



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 35 September 2017

Welcome



Hi to all readers, and welcome to Issue 35 (September 2017) 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.

The month of August was fairly quiet for South Australian SOTA & Parks activators. The usual suspects for SOTA in VK5, Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG were out and about again in the north of the State. Ian VK5CZ is on his quest for Mountain Goat and is growing ever closer. Keep boxing on Ian, you will reach that lofty level very soon due to some great dedication in activating summits around South Australia.

David VK5KC activated a number of parks on the Eyre Peninsula whilst away on holidays with his lovely wife Joy. You can read a little about David's activities in this issue.

Marija VK5FMAZ and I activated the Marino lighthouse and the Marino Conservation Park as part of the 2017 International Lighthouse and Lighthship Weekend (ILLW). We normally travel to Kangaroo Island with members of the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society, but we are saving some pennies for a possible trip to Canada and Alaska, so this year we decided to stay a little closer to home. We had a great day out in the field and had quite a bit of interaction with members of the public.

I also snuck out a few times to activate a few new parks, including the Adelaide Dolphin

Sanctuary and the Nurragi Conservation Reserve.

I also kept busy with the addition of nearly 500 new parks across Australia for the World Wide Flora & Fauna program. This included a total of 214 new parks in Victoria and 150 in New South Wales. This involved quite a bit of research, cross referencing, and then manual entering to the WWFF database. I would like to thank all those in VK2 & VK3 who contributed suggestions on parks to be added. In particular, thanks to Peter who put a lot of effort into VK3. It was greatly appreciated.

In this issue you can read about Ian VK5CZ's latest SOTA efforts. There is also the next instalment in Andy VK5MAV's IOTA adventures in the Coral Sea. And of course all the normal columns.

Upcoming SOTA & Parks events include....

- 22nd October 2017.....VKFF Team Championship
- 10th-13th November 2017.....Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation weekend
- 25th-26th November 2017.....2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

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

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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Park expanded

By Paul VK5PAS

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park has been expanded by 418 hectares with the inclusion of the former Port Gawler Conservation Park.

On 8 August 2017 Port Gawler Conservation Park was abolished and became part of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park.

More information at.....

<https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/index.php/ian-hunters-news-releases/7927-bird-sanctuary-national-park-spreads-its-wings-with-418-hectare-expansion>



Damage to Onkaparinga River National Park

By Paul VK5PAS



New Onkaparinga River National Park walking trail destroyed by 4WD days before opening.

You can read the full story at.....

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-25/onkaparinga-national-park-walking-trail-destroyed-by-4wd-damage/8839700>

This is one of the points I have made in my recent letter to all CEO's of the relevant State/Territory Parks Services, that we as amateurs can keep an eye out for trouble makers and report damage whilst activating parks.

Last of the Orroroo summits for 2017

By Ian VK5CZ



Finally got my last summit for around Orroroo done this weekend with a couple others as well.

I left home early Saturday morning to head for Quorn and activate Mt Benjamin vk5/ne-083. This is a medium hike as the Wakefield family let me access from the eastern side of the hill and they even drove out to unlock the gate for me.

After a steady hike to the summit I was set up and on the air on my Alert time to find The Crystal Brook boys all waiting to work me on 80m ssb . After that I changed to 40m ssb and made 3 contacts into vk3 then some vk3's on 40m cw. No answer on 20 or 15 m cw to my cq.



Summit is not far from the parking spot about 2.5 km, with a great view towards Warren Gorge and Mount Arden.



I set up using the 40/20 link dipole with extensions for 80, bands were very quiet but still working ok.

After the activation I headed back to Quorn to refuel for Sunday then head to Orroroo where I stayed overnight. Before Saturday was done I headed out to Peaked Hill vk5/ne-098 to activate there and found my way to the summit on an old 4x4 track which was hard to find at first then about a 1.5 km hike from the parking spot.

