



# "OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 14, December 2015

## Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 14, December 2015, of 'Out and About in VK5'.

This little newsletter is dedicated to all things SOTA, parks, portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc from a VK5 perspective.

The month of November was a very busy month for me out in the field. I had holidays, and with my wife Marija, we headed off down the Great Ocean Road for 2 weeks. I managed to squeeze in a number of SOTA and park activations during our holiday, without pushing my luck too much. This included two Victorian National Parks as part of the annual activation weekend for the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA). You can read a report of our activities in this issue of *Out and About*.

November also saw the inaugural VKFF Activation Weekend, which received enormous support from amateurs all across Australia. Initial review of logs and stats show that around 53 activators took part, and that there were around 100 park activations all across Australia (excluding Tasmania). Sadly we did not have any VK7 activators, although many VK7 park hunters showed up in logs. This weekend will become an annual event in November following on from the KRMNPA Activation weekend.

We are now into the hot weather, and I remind everyone of the dangers of going out into the bush on days of extreme weather. I would strongly discourage this. Also be cognisant of snakes. They are on the move. There are 2 articles on these subjects in this issue.

Propagation continues to throw its challenges at SOTA and Parks activators and chasers/hunters. There has been lots of QSB on 40m, with close in propagation virtually non-existent at times. Long path into Europe continues to be quite poor on 20m. Although, there have been some very nice openings on both 10m and 15m. Why not give those bands a shot during your next SOTA or parks activation? Not only do they open up some great DX opportunities, they also offer a chance for some of the further afield Foundation operators.

I am still very keen to receive information from contributors. 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](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)



I would like to say thankyou to everyone who has contributed to ‘Out and About’ since its inception. Without your contributions, the newsletter would not be possible.

I would also like to take the opportunity of wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year 2016.

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.

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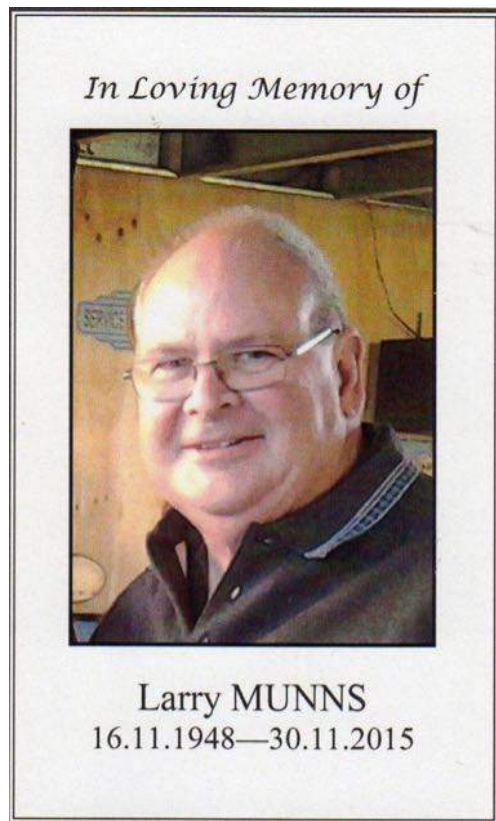
## Larry VK5LY, Silent Key

By Paul VK5PAS

During late November I was given the very sad news that Larry VK5LY had become a SILENT KEY.

Larry passed away peacefully on 30<sup>th</sup> November at Renmark after bravely battling illness since earlier this year.

Many people would be well aware, that Larry was a very keen park activator and park hunter. He was one of the very first amateurs to be out in a park when the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award commenced a number of years ago.



Larry also provided me with invaluable guidance and advice when I kicked off both the VK5 Parks award and the VKFF program.

He proudly displayed his collection of VK5 Parks Award & VKFF certificates in his shack.

I was fortunate enough to spend some good time with Larry a few weeks before he passed away. Along with my wife Marija, Ivan's best mate Ivan VK5HS, and Ivan's wife Di, we spent the afternoon with Larry in his hospital room. We had a few laughs, shared a few war stories, and watched the cricket on TV.



Larry's funeral service was held on Dec 8 at Renmark and was attended by a large group of his family and friends from all across Australia. This included a number of amateurs including members of the Riverland Radio Club; myself & Marija; Col VK5HCF, Tom VK5EE, and Greg VK5ZGY & Gabbi who all had driven up from Mount Gambier; and Andy VK5AKH & Matt VK5ZM from AREG.

Larry's great mate, Ivan VK5HS gave a very moving eulogy in Larry's honour. Not a dry eye in the chapel. I have attached Ivan's speech which mentioned Larry's love for operating from National Parks and Conservation Parks.



On a personal level I will miss Larry immensely. I had shared a number of good laughs and more than a few beers with him over the years. His friendly call of “VK5 Lima Yankee” will be sorely missed during my park activations.

Condolences to Larry’s wife, Di, and family, and Larry’s friends.

RIP mate. You will be sorely missed.

LARRY ARRIVED ON MY DOOR STEP ABOUT 11 YEARS AGO, HE HAD TRAVELLED FROM QUEENSLAND, LOOKING TO PURCHASE A HOUSE IN RENMARK. ON HIS WAY HERE HE DAMAGED AN ANTENNA ON HIS VEHICLE COURTESY OF A KANGAROO.

IAN WOLTER BROUGHT LARRY TO MY WORKSHOP HOPING I WOULD BE ABLE TO REPAIR HIS BROKEN ANTENNA, IT WAS THEN WE DISCOVERED LARRY AND I ENJOYED THE SAME HOBBY, OF BEING AMATUER RADIO OPERATORS.

WHEN LARRY AND DIANE ARRIVED HERE WE FORMED A FREINDSHIP, AND MANY HOURS WERE SPENT ENJOYING OUR HOBBY OF HAM RADIO.

LARRY ASSISTED ME IN PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS ON SEVERAL VARIETY CLUB BASHES, RAISING MONEY FOR DISADVANTAGED AND HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. WE TRAVELLED TO REMOTE OUTBACK LOCATIONS TO SETUP RADIO BASES FOR THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN, VICTORIAN AND NEW SOUTH WALES EVENTS. THE LAST EVENT LARRY TRAVELLED WITH ME WAS TO MOUNT HOPE IN NEW SOUTH WALES FOR THE 2014 NATIONAL BASH.

LARRY ALSO ENJOYED TRAVELING IN THE OUTBACK GOING TO NATIONAL PARKS WHERE HE WOULD SETUP A RADIO STATION AND TALK TO OTHER RADIO OPERATORS. HE PURCHASED A CAMPER TRAILER TO MAKE HIS TIME IN THE SCRUB A LITTLE MORE COMFORTABLE.

MY WORK TAKES ME ALL OVER THE STATE, OFTEN INTO REMOTE AREAS. I WOULD ASK LARRY IF HE WOULD LIKE TO COME FOR A TRIP, OUT IN THE SCRUB. WHEN DO WE LEAVE WOULD BE HIS REPLY.

AS WE PASSED NATIONAL PARKS LARRY WOULD SAY LETS STOP AND SETUP A RADIO STATION. WHERE WE WOULD CHAT TO OTHER RADIO OPERATORS. THE RADIO TRANSMISSIONS FROM THESE REMOTE PARKS WERE ALWAYS KEENLY SORT AFTER BY OTHER HAM OPERATORS, SPREAD ALL AROUND AUSTRALIA. LARRY JUDGED THE SUCESS OF THESE TRIPS NOT BY THE NUMBER OF RADIO CONTACTS, BUT BY THE QUALITY OF THE CUSTARD SLICES FROM THE OUTBACK BAKERIES. I WAS NEVER ALLOWED TO DRIVE PASS A BAKERY, AS LARRY WAS ALWAYS ON THE LOOK OUT FOR THE PERFECT CUSTARD SLICE.

AS LARRY BECAME UNWELL HIS TRIPS OUT IN THE SCRUB BECAME LESS FREQUENT, AND OFTEN ONLY DAY TRIPS. LARRY BEGAN RECEIVING TREATMENT AND WHEN HE BEGAN REABILITATION AT HAMPSTEAD REHAB CENTRE SEVERAL RADIO AMATUERS SETUP A RADIO STATION IN THE GARDENS AT HAMPSTEAD, WHERE HE COULD STILL ENJOY HIS HOBBY. THE SEVERAL TIMES THE RADIO STATIONS WERE SETUP THERE HELPED HIM PASS THE TIME OF DAY BETWEEN REHAB SESSIONS.

LARRY ARRIVED HOME AFTER HIS REHAB IN A WHEEL CHAIR. SEVERAL AMATUERS ASSISTED LARRY TO REORGANISE HIS RADIO ROOM, TO BE ABLE TO ACCESS HIS RADIOS FROM HIS CHAIR. WE OFTEN PICKED LARRY UP AND TOOK HIM FOR A DRIVE TO VARIOUS NATIONAL PARKS, WHERE HE CARRIED ON HIS PASSION OF RADIO OPERATING.

LARRY WAS ADMITTED BACK INTO HOSPITAL WHERE WE GAINED PERMISSION TO SET UP A RADIO STATION. BUT UNFORTUNATELY THAT NEVER EVENTUATED ,HE WAS NOT WELL ENOUGH TO OPERATE THE RADIOS.

LARRY WILL BE SADLY MISSED BY HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE AMATUER RADIO WORLD. THANK YOU.

## Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation weekend

By Tony VK3VTH



Hello All,

This is the wrap up report on last weekend’s Keith Roget Memorial National Park Award 2015. (Formerly the VK3 National Parks Award).

The activation period was held across 4 days. Friday November 13 to Monday November 16. 2015 was the 5th annual activation weekend.

The aim of the activation period was to stimulate Portable Amateur Radio “ activity” in as many 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 2015 a total of 28 VK3 National Parks were activated across the 4 day period by 18 Operators.

As a brief comparison: 2011: 11 Parks / 2012: 15 Parks / 2013: 26 Parks / 2014: 34 Parks / 2015: 28 Parks.

Again in 2015 the weekend attracted many, much welcomed and appreciated Portable Activators from VK2 and VK5. A BIG thank you to you all! Your efforts contributed to the activation of 11 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 participant since inception and many look forward to chatting with John as he travels in his trusty, Campervan visiting VK3 National Parks. I believe this year John and Peter VK3TKK met for an Eyeball after both activated Heathcote – Graytown NP. John activated 4 Parks. Heathcote –Graytown, King Lake, Lake Eildon, Yarra Ranges. Great effort John!

VK5AV/3, Tim travelled from Mt. Gambier and activated two Parks: Lower Glenelg and Cobboboonee. Tim has been a strong supporter of the program for many years and recently achieved the Hunter Merit Award. Thanks Tim!

VK5PAS/3 Paul again made the journey from Adelaide visiting the Great Ocean Road area, with XYL Marija, activating not only Two

National Parks but also a host of VKFF Parks and 10 SOTA Peaks. Not sure if Paul fitted in an Aeronautical Mobile during the Ocean Road Helicopter trip? Paul activated Port Campbell and Great Otway. Well done Paul!

