



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 8, June 2015

Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 8, June 2015, of 'Out and About in VK5'. I have changed the layout of this issue to a 2 column style, after a comment I received that the 3 column style was difficult to read. I would appreciate your feedback via email, as to whether you prefer this style to the 3 column layout. Please send your comments to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

The month of May was another busy month, with lots of activity, including the 2015 WIA AGM. Whilst there, myself, John VK5BJE, David VK5KC, and Trevor VK5ATQ, headed over and undertook some SOTA & park activations courtesy of Andrew VK1DA and John VK5BJE.

And Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG were busy in the Mid North of South Australia, activating some rare and unique summits as part of the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program.

During May I also successfully added all of the ACT Nature Parks to the World Wide Flora

Fauna (WWFF) program. Already, a number of these have been activated.

I know I have mentioned this previously, but please don't rely on me having to troll through blogs, Yahoo groups, and websites, to find information for 'Out and About'. Please send me any information that you believe may be of interest to other amateurs. It might be a home brew project, a favourite park, an item you've seen on the TV news or on the internet. All information is greatly appreciated and received.

Winter is almost upon us, so I guess portable activity will slow down a little now. On a personal level I am off to the South East next week for the SERG Convention and I will also be activating some parks whilst there. And I am then off to the Far North of SA with John VK5BJE & David VK5KC for some summit & park activations.

Best 73,

Paul, VK5PAS.

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A reminder for your logs.

By Paul VK5PAS



Remember that if you activate a park for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, I need your activator log/s. I will then upload them to the WWFF LogSearch facility.

If you do not provide your logs, then all the stations who worked you will not be able to claim the park towards their Hunter scores.

You can provide your logs as either....

an ADIF file

OR

a CSV file

Information on WWFF LogSearch, ADIF files, CSV, etc can be found in the publication ‘What is WWFF LogSearch’ which can be found on the WWFF Australia website at....

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

Should you have any dramas putting a log together, please send me an email to....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

You might be surprised

By Paul VK5PAS



I would encourage you all to check WWFF LogSearch to see if you have qualified for any WWFF award certificates. You might be pleasantly surprised.

You need to register first to use LogSearch. This is very easy to do. Simply follow the prompts on the LogSearch page at....

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

All of the hard work is done for you with LogSearch. Once registered, you simply click on the awards you would like to apply for, and the relevant WWFF Award Managers/National coordinators will arrange the certificates to be sent to you as PDF files.

There are dozens of certificates sitting there in cyber space waiting for amateurs to apply.



Canberra parks added to WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS



A total of 33 ACT Nature Parks have now been added to the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program. I would like to thank Luciano I5FLN for approving them within 24 hours after I submitted them.

The parks went live on 21st May 2015.

It is very pleasing to hear that a number of amateurs have already ventured out to activate these parks.

Here is a list of the new ACT parks.....

- Aranda Bushland Nature Reserve VKFF-833
- Black Mountain Nature Reserve VKFF-834
- Bruce Ridge Nature Reserve VKFF-835
- Callum Brae Nature Reserve VKFF-836
- Cooleman Ridge Nature Reserve VKFF-837
- Crace Grassland Nature Reserve VKFF-838
- Dunlop Grassland Nature Reserve VKFF-839
- Farrer Ridge Nature Reserve VKFF-840
- Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve VFF-841
- Gossan Hill Nature Reserve VKFF-842
- Gungahlin Hill Nature Reserve VKFF-843
- Issacs Ridge Nature Reserve VKFF-845
- Jerrabomberra Grassland Nature Reserve VKFF-846
- Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve VKFF-847
- Kama Nature Reserve VKFF-848
- McQuoids Hill Nature Reserve VKFF-849
- Mount Ainslie Nature Reserve VKFF-850
- Mount Majura Nature Reserve VKFF-851
- Mount Mugga Mugga Nature Reserve VKFF-852
- Mount Painter Nature Reserve VKFF-853
- Mount Taylor Nature Reserve VKFF-854
- Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve VKFF-855
- Mulanggari Grassland Nature Reserve VKFF-856
- O'Connor Ridge Nature Reserve VKFF-857
- Oakey Hill Nature Reserve VKFF-858
- Percival Hill Nature Reserve VKFF-859
- Red Hill Nature Reserve VKFF-860
- Rob Roy Nature Reserve VKFF-861
- The Pinnacle Nature Reserve VKFF-862
- Tuggeranong Hill Nature Reserve VKFF-863
- Urambi Hills Nature Reserve VKFF-864
- Wanniasa Hills Nature Reserve VKFF-865

More information on the Canberra Nature Parks can be located at.....

http://www.tams.act.gov.au/parks-recreation/parks_and_reserves/canberra_nature_park

Recent Park Activations

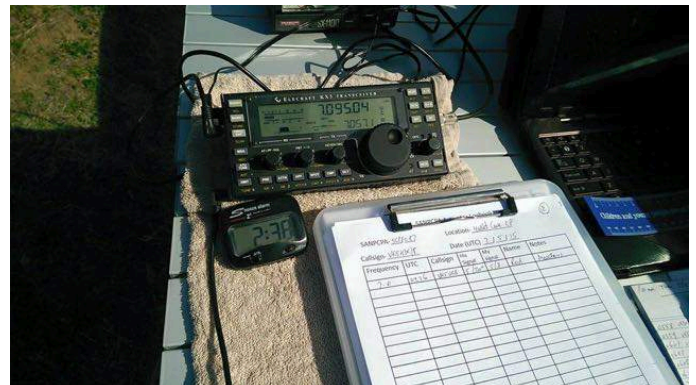
Here is a list of recent park activations by VK5's. A little quieter period than last month, despite the fact that we had some beautiful weather.



Above:- Bob VK5FO operating at Brookfield CP. Image courtesy of VK5FO

- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park VKFF-782, Paul VK5PAS (23/5/2015)
- Mylor Conservation Park VKFF-785, Paul VK5PAS (22/5/2015)
- Belair National Park VKFF-022, Stef VK5HSX (21/5/2015)
- Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX (16/5/2015)
- Brookfield Conservation Park VKFF-822, Bob VK5FO (9/5/2015)
- Namadgi National Park ACT VKFF-377, John VK5BJE/1 (7/5/2015)
- Namadgi National Park ACT VKFF-377, Paul VK5PAS/1 (7/5/2015)

- Hallett Cove Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (3/5/2015)
- Murray River National Park VKFF-372, Paul VK5PAS (3/5/2015)
- Murray Sunset National Park VIC VKFF-373, Paul VK5PAS (3/5/2015)
- Belair National Park VKFF-022, John VK5BJE (3/5/3015)
- Morialta Conservation Park VKFF-783, Brendon VK5FFCC (2/5/2015)
- Pike River Conservation Park VKFF-831, Paul VK5PAS (2/5/2015)
- Coollong Conservation Park VKFF-823, Paul VK5PAS (1/5/2015)
- Bakara Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (1/5/2015)



Above:- Set up of Stef VK5HSX at Hallett Cove CP

Recent SOTA activations



Quite a lot of SOTA activity this month due to the efforts of Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG.

- The Devils Peak VK5/ NE-080, Ian VK5CZ (23/5/2015)
- Coomaroo Hill VK5/ NE-088, Ian VK5CZ (23/5/2015)
- Oulinina Hill VK5/ NE-071, Ian VK5CZ (17/5/2015)
- Oulinina Hill VK5/ NE-071, Hugh VK5NHG (17/5/2015)
- VK5/ NE-095, Ian VK5CZ (17/5/2015)
- VK5/ NE-095, Hugh VK5NHG (17/5/2015)
- Waroonee Hill VK5/ NE-102, Ian VK5CZ (16/5/2015)
- Waroonee Hill VK5/ NE-102, Hugh VK5NHG (16/5/2015)
- Karkala Ridge VK5/ NE-104, Ian VK5CZ (16/5/2015)
- Karkala Ridge VK5/ NE-104, Hugh VK5NHG (16/5/2015)
- Mount Stromlo ACT, VK1/ AC-043, David VK5KC/1 (11/5/2015)
- Mount Stromlo ACT, VK1/ AC-043, Trevor VK5ATQ/1 (11/5/2015)
- Mount Stromlo ACT, VK1/ AC-043, Paul VK5PAS/1 (11/5/2015)
- Black Mountain ACT, VK1/ AC-042, Keith VK5OQ (11/5/2015)
- Black Mountain ACT, VK1/ AC-042, John VK5BJE/1 (10/5/2015)
- Black Mountain ACT, VK1/ AC-042, Paul VK5PAS/1 (10/5/2015)
- Mount Ainslie ACT, VK1/ AC-040, John VK5BJE/1 (10/5/2015)
- Mount Ainslie ACT, VK1/ AC-040, Paul VK5PAS/1 (10/5/2015)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Bob VK5FO (10/5/2015)
- Mount Ainslie ACT VK1/ AC-040, Keith VK5OQ (10/5/2015)
- Mount Ainslie ACT, VK1/ AC-040, Paul VK5PAS/1 (9/5/2015)
- Mount Lofty VK5/ SE-005, Ian VK5CZ (8/5/2015)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Ian VK5CZ (8/5/2015)
- Mount Ginini ACT, VK1/ AC-008, John VK5BJE/1 (7/5/2015)
- Mount Ginini ACT, VK1/ AC-008, Paul VK5PAS/1 (7/5/2015)
- Mount Coree ACT, VK1/ AC-023, John VK5BJE/1 (7/5/2015)
- Mount Coree ACT, VK1/ AC-023, Paul VK5PAS/1 (7/5/2015)



Above:- Bob VK5FO operating from Mount Gawler VK5/SE-013. Image courtesy of VK5FO.

Recent videos

By Paul VK5PAS

Here are some links to some recent videos posted by SOTA & Park activators.....