By the afternoon 80m was still good to make contact with Nev and Ian and vk5ma/m, then

onto 40m cw first as the RD contest was full bore on ssb. A mixture of contacts with vk2 3 4 5 and ZL1BYZ on 40m this time.



Lots of salt bush and smaller trees out this side of the Goyder Line but a great little summit to view Black Rock peak and Depot Hill off to the south from here.

Rite in the Rain

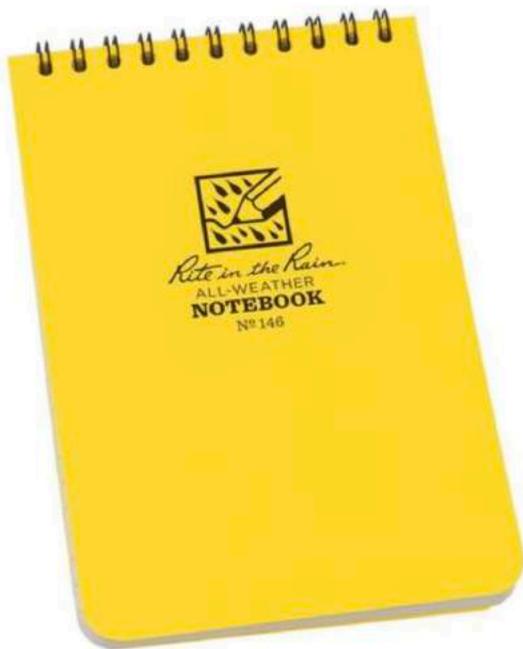
By Paul VK5PAS

In a recent post on the vkzlqrp group I saw Andrew VK1DA/VK2UH mention Rite in the Rain, a waterproof notebook. So I jumped online to have a look.

Rite in the Rain is a patented, environmentally responsible, all-weather writing paper that sheds water and enables you to write anywhere, in any weather.

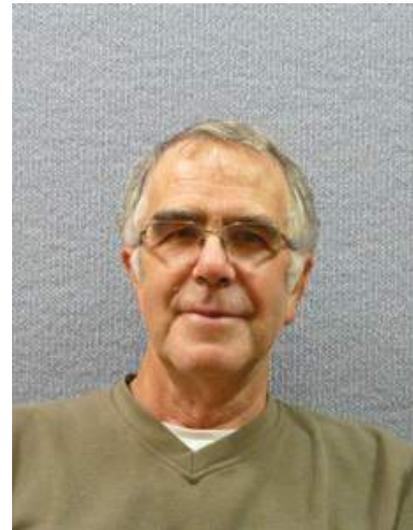
More information can be found at.....

<https://prospectors.com.au/collections/rite-in-the-rain>



My trip to the West

By David VK5KC



A planned three week holiday to Eyre Peninsular was to include some activations where possible. There are many National and Conservation Parks in that area. All but two had to be done from the car due to the windy weather. Operation from a car qualifies for VKFF but not the SANCPA award.



Unfortunately due to poor mobile coverage it was not always possible to post on Parks and Peaks.

1. 30/7/17. Lincoln National Park 5NP104, VKFF 0286. Operation with a squid pole and linked dipole.

15 contacts. VK2, VK3, VK4 and VK7.

2. 1/8/17. Coffin Bay National Park. 5NP003, VKFF0105. Operation with a squid pole and linked dipole.

5 Contacts. VK2, VK3, VK4 and VK5.

The following were all from car only so only eligible for WWFF.

3. 5/8/17. Searcy Bay CP. VKFF1095.

One contact. VK5.

4. 5/8/17. Pt Labatt CP. VKFF 1081

13 Contacts. VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5

VK2, VK3, VK4 and VK5.

5. 5/8/17. Sceale Bay C. P. VKFF1093.

7 Contacts. VK2, VK3, VK4, VK6, VK7.

6. 6/8/2017 Calapatanna C.P. VKFF1011

11 Contacts VK3, VK4, VK5.

7. 8/8/2017. Nullarbor N.P. VKFF0397

6 Contacts VK3, VK4, VK5, VK7

8. 9/8/2017. Fowlers Bay C.P. VKFF 1032

8 contacts. VK3, VK4, VK5.