VK5FLEX/3, Peter travelled across the border and was a surprise activation from Murray-Sunset National Park. Many Thanks Peter!

Lesley VK5LOL/3 and Hans VK5YX/3 travelled with their Caravan to enjoy a weekend in Wyperfeld National Park. Suffering a broken squid pole early in the trip did not slow down Lesley and Hans. Many Contacts were provided across the entire weekend. Thanks to Hans and Lesley for a great effort.

Tom VK5EE and Col VK5HCF travelled from Mt. Gambier to provide the Mt. Richmond National Park for Hunters. Col reckons he did most of work while Tom was off chasing Koalas..... At least that's the allegation! Thanks Guys!

The remaining 16 Parks were activated by an equally keen group of VK3 Amateurs: Johnno VK3FMPB/P reported heading to the Barmah National Park to add that one to his list. Johnno is working towards finishing 45 Parks/ Mixed worked and activated. Thanks Johnno!

Warren VK3BYD/P travelled in his 4WD for a weekend of camping and SOTA activations in the Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park East of Albury. Warren used CW for his many contacts. Thanks Warren for your continued support.

Tim VK3MTB/P activated the Morwell National Park in between some farming activities. Thanks to you also Tim for your efforts.

Terry (VK3UP) set up again using the Amateur Radio Victoria Call sign VK3WI/P in the Brisbane Ranges National Park. As well as providing a Park contact Terry assisted callers with Award information and details on where some Operators could be found. Terry reports very hard going on the Saturday due to the Band conditions but still logged many Hunters none the less. Thanks Terry!

Peter VK3TKK/P was out and about on the Friday with an activation in the morning from Greater Bendigo NP and later the Heathcote-Graytown NP. Peter also added a few VKFF activations during his travels. Thanks Peter for your support and providing a few VKFF new ones at the same time!

Mick VK3PMG/P , travelled from home town Stawell to the Grampians on Sunday and to the Little Desert National Park on Saturday. Thanks to Mick for activating these Parks. More on Mick later.

Norm , VK3XCI/P travelled from Mildura and did his first activation ever and clocked up over 40 contacts from Hattah-Kulkyne National Park. Thanks Norm. I know you enjoyed the experience and I hope we can entice you into the Parks in the future. A very well done.

VK3FQSO/P Amanda was planning on completing a SOTA / Park activation from Kara- Kara National Park. Sadly the Bands conditions did not work for Amanda on the Saturday. Amanda reports she will be heading out again across the VKFF activation weekend

to have another go. Thanks Amanda for being there!

Rex, VK3OF/P was worked from Terrick Terrick National Park by many and Rex enjoyed his time at “the rock” from what I heard on the air. Thanks Rex for making the trip. Most appreciated.

Joe VK3YSP/P and Julie VK3FOWL/P travelled again to French Island. As usual, the dynamic duo, were kept busy before heading home mid-afternoon on Sunday. Both Joe and Julie are Grand Slam recipients and have supported the KRMNPA program for many years. Thanks Guys!

And finally me..... VK3VTH/P: This year XYL Sheryl and I travelled to East Gippsland to activate a planned 4 National Parks. As well as providing the Alfred, Coopracambra, Croajingolong, & Errinundra NP for Hunters I wanted to increase my contacts for the WWFF Activators Award. This was easily done as these Parks proved to be popular. I also snuck in a totally unplanned activation of Snowy River National Park after realising how close were to the North West boundary after finishing the Errinundra activation. By doing this I was able to provide Mick VK3PMG with Park 45 to complete his 45 Park Merit Award. A very well done to Mick!

If I have missed any 2015 activators please accept my apologies and ensure you correct me via the Group postings.

As the ARV Awards Manager I have no doubt I will also be getting Applications in the next few weeks as other Hunters and Activators tally up their totals. I look forward to receiving



applications in due course and these will be announced on the Group as usual.

This Year ARV will be providing a 2015 Participants Certificate to all Activators. I will begin processing these next week and will soon begin posting Certificates to Activators.

The 2016 KRMNPA activation weekend will take place Friday November 11- Monday November 14. Please put this Date in your Diary now.

In closing, a sincere thanks to all who participated ..... Both Hunters & Activators. And also a special thanks to Allen VK3HRA (Parks N Peaks and AR publicity) Peter VK3PF (AR Publicity and supporter ), Paul VK5PAS ( Parks supporter/ VKFF Award Manager), Jim Linton VK3PC (ARV Publicity) and the Amateur Radio Victoria Council.....

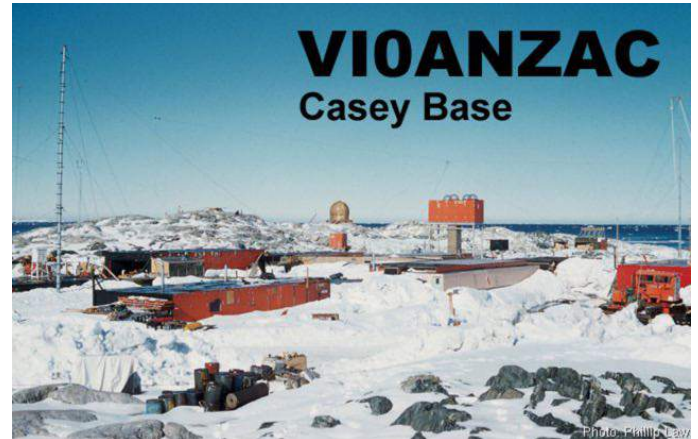
Without your interest and support of Portable activities, the Bands would be a very different scenario from what we have now.

Thanks to all!

73 Tony VK3VTH

## VIOANZAC

By Paul VK5PAS



Doug VKoDMV was active again on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, activating the special call of VioANZAC from Casey Base in the Australian Antarctic Territory. The only other time that VioANZAC has been active on air was Aug 29-30. This has been due to blizzard conditions.

This activity was as part of the ANZAC Centenary. Casey Base is VKFF-0571 for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program. Logs will be provided by Fred VK3DAC.

Logs for VioANZAC's activity back in Aug have already been uploaded to WWFF Log Search.

Logs for the most recent activation by VioANZAC will be uploaded to WWFF Log Search very shortly.

## Snake bite

By Paul VK5PAS



We are now well and truly into some hot weather, so I thought it was wise to put in a little bit of information about snake bite. It may not ever happen, and here's hoping it doesn't. But it is better to be armed with information, just in case.

The following information is courtesy of St John.

### Warning

DO NOT wash venom off the skin.  
DO NOT cut the bitten area.  
DO NOT try to suck venom out of wound.  
DO NOT use a tourniquet.  
DO NOT try to catch the snake.

Signs are not always visible but may be a

puncture mark, bleeding, or scratches.

Symptoms developing within an hour may include headache, impaired vision, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, breathing difficulties, drowsiness, faintness, problems with speaking or swallowing.

### What to do

1. Follow DRSABCD.
2. Reassure the patient and ask them not to move.
3. Apply a broad crepe bandage over the bite site as soon as possible.
4. Apply a pressure bandage (heavy crepe or elasticised roller bandage) starting just above the fingers or toes of the bitten limb, and move upwards on the limb as far as can be reached (include the snake bite). Apply firmly without stopping blood supply to the limb.
5. Immobilise the bandaged limb with splints.
6. Ensure the patient does not move.
7. Write down the time of the bite and when the bandage was applied. Stay with the patient.
8. Regularly check circulation in fingers or toes.
9. Manage for shock.
10. Ensure an ambulance has been called.

What is DRSABCD?

D = DANGER

R= RESPONSE

S= SEND for help

A= AIRWAY

B= BREATHING

C= CPR

D= DEFIBRILLATOR



## A VK4 out N About in VK5

By Rob VK4AAC/5



Hi again,

Well over the last few weeks my wife and I have been travelling around the south east of VK5. After leaving Adelaide we headed out through Tailem Bend and onto the “Mallee Highway” camping at both Lameroo and Pinaroo.

This gave us the chance to activate some “mallee” parks in the area, namely Billiatt CP, Karte CP and Peebinga CP. These parks consist of mallee scrub and are quite dry and “desert like”.

Billiatt and Peebinga conservation parks have very limited access and no facilities, so access for radio activations was to basically find a large enough clearing, just off the side of the main road, to erect the dipole.

*Info via [www.stjohn.org](http://www.stjohn.org)*



### Peebinga CP:-



Karte conservation park also has no facilities other than areas set aside for campers. This made it easy to find a suitable clearing to deploy the antenna and start transmitting.



Whilst conditions on 40m have been up and down over the last couple of months, I managed to make quite a few contacts in each park, enough for each to qualify for VKFF.

Results for the 3 activations:-

Billiatt CP VKFF-0821 – 49 QSO's

Peebinga CP VKFF-0830 – 77 QSO's

Karte CP VKFF-0898 – 122 QSO's.

After Pinnaroo we turned and headed south into the Ngarkat Conservation Park where we spent the night in the “Pertendi Hut” campground. This campground has well formed camping areas and a toilet, but no water.



The weather during the 3 activations was quite warm and due to the fact that these parks are vegetated by mostly low lying scrub, it was near impossible to find some shade from the hot sun.

### Karte CP:-

I set up the 40m dipole at our campsite and proceeded to call CQ. I managed to get 79 QSO's before a huge clap of thunder around 1015utc convinced me to disconnect the antenna and call it a night. I could see a storm brewing all around and many of my VK contacts mentioned that they had storms in their areas so that put an end to an evening of playing radio!

### Ngarkat CP campsite:-



Next stop was the town of Keith where we spent 4 nights in the very nice Keith Caravan Park and managed to activate Kelvin Powrie CP and Mt Monster CP.

Kelvin Powrie CP (VKFF-0899) is located alongside the Dukes Highway only a few kilometers west of Keith and has a good size parking area and a couple of perfectly located trees to hold up the dipole!! Again it was quite hot so we opted not to explore the walking track, hopefully next time we pass this way. A total of 114 QSO's were made, of which, over 70 were into Europe on 20m, a good opening on 14Mhz, we were very happy with the afternoon on the radio.

### Kelvin Powrie CP:-



At Mt Monster CP (VKFF-0800) we made 74 QSO's but conditions on 20m was very average and only 2 contacts into Europe were possible. It was a very warm day and shade was non existent but we did make friends with about 10 million flies!!!

### Mt Monster CP:-



From Keith we went onto the small town of Padthaway. The caravan park was quite an oasis with plenty of green grass, trees and flowering plants. The woman caretaker was very friendly and helpful and the amenities were well maintained and there was plenty of hot water in the showers.

Padthaway CP VKFF-0924 is located on the edge of town, has no facilities and access is limited to a couple of sandy tracks through the park. It took some time to locate an area off the track suitable for the dipole. Contact tally – total of 52 QSO's, including 10 into EU on 20m.