VK5FFCC in Morialta CP

<https://youtu.be/bUYiLpbjrj8>

Paul VK5PAS in Murray Sunset NP

<https://youtu.be/GFREpLssSOA>

VK5PAS in Mylor CP (in contact with ZD7VC)

https://youtu.be/oUx_BDDhvPY

ON4VLM (working into VK)

<https://youtu.be/-MDwzWD2oMA>

eQSLing for WWFF & SOTA activations

By Danny OT4V



As you all might know already, I'm a big favourite of **eQSLing**. It's a wonderful way of confirming QSO's where no paper QSL card is needed regarding awards. And be honest, how much of your paper QSL cards are you using to apply for an award ?

The **eQSL.cc** website doesn't look very modern, okay, and also the standard QSL cards are not looking that good, but free! For a few dollars a year (much much less than printing paper QSL) also this problem is solved and you can use personal cards. If you are not very good in graphic design I'm even offering you to make a good looking eQSL, I've made dozens for radiofriends all over the world. Second problem solved.

Adding your log to eQSL is very simple, just uploading your standard ADIF-file. No converting or other troubles ... Most current log software has automatic eQSL upload and download on board.

Even when you are activating a lot from /P places (like WWFF and SOTA) it's not that difficult to send via the same account a different card for every different call and/or QTH. A

detailed manual how to do is here : **PE4BAS eQSL**

That's also the way I'm doing it ... works fantastic. Always an eQSL with the RIGHT CALL and RIGHT reference, if you even want with a different photo. See examples from stations who are doing it already that way : **WWFF QSL Gallery** and **SOTA QSL Gallery**



Hi All,

I have created an online Newsletter for activation stories from VKFF & WWFF that are posted on the web. It is still in its preliminary stages but if there is enough interest i will keep it going.

The idea is to put out the newsletter once a week on Thursdays. You can subscribe by entering your email address & it will be automatically posted to you. At the moment I can only use articles that have been posted online but hope in the future to be able to include stories from those that do not have a blog or website.

The newsletter is a collection of links to

different stories, all you have to do is click on the link to go to that persons blog or website, For those using Wordpress, Twitter or Google +, using the vkff or wwff hashtags will automatically submit the stories to the newsletter. I should be able to add Facebook posts as well, still learning how to do this.

Due to the amount of different Blogs, Forums, Websites & other social media it is difficult to keep up with all the news from VK & WWFF, hopefully this newsletter will make it a little easier.

If you would like to submit something I have created an email address for the paper, just send me the link for the article to be included. any ideas you might have feel free to email me.

The email address is vkffnews@gmail.com

The link to the Newspaper is [VKFF & WWFF NEWS](#)

73,

Doug, VK2FMIA



In early May I travelled to the Riverland region of South Australia where I activated 3 Conservation Parks and 2 National Parks for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award, World Wide Flora & Fauna, and the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

Whilst there, Ivan VK5HS installed my new Codan 9350 antenna on the Hi Lux. And I also had the pleasure of a joint activation of the Murray River National Park with Larry VK5LY, Ivan VK5HS, and Peter VK5FLEX.

Below is a list of my activations whilst in the Riverland.....

- Bakara Conservation Park - 91 contacts
- Cooltong Conservation Park, VKFF-823 - 44 contacts
- Pike River Conservation Park, VKFF-831 - 118 contacts
- Murray Sunset National Park, VKFF-373 -66 contacts
- Murray River National Park, VKFF- 29 contacts



Above: L-R Ivan VK5HS, Peter VK5FLEX & Larry VK5LY (on the mic) in the Murray River NP. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.



Above: L-R Paul VK5PAS, Larry VK5LY (on the mic), & Peter VK5FLEX, in the Murray River NP. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS

Welcome to the following new members of the VK5 Parks Yahoo group.....

- Ken, ZL4KD
- Jeff VK5JK
- VK5APN

A reminder that the VK5 Parks Award Yahoo group can be found at.....

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

It is FREE and EASY to join.

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

- Simon VK3SIM
- Will VK5AHV

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

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

Negative comments on air

By Paul VK5PAS

I was very saddened to see Amanda VK3FQSO's post on the SOTA, VK5 Parks & WWFF Yahoo groups, that she had recently been accused of running more power than allowed.

Here is what Amanda posted.....

Hi to everyone,

From now on when I make contacts on the radio I will be using 500mW. I have never been a power cheat, although I know of quite a few who don't care and what they choose to do is their own business, but I have been getting 59+ reports and I had someone talk over a contact and tell me to turn down my power. They, of course, didn't use their callsign but this upsets me a great deal as I have always used my 10W and have never used the 100W setting.

Where I live I have my 1/2 wave dipole stretched over a small valley, it is up around $.2\lambda$ and the ground here is covered in iron ore, and this essentially turns the whole thing into an NVIS antenna, which goes a long way into explaining my great signal reports. As funny as it sounds, my girly voice does give me a consistent 1 or 2 S points over my husband's received reports. I guess I am just extremely lucky in my location, antenna and voice to have great operating conditions.

As most people can hear me very well when I use my super low setting on the Alinco, I will be sticking to that setting. So, if you hear me calling you on air, assume I'm running super QRP. :)

*Cheers and 73,
Amanda
VK3FQSO*

Talk about a hypocrite, with regards to poor operating practice. The amateur who made these comments, repeatedly called over the top of the other station that Amanda was working recently, and told Amanda to turn down her power.

I have worked Amanda many times when she has been running ‘super QRP’, e.g. 500 mw, and I have always heard her extremely well.

I can only assume that the amateur who made these comments, knows very little about QRP, and has probably never ever activated portable.

I am disappointed that we have such rude and misinformed people in our hobby. But it doesn’t surprise me when I consider the many comments I have heard on air from some of the ‘band police’. Many of those comments have been directed to F calls telling them to turn down their power output, and making derogatory comments calling the F calls, ‘CBers’ and to get out of the hobby.

Now I am sure that there are some F calls out there that do run extra power, but the vast majority abide by their licencing conditions and are doing an excellent job.

At the recent WIA AGM in Canberra, great emphasis was placed on Foundation calls, as this year is the 10 year anniversary of the F call. It is a fact that the hobby of amateur radio in Australia would be in rapid decline if it wasn’t for the Foundation licence.

If you are reading this Amanda (or any other Foundation calls that have been the subject of similar behavior), don’t let the behavior of a few out you off. Keep flying the amateur radio flag. You are doing a great job.

Save the endangered Yellow Crested Cockatoos

By Paul VK5PAS



The world was stunned when images of endangered cockatoos in Indonesia, stuffed into plastic bottles so they could be shipped abroad, came to light. We need your help to shut down Indonesia’s illegal animal trade and associated wildlife crime before it is too late.

Indonesian police recently discovered dozens of endangered cockatoos sedated and jammed into water bottles. The rare animals -- there are only 7,000 left in the world -- were found either dead or barely alive.

Unfortunately, this tragic scene is not rare in Indonesia.

Indonesia’s law protecting endangered animals is 25 years old and out-dated. The criminals responsible for the illegal animal trade are rarely caught. If they are apprehended, they receive a light punishment. This does not provide a deterrent for them to stop.

Law enforcement needs the resources to catch the animal smugglers and more importantly the poachers, and then the ability to hand down harsher punishments.

Join us in speaking for the voiceless animals being driven to extinction -- tell the Indonesian government we cannot afford to wait any longer to update the law protecting endangered species.

Although the cockatoos were discovered before they reached their destination, it was too late for 11 of the birds. Each death brings the bird closer to extinction. Like in previous cases, the smugglers responsible will soon be back on the streets and will return to their illegal activities.

Unless Indonesia's law is changed, and its law enforcement made effective, there is no incentive for these criminals to stop and more animals will be smuggled in horrifying ways and end up dying.

It will take pressure from the world community to get countries like Indonesia to take action and make sure these precious animals and other threatened species are truly protected.

Please sign and share our petition demanding Indonesia take action and revise their law protecting endangered species.

No more #BottledCockatoos!

https://www.change.org/p/stop-endangered-birds-from-be-drugged-shoved-into-water-bottles-and-illegally-traded?utm_source=action_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=307333&alert_id=P

[qFCqUooEg_PI8gJN5NY9X6T4Mg2iPPc7VKZ
XlpdQ6yzjubrmU4EuaFf8w%2FQI3MfEuzKkl
%2F1VUI](https://www.change.org/p/stop-endangered-birds-from-be-drugged-shoved-into-water-bottles-and-illegally-traded?utm_source=action_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=307333&alert_id=P)



Above:- Yellow crested cockatoo. Image courtesy of Wikipedia.org

Portable activity presentations

By Paul VK5PAS

On Thursday 21st May 2015 I attended the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS) general meeting and delivered a quick presentation on the VK5 Parks Award & WWFF. There were about 50 people in attendance.

On display I had the Yaesu FT-817nd, the Yaesu FT-857d, various power sources including SLAB batteries, LiFePo batteries, and my 44 amp hour power pack. I also brought along a collection of antennas and certificates from the WWFF & VK5 Parks programs.



*Above:- Paul VK5PAS at the AHARS meeting.
Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.*

And then on Saturday morning, 23rd May 2015, I attended at the AHARS shack at Blackwood, and gave a presentation on tips and tricks for park activators and hunters. I was ably assisted by Chris VK4FR/5.

Again, we had a large amount of gear on display including transceivers (Yaesu FT-857d, Elecraft KX3, Yaesu FT-817nd), various power sources, antennas, bothy bags, GPS devices, squid poles, etc.



