state you operate in with a /1 or /2 or /3 etc. and possibly /p1 and /m1 etc. To cover all bases you may even need to register more accounts with /1p and /1m etc.

If you only have one account and you think there might be some eQSL's waiting for you, you can do a search using your callsign and adding a /m or /p or /1 etc. and you might be surprised.

It is quite easy to add accounts in eQSL.com, just go to the “My Accounts” page in eQSL.com then go to the bottom of the page to “Register a New Attached Account” and follow the instructions. The new account will be added at the top under your current account.

I currently have 5 accounts, one for VK4AAC and VK4AAC/1, VK4AAC/2, VK4AAC/3 and VK4AAC/5.

Ok, now for the next problem at least for me, because I am travelling around Australia, I could potentially have 10 accounts, one for each state (VK0 to VK9). Also, if I want to cover most possibilities I would need to include a /p, /m and for each state a /pnumber and a /mnumber , a total of 66 accounts or more!!

This brings me to the point I am trying to make, if you are using eQSL then please try to get the callsign of the station you contacted correct. If a station identifies themselves as “VK4ABCD portable” then you need to send your eQSL to “VK4ABCD/p”, if the station identifies as “VK4ABCD mobile”, then you need to send your eQSL to “VK4ABCD/m” etc.

Now here is the tricky part that may need some discussion..... if you are portable or mobile in another state, what do you put on the eQSL ?, /p3, /3p etc. ???

Personally I just use the /3 or /5 etc. when I'm mobile or portable after my callsign when I am in a state other than VK4 for the sake of simplicity. You can still tell your contact that you are mobile or portable but I try to make it clear during my QSO by identifying myself as VK4AAC/5. This is where we all need to be a bit more diligent by listening to what the other station is using as an identifying callsign.

Of course, for most people this not going to be much of a problem in eQSL, you can just add a couple more accounts covering portable and mobile, BUT, for some of us who travel a lot it would mean creating many more accounts to cover all/most scenario's.

Most of you may already be aware of this anomaly, but I would imagine many new to eQSL would not.

Anyway, just a little something to think about.

Hope you all had a great xmas, all the best in 2016 and good DX, hope to catch you out there somewhere in a park.

73's and 44's

Rob

VK4AAC



Several changes are afoot with the WWFF program, including a new website.

Many of you would have probably seen the change with the header for the WWFF Log Search site.

Watch this space!



KML file with all VK5 Parks

By Paul VK5PAS

A reminder that you can find the most recent KML file with all of the VK5 National & Conservation Parks, on either the VK5 Parks website, or in the files section of the VK5 Yahoo group. I have also posted it on the VK5 Parks Facebook site.

The KML file can be downloaded and used in Google Earth and Google maps, to show you where each park is located.



Family Day out at Mount Gambier

By Paul VK5PAS



On the 6th March 2016 there is a planned Scout Family Day to be held at the Mount Gambier Airport. Thanks to Col VK5HCF for the info, who advises that the South East Radio Group (SERG) will be in attendance, and will be promoting the hobby of amateur radio, including the VK5 Parks Award and the WWFF program.

VK5 Parks flags

By Paul VK5PAS



The second batch of the flags for the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award have arrived, and have been forwarded on to those who ordered them.

Should you be interested in buying a flag, please send me an email to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

The flags are \$17.00 each (depends on how many we order). Plus a small charge for me to post out the flag/s to you, or you can collect them from me.

The flags are made by ‘Australian Flag Makers’ and are made from 200D knitted polyester, designed for outdoor use. The flags are single sided, with 2 grommets so you can attach the flag to a squid pole. The flags are 40cm X 60cm in size.

Family Day Out at the Mount Gambier Airport Site Prices

| | |
|--|--|
| Youth Organisations with a Free "Come & Try Activity" for youth participants | \$ 20.00 |
| Community Organisations with a free "Come & Try Activity" for youth participants | \$ 20.00 |
| Emergency Services (CFS, MFS, Police, St Johns, SES, Army, Navy, Air Force etc) | \$ FREE |
| Market Stalls- not food (BYO Gazebo etc) Over 3 x 3 will be an extra cost. | \$ 20.00 + item for Mothers Day Raffle |
| Small Food Stalls eg Fairy Floss, Snow Cones, Pop-Corn, Ice Creams, Lollies etc | \$ 50.00 |
| Large Food Stalls, Vans, BBQ's etc | \$ 150.00 |
| Other Activities & Commercial advertising sites | \$ 50.00 |

EVERYONE MUST HAVE THEIR OWN PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE & CERTIFICATE OF CURRENCY DISPLAYED

SITE PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 26th FEBRUARY SO THEY SHOW ON BANK STATEMENT

Payments to 1st Mount Gambier Scout Group - BSB 633000 ACCOUNT: 150 707 586 REFERENCE: your business name



3rd year anniversary event – VK5 Parks Award

By Paul VK5PAS

The special VK5 Parks Award Activation Weekend to celebrate the 3rd year anniversary will be held on....

**Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd
April 2016**

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

The purpose of this is to maintain a spreadsheet which will prevent ‘double up’ activations, and assist with stats at the end of the weekend.

There were a few activators last year who did not send me an email. This makes it very hard to compile accurate stats at the end of the weekend. You also risk turning up to a park, where somebody is already operating from.

So, PLEASE, send me an email.

Last year a total of 41 amateurs took part and there were a total of 111 South Australian park activations. Of those, 81 were unique parks. A number of VK3 hams took part in the event, which we are very appreciate of.

More crimes in parks

By Paul VK5PAS

Some reading with regards to the recent terrible alleged attacks in the Coorong National Park.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/two-women-seriously-injured-at-salt-creek/news-story/5ab01750697b5f8e59939d2f243b4a37?sv=e9742c9775b5bof84eea9afd91ff937f>


<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/two-women-seriously-injured-at-salt-creek/news-story/5ab01750697b5f8e59939d2f243b4a37?sv=e9742c9775b5bof84eea9afd91ff937f>

I've only heard from a handful of hams at this stage. So, please don't leave it to the last minute.