We are continuing to work our way through the south east of VK5 activating parks as we go and eventually into Adelaide for Christmas with the family. Next year will see us venture into Victoria (VK3) for a good look around over several months.

Merry Xmas, Happy New Year and good DX to all...

Rob  
VK4AAC

## Which SOTA peaks are in parks?

By Paul VK5PAS



A question was recently asked on the KRMNPA Yahoo group as to what SOTA peaks are contained with a certain park?

The info is located on parksnparks. Valid peaks are shown for each park from the Parks tab.

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

Also in the files section of the KRMNPA Yahoo group, some time ago, Peter VK3PF placed a file there. This was back in 2014. It is a list of SOTA summits in Parks at that time that Peter compiled the list.

## My experiences with local amateur radio ops.

By Rob VK4AAC/

This month I would like to tell you all about my experiences with local amateur radio operators and clubs during my travels.

Back in September I had the pleasure of meeting Paul VK5PAS, face to face. I was welcomed into his home and was amazed by his radio shack, something I miss a great deal while travelling. We attended an AHARS (Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society) meeting and I was pleased to be able to put faces to call signs and have a chat with several members, many of whom I have spoken to from my park activations. Everyone was welcoming and I enjoyed the guest speaker who obviously was well versed in his topic. After the formalities



and guest speaker we all enjoyed a nice cuppa and a bikky.

In November we were camped at Mt Gambier and though the local club members were very busy installing communications for the annual “Hillclimb” motorsport event, some took time out to visit me and also invite me to the event location for a quick tour. I was invited to a SERG (South East Radio Group) meeting in My Gambier where I met quite a few of the members and, again, was able to put faces to call signs. I gained a small insight into the activities of the club and we shared a few stories including tea and a very nice vanilla slice made by Gabi, XYL of Greg VK5ZGY. Everyone went out of their way to make me feel welcome and to invite me back to the club when next in the area.

This got me thinking about our hobby of Amateur Radio. We are all like minded and one of the aspects of the hobby is about communicating, so when travelling through other parts of your state or interstate why not give the local repeater a try. You may just be looking for a quick chat while passing through, you might need some assistance or just some tourist info about the region. The locals will, I’m sure, be all too willing to help and you might even get to meet some of your on air contacts face to face.

I, for one, look forward to meeting many more like minded people in my travels around Australia.

Many thanks to the members of AHARS and SERG.

Rob  
VK4AAC

## Bushfire safety

By Paul VK5PAS



Please have a look at the CFS website at...

[http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/resources/bushfire\\_safety\\_brochures\\_and\\_dvds.jsp](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/resources/bushfire_safety_brochures_and_dvds.jsp)

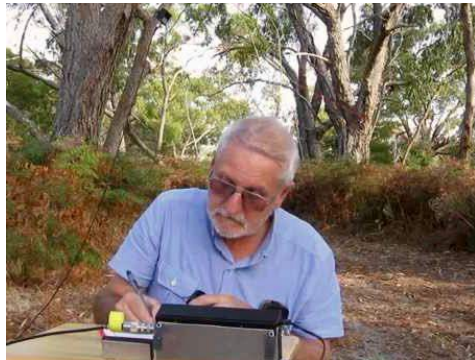
There is some excellent information there. But here are some tips....

- A car is one of the deadliest places to be in a bushfire. The only sure way to survive is to be nowhere near the fire.
  - If there is a lot of smoke, slow down and be aware, in poor visibility you may not see people, vehicles or animals on the road.
  - Turn on headlights and hazard warning lights
  - Always u-turn and drive to safety- your nearest Bushfire Safer Place may be your best option

- If you can't escape the path of the fire
  - Stay inside your vehicle-it offers better protection than being in the open.
  - Pull off the road to avoid collisions in poor visibility. Try to park in a clear area, preferably behind a solid structure to block some of the heat
  - Face your car towards the fire
  - Turn off the engine and air conditioning off
  - Tightly close the doors, windows and air vents
  - Lie on the floor and shelter under woollen blankets to protect yourself from radiant heat
  - Avoid dehydration, drink lots of water
  - Heat and smoke from the fire and fumes from the car may make breathing difficult-stay under the blankets and cover your mouth with a moist cloth.
  - Stay down until the sound of the fire has passed, carefully leave the car (it will be hot)
  - Move to a safe area such as a strip of land that has already been burnt.
- Bushfires can occur without warning and can quickly impact your travel route or holiday location. Being caught in a car or in the open during a bushfire could be deadly. Here is a simple checklist to help keep you safe while travelling this bushfire season.
  - Know the risk of the area you're travelling to or through; know the Fire Ban District and the Fire Danger rating.
  - Know what you can and can't do; is it a Total Fire Ban?
  - Stay safe on fire danger days; plan safer activities and know the nearest safer places you can go
  - Plan ahead and have the right gear in your car; create an emergency kit.
  - Let family, friends, or colleagues know where you will be
  - Know what to do if there is a bushfire in the area
  - Stay alert and stay informed.
- On fire danger or Total Fire Ban days, you need to be more alert and careful because any fire that starts will be more dangerous.
  - If your travel or activities take you into high risk areas, can you postpone your trip, plan a different route, swap to an activity that is safer or not banned on Total Fire Ban days?
  - Do your plans involve activities or tools banned on a Total Fire Ban day?
  - Do you know where the safest place to go is, if a bushfire threatens?

# Mount Richmond NP, VKFF-0361

By Col VK5HCF



Tom, VK5EE and I finally got around to getting out into a park again.

This weekend was the 5th. anniversary of the Keith Roget Memorial Parks annual activation event and we were determined to be involved.

The weather here in South Eastern Australia has not been very conducive to getting out and about for the last few months and it was long past time that we dusted off the gear and headed out.

As Tim, VK5AV was planning on activating the Lower Glenelg National Park and then Cobbobonee we decided that we would go to Mt. Richmond National Park as we had not been there before whereas we have activated the other two on more than one occasion.

After a bit of a delayed start from Mt. Gambier we headed off down the Nelson / Portland road and finally arrived in Mt. Richmond N.P.



Mt. Richmond National Park

I must say that I was impressed as it is very well set up with numerous picnic and camping spots with tables and open fireplaces and even a toilet block. The area has many trees and it would be very possible to sling a line up into one of them and hoist up your vertical or a dipole without much trouble. We elected to use the tried and true 7 metre squid pole however. After stringing up my P.A.R. 40 metre end fed antenna we were good to go.

Tom started us off and then decided that he wanted something from the car so I got to be the man of the moment for a while. During one of Tom's stints at the microphone I went for a bit of a wander down one of the many walking tracks. I did not get far before I spotted a Koala asleep high up in a tree. After taking a few shots I returned to the picnic table and happened to mention my find to Tom.

That was it. Apparently he had never seen a Koala in the wild before so he threw the mike at me and rushed to the car to get his camera and off he went.

The weather was great, sunny with a mild breeze, and the conditions for radio were pretty

good as well. We were receiving, and sending, some very good reports.

We managed to get 44 contacts in the log. (31 for me and 13 for Tom). I have come to the conclusion that Tom hates paper work and the idea of entering too many contacts into his log puts him off a bit. (I have been known to be wrong though as my xyl. will verify).

Although a bit disappointing it guarantees that we will return some time soon to try to get our 44 each so it's not all bad.

Unfortunately my camera did not switch on when I tried to video some of the action so I ended up with no video and the ISO setting on it was too high so the few photo's that I got are very grainy.



The operating spot

My thanks go to the following operators:-

- Paul, VK5PAS/3 in Great Otway N.P.,
- Tony, VK5FTVR,

- Jeff, VK5JK,
- Joe, VK3YSP/3 on French Island N.P.
- Les, VK5KLV,
- Greg, VK5GJ in Carribee C.P.
- Tim, VK5AV in Cobboboonee N.P.
- Adrian, VK5FANA,
- Fred, VK3DAC,
- Alex, VK3AMX,
- Mick, VK3PMG,
- Alan, VK5LAM/P
- Rob, VK4AAC/5 in Nene Valley C.P.
- John, VK2YW,
- Ken, VK3UH,
- Tom, VK5NFT with his new call sign,
- Rex, VK3OF in Terrick Terrick N.P.
- David, VK5PL,
- Ron, VK3AFW,
- Peter, VK3YE/3 at Chelsea Beach with his kite antenna and a cracking signal.
- Ray, VK3NBL,
- VK2AWJ/3 in Yarra Ranges N.P.
- Ron, VK3MRH,
- Scott, VK7NWT,
- Tim, VK5AV/m
- John, VK5BJE,
- Andrew, VK3ARR,
- Nigel, VK5NIG, in Mt. Crawford C.P.
- Brett, VK3flcs,
- Mark, VK3OHM,
- Rob, VK4AAC/5 this time from Canunda N.P.

Tom, VK5EE wishes to thank:-

Paul, VK5PAS, Andrew, VK1AD, Tony, VK7LTD, John, VK2AWJ, Lesley, VK5LOL/3, Peter, VK3YE/3 Amanda, VK3FQSO, Ron, VK3MRH, Stu, VK5STU/5, Nigel, VK5NIG, Rob, VK4AAC/5, Paul, VK5PAS/3, and Ray, VK7VKV.





Tom, VK5EE “hard at it”

All in all another great day had by all.

Many thanks and I promise to be out again soon.

73 Col VK5HCF

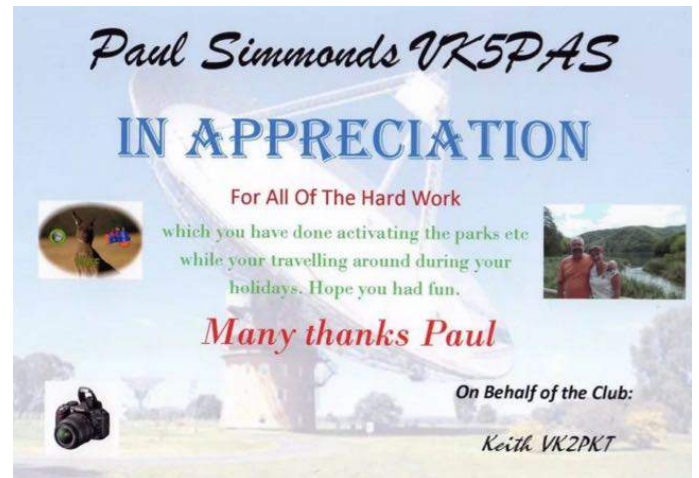
## In Appreciation certificate

By Ian VK5PAS

When I arrived home from my trip to Victoria, I found the following in my email box.

Many thanks Keith VK2PKT.

Keith featured many times in my log whilst I was away.



## WWFF CSV File Editor

By Ian VK5IS



Sorry there are no instructions yet.

I doesn't check the VKFF refs are real.

