



# "OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 30, April 2017

## Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to the Issue 30 of '*Out and About in VK5*', April 2017. The 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.

Activity in parks around South Australia during March picked up quite a bit from the previous month. Slightly cooler weather I am sure contributed to more participation in the Friday afternoon/evening events held for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award.

However, the month of March only saw 3 SOTA activators head out into the field. Why not give SOTA a go? We are blessed in that we have 2 very easily accessible SOTA summits right on

the doorstep of Adelaide: Mount Lofty and Mount Gawler. If you suffer from noise at home, then why not try operating from a SOTA summit. There is none. You can generally hear a pin drop, and certainly work stations that from the home QTH would likely to be impossible. Don't be put off about climbing. There are many SOTA summits, including Mt Lofty and Mt Gawler, which do not require any climbing.

The John Moyle Memorial Field Day (JMMFD) took place in March, and I headed out to my local park, the Totness Recreation Park, and took part in the 6 hour portable section. Fortunately, the weather was on our side, and I enjoyed a beautiful sunny afternoon and balmy evening in the park. Who else headed out that

I am not aware of? I would love to receive a story from you if you did.

In this issue you can read about a recent activation of the Scott Conservation Park by John VK5BJE. Chris VK5FR/VK4FR has shared a story on his activation of the Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park in Queensland, including its very interesting history. Ian VK5CZ tells us all about his recent activation of The Battery in the Mid North of South Australia.

There is also news on the newly released VK5WOW/VI5WOW award to held celebrate the upcoming WIA AGM to be held in Hahndorf, South Australia. Danny ON4VT tells us all about a newly released WWFF app. And of course all the regular columns including recent SOTA & Park activations.

Upcoming events include....

- 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2017.....WIA AGM at Hahndorf, South ustralia
- 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> August 2017.....International Lighthouse & Ligtship Weekend
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.....VKFF Team Champtionship
- 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.....Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation weekend

- 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> November 2017.....2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

It has been confirmed that at the WIA AGM coming up in May, myself, John VK5BJE, Adrian VK5FANA, and Les VK5KLV, will be taking people out into the field on the Sunday to activate Conservation Parks in the Adelaide Hills. If you are also interested in hosting a group, please drop me a quick email.

Please remember that **if you have any information that you would like to see in the next issue, please send me an email to....**

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

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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## Field Radio event

By Paul VK5PAS



Put this date in your diary.....

May 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 00:01 - 23:59 UTC.

It is the date for the next Field Radio International Field Radio event.

More information can be found on the Field Radio website at.....

<http://www.fieldradio.org/ifr>

## New electronics magazine

By Paul VK5PAS

It has been almost 30 years since an electronics magazine was launched in Australia and New Zealand. The first issue of 'Diyode' magazine will be released in July 2017.

More information can be found at.....

<https://diyodemag.com/>



## WWFF Park to Park certificates back online

By Paul VK5PAS

The WWFF Park to Park certificates are now back online on WWFF logsearch.

The P2P Award Manager is Danny ON4VT.

## Scott Conservation Park 5CP-206 & VKFF-0934

By John VK5BJE



A saxophonist friend of mine, to be married on Saturday afternoon 4th March 2017, provided an excuse for an extended long weekend on the South Coast of South Australia. We stayed in a cabin at Port Elliot where the ceremony was held. We travelled from Scott Creek to Port Elliot via Echunga, Meadows, **Bullock Hill Conservation Park**, Goolwa and then on to Port Elliot. We enjoyed our lunch at Goolwa before checking into our accommodation at Port Elliot. After settling in to our accommodation we set out for Hindmarsh Island with the intention of an activation from the **Coorong National Park** at its most Westerly end. It wasn't to be. I will explain more later in a new post. **Scott Conservation Park**, about eight kilometres from Goolwa, provided an easily accessible alternative. This Park has

been activated previously by Paul, VK5PAS. You should check out his excellent blog at

<https://vk5pas.org/>

I have now activated all three South Australian Conservation Parks with Scott in their names: **Scott Creek Conservation Park**, **Mount Scott Conservation Park** and finally, **Scott Conservation Park**. If you would like to read about these activations then please click on the name of the Park on the index, which is just below the calendar on the front page.

**Scott Conservation Park**, comprising 210 hectares of land on the southern edge of the Mount Lofty Ranges is quite spectacular with magnificent trees (see below), deep creek lines and a walking trail of 2.7 kilometres which takes you through the park.





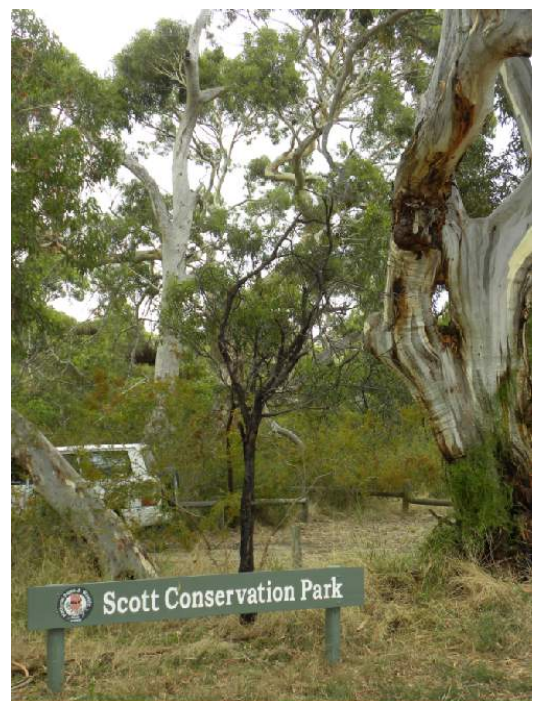


This photo shows the depth of the creek: the walking track crosses the creek bed at two locations (JCD photo)

We walked the trail plus another fire track for about an hour after my Sunday activation and enjoyed the scenery.



A magnificent eucalypt at Scott Conservation Park, Friday 3rd March 2017, JCD photo



Scott Conservation Park, Sunday 5th March 2017, operating location. JCD photo





My Sunday afternoon operating location on a fire trail. JCD photo

**Saturday afternoon 3rd March 2017** – sunny warm day

On Saturday we found a clearing that had been used by campers. They had left rubbish behind. My wife cleared the rubbish, which we returned to Port Elliot and soon the spot was pristine. This location is about half way between the two car parks and is visible from the gravel road.

