



# "OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 24, October 2016

## Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to Issue 24 October 2016, of *'Out and About in VK5'*. This newsletter focuses on South Australian (VK5) activities relating to Summits on the Air (SOTA), Parks (including WWFF and the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award), portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc.

*'Out and About in VK5'* has now been running for 2 years and is read by amateurs across Australia and in Europe and North America.

After my plea for articles in August, I received a positive response, but sadly things have fallen backwards, with very few VK5 contributions this month. The only VK5 contributors this month were John VK5BJE with some info on a recent park activation, and Rod VK5VRB with his perspective on hunting parks. Thanks for taking the time to submit an article Rod. Also, many thanks to Rob VK4FFAB for his

contribution from Queensland, updating us on SOTA & Parks news in VK4. Thanks also go to Peter VK3YE for his articles on the upcoming Melbourne QRP by the Bay and his new ebook *'Hand carried antennas'*. So come on VK5 amateurs. Surely there is something that you are aware of that is worthy for publication.

Wow, did the month of September pass extremely quickly, and what a memorable month it was as well. The weather in South Australia was less than ideal for SOTA and Parks activating. Very severe weather patterns resulted in widespread and severe flooding across the State, whilst a mini tornado and associated lightning, took out numerous electricity towers in the north of VK5, which resulted in a power blackout for the entire State. Here at my qth, we were without power for 21 hours. So it was out with the portable gear for me in the shack. As a result of the

weather, many National Parks and Conservation Parks were closed across VK5.



*image courtesy of adelaidenow.com*

But despite the weather Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG ventured out to activate some summits in the north of VK5, in their quest to becoming Mountain Goats.

I headed over to the Eyre Peninsula where I activated 8 Conservation Parks. The bothy bag certainly got a workout over there with quite wet conditions.

Other VK5 park activators included Bob VK5FO who activated a couple of ‘unique’ parks, John VK5BJE, and Les VK5KLV who also put on air a ‘unique’ park.

I have included in this issue an article on snake bite, as despite the weather last month, we are starting to head into the warmer weather.

Planning continues for the SOTA & Parks symposium, similar to what was held a few years ago. It will include presentations from a number of experts in the field, a linked dipole construction session, and some portable sessions out in the field. I’ll keep you all

updated as this progresses. If the last symposium is any indication, this event should prove to be extremely popular. It will be a great way of honing your skills, or perhaps giving you enough confidence to try your very first SOTA or Park activation.

Other upcoming events include the VKFF Team Championship (on 16<sup>th</sup> October); the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award Activation Weekend (11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November); and then the VKFF Activation Weekend (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November). So there are plenty of opportunities coming up to get out into the field.

Please remember that **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)

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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## New WWFF Australia (VKFF) Facebook site

By Paul VK5PAS



An ‘official’ WWFF Australia (VKFF) Facebook page has been created.

It can be found at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1805720889702979/>

So far in its short life, the group has a total of 93 members from Australia and Europe.

Please join the group and tell any of your friends who might be interested in the WWFF program.



## Snake bite

By Paul VK5PAS



If you are unfortunate enough to be the victim of snake bite, there are some very important facts which you should be aware of.

### **WARNING.**

DO NOT wash venom off the skin

DO NOT cut the bitten area

DO NOT try to suck venom out of the wound

DO NOT use a tourniquet

DO NOT try to catch the snake.

Signs are not always visible but may be a puncture mark of marks, bleeding or scratches.

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

*Info courtesy of St John Ambulance.*

## VK Shires

By Paul VK5PAS

The following info is via Bill VK4FW with regards to parks and the VK Shires Award.....

*Paul,*

*If possible could you alert all the happy park activators that we have made a decision that all national or conservation parks will count for the shire that they are actually bordered by. Yes*



*some are going to have more than 1 shire but 99% will only be within the boundary of a single shire. For those parks that are bordered by 2 shires then everyone will be eligible to claim both.*

*cheers mate*

**BILL HORNER VK4FW**

## Space Weather

By Paul VK5PAS



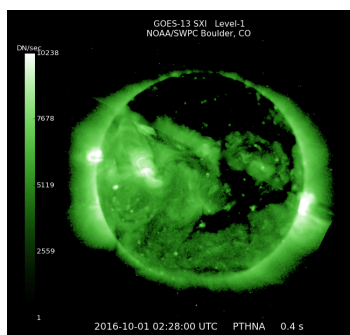
**SPACE WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER**  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

If you have an interest in propagation conditions, as most SOTA & Park activators are, then the Space Weather Prediction Center website, will undoubtedly be of interest to you.

It has a large amount of information including Forecasts, Observations, Reports, Summaries, Alerts, and Models.

It can be found at.....

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>



## Parks Hunter – A beginners guide

By Rod VK5VRB



Although I have activated a few VK5 parks I am normally the comfortable operator safe in my shack and hunting those who brave the elements, tracks, and endless roads. I am a gold level hunter. I'm not an all day hunter, perhaps one of two now and then. I have been hunting since the early days of the parks concept and have some of my experiences to share.

I don't want to argue about anything that follows, for this is just my opinion. If you don't agree, then fine, just move along.

### Where are the Activators?

Firstly, where will you find an activator. In our current propagation conditions sometimes they are on 20m but most activity is on 40m. You can find most current (transmitting now) activators listed on:

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

Although I do get my biggest joy just monitoring a frequency and catching someone's initial call. I see it as fun to have the number 1 slot in an activators log for that day.

I have found the following frequencies the best to monitor:

7.090 From memory where it all began

7.130 Recognised by many from the 7.130 DX net (Google that one, it's pretty good)

7.144 It seems of recent times Paul has made this frequency a regular calling point in his activations.

Without weighing into the debate I find it best to leave 7.125 to our AM brothers and sisters. If I hear an activator calling I won't respond but move on to another.

## Hunting the Wolf Pack

This is a fairly standard DX technique. When the call goes out, if you are monitoring the frequency you might get in first and that is great (another first spot in a log). After that, particularly with a popular activator like Paul, a large pack of hunters will form. I find the experienced activator will quickly scribble down all who call back. If you have modest equipment (like me) it's best to pause for 1 or 2 seconds and then give your call sign. Trying to get in before VK5SUPERDUPER with his 5 element yagi and linear is just a waste of time. Failing this, enjoy the banter and when the activator calls last calls (as they should) call then. This is a good tip for F class holders.