You can download it from this site

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qlnsm2xiifza710/>

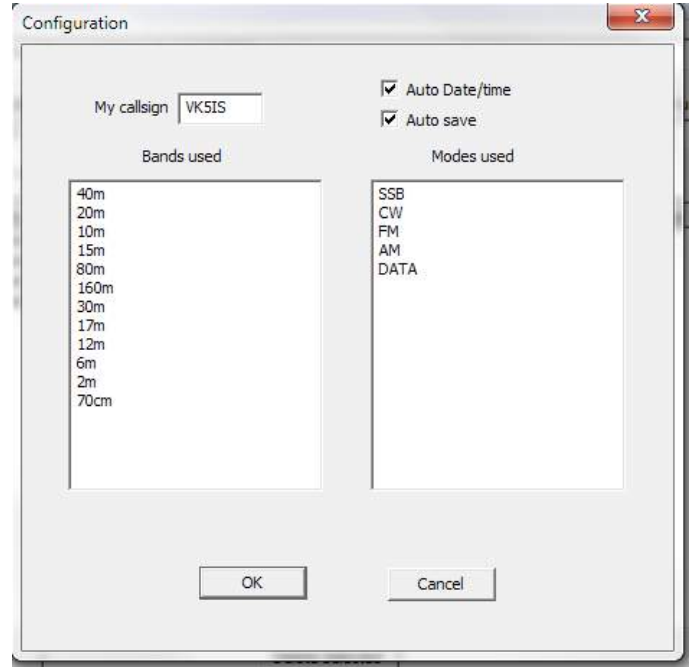
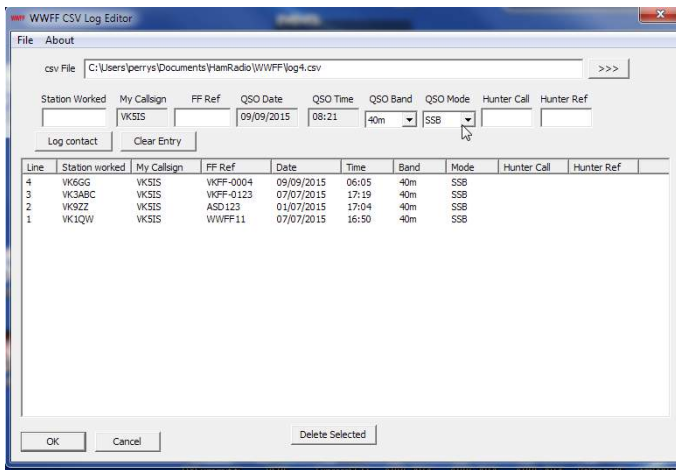
[WWFF log.exe?dl=0](#)

Save it to where ever you like and run it by double clicking

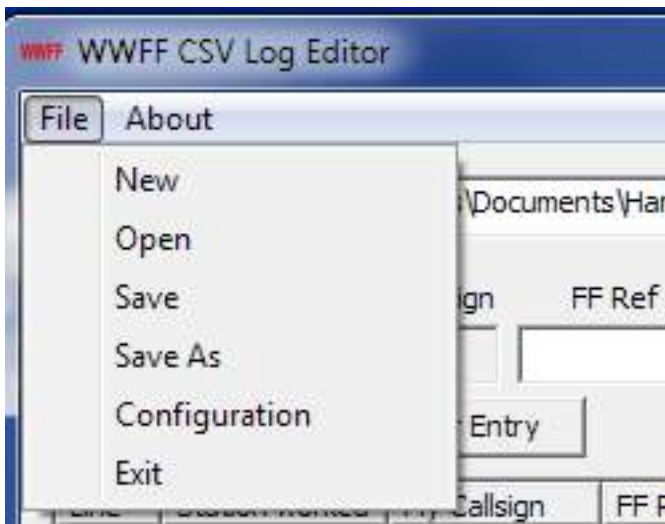
use File/New to create a new file

use File/open to open an existing file

in this example my file is called "log4.csv"



Set up your callsign in the File/Configuration menu

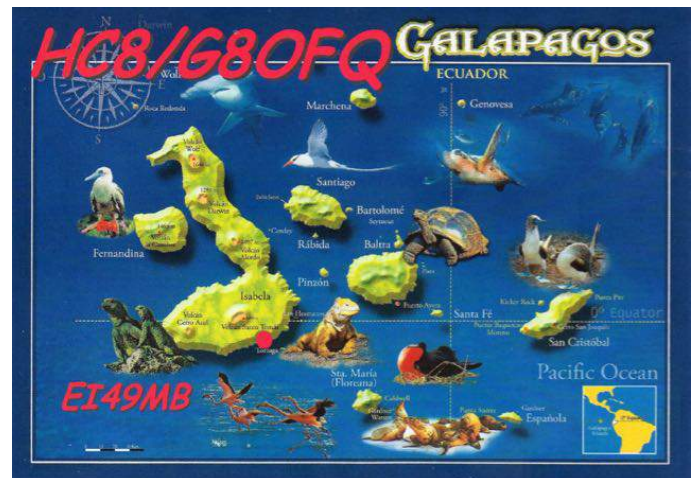


## QSL cards

By Paul VK5PAS

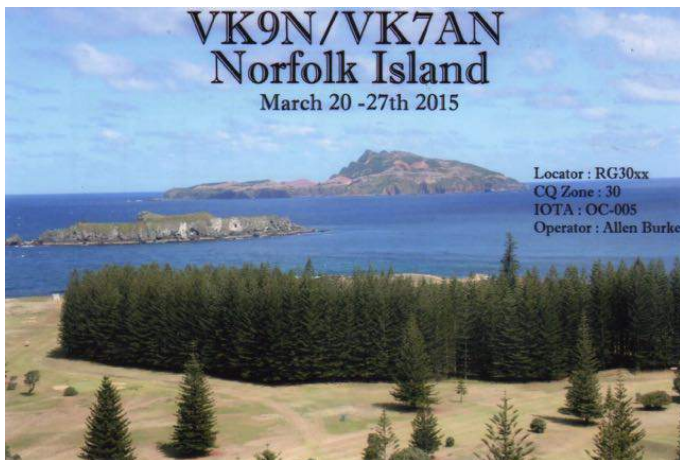
If you have received any QSL cards from a WWFF reference, please send me a copy and I will include them here.

### HC8/G80FQ, Galapagos Islands





## VK9N/VK7AN, Norfolk Island



## Charlie VK3ZD/4, Capricornia Cays National Park

~~VK9NW~~ VK3ZD/4 NORTH WEST ISLAND  
DXPEDITION 2015

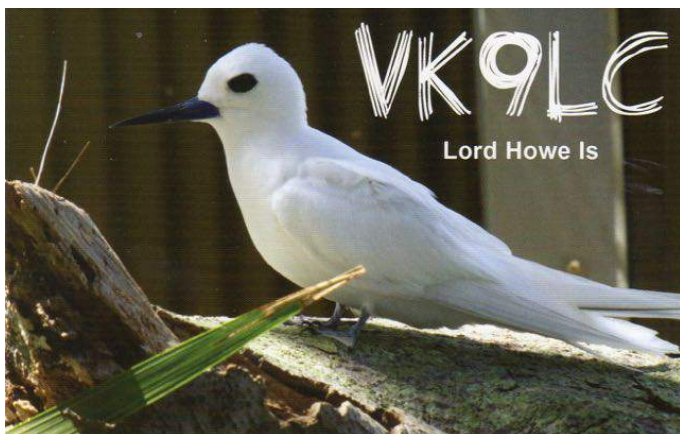
QG56uq - OC142  
North West Island, part of the Capricornia Cays NP  
Located off the coast of Queensland

Equipment: Icom IC 706 Mk2G @100W and Buddipole Deluxe

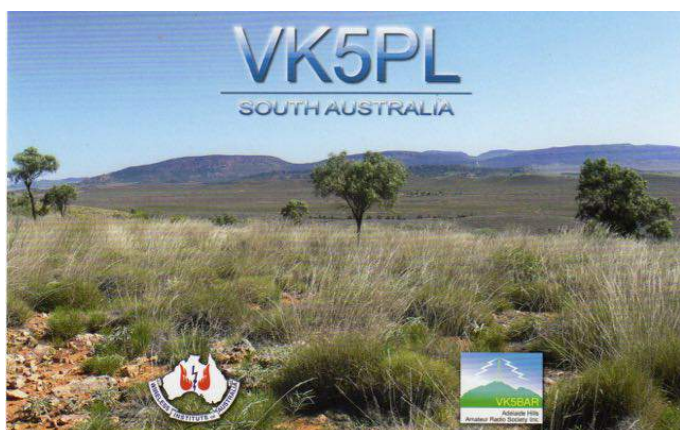
To Radio	Date	UTC	MHz	Mode	Report
VK5PAS	4/4/15	12:14	14.238	SSB	59+

Many thanks for QSO, 73 QSL: P.O.Box 122, Oakleigh South, Australia 3167

## VK9LC, Lord Howe Island



## David VK5PL



## Recent Park Activations

During November, band conditions on 40m proved to be quite challenging at times. Lots of QSB was present and local propagation was virtually non-existent.

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

- Douglass Point Conservation Park  
VKFF-0795, Col VK5HCF/p  
(29/11/2015)
- Douglass Point Conservation Park  
VKFF-0795, Tom VK5EE/p  
(29/11/2015)
- Onkaparinga River National Park, Hans  
VK5YX/p (29/11/2015)

- Penola Conservation Park VKFF-0803, Greg VK5ZGY/p (29/11/2015)
- Ewens Ponds Conservation Park VKFF-0796, Col VK5EE/p (29/11/2015)
- Ewens Ponds Conservation Park VKFF-0796, Tom VK5EE/p (29/11/2015)
- Onkaparinga River National Park VKFF-0402, Andy VK5AKH/p (29/11/2015)
- Beachport Conservation Park VKFF-0791, Rob VK4AAC/5 (29/11/2015)
- Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park VKFF-0927, Col VK5HCF/p (29/11/2015)
- Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park VKFF-0927 (29/11/2015)
- The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park VKFF-0820, Peter VK5KPR (29/11/2015)
- Coorong National Park VKFF-0115, Peter VK5PET/p (29/11/2015)
- Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park VKFF-0897, David VK5PL (29/11/2015)



*Above:- David VK5PL's operating spot at the Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park.*

- Nixon Skinner Conservation Park VKFF-0923, Paul VK5PAS/p (29/11/2015)
- Stipiturus Conservation Park VKFF-0936, Paul VK5PAS/p (29/11/2015)
- Onkaparinga River National Park VKFF-0402, Lesley VK5LOL/p (29/11/2015)
- Murrumbidgee Valley National Park, NSW VKFF-0554, Stef VK5HSX/2 (28/11/2015)
- Clinton Conservation Park VKFF-0813, Adrian VK5FANA/p (29/11/2015)
- Morialta Conservation Park VKFF-0783, Gary VK5FGRY/p (29/11/2015)