And don't forget to place an alert on parksnparks.

<http://parksnparks.org/>

Can we make it bigger than last year? I certainly hope so.




3rd year anniversary of the...

VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award

Special Activation weekend....

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd April, 2016.



This is your opportunity to join in the celebrations, and operate portable from one of South Australia's 21 National Parks, and/or 272 Conservation Parks.

2016 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

The 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend will be held on.....

**Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th
November 2016.**

Last years inaugural VKFF Action Weekend (held in November just gone), saw a total of 51 amateurs venture out to activate 77 unique parks all across Australia. There were over 3,200 QSOs made over the 2 day period.

Again, please drop me an email should you be intending on activating a park.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)



VKFF Activation weekend.

**Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th
November 2016**



If you do intend to activate a park on this weekend, please send an email to Paul VK5PAS, at...

vk5pas@wia.org.au

The value of spotting

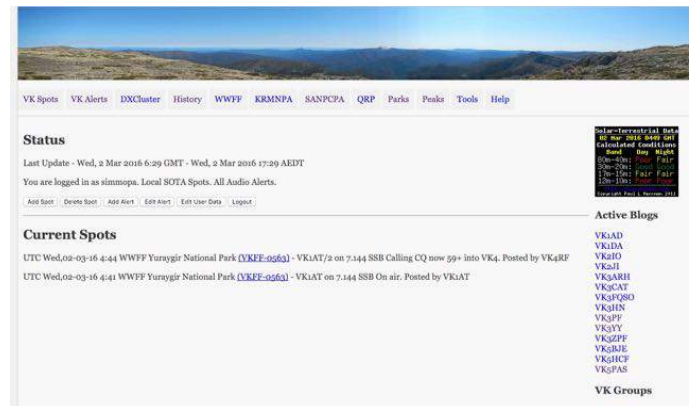
By Adrian VK5FANA



After my recent activation of Minlacowie Conservation Park 5CP-135 VKFF-0909 it became very obvious to me the value of either having a spot put on the Parks and Peaks site or respotting for another operator that I had worked if having the capability while in the field.

On several occasion whilst in the park it was very quiet with many minutes between contacts at times but, I noticed that when a spot was put up after speaking with a station it would start to flow again and then go quiet once more. Whilst I have at times self spotted to drum up callers it is in my humble opinion much easier if the other stations are putting up spots as the calls seem to flow more readily when stations put up spots in their areas and then others in that state or area etc see that so and so worked VK 5## in xyz.

After recent talks with Paul VK5PAS about this fact and having similar thoughts as me I have been noting that there seems to be a lot of chasers who are obviously running the program in the background and sometimes hearing the alert whilst talking with them that there are quite a few hams that rarely if ever spot others out in parks or on peaks, now I am not saying that I am perfect and spot every station I work when at my home QTH. BUT I would say that the average would be 95% plus that I always spot after the QSO.

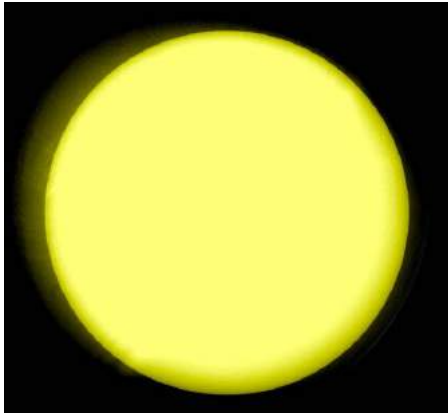


So come on guys support your fellow operators its not that hard surely to put up a spot after a conversation with a station working portable! After all if they did not put up an alert and then go out and activate would you have the pleasure of the various Parks and S.O.T.A awards that are around and making ham radio as interesting as it is today!

Adrian VK5FANA

Lack of favourable activity

By Paul VK5PAS



Wondered why the bands were quiet? The sun is in the midst of its quietest period in more than a century.

Very interesting reading.....

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3444633/What-happened-sun-Solar-activity-remains-quietest-century-trigger-mini-ice-age.html>

New WWFF website

By Paul VK5PAS

Thanks to the hard work of Danny ON4VT (OT4V) and a number of other hams, there is a newly designed website for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program.



The newly designed WWFF website can be found at.....

<http://wwff.winqsl.com/>

QSL cards

By Paul VK5PAS

If you have received any QSL cards from a SOTA activator or a WWFF activator, please send me a copy and I will include them here.

Send me a copy to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Robert F5RHD/p



Recent Park Activations

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

- Waitpinga Conservation Park 5CP-243 and VKFF-0940, Stef VK5HSX/p (1/2/2016)