I found 7.150 Mhz to be clear and I called CQ at 06:05 UTC and was answered by Peter, VK3PF. His signal was 5 and 9 and mine was 4

and 4, noise was obviously a factor at Peter's home. Then followed VK3GGG, VK4FW, VK3PMG, VK4AAC/4 (park to park contact with Rob who was in VKFF-1219, **Tuchekoi National Park**, Queensland, VK3FSPG, VK3MRP, VK3MQ, VK3YSP/M, VK3FOWL/M, VK3ZPQ, VK7JON, VK3TKK/M, VK3SS, VK3ELH, VK3OW, VK2HHA, VK3VIN and VK1DI. Conditions on 40 metres were quite good although I was unable to work any South Australian signals. The closest station to me was probably Mick in Stawell, VK3GGG/VK3PMG. The band went quiet despite many CQ calls. I then moved to the 80 metre band and enjoyed contacts with the following stations on 3.610 Mhz: 07:28 VK5YX, VK5MRT, VK5FMWW, VK5FVSV, and at 07:18 VK5PAS/M, Paul, who was driving to **Spring Mount Conservation Park** for a Friday evening activation. At 07:38 I enjoyed my final contact for the afternoon, with Paul, VK5PAS/P, operating from **Spring Mount Conservation Park**, VKFF-0739, making my second Park to Park contact for the day. We had to leave to go and buy some food for our evening meal.

**Sunday afternoon 5th March 2017** – warm overcast day

I planned to become a digital station on Sunday afternoon using my VK5PF call sign and set up on 15 metres hoping to work some Asian stations using JT-65. What I had left out of the equation, however, is how do you see a computer screen in the great outdoors even on an overcast day? Oh well I will try again. So I decided to set up again for 40 metres ssb on 7.135 Mhz, which was clear. At 04:20 my first contact was with Allen, VK3ARH, s 56 r 53 and then in quick succession, VK3PF, VK3FPSR,



VK3YXC, VK3QA, VK3BBB, VK3LX, VK3GGG, VK3PMG, VK3SQ, 04:39 VK3DAC/3, Fred was in VKFF-0762, **Leaghur State Park**, my first Park to Park contact for the day, VK1DI, VK3FEVT, VK1AT, at 04:49, VK3CWF, Bill at the **Organ Pipes National Park**, VKFF-0627 and at 04:55, VK3PAT/3, Chris at **Alpine National Park**, VKFF-0619, my third Park to Park contact for the day. Still on 40m I worked VK4HNS/4 and VK5KAI before migrating to 80 metres where I enjoyed contacts with VK5TW, VK5YX, VK5BB, and VK3GGG/VK3PMG. A big thank you to all of the operators who gave me a call at **Scott Conservation Park**. I made 48 contacts. I thought band conditions were reasonable and as usual there was no short skip into South Australia, at least not for stations within about 200 kilometres from Adelaide. However, tuning across the 40 metre band I thought activity was down for a Sunday afternoon. All contacts have been up-loaded to Log Book of the World and eqsls are available from VK5BJE/P.



The Oscar W in her home Port of Goolwa.



Port Elliot from the headland.



There is a lot to see and do around Goolwa (and I have not mentioned the wineries!). This photo shows the Cockle Train entering Goolwa Station on return from Victor Harbor.



An Indigenous perspective on the coming of the Europeans and a creation myth.

# Some tips for working SOTA & Parks activators.

By Paul VK5PAS

In this issue I thought I'd touch a little on spotting and alerting facilities which are available for activators and chasers/hunters.

I'm sure many of you would have read my comments in previous issues about spotting. There is absolutely no doubt that spotting a SOTA or Park activator, not only helps the activator in filling up their log, but also helps your fellow SOTA chaser or Park hunter.

First, let's look at SOTA.

SOTAwatch2 is 'where all the live, real time action happens. See who is activating which summit right now and what is planned for the next few days'.

**SOTAwatch2** Login: Callsign  \*

[Home](#) | [Spots](#) | [Alerts](#) | [Summits](#) | [Reflector](#) | [Website](#) | [Database](#) | [Videos](#) | [Photos](#) | [Recent Info](#) | [Shop](#) | [Mapping](#) | [Facebook](#)

This page refreshes every 1 minute. Last updated **04:51:53 UTC**.

### Latest Spots

>> [more](#)

- Wed 04:32 VK2JDL on VK2/MN-081** 7.0'
  - \*calling CQ [via SOTA Goat] (Posted by VK2JDL)
- Wed 04:13 VK5NHG/P on VK5/SE-007** 7.1'
  - calling cq (Posted by VK5NHG)
- Wed 04:01 VK2TWR/P on VK2/SM-064** 7.0'
  - \*cq cq (via RRT) (Posted by VK2TWR)
- Wed 03:49 VK2IO/P on VK2/SM-064** 14.0'
  - On air now, easy copy in Perth, Tnx Gerard. (Posted by VK6NU)
- Wed 03:42 VK2IO/P on VK2/SM-064** 14.0'
  - \*arv in 30 mins (via RRT) (Posted by VK2IO)

SOTAwatch shows the latest spots for Summits on the Air activators, and also shows upcoming activations. There is also a reflector where you can post comments. To use SOTAwatch2, you need to register.

SOTAwatch can be found at.....

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

And now Parks.

Here in Australia, there is no doubt that the premier spotting and alerting facility is parksnparks.

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

parksnparks was created by Allen VK3ARH and has a huge number of features. It shows VK Spots for both Parks and SOTA, and also allows park hunters to add alerts (planned park activations).

The screenshot shows the parksnparks website interface. It features a map at the top with a blue overlay indicating a specific location. Below the map, there is a 'Situation' section with a list of spots, including callsigns, frequencies, and times. On the right side, there is a 'VK SOTA & Parks' section with a list of links and a 'VK SOTA Groups' section with a list of group names.

An added bonus are the audio alerts. If a park activator is spotted on parksnparks, a Kookaburra laugh will sound off. And if an Australian SOTA activator is spotted on

SOTAwatch2, you will hear a goat bleat on parksnparks.

There is also a feed from parksnparks into the DX Cluster. The feed to the DX cluster is very important, because it gives international exposure for the activator.

