



SOTA, VK5 PARKS AWARD, WWFF, PORTABLE, QRP, PEDESTRIAN MOBILE

OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5

Issue 6

April 2015

Welcome to the sixth issue (April 2015) of '**Out and about in VK5**'. This newsletter is dedicated to SOTA, the VK5 Parks Award, WWFF, portable operation, QRP, & pedestrian mobile operation.

What a month of activity March was! The 2nd anniversary of the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award has been and gone with a total of 111 x park activations. Bigger than the 1st anniversary by 13 activations. It was great to see a number of new activators, a number of Foundation activators, and participation by two Victorian hams Tony VK3VTH and Tim VK3MTB.

Just a reminder that this newsletter is released at the start of each month and can be found online at the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio (AHARS) website at:

<http://www.ahars.com.au>

It can also be found on the VK5 Parks website at:

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

I welcome any news and photographs relating to the subject material. I would like to thank those hams who regularly provide me material without having to be 'chased'. They include Geoff VK5HEL, John VK5BJE, Col VK5HCF, Richard VK5ZRY, Chris VK4FR/5, and David VK5NQP.

You can email me stories and photos to:

vk5pas@wia.org.au

73 & have fun out in the field,

Paul, VK5PAS

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Helping out your fellow hams

By Paul VK5PAS



Yes, I'm back on my high horse again about 'spotting'.

Before I do start having a whinge, I do want to mention that it is very pleasing to see an increasing number of hams who are 'spotting' SOTA & Park activators on the various platforms including parksnparks, SOTAWatch, the various Facebook sites, via SMS message, the Yahoo groups, etc.

This greatly helps the activators, seeking their 4 contacts for SOTA, 10 contacts for VKFF, and the 44 contacts for the WWFF program.

It also greatly helps the SOTA & Parks chasers and hunters, to alert them to

the fact that an activator is out and about on a particular frequency.

However there still remains a number of hams who don't bother to 'spot'.

What amazes me is that some of these amateurs do however, take advantage themselves of the good will of others who do spot.

In other words they are very keen to use parksnparks, SOTAWatch, etc, and get the activators in their own log, but NEVER bother to post a 'spot' themselves to help out their fellow hams.

OK, its not the crime of the century. But a selfish practice in my opinion.

I've heard it all before.....the various excuses.....the computer is at the other end of the house, the computer wasn't switched on, I've got arthritis in my typing hand, etc.

It would seem that the various posts that I, and numerous others, have placed on the various Yahoo groups, and the info here in the newsletter, have fallen on deaf ears with some SOTA & Park chasers/hunters.

As a recent example, on Monday 30/3/2015, I heard Tony VK3VTH in the Lake Torrens National Park, calling CQ on 40m. I was mobile at the time on the bottom of the Yorke Peninsula. But I still took the time to pull over and 'spot' Tony on the DX cluster, parksnparks, and send out an SMS to my ham mates, to alert them of Tony's presence. What followed was that Tony worked a large number of stations and qualified the park for WWFF by getting 44 contacts. And many of the stations that were 'dragged' in, also went on to spot Tony, which caused a domino affect of callers.

Oh well, not much more we can do for those that don't want to contribute and spot I guess.

However, if you are one of those hams that use parksnparks and/or SOTAWatch to your own advantage, and have never placed a 'spot', don't you feel just a little bit guilty of not helping out your fellow hams? Perhaps not.

OK, I will climb back down now.

New VKFF areas added

By Paul VK5PAS



After a few weeks of compiling info, some data entry, and liaison with the WWFF Committee, I am very pleased to advise that a number of new Australian (VKFF) references have been added to the WWFF Directory.

A total of 26 Victorian State Parks, 7 Victorian Coastal Parks, and 56 South Australian Conservation Parks have been added to the WWFF program.

Please take note, that these newly added parks will only qualify as of 10th March 2015. They will NOT be retrospective for activators and hunters.

I would also like to say thankyou to those amateurs who took the

time to add their vote/s to the 3 polls that were on the VK5 Parks Yahoo group and the WWFF Australia Yahoo group.

Here are the newly qualified parks. Many of which have already been activated in the past couple of weeks.

South Australian Conservation Parks

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Beachport VKFF-791 | 19. Dudley VKFF-795 |
| 2. Big Heath VKFF-792 | 20. Ewens Ponds VKFF-796 |
| 3. Billiatt VKFF-821 | 21. Franklin Harbor VKFF-807 |
| 4. Black Hill VKFF-776 | 22. Glen Roy VKFF-797 |
| 5. Brookfield VKFF-822 | 23. Gower VKFF-798 |
| 6. Butcher Gap VKFF-793 | 24. Kelly Hill VKFF-810 |
| 7. Charleston VKFF-777 | 25. Kenneth Stirling VKFF-781 |
| 8. Cleland VKFF-778 | 26. Kyeema VKFF-826 |
| 9. Clements Gap VKFF-812 | 27. Leven Beach VKFF-814 |
| 10. Clinton VKFF-813 | 28. Maize Island VKFF-827 |
| 11. Cooltong VKFF-823 | 29. Mark Oliphant VKFF-782 |
| 12. Cox Scrub VKFF-824 | 30. Messent VKFF-799 |
| 13. Cromer VKFF-779 | 31. Monarto VKFF-828 |
| 14. Danggali VKFF-825 | 32. Morialta VKFF-783 |
| 15. Darke Range VKFF-809 | 33. Mount George VKFF-784 |
| 16. Deep Creek VKFF-780 | 34. Mount Monster VKFF-800 |
| 17. Desert Camp VKFF-794 | 35. Mylor VKFF-785 |
| 18. Douglas Point | 36. Nene Valley VKFF-801 |
| | 37. Ngarkat VKFF-829 |
| | 38. Peebinga VKFF-830 |
| | 39. Penambol VKFF-802 |
| | 40. Penola VKFF-803 |
| | 41. Pike River VKFF-831 |
| | 42. Port Gawler VKFF-786 |
| | 43. Porter Scrub VKFF-787 |
| | 44. Ramsay Way VKFF-815 |
| | 45. Scott Creek VKFF- |

46. 788 Spring Gully VKFF-816
47. Spring Mount VKFF-789
48. Swan Reach VKFF-832
49. Talisker VKFF-790
50. Tantanoola Caves VKFF-804
51. Telford Scrub VKFF-805
52. The Dutchmans Stern VKFF-817
53. Vivonne Bay VKFF-811
54. Warrenben VKFF-818
55. Whyalla VKFF-808
56. Wills Creek VKFF-819
57. Winninowie VKFF-820

Victorian Coastal Islands

1. Bay of Islands Coastal Park VKFF-743
2. Cape Conran Coastal Park VKFF-744
3. Cape Liptrap Coastal Park VKFF-745
4. Discovery Bay Coastal Park VKFF-746
5. Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park VKFF-747
6. Nooramunga Coastal Park VKFF-

7. 748 Shallow Inlet Coastal Park VKFF-749

Victorian State Parks.

1. Arthurs Seat State Park VKFF-750
2. Black Range State Park VKFF-751
3. Broken-Boosey State Park VKFF-752
4. Bunyip State Park VKFF-753
5. Cape Nelson State Park VKFF-754
6. Cathedral Range State Park VKFF-755
7. Dergholm State Park VKFF-756
8. Enfield State Park VKFF-757
9. Holey Plains State Park VKFF-758
10. Kooyoora State Park VKFF-759
11. Lang Ghiran State Park VKFF-760

12. Lake Tyers State Park VKFF-761
13. Leaghur State Park VKFF-762
14. Lerderderg State Park VKFF-763
15. Moondarra State Park VKFF-764
16. Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park VKFF-765
17. Mount Bunagor State Park VKFF-766
18. Mount Granya State Park VKFF-767
19. Mount Lawson State Park VKFF-768
20. Mount Napier State Park VKFF-769
21. Mount Samaria State Park VKFF-770
22. Mount Worrth State Park VKFF-771
23. Paddys Ranges State Park VKFF-772
24. Reef Hills State

Park VKFF-773

25. Warrandyte State
Park VKFF-774

26. Werribee Gorge
State Park VKFF-
775

PDF file for the VK3 parks

By Paul VK5PAS

Peter VK3PF has uploaded a PDF file to the Files area of the WWFF Australia Yahoo group with has maps of each new VK3 WWFF references, with higher scale maps near to SOTA references that he has so far identified as being inside the new VKFF references. It is an excellent resource.