Above:- Stef VK5HSX in the Waitpinga CP. Image courtesy of VK5HSX

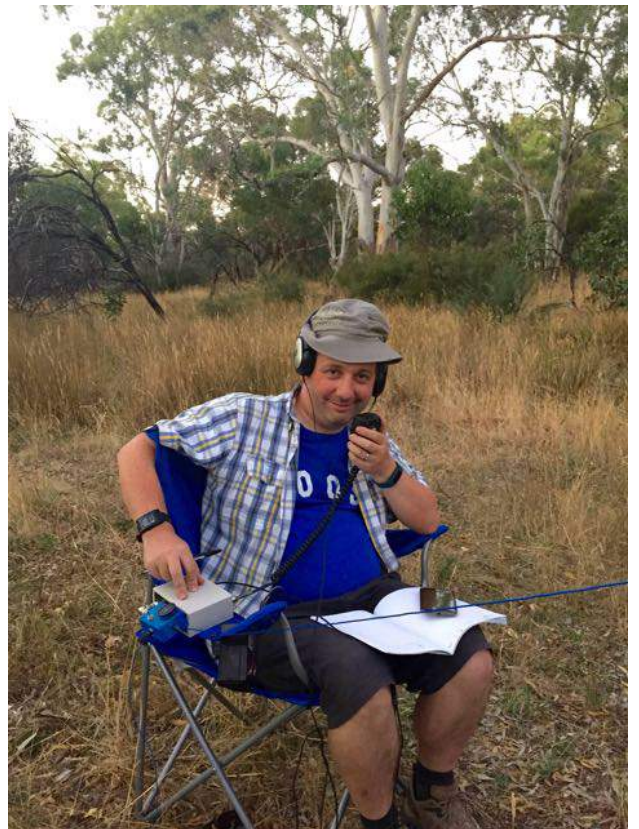
- Deep Creek Conservation Park 5CP-054 and VKFF-0780, Stef VK5HSX/p (29/2/2016)
- Talisker Conservation Park 5CP-223 and VKFF-0790, Stef VK5HSX/p (29/2/2016)
- Talisker Conservation Park 5CP-223 and VKFF-0790, Stef VK5HSX/p (28/2/2016)



Above:- The VK5 Parks flag flying during an activation by Stef VK5HSX

- Newland Head Conservation Park 5CP-161 & VKFF-0922, Stef VK5HSX/p (28/2/2016)
- Lake Frome Conservation Park 5CP-108 and VKFF-0900, David VK5HDW/p (28/2/2016)
- Deep Creek Conservation Park 5CP-054 and VKFF-0780, Stef VK5HSX/p (26/2/2016)

- Dangali Conservation Park 5CP-052 and VKFF-0825, Rob VK4AAC/5 (26/2/2016)
- Mylor Conservation Park, John VK5BJE/p (26/2/2016)
- Winninowie Conservation Park 5CP-255 and VKFF-0820, Les VK5KLV/p (26/2/2016)
- Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park 5CP-097 and VKFF-0897, Paul VK5PAS (26/2/2016)
- Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park 5CP-097 and VKFF-0897, Marcus VK3TST/5 (26/2/2016)



Above:- Marcus VK3TST/5 in the Kaiser Stuhl CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS.

- Morialta Conservation Park 5CP-142 and VKFF-0783, Marcus VK3TST/5 (26/2/2016)
- Furner Conservation Park 5CP-072 and VKFF-0822, David VK5HDW/p (26/2/2016)
- Talisker Conservation Park 5CP-223 and VKFF-0790, Stef VK5HSX/p (25/2/2016)
- Deep Creek Conservation Park 5CP-054 and VKFF-0780, Stef VK5HSX/p (25/2/2016)
- Pike River Conservation Park 5CP-180 and VKFF-0831, Rob VK4AAC/5 (24/2/2016)
- Deep Creek Conservation Park 5CP-054 and VKFF-0780, Stef VK5HSX/p (24/2/2016)

- Black Hill Conservation Park 5CP-022 and VKFF-0776, Paul VK5PAS/p (18/2/2016)
- Pooginook Conservation Park 5CP-186 and VKFF-0929, Rob VK4AAC/5 (17/2/2016)
- Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park 5CP-123 and VKFF-0827, Rob VK4AAC/5 (17/2/2016)
- Morgan Conservation Park 5CP-141 and VKFF-0911, Rob VK4AAC/5 (16/2/2016)
- Newland Head Conservation Park 5CP-161 and VKFF-0922, Stef VK5HSX/p (15/2/2016)
- Bullock Hill Conservation Park 5CP-265 and VKFF-0873, Gordon VK5GY/p (13/2/2016)
- Minlacowie Conservation Park 5CP-135 and VKFF-0909, Adrian VK5FANA/p (12/2/2016)
- Mylor Conservation Park 5CP-156 and VKFF-0785, John VK5BJE/p (12/2/2016)
- Marcus VK3TST/5, Hallett Cove Conservation Park 5CP-087 and VKFF-0890 (12/2/2016)



Above:- Stef VK5HSX operating portable in the Deep Creek Conservation Park. Image courtesy of VK5HSX



Above:- Marcus VK3TST/5 in the Hallett Cove CP. Image courtesy of VK3TST/5

- Charleston Conservation Park 5CP-41 and VKFF-0777, Paul VK5PAS (12/2/2016)



Above:- Paul VK5PAS in the Charleston CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS.

- Bird Islands Conservation Park 5CP-021 and VKFF-0871, Rob VK4AAC/5 (3/2/2016)
- Marne Valley Conservation Park 5CP-128 and VKFF-0906, Paul VK5PAS/p (31/1/2016)

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.wwffaustalia.com/>

Recent SOTA activations



Very little VK5 SOTA activity during February. Remember, we have 2 very accessible SOTA summits right on Adelaide's doorstep....Mount Lofty and Mount Gawler.

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

- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Nigel VK5NIG/p (13/2/2016)

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.....

- Marcus VK3TST

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.

The 3rd anniversary activation weekend for the VK5 Parks award is coming up early next year.

KRMNPA Activation Weekend 2016

By Paul VK5PAS



Amateur Radio Victoria
For a century doing what we do best: in support of the amateur radio community

The 2016 Activation Weekend for the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) will be held on....

**Friday 11th to Monday 14th
November 2016**

If you do intend to activate a park, don't forget to place an alert on parksnparks.

More information on the KRMNPA Award can be found at.....

<https://www.amateurradio.com.au/awards>

There is also a KRMNPA Yahoo group which can be found at.....

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

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 83 members.

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

- Dale VK5FSCK
- Tony VK3VTH
- David VK5KC
- David VK5LSB
- Peter VK5PM
- Marcus VK3TST/5

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

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

4th Friday night event

By Paul VK5PAS

The 4th Friday night event for the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award took place on Friday 12th January 2016. Four (4) activators headed out as follows to activate 4 parks across South Australia.....