If you miss out, just smile, there is always another activator.

## A Couple of Dos and Don'ts

- Don't tune up on the frequency (you'd be surprised). I normally start my session tuning to 7.100 (if it's free) just to make sure all is okay.
- Don't talk over people, especially F calls. Give everyone a go.
- Keep conversations short. It's not a comp so you can be a little more expansive but remember there are others waiting. Normally by the time I speak to someone I've got the park name off the web (if not, then and only then, ask for it – they can be a challenge to spell).
- Slow down at the end of your first over, giving your call sign slowly and clearly (not phonetically unless asked) – the activator needs to record, or confirm, it accurately. Give the activator a signal report, your location, and your name.
- Don't shout to get a call, it only distorts your voice.
- The activator may say she is QSY to 20m. If you are an F class then by all means follow to listen in, but don't transmit, however tempting.

If this helps just one person then it was worth the time to write it.

73  
Rod  
VK5VRB



## Are you inside the park boundary?

By Paul VK5PAS

A recent post on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group re the VK Shires Award certainly sparked some conversation. You would have read that a decision was made by the VK Shires Award manager/s that all national or conservation parks will count for the shire that they are actually bordered by.

This resulted in conversation regarding park activators responsibilities for ensuring that they are within the park boundaries.

Many parks here in South Australia, are not well signposted, if at all. They are often surrounded by other pieces of scrub, which are not within the park boundary. Both the WWFF & VK5 Parks rules clearly state that you must be within the park boundaries for the activation to be valid.

Two sites that are particularly useful in determining park boundaries are:

Protected Planet

<https://www.protectedplanet.net/>

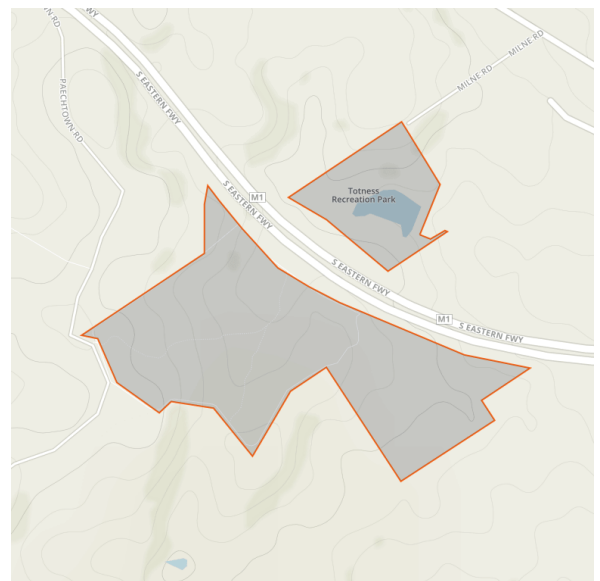
& Location SA Map Viewer.

<http://location.sa.gov.au/viewer/>

Both are capable of clearly showing you where park boundaries are.



*Above: - Aerial shot of the Totness Recreation Park near Mount Barker, showing the park boundaries. Image courtesy of Location SA Map Viewer.*



*Above: - Aerial shot of the Totness Recreation Park near Mount Barker, showing the park boundaries. Image courtesy of Protected Planet.*

# Naming of WWFF logs

By Paul VK5PAS

Please remember to name your WWFF logs in the following way.....

**callsign@referenceYYYYMMDD**

**e.g. VK1ABC@VKFF011520150501**

And some further info from Logsearch Administrator, Andrew MoYMA.....

## Q: What log formats are supported?

A: ADIF

## Q: How do I specify the operator callsign?

A: The following fields should be used:

- STATION\_CALLSIGN – the callsign used on the air by the activating station
- OPERATOR – the home-call of the individual operator who made the QSO

## Q: How do I specify the WWFF reference?

A: The following fields should be used:

- MY\_SIG should specify “WWFF”
- MY\_SIG\_INFO should specify the WWFF reference

For legacy, MY\_SIG may be used to specify the reference.

## Q: How do I specify the Hunter WWFF reference (for the Park 2 Park Award)?

A: The following fields should be used:

- SIG should specify “WWFF”
- SIG\_INFO should specify the Hunter WWFF reference

## Q: What other ADIF fields are required?

A: The following ADIF fields are required:

- CALL – the full callsign of the hunter
- QSO\_DATE
- TIME\_ON
- BAND
- MODE

All other fields are ignored.

# QRP Digest

By Paul VK5PAS

Are you interested in QRP? If so, then the QRP Digest may interest you. The Digest is a mailing list which is intended for the exchange of information on QRP related topics.

You can subscribe to the mailing list at.....

<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/grp-l>

# VKFF & SOTA Outback Expedition 2017

By Paul VK5PAS

A reminder that next year, myself, Chris VK3PAT, and Marc VK3OHM will be undertaking a VKFF & SOTA Outback Expedition.

This will be an extensive 4WD trip out into the Australian outback, and whilst there activating a number of rare parks and SOTA summits.

Chris has put together a Wordpress site, where you can view our itinerary and various other news.



The Wordpress site can be located at.....

<https://wwffoutback2017.wordpress.com/>

There is also a Facebook site which can be located at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1016367611804849/>

# KRMNPA Activation Weekend

By Tony VK3XV/VK3VTH



Hi All,

The 2016 Keith Roget Memorial National Park Award activation weekend will take place across 4 days.....

**Friday November 11- Monday November 14.**

This will be the 6<sup>th</sup> activation weekend and is designed to provide a sharp focus on the 45 VK3 National Parks for both hunters and activators alike, many of whom may be attempting the somewhat difficult task of

reaching the targets of: Merit Award- Hunter / Merit Award- Activator or the perhaps the ultimate Award..... The “Grand Slam”, which is 45 VK3 National Parks activated and 45 VK3 National Parks worked.