A parksnpeaks update

By Paul VK5PAS

Allen VK3HRA has updated the parksnparks database with the new parks for WWFF. You

can spot and set up alerts for these new parks.

If you click on 'VK Parks' you will be able to view a list of all of the WWFF Parks in Australia, divided into sub categories, e.g. KRMNPA, SANPCPA, & WWFF.

The WWFF areas are in turn, listed in States and Territories, to allow easy searching. Each listing has the park name, the ID, the type of park, the latitude and longitude, the size of the park, and any links.

And a reminder that parksnparks now has an audible alert that is emitted each time that a SOTA or Park activator is spotted.

When a SOTA activator is spotted, you will hear the bleating of a rather sick goat. Although, Allen says the goat isn't sick. It is just tired after carrying the gear up the hill!

When a Park activator is spotted, a Kookaburra will share their laugh with you.

The parksnparks site is a great resource, so please have a look at it, if you haven't already done so.

The 4th activation afternoon / evening

By Paul VK5PAS



The 4th activation event which was held on 27th February 2015, turned out to be one of the biggest and best so far. A total of 12 parks across South Australia were activated by 10 activators. The 40m band was very busy which was great to see.

Here is a list of activations:-

1. Gower CP, Col VK5HCF
2. Gower CP, Tom VK5EE
3. Gower CP, Alan VK5FAJS
4. Morialta CP, Chris VK4FR/5
5. Clinton CP, Adrian VK5FANA

6. Wills Creek CP, Adrian VK5FANA
7. Scott Creek CP, John VK5BJE
8. Ferries McDonald CP, Geoff VK5HEL
9. Monarto CP, Geoff VK5HEL
10. Ramsay Way CP, Richard VK5ZRY
11. Winninowie CP, Les VK5KLV
12. Onkaparinga River NP, Paul VK5PAS

A few congratulations are in order. Firstly, well done to Alan VK5FAJS for his first activation. Alan ventured out to Gower CP in the South East, with park die hards Col VK5HCF and Tom VK5EE. Col VK5HCF informed me that Alan's enthusiasm during the activation was infectious.

And also congratulations to Adrian VK5FANA who activated his first park as well. In fact Adrian activated two parks on the Friday evening, over on the Yorke Peninsula. A great effort.

It is very pleasing to see the Foundation operators out and about participating in the VK5 parks program.

The next Summer Activation afternoon / evening is to be held on Friday 13th March 2015 (see page 23 for details).

It would be very pleasing to see some NEW park activators out there for future Activation events, rather than the usual crowd.

Joint activation in the South East

By Col VK5HCF



Tom, VK5EE and I decided to activate the Gower Conservation Park mid morning on the Friday. I posted the appropriate alerts on Yahoo and Parks N Peaks, and then invited Alan, VK5FAJS to join us as he had expressed some interest in becoming

involved in portable operations.

After picking Tom and Alan up we set off west on the Princes Highway towards Millicent.

We drove past the Tantanoola Caves and turned right into McPhersons Road, (before reaching the roadhouse) and travelled along until reaching the cross road, (where McPherson Road has an offset), before continuing on.



Above:- Alan VK5FAJS on the mic.
Image courtesy of Col VK5HCF

We set up in a small clearing about 50 metres after the start of the park.

Alan was most impressed with the short time it took to get set up and operating. Tom declined to start off as did Alan, so yet again, I had to do all the hard work. Of course the usual happened when Tom finally agreed to have a go on the mic – he complained that I had worked everyone and left

no contacts for him (sign – he is a Pom after all).



The three adventurer seekers. Image courtesy of Richard VK5ZRY

After Tom had worked a few we were able to talk Alan into having a bit of a go. I think it is fair to say that Alan is 'hooked' as he and xyl Georgie love getting out with the four wheel drive and the caravan and doing a bit of 'bush bashing' so the portable set up will be ideal.

Conditions were very good and I ended up with 16 contacts.

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

<https://vk5hcf.wordpress.com/>

Best 73,
Col,
VK5HCF

Morialta CP

By Chris VK4FR/5



After the wrap that Bob gave Morialta CP the previous Summer Twilight Activation I thought I had better head out for a look!

The park is only about a 20 minute drive my QTH and that's the beauty of the Friday evenings for me. It's a short drive home! On arrival I followed the road up to car park and back down. Due to the fact a sign advised the gates would be locked at 6:00PM I parked down the bottom of the road and took the walk up Woodforde Track.

Setting up I managed to be on the air by 5:30. Scanning around to see if anyone had already started and in quick succession I was able to work VK5FANA, Adrian in Clinton, VK5PAS, Paul in Onkaparinga, VK5BJE,

John in Scott. A nice brace of park-to-parks to start the evening!



Above:- The set up at the Morialta Conservation Park. Image courtesy of Chris VK4FR/5

I settled onto 7.115 and started calling with not a lot of returns. I guess being such a close park does have its down side in that it's already in most people's log. Still managed to get a few in the log including VK5KLV, Les in Winninowie CP.

A bit more searching and I picked up Richard, VK5ZRY in Ramsey CP and Geoff, VK5HEL in Ferries McDonald CP. Settling back onto a frequency I caught up with Paul again who spotted me..... and then they came!!

I quickly upped the QSO rate as I watched the lights of the city come on and a band of rain move in from the bay. Adrian dropped in from his second park of the evening

Wills Ck CP. Well done that man!

At around 7:45 my log started to become wet from the passing shower, my water was gone and the battery was getting low so I called it a night.

All up 19 in the log including seven P2P contacts. The road was wet by the time I arrived back at my car but a very pleasant evening of radio!

Couple of the big takeaways are the value of someone putting up a spot at the right time as I know that even though some others spotted me it was after the final spot went up that my QSO rate went up as well. Also, putting in call even if you have the park in the log. I haven't been to the same park twice so anyone who calls is new in my log for the park and makes the drive worthwhile! Also, it seems less hectic on a Friday and I've had a couple of short rag chews which have been really quite interesting and hopefully haven't inconvenienced anyone terribly much.

Finally, I have mentioned it before but being a visitor to VK5 this award has got me out driving

and seeing things I would never have seen before and maybe some things native VK5s haven't seen either. Conversely, sitting at home following the action via the .kmz file of VK5 NP & CPs on Google earth has allowed me to get a much better idea of who's who and where's where in VK5.

Chat to you from the next one.

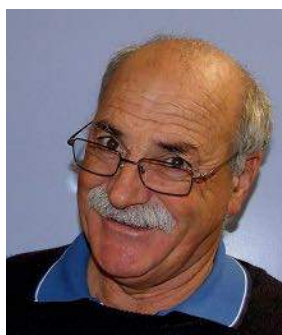
73

Chris

VK4FR/5

Activation of Ferries McDonald CP & Monarto CP

By Geoff VK5HEL



After a warm day with local temperatures hovered in the upper 30's it was great to arrive at

ferries McDonald CP and set up at 07:30x in the colling evening. Cloud cover and almost no wind made the evening a pleasant one.

Watched by two hundred merino sheep in the adjacent paddock I set up the 20/40 linked dipole and the Icon 7000 and operating QRP at 10w, made the first contact at 08:00 z.

- VK5ZRY Richard, Ramsay Way CP
- VK5CZ Ian
- VK3HM Mark
- VK3YE Peter
- VK5FMJC John
- VK5PAS Paul, Onkaparinga River NP
- VK5FDEC Damien
- VK3FQSO Amanda
- VK3HRA Allen
- VK5KLV Les, Winninowie CP
- VK4FR/5 Chris, Morialta CP
- VK5TN Robin
- VK5FANA Adrian, Wills Creek CP (in rain)
- VK5MTM Theo
- VK3YE/p Peter, pedestrian mobile at Pt Phillip Bay. QRP 3w.
- VK5FPAC Rober
- VK3PMG Mick
- VK5JW Jim
- VK5NQP David

- VK5GJ Greg
- VK1TP/3 Jim on Raymond Island
- VK2GAZ Garry
- VK3TKK Peter
- VK5FMID Brian
- VK4GSF George



Above:- The operating area at ferries McDonald. Image courtesy of Geoff VK5HEL

At 10:00z I packed up and relocated to Monarto CP and joined the 7130 group and with thanks to VK7ROY and the group I worked the following at 40w in rain under a black umbrella.