- Minlacowie Conservation Park, Adrian VK5FANA/p (12/1/2016)
- Mylor Conservation Park, John VK5BJE/p (12/1/2016)
- Marcus VK3TST/5, Hallett Cove Conservation Park (12/1/2016)
- Charleston Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (12/1/2016)

More information on the activation by VK5BJE can be found at.....

<http://vk5bje.com/2016/02/13/mylor-conservation-park-vkff-0785-12th-february-2016/>

More information on the activation by VK5PAS can be found at.....

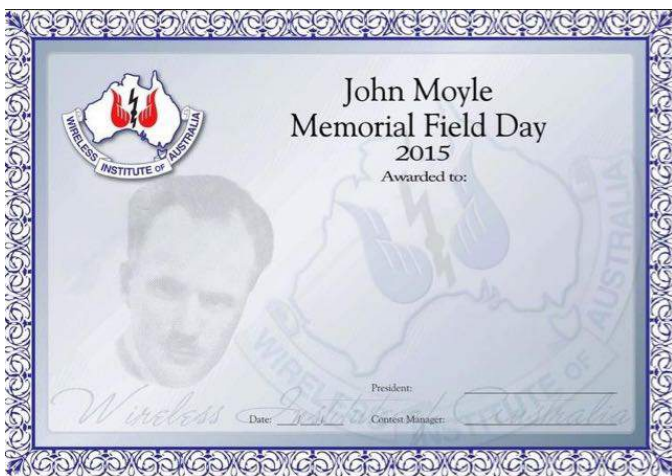
<http://vk5pas.org/2016/02/15/charleston-conservation-park-5cp-041-and-vkff-0777/>

JMMFD 2016

By Paul VK5PAS

The 2016 John Moyle Memorial Field Day (JMMFD) is rapidly approaching. It will be held from 0100 UTC on Saturday 19th March to 0059 UTC on Sunday 20th March.

This is a great chance to go portable and activate a park, and participate in the JMMFD which is a lot of fun.



I will be heading down to my normal operating spot at the Coorong National Park.

Anyone else proposing to go out and participate?

More information can be found at.....

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johmoyle/>

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS



Here is a list of VK5's who have recently qualified for SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, VK5 Parks, and KRMNPA awards.

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)

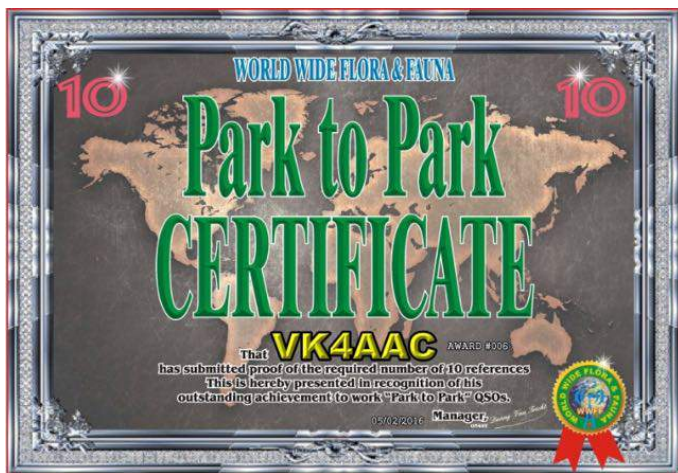
- **NIL known**

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

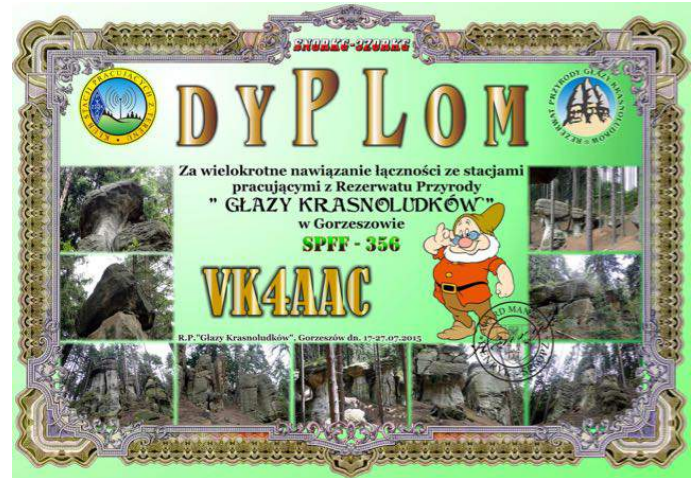
- **Rob VK4AAC**
 - Top 44 WWFF Activator



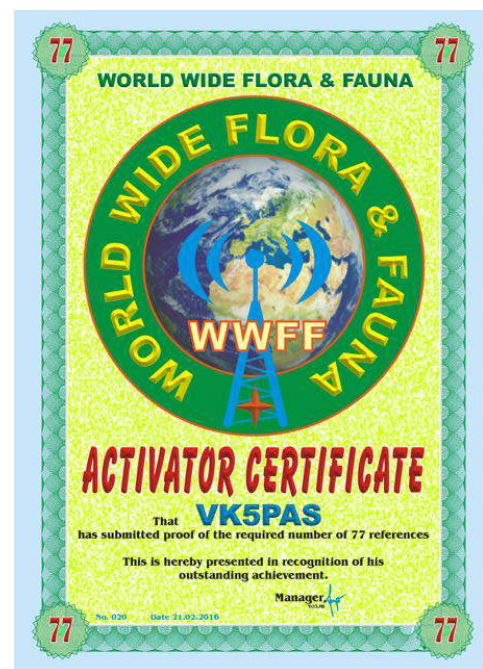
- **Rob VK4AAC**
 - Park to Park 10



- **Rob VK4AAC**
 - SPFF diploma



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - 77 references Activated



- **Greg VK5GJ**

- Bronze VKFF Activator
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 100