9. 12/8/2017. Laura Bay C.P. VKFF1048.

4 contacts. VK5.



Thank you to all who were there for me, we had a very enjoyable 3 weeks, travelling some 4,000km. It will be great to return with better weather and radio conditions.

73. David VK5KC.

Coral Sea adventure, part 2

By Andy VK5MAV/VK9MAV

"We'll go, we'll rush on deer in the morning early ..." (One of popular Soviet songs in 1970s).

And so, when it was already beginning to dawn, Chris asked me a simple and obvious question that changed everything ...

"The Norval trip did not take place. He is now being amended for 2 weeks or more. All your plans and dreams have collapsed. And you don't have too much time – the permits ends on 30th of June. But think out-of-the-box. All the tourist marine business in this area is held not only by Norval. Many ships go to the area not only for fishing. Divers, researchers. Ron is not you, he's been in this business for more than 20 years, and he has friends and colleagues. Did you ask Ron to find out if anyone was coming to the area soon? "

The question was acknowledged by all those present to be reasonable, but postponed until the morning - Ron's day and night were too hard to wake him up. Moreover, I myself saw that he is going through not only because of financial losses, but also because of me.

The end of our talks had a beneficial effect on me, and even a sleep came at once. Not for long, only for 2 hours, but when I crawled upstairs (sleeping places - under the deck), Ron was already there, preparing the boat for repair.

Immediately after my question asked, he reached for the phone. I, trying to not frighten off my luck, went to the deck, where Chris and Frostie, absolutely fresh, were engaged in bringing unlucky anglers from the harbor to the shore by a motor boat.



In less than 15 minutes, Ron came to me and, smiling, said: "There's my friend's mother-ship is moored near Diamond Islets at present time. There is a large group of divers. He needs to get some goods delivered and Norval had to bring them. You understand that Norval for a long time will not go anywhere, but he needs the cargo. So I decided to send a speed boat. If you want, you can go with them. Go out now. But there is no comfort there at all. The trip will take 7-8 hours. The weather forecast is excellent. Not Marion reef, but you will be happy with Diamonds as well, won't you? "

To say that I was dumbfounded is not to say anything. This does not happen. But - it is necessary to jump now and here. It's good that all the things were not unpacked (I did not know about the headset yet). Chris and Frostie immediately threw them into the boat. A small boat, a cruising speed of 40 knots, but can do

up to 50. The official name is "South Wind", but above was the unofficial "Wet Hooker".



Quickly poured a breakfast prepared by Frostie, I, accompanied by the same guys Frostie and Chris, jumped aboard. As it turned out, they are going go with me. Anyway they had nothing to do on the Norval, until the mechanics came in to repair the box.

It was about 8 am. And we rushed away ...



Chris is at handwheel, to the right of me is Frostie's turban. Chris (and Frostie, who succeeded him) stood at the handwheel all the

way, I was sitting on the locker in front of the windshield (later, much later, good memories of a comfortable locker will bounce into me, and very much).

We were rushing almost non-stop, only a couple of times the engine was stopped to refill the fuel tank. The weather was really excellent; visibility was "one million" and virtually no waves. I still have the impression that I even had a nap a couple of times (though, without unclenching hands on the handrails for a second). To talk, alas, there was no possibility - a powerful engine roared so loud that the noise was continuing for a couple of hours when arrived.

The first thing I was thrown to the nearest island and helped to transfer the whole cargo (especially when they saw how amusing I am limping - alas, the consequences of doing sports 30 years ago), and then they left to pass the goods.



Worried, first of all I rushed to unpack, connect and switch on the electronics - I was very afraid that boxes could not stand the trip. Hurray - the generator was wound up at once; everything else was also lit up. Only task remained was to put up antennas. Alas - at this point I learned

that I no longer have the headset and will have to work with the internal speaker of the transceiver and CW only.