*Above: The gathering at the AHARS shack.
Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS*

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS

SOTA

NIL known

VK5 Parks Award

Tony, VK3VTH/5

- Bronze Activator



Adrian VK5FANA

- Bronze NP Uniques Hunter
- Silver NP Uniques Hunter

- Gold NP Uniques Hunter
- Silver CP Uniques Hunter

David VK5LSB

- Gold Hunter
- Platinum Hunter
- Bronze CP Uniques Hunter
- Bronze NP Uniques Hunter
- Silver NP Uniques Hunter
- Gold NP Uniques Hunter



WWFF

Tim VK5AV

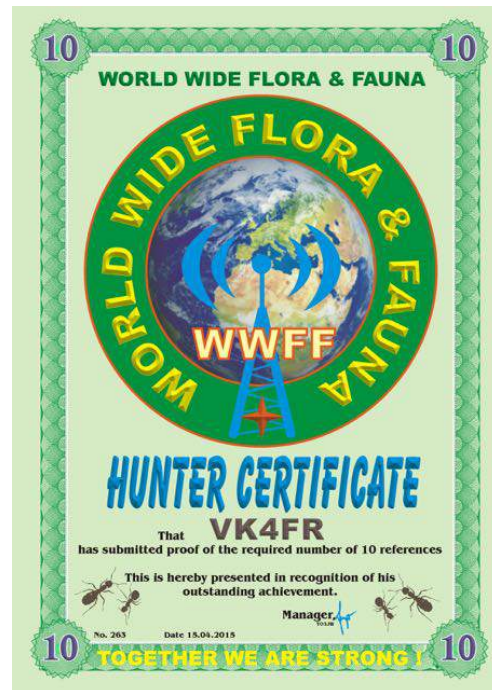
- Diamond VKFF Hunter

David VK5NQP

- Platinum Hunter

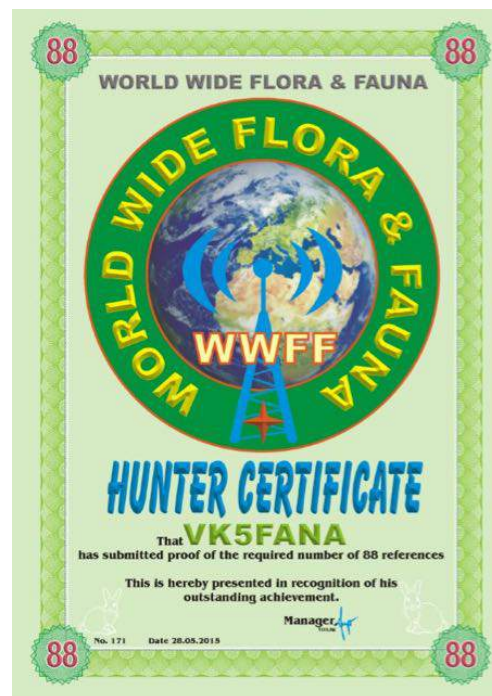
Chris VK4FR/5

- WWFF Global 10 reference Activator



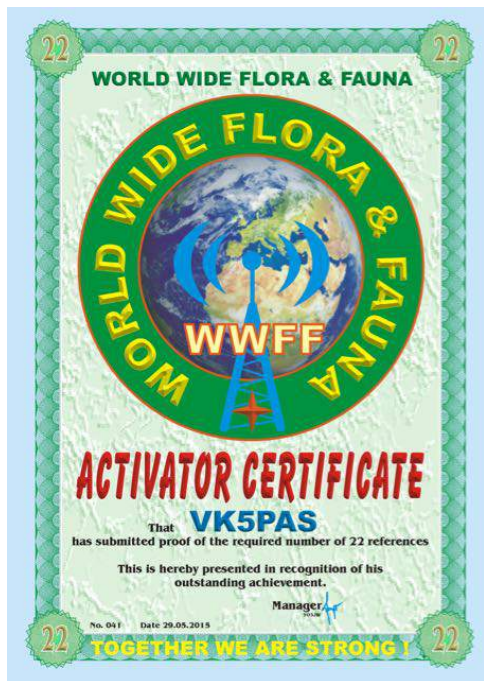
Adrian VK5FANA

- WWFF Global 88 ref Activator



Paul VK5PAS

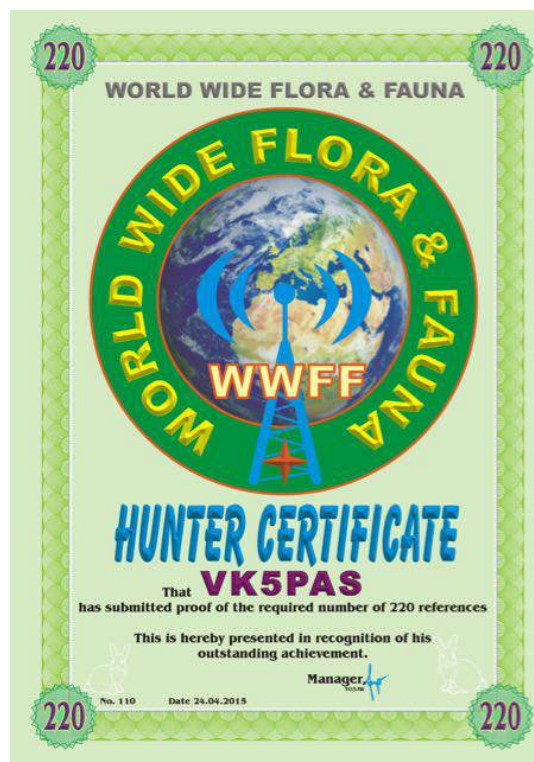
- WWFF Global 22 ref Activator



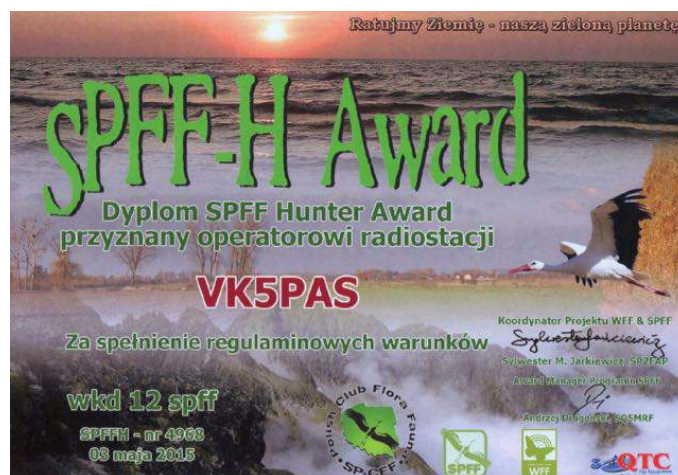
- DXFF 20



- Global 220 references Hunter



- Poland 12 SPFF references Hunter



Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

Tim VK5AV



For more information on Tim's award, please see.....

<https://www.amateurradio.com.au/news/more-qualify-kpmnpa-merit-awards>

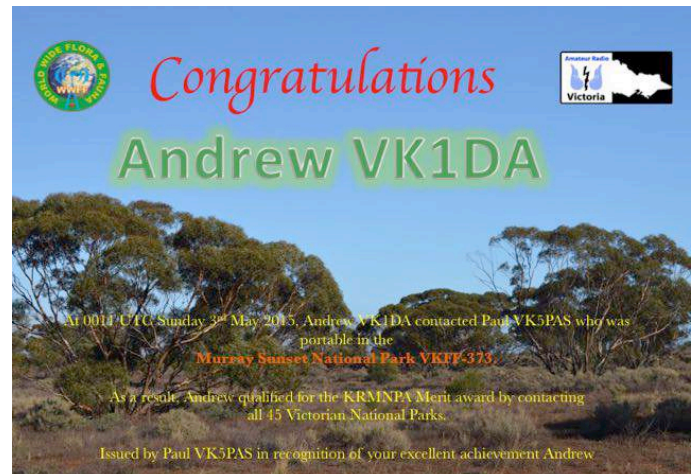
Congratulations Andrew VK1DA

By Paul VK5PAS

Whilst operating a few weeks ago in the Murray Sunset National Park in Victoria, I spoke with Andrew VK1DA. Andrew was portable on SOTA summit Mount Majura VK1/ AC-034. As a result of our QSO, I gave Andrew his 45th and final Victorian National Park. Andrew has now qualified for the Merit Award for the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award

(KRMNPA) for having worked all 45 Victorian National Parks.

As a token of congratulations, I put together a certificate myself and mailed this to Andrew, congratulating him on his fantastic effort.



Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

During the past couple of weeks I've seen that Mick VK3PMG and Peter VK3PF have been chasing overseas SOTA & Parks activators. A number of the European activators are now specifically listening out for VK & ZL.

There are a lot of European activators out there during our afternoon on 20m Long Path. It does take some patience, to try to break through the pile up, but it is very satisfying when you do.

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.

If you have worked a DX activator, please send me an email with the details so I can include it in the list for the next issue.

Paul VK5PAS.

- Danny OT4V/p, BELGIUM ONFF-388 (29/5/2015)
- Swa ON5SWA/p, BELGIUM ONFF-208 (29/5/2015)
- MoDXT/p, ENGLAND, lighthouse (28/5/2015)
- Swa ON5SWA/p, BELGIUM ONFF-0334 (27/5/2015)
- 9A1CU/p, CROATIA 9AFF-011 (27/5/2015)
- Tony G7OEM pedestrian mobile (26/5/2015)
- Dave G4AKC pedestrian mobile (26/5/2015)
- PI4WBR/p, NETHERLANDS PAFF-015 (26/5/2015)
- Francois F/ON4LO/p, FRANCE FF-092 (26/5/2015)
- Dave M6XMD pedestrian mobile (25/5/2015)
- Dave MoDAD pedestrian mobile (25/5/2015)
- Tony G7OEM pedestrian mobile (25/5/2015)
- Patrice F4ESK/p, FRANCE SOTA F/AM-354 (24/5/2015)
- Tony G7OEM pedestrian mobile (21/5/2015)
- Dave G4AKC pedestrian mobile (21/5/2015)
- Mike 2EoYYY/p SOTA G/ WB-004 (21/5/2015)
- CR6AG/p, PORTUGAL, Worked Castles Award (16/5/2015)
- DG7ACF/p, GERMANY SOTA DM/ NS-164 (16/5/2015)
- IZ5EKV/p, Italian Castles Award (16/5/2015)
- EA5/ON4LO/p, SPAIN EAFF-169 (16/5/2015)
- F4BKV/p FRANCE Lighthouse (16/5/2015)
- OT6V/p, BELGIUM ONFF-256 (15/5/2015)
- HA8FY/p HUNGARY HAFF-031 (15/5/2015)
- Mike 2EoYYY/p, ENGLAND SOTA G/ WB-005 (13/5/2015)
- HB9ZAP/p, SWITZERLAND SOTA HB/SG-044 (12/5/2015)
- ON4WLR/p, BELGIUM ONFF-098 (12/5/2015)
- EA5/ON4LO/p, SPAIN EAFF-169 (12/5/2015)
- F4HKO/p, FRANCE Lighthouse (6/5/2015)

- ON4WCR/p, BELGIUM ONFF-458 (6/5/2015)
- IZ5MMQ/p, Italian Castles Award (6/5/2015)
- EA5/ON4LO/p, SPAIN lighthouse (6/5/2015)



Image courtesy of VK2HAS

A very unique contact

By Paul VK5PAS

On Sunday 17th May I made contact with Alex VK2HAS who was operating from an armored personnel carrier at the Campbelltown Show. Alex was using the original radio equipment in the APC.