WWFF also has the Agenda, which can be located on the wwff.co website. On the agenda you can post your upcoming park activations and see who is going to be out and about on an international level.

around 14,260 Mhz ARLHS FRA -738



**VKFF-0638 by VK6ADF/P**  
Fri 14th Apr 00:00 - Mon 17th 13:30 (UTC)  
Easter National Park 14,310 SSB Easter National Park all Easter at various times (4 days)



**VKFF-1529 by VK4JAZ**  
Fri 14th Apr 01:00 - 06:00 (UTC)  
Denmark Hill Conservation Park 7,144 SSB Also 14,244 SSB and 146.5 FM.  
First park activation. Inbox x



**VKFF-1517 by VK4FFAB**  
Fri 14th Apr 03:00 - 07:00 (UTC)  
Coolloothin Conservation Park 7,030 CW 7,144 also will self spot



**EAFF-0518 by EA8CSB/P**  
Fri 14th Apr 06:00 - 12:30 (UTC)  
operators EA8CSB, EA8VJ and EA8JT



**DLFF-0442 by DL/OE7AJT/p**  
Fri 14th Apr 08:00 - 09:00 (UTC)  
2nd activation of DLFF0442, 40/20m SSB, Cu in the log 73/44 Andy

You also have available to you, the various Facebook sites. I have logged many stations who have stated ‘I saw the post on Facebook’.

As an activator you cannot ‘advertise’ enough,

your intentions. If you are going out onto a SOTA summit or out into a park, then place an alert on SOTAwatch2 or parksnparks. Consider placing a post on one of the various Facebook sites. If people know you are going to be on a particular frequency at a particular time, they will be there listening for you.

And as a hunter/chaser, don’t just work the activator and then go back to what it was you were doing previously. Place a spot up and help out the activator and your fellow chaser/hunter.

## Help required

By Paul VK5PAS



THE FOLLOWING IS FROM ANDREW MOYMA, THE WWFF LOGSEARCH ADMINISTRATOR. PLEASE CONSIDER CAREFULLY IF YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.....



A request for help.

Over the past year, I've re-written WWFF Logsearch as a WordPress plugin, to integrate within the main WWFF.CO website. This has mostly been completed... however, the ToDo list (for completion, and of new features) remains quite long and I just do not have much spare time.

So I am looking for a suitable competent person (or persons) to help with further Logsearch development - or maybe to take it over completely?!

Skills required are: Strong PHP, MySQL, Javascript - in a WordPress under Linux/Apache environment. Site-security and data-protection are essential to maintain confidence in the program.

Note: this is not something for a "hobby hacker"!

Please post here, or send me a Message, if interested.

For the avoidance of any doubt, Logsearch has been donated to WWFF by me (Andrew MOYMA), and is available to anyone else (as is, with no warranties) under a GPL2 licence.

## WWFF app

By Danny ON4VT



WWFF is very proud to launch smartWWFF, an online app for WWFF activators and hunters.

Check it out:

[smartWWFF](http://smartWWFF)

As it is an online app, it runs on all smartphones and operating systems.





Tutorial:

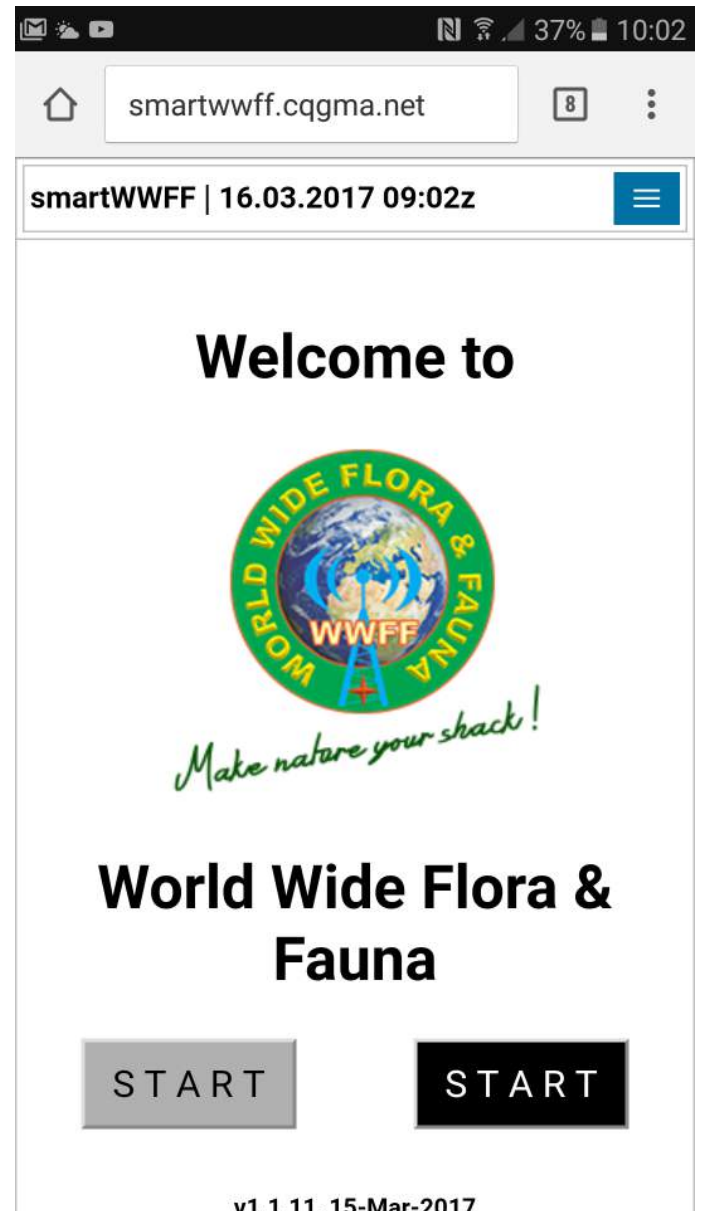
[http://wwff.wingsl.com/wwff\\_cont/uploads/2017/03/smartWWFF.pdf](http://wwff.wingsl.com/wwff_cont/uploads/2017/03/smartWWFF.pdf)

Features:

- WWFFwatch DX cluster in real time
- Easy self-spotting to WWFF watch via internet connection
- Easy self-spotting to WWFFwatch via SMS (texting)
- Direct access to DX-summit

So far the SMS (texting) feature is only working via a German account number. If wanted, volunteers can setup a local access point in their country.

