



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 27, January 2017

Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to Issue 27 January 2017, of '*Out and About in VK5*' which 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.

I cannot believe another year has come and gone. Clearly time cannot go quicker, but it certainly seems to as you grow older. The *Out and About* newsletter is now in its third year, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed with articles over the years.

In this issue, Bob VK5AFZ discusses 'meaningful signal reports' and Ian VK5CZ fills us in on his adventures with Hugh VK5NHG for

their New Years Day SOTA activation of Black Rock. Other contributors include Les VK5KLV, Danny ON4VT, and Col VK5HCF.

December was a relatively quiet month for SOTA & PARKS activations. I suspect because most were enjoying themselves with the Christmas and New Year festivities. On a personal level I only activated 2 SOTA peaks and two parks. One of those being the newly gazetted Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park, also known as Winaityinaityi Pangkara.

I sincerely hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and an enjoyable time with family and friends. Marija and I travelled to Whyalla in the Iron Triangle region of South Australia (SA), to spend time with Marija's family.

I also hope that everyone saw in the New Year well, without too many hangovers. Marija and I travelled to Burra in the Mid North of SA to activate some SOTA peaks and parks. Details of our New Years Day activation of Mount Bryan VK5/ SE-001 can be found in this issue.

In this issue you can also read about the final statistics which relate to the 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend which was held on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November 2016. And what an amazing weekend it was. A total of 43 park activators around Australia took part, with a total of 2,655 QSOs. That included a total of 1,010 Park to Park contacts.

A reminder that the Activation Weekend for the 4th year anniversary of the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award will be held on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April 2017. If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please drop me an email, so that your details can be added to the activator spreadsheet which is being maintained.

So a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from me, and I hope that you enjoy the read.



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

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



Contents.

SMART Snake bandage	5
Your activation story on the WWFF weblog	5
9 millionth QSO in the WWFF database	5-6
parksnpeaks	6
Graphene batteries	6
Meaningful signal reports	7-9
Mid North gathering	9
4 th anniversary VK5 Parks Award activation weekend	9-10
Recent park activations	11
Recent SOTA activations	11
New VK5 Parks Yahoo members	12-13
Recent Park activations	19-22
Recent SOTA activations	22-23
New VK5 Parks Yahoo members	23
Black Rock 2016/2017 Double activation	13-15
Results from the 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend	16-17
Friday afternoons for the VK5 Parks Award	17-18
Activation from Sri Lanka	18
New VK5 Parks Facebook members	18
Recent Award recipients	19-22
Newly designed OCCFF-H-28 award certificate	22
Mount Bryan for the 2016-2017 rollover	23-25
QSL cards	25
Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF	25-26

“Out & About in VK5”, Issue 27, January 2017 4

Ham humour 26

Latest videos 27

SMART Snake bandage

By Paul VK5PAS



Above; Tiger snake. Image courtesy of wikipedia

Thanks to Les VK5KLV who brought this to my attention.

Developed in conjunction with Craig Adams from SSSafe, the innovative Smart Bandage uses a clever pictogram to show users how to achieve optimum tension which is essential when applying a pressure immobilisation bandage, especially for snake bites. Please Note: This video is an introduction to the SMART Snake Bandage to show how the printed pictogram helps the user to achieve optimal tension. This demonstration is not an accurate representation on how to treat a snake bite. We recommend everyone receives training on how to properly treat a snake bite, or contact Craig Adams from SSSafe.

Here is a link to a video showing the use of the product.....

<https://youtu.be/rQEKr8ldGJ0>

Your activation story on the WWFF weblog

By Danny ON4VT



WWFF wants to publish more activation stories on the WWFF weblog.

Do you want your activation report on the front page of the website?

1. Only activations that have been announced in the WWFF Agenda will be published.
2. Send us some of your photos and a short text about your activation.

Mail to.....

newsletter@wwff.co

9 millionth QSO in the WWFF database

By Danny ON4VT

We are proud to announce that on 5th December 2016, the 8th million QSO was uploaded to the WWFF Logsearch database.

The milestone QSO was between AB4BJ and W7USA from KFF-0641.

Congratulations and a special certificate is emailed to both.



Thanks

Allen VK3ARH

Graphene batteries

By Col VK5HCF



parksnpeaks

By Allen VK3ARH

Hi

We have been working on a app for iOS to interface with ParksNPeaks.

It is in early stages of development with limited functions but ready to test.

Looking for testers to help with chasing bugs and give input as to direction / features.

Please contact me if you are in a position to test and give constructive feedback.

Hi all,

Here is a link to an article that I read on Graphene batteries.

<http://www.graphene-info.com/graphene-batteries>

Hope that it is of interest.