Alex often goes pedestrian mobile and is a regular on 20m, but this was a very unique contact.



Image courtesy of VK2HAS

VKFF listing

By Paul VK5PAS

Amanda VK3FQSO has put together an Excel spreadsheet which has all the VKFF parks on it. It is a nice way of highlighting which parks you have worked.

The file can be found in the Files section of the WWFF Australia Yahoo group.

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

Parks as a Foundation licence holder

By Peter VK5FLEX



As a newly licenced Foundation operator, getting involved with activating parks has been a great introduction to the hobby. My first few months on air were pretty slow with not many contacts and generally just finding my way around.

Then in February of 2015 I took up the offer from a local and fellow club member Larry VK5LY to go out on a park activation. From that day on it changed the way I was using the hobby. It was the best introduction to Ham radio I could have had.

Larry showed me the ropes and got me involved from the word go. I quickly became comfortable with operating and talking to many contacts.... far more in a couple of hours than I had in months.

Larry showed me how easy it was to set up portable and how low the noise level is out in a park. Being a foundation licence holder and thinking 10w was not going to be very useful, we were using a FT 817 with 5w. I soon

saw that you get great bang for your buck in a park.

I had always thought I would not be the type of operator that made my own gear and would have to buy everything commercially made. We did the activation on Friday evening and by Saturday afternoon I had made my own half wave dipole and was out on my first solo activation making about 40 contacts in an hour and a half.

Since that time I have made many on air friends and met quite a few in person. Now, instead of just me looking for contacts other operators look for me.

I have found the operators who are into hunting and activating parks a great source of information and friendship. I believe if I had not got involved with activating parks I would not have advanced this far in the hobby or made as many contacts and friends.

Below are the main dot points why I think Parks are great for a Foundation licence holder

- : low power is all you need to make contacts over long distance
- : you can make many contacts in a short period of time
- : I have learnt the basics of antenna building quickly
- : I can set up portable in minutes.
- : the cost has been very low for me starting out due to only needing simple equipment and making my own antennas.
- : I can combine two things I like: amateur radio and camping out in the bush
- : It promotes a healthy life style getting you out of the shack doing activity.

: learn to improvise when you forget or break something.
: learn logging skills quickly
: Over all activating is very hands on which for me is a better way of learning than on paper.

Cheers

Peter
VK5FLEX

2015 WIA AGM in Canberra

By Paul VK5PAS

A few weeks ago I flew to Canberra to attend the 2015 WIA AGM. What a great 5 days.

I got to meet many hams that I have spoken with numerous times on air, but had never met in person including Andrew VK1DA, Andrew VK1NAM, Ian VK1DI, Peter VK3PF, John VK2YW, Gerard VK2IO, to mention just a few.

I was also awarded a Presidents Commendation certificate for my involvement in the WWFF program, which came as an enormous surprise. Thanks to those here in VK5 that nominated me for this award. It is greatly appreciated.



Above:- Presidents Commendation certificate

I also delivered a presentation to about 100 people on Saturday afternoon on the WWFF program. Hopefully this has given more exposure for WWFF and prompted a few more to become involved.

I arrived in Canberra on Thursday night and enjoyed a meal with John VK5BJE at the Novotel. On Friday, John and I were taken out for some SOTA & park activations, hosted by Ian VK1DI. We activated Mount Coree and Mount Ginini, located in the Namadgi National Park.

On Friday night we attended King OMalleys Hotel for a meal and a chat amongst fellow hams.



Above: Ian VK1DI & Andrew VK1MBE. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

On Saturday morning, the WIA AGM was held at the Canberra Hellenic Club, followed by an open forum and a number of guest speakers.

On Friday evening, before the formal dinner, I snuck out with Peter VK3PF for a quick 2m SOTA activation at Mt Ainslie. We then returned to the Hellenic Club for a very enjoyable meal at the WIA formal dinner.



Above: L-R, Paul VK5PAS, Andrew VK1NAM & John VK5BJE. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.



Above: L-R Gerard VK2IO, Andrew VK1DA & Peter VK3PF. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

On Sunday morning, John VK5BJE and I met up with Andrew VK1NAM, who took us out to activate Mount Ainslie and then Black Mountain. Whilst there we met up with Heath VK3TWO and his wife Monique. Following the activation, we enjoyed a nice warm coffee in the café.

On Sunday evening we attended the Canberra Labour Club for a dinner hosted by CRARC.

And then on Monday morning, Andrew VK1NAM took myself, David VK5KC and Trevor VK5ATQ out to activate Mount Stromlo.

I flew back home on Monday afternoon.

This was the first WIA AGM I had attended, and I would highly recommend attending one if you have not been before. Next year, it is proposed that the WIA AGM be held on Norfolk Island. Quite exciting, considering there is a SOTA peak there and the whole island is also VKFF-392 for the WWFF program.

Here are my SOTA & Park activations whilst in the ACT.....

- Mount Coree VK1/ AC-023 and Namadgi National Park VKFF-377 (Friday 8/5/2015)



Above: Paul VK5PAS & John VK5BJE on the top of Mount Coree. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.



Above:- On Mount Coree. Andrew VK1DA & Paul VK5PAS. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

- Mount Ginini VK1 AC-008 and Namadgi National Park VKFF-377 (Friday 8/5/2015)



Above: John VK5BJE on air. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

- Mount Ainslie VK1/ AC-040 (Saturday 9/5/2015)



Above: The lights of Canberra from Mount Ainslie. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.



Above: Peter VK3PF operating on 2m handheld from the top of Mount Ainslie. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

- Mount Ainslie VK1/ AC-040 (Sunday 10/5/2015)



Above:- View from Mt Ainslie. Courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.



Above: Andrew VK1NAM operating from Mt Ainslie. Keeping the log is John VK5BJE

- Black Mountain VK1/ AC-042 (Sunday 10/5/2015)



Above: L-R: Andrew VK1NAM, John VK5BJE & Heath VK3TWO, on Black Mountain.



Above:- the crew at Black Mountain

- Mount Stromlo, VK1/ AC-043 (Monday 11/5/2015)



Above: David VK5KC operating from Mt Stromlo. Watching on is Trevor VK5ATQ



Above: Paul VK5PAS operating from Mt Stromlo. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

I would like to thank Andrew VK1DA and also Andrew VK1NAM, for their efforts in taking us out on Friday, Sunday & Monday.

Appreciation certificates

By Paul VK5PAS

I have now emailed a Participation certificate to all of the Activators of the VK5 Parks Award 2nd year anniversary activation weekend.



I received feedback from all Activators (bar one) with their stats from the weekend held in March. There were a total of 111 park activations, and of those 81 were unique parks. A total of 41 activators took part. And there were over 3,000 QSOs.

Thanks to everyone who took part in this very successful and fun weekend.

The following hams took part as Activators:-

- TimVK3MTB/5
- Tony VK3VTH/5
- Chris VK4FR/5

- David VK5AAH
- Andy VK5AKH
- Tim VK5AV
- Doc VK5BUG
- Ian VK5CZ
- Tom VK5EE
- Alan VK5FAJS
- Adrian VK5FANA
- Gary VK5FGRY
- Peter VK5FLEX
- Bob VK5FO
- Tom VK5FTRG
- Norm VK5GI
- Greg VK5GJ
- Gordon VK5GY
- Col VK5HCF
- David VK5HDW
- Geoff VK5HEL
- David VK5KC
- Andrew VK5KET
- Peter VK5KX
- Lesley VK5LOL
- Bill VK5MBD
- Matt VK5MLB
- Andrew VK5MR
- Nigel VK5NIG
- David VK5NQP
- Roy VK5NRG
- Keith VK5OQ
- Peter VK5PET
- Mark VK5QI
- Steve VK5SFA
- Hans VK5YX
- Tony VK5ZAI
- Arno VK5ZAR
- Greg VK5ZGY