This app is courtesy of DL4MFM and WWFF partner GMA.



smartWWFF Flora & Fauna   16.03.2017 09:04z			
16 Mar 0904z	7032	dl2faz/p	dlff-0065
16 Mar 0855z	3716.0	sp5zim/p	spff-1081
16 Mar 0847z	7172.0	oz0jd/p	ozff-0077
16 Mar 0845z	7032	df7fx/p	dlff-0065
16 Mar 0844z	7172.0	oz0jd/p	ozff-0077
16 Mar 0828z	7154.0	sp5zim/p	spff-1081
16 Mar 0824z	7172.0	oz0jd/p	ozff-0077
16 Mar 0818z	7154.0	sp5zim/p	spff-1081
16 Mar 0809z	14237.0	oz0jd/p	ozff-0077
16 Mar 0808z	3728.0	sp5zim/p	spff-1081
16 Mar 0743z	14237.0	oz0jd/p	ozff-0077
16 Mar 0733z	14244.0	sp9yff/6	spff-0725
16 Mar 0727z	3730.0	sp9yff/6	spff-0725
16 Mar 0724z	7148.0	sp9yff/6	spff-0725
16 Mar 0715z	7148.0	sp9yff/6	spff-0725
16 Mar 0715z	18084.0	ja1jcf/1	jaff-0219
16 Mar 0706z	7118.0	oz0oj/p	ozff-0077
16 Mar 0705z	7118.0	oz0jd/p	ozff-0077

smartWWFF New Spot

My call

Dm7n

Activator

Dm7n/p

Reference

DIff-0125

kHz

7024

e.g.: 7032.1

Mode

CW

Comment

Qrv

Submit

Qrv

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English(UK)

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Go

# QRP MF gets the job done

By Doc VK5BUG

A 25th Feb 2017 contact with Japan on 160m using 5W CW Ten Tec Argonaut II & Inverted-L.

Also worked the USA (my sigs 569), JA (my sigs 599) & G-land (my sigs 529) with 20W & the same aerial

73 de Doc VK5BUG



To Radio  
VK5BUG

Confirming Our QSO

DATE	UTC	Band(m)	RST	2X
24 Feb. '17	2004	160	559	CW

Rig. IC-7300 / JRL-3000F

Ant. 4SQ and Beveragesx5 (about 250m)

Rmks. UR nice QRP sigs! es TNX QSL card

**JH2FXK**

jh2fxk@jarl.com  
JCC: 2003  
GL: PM84

Op: "Shige" Tsukeshiba  
QTH: Okazaki-city Aichi 444-3515 Japan

# The Battery

By Ian VK5CZ

I had the good fortune of company on the first long hike for SOTA season 2017.

Ian VK5IS decided it was about time to do his first activation, we met at Laura early in the morning to make the rest of the trip in 1 vehicle. The Battery is about a 4.5 km hike with a short uphill to the top of the ridge from Stony Creek head water. After a nice egg and bacon toasty sanger and coffee we set off in good time to make the summit before UTC roll over. We were strolling along in good spirits swapping chatter and it suddenly occurred to me I did not have my Go Pro camera with me although I remembered I had taken it out of the Ute. We were about 1.5 km into the hike and after thinking about the said cameras whereabouts I remembered putting it on the running board at the back of my Ute while I locked the canopy. So the decision for me to unload my back pack and get back to the Ute asap before maybe a passing opportunistic thief may see it and score a \$500 Go Pro added to the urgency. Ian made himself comfortable in the shade and I made the round trip back to find the camera where I had left it and we were able to get on with the hike to the summit.

Once the Summit was reached and gear set up We made contact on 80 m first with some of the local chasers even enough to qualify the summit . I used the 80 m extensions clipped onto the usual SB link 40/20 m dipole and had good comms on 80 m locally .



Ian checking the path to VK5NWE on 2 m simplex before trying 40 m.

The 40 m band did not disappoint this time conditions were good to the Eastern states and Tassie and once Col VK3LED got a spot up for us Ian was in a pile up for his first activation.



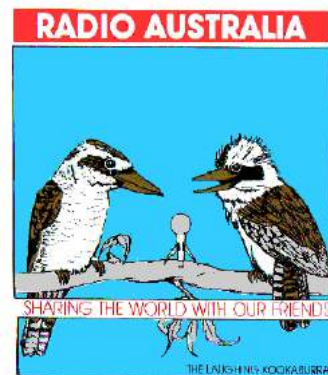
Ian's many years of operating and his relaxed style made it a nice experience for the chasers and I am sure he enjoyed doing his first activation and I hope he does some more in the future.



In the action.

## Radio Australia

By Paul VK5PAS



Here is a link to a very interesting story regarding the closure of Radio Australia.....

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-25/saying-goodbye-to-radio-australia-after-37-years/8240296>



# Cape Pallarenda

By Chris VK4FR/VK5FR

On Saturday, January 7, I activated the Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park, VKFF-1504 and for VK Shires, Townsville City Council, TV4. Traditional owners and custodians, the Bindal and Wulgurukaba People are the first people to have lived in the Townsville region.

Cape Pallarenda was named in 1864 by Lieutenant G. P. Heath during his survey of Cleveland Bay. It is believed that the name is of Aboriginal origin, although the exact meaning is not known. Pallarenda Park was transformed during World War II into a military hospital.



Cape Pallarenda has an interesting European history beginning as a quarantine station and hospital, WWII installation before finally becoming a park.

The former Quarantine Station at Cape Pallarenda was established between 1915-1916, using building materials previously used in the construction of an earlier quarantine station constructed in 1884-1885 at West Point, Magnetic Island.

The concept of isolating those parts of the community suffering from disease dates to 14th century Italy, when Venice, trying to protect the city from ship-borne disease, established a segregated area away from the centre of population. These isolation areas became known as quarantine stations, from the Latin words for forty days after which time patients, if they were not dead were considered clear of disease.



Townsville, the first or second port of call for shipping on the Asia/Pacific route, was identified as a place where suspected cases of ship-borne disease could be detained. In 1875 Magnetic Island, just off Townsville, was set aside as a place of quarantine. Tents were set up at Picnic Bay, with passengers cared for by the Butler family, who had recently established pineapple plantations on the Island. The Butlers later built primitive huts at either end of the

beach for male and female emigrants. A number of people died at Picnic Bay and are buried at the eastern end of the bay.