Cheers,

Col. VK5HCF

The standard amateur radio procedure for giving signal reports was devised in 1934 by Arthur

Meaningful Signal reports

By Bob VK5AFZ



The standard amateur radio procedure for giving signal reports was devised by Arthur Braaten, W2BSR (1). A full description of the system can be found at

www.zs6wr.co.za/documents/rst.pdf (2)

and there is also an historical account at

www.qsl.net/yb0az/rst.htm (3)

In the 80 years since this system was introduced there have been major advances in technology, and today's amateur radio transceivers are light years ahead of 1930s radio equipment in their performance and accuracy. Unfortunately, this seems to have led to many operators having a misconception of how the RST signal reporting system is supposed to work. Back in 1934, most

receivers didn't have S meters, or those that did had widely varying calibrations against the incoming signal voltages. For that reason, when a signal report was to be given, the receiving operator's ears were employed to select appropriate R and S numbers using the standard definitions below.

R = READABILITY

- 1 -- Unreadable
- 2 -- Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
- 3 -- Readable with considerable difficulty
- 4 -- Readable with practically no difficulty
- 5 -- Perfectly readable

S = SIGNAL STRENGTH

- 1 -- Faint signals, barely perceptible
- 2 -- Very weak signals
- 3 -- Weak signals
- 4 -- Fair signals
- 5 -- Fairly good signals
- 6 -- Good signals
- 7 -- Moderately strong signals
- 8 -- Strong signals
- 9 -- Extremely strong signals

With the modern receivers now almost universally in use by amateurs, everyone has an accurate (??) S meter in front of them, which is studiously observed when a signal is received to determine its strength. However, there seems to be a common misconception that whatever the S meter reads is the number which should be reported back to the transmitting station for its signal report. Thus reports like “5 by 1” are quite commonly heard. We have all heard signals which are perfectly readable but do not move the S meter needle at all. Presumably the same operators would give a signal report for this situation of “5 by

zero”, but a zero strength report would mean that no signal at all was heard, so how could it be “perfectly readable” ?

The point here is that the number reported for signal strength is NOT necessarily the number shown on someone's S meter. The S meter is only a guide to giving a report in accordance with the definitions above, because there is no consistency in S meter calibration between different receivers. I have a Kenwood TS-120 V which consistently reads about 2 or 3 S points lower than a Yaesu FT-450D at the lower end of the scale, but is also 1 or 2 points higher at the top end. If it is desired to give the transmitting station some quantitative measurement, it is quite acceptable to add the S meter reading as a further comment, as long as the actual signal report conforms to the standard R and S definitions.

Unfortunately this is not properly explained in the AOCP syllabus, where the statement *“Demonstrate the use of a signal strength meter to make meaningful signal reports”* occurs. This fails to make any mention of the standard definitions, and implies that the S meter is the sole point of reference for signal strength reports. No doubt this is the source of all the confusion about how to make a “meaningful” signal report; it is incorrect and misleading, and it needs to be rectified by including a reference to the standard definitions.

What also needs to be understood is that although the readability and strength reports are two different values, they are normally closely interconnected. Any signal which is R5 “perfectly readable” can hardly be less than S3, “weak”. A report of “5 by 1” is not consistent

with the signal being “faint and barely perceptible”. Signal strengths 1 and 2 are meant to apply to signals which are so weak as to be almost impossible to allow an exchange of call signs and signal reports (2), or only with great difficulty and several repetitions. So an accurate signal report for such extremely weak signals could be “3 by 2” or “2 by 1”. An S1 signal can never be R5, it can only be R3 at best.

If a signal is really R5 “perfectly readable”, then the strength report given should be not less than S3, even if the S meter isn't moving. In my experience, most DX stations understand the RST system correctly, and I have rarely heard one giving a 5x1 signal report, even when signals are very weak. This custom appears to have become more prevalent among VK operators over the last 10 years or so, which suggests that there is something wrong with the way they are being instructed.

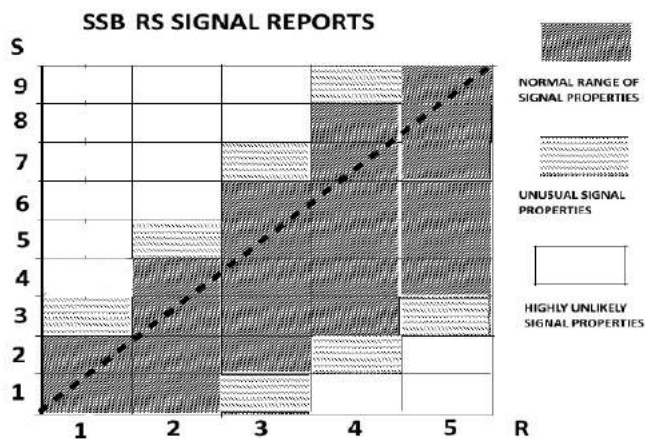
At the other end of the scale, an S9 “extremely strong” signal is very unlikely to be less than R4, “readable with practically no difficulty”, unless there is some unusually strong interference or noise on the frequency, or a major transmitter fault.