- VK2FMIA Doug
- VI110ROTARY Phil, special event station
- VK4TH/8 Andy, Uluru (Ayres Rock)
- VK5PAS Paul, Onkaparinga River NP
- VK2PKT Keith
- VK5MJ Mal.



Above:- Geoff VK5HEL on the mic. Image courtesy of Geoff VK5HEL

Cheers 73,

Geoff,

VK5HEL

An evening at Onkaparinga

By Paul VK5PAS

For the 4th activation event I headed to the Onkaparinga River National Park, VKFF-402. I set up near the Bakers Gully track and ran my Yaesu FT-857d, 40 watts, and my 40m/20m linked dipole @ 7 metres.

I managed a total of 87 contacts for this activation on 40m SSB & 20m SSB, including a small number of European park hunters.



Above:- The Yaesu FT857d on the table. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

I had a total of 12 SA Park to Park contacts, one Victorian National Park, and one Northern Territory National Park.

I also spoke with VK9LC, the DXpedition to Lord Howe Island.

The highlight of this activation was a contact with Jerry PH9HB who was aeronautical mobile above the Canary Islands. Jerry was a good 5/7 and he gave me a 4/4 with my 40w. I have worked Jerry a number of times from home, but this was the first time whilst I was out portable.



Image courtesy of Col VK5HCF

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

<http://vk5pas.org/>

Thanks to everyone that headed out for this evening. And thanks to all the park hunters.

Best 73 to all,

Paul,

VK5PAS.

Activation of Point Davenport CP

By Richard VK5ZRY



Point Davenport Conservation Park is situated on a headland between Foul Bay and Sturt Bay on the south coast of Yorke Peninsula in South Australia about 19.8 kilometres south of

Warooka. The park was proclaimed in 1987. The park is considered to be 'an area of high biodiversity with a range of habitats including beaches and foredunes, and an estuary that is listed as a nationally important wetland.' It is classified as an IUCN Category III protected area. The park borders a swamp fringed by Paperbark Tea-trees (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*).



The various maps show roads leading to parks edge but after an initial twilight expedition during last years activation weekend I found these are unused and unmade. The fish hooks hanging on one of the signs did not give an welcoming feeling.



Image courtesy of Richard VK5ZRY

After asking local NRM/Parks staff I was told that limited access is through private propriety on the east and west side and the name of one of the adjoining farmers land the Parks people use for their access. After a bumping into that farmer in the queue at the Minlaton bakery I gained permission.

On January 18 2015 as a stopover on way to Marion Bay I activated this Conservation Park. The star on the Google map is the access gate along the South Coast Road (gravel road). The track winds through grazing land and edge of some scrub. It is definitely suitable for diesel engined 4wds with good clearance only.

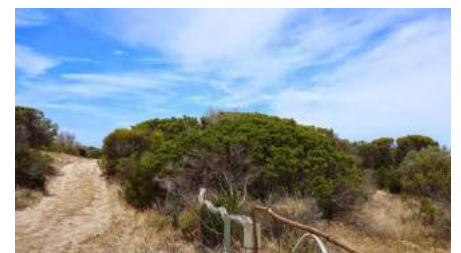


Image courtesy of Richard VK5ZRY

As the gate to the park was padlocked we drove along fence toward the beach. Once there the family frolicked along the pristine beach as I jumped the fence and set

up the squid pole/dipole and FT817. In an hour of so clocked up over 25 contacts before having to pull stumps. I was pleased to be able to get this park in a few log books for the first time and hope to get down there again later in the year.

SOTA Australia Yahoo site

By Paul VK5PAS



If you haven't already checked it out, there is a SOTA Australia Facebook site.

It is a place for Australian hams interested in the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program, to share information, photos, and chat.

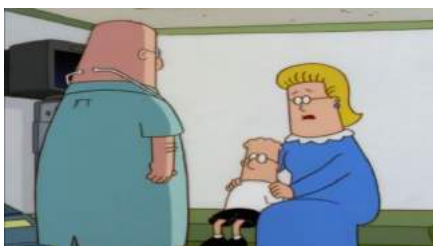
Click on the link below...

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

By the way, 2015 is the Year of the Goat.

'The knack'

By Geoff VK5HEL



Do you have 'the knack'?

http://youtu.be/g8vHhg_h6oMo

The Joinery

By Paul VK5PAS

The old bus station in Franklin Street, Adelaide is now South Australia's new community eco-centre, called The Joinery.

You can find more information at.....

<http://www.thejoinery.org.au/about>

Try your hand at DX from a VK5 Park

By Paul VK5PAS



Recently when activating the Cromer Conservation Park near Birdwood, I worked quite a bit of DX on 20m. Many of the European stations were asking what my VKFF reference number was. But I had to tell them that this park did not qualify for WWFF, but did qualify for the VK5 Parks Award (as it turns out it does now qualify for WWFF, but didn't then).

Once I told them about the VK5 Parks award and gave them the website address, they seemed very interested in the VK5 Parks award. In fact, a few were already aware.

So why not try your luck during your next activation and see if you

can get some DX in your log. It appears that many European/UK amateurs are aware of the VK5 Parks award and are very keen to work us.

A quick review of the EV Power Australia 40AH 12V LIFEPO4 Battery

By Chris VK4FR/5



This battery was purchased to run my Icom 706 MkIIG in the field. The battery was ordered from EV Power Australia, a VK6 based company.

<https://www.ev-power.com.au/>

I also ordered four cell balancers (connected onto the battery terminals), a 12V low voltage protector and dedicated charger.

Delivery from VK6 was exceptionally quick and the proprietor, Rob, responded within hours to a question I posted with respect to a connection issue I wanted clarified.

Despite the manual for the charger being in 'Chingrish' it is a fully automatic charger and connection and charging were straight forward.

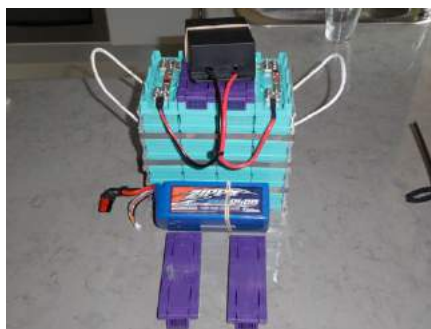


Image courtesy of Col VK5HCF

I took advantage of the VK5 Parks Awards to give it a run and I wasn't disappointed. Setting up in Flinders Chase National Park I connected up the netbook and 706 via an Anderson Powerpole distribution block and started FLDIGI. Running 30W on the 706 I quickly put several US and European

callsigns in the logbook. With the netbook and 706 in TX mode current draw, according to my 'Wattsup' meter, was in the 9-10 amp range with the volts staying on the healthy side of 13V.

The following morning (Sunday) I attempted to do battle with the contest on 40M SSB. Ramping up the 706 to 50W I wasn't making much head way but was able to work some VK3's and VK6MB which I don't think the KX3 on 10W would have done.

Leaving the 706 on 50W I journeyed to Kelly Hill CP and while the DX had faded the band was quiet. VK3's were giving me low reports in the region of 33. The battery was now pulling an average of 6A on TX SSB with the volts staying above 13.

Moving through Mt Taylor and on to Vivonne Bay CP's signal reports were encouraging and I dialled back to 30W. 'Wattsup' still indicated a draw of 5-6A on TX and the volts steady in the vicinity of 13.

Overall operating time was approx 5-6 hours. Giving a solid workout on the data modes for 2.5 of

those. 'Wattsup' recorded the lowest voltage of 12.98V and around 15 Amp hours of use.

The battery weighs in at 6.75kg which is a bit over 5 kg heavier than my Zippy 8400mA battery. They supply 20, 40, 60 and 100Ah batteries and all their stats can be found on the website. While this battery is best suited to the 'drive up' style of operating, it would not be too onerous to walk the extra 5kg of battery to an operating site if you planned an extended operation and I think that this battery (40Ah) would last the weekend at moderate power levels.

I intend to operate at full power (100W) some time soon and will report back on the success, or otherwise, of this experiment. Given what I've seen so far I expect no difficulties for a days operation.