*Above:- Gary VK5FGRY's set up at Morialta Conservation Park.*

- Deep Creek Conservation Park VKFF-0780, Brendon VK5FFCC/p (29/11/2015)
- Mount George Conservation Park VKFF-0784, Giles VK5GK (29/11/2015)



- Penambol Conservation Park VKFF-0802, Col VK5HCF/p (28/11/2015)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park VKFF-0933, Nigel VK5NIG (28/11/2015)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park VKFF-0933, Stuart VK5STU/p (28/11/2015)
- Nene Valley Conservation Park VKFF-0801, Greg VK5ZGY/p (28/11/2015)
- Canunda National Park VKFF-0075, Greg VK5ZGY/p (28/11/2015)
- Warren Conservation Park VKFF-0941, David VK5PL (28/11/2015)



*Above:- The shack of David VK5PL at the Warren Conservation Park.*

- Murray Sunset National Park, VICTORIA VKFF-0373, Stef VK5HSX/3 (28/11/2015)
- Murray River National Park VKFF-0372, Stef VK5HSX/p (28/11/2015)
- Whyalla Conservation Park VKFF-0808, Les VK5KLV/p (28/11/2015)
- Penambol Conservation Park VKFF-0802, Tom VK5EE/p (28/11/2015)
- Little Dip Conservation Park VKF-0904, Rob VK4AAC/5 (28/11/2015)
- Ramco Point Conservation Park VKFF-0930, Bob VK5FO (28/11/2015)
- Kyeema Conservation Park VKFF-0826, Greg VK5GJ/p (28/11/2015)
- Cox Scrub Conservation Park VKFF-0824 (28/11/2015)
- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park VKFF-0782, David VK5AAH (28/11/2015)
- Spring Gully Conservation Park, Ian VK5CZ/p (28/11/2015)
- Bird Islands Conservation Park VKFF-0871, Adrian VK5FANA/p (28/11/2015)
- Murray River National Park VKFF-0372, Stef VK5HSX/p (27/11/2015)
- Hogwash Bend Conservation Park VKFF-0892, Stef VK5HSX/p (26/11/2015)
- Mount Magnificent Conservation Park VKFF-0916, Paul VK5PAS/3 (28/11/2015)
- Scott Conservation Park VKFF-0934, Paul VK5PAS/p (28/11/2015)
- Bullock Hill Conservation Park VKFF-0873, Paul VK5PAS/p (28/11/2015)



*Above:- Stef VK5HSX set up at Hogwash Bend Conservation Park.*

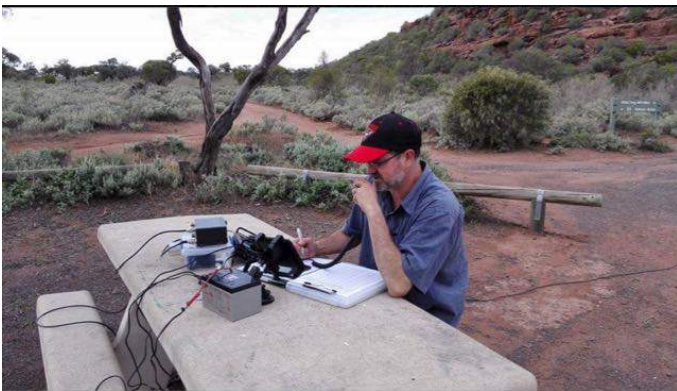
- Mount Remarkable National Park VKFF-0360, Stef VK5HSX (23/11/2015)
- Reedy Creek Conservation Park VKFF-0931, Rob VK4AAC/5 (23/11/2015)
- Lake Gilles Conservation Park VKFF-0901, Stef VK5HSX (22/11/2015)
- Gawler Ranges National Park VKFF-0192, Stef VK5HSX (21/11/2015)
- Warrenben Conservation Park VKFF-0818, Greg VK5GJ (21/11/2015)
- Pinkawillinie Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (21/11/2015)
- Gawler Ranges National Park VKFF-0192, Stef VK5HSX (20/11/2015)
- Little Desert National Park VICTORIA VKFF-0291, Paul VK5PAS/3 (20/11/2015)
- Lake Newland Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (18/11/2015)
- Point Addis Marine National Park VKFF-0952 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS (17/11/2015)

- Great Otway National Park VKFF-0405 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (15/11/2015)
- Coffin Bay National Park VKFF-0105, Stef VK5HSX (15/11/2015)
- Mount Richmond National Park VKFF-0361, Col VK5HCF/3 (15/11/2015)
- Mount Richmond National Park VKFF-0361, Tom VK5EE/3 (15/11/2015)
- Rob VK4AAC/5, Gower Conservation Park VKFF-0798 (14/11/2015)
- Port Campbell National Park VKFF-0420 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (14/11/2015)



*Above:- Paul VK5PAS, at the Port Campbell National Park, operating as part of the 2015 KRMNPA Activation Weekend.*

- Lincoln National Park, Stef VK5HSX (14/11/2015)
- Twelve Apostles Marine National Park VKFF-0420, VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (13/11/2015)
- Bay of Islands Coastal Park VICTORIA VKFF-0743, Paul VK5PAS/3 (12/11/2015)
- Nene Valley Conservation Park VKFF-0801, Rob VK4AAC/5 (12/11/2015)
- Yeldulknie Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX (12/11/2015)
- Whyalla Conservation Park VKFF-0808, Stef VK5HSX (11/11/2015)



*Above:- Stef VK5HSX on air at the Whyalla Conservation Park.*

- Discovery Bay Coastal Park VKFF-0949, Paul VK5PAS/3 (10/11/2015)
- Telowie Gorge Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (10/11/2015)
- Cape Nelson State Park VICTORIA VKFF-0754, Paul VK5PAS/3 (10/11/2015)

- Discovery Bay Marine National Park VICTORIA VKFF-0949, Paul VK5PAS/3 (9/11/2015)
- Discovery Bay Coastal Park VICTORIA VKFF-0746, Paul VK5PAS/3 (9/11/2015)
- Peebinga Conservation Park VKFF-0830, Paul VK5PAS (8/11/2015)
- Hale Conservation Park, Stuart VK5STU/p (7/11/2015)
- Billiatt Conservation Park VKFF-0821, Paul VK5PAS (7/11/2015)
- Flinders Chase National Park VKFF-0173, Stef VK5HSX/p (5/11/2015)
- Nullabor National Park VKFF-0397, Mike VK6MB/5 (4/11/2015)
- Cape Willoughby Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (4/11/2015)
- Penola Conservation Park VKFF-0803, Rob VK4AAC/5 (1/11/2015).

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



During the month of October, VK5's activated more summits interstate than they did at home. That was due to a trip to QLD by Bob VK4FO, and the trip to Wagga Wagga by Ian VK5CZ and Paul VK5PAS.

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

- Blue Mountain VK3/ VS-015 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (19/11/2015)
- Point 756/Pyrenees VK3/ VS-018 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (19/11/2015)
- Mount Lonarch VK3/ VS-013 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (19/11/2015)
- Ben Nevis VK3/ VS-009 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (19/11/2015)
- Mount Leura VK3/ VS-050 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (18/11/2015)
- Mount Elephant VK3/ VS-047 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (18/11/2015)
- One Tree Hill VK3/ VS-036 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (18/11/2015)

- Mount Cowley VK3/ VC-022 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (16/11/2015)
- Crowsnest Lookout VK3/ VS-049 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (14/11/2015)
- Mount Clay VK3/ VS-051 VICTORIA, Paul VK5PAS/3 (11/11/2015)

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.....

- Colin VK5FCJM
- Brendon VK5FFCC

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.

## VK5 Parks 3<sup>rd</sup> year anniversary

By Paul VK5PAS

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

It will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2016.

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

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



## VKFF Activation weekend.

By Paul VK5PAS

The VKFF Activation weekend was held on...

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Initial results show that 53 Activators took part from all States, except for VK7. We had plenty of VK7 Hunters but sadly no VK7 Activators.

There were nearly 100 parks activated.

I will present a full report in the next issue of Out and About.

Many thanks to everyone that took part.

This will become an annual event.



## New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



Welcome to the following new members of the VK5 Parks Facebook site....

- Brendon VK5FFCC

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

### Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- **NIL known**

### World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

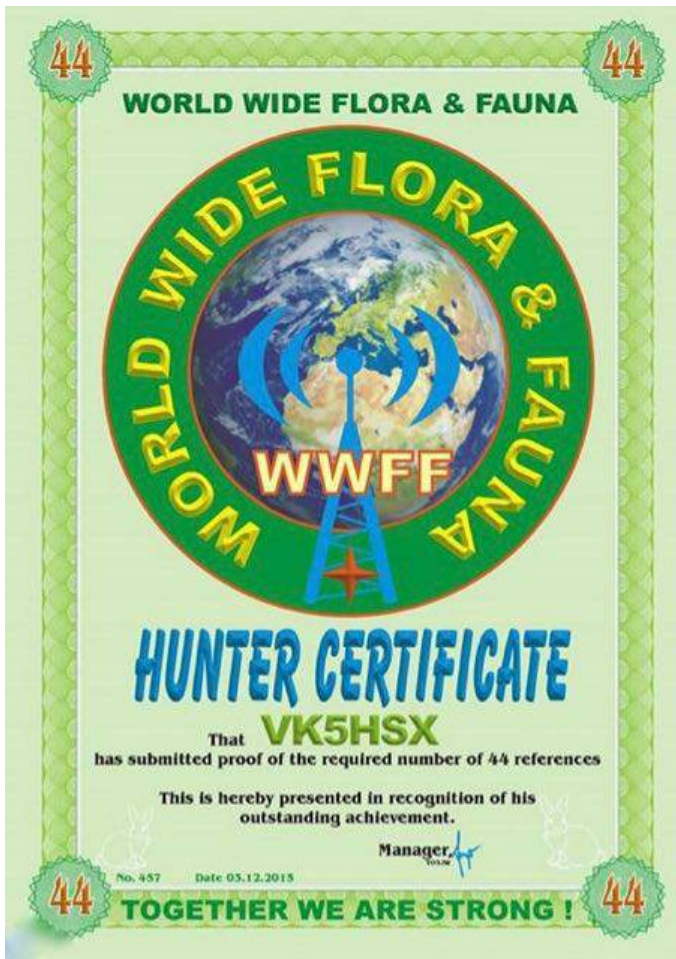
- **Hans VK5YX**
  - Platinum VKFF Hunter



- **David VK5PL**
  - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 125

- **Stef VK5HSX**

- Global 44 Hunter



- **Jeff VK5JK**

- Diamond VKFF Hunter

- **Rob VK4AAC/5**

- Gold VKFF Activator

- **Adrian VK5FANA**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 200

- **Tim VK5AV**

- Sapphire VKFF Hunter

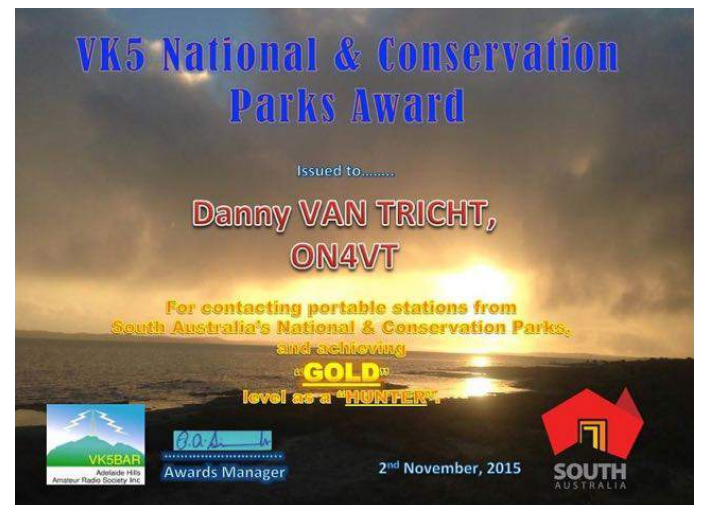
### VK5 Parks Award

- **David VK5HYZ**

- Bronze Hunter
- Silver Hunter
- Gold Hunter

- **Danny ON4VT**

- Silver Hunter
- Gold Hunter



- **Mick VK3PMG**

- Platinum Hunter National Parks Uniques

## Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **John VK5BJE**
  - **45 Parks worked**

## VK5 Parks Award flag

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently designed an emblem for the VK5 Parks Award and gauged the interest in a VK5 Parks flag featuring the emblem. You can fly the flag atop your squid pole.