With these interconnections being understood, it can be seen that realistic signal reports ought to be confined to a restricted range within the 9x5 matrix of possible reports. This is illustrated in the diagram below, where the range of reports under normal conditions is distributed around the diagonal running from lower left to upper right. Signal reports which don't lie within this range are extremely questionable.

(1) “A New Standard System of Reporting Signals” QST October 1934 p 18, Arthur M. Braaten, W2BSR (SK)

(2) “Can You Read Me Now ?”, QST April 2011 p 68, Steve Sant Andrea, AG1YK

(3) “The RST Standard of Reporting” L.B.Cebik, W4RNL (SK)



Above: the Mid North crew. Photo courtesy of Ian VK5IS

Ian VK5IS who provided me with info re the gathering, stated: “*Ian 5CZ and Hugh 5NHG are the only activators in the north of South Australia and they travel many kilometers to climb the hills. Bill brought along his mini repeater system. Hugh gave us a look at his new KX2. Ian showed some video of his activation's. Thanks to John for a beautiful afternoon.*”

Thanks to Ian VK5CZ for the invite. I’m sorry I could not make it.

Mid North gathering

By Paul VK5PAS

A recent gathering of SOTA enthusiasts took place in the Mid North recently. It took place at the home of John VK5FMJC where a BBQ and plenty of war stories were shared.

Attendees included Nev VK5WG, Hugh VK5NHG, Bill VK5MBD, Ian VK5CZ, Roger VK5NWE, & John VK5FMJC.

4th anniversary VK5 Parks Award – Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

The 4th Year anniversary Activation Weekend for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks

Award will be held on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April 2017.

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please drop me an email at...

vk5pas@wia.org.au

so I can add your details to the spread sheet which is being maintained to record all intended activations. The spread sheet is maintained so that everyone can see who is activating which park, and so that double up activations do not occur.

The spread sheet can be found on the VK5 Parks website at.....

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

or in the Files section of the VK5 Parks Award Yahoo group which can be located at.....

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

or on the VK5 Parks Award Facebook page which can be located at.....

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

PLEASE do not leave your intentions to the last minute. This is a very popular weekend, so reserve your favourite park ASAP.

A number of parks have already been nominated as being put on air that weekend. This includes a number of intended activations by Tony VK3XV/VK3VTH in the South East region of South Australia.



**VK5 NATIONAL & CONSERVATION
PARKS AWARD**

**4TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY ACTIVATION
WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY 1ST AND SUNDAY 2ND APRIL
2017**

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please send an email to Paul VK5PAS at vk5pas@wia.org.au

More information can be found at..... <http://www.vk5parks.com/4th-year-anniversary.html>

The poster features a central image of two people sitting at a table in a park setting, with a small logo above it that reads 'VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award'.

Recent Park Activations

A very quiet month for park activations. I suspect a lot of Christmas celebrations were going on instead.

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

- Scheyville National Park NSW VKFF-0444, John VK5BJE/2 (27/12/2016)
- Innes National Park VKFF-0243, Marcus VK5WTF/p (21/12/2016)
- Greater Bendigo National Park VIC VKFF-0623, John VK5BJE/3 (17/12/2016)
- Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park VKFF-1766, Paul VK5PAS (16/12/2016)
- Mount Arapiles/Tooan State Park VIC VKFF-0765, John VK5BJE/3 (15/12/2016)
- Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park VKFF-1763 and 5CP-276, Paul VK5PAS (9/12/2016)
- Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park VKFF-0927, Rob VK4AAC/5 (5/12/2016)

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.wwffaustralia.com/>

Recent SOTA activations



Also quiet on the SOTA front. Hugh VK5NHG, Ian VK5CZ, Marija VK5FMAZ & Paul VK5PAS all ventured to summits in the Mid North for the New Year rollover. Whilst John VK5BJE activated a summit in Victoria during his Christmas trip.

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

- Black Rock VK5/ NE-035, Hugh VK5NHG/p (31/12/2016)
- Black Rock VK5/ NE-035, Ian VK5CZ/p (31/12/2016)
- Mount Bryan VK5/ SE-001, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (31/12/2016)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ operating from the top of Mount Bryan VK5/ SE-001. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

- Mount Bryan VK5/ SE-001, Paul VK5PAS/p (31/12/2016)
- Brown Hill Range VK5/ SE-004, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (31/12/2016)
- Brown Hill Range VK5/ SE-004, Paul VK5PAS/p (31/12/2016)
- Mount Arapiles VK3/ VW-022 VICTORIA, John VK5BJE/3 (15/12/2016)
- Mount Lofty VK5/ SE-001, Ian VK5CZ/p (9/12/2016)

Below is the SOTA Activator Roll of Honour for VK5. Ian VK5CZ is well on his way to Goathood. Keep up the great work Ian.