I have included a picture for size comparison and the terminal cover removed showing the cell balancers installed. I picked up a box from Jaycar for the low volt protector.

Please feel free to contact me on

ctmegaw@gmail.com

or 0402 013 097 if you want to have a look at it or give it a run yourself.

Cheers

Chris

VK4FR/P



The purchased new LiFePo4 40 ah battery with current 8.4 ah for comparison. Image courtesy of Chris VK4FR/5.

44 amp hour power pack

By Paul VK5PAS



For my portable work out in the parks I use a

Matson MA44AH 44 ah portable power pack.

Matson is an Australian owned third generation family business, which has been producing battery related products for more than 60 years.

The unit consists of 2 x 22 Ah high quality Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) batteries.



Above:- The 44 AH power pack. Image courtesy of www.batterybusiness.com

Here are some of the specs:

Length (mm): 320

Width (mm): 250

Height (mm): 310

Weight (kg) 15

It has a cigarette lighter output 12v, a 15A socket, 1 x merit 12v, 15A socket, 1 x 5v 2A USB port, 1 x 50 amp Anderson plug, which is where I connect the power lead for the radio.



Image courtesy of
www.batterybusiness.com

For protection it has 2 x On/Off switches with LED indicators, and 2 x 15A manual resettable circuit breakers.



Image courtesy of
www.batterybusiness.com

It has a digital voltage display, battery voltage, current draw, and charging current.

It also has LED for charging status, low voltage, and fully charged.

Of course, the 44 amp hour power pack is far too heavy for use with SOTA. For my SOTA activations, up until recently I have been using a 4Ah 12 volt SLA. But I

have just started using LiFePo batteries.

I have also recently purchased some solar panels to take out in the field, to keep the battery topped up (100 watt mono crystalline solar panels).



Above:- The solar panels in action at Warrenben Conservation Park.
Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

Future National Parks & SOTA gathering

By Paul VK5PAS

Warren VK3BYD recently suggested a NATIONAL gathering of SOTA & PARKS enthusiasts. It is only in the planning stages at this point, but October has been suggested, and Wagga has also been thrown up as a possible location.

If this goes ahead, it would be great to see some of the VK5 Parks and SOTA 'die hards' attending. Yes, it is Wagga, which means a considerable drive. But we could certainly 'car pool' to help with expenses, and perhaps 'group book' accommodation to bring the costs down.

I will keep everyone posted of developments.

WWFF Awards

By Paul VK5PAS



I recently received an email from Pit YO3JW who is on the WWFF Council with me. Pit is proposing some new WWFF Awards. They include an EUFF Award (Activated & Worked Europe) and an OCFW

Award (Activated & Worked Oceania).

The certificates would be issued for activating from or working a certain number of European WWFF references. And the same would apply for Oceania.

The awards would be in steps of seven (7). So the first certificate issued at 7, the next at 14, the next at 21, then 28, etc.



Pit is still developing these, but they sound like a great idea. I will keep everyone updated on the progress of these awards, either on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group and/or in this newsletter.

Kit radios- Making your choice of kit and their effectiveness chasing Parks awards

By Greg VK5GJ



Bitx-20 (India)

Back in mid-2011, Norm VK5GI and I bought short form kits of parts for the Bitx20 from Sunil VU3SUA. It was to be the entry point into the world of “almost homebrew qrp” and in reality the beginning of an exercise in frustration. When built “ugly” the Bitx20 seems to be a fine little QRP rig *but* when it is built on the PCB that came with the kit and then connected to the kit PA it is totally unstable – RF feedback causes it to go into oscillation and the output FETs last only a very short time – measured in

milliseconds.!!! Attempts were made to tame it with added relays, switching diodes and mosfets but it seems the problem rests in the close proximity of the RF input and output terminals on the pcb. The Bitx20 became a “gunna project” and has been shelved for some time (about 2 years now) but we are getting closer to having another try! More recently it has come to our notice that we were not the only ones having this problem, in fact it seems that there are probably not many version 3 Bitx20's that do really work. The Yahoo group and Sunil's online blog have been running hot with ideas and it seems that there may now be a ‘workaround’ but it is quite a process and involves relays and switching diodes and mosfets to tie the receiver input to earth during transmission (sound familiar?). A new V3B PCB has recently become available which has these changes implemented. Whether it is the answer to the instability problem or not, only time will tell. I have bought a couple of the new boards and will attack them when time permits.

MST400 (and variants)

Whilst we were fighting (and losing) with the Bitx20 v3, we found the MST400 kit from ozQRP run by Leon VK2DOB. The kits we bought were very short form, only the pcb, a couple of IF coils and the PA mosfet – we bought a couple of them and raked together the rest of the parts from the junkbox. The MST400 was a joy from the very beginning and it has continued to perform sweetly, so much so that we bought some more pcbs and modified them for 80m and 20m where they performed just as well as the original 40 metre version. I still have a couple of spare boards and a 30 metre version with the IF shifted to 8 MHz is under consideration.

Leon has now produced an MST2 which is available as 20, 40 and 80 metre versions and has some improvements over the original MST: it now has an audio oscillator for tune-up and an audio-derived AGC which controls the gain of the output chip and lessens the damage to ones ears. It also has an

extra pole in the 10 mHz crystal filter which increases selectivity and gives added opposite sideband suppression.

Our sets are the original version without the AGC and the audio does vary quite markedly with signal strength, but a homebrewed modification similar to the MST2 is in the works. We have also obtained some tiny 555 oscillator boards from the internet that will become our version of the tune-up source.

For anyone wanting to get involved in QRP the MST2 kits are a great place to start, and to finish too if kit building satisfies one's needs and aspirations. Leon offers a package deal which includes a DDS VFO and an "S" meter for well under \$200. It only needs the controls, a case and a few hours fun to be on the air with 5 watts on your choice of 20, 40 or 80 metres.

Our MST40s are now in everyday use and have really become our transceivers of choice when chasing the SANPCP Award. Once they are setup (using a

minimum of test equipment) they perform very well. They can hear just about anything that our selection of black box radios can hear (with the exception of course of the TS-930s which can hear a baby penguin fart in VKO), the transmission is clean and has attracted nothing but good comments - altogether these are a very good package. If you are in the market for a QRP 20, 40 or 80 metre single band transceiver and like the challenge of building your own equipment, the MST2 is a good option and well worth consideration.

There are other kits both CW and SSB available from Britain, America and more recently from China but my experience with them is minimal so I will leave it to others to sing their praises or otherwise.

Of course QRP brings with it a new set of challenges and it is often difficult to make yourself heard when a barrage of 100 watt home stations call at the same time. Patience and perseverance pay off and contacts can be made with 4 or 5 watts to any

corner of the state and indeed interstate too! Some park activators will call for mobile and QRP stations at the start of any activation and then is the time to announce yourself, always adding QRP to your callsign. Other times you must compete with the plebs and this is where perseverance becomes the name of the game – keep trying and you will eventually make the contact and your signal report usually will be not much less than the 100 watt users. It has become the practice of many of the activators to run QRP themselves and it does not seem to hurt their effectiveness with 5x8 or 5x9 being an honest report both ways from almost anywhere in the state.

With the proof of the pudding being in its eating, I have used the MST400

to accrue 106 SANPCPA QRP points and earn a Platinum Hunter Award with Single Band and QRP endorsements. This includes QRP contacts from 7 NP's and 57 unique CP's. VK5GI who has spent less time chasing is not very far

behind me and with his move to a new QTH out of the way, he will soon be back in the hunt.

Greg VK5GJ

My first SOTA activation

By Tom VK5FTRG



Saturday 7th of March long weekend and we arrive in Mount Barker towing the caravan behinds us and trying to get to the caravan Park for the weekend. Finally set up the wife and kids settle I thought I would give Paul VK5PAS a call to see if would like to catch up for a drink or a feed that night, Paul was overwhelmed to hear from me and wondered if I would like to do an summit activation with him this evening, since there were going to be a few on air that Saturday evening and the weather here was unbelievable

around 25 and fine, Well I said when do you want to go I ready when you are?