I had about 13 interested parties, and will be ordering these flags shortly.

The flag works out to be \$26.40 each. They are made from 200D knitted polyester designed for outside use. It is single sided with two grommets so you can attach it to a squid pole.

If you are interested, please drop me an email at.....

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



## Trip along the Great Ocean Road

By Paul VK5PAS

During November I travelled with Marija for 2 weeks down the Great Ocean Road in Victoria. We had a terrific time and saw some amazing sights. I also squeezed in some radio activity.

Here is a summary of the activities.....

- 2 x South Australian Conservation Parks
- 3 x Victorian Coastal Parks
- 3 x Victorian Marine National Parks
- 1 x Victorian State Park
- 3 x Victorian National Parks
- 10 x Victorian SOTA summits
- Total of 899 contacts
- 3,084 km travelled.

Here is a list of activations.....

### Sat 7th Nov.

Billiatt Conservation Park VKFF-0821 - 57 contacts

### Sun 8th Nov

Peebinga Conservation Park VKFF-0830 - 32 contacts

### Mon 9th Nov

Discovery Bay Coastal Park VKFF-0746 - 26 contacts



Discovery Bay Marine National Park VKFF-0949 - 49 contacts

### **Tues 10th Nov**

Discovery Bay Coastal Park VKFF-0746 - 25 contacts

Cape Nelson State Park VKFF-0754 - 24 contacts

### **Wed 11th Nov**

SOTA Mount Clay VK3/ VS-051 - 7 contacts

### **Thurs 12th Nov**

Bay of Islands Coastal Park VKFF-0743 - 46 contacts



*Above:- On air at the Bay of Islands Coastal Park.*

### **Fri 13th Nov**

Twelve Apostles Marine National Park - 69 contacts



*Above:- View from our helicopter flight*

### **Sat 14th Nov**

Port Campbell National Park - 53 contacts  
SOTA Crowsnest Lookout VK3/ VS-049 - 34 contacts.



*Above:- Operating from Crowsnest Lookout, VK3/ VS-049, just outside of Apollo Bay.*

### **Sun 15th Nov**

Great Otway National Park VKFF-0405 near Cape Otway - 69 contacts

Great Otway National Park VKFF-0405 Aire River - 32 contacts

### **Mon 16th Nov**

SOTA Mount Cowley VK3/ VC-022 and Great Otway National Park VKFF-0405 - 48 contacts

### **Tues 17th Nov**

Point Addis Marine National Park VKFF-0952 - 59 contacts

### **Wed 18th Nov**

SOTA Mount Leura VK3/ VS-050 - 29 contacts  
SOTA Mount Elephant VK3/ VS-047 - 23 contacts  
SOTA One Tree Hill VK3/ VS-036 - 82 contacts



*Above:- Operating from the top of Mount Elephant, VK3/ VS-047*

### **Thurs 19th Nov**

SOTA Blue Mountain VK3/ VS-015 - 15 contacts  
SOTA Point 756/Pyrenees VK3/ VS-018 - 33 contacts  
SOTA Mount Lonarch VK3/ VS-013 - 16 contacts  
SOTA Ben Nevis VK3/ VS-009 - 25 contacts

### **Fri 20th Nov**

Little Desert National Park VKFF-0291 - 46 contacts.



*Above:- Operating from the banks of the Wimmera River in the Little Desert National Park.*

I would like to thank everyone who called. Band conditions fluctuated dramatically with very good conditions during some activations, to very poor during others. QSB was certainly present, and close in propagation was non-existent at times.

Also many thanks to those that took the time to spot me, either on parksnparks, the DX cluster, Facebook. It certainly helps fill up the log.



I have posted some more info & photos on my Wordpress site.

<http://vk5pas.org/>

Best 73,

Paul,  
VK5PAS.

## Mark Oliphant CP, VKFF-0782

By John VK5BJE

The 11th December 2015, was set aside for a late afternoon, early evening, activation day for those interested in portable operation from South Australian national and conservation parks. I chose to return to **Mark Oliphant Conservation Park**, the closest protected area to our home.



I set myself a goal of 25 contacts, which, when added to my score from 28th June 2015 would

give me at least 44 contacts so as to successfully activate the Park for the WWFF award. It was not to be. The 40 and 20 metre bands were in poor shape! The bands were noisy (QRN or natural noise: today from stormy weather on the east coast of the country). I made just nine contacts. I was using my Ten Tec Argonaut VI, set for ten watts. There was no propagation close in around Adelaide and the only VK5 station I contacted was Neville (Nev) VK5WG at Crystal Brook in the mid-north of the State. I spotted myself on Parks and Peaks and Nev told me he was waiting for me: **Mark Oliphant** was a new Park for him!

Here is a link to my previous activation of this Park.

<http://vk5bj.com/2015/07/04/mark-oliphant-conservation-park-vkff-782-28th-june-2015/>

I commenced calling at 05:03 on 7.105 after checking to see whether the frequency was occupied.

05:03 VK5WG

05:07 VK3PF

05:10 VK3FQSO

05:15 VK3XDM/P Mitch was on SOTA summit **VK3/VE-007**, Mt McKay (10 points)

05:19 VK2VW

05:21 VK3PMG

05:24 VK3RW

05:28 VK3AV

05:31 VK3DBP

I then moved to 14.310 and once again put up a spot on Parks and Peaks.

05:35 I called CQ and VK2IO, Gerard, was 5 and 7. I called him back but he could not hear me. I called quite a few time and was not successful in gaining a contact.



Main Gate at Mark Oliphant CP with Park sign in background

I then moved back to 40 metres and after listening around the band decided I could not hear any of the VK5 park activators so I dismantled my station and drove home.

After arriving home I checked Parks and Peaks and saw that Paul, VK5PAS, was activating **Mount George Conservation Park, VKFF-0784**, just a few kilometres from my place and I thought I would have a listen for him. I had a great contact with Paul: he was 5 and 7 and I was 5 and 9.

Best 73, John VK5BJE

## Park to Park in WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

The introduction of a ‘Park to Park’ award within WWFF is getting closer & closer. A few months ago I recommended to the WWFF Committee that we should initiate such an award. Andrew MoYMA has been doing a large amount of work behind the scenes with the WWFF LogSearch software, and it appears that the introduction of the Park to Park award is not far away.

Summary Statistics for call-sign VK5PAS (using call-sign VK5PAS, AX5PAS, VK5BAR)			
Uniques	Worked	Activated	
References	475	Apply for WWFF-H (444)	57 / 64
CDPX	32	Apply for DXFF-H (30)	5 / 6
	4	ACFF-H	2 / 2
Park To Park		Confirmed: 0 / 0 (Unique: 0 / 0)	P2P

## CW Today

By Lou VK5EEE



Dear VK CW Operator,

I hope this finds you and yours well and in good spirits.

It's not often I email everyone, as I don't want people to get too many emails, but it's time for an update of some news :-)

Firstly, for those who read through the monthly WIA magazine Amateur Radio carefully cover to cover, you will have noticed starting in the October issue a new monthly column "CW Today". However, I know many are those who have missed it, if so, please look again! I am quite sure you will like it. The feedback has been very positive indeed. After reading the 2 first editions (October and November) DO please reply to this Email with your feedback because I can't know if you like it unless you tell me. As this is going to be a regular column, please look for "CW Today" in each future edition too and continue to write in to me.

In other news, did you know that there is now a weekly (well, 3 times a week if including the repeats) CW news bulletin sent out in CW on 3 frequencies simultaneously? It's now in its 12th week! Usually sent by VK4QC, you can see the schedule here: [www.vkcw.net/qst](http://www.vkcw.net/qst) along with a video showing how he does it.

According to 100 CW operators in Australia that were surveyed in July, with the results published in the September edition of Amateur Radio magazine, the overwhelming majority wanted a CW bulletin. It is sent at 17WPM to make it easy to write down. But I have to say the number of call backs after the broadcasts is disappointing and this is likely because few are aware of the schedule: with it going out Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and Monday evening, surely you will find time to tune in to one of these broadcasts? By calling in at the end and giving a report, you will show

both the editor and the broadcaster and other listeners, that you are there and care. Here is the current schedule:

- **Saturday 0400Z (UTC) which is Saturday afternoon in VK. i.e.,**
- 1500 VK1/2/3/7, 1400 VK4, 1430 VK5, 1330 VK8, 1200 VK6 on **7022.5/14022.5/21022.5kHz** by VK4QC at 17WPM - 40m/15m dipoles, **20m beam to VK3/5/6/7.** VK8/S.E.Asia/Pacific/S.Am. listen on 15m.
- **Saturday 2200Z (UTC) which is Sunday Morning in VK. i.e.,**
- 0900 VK1/2/3/7, 0800 VK4, 0830 VK5, 0730 VK8, 0600 VK6 on **7022.5/14022.5/21022.5kHz** by VK4QC at 17WPM - 40m/15m dipoles, **20m beam to VK3/5/6/7.** Pacific/Americas listen on 15m.
- **Monday 1000Z (UTC) which is Monday evening in VK. i.e.,**
- 2100 VK1/2/3/7, 2000 VK4, 2030 VK5, 1930 VK8, 1800 VK6 on **3522.5/7022.5/14022.5kHz** by VK4QC at 17WPM - 80m/15m dipoles, **20m beam to VK8/S.E.Asia.** Asia/Africa listen on 15m.