- Richard VK5ZRY
- Paul VK5PAS

My first SOTA summit

By Trevor VK5ATQ

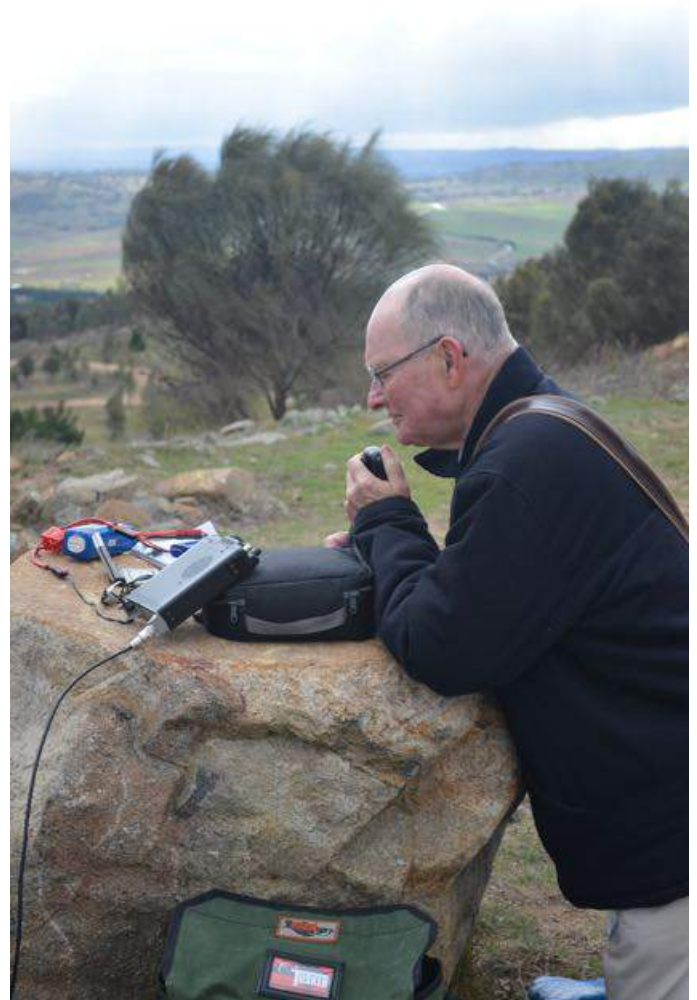


Above: Trevor on Mt Stromlo. Image courtesy of Andrew VK1NAM

While visiting Canberra for the WIA AGM David Clegg VK5KC and myself were wondering what to do to make the best use of a free Monday morning before boarding our plane back to Adelaide. Paul VK5PAS and Andrew VK1NAM invited us to visit with them the Mt Stromlo summit for a SOTA activation. Arriving in the morning after a pleasant drive up the hill we walked to a site away from the local RF and where a convenient post and even more convenient table top rock – or is that an altar for RF?

Andrew and Paul quickly had the Squid pole in place while David attended to the Linked Dipole for 7MHz and up. Andrew had his portable FT817 and LIPO power pack with monitor connected and we were on air. VK1, 2, and 3 were contacted in quick succession. All at 5 Watts. With the temperature at 10 or 11 degrees

the clouds looked as if they could open any time, but it was the wind that kept a relentless reminder that the wind chill factor was just a couple of degrees. After the experienced operators proved all was well I was offered the chance to try my luck. Contacts were no problem. All were friendly and helped me although the note paper was blowing about, my lips were starting to stiffen from the cold, and it was my excitement of being able to make contacts in quick succession that proved anyone can join the SOTA experience.



Above: Trevor VK5ATQ working the 'pileup' from Mt Stromlo. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

At 780 Metres ASL Mt Stromlo is well known in the astronomical world. The trees are mainly Casuarina with their fine long leaves to let the wind blow through. I saw no parrots or honeyeaters, but a couple of majestic wedge-tailed eagles were working the wind.

Special thanks to Andrew and Paul for organising the visit and allowing me to experience the outdoor world of Amateur Radio.

Trevor Quick VK5ATQ

Jock White Memorial Field Day results

By Paul VK5PAS

I reported in a previous issue of Out & About that I recently took part in the Jock White Memorial Field Day. I headed out to Porters Scrub Conservation Park and set up a portable station, and made contact with a number of New Zealand portable stations.

Only 2 stations from VK submitted a log. I came 2nd to a VK2 who was operating from home.

This is a good, fun little contest that I highly recommend. Why not give it a go next year.

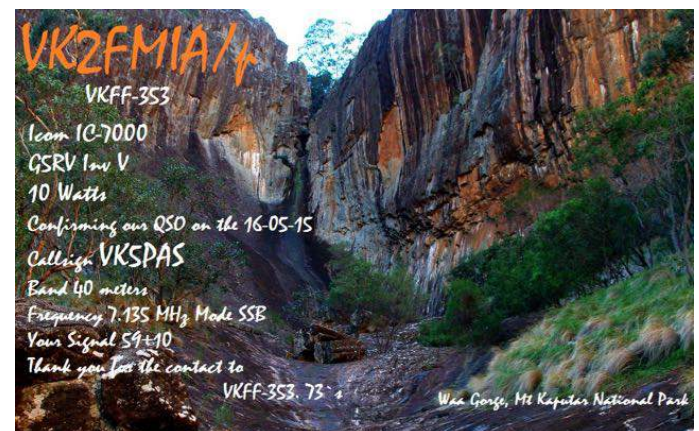
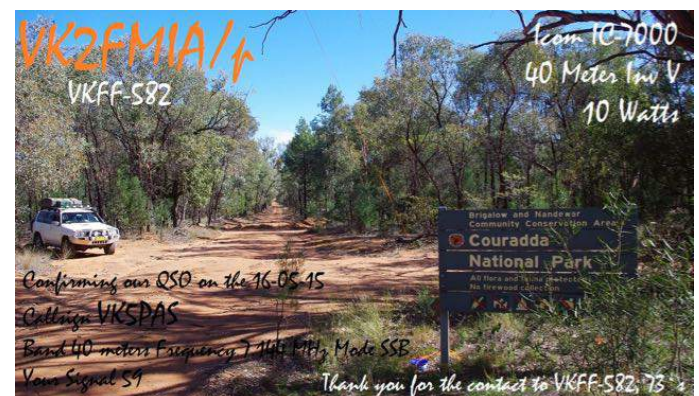
<http://www.nzart.org.nz/activities/contest-rules/rules-jock-white-field-day/>

QSL cards received

By Paul VK5PAS

If you have received any QSL cards from SOTA, Park, QRP, pedestrian mobile stations, etc, please send me a copy via email so I can include them here.

Doug VK2FMIA



In praise of Logbook of the World

By John VK5BJE



Introduction

If you are a serious DXer you will already be familiar with *Logbook of the World* (LOTW). But you do not have to be in the ‘big league’ or have a ‘big gun’ station to use and value LOTW! A casual operator enjoying a handful of DX and local contacts can also profitably use LOTW. The underlying reason for LOTW is that you do not know when you might become *addicted* and move from casual to serious status. Casual contacts add up. I have never been a serious DXer! I have had too many other factors to consider: family, demanding career, study and music to name just a few. I checked LOTW as I was writing this piece. I have 3,147 qsos uploaded and just 460 confirmations. I had a much better rate of confirmations before I commenced uploading my VK5BJE/P contacts! I have 72 countries confirmed and 40 US states confirmed as well. And I have not really tried! I have over 110 countries confirmed adding traditional cards and *Authenticity Guaranteed* (AG) eqsls into the mix and I am three US states short of my 50 (which includes Alaska although I have three non AG status eqsls from an Alaskan operator).

What is Log Book of the World?

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) states that ‘LOTW is an on-line service that allows you to electronically submit contacts (qsos) for confirmation’. It is a blind system. You do not know if the other operator uses LOTW or has up-loaded her log. It is that fact and the certificate you require, that makes it secure and trustworthy. You then view your confirmations on line. Unlike the eqsl system it does not pretend to provide an electronic qsl card.

Registering for LOTW

The first thing you to do register is download the *TQSL* application. You use this application to request participation in the program. You will then be issued with a call sign certificate which you need to digitally sign your log when you upload it to LOTW.

You can register as many call-signs as you like. I have three: VK5BJE, VK5BJE/P and AX5BJE/P. When you receive your call-sign certificate back it up. If you lose it, say through a computer crash, and you have not got it backed up you will have to start the registration process again. Call-sign certificates last three years and then expire. The ARRL will send a message to you prior to expiry, thus providing you with time to request a new certificate. I am now using my second certificate for VK5BJE.

When you have up-loaded your logs they will show in one record.

	Call sign	Worked	Date/Time	Band	Mode	Freq	QSL
Details	VK5BJE	F6ARC	2004-05-24 06:27:00	40M	SSB		FRANCE
Details	VK5BJE	GM4YXI	2005-02-06 10:15:00	20M	SSB		SCOTLAND
Details	VK5BJE	HL5NLQ	2005-02-13 10:01:00	20M	SSB		REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Details	VK5BJE	ZK1SDE	2005-02-14 06:16:00	20M	SSB		SOUTH COOK ISLANDS
Details	VK5BJE	WH8F6EXV	2005-03-12 10:08:00	20M	SSB		AMERICAN SAMOA
Details	VK5BJE	OH6NIO	2005-03-20 09:13:00	15M	SSB		FINLAND
Details	VK5BJE	RA3AJ	2005-03-20 09:17:00	15M	SSB		EUROPEAN RUSSIA
Details	VK5BJE	JH4UYB	2006-09-03 06:20:00	15M	SSB		JAPAN
Details	VK5BJE	VK7XX	2008-12-21 08:05:00	6M	SSB		AUSTRALIA
Details	VK5BJE	VK7AC	2008-12-21 08:22:00	6M	SSB		AUSTRALIA
Details	VK5BJE	A35RK	2008-12-30 00:07:00	6M	SSB		TONGA
Details	VK5BJE	4W6A	2011-09-21 11:15:00	80M	SSB		TIMOR-LESTE
Details	VK5BJE	3D2R	2011-10-03 21:55:00	15M	SSB		ROTUMA
Details	VK5BJE	EA8DO	2011-10-05 04:42:00	20M	SSB		CANARY ISLANDS
Details	VK5BJE	LZ1MS	2011-10-05 05:06:00	20M	SSB		BULGARIA
Details	VK5BJE	RN6HCW	2011-10-06 05:43:00	20M	SSB		EUROPEAN RUSSIA
Details	VK5BJE	EA8TL	2011-10-06 08:16:00	20M	SSB		CANARY ISLANDS
Details	VK5BJE	UA9FGR	2011-10-06 10:47:00	15M	SSB		EUROPEAN RUSSIA

The page from LOTW above was produced by activating the show confirmed qsos only. All of the contacts are with overseas stations and are from my home station. There are a couple of good ones there: Tonga on 6 metres and Timor-Leste on 80 metres!

Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5NQP/P5	2015-01-30 06:40:00	40M	SSB	7.11000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5GJ	2015-02-27 06:30:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5ZAR	2015-02-27 06:32:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK3DAC	2015-02-27 06:34:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK3TKK/M3	2015-02-27 06:35:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK3PMG	2015-02-27 06:37:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5KPR	2015-02-27 06:39:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5HCF/P5	2015-02-27 06:42:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5EE/P5	2015-02-27 06:43:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5FAJ/P5	2015-02-27 06:44:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5PAS/P5	2015-02-27 06:45:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK3OHM	2015-02-27 06:48:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	AUSTRALIA
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5TN/M5	2015-02-27 06:49:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK3YDN	2015-02-27 06:51:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK3BHR	2015-02-27 06:53:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK3PF	2015-02-27 06:56:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5WG	2015-02-27 06:57:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Details	VK5BJE/P	VK5KLV/P5	2015-02-27 06:58:00	40M	SSB	7.10000	
Prev							Next

This picture from LOTW shows only one confirmation (VK3OHM, Marc, the WIA awards Manager). The picture was generated by just taking a screen shot of LOTW for a sequential period. So far my experience is that very few Australian contacts are confirmed through LOTW which is a great shame as far as the SOTA and Parks programs are concerned. If you are using Fast Log Entry you can generate an ADIF file for LOTW from that program: so there are no excuses!

How to get started

1. Download and install TQSL
2. Request your initial call-sign certificate and LOTW password. Write down the password. The ARRL cannot tell you what it is if you forget
3. For any Australian amateur you will need to identify yourself to the ARRL Your ARRL membership details do not count even if you are a member! Make a copy of your amateur licence, driver's licence or front page of your passport and visit a Justice of the Police or other authorised person and have your document certified as genuine copies and mail them to the ARRL.

You will receive an email message in due course from the ARRL. Use the TQSL software to install your call-sign certificate. Then *back-up your call-sign certificate twice*: once on a thumbnail drive and also on a CD or another computer. Accept your call-sign certificate and finally define a station location. For VK5BJE that location is home and for VK5BJE/P and AX5BJE/P it is portable. To log contacts at home or while portable you must use independent third-party software. There are many logging programs available for all operating systems. I use *Fast Log Entry* and *Ham Radio Deluxe*.

When you have a log to up-load, one contact will do to try it out, you can log onto LOTW and submit your contacts. The Log-On process requires another password, that is, one you choose and not the one sent to you by the ARRL. Make sure you record it somewhere safe! Now sit back and have a coffee!

Some Further Thoughts

I have one word of advice about setting up LOTW. You can save yourself considerable frustration, hypertension and extreme anxiety by printing off the ARRL instructions, placing them in a binder and using them as you go through the process. You will need to refer to them from time to time and especially when you come to renew a call-sign certificate. But as you install and complete the initial requirements mark off each step with a pen.

Using LOTW does not stop you sending and receiving QSL cards through the mail or via the WIA Bureau. Nor does it stop you using EQSL. I use both. You may well know that many operators set up EQSL to automatically send an eqsl for every contact. This approach results, in my opinion, in a far from satisfactory outcome. I find I get bland cards, no salutation, no details of the background to the contact, no use of name and some operators refrain from gaining *Authenticity Guaranteed* status, making the cards useless for awards. I appreciate that personalised eqsls from a DXpedition station are not going to happen but from a casual operator who is confirming a few dozen eqsls it should not be too hard! I am not going to give offense and therefore will not show a ‘bland’ card from the 100s in my collection.

Here is a card from a French station, F4BAL. Notice the detail of the contact in the card. As well the card is attractive. He has taken the time out to check QRZ.com to find my name and use that in the card. Full marks to Francis!



Here is a screen shot of my outwards eqsl box for April 2015 for VK5BJE/P. I have two eqsl accounts: one for VK5BJE and one for VK5BJE/P with different designs. You will see how I address each card and indicate where I was portable with the name and or VKFF number of the Park. This makes it much easier for the recipient to find the entry in her log and check the qso.

Action	Callsign	Date/Time	Band	Mode	RST	Comments
1st	2nd	3rd	SubMode			
EDIT	VK5BJE	18Apr2015 06:48	40m	SSB	59	Hi John de Barmah National Park, VKFF-736, TU 73 John
EDIT	VK5BJE	24Apr2015 04:03	40m	SSB	59	Hi Nick, trks for TTNP, VKFF-630 de Hampstead Rehab Centre, 73 John
EDIT	VK5BJE	20Apr2015 01:53	40m	SSB	59	Hi Marc de Ngarkat CP, VKFF-629, 73 John & LOTW
EDIT	VK5BJE	20Apr2015 10:53	40m	SSB	59	Hi Marc, trks for qso, de John Ngarkat CP VKFF-629
EDIT	VK5BJE	17Apr2015 01:00	40m	SSB	58	Hi Nick de Woomargama NP, VKFF-547, 73 John
EDIT	VK5BJE	20Apr2015 02:03	40m	SSB	57	Hi Nick, de Ngarkat CP, VKFF-629, 73 John & LOTW
EDIT	VK5BJE	20Apr2015 02:54	40m	SSB	59	Hi Tony, trks for VKFF-104 de VKFF-629, Ngarkat, 73 John
EDIT	VK5BJE	19Apr2015 00:36	40m	SSB	59	Hi Arno de Terrick Terrick NP, VKFF-630, TU & 73 John

The EQSL system is good, but it is not perfect or fool-proof. I have found using the digital mode, JT65hf, for example, that I have received many cards where I consider the contact has not been satisfactorily completed. Those of you who anything about JT65hf will know that there are a number of steps programmed into the software to gain a legitimate qso – an important one is sending and receiving RRR. RRR is the acknowledgement for the signal report and contact. Some overseas

amateurs truncate the process. They think JT65hf is too slow! They believe that if you copy a call-sign and click on it, that that is sufficient to claim a satisfactory contact. It is not.

Do yourself a favour and ‘have a go’! I strongly commend LOTW to you. You will not be disappointed.

“VK5HSX, you should be using a link dipole mate!”

By Stef VK5HSX



After my recent trip to the Flinders Ranges (April 2015), activating some 8 different National and Conservation Parks in total, I came to a realisation with some reports and discussions about my current antenna, that I needed to swap over from a glorified vertical (Squid-pole) with ground radials and a tuner or balun, to something more resonant and horizontally polarised.

As I would be using my KX3 with 10w, I wanted to get every watt I could out of the sucker, radiating out the antenna. One type of antenna kept popping up, or being mentioned in discussions from different sources and that was the Link Dipole. I was given a brief outline of its operation, however, it wasn't until I had the

chance to quickly Google “VK3ZPF” and the “Link Dipole”, where I was able to see what came up.

On Peter's excellent site, you had a couple of options, depending on the bands you wished to work on. I chose 10-80m, which would also allow me to use it as my main portable antenna, other than just for portable in the parks.

Looking at the what was required to construct one, along with what I had, it was only the RCA connectors that were the main outlay, as a mate loaned me a roll of electrical cable, which I used, and by pure coincidence it matched the Bombers Colours!! Just lucky, I guess.

I used some Plant Labellers in packs from the big B's. After some careful measuring and securing links making sure they are placed in their correct locations, the antenna was completed rather quickly. I drilled the holes in the jiffy box, with some link wires, straining through jiffy box ends, and a socket as per the instructions. I also used the method of the vertical hole through the box, which allowed it to sit nicely down from the top of the 9m squid pole. I used some Venetian blind cord for ends of dipole for tying off to whatever you can find, or something is available to you... otherwise there is always pegging or staking off your ends.



Above:- the connectors on the linked dipole. RCA connectors and plant labellers. Image courtesy of Stef VK5HSX

I immediately erected it at home for quick check on SWR, although in backyard, around metal areas and fences, it was hard to get an accurate reading. The 40m was showing approx 1.3:1 and 20m was <1.2:1, however, I did manage a couple of contacts. Jiri OK2RZ managed to get me, after several attempts to get the callsign correct. That was in between hospital visits, IV Antibiotics and being pretty crook on and off for a few weeks/months.

I wanted to get out and I also needed somewhere to operate in the field and see whether it would have been worth it.

The Hallett Cove CP just happened to be less than 2km down the road from home.



Above:- The Hallett Cove CP is just down the road from home. Image courtesy of Stef VK5HSX

After packing up to go just down the road, I set up the dipole, which mind you took a little longer, but upon securing the centre feed point with the coax, the ends outspread and secured to a fence and tree branch. I then turned on the radio and put out call on 7.095 and Arno VK5ZAR called back with a 5/9⁺¹⁵ signal, myself receiving a 5/7, which was a start and proved the antenna worked. I soon then had QSO's with VK5's FANA, KLV, PAS/p & BJE/p, telling me the huge difference using Di-pole, in my signal from the 10w. I managed a total of 18

contacts in less than an hour, most 5/9 with a 4/7 the worst. Can't complain with that.

After that, I had to head home to rest, knowing at least the antenna was a goer for my next activation.

I also noticed the SWR was approx. 1.13:1 on 40m, however, 20m is a nice 1.1:1 across the section of the band I worked that day. Was getting rock solid 5/9 to VK's 3PF, 3PMG/p3 & 3OF, which was pleasing. A few P2P contacts were in there as well with Paul, John and Mick working in the field, QRP-ing. Checked SWR 10m was 1.2:1 a bit high, and so I will organise changing the length slightly on the 40m & 10m section. Tuning required in my spare time.

My over all impression of the Link Di-pole Antenna, is a Positive and Resounding “Yes”. I'm impressed with the simplicity of the linking for the band changing, along with lightness for travel. However, I will be making just a 20/40m dipole for portable operations in parks, as the 80/15m bands I don't get or need to work. Plus this will lighten my load and have shorter lengths of the ends to have to secure.