By the way - I got the royal conditions there. On the island was a canopy with a huge and a rainwater tank. As it turned out later, the Queensland government, through a special program, installed similar amenities on many islands where camping is allowed. But in this case - perhaps it was not built by the government, but by companies whose ships use Diamonds as a shelter in case of bad weather.



Frostie and Chris returned soon, got rid of the cargo and bringing me more food, which, in their opinion, was absolutely necessary for me, since I did not take it enough.

In my terms – it was enough. For 6 days - 8 cans of canned sausages, 4 cans of tuna, several packets of crackers, 2 large chocolate bars, tea, coffee and 20 litres of water.

But they brought two more 2-liter canisters of milk, a kilo of smoked chopped bacon, a couple

of loaves of bread and a box of Coke cans. Unfortunately, I did not have a refrigerator and the milk stood peacefully, sour, until some time. I conscientiously ate bacon for two days, and then, in order to avoid poisoning, I threw it into a large plastic bag, where I collected all the garbage.



They also brought a few cans of beer and salads (but this is more for themselves, before going back to Mackay). We celebrate the arrival and I was left alone. Chris on the left - sits, Frostie lies.

Ok, now is a time to put antennas up. The beach, as seen in the previous photo, is great and has a lot of space. But the antennas could not be erected too far away, and they stood on the edge of the beach, a meter from the shore. Cables were not too long - I took 30 metres ones. But as it turned out - this was for the best. 40 m GP got up easily within an hour, with 8 counterweights in a circle. Unfortunately, the installation of 20 m VDA took longer time, may be 3 times more, because of the inconvenience of installing alone and a strong permanent wind, besides constantly changing direction. During installation, the antenna fell several

times, but eventually got up and fixed with plastic (important) anchors. It was already an evening, the tide started already and water level began to come up slowly and imperceptibly.



Compare with the photo above – it was taken from the same point.

The bands were empty, alas. Both 40 m and 20 m. And it was not the antennas that were to blame for this. VSWR for VDA was 1.4, for GP - 1.1. Only thing to do was to wait.

Approximately at 6.30 UT the 40 m band began to open. First Chinese broadcasters and all other sound garbage became to be heard. Long CQs did not bring back any response, but at 7.17 UT - the first QSO with VK3GA happen !. Then another couple of Australian stations - and RA0FF, then K6VVA after. The band was alive! Approximately up to 8 UT the work went so-so - one QSO in 3-4 minutes. But then,

apparently, Japan opened and rushed! All in the heap - the US, Japan, Russia, Europe ... The rate reached 4-5 QSOs per minute. The pile-up was lasting until 13 UT, when I broke down and went to sleep right on the table (on the first day I did not put the tent).

I tried not to stretch the pile-up too wide, the main operation was 1 UP. Although there were operators who called DOWN almost at my frequency. First of all, alas, I had to answer Big-Guns calling in the chaos, since they blocked everyone. Then pass through the pile-up answering to those whom I can distinguish and the selection of quieter stations along the edges. I repent, sometimes I answered those who was DOWN, but to people familiar, so as not to teach the rest to the bad ☺. Almost all noted that I was passing through 40 m loudly - believe me, you all passed as well as local stations practically.

However, it wasn't possible to sleep for a long time - very cold weather (around 14C) and mosquitoes (this is a separate story). So at 17 UT, I again sat down behind the transceiver and all continued - but now 99% of all QSOs - Europe. The same pace was maintained until 20.30 UT, when I realized again that callsigns were no longer perceived by me. I rang Larysa by satellite phone to calm her down and say that I'm all right. Alas, I could only call from 2 to 4 am local time on all days on the island. The rest of the time, the satellite, hanging over Singapore, dropped calls, or was busy, or 90% of the packets were lost and a gibbering gruel appeared.

In addition, I constantly exchanged SMS with Andrew EU7A, who voluntarily took over the

duties of the pilot, for which I am very grateful. But even SMS sent through were short, not more than a couple of lines - everything else were lost.