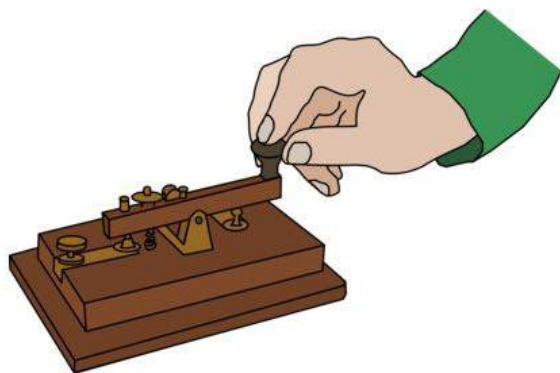
And this brings me to one more thing, PLEASE show your support and register at [www.vkcw.net](http://www.vkcw.net) -- there you can find a lot of resources and information. It will be nice to see supporters of CW in larger numbers and I can tell you that already thanks to the activities of many in recent months in CW, there is most definitely a resurgence of CW in Australia. As you can see this is not a "membership" site or

club, but just a hub or network of ACTIVITIES. The more CW activity there is, the better it is for us all. To register, click on the "Join this site" button, a window pops up, register with Wikidot using your CALLSIGN as username, and you should be approved within hours at most. If you need help with this, just let me know.

I'd appreciate your responses and feedback and thank you for the many friendships and great CW QSOs that I've been able to have since becoming licensed here in June as VK5EEE. I hope to see you on air soon, in the Sunday morning CW net on 7025, after a CW QST broadcast, or in the CW bash especially the 40m CW bash hour 8pm "Sydney time" (0900 UTC) on 7050 especially Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays, or at any other time!

Until then, thanks for reading and I do hope to hear from you,

Very 73 and 77 - Long Live CW - de Lou VK5EEE



## VKFF Weekend Nov 2015

By Bob VK5FO



For the VKFF Activation weekend, we found the time to get out to one of the new SA parks that had recently been added to the VKFF list. On the Saturday afternoon, we were able to get out to the Ramco Point CP – VKFF-0930

This is a little gem of a park that at first it is unclear on it's boundaries, but with a little bit of searching, we were able to find it. The frustrating bit is this park is not listed on Google Maps but it is listed on the

[Protected Planet](#) Maps.

Now, this has not always been Ramco Point CP – as is evidence from the old signs on the borders to the park.





Ramco Forest Reserve

The park extends from between the Ramco Lagoon, up the cliff face to a small area adjacent to the Cadell Valley Road, where we entered the park.

We found a suitable spot not far from the top of the cliffs on an un-used track and set up. It was not the highest point in the park, but down the slope a bit which did offer a bit of extra protection should the wind have come up.



Ramco Pt CP

We picked a spot where there was a tree to tie up the squid pole and offer a bit of shade for the afternoon.



The Shack for the day



Cadell run

The red dot on the map was our operating position on the cliff top.



Map courtesy of protected planet

We arrived mid-afternoon as the hope was to work EU if 20M was open. We were a bit early so started out on 15M.

Once we were set up we called first on 15M and worked Rick VK4RF for the very first contact from Ramco Point CP as a VKFF park.

We made a handful of contacts before heading to 40M where we made quite a few more before trying 20M. Well, 20M did not really open up and we only had a single, very difficult DX contact on 20 with DK4RM, so we headed back to 40M and kept working the stations in an

attempt to get the 44 and make it a valid WWFF activation.

A highlight was to work Peter, VK3YE who was flying a kite on Chelsea beach to support a wire antenna on 40M,

As the day went on 40M also improved and eventually, we had logged 44 contacts! We did work a few more as there were a couple of duplicates in the logs – with contacts on different bands and also a couple of others who had moved to different parks.

### The Results

We ended the day with 53 stations logged, 4 on 15M, 6 on 20M and 43 on 40M and in the mix we worked 11 VKFF Park to Park contacts. With just 2 repeats (different bands), 1 duplicate, and another contact that was with VK3ZPF from 2 different parks, we well and truly passed the 44 with a total of 48 unique contacts for the day.

Of course, Ramco Point CP also qualifies for the SANPCA as well, and this was a new one for me as an activator.

This was also a good day, as before we went out to the park I logged a further 7 VKFF parks as a chaser – and that is well over 1/2 of the activators who were out on Saturday who I logged.



Just before packing up, I walked to the cliff-top to take in the spectacular views offered here.



Murray River – Downstream

The view downstream – right in the foreground down the cliff you can see the backwater where the Ramco Lagoon flows into the Murray River.

If you look at the map, from our operating position, this is the view towards to top of the map



Murray River – Upstream

Looking upstream, again with the Ramco Lagoon in the foreground and a bit more to the right, then the Murray River all the way back to Waikerie. This is the view from the red dot towards the bottom right on the map.

We were blessed with a very pleasant operating spot, a few steps away from spectacular view up and down the Murray River and a really nice day with temperatures in the mid 20's – It simply doesn't get much better than this!

## Logs for WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS



Hi all,

Don't forget, that as an activator in the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, you need to provide your log to me so that it can be uploaded to the WWFF database which is called Log Search.

If the logs are not provided and uploaded, then you as the activator cannot claim the park. Nor can any of the keen park hunters who worked you.

Unlike other programs, activators do not upload their own log. The logs are created by the activator, and then forwarded to the relevant National WWFF co-ordinator, who in turn, uploads the logs.

Logs need to be provided as an ADIF file, or by using the CSV template.

ADIF stands for Amateur Data Interchange Format. Most electronic logging programs can create ADIF files. Or you can use the CSV template.

Where do you get the CSV template?

From either the WWFF Australia website, or the WWFF Australia Yahoo Group (in the files section), or on the main WWFF page at [www.wwff.co](http://www.wwff.co).

I have mentioned it many times, but should you wish to create an ADIF file very quickly and easily, I highly recommend Fast Log Entry (FLE). Here is a link.....

<http://www.df3cb.com/fle/>

Should you be unclear on how to create and provide a log, please have a look at the following page on the WWFF Australia page.....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/how-to-get-started-and-apply-f...>

Personal experience is that sometimes the first 1 or 2 logs provided by activators, have some teething problems. But these are generally ironed out after the activators become confident in creating the ADIF or CSV file. The main thing is to proof/vet your log prior to sending it to me, ensuring that there are no errors. And to ensure you name the log in the correct way, e.g.

callsign@referenceYYYYMMDD  
(VK5ABC@VKFF098720151130)

Please note.....WWFF Hunters do not need to provide anything or have anything uploaded, The WWFF Log Search system does all the hard work for you.

Everything within the WWFF program is done within Log Search. Activators and Hunters can keep a track of their progress, apply for awards, check out what parks have been activated, and view a list of Top Operators with stats from each country.

You need to register to use Log Search.

Here is a link to WWFF Log Search.....

<http://logsearch.wwff.co/index.php>



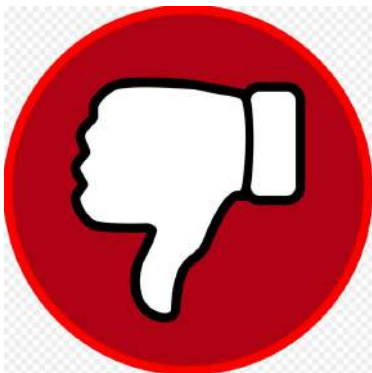
Please drop me an email should you have any queries.

Best wishes,

Paul,  
VK5PAS,  
VKFF co-ordinator.

**Not VKFF**

By Paul VK5PAS

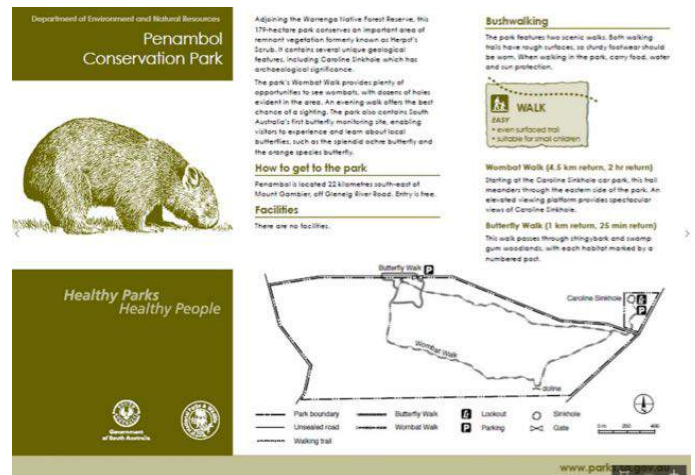


I've had a few queries about the upcoming activation of Dirk Hartog Island OC-206, by VK2IAY/6. Just to clarify, this is currently not a VKFF activation area. The island recently became a National Park, but is currently not on the VKFF list.

It is located within the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

## Penambol CP, VKFF-0802

By Col VK5HCF



Tom, VK5EE and I had decided to activate this park on the Saturday of the VKFF activation weekend as it was close to Mt. Gambier and therefore an easy one to do as a short afternoon activation.

After travelling South from the Mount on the Glenelg River Road, (also called Punt Road or “The Nelson Road”), we passed through the tiny hamlet of Caveton and turned left onto Sea Coast Road. We followed this past the Devil’s Hole sinkhole on the left and then the quarry on our right. We turned right at the next opportunity. This road runs into the Northern boundary of the Park. We turned left and followed the track along the boundary for about a kilometre and then turned into the park at the Butterfly Walk entrance.

As it was a Friends of the Parks weekend we expected to see quite a few people there but, apart from a portable toilet, we had the place to ourselves.

After setting up Tom started our activation off. At first he thought the KX3 had died as he was not getting any power out. After a bit of head scratching I remembered that I had been playing with the voice recorder feature on this amazing little device and so after changing a couple of settings we were in business at 10 watts.



Conditions were quite good with a bit of QSB but the contacts flowed quite well. Tom and I swapped positions a few times to allow stretching the legs or wandering about taking photo's of the wildlife. I don't have a copy of Toms log but I worked the following callers.

- Adrian, VK5FANA in Bird Island C.P. VKFF-0871
- Paul, VK5PAS in Scott C.P. VKFF-0934.

- Greg, VK5ZGY in Canunda N.P. VKFF-0075
- Tom. VK5NFT,
- Tim, VK5AV.
- Jim, VK1AT/3
- Brian, VK5FMID.
- Rob, VK4AAC/5 in Little Dip C.P. VKFF-0904.
- Paul, VK3DBP.
- Andrew, VK2UH.
- Allen, VK3HRA in Hepburn R.P. VKFF-0968.
- Cliff, VK2NP/2 in Sea Acres N.P. VKFF-0606.
- Mick, VK3PMG in Gunbower N.P. VKFF-0740.
- Ian, VK1DI in Goorooyarra N.R. VKFF-0841.
- Giles, VK5GK/5 in Mt. George C.P. VKFF-0784. (His first ever Park.)
- Greg, VK5GJ/5 in Cox's Scrub C.P. VKFF-0824.
- Fred, VK3DAC in Mornington Peninsula VKFF-0333.
- Peter, VK3ZPF/3 in Point Nepean N.P. VKFF-0628.