As of today, September 20, a total of 18 Parks are registered for Activation:

- Alpine NP
- Barmah NP
- Chiltern-Mt. Pilot NP
- Churchill NP
- French Island NP
- Grampians NP
- Greater Bendigo NP
- Gunbower NP
- Hattah- Kulkyn NP
- Heathcote-Graytown NP
- Kara Kara NP
- Little Desert NP
- Lower Goulburn NP
- Mornington Peninsula NP
- Point Nepean NP
- Terrick Terrick NP
- Warby Ovens NP
- Wyperfeld NP

Please consider participating in this popular weekend. Ten Parks or One Park, One Hour or Ten Hours ... It does not matter! Just get “out and about” and have some fun.

There is plenty of scope to activate a VK3 National Park near you!

A unique 2016 Activators “Participation” certificate will again be available, at no charge, to all registered activators.

To register your activation intentions (which will help all those involved with planning) please contact me direct on 0423 635 152, via email, or via the Group.

Best 73

Tony VK3XV



*Above; Grampians National Park. Courtesy of Wikipedia.*



# Hand carried QRP antennas

By Peter VK3YE



**Hand-carried QRP antennas** is the new book that takes the mystery out of portable antennas. After inviting you to assess your needs, it discusses the pros and cons of popular types. Its style is brisk and practical with almost no maths.

Many ideas for cheap but good materials suitable for portable antennas are given. Beginners and those returning to radio after a break should especially find this section handy.

Finally there's construction details on a variety of simple but practical antennas and accessories suitable for portable operating. All have been built and tested by the author over almost 30 years of successful QRP activity.

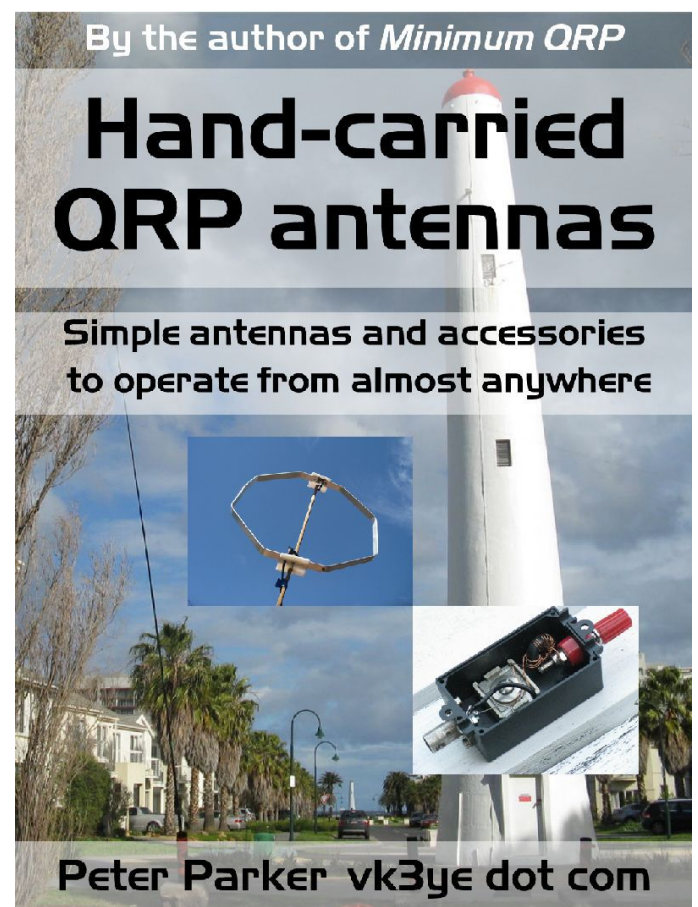
*Hand-carried QRP antennas* is an ebook readable on most devices. It's the author's second book, following on from the top-selling *Minimum QRP*, released last year.

More information:

<http://home.alphalink.com.au/~parkerp/handqrp.htm>

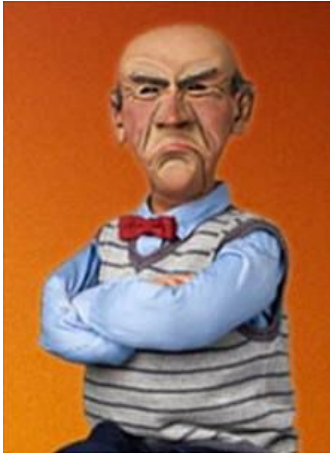
Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/vk3yeradiobooks/>



## VKFF logs

By Paul VK5PAS



I am getting a few emails asking me to 'please check my log' before uploading to WWFF Logsearch. Guys, I simply do not have the time to check individual logs. The responsibility of checking logs is up to the activator before sending me the log for upload.

Quite a few emails have also been received asking me to delete logs because errors have been made. I cannot delete logs here. I do not have the ability to do that. I need to ask Andrew in the UK to do this, and I am always loath to do that because I know he is very busy.

So please, please, double check and vet your log/s before sending them to me. A quick glance over your log may pick up errors and save a lot of mucking around.

Thanks in anticipation.

Paul VK5PAS

## VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder that the 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend is fast approaching. It will be held on **Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November 2016.**

The weekend is designed as a promotion for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program here in Australia. It is NOT a contest. Just head out to a qualifying WWFF park and make contact with other amateurs.

The weekend is a great time to try activating for the very first time. Or use it as a great opportunity to add a number of parks to your Hunter tally.

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, PLEASE drop me a quick email with



your intentions. I am maintaining a spreadsheet which records all planned activations. The spreadsheet can be found on the WWFF Australia website, or on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group (in the Files area).

More information on the VKFF Activation Weekend and the WWFF program can be found on the WWFF Australia website at....

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

Or please drop me an email should you have any queries. I'm only too happy to answer any questions you may have.

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

## World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)



### VKFF Activation weekend.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>  
November 2016**



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

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

## AR magazine

By Paul VK5PAS

Allen VK3ARH is regularly looking for items to be included in the SOTA & Parks news column in AR magazine. If you have any material that you think would interest other readers, please drop Allen an email at.....