A site was set aside at Cape Pallarenda for a mainland quarantine station in 1910, but it was not until 1914, with the threat of increased disease after the outbreak of World War 1, that planning began in earnest to move the West Point buildings to the mainland. The Cape Pallarenda site was cleared and a road cut across the town common to German Gardens (now known as Belgian Gardens).



Living facilities at the quarantine station were divided by the same class system that existed in ships. There were separate dining and living facilities for first and second class passengers and a segregated area near the fumigation shed for Asiatic seamen and passengers. The Asiatic area was a covered concrete slab where hammocks were suspended under a canopy.

The quarantine station continued to accept quarantined passengers from ships travelling the Asian shipping routes well into the twentieth century. There was a good deal of activity, particularly during the flu epidemic of 1919 and the bubonic plague pandemic of the early part

of the twentieth century. In August 1920, 13 Vietnamese sailors died of meningitis and were buried behind the hospital.

By 1942 Townsville had become the supply base for World War II in the South-West Pacific. Australian Area Combined Headquarters for the North-east Area was established in Townsville as well as the United States Army Base Section Two, the Fourth Air Depot of the United States Army/Air Force, a naval replenishment port and a major transshipment centre for troops and supplies.

The 500 bed, 2/14 Army General Hospital scattered along the sandy foreshore at Pallarenda received many casualties, most from New Guinea.

Townsville was heavily defended with radar, searchlights and anti-aircraft installations. The facility at Pallarenda was designed to protect the northern entrance to Townsville Harbour and to protect the shipping passage between the mainland and Magnetic Island. The construction at Pallarenda included two gun emplacements, two searchlight installations, a command post and a sizeable camp.

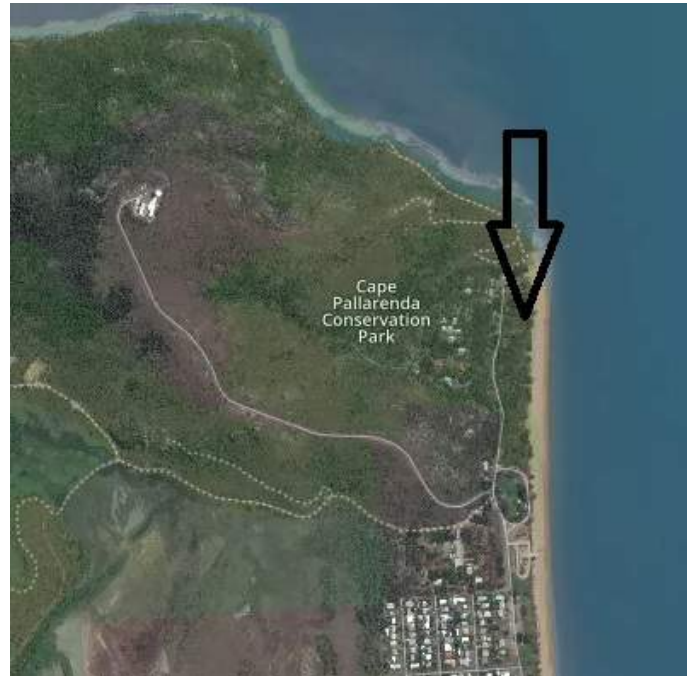
The Station continued to function throughout World War II and up until the Malayan War when, between 1966 and 1974, the Hospital and Observance Block were taken over by the 9th Field Ambulance Corp Field Hospital. A new hospital building was constructed in 1973, mainly to treat contagious patients returning from the Vietnam War. The Hospital and Observation Block, built of material from the West Point site, were damaged during Cyclone Althea in December 1971 and demolished to

make way for the new building. Although completed, the hospital was never used as a medical facility because of the construction of a contagious diseases hospital in Melbourne which accepted cases from all over Australia.

In 1986, 44 hectares of land encompassing the former quarantine station at Cape Pallarenda was gazetted as an environmental park managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. In 1990 and 1991, the remaining quarantine station buildings were restored and became the then Regional Office of the Department of Environment and Heritage. It was regazetted as conservation park in 1994.

Operating with the KX3 and some wire was always going to pose some issues so far from the ‘Heartland’ of Parks and Peaks territory but I started on 40M and self spotted.

My operating position was right on the beach looking east over Magnetic island and Cape Cleveland in the distance, and south to Townsville and the local landmark of Castle Hill. While it is always quite hot and humid this time of year the breeze on the beach was quite good and the lack of insects made it a quite pleasurable operating position.



First into the newly installed ‘Port-a-log’ by VK3ZPF (Thanks Peter, worked a treat) was unsurprisingly Rick, VK4RF. Signals both way were quiet good which gave me some hope I might get some numbers in the log, not to be!



It is always good to get the regulars in and today was no exception with the ‘Southerners’ adding to my log. Best effort was VK7CW, Steve, thanks for pulling me out!



While it was proving difficult to get the regulars on the workband of 40 it was good to contact some old friends from the north in Lyn, VK4SWE on Sweers Is in the Gulf of Carpentaria and Col, VK4CC.



Despite my best efforts on 40/20 and digital conditions weren't kind and the time of day, also I think, proved difficult to make headway. It really highlighted my requirement to get onto 15M which may improve my numbers with access to the Foundation Calls. And in parallel with that I may need to be spending more time (while in VK5) on 20M to generate more interest further afield.

On the upside, I'll have to spend another day on the beach to get my 44!

Contacts for the day (mainly on 20) were:

VK4HA 40  
VK4RF 40  
VK2IO 20  
VK4SQ 20  
VK4ARW 20  
VK7CW 20  
VK2PH 20  
VK1DI 20

VK2GKA 20  
VK4SWE 20  
VK5PAS 20  
VK4CC 20  
VK4HNS/P 20  
VK3SX 20  
VK2XAB 20  
VK3GGG 20  
VK3PMG 20  
VK4VXX/M 20

The 'Port-a-Log' worked flawlessly, thanks Peter, this will be a mainstay in my portable kit now.

15M dipole will need to be added and when in VK5 more time on 20M is required. I'm still working on the digital side with PSKdroid (Android) but I'd like to understand the callsign protocol for portable JT65 operation.

Regards

Chris  
VK4FR/VK5FR

References:

Townsville NAIDOC Week,  
<http://www.townsvillenaidoc.com.au/about>

Wikipedia,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape\\_Pallarenda\\_Quarantine\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Pallarenda_Quarantine_Station)

Queensland Government Department of  
National Parks, Sport and Racing,  
<https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/cape-pallarenda/about.html>



## Updated VKFF logo

By Paul VK5PAS

I was recently made aware that the map of Australia which appeared on the VKFF logo did not show Tasmania. So I have added a new map which duly shows Tasmania. There have also been a few other minor alterations including the words ‘WWFF Australia’ and the ‘Make nature your shack’ WWFF logo.