I slept again on the table - I did not want to put up the tent at night. But besides that it's cold, it was also very humid. Many thanks to Larysa, who insisted that I take an electric blanket with me. Otherwise, it would be quite uncomfortable. I slept for a couple of hours. Slowly opened my eyes, the portable electric boiler did make hot water for a cup of coffee (again thanks to Larissa), and only then, accidentally glancing towards the sea, I understood - I have problems. And they are huge.

To be continued.



If you are into chasing IOTA references in Indonesia, then here is a great opportunity of possibly picking up a few new ones. I received the following email recently.....

Dear VK Contesters,

Greetings to you all, with many blessing health and well condition.

I would like to sharing with you a great news about YB DX Contest and please mark on your calendar this contest will be held on January 13th, 2018.

It is the first time DX Contest ever created by ORARI Headquarter (ORARI Pusat) since 1968 and announced as a part of the 50th Golden Years Anniversary of ORARI celebration next year.

Please supporting our event and spreading these news among fellow contesters around the World. For further details please visit: <http://ybdxcontest.com>.

Warm Regards, 73

*Karsono Suyanto YB0NDT
Contest Manager*



Don't forget that if you activate a park and don't reach the 10 QSO or 44 QSO threshold, please still send in your log for upload to WWFF Logsearch.

Even though you may have not 'qualified' the park, all of the hunters that you worked will be eagerly awaiting your log to be uploaded so they can claim the park as a hunter.

Until the activator log is uploaded, the hunters cannot claim the park.

Space weather

By Paul VK5PAS

Official Space Weather Advisory issued by
NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center
Boulder, Colorado, USA

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK
#17-34
2017 August 20 at 10:31 p.m. MDT (2017
August 21 0431 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For August 14-20

An R1 (Minor) radio blackout was observed on
20 August due to flare activity from active
sunspot Region 2672.

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels were
observed from 17-20 August due to coronal
hole high speed stream effects.

Outlook For August 21-27

There is a chance for R1-R2 (Minor-Moderate)
radio blackouts for the forecast period (21-27
August) due to flare potential from Regions
2671 and 2672.

Data used to provide space weather services
are contributed by NOAA, USAF, NASA, NSF,
USGS, the International Space Environment
Services and other observatories, universities,
and institutions. More information is available at
SWPC's Web site

<http://swpc.noaa.gov>

Official Space Weather Advisory issued by
NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center
Boulder, Colorado, USA

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK
#17-33
2017 August 13 at 9:16 p.m. MDT (2017
August 14 0316 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For August 7-13

No space weather storms were observed.

Outlook For August 14-20

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels are likely
on 17-18 Aug due to the arrival of a recurrent,
positive polarity coronal hole high speed
stream.

Data used to provide space weather services
are contributed by NOAA, USAF, NASA, NSF,
USGS, the International Space Environment
Services and other observatories, universities,
and institutions. More information is available at
SWPC's Web site

<http://swpc.noaa.gov>

Official Space Weather Advisory issued by
NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center
Boulder, Colorado, USA

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK #17-32

2017 August 6 at 9:19 p.m. MDT (2017 August
7 0319 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For July 31-August 6

No space weather storms were observed.

Outlook For August 7-13

No space weather storms are expected.

Data used to provide space weather services are contributed by NOAA, USAF, NASA, NSF, USGS, the International Space Environment Services and other observatories, universities, and institutions. More information is available at SWPC's Web site

<http://swpc.noaa.gov>

**Over 2,000
certificates now
issued**

By Paul VK5PAS

The WWFF program has now been running in Australia for around 4 & ½ years. And in the past few weeks we have topped the 2,000 mark in certificates issued in the VKFF program.

I would like to thank all of the VKFF activators and hunters who have taken part in the program.