VK5 Parks Award

- **Rob VK4AAC/5**

- Platinum VKFF Activator

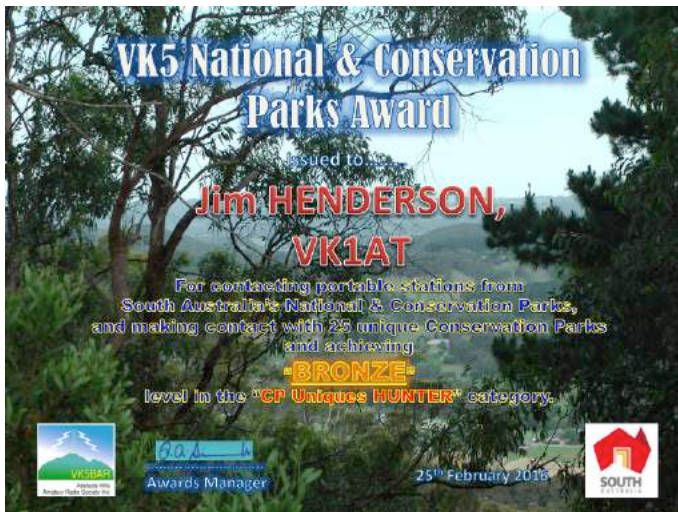


- **Jim VK1AT**

- Bronze VK5 Parks Hunter
- Silver VK5 Parks Hunter
- Gold VK5 Parks Hunter
- Platinum VK5 Parks Hunter
- Bronze National Parks Uniques Hunter
- Silver National Parks Uniques Hunter
- Bronze Conservation Parks Uniques Hunter
- Bronze Conservation Parks Uniques Hunter

- **Adrian VK5FANA**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 275



- **Adrian VK5FANA**
 - Platinum Park to Park

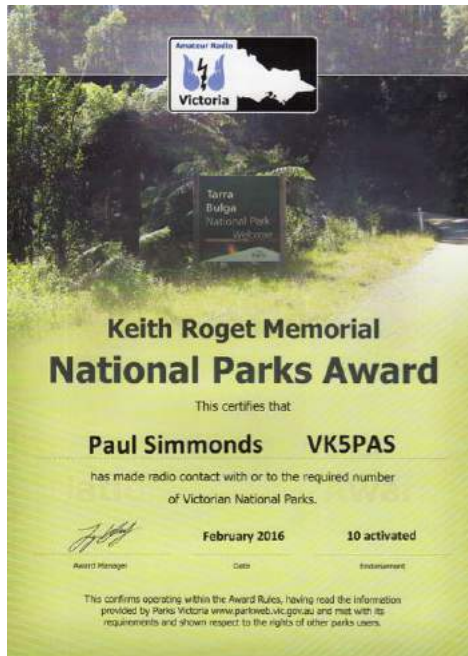
- **Keith VK2PKT**
 - Bronze VK5 Parks Hunter
 - Silver VK5 Parks Hunter
 - Bronze Conservation Parks Uniques Hunter



- **Amanda VK3FQSO**
 - Platinum National Parks Uniques Hunter

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - **Activated 11 VK3 Parks**



VKFF Team Championship 2016

By Paul VK5PAS

The VKFF Team Championship will be held on **Sunday 16th October 2016 between 0000 UTC and 0600 UTC.**

- Create a team of 2 or more amateurs (maximum of 4)
- Create a name for your team (please be sensible)

- Register your team with the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS (failing to register will make your activation void for the VKFF Team Championship).
- Activate from a qualifying VKFF park.
- Make as many contacts as possible within the 6 hour period (0000 UTC - 0600 UTC).
- Stay in the park for as long as you like.....6 hours, 3 hours, 1 hour. What ever you choose.
- Operate on as many bands (excluding the WARC bands) as desired (but remember VKFF rules, in that repeaters, IRLP, Echolink do not count for valid VKFF QSOs).
- Operate as many stations as you would like, e.g. one op on 40m, another on 10m, etc.
- Ensure you abide by all VKFF rules.
- There is no requirement for a contest exchange, e.g. 5/9 001.
- Suggested call: *CQ VKFF Team Championship*
- At the end of the VKFF Team Championship, submit your log to the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS.
- The log **MUST** be in ADIF format or by using the CSV file template.

A variety of prizes are on offer. Sponsors include.....

- **Pages of Cobram**
- **SOTABeams**



More information can be found on the WWFF Australia website at.....

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

New WWFF Chairman

By Paul VK5PAS



Here is some information from the former WWFF Chairman, Lars PHONO.....

As you all have noticed we have migrated to a new website developed by **Danny ON4VT**. We hope you like it (we do :). Danny has joined the WWFF team earlier this year to take care of more than just our web presence. Danny will look after our **public relations** – within the WWFF community and in the world outside of WWFF. We hope that with the help of Danny we can expand WWFF and increase activity especially in parts of the world where there is little today.

There is another change in the WWFF team: after almost 3 years I have decided to step down as chairman of WWFF, because of other commitments outside the hobby. We are lucky to have found a good successor in **Luk ON4BB**. Luk will take over as **WWFF chairman** as of now. I wish him luck and fun in his new position. He has a good team to work with.

Looking back I am proud of what all involved WWFF enthusiasts have accomplished since the rough start we had with this program at the end

VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 16th October 2016
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.wwffaustralia.com/>

of 2012. I am confident that – with the help of all these dedicated people – the program will continue to grow in size and importance in the ham radio community.

Enjoy the program – make nature your shack!