Please feel free to use this logo on your QSL cards, etc.



## Friday afternoon/evening events

By Paul VK5PAS



The Friday afternoon/evening events for the VK5 Parks Award concluded during March. There were four Friday afternoons/evenings during March when activators ventured out to activate VK5 Parks and promote the VK5 Parks Award.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

- John VK5BJE/p, Scott Conservation Park
- John VK5BJE/p, Bullock Hill Conservation Park
- Les VK5KLV/p, Winninowie Conservation Park
- Paul VK5PAS/p, Spring Mount Conservation Park 5CP-219.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

This Friday night coincided with Parks Week which was celebrated between 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

- Adrian VK5FANA/p, Clinton Conservation Park 5CP-044
- Les VK5KLV/p, Telowie Gorge Conservation Park 5CP-227
- Paul VK5PAS/p, Lowan Conservation Park 5CP-121



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 the following activators took part:

- David VK5PL/p, Sandy Creek Conservation Park 5CP-204
- Paul VK5PAS, Wiljani Conservation Park 5CP-274.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

This was the final Friday event for the Summer/Spring season. Adrian VK5FANA continued his regular participation this year and headed out to activate the Bird Islands CP on the Yorke Peninsula. I headed out and activated the Kinchina CP near Murray Bridge.

- Adrian VK5FANA/p, Bird Islands Conservation Park 5CP-021 & VKFF-0871 (24/3/2017)
- Paul VK5PAS/p, Kinchina Conservation Park 5CP-277

**THANKS** to everyone who took part in this season's Friday events for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award.

## Recent Park Activations

The month of March saw quite a few park activators heading out into the field.

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

- Bird Islands Conservation Park 5CP-021 & VKFF-0871, Adrian VK5FANA/p (24/3/2017)
- Kinchina Conservation Park 5CP-277 & VKFF-1764, Paul VK5PAS/p (24/3/2017)
- Totness Recreation Park VKFF-1754, Paul VK5PAS/p (18/3/2017)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park 5CP-204 & VKFF-0933, David VK5PL/p (17/3/2017)
- Wiljani Conservation Park 5CP-274 & VKFF-1159, Paul VK5PAS/p (17/3/2017)



*Above:- View of the 'shack' of VK5PAS in the Wiljani CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

- Totness Recreation Park VKFF-1754, Paul VK5PAS (14/3/2017)
- Cox Scrub Conservation Park 5CP-206 & VKFF-0934, Gordon VK5GY (13/3/2017)
- Newland Head Conservation Park 5CP-161 & VKFF-0922, Bob VK5AFZ/p (12/3/2017)
- Clinton Conservation Park 5CP-044 & VKFF-0813, Adrian VK5FANA/p (10/3/2017)
- Telowie Gorge Conservation Park 5CP-227 & VKFF-1105, Les VK5KLV/p (10/3/2017)
- Lowan Conservation Park 5CP-121 & VKFF-1052, Paul VK5PAS (10/3/2017)
- Scott Conservation Park 5CP-206 & VKFF-0934, John VK5BJE/p (5/3/2017)
- Scott Conservation Park 5CP-206 & VKFF-0934, John VK5BJE/p (4/3/2017)
- Bullock Hill Conservation Park VKFF-0783, John VK5BJE/p (3/3/2017)
- Winninowie Conservation Park, Les VK5KLVp (3/3/2017)
- Spring Mount Conservation Park 5CP-219 & VKFF-0789, Paul VK5PAS/p (3/3/2017)



*Above:- View of the 'shack' of VK5PAS in the Spring Mount CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

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



March was a very quiet month for SOTA activations here in South Australia.



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

- The Battery VK5/ NE-055, Ian VK5CZ/p (24/3/2017)
- Mount Lofty, VK5/ SE-005, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (11/3/2017)
- Mount Lofty, VK5/ SE-005, Paul VK5PAS/3 (11/3/2017)

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

## VKFF Team Championship

By Paul VK5PAS



A heads up that the 2017 VKFF Team Championship will be held on **Sunday 22nd October 2017.**

This was a very popular event last year and it is hoped that even more teams will participate this year. More information re sponsorship & prizes will follow.

You can register, by sending me an email to.....

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



**WKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**  
**0000 UTC - 0600 UTC**

**What is it all about?**.....Over a 6 hour period, teams of amateurs compete against each other, with the goal of obtaining the most number of contacts, whilst activating from a qualifying VKFF park.

**How do I take part?**.....Create a team of 2 or more amateurs. Come up with a name for your team. Register with VK5PAS, VKFF co-ordinator. Head out to a qualifying VKFF park and compete against other teams of activators.

**Prizes**.....The winning team will receive a glass etched trophy. Second & Third place certificates will be awarded. Each team member will also receive a participation certificate.

**More information?**.....Detailed information on the VKFF Team Championship can be found on the WWFF Australia website at.....  
<http://www.wwffaustalia.com/>



**World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)**

**WKFF Activation weekend**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**November 2017**

**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)

## 2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

The 2017 VKFF Activation Weekend will be held on **Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November 2017.**

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please drop me a quick email with your intentions, so I can place the details on the activator spreadsheet.

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

## 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/>

If you do receive a certificate, please drop me an email to let me know, with preferably a copy of the certificate, so I can include it here.

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

### Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- NIL known

### World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- Paul VK5PAS
  - Global Park to Park 264
  - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 600

## 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.







- Les VK5KLV
  - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 350



- Marija VK5FMAZ
  - Sapphire VKFF Hunter



#### VK5 Parks Award

- NIL KNOWN

#### Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- NIL KNOWN

#### Other.

- NIL KNOWN

## JMMFD 2017

By Paul VK5PAS

On Saturday afternoon (18<sup>th</sup> March 2017) I ventured out to the Totness Recreation Park to participate in John Moyle Memorial Field Day (JMMFD). I competed in the 6 hour section and made a total of 241 contacts on 20, 40 & 80m SSB.



Above:- Paul VK5PAS in the Totness Rec Park.  
Image courtesy of VK5PAS.

I ran the Yaesu FT-57d, 40 watts, and the 80/40/20 m linked dipole on the top of the 7m telescopic squid pole.