VKFF Boundary files

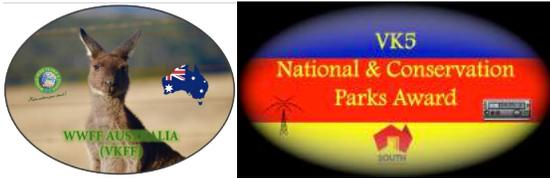
By Marc VK3OHM

The "VKFF Park Boundary" files have been updated to include the latest additions to VK2 and VK3. There is now a 96+% coverage of all gazetted parks. These files are particularly useful for understanding the precise park boundary, and for clustering them for a road trip.

They can be found on the parksnparks website at.....

<http://parksnparks.org/ParksnParksFiles.php>

Recent Park Activations



August was a fairly quiet month for park activations around South Australia.

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

- Lawari Conservation Park 5CP-278 & VKFF-1767, Paul VK5PAS (29/8/2017)
- The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park 5CP-228 & VKFF-0817, Les VK5KLV/p (27/8/2017)
- Marino Conservation Park 5CP-126 & VKFF-1056, Paul VK5PAS/p (19/8/2017) (ILLW weekend)
- Marino Conservation Park 5CP-126 & VKFF-1056, Marija VK5FMAZ (19/8/2017) (ILLW weekend)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ in the Marino Conservation Park. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

- Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary VKFF-1880, Paul VK5PAS (14/8/2017)
- Nurragi Conservation Reserve VKFF-2247, Paul VK5PAS/p (12/8/2017)



Above:- the shack of Paul VK5PAS in the Nurragi Conservation Reserve. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

- Laura Bay Conservation Park VKFF-1048, David VK5KC/p (12/8/2017)

- Fowlers Bay Conservation Park VKFF-1032, David VK5KC/p (9/8/2017)
- Nullabor National Park VKFF-0397, David VK5KC (8/8/2017)
- Calpatanna Waterhole Conservation Park VKFF-1011, David VK5KC/p (6/8/2017)
- Sceale Bay Conservation Park VKFF-1093, David VK5KC/p (5/8/2017)
- Point Labatt Conservation Park VKFF-1081, David VK5KC/p (5/8/2017)
- Searcy Bay Conservation Park VKFF-1095, David VK5KC/p (5/8/2017)
- Coffin Bay National Park 5NP-003 & VKFF-0105, David VK5KC/p (1/8/2017)



Above:- Kangaroos in Coffin Bay NP. Photo courtesy of David VK5KC

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.wffaustralia.com/>

Recent SOTA activations



Just a handful of SOTA activations in VK5 during August. Once again boys from the Mid North, Ian VK5CZ, Hugh VK5NHG, and Ian VK5IS continued to fly the SOTA flag with a number of SOTA activations.

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

- The Dutchmans Stern VK5/ NE-028, Ian VK5CZ/p (26/8/2017)
- Black Hill VK5/ NE-062, Ian VK5CZ/p (13/8/2017)

- Peaked Hill VK5/ NE-098, Ian VK5CZ/p (12/8/2017)
- Mount Benjamin VK5/ NE-083, Ian VK5CZ/p (12/8/2017)
- New Campbell Hill VK5/ SE-007, Hugh VK5NHG/p (12/8/2017)

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au



VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 22nd 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.wffaustralia.com/>



World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

VKFF Activation weekend.

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th
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

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.

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 96 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

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

- Lee BD7OI

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

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

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

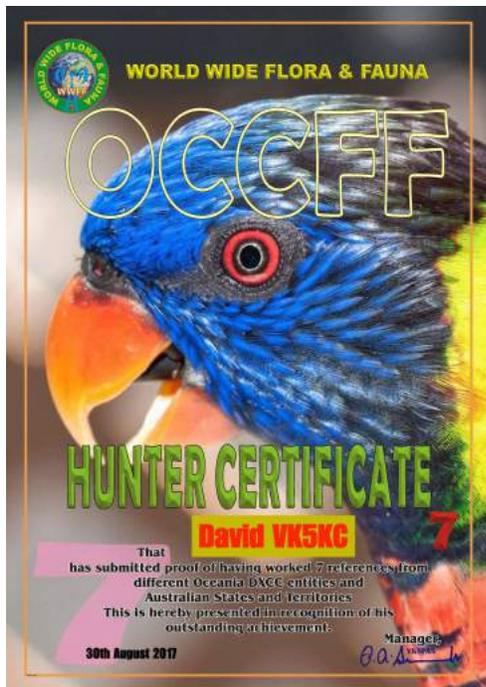
World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **David VK5KC**
 - OCCFF-H-7