73, Lars / PHONO



Above:- Luk ON4BB

Ham introductions

By Paul VK5PAS



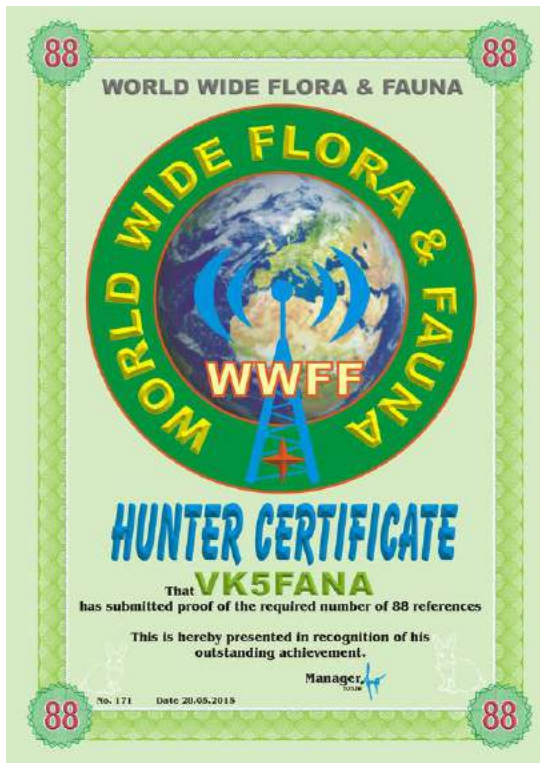
My name is Adrian and my call is VK5FANA. I live at Arthurton on the Yorke Peninsula about 135 km from Adelaide. It's across the Gulf St Vincent from Adelaide.

I've been a licenced amateur since 2010. Back in the mid 1980's I studied for my Novice licence. However at that time I changed jobs and this resulted in my study being put on hold. At this time I had a complete line up of Yaesu FT101 gear which I placed in boxes and sadly was subsequently stolen.

My interest in amateur radio developed from a mate from Port Adelaide who was a licenced radio amateur (now a silent key) and I also knew Nev VK5WG through off road racing. I was also involved with CB radio and involved with ACRAM.

My current main interests in the hobby are operating from parks and peaks and working those who are in parks or on peaks. I lost

interest in HF for some time and now due to the Parks and SOTA programs I am totally hooked. That's what keeps my interest in radio going.



I have regularly competed in the John Moyle Field Day and the QRP Hours Contest. My very first ever DX station worked was Jim WB2REM on 40m.

My other interests outside of amateur radio include competitive shooting, growing cymbidium orchids, fishing and aviculture.

I have a collection of radios including a Yaesu 8800, Yaesu FT950, Yaesu FT-450 and a Yaesu DX5 handheld, a Kenwood TM271, and an Icom IC2900.

My antennas at home are an 80m dipole, Rippletech 40/20/10 OCF dipole and antennas for 2m and 70cm.

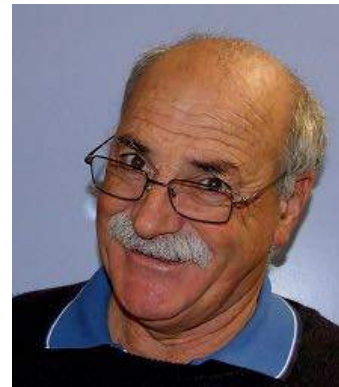
Out in the field I use a SOTA Beams linked dipole and my Yaesu FT-450.

Best 73,

Adrian.

Using other bands

By Geoff VK5HEL



Reading the February edition of Out & About there was mention of the additional use of other less used bands.

I don't think activators of Peaks and Parks need reminding they should try to use the common bands, e.g. 80, 40, 15, & 10 to help maintain maximum participation propagation willing, especially when considering the growing list of F calls .

A recent P&P contact with VK1AD SOTA VK1AC039 Andrew in the ACT on 10mtrs (28.480) resulted in a second contact with the same operator on 6mtrs. (52.200) a few minutes later proving the use of any band is possible.

Often being restricted to the shack while others are out enjoying the great outdoors I make it a point to spot all contacts and often stick around on the band to check the results.

Often I hear comments from activators reporting they are out of internet "range" and cant self list, I noted in many of the P&P locations the activators often have access to one or more of the repeaters which I think could be utilized to make some sort of a general call if only to check for other P&P activators in the area or just to check the operations of their equipment, this would be an acceptable practice, and thus alert the millions of listeners we know exist on the repeaters of their location. (the contact wouldn't count as an activation, unless it was via simplex ?? and is that another available band???)

Upon hearing any P&P activator I usually check to see if they are listed as active on the P&P website and always more than happy to pop them on.

73 Geoff VK5HEL.

Beaches on the Air (BOTA)

By Paul VK5PAS



Beaches On The Air

Amateur radio from the beach

I am currently compiling a list of South Australian beaches which I plan to submit to Diego EC1CW, the BOTA co-ordinator. Hopefully these will be approved and some of us VK5's can combine some park activations with some BOTA activations.

If you would like to get BOTA up and going in your area, please contact Diego EC1CW.

Beaches on the Air (BOTA) is an award scheme for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation from beaches. There are awards for activators (those who operate from the beaches) and chasers (those who contact activators from home or elsewhere).

BOTA can be operated from any country or region across the world. Each country or region has its own manager, who prepares the list of recognised beaches within that country or region, which is approved by the central BOTA management team.



Above:- Coogee Beach NSW. Image courtesy of Wikipedia.

Activators and chasers accumulate points with each QSO. Their total score is calculated by adding the square root of the number of QSOs made from each different beach (activators) or with each different beach (chasers).

Activators can activate, and chasers can chase, the same beach as many times as they wish and they will always earn additional points, but there will be decreasing returns to activating the same beach due to the square-root rule, which encourages the exploration of new beaches. Certificates are available for various scores, both for activators and chasers.

For more information please have a look at.....

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



The 5th Friday afternoon/evening events for the VK5 Parks Award took place on Friday 26th February 2016. Six (6) activators headed out and activated a total of 5 parks across South Australia.

The following took part.....

- Stef VK5HSX/p, Deep Creek Conservation Park
- Marcus VK3TST/5, Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park
- Paul VK5PAS/p, Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park.
- Rob VK4AAC/5, Danggali Conservation Park
- John VK5BJE/p, Mylor Conservation Park
- Les VK5KLV/p, Winninowie Conservation Park

Les VK5KLV ended up with 29 contacts including 7 park to park contacts.