So it was arranged Paul was going to pick me up from the caravan Park at 4.30pm, so in the mean time I thought I should organise some tucker for us and pack a few odds and sods. Paul arrives on time in his new wheels a nice Toyota 4WD Dual Cab Hilux, a nice machine. So away we go through the Adelaide hills passing some small lovely towns bubbling with people and activity and beautiful scenery a lovely Saturday afternoon drive. All I can say I was glad Paul was driving; I had no idea the way we were going to Mount Gawler. As we began to get out further on the roads leading towards Mount Gawler the surroundings began to change to grey and black leaving any colours of green and yellow or reds we were entering the area of the horrid fires that they had encountered a few months ago. It became quiet and very little signs of life in general sought of eerie.



The scorched countryside. Image courtesy of Tom VK5FTRG

After about a half an hour drive we get to the summit which is located on private property, Paul informs me he knows the owner and is good friends, Ok time to get organized we grabbed what we needed and walked up to the summit, too my amazement just over the ridge there's the owners house still in one piece one of a few houses that managed to survive to horrid bushfires.



At the summit. Image courtesy of Tom VK5FTRG

We started to get things set up Pauls inverted linked Di-Pole and his trusty Yaesu857D same as what I use myself when I go portable. We started

to get things set up Pauls inverted linked Di-Pole and his trusty Yaesu857D same as what I use myself when I go portable. For those who may not be familiar the radio the Yaesu 857D is a very nice rig and is the next brother to the Yaesu 817nd. The max power of the 817nd is 10 watts on HF compared 100watts for the 857d.



Yaesu 857D



Yaesu 817ND

Ok so we get everything connected and check power levels and then Paul goes take it away so I tune onto 7.090MHZ and put out a call to see if the frequency is in use, all good and no one using it so away I go calling CQ Summit and before I knew it I had my first contact call from VK2IO/P Gerad who was Portable on Mt Canobolas

Summit VK2CT-001 Received signal 5/7 sent signal 5/5. I called for about 1/2 an hour and managed to get a nice 15 contacts in that time on 40m. Then Paul jumped on to work 20m for about 1/2 hour and was able to make quite a lot of DX Contacts around 30 in the time which was great and in the back ground his phone was making a lot of goat noises about every two minutes indicating another summit activation some- where.



Above:- The Mount Gawler trig point. Image courtesy of Tom VK5FTRG



Above:- Paul VK5PAS working DX on 20m. Image courtesy of Tom VK5FTRG

Ok my turn again for another round and I managed to get another

15 contacts making it in total 30 contacts from VK2 to VK6, unfortunately no DX Contacts made but hopefully next time maybe.

It was a great to be asked to be involved in a summit activation, access to this site was not too difficult which was great. Paul and I managed to finish the evening off with some broskies (Beers other words) those that know Paul he calls them that.

I would like to thank Paul for inviting me and allowing me to participate in this long weekend.

That's all from me.

Tom VK5FTRG

On the hill with Tom

By Paul VK5PAS

On Saturday the 7th March I met up with Tom VK5FTRG who was staying at the Mount Caravan Park. We headed to Mount Gawler

summit, VK5/ SE-013. This is a very popular South Australian summit due to its close proximity to Adelaide.

Our activation coincided with the VK SOTA Party which was organized by Andrew VK1NAM.

So while Tom played on the radio for his first ever activation, I kicked back and enjoyed the sunshine and also caught up with Noel, the owner of the land.

It wasn't long after calling CQ that Tom had a steady flow of callers from eastern Australia.



Above: Tom VK5FTRG on the mic at the summit. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

After Tom had finished on 40m, I had a short go on 20m and managed a total of 38 contacts into VK2, VK5, VK6, USA, Japan, England, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium, Russia, and Latvia.

This included the following summit to summit contacts:

- MoIML/p (G/ SE-015)
- 2EoYYY/p (G/ SP-013)
- M1EYP/p (G/ SP-015)
- VK6NU/p (VK6/SW-039)



Above: Paul VK5PAS at the trig point, on air. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

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

<http://vk5pas.org/>

The 5th Summer activation event

By Paul VK5PAS

The 5th Summer activation event was held on Friday 13th March 2015. Well it was not quite summer, but nevertheless still a very beautiful afternoon and evening, and LOTS of park activity again for a 2nd fortnight in a row, which is great to see.

I heard on air, and have read on various Yahoo groups and Facebook sites, that there are very many appreciate and happy park hunters out there.

And that the Friday evenings are proving to be very popular.

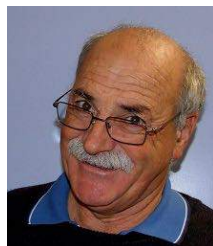
Here is a list of the 10 x parks activated and the relevant activators:-

1. Scott Creek Conservation Park, John VK5BJE
2. Cromer Conservation Park,

3. David VK5NQP Ettrick Conservation Park, Geoff VK5HEL
4. Ferries McDonald Conservation Park, Peter VK5PET
5. Pike River Conservation Park, Peter VK5FLEX
6. Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park, Gordon VK5GY
7. Bird Island Conservation Park, Adrian VK5FANA
8. Ferguson Conservation Park, Arno VK5ZAR
9. Mount Remarkable National Park, Les VK5KLV
10. Charleston Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS.

Ettrick Conservation Park

By Geoff VK5HEL



National Parks and

Wildlife (Ettrick Conservation Park)
Proclamation 2013
Made by the Governor's Deputy being of the opinion that the Crown land described should be protected and preserved for the purpose of conserving any wildlife and the natural features of the land and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council on 31 October 2013.

South Australian Conservation Park
Ettrick, 30km northeast of Murray Bridge.

The 484-hectare park was proclaimed on October 31 with the passage of legislation through the State Parliament.



Above:- The location of Ettrick CP, near Murray Bridge

Most of the park is open mallee, which is made up of several species of eucalypt, but it is also home to one of the few remaining examples of tussock grassland in this part of the Murray-

Darling Basin.

This area is listed as critically endangered, so it's vital we do everything we can to protect it.

It is also home to various birds including the shy heathwren, hooded robin, white-winged chough, jacky winter, restless flycatcher and painted buttonquail and vulnerable South Australian native birds including the malleefowl and the regent parrot.



Above:- A Shy Heathwren

Arriving for the 13th March Friday evening activation via Boundary road on the western side of the road and discovered the gates open but sign posted proclaiming;

Branched Broomrape Quarantine Area KEEP OUT.



Above:- Quarantine sign at the park.
Image courtesy of Geoff VK5HEL

I drove to the northern park gate off Glennburr road to be confronted with a similar sign.

I set up the antenna just inside the park and operated from the open gate way.

The warm evening was ideal for being out and about, clear blue sky, no wind 40mtr open and active.



Above:- The operating spot. Image courtesy of Geoff VK5HEL

I quickly made contact on 40mtr with Arno VK5ZAR at Ferguson CP during which the cheap crocodile clips on the battery over heated causing the radio

to fade during TX. I removed the clips and bolted the cable directly to the battery, its great having a back up solution, problem solved.

Peter VK5FLEX at Pike River CP proved my repairs successful.

I caught the end or the Kandos group on 7.093 at 06:25z and after the last 73 was heard made enquiries and with nothing heard began calling on 7.093, and received 28 VK contacts during the following hour including 9 park to park contacts for the evening.

A big thank you to the stations helping the evening to be successful and putting up spots on the various web sites, many of these parks are well outside of mobile phone coverage. The VK5HEL log @ 10w QRP:-

- VK5ZAR Arno, Ferguson CP
- VK5FLEX Peter, Pike River CP
- VK2FMIA Doug, Horton Falls NP VKFF-594
- VK3DAC Fred Melbourne

- VK3OHM Marc Melbourne
- VK3PMG Mick Stawell
- VK5WG Nev Crystal Brook
- VK5KLV Les 5 w QRP Mt Remarkable NP
- VK5NQP David Cromer CP
- VK3ANL Nick NE Melbourne
- VK3FQSO Amanda Wedderburn
- VK3PF Peter Latrobe
- VK3FPSR Peter Melbourne
- VK3TQ Peter Woodend
- VK5PET Peter Ferries McDonald CP
- VK5GY Gordon 5w QRP Kenneth Stirling CP
- VK3CC Colin Maryborough
- VK5FBJD Brenton Hawthorndene
- VK3DPB Paul Melbourne
- VK3BEF Merv Wimmera
- VK3ARR Andrew Geelong
- VK5YX Hans 7w QRP Hallett Cove
- VK5FANA Adrian 5w QRP Bird Islands CP
- VK5FCOL Colin Murray Bridge
- VK3FSPG Steve Mornington

- Peninsula
- VK5NAQ Peter Balakalava
- VK5ZRK Rod Ridgehaven
- VK5GJ Greg Meadows
- VK5EE Tom Mt Gambier

Cromer Conservation Park

By David VK5NQP



I decided to go out to Cromer CP for the Friday the 13th twilight activation due to the fact that it has just been added to the World Wide Flora & Fauna Award. It would give chasers points towards two awards for the one contact.