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS

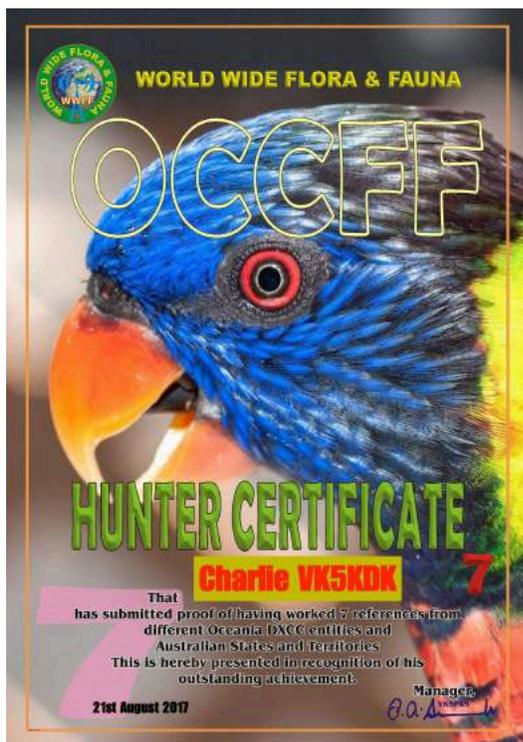




- Adrian VK5FANA
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 625



- Charlie VK5KDK
 - OCCFF-H-7



- Marija VK5FMAZ
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 225



- **David VK5PL**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 325



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 700



- **Mark VK5MK**
 - Bronze VKFF Hunter



VK5 Parks Award

- Nil for this period from VK5.

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- NIL KNOWN

Other.

- Nil known for this period

Trouble with vultures

By Paul VK5PAS

This interesting bit of info appeared on the OSPOTA site about vultures causing damage at Ohio State Parks.....

<https://www.mystatesman.com/news/vultures-damaging-vehicles-ohio-state-parks/cj9ohUeGiV5EIAju5pr1nK/>

Thankfully no vultures down here in VK.



Visit <https://groups.io/g/vkzlrp> to sample discussions and to subscribe if interested in the topic.

VKZLRP amateur radio vkzlrp@groups.io

Group Description
vkzlrp is a mailing list for persons interested in low power amateur radio communication for QRP in Australia and New Zealand. QRP awards and contests, construction of QRP equipment, social gatherings of QRPers, announcements of QRP activity. QRP club news and the arrangement of QRP activities are all relevant topics for the list. Subscribing will be of benefit if you are at all interested in homebrewing and QRP operation.

Group Information
<http://www.vkzlrp.com.au/contact/>
 314 Members
 2,264 Topics, Last Post: 7:42 am
 Started on 11/8/1999
 Post

Group Settings
 All subscribers can post to the group.
 Posts to the group do not require approval from the moderators.
 Messages can only be reply to group.
 Subscriptions to this group require approval from the moderators.
 Archived are visible to anyone.
 Members can edit their posts.
 Members can set their subscriptions to no email.

Integrations
No integrations.

Top Hoistings (See All)
No used hoistings.

Message History

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	23	13	11	9	4	3	1	32				
2016	3	15	8	12	18	20	19	14	12	30	9	8
2015	8	35	8	25	9	14	42	37	27	14	9	15
2014	33	9	8	19	25	19	23	9	6	8	4	2

Boomerang Award

By Paul VK5PAS

VKFF Boomerang Award

PAUL VK5PAS
 Issued for having worked five (5) VKFF references a total of five (5) different times each.