Marcus VK3TST teamed up with Paul VK5PAS to activate the Kaiser Stuhl CP. Marcus used his home brew 2 watt DSB transceiver, and made a number of contacts. The longest contact was a distance of 1,555 km and 2 at around the 1,000 km mark.

For more information on John VK5BJE's activation, please see his Wordpress site at.....

<http://vk5bje.com/2016/02/27/mylor-conservation-park-vkff-0785-26th-february-2016/>

SOTABeams newsletter

By Paul VK5PAS



If you would like to keep up to date with the latest news from SOTABeams and all things SOTA, you can subscribe to the SOTA Beams newsletter.

More information can be found on the SOTABeams website at.....

<http://www.sotabeams.co.uk/>

New IOTA Facebook Site launched

By Paul VK5PAS



Craig VK5CE has kicked off a new Facebook site for Islands on the Air (IOTA). It can be found at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/VKIOTA>

WWFF Forum

By Paul VK5PAS



For the latest news and information on the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF_ program, check out the WWFF Forum at.....

<http://forum.wwff.co/>

You can also post your intended park activations on the Forum which is viewed by a wide audience in Europe.

Results of VKFF Activator Poll

By Paul VK5PAS

I have released the results of last years Activator Poll....

"Why don't you participate as an activator in the World Wide Flora Fauna program?"

A total of 27 VK hams took the time to respond to the poll. Many thanks to all.

The results were.....

- I do not have a suitable transceiver **(1 vote)**
- I do not have a suitable antenna **(1 vote)**
- I don't have a suitable portable power source **(0 votes)**
- I don't have the confidence in setting up a portable station **(0 votes)**
- I don't have the time available to go portable **(8 votes)**
- The WWFF program does not interest me at all **(1 vote)**
- I am happy just being a Hunter **(3 votes)**
- The 10 QSOs required for VKFF is too high **(0 votes)**

- The 44 QSOs required for WWFF is too high **(1 vote)**

Mike VK6MB also added the following.....

- I do get out there **(12 votes)**

I have placed some more info on my Wordpress site which can be found at.....

<http://vk5pas.org/2016/02/11/results-of-wwff-poll/>

It seems that time management is a big issue.

Best 73 and '44',

Paul,
VK5PAS.

Mylor Conservation Park, VKFF-0785, 26th February 2016.

By John VK5BJE



On Friday morning we, myself and xyl, Jenny, decided to go for a walk in the **Mylor Conservation Park**, VKFF-0785

and 5CP-156. **Mylor Conservation Park** is 49 hectares and preserves remnant bushland in the Adelaide Hills. The walk through the Park is not strenuous and the bush is magnificent. The Park is near Mylor and is just over seven kilometres from my house. I previously activated this Park for the WWFF program two Friday afternoons previously, that is on the 12th February. On that occasion I brought the activation to an end as a result of being bitten by ants. I was aiming for 44 contacts. I did not reach that goal.



Above:- The wooden building. Image courtesy of VK5BJE

There were also open areas nearby, which, if not for the high tension lines on Whitehead Road, would provide great activation spots. The Park is on the left hand side of the picture opposite Gate 2.



Above:- Private road to Thai Monastery. Image courtesy of VK5BJE



Moss glistening in the sun: Mylor Conservation Park

Above:- Moss glistening in the sun: Mylor Conservation Park. Image courtesy of VK5BJE.

So we thought we would explore the Park thoroughly and we did. I was hoping to find an activation spot away from power lines, nearby houses and on gravel or some other hard surface to minimise the risk of ants. We entered the Park at the main gate and followed the sealed track to the end of the Park. Here we saw a wooden building which can be hired for camping.

I explored another side track which took me to Gate 5 and we returned to the car park on the track which is also part of the famous Heysen Trail. The picture below shows that the unnumbered Gate was on the Hooper Road boundary. I did consider this previously (12th February) as an activation spot but thought the bundled power lines overhead would cause too much noise.

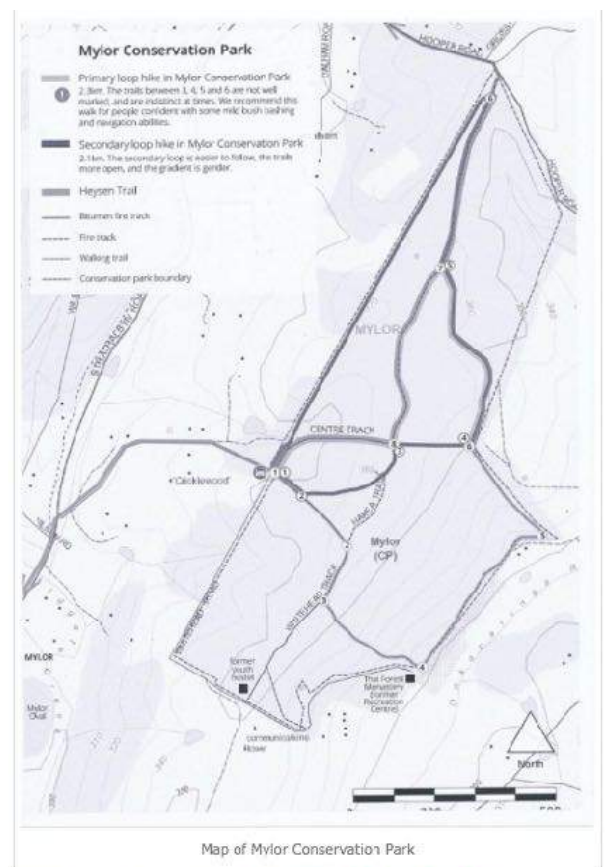


Above:- Entry point for Heysen Trail. Image courtesy of John VK5BJE



Above:- Heysen Trail marker. Image courtesy of VK5BJE

We also took coordinates where we found a very small patch of couch grass on the track in a low spot which was still damp. These coordinates will be sent to the **Friends of Mylor Conservation Park**. About half way along the sealed track (an old road) there is a cross road: this is roughly in the centre of the Park and there are posts in place for mounting squid poles. This would make a great QRP location away from the noise, reasonable elevation, probably 330 metres above sea level, but the only access is by hiking. You would have to be prepared to take a ground sheet and sit on the ground. This is not much fun for a Park activation!