I stopped at the same spot I had activated at previously as there is a nice flat area outside the fence to park the car off the road & some shade amongst the trees.

I decided to try out my latest antenna for 40m, an end fed half wave. I bought the SOTA beams matching unit to match the high impedance of the end fed to the radio's 50 ohms. I was soon set up & the lighter weight of the centre of the end fed meant much less strain at the top of the squid pole.

I was soon ready to go & tuned around looking for other activators & after tweaking the matching unit, my ear drums were soon getting blasted by strong signals everywhere. I had the volume turned almost to nothing & very strong sounds in the headphones. Not sure if it was the antenna or just very good conditions.



Above:- The Cromer Conservation Park. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

First contact was Arno 5ZAR in Ferguson CP, then worked John 5BJE in Scott Creek, Geoff 5HEL in Ettrick, Paul 5PAS in Charleston, Peter 5FLEX in Pike River, &

Adrian 5FANA in Birds Island. I found a clear frequency and regular chaser Amanda 3FQSO called in & spotted me. Then came a rapid parade from VK5, VK3 & one from VK2 Doug 2FMIA in Horton Falls National Park.

I also worked Peter 5PET in Ferries McDonald CP & Les 5KLV in Mt Remarkable NP and Gordon 5GY in Kenneth Stirling CP.

I had a tune around on 20m for about half an hour & there were plenty of english stations working VKs, but my 5watts was not enough to be heard by them.

I went back to 40m & got Rob VK4FFAB just as the sun was hitting the horizon, so then decided to pack up while it was still light.

It was a lovely evening with 22 QSOs, 11 of them Park to Park. The kangaroos started to come out of the park to feed in the paddocks on the other side of the road as the sun sunk close to the horizon and birds were flitting through the trees. At one stage a flock of black cockatoos flew overhead, I don't think I

have ever seen them in the Adelaide hills before. I have seen them over on Eyre peninsular before.

I was very pleased with the EFHW antenna, maybe it's the short piece of coax that makes it better instead of 9m from the top of the squid pole to the radio with the dipole. Most signals boomed in.

My first ever park activation

By Peter VK5PET



What began by talking to Paul, VK5PAS, one afternoon while he was in Horsnell Gully CP, has turned in to a new part of the hobby for me, as I set out to activate Ferries MacDonald Conservation Park on Friday 13th March.

With me was my dear

XYL, who had given me my Yaesu 817 for Christmas, powered by a S.L.A.B. and the gear recommended by Paul in his talks to radio clubs.

We set up in a clearing just off the road through the park at just after 5pm. Only one difficulty arose; the squid pole would not stay up in the holder I had for the purpose, so my wife took on the task of sitting and holding it for the duration of the activation!



Above:- My wife holding the squid pole. Image courtesy of Peter VK5PET

It was 5:40pm that saw my first contact with John, VK5BJE in Scott Creek CP, with an RST of 5/7, no noise, very clear audio. And so it continued for the next hour, with even a queue to manage at times, from other activators and chasers, from locally, Victorian High Country, Melbourne and other parts of Victoria, as well as Mt Gambier and

Balaklava.

The 817 worked beautifully, and the linked dipole was certainly worth the effort to build, just need to remake the support and we will be ready for the next one.



Above:- On air. Image courtesy of Peter VK5PET.

I had great fun, 20 contacts in all, including 8 Park to Park contacts, and even my good wife was not bored.

Many thanks to VK5 PAS for his help and encouragement.

I am now looking forward to the next opportunity on the anniversary weekend, hope to hear from you!

73s, Peter VK5PET

SOTA issues in Germany

By Paul VK5PAS



It has been proposed that numerous Summits in the DM region of Germany are to be removed as they only have 100 metre prominence and not 150 metre prominence (P100 rule).

For full details you can view the conversation on the SOTA Reflector.....

<http://reflector.sota.org.uk/t/p100-p150/10456/121>

You can also view some very interesting conversation on the SOTA Facebook site at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/326575377530980/permalink/357505884437929/>

A trip to Bird Islands Conservation Park

By Adrian VK5FANA



Bird Islands Conservation Park consists of an area 369 hectares in size and is 2 Islands off shore and the coastal fringe land area which is Grey Mangroves and Coastal fringe vegetation.



Above:- The Bird Islands CP Image courtesy of Adrian VK5FANA.

After activating Clinton And Wills Creek Conservation Parks the fortnight before I thought

why not go out and try Bird Islands working from the Land based area of the park so decided to do a pre activation inspection the day prior and what fun that proved to be, firstly in finding the park signs (only 1 remains intact) which took quite a drive along the coastal fringe area and at the southern end found the last intact sign as all the rest seem to have been smashed down and used for fires it lead me to wonder how long since any parks staff have been near the place.

So after finding a good spot to set up on Friday night, I headed home and packed the 4x4 ready to go.



Image courtesy of Adrian VK5FANA.

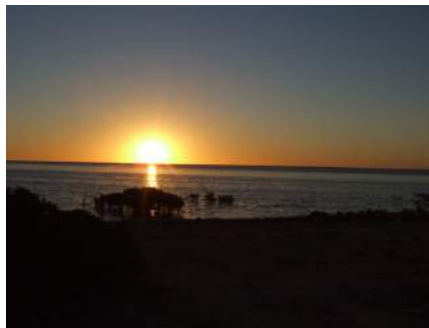
Friday was a beautiful Yorke Peninsula day so in the afternoon I proceeded to my activation spot and set up the Sota Beams dipole on the 8mtr squid pole rigged for 40m ready for QRP activation much

to the amusement of 2 fisherman a little further down the beach

So after explaining what I was up to I put a spot up and starting calling CQ with at first a few steady calls and then getting occasional pile ups.

But everybody was understanding of my only getting 2 or 3 callsigns down at a time and nobody missed out (that I know of)

After about an hour the sun started to set and the breeze came in straight of the water and I was pleased I had decided to throw in a jacket just in case. Actually a beanie may have been a good idea as well but I survived and at the end of my evening I had managed to get 53 stations logged. The last being from the 7.130 DX Net, FO5JW William which was a pleasing end to my night.



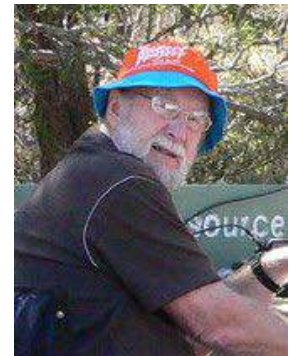
Above:- Sunset . Image courtesy of Adrian VK5FANA.

Thanks again to everybody that answered my calls and for the good signal reports look forward to working you all again soon.

VK5FANA Adrian

Ferguson Conservation Park

By Arno VK5ZAR



Hi all,

I was portable on Friday 13th March 2015 at the Ferguson Conservation Park for a couple of hours and I would like to thank the 22 people who contacted me which included 8 park to park contacts and 9 x VK3 contacts.



Above:- The Ferguson Conservation Park. Image courtesy of Arno VK5ZAR



Above:- The operating spot. Image courtesy of Arno VK5ZAR

I normally pack up just before dusk as I am by myself and with older eyes it is almost impossible to see my linked dipole antenna wires I the trees or on the ground, etc.



Above:- On air in the park. Image courtesy of Arno VK5ZAR

The equipment used is a Yaesu FT817nd looped via a 45 watt amp (not used on this occasion), to an inverted V linked dipole hanging from a 9m squid pole with 10m of RG58 coax. All running from a 7Ah SLAB.

73's

Arno VK5ZAR.