[arharvie@gmail.com](mailto:arharvie@gmail.com)

## VKFF Team Championship 2016

By Paul VK5PAS

The 2016 VKFF Team Championship is now just a few weeks away. It is scheduled for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016 between 0000 UTC – 0600 UTC.

So far the following teams have registered for the 2016 VKFF Team Championship.

A team of 2 or more amateurs (maximum of 4) is all that is required, with an activation from a valid VKFF reference area. Make as many contacts as you can in the 6 hour period.

Numerous prizes are on offer.

For more information.....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/vkff-team-championship.html>

So far I have registered the following teams.....

- *'The Odd Couple'* - Julie VK3FOWL and Joe VK3YSP
- *'The Walkie Talkies'* - John VK5BJE , Paul VK5PAS & Marija VK5FMAZ
- *'Team Pezo'* - Peter VK5PET and Steve VK5ZEO
- *'Steptoe and Finger'* - Rob VK4FFAB and Brett VK4FTWO
- *'The Mad Mix'* - Mike VK6MB and Michael VK6MMB
- *'spiritdreaming'* - Bob VK4FW, Garry VK1ZZ, Eric VK4NEF
- *'Team Kookaburra'* - Mick VK3PMG and Tony VK3XV
- *'Tassie Devils'* - Jonathan VK6JON/7 and Helen VK7FOLK
- *'Special K's'* - Les VK5KLV and Peter VK5KPR

If you do plan to take part, please register your team with me, by dropping me an email at.....

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

Again, the date for the 2016 VKFF Team Championship is.....

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

## Using other bands

By Paul VK5PAS

The 40m band has been a little fickle of late, particularly for 'close in' contacts (out to about 400 km). So why not try some different bands?

I've had quite a bit of success of late with the 80m band, even in the middle of the day.

The 15m band also offers some surprises at times, with Foundation calls from VK4 and VK6, along with some interesting DX.

So why not try some bands other than 40m during your next trip out into the field.

## Recent Park Activations

Despite the rather appalling weather at times during September, a number of park activators ventured out into the field across South Australia.

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

- Mount Remarkable National Park VKFF-0360, John VK5BJE/p (27/9/2016)
- Clements Gap Conservation Park VKFF-0812, John VK5BJE/p (26/9/2016)

- Winninowie Conservation Park VKFF-0820, Chris VK5FR (23/9/2016)
- Franklin Harbour Conservation Park VKFF-0807 & 5CP-071, Paul VK5PAS (18/9/2016)



*Above: The VK5PAS shack at the Franklin Harbour CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

- Middlecamp Hills Conservation Park VKFF-1059 & 5CP-184, Paul VK5PAS (18/9/2016)
- Cobbler Creek Recreation Park VKFF-1699, Bob VK5FO (17/9/2016)
- Yeldulknie Conservation Park VKFF-1127 & 5CP-260, Paul VK5PAS (17/9/2016)
- The Plug Range Conservation Park VKFF-1107 & 5CP-231, Paul VK5PAS (17/9/2016)
- Heggaton Conservation Park VKFF-1037 & 5CP-089, Paul VK5PAS (17/9/2016)

- Whyalla Conservation Park VKFF-0805 & 5CP-253, Paul VK5PAS (16/9/2016)
- Ironstone Hill Conservation Park VKFF-0895 & 5CP-095, Paul VK5PAS (16/9/2016)
- Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park VKFF-1757, Les VK5KLV/p (16/9/2016)
- Munyaroo Conservation Park VKFF-0920 & 5CP-154, Paul VK5PAS (16/9/2016)
- Anstey Hill Recreation Park VKFF-1683, Bob VK5FO (11/9/2016)
- Clements Gap Conservation Park VKFF-0812, Les VK5KLV/p (11/9/2016)
- Belair National Park VKFF-0022 & 5NP-001, John VK5BJE (11/9/2016)



*Above:- John VK5BJE in the Belair National Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS.*

- Belair National Park VKFF-0022 & 5NP-001, Marija VK5FMAZ (11/9/2016)



*Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ in Belair National Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

- Belair National Park VKFF-0022 & 5NP-001, Paul VK5PAS
- Murray River National Park VKFF-0372, Stef VK5HSX/p (11/9/2016)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park, Marcus VK5WTF/p (11/9/2016)

For more information on the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award please have a look at.....

<http://www.vk5parks.com/>

And for more information on the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, please have a look at.....

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

## Recent SOTA activations



Ian VK5CZ & Hugh VK5NHG continued their journey to Mountain Goothood, activating a few parks in the Mid North of South Australia.

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

- Mount Plantagenet VK5/ NE-013, Ian VK5CZ/p (25/9/2016)
- VK5/ NE-031, Ian VK5CZ/p (25/9/2016)
- Mount Plantagenet VK5/ NE-013, Hugh VK5NHG/p (25/9/2016)
- VK5/ NE-031, Hugh VK5NHG/p (25/9/2016)

For more information on SOTA in VK5, please check out.....

<http://www.sota.org.uk/Associations/viewAssociation/prefix/VK5>



## Please allow some time

By Paul VK5PAS

A reminder re the VKFF program.....

Please allow up to 2 weeks for a VKFF log to be uploaded.

Please DO NOT send me an email after 24 hours asking why your log has not been uploaded.

If your log is not processed & uploaded within 2 weeks of sending it in, then please send the VKFF co-ordinator an email.

The same applies for award certificates.

## New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

- Nil for this period

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.

## VK4 Activation News

By Rob VK4FFAB



VK4 continues to be a hot bed of activation activity, with 11 SOTA activations and 15 WWFF activations for the month. With good weather and warm but not hot days October should also provide plenty of opportunity for activators to get out and put some parks and peaks on the air.

Lawrie VK4SQ joined me in Hays Inlet CP for

his first activation of a park. We had a ton of fun and made plenty of contacts on both 40m and 20m. With a bit of luck we might have another regular VK4 activator in the making.

Bill VK4FW activated a couple of parks in western QLD on his way out to Emerald for a hamfest. With weather making the travelling conditions into the parks a little on the difficult side. Dirt roads and rain do make for some interesting time. Bill had to go back to one park and finish it off rather than get bogged and be stuck there for a month.