The map was taken from <http://www.walking.sa.org.au>

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 contacts) that I am aware of.

Paul VK5PAS.

Some good 20m band openings to Europe.

- SP9YFF/p, WWFF SPFF-616 (29/2/2016)
- IZ5GST/p, WWFF IFF-0814 (29/2/2016)
- YU1CA/p, WWFF YUFF-109 (25/2/2016)
- OT6V/p, WWFF ONFF-328 (25/2/2016)
- MoDAD, pedestrian mobile (25/2/2016)
- IZ1NJA/p, Italian Castles Award (20/2/2016)
- OE5AUL/p, SOTA OE/ OO-330 (20/2/2016)
- IZ5GST/p, WWFF IFF-842 (16/2/2016)
- 5B4AIF/p, WWFF 5BFF-002 (16/2/2016)
- G4AKC pedestrian mobile (15/2/2016)
- SA2CLU/p, WWFF SMFF-1416 (14/2/2016)
- ON2LVC/p, WWFF ONFF-0234 (14/2/2016)
- Gerard JR2YFM/p (VK2IO), SOTA JA/SO-120 (14/2/2015).
- ZL/MoHCU/p, SOTA ZL/ NL-079 (9/2/2016)
- ZL2AJ/p, SOTA ZL1/WK-036 (8/2/2016)
- DL/HB9FPM/p, SOTA DM/ BW-092 (7/2/2016)
- DL/ OE9HRV/p, SOTA DL/ AL-145 (7/2/2016)

Aeronautical mobile.

By Paul VK5PAS



On Thurs 25/2/2016, with Rob VK4FFAB and Marshall VK3MRG, I spoke with Tim VK5ML who was aeronautical mobile, flying a cargo plane on the way to Sydney.

For more information on the contact, including some video please check out.....

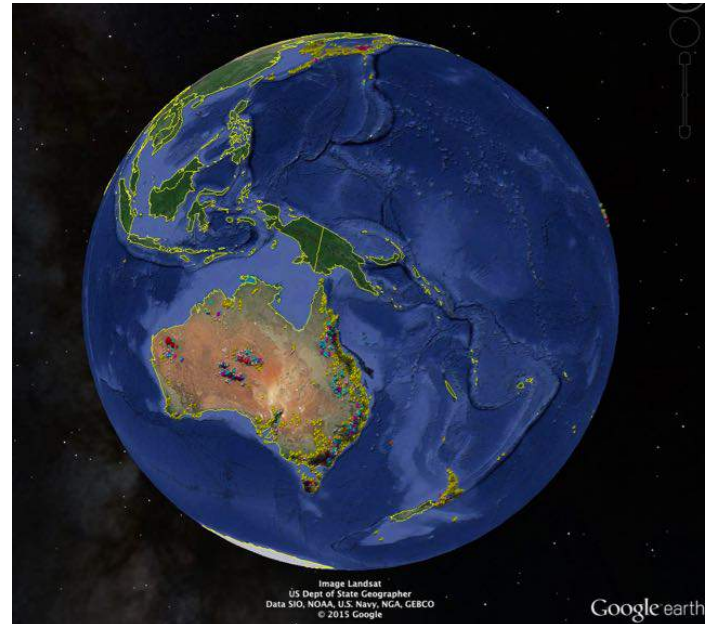
<http://vk5pas.org/2016/03/01/aeronautical-mobile-contact/>

Full list of summits around the world

By Paul VK5PAS

Should you like to download a KML file of all SOTA summits from all across the world, you can do so, by heading to the following.....

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Summits/files/Maps/summits.kmz>



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.

RaDAR from Suzy’s Point of View.

<http://www.n4kgl.info/2016/02/radar-from-suzys-point-of-view.html>

MoDAD, Dave, pedestrian mobile

https://youtu.be/Zd_PxwaHONo

Tim VK5ML aeronautical mobile.

<https://youtu.be/RiRcpNpz93s>



During March 2016, take a photograph during one of your VKFF park activations, and forward this to the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS.

All photos submitted will be placed on the WWFF Australia website.

At the end of March 2016, a Poll will be created on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group, where you will be able to vote for the winning photograph.

The winner will receive a framed certificate and a \$50.00 voucher from Jaycar.

Many thanks to Jaycar for sponsoring this competition.

A poster for the VKFF Annual Photographic Competition. At the top, it features three logos: a small circular photo of a person, the Jaycar Electronics logo, and the WWFF Australia logo. Below these is the title "VKFF ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION" in large, bold, blue letters with a yellow outline. A yellow banner below the title reads "To be held this year during March 2016." The poster then contains several sections of text: "How do I take part?.....During March 2016, take a photograph during one of your VKFF park activations, and forward this to the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS at...." followed by the email "vk5pas@wia.org.au"; "How is the winner judged?.....Each photograph that is submitted will be placed on the WWFF Australia website and in the Files section of the WWFF Australia Yahoo site. A poll will be held on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group at the end of the March 2016, and this will be open to all WWFF participants to cast their vote for the winning photograph."; "Prizes.....The winning amateur will be awarded with a framed certificate and also a \$50.00 voucher from Jaycar (many thanks to Jaycar for their sponsorship)."; and "More information?.....More information can be found on the WWFF Australia website at...." followed by the URL "http://www.wwffaustralia.com/". The entire poster is enclosed in a dashed black border.