Position	Activator Callsign	Summits	Points	Seasonal Bonus	Total Score	Avg. points per Expedition	View Log
1	VK5CZ	161	607	0	607	3.77	View
2	VK5PAS	125	321	0	321	2.57	View
3	VK5TX	51	259	0	259	5.08	View
4	VK5NHG	54	205	0	205	3.80	View
5	VK5BJE	31	88	0	88	2.84	View
6	VK5FO	43	52	0	52	1.21	View
7	VK3TST	14	33	0	33	2.36	View
8	VK5OQ	6	26	6	32	5.33	View
9	VK5FMAZ	5	23	0	23	4.60	View
10	VK5NIG	61	20	0	20	0.33	View
11	VK5STU	14	15	0	15	1.07	View
12	VK5AKH	7	11	0	11	1.57	View
13	VK5LY	4	10	0	10	2.50	View
=13	VK5LA	5	10	0	10	2.00	View
15	VK5CYM	1	8	0	8	8.00	View
16	VK5GY	1	6	0	6	6.00	View
17	VK5ZIK	1	4	0	4	4.00	View
=17	VK5PL	3	4	0	4	1.33	View
=17	VK5MPJ	2	4	0	4	2.00	View
20	VK5LG	1	2	0	2	2.00	View
=20	VK5BB	2	2	0	2	1.00	View
=20	VK5LAM	2	2	0	2	1.00	View
=20	VK5HS	1	2	0	2	2.00	View
24	VK5HCF	2	1	0	1	0.50	View

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

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

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

- 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.

Black Rock 2016/2017 Double Activation

By Ian VK5CZ

Seeing there were thunderstorms around Ororoo last week and after consulting with the owner of Black Rock property, he granted permission to go to the summit. I picked Hugh up early Sunday morning and we headed off to the summit arriving about 8 am. It was still nice and cool with high humidity as we were going to drive through some very long grass as the track to the summit has not been used very much lately.

Low range in the Colorado we gently made our way to the parking area near the peak and never found any surprises in the long grass on the stony track to the top .



That is Depot Hill across the Valley, we missed doing that summit in 2016 on the last trip



SOTA transporter parked and after a feed and think about where to set up, it was very windy and cold for middle of summer.



We decided the best place out of the wind would be under the rock ledge up near the top on the North Eastern side of the summit. It was about 30 minutes to hike around the side of the Summit on a goat track and slowly make it to the top. It was extremely windy so we never bothered to go to the actual trig just for a photo opportunity as it was time to set up and get the activation underway before UTC roll over and try to stick to the Alert Time we set.



View out North West at some of the summits we activated early in the year We are very lucky to have access to all summits around Orroroo but one which I hope to do some sweet talking

to the land owner and get it back on our list. On the first year of SOTA in 2013 we accidentally entered his property after gaining permission from the wrong land owner and got sternly asked to FO and not come back. Might ring him and ask him for next year might not.

Well the reason to get a summit in the log New Years Morning is we have a time window that we can turn one visit into two Activations before and after the calendar year changes in UTC time. Many VK Activators do the same every New Year as we are in a prime time zone for such an activity. Its also a great way to get a double score and get two Activations into the one visit to a summit.



Hugh is ready to start logging as many as He can work, I am not sure how many Activators were out on summits but we made 9 S2S before role over and 5 after. We never had time to search around the band because it was very busy working S2S and chasers who came to the frequency we used for the whole activation.



Used the KX3 this time and my link dipole with the 80m extensions to start out and glad we did because Nev VK5WG could not hear us on 40m.



Perched up on the ledge it turned out to be quite warm out of the wind. For a change 40m was working well to the Eastern States making it possible to work lots of S2S and chasers and catch up with everyone for the end of the season.



Birds eye View of the Squidy and SOTA beams link dipole and our ledge for the morning below out of the wind ,

Thanks every one for all the contacts and it was quite a job to upload the csv logs, sort out the S2S part of logging, edit the video for Facebook and get a Blog written up. Judging by all the SOTA activity over the day I bet lots of others have been busy logging too.

Thanks to Peter for permission to enter his property we hope to get there in a better part of the season next time.

Thanks to all the chasers and activators for the contacts.

Thanks for reading my Blog .

Regards Ian vk5cz

Results from the 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



The 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend was held on Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th November 2016.

This was the second year of the VKFF Activation Weekend, which is all about having fun and promoting the [World Wide Flora Fauna \(WWFF\) program](#) in Australia

A total of **2,655 QSOs** were made over the weekend.

Of those, a total of 1,373 QSOs were made on the Saturday, whilst a further 1,282 were made on the Sunday.