WWFF Australia Awards Manager
 17th June 2017

WORLD WIDE FLORA & FAUNA WWFF

vkzlrp

By Paul VK5PAS

Just an announcement that the vkzlrp email list has moved to groups.io. With nearly 400 subscribers this group is for the discussion of low power (QRP) amateur radio operating, equipment and techniques with a VK & ZL focus.

To encourage repeat activation of parks by activators, and to encourage hunters to log the

same park more than once, I have created the VKFF Boomerang Award.

Activators

Activated 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated means for VKFF purposes (10 QSOs).

Hunters.

Worked 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

The award will be issued in increments of 5 different parks.

The award is currently not integrated into Logsearch. In the next few days I will place a spreadsheet on the VKFF Australia website which will need to be completed when applying for this award.

73 and '44',

Paul VK5PAS.

2017 ILLW weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

On Saturday 19th August 2017, Marija VK5FMAZ and I activated the Marino Rocks lighthouse AU-0018 and the Marino Conservation Park 5CP-126 & VKFF-1056. We quite often travel to Kangaroo Island, but as we are saving some pennies for a possible trip to Canada and Alaska, we decided to stay a little closer to home this year.



We made a total of 210 contacts on 20, 40, & 80m SSB. This included a total of 10 Park to Park QSOs, and 22 x different lighthouses around Australia and one New Zealand lighthouse.

We ran our normal portable station:- Yaesu FT-857d (40 watts output for VK5PAS & 10 watts for VK5FMAZ), and a 20/40/80m linked dipole inverted vee @ 7m. Simple little station.

More info & photos will be placed on My Wordpress site in the coming days.....

<https://vk5pas.org>



Please try to stay clear

By Paul VK5PAS



There was recently an incident involving a SOTA activator and a regular weekday net. So I thought it might be a good opportunity of reminding VK5 SOTA & park activators to try to stay clear of some freqs if possible.....

1. 7.105 (7 days a week from 0000 UTC. This freq is used by the Wodonga 10 am Net)
2. 7.115 (Wed and Sat mornings from 2300 UTC-Tues. This freq is used by the Riverland Radio Club for their Net).
3. 7.125 (this freq is used by the AM ops as many of their tx are crystal locked).

Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

LIFE IS SIMPLE



With the very poor conditions on 20m of late, the logging of DX portable stations during August, was very minimal again.

- ZL2AJ, SOTA ZL1/ WK-063 27/8/2017)

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

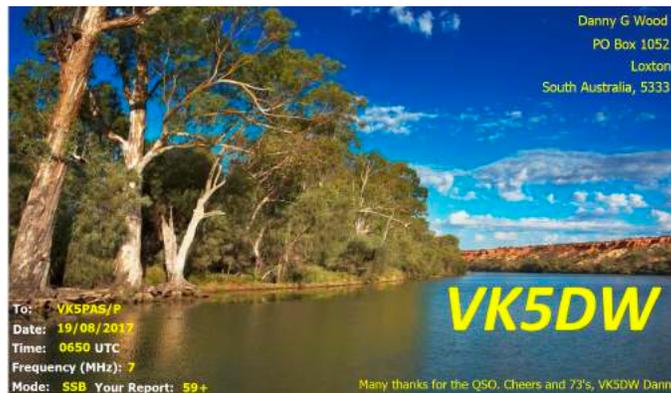
QSL cards received

Have you received a QSL card lately from a portable, mobile or QRP station?

If so, please send me a copy.

Below are some QSL cards received by VK5PAS from stations whilst operating portable.

VK5DW



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>

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.

ILLW

<https://youtu.be/dXV0VHIO1f8>

The solar cycle

https://youtu.be/Me_-UsmWHS0

Ham humour

thepunthatyouwant.tumblr.com

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.