



1

A little bit about me

- Paul VK5PAS
- Licenced in June 2010 (VK5FPAS)
- Upgraded 12 months later (to VK5PAS)
- Since 2013 - about 500 park activations & about 150 SOTA activations
- Activated in VK1, VK2, VK3, VK5, VK6, VK9, Belgium & Germany
- VKFF National Co-Ordinator since 2013
- VK5 Parks Award Manager since 2013
- Nov 2017 – served as the WWFF Chairman for about 12 months




2

What parks programs exist in Australia?

- ◆ World Wide Flora & Fauna program (WWFF) 
- ◆ VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award (SANPCPA) 
- ◆ Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) 

3

About WWFF

- Commenced in November 2012
- *draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora & fauna and to encourage the development of radio skills, especially in portable operations*
- Operate from designated nature parks/protected nature areas – about 24,000 worldwide
- Global award program
- National programs
 - 56 participating countries
 - Australia (VKFF)
 - Various National Awards offered.






4

About WWFF

- Open to.....
 - Activators
 - Hunters
 - Short Wave Listeners



About WWFF in Australia

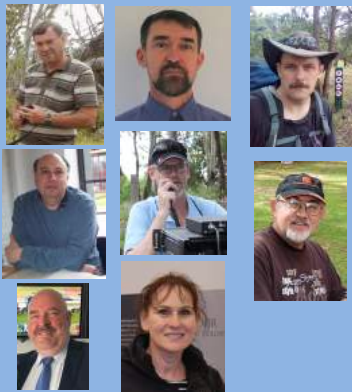
- The Australian 'chapter' of WWFF commenced in March 2013 (VKFF).
- Paul VK5PAS became the VKFF National Co-Ordinator.
- October 2017, the VKFF program became so popular that State/Territory representative positions were created.

5

6

VKFF Team

- Ian VK1DI
- Gerard VK2IO
- Peter VK3ZPF
- Mark VK4SMA
- Paul VK5PAS
- Hans VK6XN
- Jonathan VK7JON
- Marija VK5MAZ (Treasurer)



About WWFF

- WWFF Directory – reference source for qualifying parks
- Each park issued with a unique identifying reference number
 - ITU allocated prefix, FF for Flora & Fauna, and a unique identifying number, eg. VKFF-0010
- In Australia – over 3,100 qualifying parks
- Program has expanded rapidly in popularity in VK



7

8

What does '44' mean?

- During a WWFF QSO you may hear reference to '44'.
- The first digit '4' represents the four elements: earth, water, air, and fire.
- The second digit '4' represents the four directions: north, south, east, and west.



9

WWFF Log Search



- WWFF on-line database
- Commenced 16 Feb 2013
- Activator logs uploaded by National Co-Ordinators
- 14,321,902 QSOs in the database
- from 26,317 different references
- in 142 DXCCs different references

Figures accurate as of 18th January 2020

10

Hand in hand with other programs & activities

- VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award
- Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award
- Summits on the Air (SOTA)
- Beaches on the Air (BOTA)
- Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW)
- John Moyle Field Day
- VHF/UHF Field Days



11

Why get involved?

- Fun
- Noise floor
 - Plasma TV, solar inverters
- Experimentation
 - Antennas, home brew tx
- Pile ups and DX
- Great way to see our beautiful country



12

Why get involved?

Combine other interests

- Bushwalking
- birdwatching
- Photography
- 4WDing
- Caravanning
- your partner
- Family picnic



13

Promote our hobby

- Talk to onlookers
- Explain what you are doing
- Sell the hobby of AR
- Ask if they would like to say 'hi' on air
- Talk with National Parks staff
- Carry promotional material with you



14

Recommended frequencies

PHONE

- 3.610
- 7.144
- 14.244 or 14.310
- 21.244
- 28.444

CW

- 3.544
- 7024
- 14.044
- 21.044
- 28.044



15

What equipment do I need?

1. Transceiver
2. Antenna
3. Power supply
4. Other sundry gear e.g. squid pole, suitable clothing, maps, compass, GPS, etc



16

Transceivers

- Yaesu FT-857d
- Yaesu FT-817-nd
- Yaesu FT-897
- Elecraft KX3
- Wouxon X1M
- Bitx40



17

Antennas

- HF
 - Linked dipole
 - vertical
- VHF/UHF



18

Power source

- Sealed Lead Acid (SLAB)
- Lithium Polymer (LiPo)
- Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO)



19

Sundry equipment

- Squid poles
- Octopus straps
- Watch
- Pens/pencils
- Camera/video
- First aid kit
- Sunscreen
- Mozzie repellent
- Sit mat/cushion
- Bothy bag
- Whistle
- GPS/compass
- Maps
- Water/food
- Appropriate clothing
- Spare clothing (in the car)



20

Operating skills/practice - Hunters

- Do not queue jump
- Do not call CQ on a frequency until you know the frequency is not in use
- Don't have an extended QSO with the activator – keep the contact short
- Always remember the DX Code of Conduct



25

VKFF Activation Weekend

- Held every November
- 2015 Inaugural event
- Next event – Sat 27th & Sun 28th Nov 2021
- 2020
 - About 42 activators
 - About 62 different parks
 - about 2,000 QSOs
 - Over 710 Park to Park contacts



26

VKFF Team Championship

- Held each year in October
- Fun team event
- This year's event – 24th October 2021



27

Useful links

www.wvffaustralia.com

www.wvff.org

<https://groups.io/g/wvffaustralia>

WVFF Australia Facebook page

www.parktopeak.com

<http://wvff.org/au-cluster/>

<https://vk1ops.org/>

<https://www.vk1ops.com/>

Various Facebook sites - Global WVFF, VKFF/SOTA, Field Radio

Various blogs – active portable amateurs

28

Beware of the portable bug!



29

Questions ???



30