There were an amazing number of Park to Park (P2P) contacts over the weekend. In fact,

a total of **1,010 P2P QSOs** (490 on the Saturday and 520 on Sunday).

A total of **43 activators** took part in the weekend. They were.....

1. Andrew VK1AD
2. Jim VK1AT
3. Ian VK1DI
4. Gerard VK2IO
5. Rob VK2QR
6. Liz VK2XSE
7. Adam VK2YK/4
8. Allen VK3ARH
9. Warren VK3BYD
10. Brett VK3FLCS
11. Julie VK3FOWL
12. Tim VK3MTB
13. Peter VK3PF
14. Mick VK3PMG
15. Leigh VK3SG
16. Peter VK3TKK
17. Norm VK3XCI
18. Tony VK3XV
19. Joe VK3YSP
20. Peter VK3ZPF
21. Rob VK4AAC/3
22. Neil VK4HNS
23. Bob VK5AFZ
24. Tom VK5EE
25. Adrian VK5FANA
26. Marija VK5FMAZ
27. Norm VK5GI
28. Greg VK5GJ
29. Gordon VK5GY
30. Col VK5HCF
31. Les VK5KLV
32. Peter VK5KPR
33. Nigel VK5NIG
34. Paul VK5PAS

35. Peter VK5PET
36. David VK5PL
37. Greg VK5ZGY
38. Phil VK6ADF
39. Lewis VK6LDX
40. Hans VK6XN
41. Andrew VK7DW
42. Helen VK7FOLK
43. Jonathan VK7JON

Each activator will receive a participation certificate.



A total of **28 activators** headed out on the **Saturday** and **activated a total of 37 unique parks** in VK1, VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5, VK6, and VK7.

On Sunday, a total of **29 activators** headed out and **activated a total of 33 unique parks** in VK1, VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5, VK6, and VK7.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in the weekend as either a park Activator or a park Hunter. I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves. Marija and I certainly did.

Friday afternoons for the VK5 Parks Award

By Paul VK5PAS



On Friday 9th December 2016 I kicked off the Friday afternoon/evening events for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award. These have proven to be very popular in previous years.

Sadly I received a lot of apologies for that evening from some of the regular park activators who had prior Christmas celebration engagements. I headed out to the Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park 5CP-276 and was the sole VK5 activator.

The 2nd event was held on Friday 16th December 2016. Les VK5KLV headed out to the Munyaroo Conservation Park on the Eyre Peninsula, whilst Adrian VK5FANA activated the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park. I activated for the very first time the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park Winaityinaityi Pangkara, north of Adelaide.

Since then, Christmas and the weather have ‘interfered’ with the Friday events.

Remember, these are held each Friday afternoon/evening and are designed to promote the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award. If the predicted temperature for Adelaide exceeds 35 deg C on the day, the event will be cancelled.

Activation from Sri Lanka

By Paul VK5PAS

Many keen park hunters took advantage recently of the huge signal on 20m of 4S7RS who was operating from the Hiyare Forest Reserve, 4SFF-0019 in SRI LANKA.

Hans VK6XN posted a spot on the WWFF Australia Facebook page on 12th December, and this resulted in a number of VK's being able to work 4S7RS.



Above:- Hiyare Forest Reserve. Courtesy of Amazing Lanka.

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....

- Peter VK3FPHG
- David VK5FFAU

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 South Australian amateurs who have recently qualified for award certificates for SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, VK5 Parks, and KRMNPA.

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

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- **NIL known**

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **David VK5PL**
 - Bronze VKFF Activator