The WIA website states the aim of the JMMFD is....

*“..... to encourage and provide familiarisation with portable and field operation, and provide training for emergency situations. The rules are therefore specifically designed and focussed to encourage field operations.”*

The event is named in honour of John Murray Moyle (VK2JU) who was born on the 28th

February 1908 in Malvern, Victoria. He was educated at Scotch College in Melbourne where he was the Editor of the school magazine and involved in the debating team. John's first role in radio was with radio station 3DB in Melbourne where he assisted well known broadcaster Ren Miller in the commercial advertising department and also wrote short stories and technical articles on radio for the 'Listener In' (Melbourne). In 1932, John joined the staff of 'Wireless Weekly', a Sydney publication, and soon became Assistant Technical Editor, and then Technical Editor. John was also first licenced in 1932 as a radio amateur.



Above:- John Moyle. Image courtesy of Peter VK3RV



More information on my activation and some history on the man in whose name the event is named, can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

<https://vk5pas.org>



On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Andrew VK1AD, Mike 2E0YYY and Ed DD5LP organised a VK/EU/JA SOTA event. It was hoped that SOTA activators from these regions would head out for some Summit to Summit action.

Marija VK5FMAZ and I headed over to Mount Lofty VK5/ SE-005 which is located within the Cleland Conservation Park 5CP-042 & VKFF-0778.

Band conditions on 20m have been pretty ordinary of late, so I didn't really expect to work much DX, yet alone any DX S2S contacts. I was to be very pleasantly surprised.



I made a total of 113 contacts on 20, 40, & 80m SSB, with contacts into VK1, VK2, VK4, VK4, VK5, VK6, VK7, VK8, Spain, Italy, New Zealand, Germany, Croatia, Bulgaria, Switzerland, England, Slovak Rep, Romania, Wales, France, Sweden, Belgium, & Portugal.

This included 20 x Summit to Summit contacts and 6 x Park to Park contacts.

The DX S2S contacts were as follows:-

- Jose EA2IF/p, EA2/ NV-151
- Ignacio EA2BD/p, EA2/ NV-092
- Tom HB9SOTA, HB/ SZ-025
- Mike 2E0YYY/p, Shining Tor G/ SP-004
- Anthony MoVED/p, G/ TW-003
- Andy G6PJZ/p, G/ TW-002
- Csaba YO6PIB/p, YO/ EC-426
- Karl M3FEH/p, G/ DC-003
- Carl 2E0HPI/p, G/ TW-001 and GFF-0012
- Steve 2E0EFP/p, G/ TW-001 & GFF-0012
- Colin M1BUU/p, G/ NP-008
- Adrian GW4AZS/p, Corndon Hill GW/ MW-013
- Ed DD5LP/p, DL/ AM-176





*Above: Marija VK5FMAZ operating at Mount Lofty. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.*

I would like to say thankyou to Andrew VK1AD, Mike 2E0YYY, and Ed DD5LP who were instrumental in getting the event off the ground.

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

<https://vk5pas.org/>

Thanks to everyone who called and thanks to those who spotted me.

# WOW

By Paul VK5PAS



Special Event Callsigns & Awards announced!

The theme for this year's event is all about inspiring people to explore Amateur Radio and its diversity. We are promoting the idea that “Radio is Magic” to new people outside the hobby. We also want to rekindle that magic into new areas of exploration for those of us already engaged in this fantastic hobby of ours. Inspiring new people to take a look at our hobby means inspiring that feeling of wonder and amazement as they realise what they are witnessing.

Find and demonstrate something that makes students go “WOW” is the common theme that educators tell us inspires young people to come and take a closer look. As a technical hobby with

fantastic community engagement potential, no other individual or group pursuit has the ability to draw together science, community, technology and a spirit of exploration all from your own back yard!

To promote these themes, the VK5 organising committee is pleased to announce the following special event callsigns will be active in the lead up to the Convention weekend. VK5WOW will be heard on various bands, channels and modes starting from the 1st of April through to the 12th of May. Then, from the 12th of May through until the end of the AGM, the special callsign VI5WOW will be on air.

There will be a special award available for stations who work one or both callsigns as follows:

#### The General Award

- 5 contacts with VK5WOW or VI5WOW
- Among the 5 contacts, at least two different modes or channels (eg SSB and RTTY, or analogue FM Echolink and CW) need to have been used, OR, at least one contact has to be with the callsigns when they have been activated from a Park under the terms of the VK5 Parks awards. (watch the usual parks activation alert sites for times and parks)

#### The Gold Award

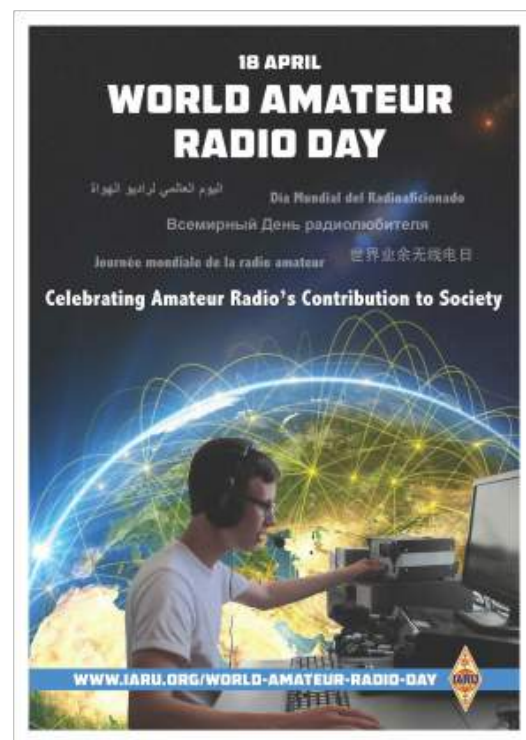
- 5 contacts with VK5WOW & 1 contact with VI5WOW – must include a digital data or voice modes contact and contact with at least one VK5WOW or VI5WOW parks activation

Contacts via HF (Voice, Digital Voice, Digital Data and CW), VHF, UHF, Microwave, ATV, EME, Echolink, DSTAR, DMR, FUSION, IRLP, Satellite, Balloon Repeater will all count for this award.

The aim here is to encourage people to explore the diversity of the hobby, so time to start scanning the bands and give us a call!