Things I learnt from this exercise....check measurements twice and cut once, sometimes it can be difficult to find something to secure your ends to. A slightly thicker poly pipe for top section, to prevent flexing is needed for my antenna, as well as sourced some Velcro strips to secure coax down the squid-pole to your rig. Basic concept, which can be light, portable and effective in the field.

The Dipole is not ALWAYS the best option for EVERY circumstance, however, if room is not your problem, then you just can't beat it. I'm now looking for something as a substitute when a dipole cannot fit or work in the field, then maybe something vertical is your only option...

what's next!!

Thanks must go out to Paul, Les, Adrian and all the rest of you for your ongoing support with what's involved with getting and keeping the VK5 Parks Award Scheme the success it is. As an activator, you find it's the hunters seeking you out. I was dreading not getting any calls back, however, in some cases, people calling me before I managed to get to the Park to set up!! lol I did manage Bronze award in 1 week. That's with a lot of help.

It was a quick learning curve, with some great contacts along the way. I got to play radio in some amazing places... That's like a dream come true!! I would especially like to thank my wonderful partner Wendy, who is quite happy to come along with me around the State or Country, to see the sights and let me play radio in some National and Conservation Parks along the way.

What more could you ask for...

Oh wait!!, yeah that would be for her to Marry me, which she is... Thanks Wendy, Love you heaps.

To everyone else, hope to hear you on the bands sometime and operating portable in a National or Conservation Park or for the night at our camp-site in this beautiful Country of Ours.

Kindest Regards,

Stef VK5HSX

The Wireless Institute of Australia – It's for you!

By Paul VK5PAS



I was very surprised at the WIA AGM to hear just how much the WIA does behind the scenes for us amateurs. And unfortunately the WIA cops some unfair criticism at times.

Here is an interesting link which will give you a bit of an idea on some of the benefits of WIA membership.....

<http://www.wia.org.au/joinwia/wia/aboutjoin/>

SOTA summits near Yunta

By Ian VK5CZ



On the weekend of 16/17 May, Hugh VK5NHG and Ian VK5CZ ventured to Yunta for a great

weekend of activating 4 SOTA summits in that area.

We arrived around 9 am Saturday morning at Tetarpa Station to find the management team loading a semi with wool bales. So Hugh and I checked in and headed for Waroonee Hill to the south from the home stead.

This time we made the climb in about 40 minutes, as last time we found an easier way to get up and back.

Hugh went first and pushed the pile up through, then I went second to find hardly anyone left to make contacts. It seems to be like that on these double activations. Hugh had trouble also finding enough chasers when he went second. I am lucky I can try for more contacts with cw mode but we managed to get enough anyhow so thanks to everyone for the contacts.

We headed for Karkala Ridge the second summit for the day which is north from the homestead and arrived at the bottom of the range of hills midafternoon. Hugh has researched this area some more and found a 4 wd track that was really hard to see but once we got going there was no turning back and we bounced up to the ridge line to find the summit was still a way off. The first part of track was quite rough and the next part was very steep.

Hugh convinced me to give it a go and I must say I was worried never having driven a hill that steep before. I was amazed how the old ute lugged up there in low first without any wheel slip at all.

We set up and made some good QSO's

again, this time being later in the day I had some 20m cw contacts to Europe with a S2S contact with HB9BIN. So I was pleased with that. The picture is showing my delight.



Image courtesy of Ian VK5CZ

On the way off Karkala we tried a different way down and got a bit lost wondering if the track would run out and had to negotiate around some deep washed out creeks to find our way back to the main track. Luckily we found the main track an hour later and made it back to Yunta just on dark for a couple bebies and a good pub feed and sleep.

Sunday morning, out early heading to Oulnina Park and yet again on an adventure tour testing out another way to get there. It's never boring with Hugh. It was about 40km of station tracks and an amazing drive through the hills and along creek beds to arrive at the home stead to find Michael on the jack hammer doing some re pointing work to the house so no problems waking him up by being early on a Sunday morning.

We headed off in low range second on this climb, it's about 5km to drive until the track runs out then a half kilometer walk the rest of the way. We had some good contacts giving

Hugh's ic 703 and Doublet antenna a run this time then bumped our way back off the summit in much the same way as we went up.

By about 2 pm we had travelled a way towards the last summit for the day so we stopped and had a quick lunch break in one of the nice creek beds to get ready for the next summit. This is an unnamed summit for SOTA but the locals call it the Bluff. Last time we were there we got lost and could not find the track to make it an easier drive to the top but we decided this time not to bother about trying to drive there and climbed it via a water course on the eastern side. Hugh led the assault with his walking stick clacking away on the rocks until I was left huffing and puffing to the top which took about 40 minutes again. It is a great uplifting Summit from the eastern side and it slopes away more gently on the western side but a very impressive pile of rocks for sure with great views out east to the flat country for miles.



Ian VK5CZ, setting up on VK5/ NE-095. Photo courtesy of Hugh VK5NHG

We made some good contacts on hill NE-095 and Hugh was under the pump with the pile up as this was the first time it had been activated. I chased up enough to qualify with only 1 dx qso

to OK2PDT on 20m cw. It was probably too early for Europe this time but we had to get off the Hill to make the 300 km trip home.

A 650 km trip with 4 summits to add to everyone's tally, great scenery and adventure what a great way to spend time.

73 de Ian VK5CZ.

WWFF Certificate of Excellence

By Paul VK5PAS

I was recently awarded the very first World Wide Flora Fauna 'Certificate of Excellence'. The certificate had been mailed over from Romania in Europe by Pit YO3JW, to Nick VK3ANL in Victoria. Nick, who is very active in WWFF, was to present me with the certificate. But unfortunately he could not get to Adelaide, and the certificate was mailed over to AHARS. It was presented to me by Barry VK5BW at the last AHARS General meeting.

The certificate came as a great surprise, and I would like to thank Pit YO3JW and the rest of the WWFF Committee for their efforts.

More information can be found at the WWFF global website at.....

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



Above:- President of AHARS, Barry VK5BW, presenting Paul VK5PAS with the WWFF Certificate of Excellence.

G4AKC and crew

By Paul VK5PAS

Dave G4AKC is one of the regular pedestrian mobile stations that can be heard on the 20m band during our afternoons here in Australia. He generally always has a terrific signal coming in on the longpath.

Other regular UK pedestrian mobile stations include Tony G7OEM, Dave G6XMD, Dave MoDAD, Tom GoSBW, and Barrie G7UFI.

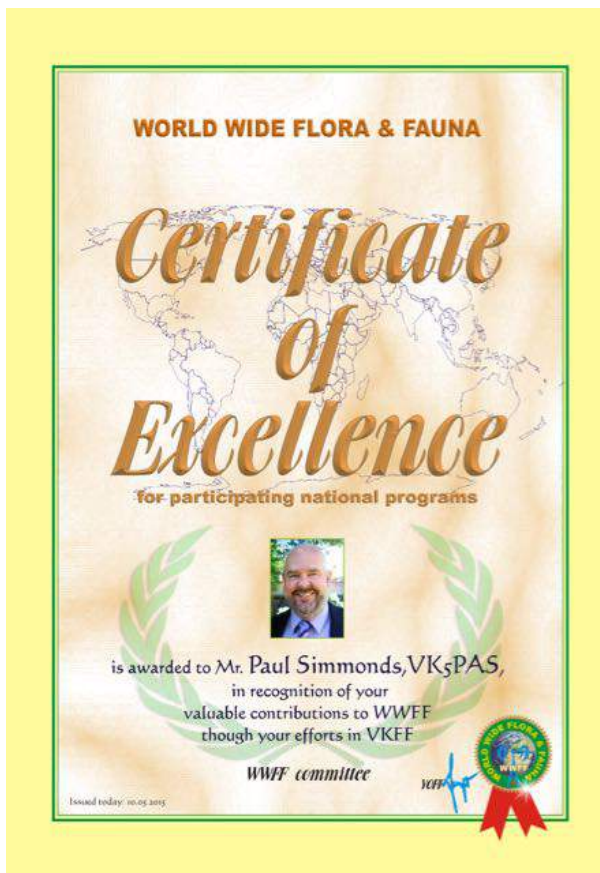
Why not have a listen out for them.



Above: Dave G4AKC. Image courtesy of G4AKC

Dave is also involved in a great Yahoo group called Real HF Mobile, dedicated to all aspects of portable and mobile radio operation. It can be located at.....

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/REALHFMOBILE/info?tab=s>



Belair National Park Open Day

By Kenny DAWES (XYL of Jhn VK5BJE)

Below is an article which was written by Jenny, DAWES, the wife of John VK5BJE, for the Department of Environment Water & Natural Resources (DEWNR). It was a follow up to an activation by John VK5BJE at the Belair National Park for the park's Open Day.

Introduction:

In early 2013, with DEWNR's approval, the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc. (based at Blackwood) created the “VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award”.

The Award aims to encourage those involved in the amateur radio hobby to visit South Australians parks and operate from them using portable equipment. It also interests other amateur radio station operators because both operator and listener gain points for speaking to one another (a ‘contact’). A park-to-park ‘contact’ has special appeal because of the challenges involved in getting to such locations with suitable portable equipment and power. Listeners may be at home, in vehicles, out walking or in boats.

Efforts to achieve this Award have resulted in operators searching out and making hundreds of visits to most of SA's parks and to thousands of ‘contacts’, not only with fellow Australian operators, but with colleagues in countries all around the world. Similarly, blogs from SA

operators about their parks' visits have attracted interest and fans both nationally and internationally (one blog has had over 25,000 ‘hits’; another over 8,000).