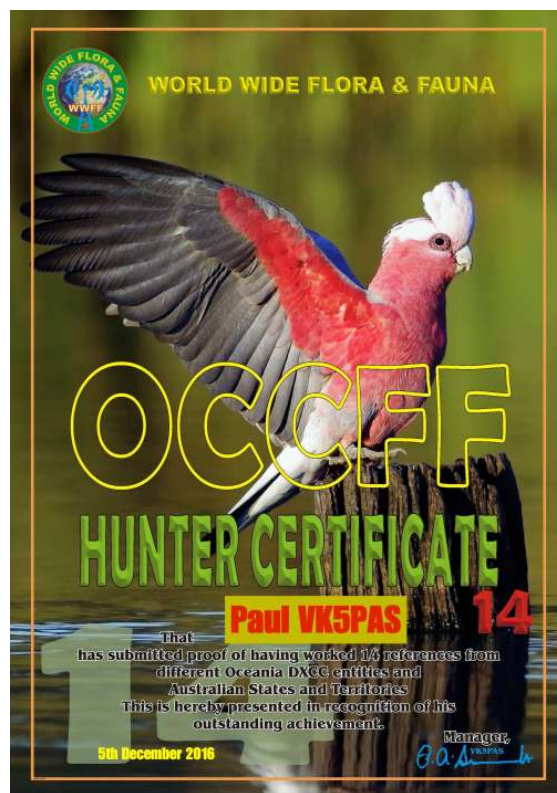
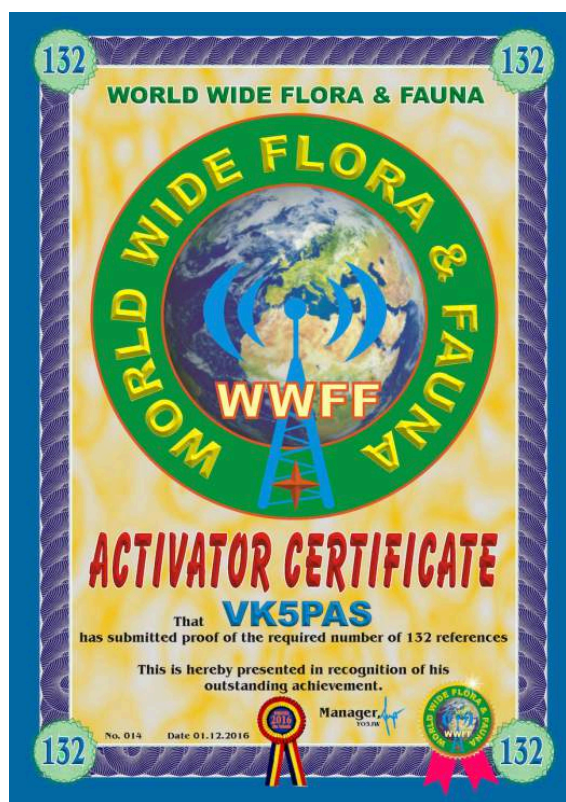


- **Les VK5KLV**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 325



- **Paul VK5PAS**

- WWFF Global Activator 132
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 575
- OCCFF-H-14
- 5BFF-3 Cyprus



