

## **2018 Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation period report**

The 8th KRMNPA activation period was held across 4 days. Friday November 9 to Monday November 12 2018.

The aim of the activation period was to stimulate Portable Amateur Radio "activity" in as many of the 45 VK3 National Parks as possible, to assist both Hunters and Activators to gain "credits" in order to progress their points tally towards achieving their Award program goals..... And, of course, to also have fun in the Great Outdoors.

In 2018 a total of 21 VK3 National Parks were activated across the 4 day period by 15 Operators. This data is extrapolated from Pre Registrations, Parks and Peaks "Spots" and contacts with other activators. The number of Parks activated was a decrease from last years 39 Parks, as indeed was the number of park activators, dropping by 6 Ops this year.

As a brief comparison: 2011: 11 Parks / 2012: 15 Parks / 2013: 26 Parks / 2014: 34 Parks / 2015: 28 Parks / 2016: 41 Parks/ 2017: 39 Parks / 2018: 21 Parks

Again in 2018, the weekend attracted several much welcomed and appreciated Portable Activators from VK2 (John VK2AWJ) and VK5 (Marija VK5FMAZ & Paul VK5PAS). A **BIG** thank you to you all! Your efforts contributed to the activation of many VK3 National Parks which would otherwise not have been available to Hunters.

The Interstate visitor breakdown was as follows:

**VK2AWJ/ 3, John**, has been a regular Activator participant since 2011, and we all look forward to chatting with John as he travels in his trusty Campervan, visiting VK3 National Parks. In 2018 John was attempting to complete the activation of all 45 Parks for the Merit Award. John activated Churchill / Dandenong Ranges / Great Otway / Mornington Peninsula / Port Campbell / Point Nepean and finished with Organ Pipes NP before heading home.

**Paul, VK5PAS/3 and Marija VK5FMAZ/3** again made the journey from the Adelaide Hills, to participate in the weekend. Paul and Marija activated 2 National Parks (Murray-Sunset & Wyperfeld) and several VKFF parks in the same region, combining both programs with a hugely successful outcome. Great effort Guys! Thanks Paul and Marija.

The remaining Parks were activated by an equally keen group of VK3 Amateurs:

**Peter VK3TKK/P** was out and about across the weekend with activations in the Yarra Valley NP / Churchill NP / Dandenong Ranges NP and Point Nepean NP. Peter also added several VKFF parks during his travels. Thanks Peter!

Regular Park activator and hunter **Brett, VK3FLCS/P** was out and about activating the Lower Goulburn NP this year. Great to see another Foundation call active in the Parks programs.

**Norm, VK3XCI** was once again out and about. This year spending his weekend in the Hattah-Kulkyne NP. This Park is one of the rarer ones and many Chasers were hunting VK3XCI. Thanks Norm for your efforts!

First time Portable activator in the Parks and SOTA programs was **Alan VK3ALN**. **Alan** was active on Saturday with a good signal from Mornington Peninsula NP, following a first time SOTA activation from Arthurs Seat. On Sunday Alan added his second VK3 Park, the Point Nepean National Park. Welcome aboard Alan!

3 SOTA activators could be heard and worked across the weekend..... **Tony VK3CAT**, **Allen VK3ARH** and David **VK3IL**. They were activating remote peaks in the Alpine NP. So if you worked any of these hardy folk, it's highly likely you also logged the **Alpine NP**.

**Peter VK3PF/P** activated 2 Parks to assist many Hunters gain points. The Tarra-Bulga NP and Morwell National Parks were Peter's choice this year. Many Thanks Peter!

From the Grampians National Park regular portable activator **Nikolas VK3NLK** could be worked from his location on one of the popular tourist peaks. Nikolas was putting out a solid signal for those searching for the Grampians National Park. Thanks for participating in the KRMNPA activation event Nikolas.

**Peter VK3ZPF/P** travelled to the Mornington Peninsula to give out a few early morning contacts on the day of his son's wedding. That's dedication to the cause! Thanks Peter!

And finally me..... **Tony VK3XV** managed to leisurely activate 5 Parks this year across the 4 days being the Brisbane Ranges NP (VK3WI) / Greater Bendigo NP / Terrick Terrick NP / Gunbower NP and Heathcote-Graytown NP.

**Amateur Radio Victoria (ARV)** will again be providing a 2018 Participants Certificate to all Activators. These will be designed in the next few weeks and posted free of charge.

In closing, I again note that many 2018 Activators have already reached **Merit Award** and in some cases the **Grand Slam Award** level but continue to support the Activation weekend by getting out and about in the VK3 National Parks. This dedication in assisting others to gain points and also get new Ops on the Air is duly noted and **most** appreciated! Thanks Guys!

And also special thanks to Allen VK3ARH (Parks N Peaks and AR publicity) Peter VK3PF (AR Publicity and supporter), Paul VK5PAS (Parks supporter/ VKFF Award Manager, Ross VK3CE (ARV Publicity) and the Amateur Radio Victoria Council..... Without your interest and support of Portable activities, the Bands would certainly be a very different scenario from what we have now. Thanks to all!

The **2019 KRMNPA** activation weekend will take place **Friday November 8 - Monday November 11**. See you again in 2019.

73 Tony VK3XV