I also found out the hard way that 2wd and clay in Conondale NP do not mix well. Getting bogged on a 5 deg incline, making for some interesting times.

International visitors David, Sid and Adele have been busy flying the SOTA flag and have been out activating some peaks this month. Well done guys and I do hope you are enjoying your stay.

A full list of the parks and peaks activated during September are listed below.

## **SOTA**

David G3RDQ/P activated Springbrook Mountain and Mt Cooroora.

Sid ZS5AYS and Adele ZS5APT activated Mount Cotton, Mount Tambourine, Mount Tennison Woods and Springbrook Mountain.

VK4MOB Garath Mt Tempest.

VK4FFAB Mount Tennison Woods, Nth of My

Byron, South of Mt Sim Jue and Kluvers Lookout.

## **WWFF**

Fred VK4FE activated Daintree National Park and Mount Lewis National Park.

Bill VK4FW activated Albinia National Park and Minerva Hills National Park.

Lawrie VK4SQ activated Hays Inlet Conservation Park.

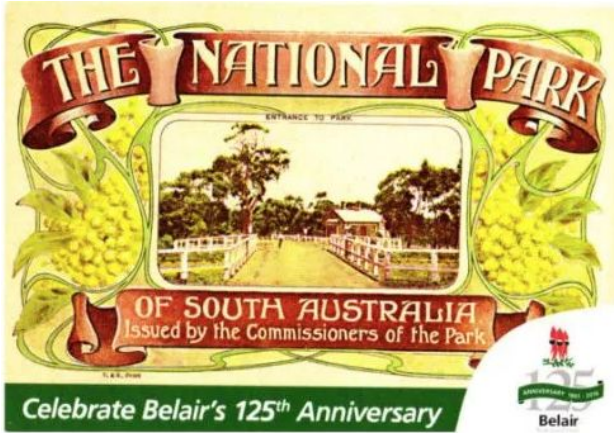
Rob VK4FFAB activated Samford Conservation Park, Mapleton Falls National Park, Maleny National Park, Conondale National Park, Conondale Conservation Park, Hays Inlet Conservation Park, Lockyer National Park, Lockyer Recovery National Park and D'Aguilar National Park.

# **Celebrating Belair National Park's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday**

By Paul VK5PAS

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, an open day was held at the Belair National Park (VKFF-0022 & 5NP-001), to celebrate the park's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday.





Belair National Park is South Australia's oldest National Park, having been established in 1891. It was the second park to be declared a National Park, falling only behind the Royal National Park in NSW which was established in 1879.

John VK5BJE had been approached by the Senior Ranger for the Mount Lofty Parklands, asking if he would be interested in setting up an amateur radio station as part of the Open Day. John kindly asked myself and my wife Marija VK5FMAZ along for the day.



*Above: Marija VK5FMAZ on the mic. Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

We made a total of 221 contacts.

That included 24 Park to Park (P2P) contacts for WWFF & the VK5 Parks Award (including one P2P into Belgium), and 7 SOTA contacts.

Countries worked:- Australia, (VK1, VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5, VK6, VK7 & VK8); European Russia; St Lucia; Czech Republic; Slovenia; Germany; Poland, Japan; Switzerland; Belgium; France; Netherlands; and Italy.



*Above: The station of John VK5BJE. Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

Bands worked:- 2m, 20m, 40m, and 80m.

We had quite a bit of interaction with the public during the day, including a visit by a scouting group. We also had a few children, and one adult talk on air. And a significant number of promotional brochures were handed out.



Above: John VK5BJE with a number of visitors.  
Image courtesy of VK5PAS

## A new park

By Paul VK5PAS

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the Para Wirra Recreation Park was gazetted as a Conservation Park.

Para Wirra is situated in the foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges in the northern end of the Adelaide metropolitan area in South Australia.

The park is a beautiful bush setting, and has extensive grassy areas, a lake, and many recreational facilities.

South Australia

### National Parks and Wildlife (Para Wirra Conservation Park) Proclamation 2016

under section 30(1) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

#### 1—Short title

This proclamation may be cited as the National Parks and Wildlife (Para Wirra Conservation Park) Proclamation 2016.

#### 2—Commencement

This proclamation comes into operation on the day on which it is made immediately after the National Parks and Wildlife (Para Wirra Recreation Park) Proclamation 2016 comes into operation.

#### 3—Constitution of Para Wirra Conservation Park

The following Crown land is constituted as a conservation park and assigned the name **Para Wirra Conservation Park**:

Sections 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 199, 216, 217, 237, 238, 299, 311 and 342, Hundred of Barossa, County of Adelaide;

Allotment 1 in Deposited Plan 58800, Hundred of Barossa, County of Adelaide;

Sections 275, 277, 278, 279, 280, 396, 423, 428 and 429, Hundred of Para Wirra, County of Adelaide;

Allotments 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Deposited Plan 58801, Hundred of Para Wirra, County of Adelaide.

#### Made by the Governor

being of the opinion that the Crown land described in clause 3 should be protected and preserved for the purpose of conserving any wildlife and the natural and historic features of the land and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council

on 19 May 2016

16MSECCS026

## A trip to the ‘Iron Triangle’

By Paul VK5PAS

During September 2016 I travelled to the ‘Iron Triangle’ region of South Australia to catch up with family. I had also planned to undertake a number of park activations whilst there.

I activated 8 of my 9 planned parks. Got rained out on the Saturday so I had to cancel Sheoak Hill CP.



Total of 10 Park to Park contacts. Countries worked: Australia (VK1, VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5, VK6, and VK7); Czech Republic, Japan, Germany, Croatia, Hungary, USA, French Polynesia.

I worked Greg VK5GJ a handful of times, who was running QRP 40 milliwatts from Meadows in the Adelaide Hills.