- **Charlie VK5KDK**
 - Diamond VKFF Hunter

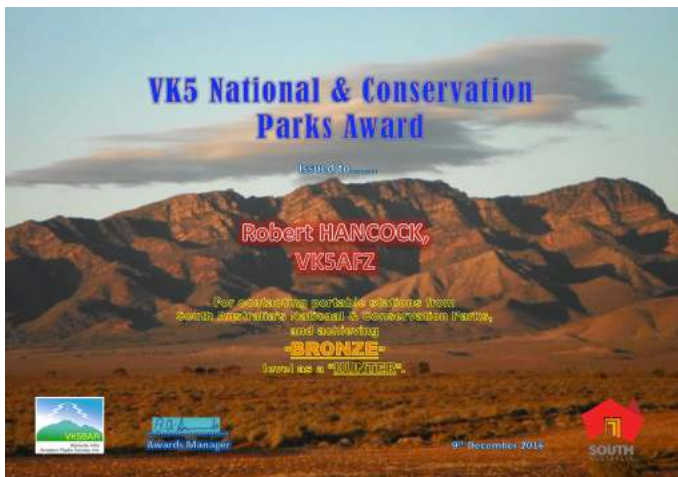


Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **NIL KNOWN**

VK5 Parks Award

- **Bob VK5AFZ**
 - Bronze Hunter
 - Silver Hunter

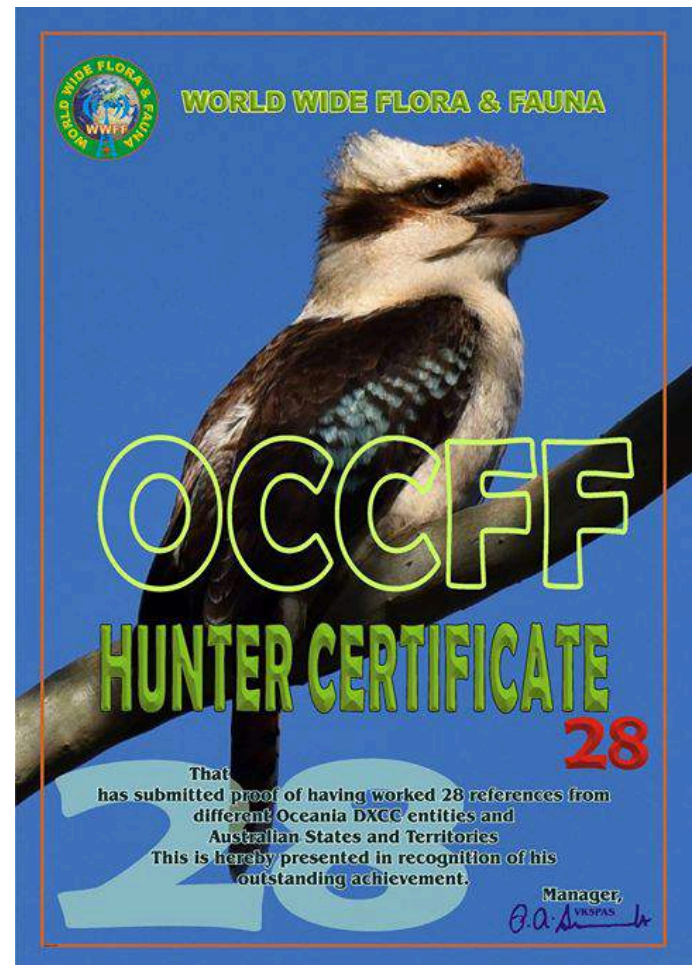
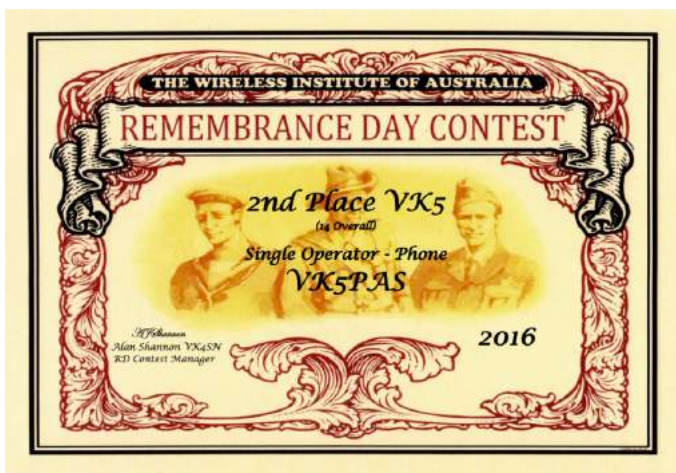


Other.

- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - VK Shires Contest
 - RD Contest
- (Both whilst operating portable in parks)



was designed by Pit YO3JW, the global WWFF awards manager.



Newly designed OCCFF-H-28 award certificate

By Paul VK5PAS

Here is the latest OCCFF certificate issued for working 28 references from different DXCC entities in the Oceania region.

The photograph of the kookaburra was taken by me at the local wetlands and the certificate

Mount Bryan for the 2016/2017 rollover

By Paul VK5PAS

For the 2016/2017 rollover, Marija VK5FMAZ and I activated **Mount Bryan, VK5/ SE-001**. This is about 50 km by road, north of Burra, and about 209 km north of Adelaide.



We were all set up and ready to go around 30 minutes before the UTC rollover, in very blustery conditions.

For this activation Marija and I ran the Yaesu FT-857d and the 80/40/20 m linked dipole on the top of the 7 m heavy duty telescopic squid pole. We decided to run the transceiver at 10 watts, rather than going in and out of the menu

and increasing the power for me. As a Foundation licence holder, Marija is only permitted to run 10 watts PEP.

Prior to lobbying on a frequency and calling CQ we scouted around the 40m band and worked a few of the SOTA activators. The first in the log was Andrew VK1AD, running QRP 5 watts from SOTA peak Mount Stromlo VK1/ AC-043. Andrew was an excellent 5/8 to us and he reciprocated with a 5/9 signal report for Marija and I. We then worked Rik VK3EQ on Mount Strickland VK3/ VN-030, followed by Mitch VK7XDM/p on Mount Field West VK7/ WC-003, and then Tony VK3CAT/p, VK3/ VC-037. As we were signing with Tony Haucke VK1HW called me and we arranged to QSY down the band.



Marija and I had soon very quickly qualified the summit, exchanging the microphone for contacts. After getting her 4 contacts to qualify the summit, Marija predominantly just worked the SOTA activators, racking up a significant number of Summit to Summit points.



The 40m band was in excellent condition and there was virtually no atmospheric noise on the band, and certainly no man made noise from Mount Bryan. Contacts were made into VK1, VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5 and VK7. The pile ups at times were quite significant, so I apologise to anyone who was calling and who was not logged by Marija and I.

I made a total of 70 contacts on 40m before heading over to the 20m band where I worked 6 stations, including 4 Summit to Summit contacts. I was pleased to be able to get John VK6NU in the log, who was on the top of Mount Randall VK6/ SW-039 (5/3 both ways).

I made a total of 15 Summit to Summit contacts before the UTC rollover (81 points) and a total of 26 Summit to Summit contacts after the UTC rollover (125 points)

Marija made a total of 15 Summit to Summit contacts before the UTC rollover (81 points) and a total of 22 S2S contacts after the UTC rollover (114 points).



After 2 hours on the summit it was time for us to pack up. It was now midday local time, and we had quite a drive ahead of us on the Dare Hill drive, and also two planned park activations.