The amount of interest generated by the SA Parks Award is facilitated by its being based on a similar one in Victoria (Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award). There are also international awards: World Wide Flora and Fauna Award and Summits on the Air. These complementary awards generate and extend the interest in people operating their stations from SA's parks and can enable a station operator to gain simultaneous award points.

Credit for the SA Award is due to the remarkable on-going efforts of Paul VK5PAS. After achieving DEWNR's approval, he initiated the Award, organised its details and has energetically continued to manage and promote it, including through special ‘anniversary’ days. He was responsible for achieving acceptance of relevant SA parks into the above international World Wide Flora and Fauna Award.

**The prefix VK5 is given to SA licencees by ACMA, the Australian Communications and Media Authority*

(VK1 = ACT; VK2 = NSW; VK4 = Qld; VK6 = WA; VK7 = Tas; VK8 = NT; VK9 = offshore territories).

VK5BJE Amateur Radio Station operated from Long Gully from 8am to 3pm
Searching ‘VK5BJE.com’ will provide reports of this park visit and many others via a Wordpress blog.

Contacts: 59 amateur radio stations in SA (34), VIC (20), NSW (2), ACT (1) WA (1) Tas (1) – including

- the station currently allocated and licensed by ACMA to use the special call sign commemorating the centenary of the Gallipoli landing ‘VK100 ANZAC’;
- operators out in SA’s Hallett Cove Conservation Park, several operators in Murray River National Park and up on New Campbell Hill in the mid-north (for the Summits of the Air Award);
- operators in Victoria’s Murray–Sunset National Park and in Kara Kara National Park (near Ararat)

Visitors showed an interest, despite its unobtrusive location, including 4 young men, a mother from Yorke Peninsula and her two young boys, and several walkers. It is hoped to establish a more substantial presence might be established next year.

Comment: the SA Award’s achievement exemplifies *Healthy Parks Healthy People*, clearly enticing an increasing number of amateurs to leave their homes and go outdoors into the parks. Beyond this group, it creates interest in and disseminates information about SA parks and access to them among the listeners.

Further information: John Dawes, vk5bje@chariot.net.au 0417 841 425
John has operated in 56 of SA’s Parks, as well as 20 in Victoria, 5 in NSW and 11 in Tasmania.

Some more VK contacts

By Mike 2E0YYY



Some pics of today's activation (21/05/2015), of G/WB-004 Titterstone Clee.



The higher HF frequency condition are still pretty tough, nevertheless, getting on the summit just before 0600z paid dividends.



There were 9 VK's logged 2 of them s2s, including my sked with Andrew VK1NAM.

Other VKs worked included Paul VK5PAS.



A rare SOTA contact with Bill AL7KC who gave me a call from Fairbanks, Alaska. Thanks for all the calls.

73

Mike

2EoYYY

KRMNPA weekend coming up

By Tony VK3VTH



The Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activity period is November 15 to 19, and with this year something special is to be introduced. A participation certificate will be available for those who have not obtained an award certificate, provided they operate within a VK3 National Park and make five contacts. The aim is to encourage even more interest in operating portable.

In the KRMNPA activity period in 2014 there were 34 national parks on air. With the participation certificate now on offer, who knows how many will be activated this year. You can also still work those in national parks from your own home, and the activity period is ideal to get your tally started or increased.

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

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

Solar cube

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently saw this on the Kiwi Hams Facebook site.

A Wagan EL2546 Solar e Cube.



More information can be found on the Web, including the You Tube video below.

<https://youtu.be/h8LiULTezsA>

Kangaroo Island Parks

By Rob VK4AAC/5

Hi all,

Just a heads-up to let you know I will be activating Kangaroo Island OC-139 from approx

1st of June through to approx 25th of August 2015.

My callsign will be **VK4AAC/5** and I have special QSL cards printed.

While on the island I will also try to activate.....

Flinders Chase NP VKFF-173,
Dudley CP VKFF-809,
Kelly Hill CP VKFF-810 and
Vivonne Bay CP VKFF-811

as much as I can.

These parks will only count for WWFF and NOT for VK5Parks.

Please see my QRZ.com page for QSL details. This will be my first island activation, so be gentle!!!!

Regards
Rob
VK4AAC

Editor's note.....

Rob's activations of these VK5 Parks on Kangaroo Island will only count for WWFF as he mentions, as Rob will be using his mobile set up. They will NOT qualify for the VK5 Parks Award.

Trip to the Far North

By Paul VK5PAS

During June 2015 I will be travelling to the Far North of South Australia with John VK5BJE and David VK5KC and our respective XYL's.

Our main reason for travelling north is to attend some special commemorative services at the ghost town of Farina and operate as VK100ANZAC.

Please keep an eye out on parksnpk for our activity. All activations are subject to weather & road conditions.

We would appreciate being spotted on parksnpk and the DX Cluster if you work us.

Saturday 13th June.

- Clinton Conservation Park (mid morning)
- Winninowie Conservation Park (late afternoon)

Sunday 14th June

- Mount Arden, VK5/ NE-034 (morning)
- Mount Benjamin VK5/ NE-083 (afternoon)

Monday 15th June

- The Devils Peak, VK5/ NE-080 (morning)
- Mount Brown Conservation Park (afternoon)
- The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park (afternoon)

Tuesday 16th June

No radio activity planned

Wednesday 17th June

- Lake Eyre National Park, VKFF-276 (mid-late morning)

Thursday 18th June

- VK100ANZAC at Farina

Friday 19th June

- Mount Scott, VK5/ NE-111 (morning)

Saturday 20th June

- Lake Torrens National Park, VKFF-278 (mid-late morning)

Sunday 21st June

- Flinders Ranges National Park, VKFF-176 (morning)

What is a bivvy bag?

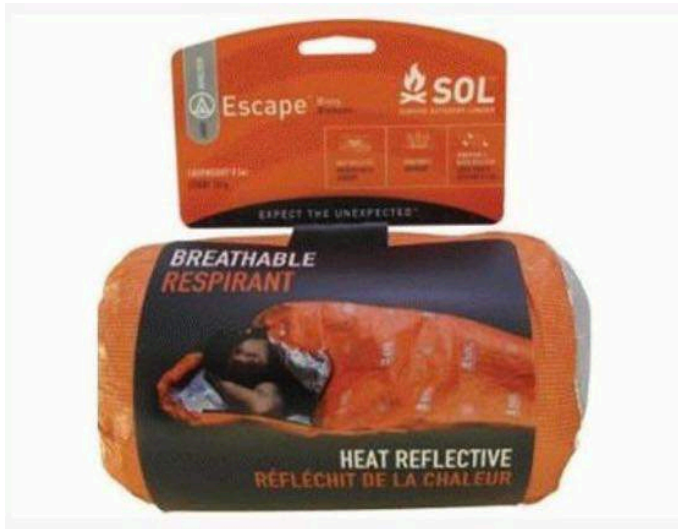
By Paul VK5PAS

On the SOTA Yahoo group, I recently read about a 'Bivvy bag'. I had heard of 'bothy bags' before, but certainly not a Bivvy. So what is a Bivvy?

A Bivouac sack, also known as a bivvy, bivvy, or bivi, is a single person emergency shelter, or a

sole lightweight shelter. It is an extremely small, lightweight, waterproof shelter, and an alternative to traditional tent systems.

A bothy bag is a multi person emergency shelter.



Above: A Bivvy bag. Image courtesy of www.wildearth.com.au

Info courtesy of SOTA Australia Yahoo group, and www.en.wikipedia.org

Barefoot Table Net

By Ian VK3VIN

Hello everyone.

Following many enquiries and requests, the Barefoot Table Net is returning to the airwaves.

The net will run on 2 evenings a week, Sunday and Thursday. There will be a mixture of discussions, QRP nights, rag chew and a barefoot DX net when conditions allow or when

DX stations are available.

Full details for the Barefoot Table net are:

Sunday nights beginning 7 June

Frequency: 3.565 plus or minus QRM

Time: 10.15 UTC

Thursday nights beginning 11 June

Frequency: 3.565 plus or minus QRM

Time: 10.15 UTC

When Day light savings time returns we will revert to 40 meters on a frequency yet to be arranged. At this stage 7.110 is being considered plus or minus QRM.

The Barefoot Table Net will continue to favour stations running barefoot power, that is usual power of most Transceivers without Linear amplifiers usually 100 Watts or less.

Although barefoot power output is encouraged and is the reason for the Barefoot Table Net, stations running more than 100 Watts with amplification will not be excluded. When DX is available, stations running Barefoot power will be given preference for making contact with the DX stations available.

For ease of operation Foundation Licencees running 10 Watts or less are considered Barefoot stations.

Net conduct:

The Barefoot Table Net will continue to operate

under the Round Table method with the Net Control/Coordinator managing the net and providing Net identification after each 4th Participant's over.

People joining the net during the net's operation but after the initial logging time will be acknowledged as quickly as possible, logged in appropriately and added to the list of Participants in order.

Cross chat amongst Participants will be encouraged with a 2 overs per person requested. This limitation is only to allow the net to proceed with as little as possible slowing of the flow.

Please spread the word that the Barefoot Table Net is operational again.

Thank you in anticipation of your participation beginning Sunday, 7 June at 10.15 UTC on 3.565 Megs plus or minus QRM.

73

Ian Westerland, VK3VIN

Complete with more than 800 animals, including beautiful pictures, maps, sound effects and text, it will be updated over time to include more species.

I have downloaded the app, and I highly recommend it.

Interesting info from DEWNR website

By Paul VK5PAS

The DEWNR website often has some very interesting info. This month, there is an article on Murray Cod being discovered in the Pike River system near Renmark, and the Bilby population at the Venus Bay Conservation Park.

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home/Full_newsevents_listing/News_Events_Listing/150513-murray-cod-pike

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home/Full_newsevents_listing/News_Events_Listing/150521-bilbies-venus-bay

Field Guide to South Australian Fauna app

By Paul VK5PAS

The South Australian Museum has launched a free 'Field Guide to South Australian Fauna' application for Apple and Android devices.