Munyaroo Conservation Park VKFF-0920 & 5CP-154  
51 QSOs



*Above: ‘The shack’ at the Munyaroo CP.  
Image courtesy of VK5PAS.*

Ironstone Hill Conservation Park VKFF-0895 & 5CP-095  
55 QSOs

Whyalla Conservation Park VKFF-0808 & 5CP-253  
50 QSOs

Heggtaton Conservation Park VKFF-1037 & 5CP-089  
58 QSOs

The Plug Range Conservation Park VKFF-1107 & 5CP-231  
45 QSOs

Yeldulknie Conservation Park VKFF-1127  
54 QSOs

Middlecamp Hills Conservation Park VKFF-1059 & 5CP-134  
54 QSOs



*Above:- Set up in the Middlecamp Hills CP.  
Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

Franklin Harbour Conservation Park VKFF-0807 & 5CP-071  
47 QSOs

Thanks to everyone who called in and many thanks to those who took the time to spot me.

More info and photos can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/>

## Can I have more than 2 call signs?

By Paul VK5PAS

I was recently asked....."Can I have more than one call sign listed in Logsearch?"

The answer is YES.

This might apply if you have recently upgraded your call sign, or you might want to include the AX prefix or a club callsign.

Simply go to the main search page on Logsearch and click on 'Edit Profile' in the top right hand corner. Then add the relevant call sign/s in the Callsigns area located in the 'Information' section.

Don't forget to click on 'Update' once you have done this.

## VK Shires Award

By Bill VK4FR

The VK Shires Award will be broken into various sections as below.

There is a weekly net held every Friday at 06.30utc on 14.240mhz followed by one on 7.185mhz as net controllers see fit.

All contacts on or after 1.1.2014 will be eligible to be counted. A copy of your log must accompany your application and be posted to

VK SHIRES AWARDS COMMITTEE, C/- Bill Horner, 11 South St, Wondai, Qld 4606, Australia or emailed to spiritdreaming11@bigpond.com Cost per certificate will be \$5usd for overseas or \$5aud for all VKs.

Basic award VK : 75 shires (must include a minimum of 1 shire from each state) Silver award VK : 150 shires Gold award VK : 300 shires Platinum award VK : all shires

Nomad award :

Basic 25 Shires, Silver 50 Shires, Gold 75 Shires and Platinum 100 Shires . This is a special award for those who travel about and activate shires. Please note you need to work a minimum of 5 stations from each shire.

VK1 award : 1 shire VK2 award : Basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK3 award : Basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK4 award : basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK5 award : basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK6 award : basic 25 shires, silver 50 shires, gold all shires VK7 award : basic 10 shires, silver 20 shires, gold all shires VK8 award : basic 5 shires, silver 10 shires, gold all shires \*\*Please note that all VK9 and VK0 call areas do not count for this award.

\*\*\*For those who actually go and activate a shire you must work a minimum of 50 stations to be eligible to claim the shire for yourself for all parts of the award except the Nomad Award as above. A copy of your log must be sent to the awards manager for verification.

\*\*\*\* Endorsements for SSB or CW or specific

bands or QRP etc are available.

\*\*\*\*\* All National Parks, State Forests, SOTA etc within the boundaries of a shire shall count for that very shire.

## New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 89 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

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

➤ NIL for this period

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 for this period



## World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Tony VK5MRT**

- Bronze VKFF Hunter



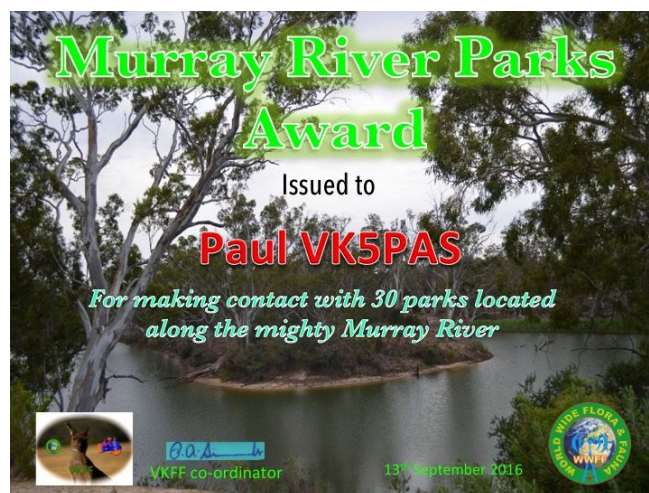
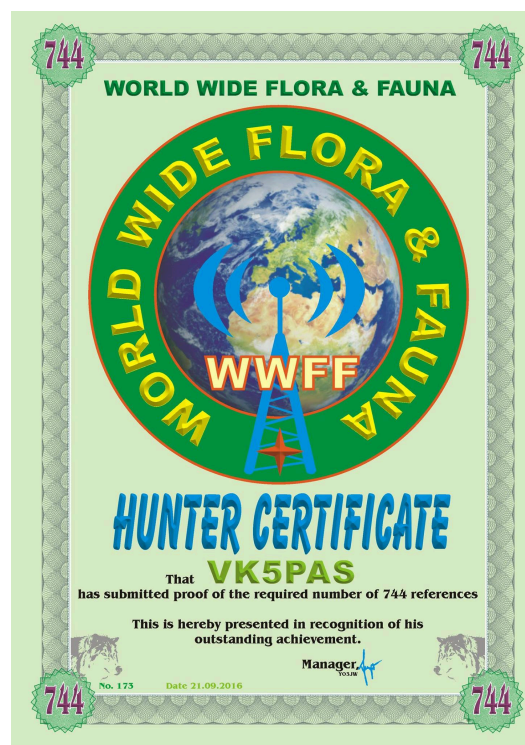
- **Adrian VK5FANA**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 425



- **Paul VK5PAS**

- VKFF Global Hunter – 744
- Murray River Parks Hunter – 30
- VKFF Activator Honour Roll 125
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 500