I had a total of 76 QSOs in the log including 41 S2S contacts. Marija had a total of 39 QSOs in the log including 37 S2S contacts.

As a result of this activation, Marija has now qualified for the following SOTA certificates:

- SOTA Chaser 100 points
- SOTA Chaser 250 points
- SOTA Summit to Summit 250 points

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

<https://vk5pas.org/2017/01/03/mount-bryan-vk5-se-001-3/>

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

VI2HQ40

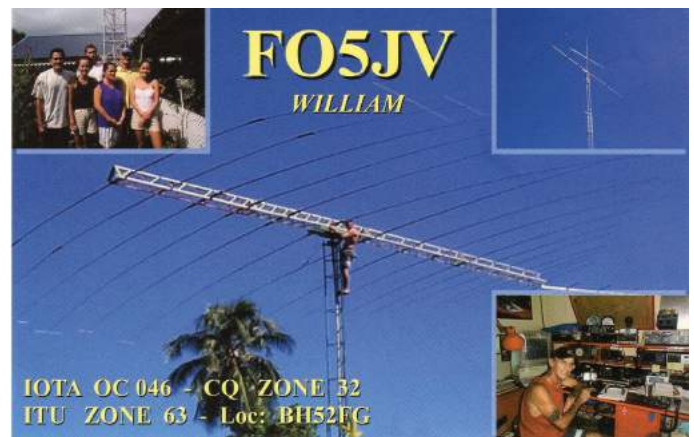
VI2HQ40
Mid South Coast Amateur Radio Club Inc

Celebrating 40 Years

Mid South Coast Amateur Radio Club Inc
PO Box 451 Nowra NSW 2541
email mscarcinc@gmail.com
www.msarc.org.au

DATE	CALLSIGN	UTC	MHZ	MODE	RST	QSL
13.11.16	VK5PAS/2	03:25	7.144	SSB	57	NIL

William FO5JV



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

...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.....

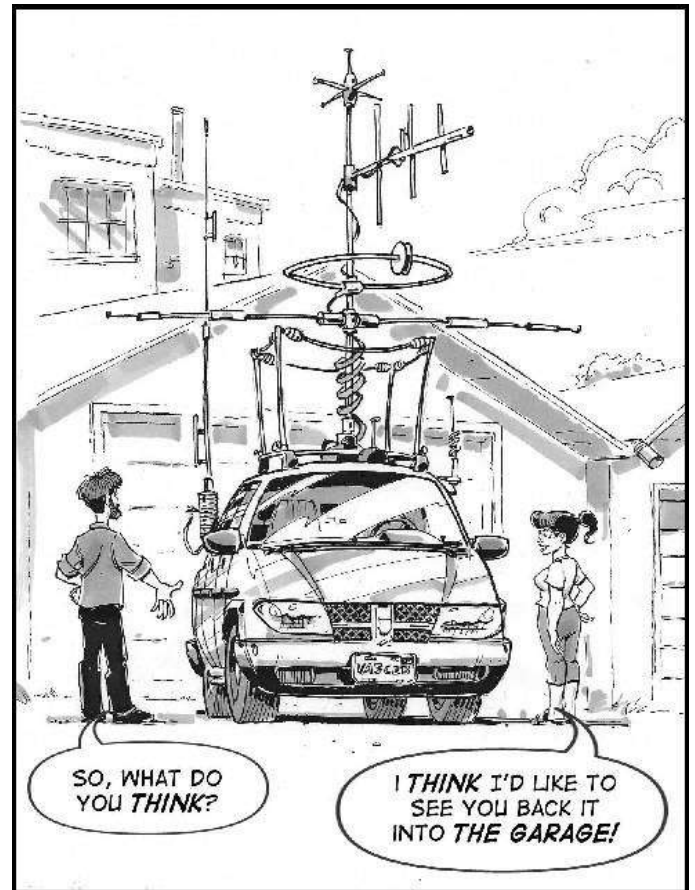
<http://hamspots.net/wwff/>

Below is a list of VK5 to DX (SOTA, Parks, IOTA, etc, contacts) that I am aware of.

Paul VK5PAS.

- ZLKGf/p, SOTA ZL1/ WK-158
(28/12/2016)
- SP5ZIM/p WWFF SPFF-0858
(22/12/2016)
- IT9AAK/p, Italian Castles DCI-ME057
(22/12/2016)
- SP5ZIM/p, WWFF SPFF-0551
(12/12/2016)
- 4S7RS/p, WWFF 4SFF-0019
(12/12/2016)
- ZL2AJ/p, SOTA ZL1/ WK-034
(3/12/2016)
- ZL1BYZ/p, SOTA ZL1/ NL-015
(1/12/2016)

Ham humour



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.

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park

<https://youtu.be/1WokMcl2ylw>