RECENT VK5 SOTA ACTIVATIONS / ACTIVATORS



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

1. VK5/ SE-017 South Hummocks, Ian VK5CZ (29/3/2015)
2. VK5/ NE-058 The Bluff, Ian VK5CZ (22/3/2015)
3. VK5/ NE-089 Richmond Hill, Ian VK5CZ (19/3/2015)

4. VK5/ SE-013 Mount Gawler, Nigel VK5NIG (19/3/2015)
5. VK5/ NE-010 Mount Remarkable, Ian VK5CZ (17/3/2015)
6. VK5/ SE-013 Mount Gawler, Nigel VK5NIG (8/3/2015)
7. VK5/ SE-013 Mount Gawler, Tom VK5FTRG (7/3/2015)
8. VK5/ SE-013 Mount Gawler, Paul VK5PAS (7/3/2015)
9. VK5/ SE-005, Mount Lofty, Bob VK5FO (1/3/2015)

Out and About in the Mid North

By Gordon VK5GY



The March long weekend was on the horizon, and I was keen to get "out and about". Question was where to.

The essential ingredients, for me at least, were somewhere nice to stay,

spectacular scenery and pub nearby that does a great schnitzel. And of course the opportunity to play radio.

I've stayed in Burra a couple of times when travelling for work, it's a pretty town and appeared to meet my criteria, plus I had never had the chance to have a look around the town and surrounding area. A quick look at the map revealed four conservation parks, Mokota, Pandappa, Caroon Creek Red Banks, and a SOTA summit, Mount Cone in the area.

A little more Googeling brought up some information about a "tourist" drive in the area. Initially my thoughts were, tourist drive, well perhaps when I'm in my dotage, and own a small hatchback. However reading further it started to sound more attractive. Plus it went right past Pandappa CP.

So, it was decided, accommodation was booked at the Burra Cabin Motor Inn, which I have stayed at previously and I find is quite a nice place, and plans were made.

We arrived late afternoon Saturday after doing a brief rece of Red Banks on the way, got settled in to the room, and had a nice meal in the Jumbucks restaurant which is on the motel site. After that a couple of glasses of red grape juice sat on the veranda at the back of the room overlooking the creek, it had been a full moon the previous evening, so the moon was till very bright that night, all in all a very pleasant day.

Up early (ish) the next morning and set off to embark upon Tourist Route 21, which starts at (or ends, of Course) at Terowie, then heads out to the east, and about 120 k later rejoins the Barrier Highway at Hallett. First stop was in Terowie, an old railway town, and almost deserted now. We stopped briefly in the yard of the old railway station to cook up sausage sandwiches and brew a cuppa for breakfast, both of which were magnificent, well as long as you could eat faster than the flies, which I must say were abundant.

Terowie railway station is an interesting place, the site of a speech by General Douglas MacArthur, at the end of which he stated he would return, I don't think he has been back yet though, also home to Bob, the railway dog, AKA Terowie Bob.

There is plenty of information about the tourist route on the internet, which takes you through some magnificent scenery, and past some interesting ruins, as well as thorough spectacular and constantly changing country, and by the way, you cant do it in a small hatchback!



Image courtesy of Gordon VK5GY

First stop was Pandappa CP, which is about 20 k in to the drive. The park is

easy to find, and we set up just inside the main gate. I was using my FT857, in conjunction with the traditional seven metre squid pole (known as a roach pole where I come from) along with the MKII linked dipole in inverted V fashion.



Image courtesy of Gordon VK5GY

11 contacts were had on 40 metres. I would no doubt of had more contacts if I had publicised my intentions sooner, however the trip was a bit ad-hoc and I wasn't sure what we would be doing when. However it was still very enjoyable, and it was a new park for a number of people. After the activation we went for a walk down one of the park track, very nearly walking in to the home of one of our large friends belonging to the arachnid family, it was a huge web, strung across the width of the track, which must have been about three metres across, and it

went well above head height and nearly to the ground. Good job we spotted it in time, as Mr Spider was home, and a pretty impressive specimen he or she was.



Image courtesy of Gordon VK5GY

After the walk we had a cuppa, packed up and set about tackling the rest of the tourist route. I don't have time to go in to much detail about the drive at the moment, but as I said above, plenty of detail available on the internet.

Finishing the drive at Hallett, and in the last five kilometres having passed fields containing some very impressive looking angus cattle thoughts turned to getting back to the motel, washing the dust off and a steak, which turned out to be a beef schnitzel at the pub, though it was pretty good.

Monday morning, and up a little earlier and heading off to Caroon

CP via Mount Byan and White Hill Road. This road also takes you through some spectacular country. The road up to the park goes through some private land, though it is a public road, and right past a homestead, we bumped in to the chap from the homestead and stopped for a brief but very pleasant chat, he was a bit of a character to say the least, and had the most menacing looking blue heeler I have ever seen with him, though the dog was actually pretty grey, he looked like he could still handle himself. Having confirmed we were on the right road, we were on our way again.

The park was pretty easy to find and there is a road to the camping ground and a general open area that contains a large shed. We bumped in to one of the DEWNR rangers and had a chat with her for 15 mins or so, then it was cook up some sausage and egg sandwiches for breakfast, and the obligatory cuppa of course.

I had spotted myself of parksneaks for this activation though I was a

little later setting up that I anticipated. 16 contacts were had at Carroona, again all on 40 metres. As we needed to be back in Adelaide for early evening, I packed up and set off for Red Banks, which is about 30 k south of Carroona. Again some nice country to drive through.



Image courtesy of Gordon VK5GY

Red Banks is a very impressive park, again with a camping ground and a central area you can drive to. Having announced my intentions during the previous activation this was the busiest of all. 25 contacts were had, all on 40 metres, with VK5, VK3 and one VK7. It was a glorious afternoon, around 24 degrees with a gentle breeze, well gentle until a very strong gust came along. I was in QSO with Stuart VK5STU, when I heard a rather odd noise. At first I thought it was an aircraft, as we heard a few of those, they

must be still climbing as the plane passed overhead the area as the noise was very apparent in the quiet of the parks. In this case though the noise got louder and louder, then I noticed some nearby trees begin to sway, and sway and then start to shake. Looking in the direction of the trees and the way they were moving all sorts of strange thoughts occurred, half expecting to see a T-rex come crashing through the trees the wind suddenly hit us, it lasted about a minute, but it incredibly strong, the log book blew off the table first, and within seconds I was having to hold the table down, the antenna came down, and then a 'dust devil' went past about 10 metres away, and as quickly as it arrived it was gone and peace returned. I quickly got the antenna back up, and continued with Stuart. Then it was time to pack up and head back to the big city.

All in all a very enjoyable long weekend. I have always enjoyed portable operation, even going back to my early days in ham radio, which was a long time ago, first

licensed as G8MGE in 1976. then the interest was in 2 Metre SSB activity. I also held the call sign 3DAoBN between 1997 and 2000, and did some interesting portable activity during that period, but more of that another time.

Thanks to Stuart VK5STU for mentioning the Parks symposium that was held at AHARS a while back (I really can't remember how long ago that was), it really got me interested in getting out and about again with the radio gear.

73, de VK5GY.

John Moyle Field Day

By Paul VK5PAS



The 2015 John Moyle Field Day was held on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March 2015. The

Field Day ran from 0100 UTC on the Saturday to 0059 UTC on the Sunday.

The aim of the JMMFD is to encourage and provide familiarization with portable and field operation, and provide training for emergency situations.

I headed down to the Coorong National Park, VKFF-115, for the JMMFD and I set up at Parnka Point, a short distance from 'Hell's Gate' which is the narrowest point of the Coorong.



Above:- Sunset at the Coorong.
Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

I competed in the 6 hour section. I ended up with a total of 238 QSOs. Thanks to everyone that called.

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

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle/>

RECENT VK5 PARK ACTIVATIONS

Again for this period, some excellent park activations. This included the 4th and 5th Summer twilight activation afternoon / evening events.

Below are the activations I am aware of (the list below does not include the 2nd year anniversary weekend. That list is located on Page 46).