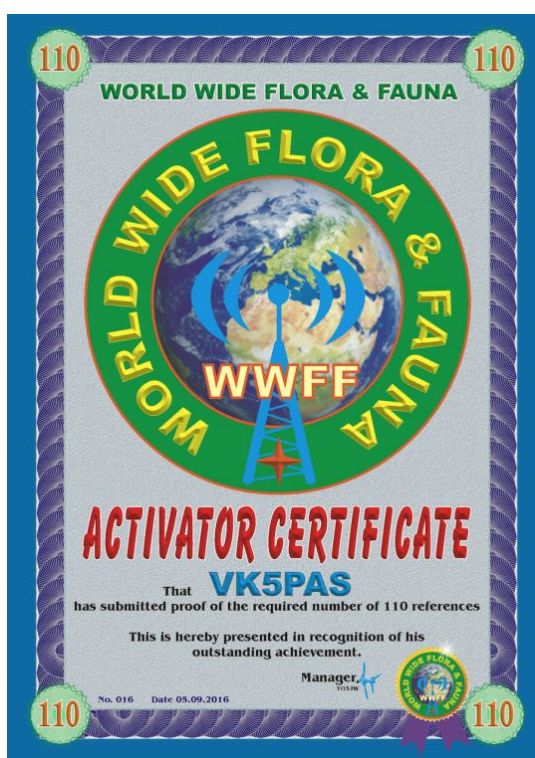




- Marija VK5FMAZ
  - Gold VKFF Hunter



- Les VK5KLV
  - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 275



### VK5 Parks Award

- NIL for this period

### Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- NIL known

#### Other.

- NIL

## Parks reopen after storms

By Paul VK5PAS



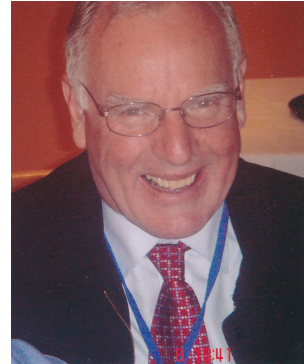
Most Adelaide Hills parks closed during the recent severe weather will reopen in time for the long weekend.

More information can be found at.....

[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home/Full\\_news\\_events\\_listing/160930-parks-reopen-after-storms](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home/Full_news_events_listing/160930-parks-reopen-after-storms)

## Clements Gap

By John VK5BJE



My wife, Jenny and I decided to take a few days off and we originally planned to re-visit the Riverland for a birdwatching and amateur radio experience. We like the Riverland and have visited many times. However, after checking the **Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources** (DEWNR) web pages to consider some of the newly listed parks on the WWFF list, I saw that they were closed because of flooding. I was particularly interested in two parks that have not been activated as yet. Oh well, someone else might be able to have the pleasure!

Our replacement location was Port Augusta and environs. We like this part of the state and Port Augusta has been the launching pad for many of our 4×4 adventures in the past. We left home on Monday 26th September just before lunch and **Clements Gap Conservation Park**, VKFF-0812 was in our sights. We arranged accommodation at Port Pirie before we departed home. Clements Gap is just south of Port Pirie. In preparing for my visit I read Paul's



blog (VK5PAS). He has previously activated this park and, as usual, it was very helpful. Les, VK5KLV, from Port Augusta, responded to my post on the Yahoo group advising of my intention to visit the area. He activated this park very recently and warned of the flies and mosquitos. He suggested lots of repellent and a fly net as well if I did not want to supplement my diet with flies! I plastered my clothes with repellent but the little ‘nasties’ still found me!

Gap Road dissects the park. The park is a bush land oasis in an agricultural area. I found a spot on the left hand side of the road in a clearing.



The clearing is accessible by 4×4 and is visible on the Mapcartamap (under the nts in Clements Post Office, the left hand side of the road travelling right to left on the map).



As we were to travel to Port Pirie for the evening and I only had about two hours to play I decided to erect my two band antenna for 40 and 20 metres.

I was on the air at 06:21 UTC and enjoyed 21 contact with VK 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 stations all on 40 metres. I tried 20 metres without success. Thanks to all who gave me a call and a special thanks to those who spotted me on parks and peaks. I did not have internet coverage at this point. My station comprised my Yaesu 857D set for 20 watts, powered from my 33 amp hour battery ‘thumper’, which was kept charged from the sun using my solar panels.

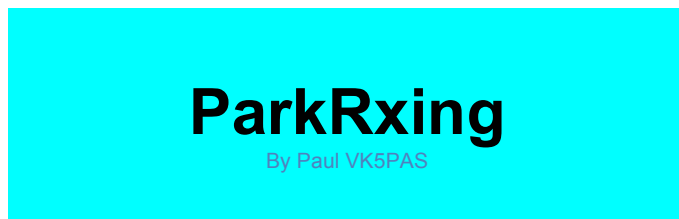


While I did advertise that I would call CQ on 7.144 and did for a few minutes without success I then had a listen on the bands. I finished on 7.115 and worked 24 stations.

For more information on the activation and a list of stations that I worked, please have a look at my Wordpress site at.....

<https://vk5bje.com/>

*Photos in this post are courtesy of John VK5BJE*



I recently stumbled across a site called ParkRXing. ParkRXing is an SWL awards program which encourages portable operation in parks and similar areas.

It appears to be a brand new program run out of VK.

The site can be located at.....

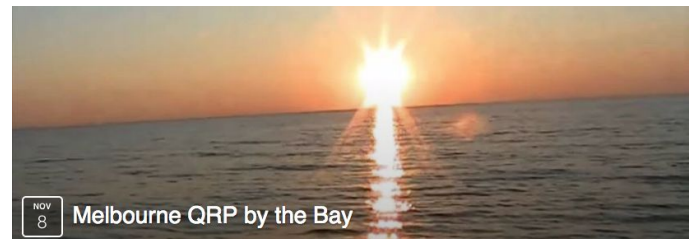
<http://parkrxing.blogspot.com.au/>

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

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ParkRXing/info>

## Melbourne QRP by the Bay

By Peter VK3YE



### Melbourne QRP by the Bay – Saturday November 5, 2016 at 3pm

An event for those who like homebrew portable radio equipment, outdoors transmitting and QRP operating.

Format: Informal gathering. Bring yourself and any QRP related projects, equipment, antenna or accessories.

Suggested theme: Show, tell, demonstrate portable QRP DX antennas. Spread out along the beach, put up an antenna and work DX.

Location: Gather in Victory Park, Camp St, Chelsea. Grassed area near life saving club.

Venue, facilities and transport: By the bay 30km south of Melbourne. Grassed areas near water. Free barbecues and shelter if wet. Playground for children.