- Joe, VK3YSP/3 on the Dromana Pier.
- Peter, VK3TKK.
- Julie, VK3FOWL/3 on Dromana Pier.
- Garry, VK5FGY/5 in Morialta C.P.
- Ron, VK3AFW.
- Ian, VK5CZ/5 in Spring Gulley C.P. VKFF-0816.

24 contacts with 14 of those being Park to Park contacts.

Tom and I thoroughly enjoyed the day. The weather was good, the flies not too persistent and pretty good radio conditions. Most importantly – NO RF NOISE! Brilliant.

Many thanks to all who gave us a call. Without your input the day would have been a dead loss.

Many thanks are due to Paul, VK5PAS also for his unceasing efforts in organising this weekend and the whole WWFF AND VKFF activity in general. A truly magnificent solo effort Paul!

We look forward to returning to complete our 44 contacts each.

73, Col VK5HCF

## New QRP rig

By John VK6NU



New QRP Rig The FX9A, found this on [Eham.net](http://Eham.net).

A new portable HF transceiver

long : 16.5cm wide : 10cm highly : 4.8cm

Frequency range :  
160M/80M/40M/30M/20M/17M/15M/12M/10M

Rf power output :

SSB 10W/5W

CW 15W/5W

Receiving sensitivity : 0.5uv

SSB Filter bandwidth :2K

The CW narrow-band filter bandwidth :  
200HZ

Working mode : LSB/USB/CW-A/CW-B( iambic keyer mode A and B)

KEY : AUTO/MANUAL

It has no complex functions, Very simple operation. You'll master it easily

CW Receive the video :

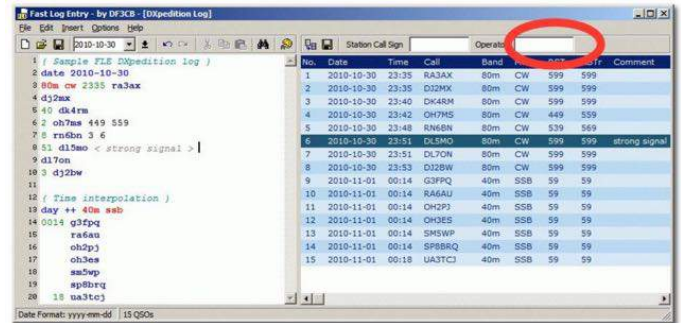
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9u1dm7wJdcw>

SSB Receive the video :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kc7EzFO51YU>

More pictures link :

<http://t.qq.com/bg2fxHAM>



This box is for a call sign, should the operator call sign differ to the station call sign. e.g. you may be using a special event call sign, or a club call sign.

Placing your name in this box, causes errors when trying to upload the ADIF file to WWFF Log Search.

Please see the screenshot below from the FLE Instructions.



Cheers,  
Paul,  
VK5PAS.

## A trap with Fast Log Entry

By Paul VK5PAS

Hi all,

I just wanted to point out a bit of a trap that a few people are falling into with Fast Log Entry (FLE) when creating an ADIF file

A few people are placing their name in the Operator box (see the attached image). Please do NOT do this.



## 6 million QSOs in WWFF Log Search

By Pit YO3JW



New milestone reached now.  
In just few month we have an other million QSOs in our data base!  
01.05.2015 - 27.11.2015

It is time to say again: *Thank you !* to all our participants in WWFF activities. Activators, Hunters, National coordinators, also for you who read this info! Each of you put a small piece in this "building".

As I saw in bands it is just a life style now for many of us. Watching, prepare for departure to protected areas, hunting for activators, request awards for your results. It happens every day.

It is my honor to show this "Certificat" for QSO No.6,000,000  
You will can download it from "left"soon

Work to collect historic logs continues parallel to the "normal operation" where validated logs of current operations are

uploaded to the WWFF database by the local coordinators.

If you think a log is still missing or you possess an activity log, please contact your local coordinator ([list can be found here](#)).  
73 Pit YO3JW

## 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://hamspots.net/wwff/>

Below is a list of VK5 to DX (SOTA & parks contacts) that I am aware of.

Paul VK5PAS.

- G4AKC/p, pedestrian mobile (23/11/2015)
- IK2SAV/p, Italian Castles Award (21/11/2015)
- ON5SWA/p, ONFF-0291 (3/11/2015)
- SNOWFF/p, SPFF-0708 (3/11/2015)
- 2E0YYY/p, SOTA G/ SP-13 (1/11/2015)
- MWOYCC/p, SOTA GW/ SW-018 (1/11/2015)
- 2E0YYY/p, SOTA G/ SP-013 (1/11/2015)
- MW6MML/p, SOTA GW/ SW018 (1/11/2015)

Andrew VK3ARR activated Mount Eden that day. Andrew operated for about 10 minutes, and was slowed down by the wind and a lack of visibility. After about 10 minutes of CQing up came Ron VK3AFW, who took the honours in being the first VK to work ZL SOTA.

Sadly Andrew had to go QRT before qualifying the summit and had to walk back in the rain.

For more details on Andrew's activation please have a look at.....

<https://vk3arr.wordpress.com/2015/12/01/zl1-wl-101-hawkins-hill/>

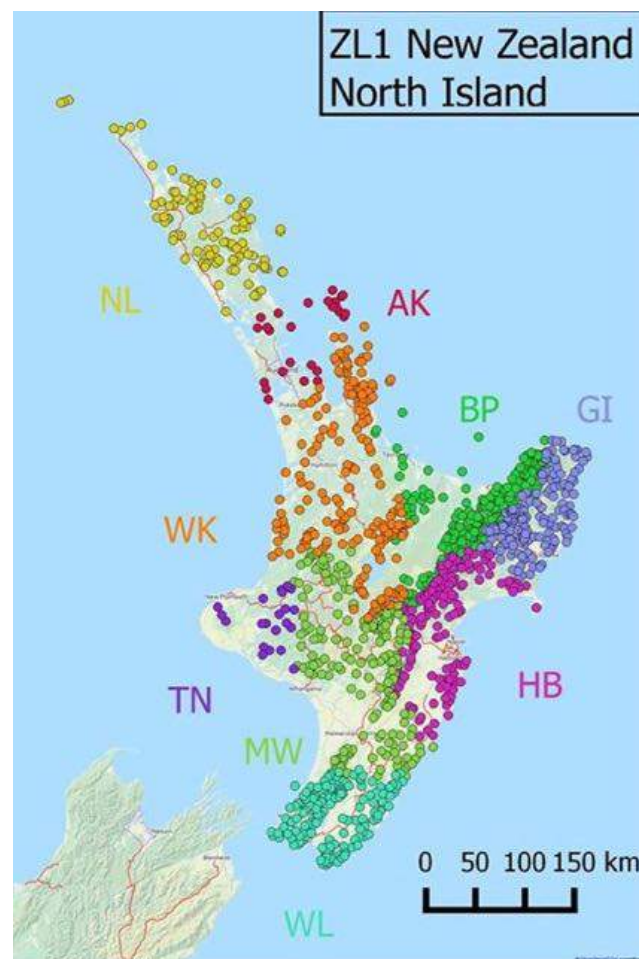
## North Island (ZL1) goes live

By Paul VK5PAS



North Island SOTA (ZL1) went live as from 0000 UTC on 1/12/2015.

ZL3 is apparently not far away.



There is also a ZL SOTA webpage which can be found at.....

<http://zl-sota.org/>

And here is a story from NZART HQ (courtesy of Trevor VK5ATQ).....

SOTA has landed in New Zealand and its shaping up to be big amongst the Ham Community with a lot of interest to date. The North Island summits have been mapped, checked, and are now active. South Island Summits will follow in the not too distant future. They have been mapped and are currently being checked before going live. SOTA is a world wide activity. Hams can make contacts from hill tops and collect points in an almost competition like activity among the Ham community.

To quote [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk) Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an award scheme for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. SOTA has been carefully designed to make participation possible for everyone - this is not just for mountaineers! There are awards for activators (those who ascend to the summits) and chasers (who either operate from home, a local hilltop or are even Activators on other summits). As the Association manager for SOTA New Zealand, I am keen to encourage SOTA activity. I am available to give some branches a talk, and to provide advice and encouragement to fellow hams. Feel free to email me [warren@zl2aj.com](mailto:warren@zl2aj.com).

There is lots of material on the internet to research SOTA. Many activators run blogs. There is a facebook group I manage and can be

found by searching “zl-sota”. There are several reflectors. The New Zealand reflector is [zl-sota@zl-sota.org](mailto:zl-sota@zl-sota.org).

Send a message with "subscribe" in the subject line to join. The website [www.zl-sota.org](http://www.zl-sota.org) should also be active soon. SOTA\_Australia is a yahoo group that welcomes ZL hams. VK is extremely active with SOTA and if you let them know they will be keen to work you as a contact.

More info can also be found at [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk).

Rules, FAQ and links to sotawatch and the database are available. Other than that - get outdoors and enjoy the wonderful scenery New Zealand has to offer, involve your family, involve your friends - SOTA is a great excuse to combine the outdoors and amateur radio. You may even recruit a few new hams in the process. I look forward to working you from your mountain or from mine or just learning of your achievements involving SOTA.

Thanks to those that helped make ZL SOTA a reality Andrew Ryan VK3ARR Don McDonald ZL3DMC Richard Smart ZL4FZ Warren Harris ZL2AJ Association Manager for ZL SOTA.

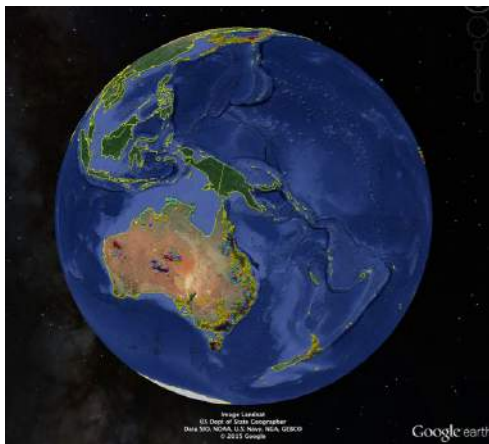


## Full list of summits around the world

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 spotted a video, please let me know.

**Peter VK3YE – kite antennas**

<https://youtu.be/rsPGwc6oYsc>

**Stuart VK5STU and Nigel VK5NIG at Sandy Creek CP.**

<https://youtu.be/EhB77P49F5c>

## Slow CW practice

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder of the Slow CW Practice Net for SOTA operators. Every Thursday night, currently on 3.540 MHz from 8:30 PM local time.

SSB check in followed by CW check in. Then some SOTA type QSOs or special practice exercises.

Speed – your speed, 5 to 18 wpm.