## World Amateur Radio Day 2017

By Paul VK5PAS



World Amateur Radio Day will be celebrated on Tuesday 18th April, 2017.

Every April 18, radio amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day. It was on that day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed in Paris.

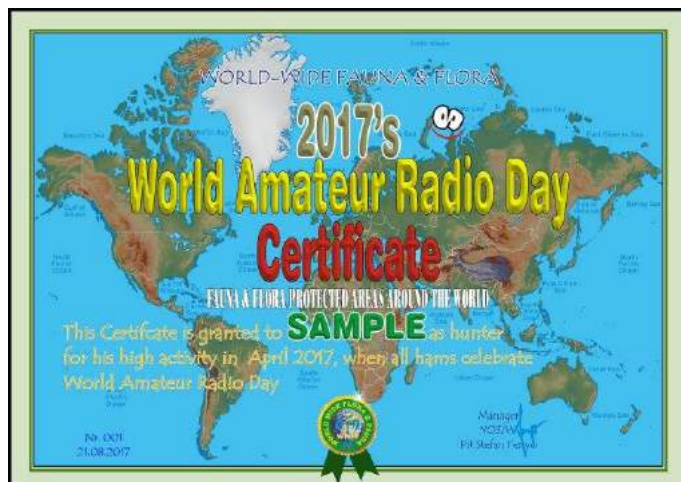
To help celebrate this event, two special global WWFF awards for activators and hunters are on offer.

For hunters, make contact with 3 different activators in different DXCC entities, or in the case of Australia 3 different States/Territories.

For activators, make a total of 300 QSOs.

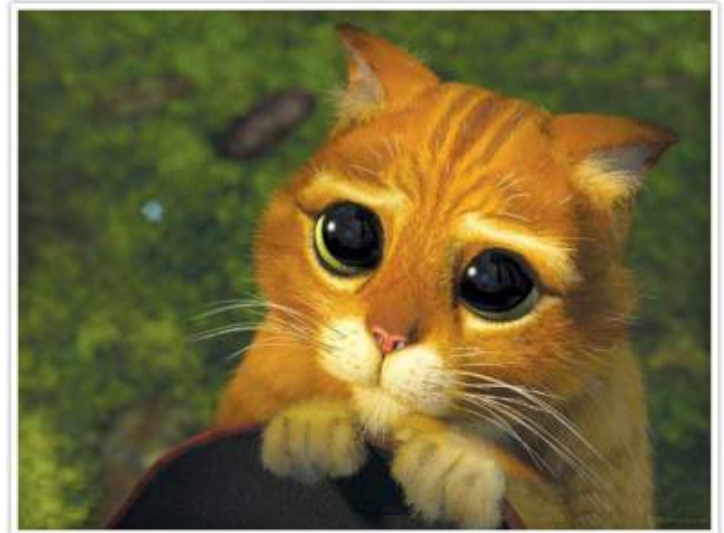
The award period is from 00:00 UTC 17th April 2017 to 23:59 UTC 18th April 2017.

Applications for the awards are to be made via Logsearch.



## Please provide your log

By Paul VK5PAS



I often receive emails asking me to chase up a log with an activator, as the activator log has not been uploaded to WWFF Logsearch. This is generally because the activator has not provided the log to me. So here I go....

If you go out to activate a park and hand out the VKFF reference number to callers whilst you are operating, please remember that there is an expectation by those calling you that you are going to submit a log for upload to WWFF Logsearch.

The park hunters can only claim the contact with you, if the activator log has been provided for upload to the Logsearch database.



These comments exclude hams who are just going out to a park for a bit of fun and who are not taking part in WWFF, and SOTA activators who as it turns out are also in a park, but whom are only conducting a specific SOTA activation.

These comments are targeted at those quoting VKFF reference numbers during their activation, but who do not provide logs.

If that is you, there are 2 options:

1. desist in providing a VKFF number to callers during your activation. Tell the callers you are just there for fun and are not taking part in WWFF.

OR

2. do the paperwork, and submit a log.

I have had a few 'blunt' emails of late asking me to chase up with 2 or 3 activators who have quoted VKFF reference numbers during recent activations, but who have never provided a log.

I am only too happy to walk new activators through the log process if required. Drop me an email, I am only too happy to help.

I continue to promote Fast Log Entry (FLE) as a great way to create an ADIF file from your paper log. It is very quick and easy.

## Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS



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

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

...and I will include it here.

To work the SOTA & WWFF DX, keep an eye on SOTA Watch....

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

And WWFF Hamspots.....

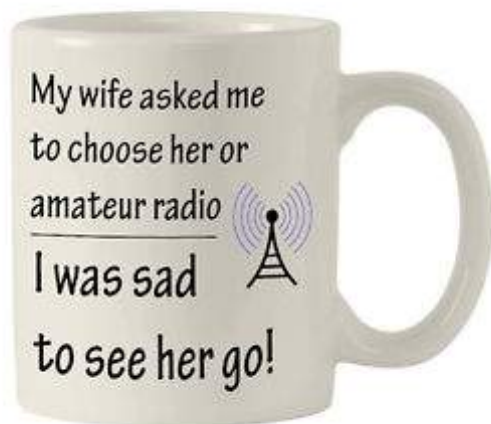
<http://wwff.co/dx-cluster/>

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

Paul VK5PAS.

- VK9VKL, Christmas Island VKFF-0098 (26/3/2017)
- ZL3CC/p, SOTA ZL3/ CB-726 (19/3/2017)
- ZL2AJ/p, SOTA ZL1/ WL-118 (18/3/2017)
- Mike 2E0YYY/p, SOTA G/ CE-002 (15/3/2017)
- Ken ZL4KD/p, Hakatere CP ZLFF-0026 (10/3/2017)
- 5B4AIX/p, 5BFF-0002 (6/3/2017)

## 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.

**NIL for this period**

## Victorian Local Govt Challenge

By Paul VK5PAS

This unique and exciting **once off** special operating award has been initiated by Amateur Radio Victoria to encourage on air activity based on communicating with and between the 79 Local Government Areas (LGA) in the State of Victoria, during the 2017 Calendar year. The “2017 Challenge” will encourage both Portable and Base activity with VK3 stations.

More information can be found at.....

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

# Parks locked up

By Paul VK5PAS



I recently read with interest on the SOTA Australia Yahoo group, complaints about National Parks in New South Wales being 'locked up'. So it appears as though we are not alone here in South Australia.