Parking nearby (eg supermarket). Please read

signs to avoid a fine as ticketed parking is also nearby. Trains every 10 min (Frankston line) or direct buses from Doncaster, Nunawading, Glen Waverley or Springvale (902) every 30 min.

A great write-up on last year's appears at.....

<https://vk3hn.wordpress.com/2015/11/17/qrp-by-the-bay-saturday-14th-november-2015/>

If you're on Facebook the event page is at <https://www.facebook.com/events/348410778824001/>

## WWFF website

By Danny ON4VT



WWFF wants to communicate to activators and hunters via one channel : the WWFF web ! We are working very hard to make it a WWFF platform where you can find all needed info within some mouse clicks.

## WWFF.co the website ! AGENDA Directory WWFFwatch

upcoming  
activations

WWFF  
reference  
listing

All WWFF  
Spots in ONE  
DXcluster

ADD YOURS !

M A P

LogSearch

Forum

Find easy  
WWFF  
referencens  
in your area !

Migration  
in  
progress

Migration  
in  
progress

*Make nature your shack !*

Met vriendelijke groeten, Sincerely yours, 73 44

*Danny Van Tricht*

ON4VT/OT4V

WWFF Public Relations & Webmaster  
WWFF Park to Park Award Manager

## WWFF Facebook page

By Paul VK5PAS

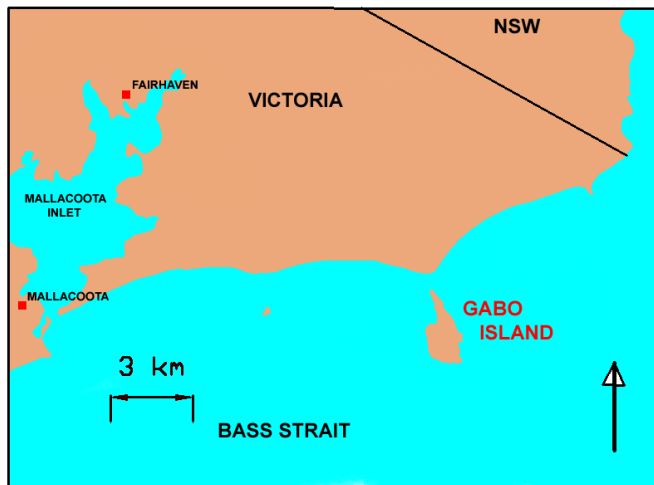
facebook

The global WWFF Facebook page now has over 1,000 members. You can find it at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WWFF44/>

## Gabo Island to be activated

By Paul VK5PAS



IOTA guru Craig VK5CE is planning on activating Gabo Island OC-196 from January 31 to February 1 2017.

The last organised IOTA DXpedition was back in 2001. There were a couple of lighthouse weekend operations but their focus was ILLW and not IOTA and hence QSOs were mainly with VK/ZL lighthouses and a little bit of DX, as indicated by there only being 2.8% claimed by current IOTA chasers in the last 8 years as per the 2016 IOTA Directory (page 118).

The activation of Gabo Island involves a car drive of 1300 km (800 miles) from VK5 to VK3 and then I charter a private light aircraft to and from the island. Any financial support would be really appreciated. Thanks Craig VK5CE

<http://oc196.blogspot.com.au/>

## Kangaroo Island coming up

By Grant VK5GR



A reminder that 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October I (VK5GR) will be active on Kangaroo Island OC-139 with a digital bent (RTTY, PSK etc).

Not in a park - just IOTA - will set up my RD station along side the holiday house.

## QSL cards

By Paul VK5PAS

If you happen to receive a QSL card from an overseas or local SOTA or parks or portable operator, please send me a copy to.....

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



## Rob VK4AAC



...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.

## Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS



If you have worked an overseas SOTA or WWFF station, please send me the details to....

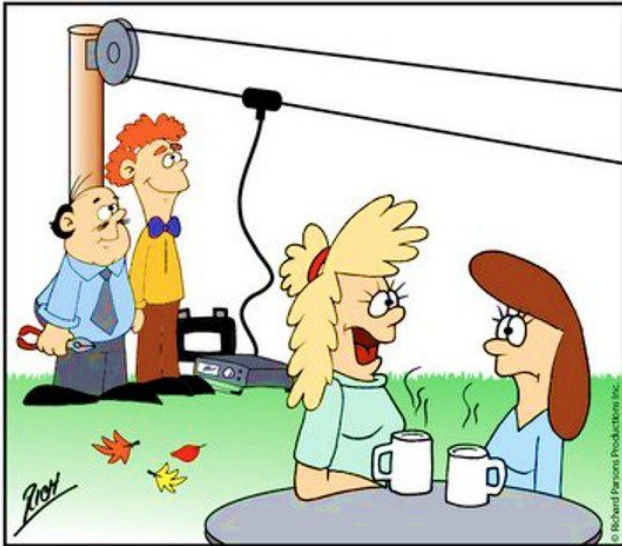
[vk5pas@wia.org.au](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

- YU7ADY/p, YUFF-0040 (24/9/2016)
- 2E0YYY/p, SOTA G/ SP-004 (24/9/2016)
- DL/VK3ARR/p, SOTA DM/ BW-019 (24/9/2016)
- 2E0YYY/p, SOTA G/ SP-013 (21/9/2016)
- YO2MTG/p, YOFF-0186 (14/9/2016)
- IZ0MQN/p, Italian Abbeys (14/9/2016)
- LY2BIS/p, LYFF-0028 (14/9/2016)
- Sp5KD/p, SPFF-1231 (14/9/2016)
- YU1CA/p, Worked Castles Award (13/9/2016)

## Ham humour

### SUCH A HAM

SH-005



Stan & Cliff have been working all day  
on installing my clothesline, Mary.

## Latest videos

By Paul VK5PAS



If you have put together a You Tube video, or spotted a video of interest somewhere, please let me know.

### Amateur radio could save lives

<https://youtu.be/DMF0SVUdxow>

### CW paddle for portable operation

<https://youtu.be/1JLaDZ4HEtM>