- Nuyts Archipelago Conservation Park, Craig VK5CE/p (31/5/2015)
- Monarto CP VKFF-828, Paul VK5PAS (22/3/2015)
- Winninowie CP, Les VK5KLV (22/3/2015)
- Winninowie CP, Peter VK5KPR (22/3/2015)
- Coorong NP VKFF-115, Paul VK5PAS (21/3/2015)
- Scott Creek CP VKFF-788, John VK5BJE/p (15/3/2015)
- Penambol CP, Greg VK5ZGY (14/3/2015)
- Bird Islands Conservation Park, Adrian VK5FANA (13/3/2015)
- Charleston Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (13/3/2015)
- Scott Creek Conservation Park, John VK5BJE (13/3/2015)
- Cromer Conservation Park, David VK5NQP (13/3/2015)
- Ettrick Conservation Park, Geoff VK5HEL (13/3/2015)
- Ferries McDonald Conservation Park, Peter VK5PET (13/3/2015)
- Pike River Conservation Park, Peter VK5FLEX (13/3/2015)
- Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park, Gordon VK5GY (13/3/2015)
- Ferguson Conservation Park, Arno VK5ZAR (13/3/2015)
- Mount Remarkable National Park, Les VK5KLV (13/3/2015)
- Carroona Creek CP, Gordon VK5GY (9/3/2015)

- Red Banks CP,
Gordon VK5GY
(9/3/2015)
- Pandappa CP,
Gordon VK5GY
(8/3/2015)
- Murray River NP,
Peter VK5FLEX
(8/3/2015)
- Eurilla Conservation
Park, John VK5BJE
(8/3/2015)
- Ridley Conservation
Park, Paul VK5PAS
(8/3/2015)
- Marne Valley
Conservation Park,
Paul VK5PAS
(8/3/2015)
- Cromer
Conservation Park,
Paul VK5PAS
(6/3/2015)
- Porter Scrub
Conservation Park,
Paul VK5PAS
(1/3/2015)
- Scott Conservation
Park, Gordon VK5GY
(1/3/2015)
- Gower
Conservation Park,
Col VK5HCF
(27/2/2015)
- Gower
Conservation Park,
Tom VK5EE
(27/2/2015)
- Gower
Conservation Park,
Alan VK5FAJS
(27/2/2015)
- Morialta
Conservation Park,
Chris VK4FR/5
(27/2/2015)
- Clinton
Conservation Park,
Adrian VK5FANA
(27/2/2015)
- Wills Creek
Conservation Park,
Adrian VK5FANA
(27/2/2015)
- Scott Creek
Conservation Park,
John VK5BJE
(27/2/2015)
- Ferries McDonald
Conservation Park,
Geoff VK5HEL
(27/2/2015)
- Monarto
Conservation Park,
Geoff VK5HEL
(27/2/2015)
- Ramsay Way
Conservation Park,
Richard VK5ZRY
(27/2/2015)
- Winninowie
Conservation Park,
Les VK5KLV
(27/2/2015)
- Onkaparinga River
National Park, Paul
VK5PAS
(27/2/2015)

For a laugh



Cartoon courtesy of
<http://www.crazy4teachers.com>

Big changes planned for SA Parks

By Paul VK5PAS

A few weeks ago I was tipped off by John VK5BJE that there were 'big changes planned' for SA Parks. John referred me to a Consultation Draft relating to 'Amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972'.

I have read through this document, which is 65 pages long. In essence it

is proposed that the Act is amended to introduce a new reserve category system for South Australia.

The amendments include modernising the reserve categories by establishing a clearly defined system of reserve categories; including overarching objects for the reserve system and its management; and providing clarity on which reserve categories provide for mining access and other extractive uses.

It is proposed that there is a reduction in the number of National Parks, and increase in the number of Conservation Parks, and changes in the classification of certain parks (e.g. Granite Island Recreation Park becomes a Conservation Park, and Deep Creek Conservation Park becomes a National Park).

I have contacted the Department Environment Water & Natural Resources (DEWNR), twice now, and never received a reply.

So I am not sure what the current status of this Consultation draft bill is.

I will keep you posted, as if it passes through Parliament, there will be significant changes to the VK5 Parks Award & WWFF in Australia.

If you wish to read the Consultation Draft in full, I have uploaded a file to the Files section of the VK5 Parks Yahoo group.

Recent Award recipients (from VK5)



Just a reminder that if you wish to apply for VK5 Parks awards, **please ONLY use the spreadsheets which can be found on either the VK5 Parks Yahoo group or the VK5 Parks website.**

I no longer have the time to go through other forms of applications.

SOTA of course has its own excellent database and all awards are applied for on line.

<http://www.sota.org.uk/>

And this is also the case with the WWFF program which uses the LogSearch program. With WWFF I no longer accept spreadsheets or emails. You can only apply for VKFF awards via LogSearch.

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

WWFF

Adrian VK5FANA

- Silver VKFF Hunter



SOTA

Adrian VK5FANA

- 100 points Chaser (QRP).



VK5 Parks Award

Local recipients

Geoff VK5HEL

- Bronze Hunter.

Interstate recipients.

Rob VK4FFAB

- Bronze Hunter
- Silver Hunter

Brett VK3FLCS

- Bronze Hunter

Mick VK3PMG

- Gold Hunter
- Platinum Hunter
- Bronze Conservation Parks Uniques - Hunter
- Bronze National Park Uniques - Hunter
- Silver National Parks Uniques-Hunter



Andrew VK3ARR

- Silver Hunter
- Gold Hunter
- Bronze National Parks Uniques Hunter
- Bronze Conservation Parks Uniques Hunter

KRMNPA

NIL known

PLEASE, if you have qualified for an award for SOTA, the VK5Parks Award & WWFF let me know, so I can add it to the list.

VK5 Parks & WWFF is not so important, due to the fact I am the Awards Manager.

But please send me any info on your global WWFF awards, and also info on your SOTA Awards. These are harder for me to track down.

As such, a quick email would be appreciated.

Transportation of gear

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently saw a post on one of the Facebook sites from Marc VK3OHM, regarding suggestions for carrying his portable equipment (see below Marc's case that he carries gear in).



Image courtesy of Marc VK3OHM

Personally, I carry all my gear in plastic tubs. For park activations that is. For SOTA I pack up my backpack, and try to keep that as light as possible.

I use Pelican cases with foam inserts for carrying around the transceivers for my park activations. And I must admit that I just place my Yaesu FT-817 in a pillow case and place this in my backpack, when I am activating SOTA.

I wonder what everyone else is doing?

2015 WIA Convention

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder, that in June, 2015, I am heading over to Canberra for the 2015 WIA Convention. I will be delivering a presentation on Saturday about the VK5 Parks Award and WWFF, with specific emphasis based on the involvement of Foundation calls.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Foundation licence, thus

the emphasis on that subject.

Andrew VK1NAM will also be delivering a presentation on the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program.

If you have any park activation news and info that pertains to Foundation operators, I would be very keen to hear from you.

New Facebook site for the VK5 Parks Award

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder of the newly formed Facebook site for the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award.

It can be found at....

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

For those of you that use

Facebook, I would encourage you to join this new group.

Feel free to post any interesting information, intended activations, photographs, and videos.

Fast Log entry

By Paul VK5PAS

Fast Log Entry, abbreviated as (FLE), is a text editor to enter QSO data as easy and as fast as possible without redundancy.

The FLE tool is extremely useful if you use a paper log in the field, and would like to generate an ADIF file for upload to an electronic log at a later time.

FLE is a freeware program.

I highly recommend it and is what I use. I use a paper log in the field, but then create an ADIF file for each activation, which I upload to my electronic log, which is MacLogger DX.

The FLE website and download can be found at....

<http://www.df3cb.com/fl e/>

Here is a link to a video tutorial on FLE.....

<http://fast-log-entry.software.informer.com/>

ANZAC Centennary

By Paul VK5PAS



Image courtesy of wikipedia.org

I have successfully applied on behalf of the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS) to use the special call signs of VK100ANZAC and VI5ANZAC on a number of occasions during 2015.

One of those will be for Sunday the 4th October, 2015, when permission has been given to operate as VI5ANZAC from the Belair National Park.

There is an avenue of California Redwood trees that were planted in 1962 as a memorial to the Australian and American Allied Forces who served in WW2 & Korea. I, in company with other members of AHARS, will be operating at this location.

So keep a listen out for VI5ANZAC on 4th October 2015 at Belair National Park, VKFF-022.

Recent videos

By Paul VK5PAS

Here is a list of recent activator videos.....

Col VK5HCF & Tom VK5EE at the Narracoorte Caves National Park.

<http://youtu.be/oAPKYS eCDmQ>

Bob VK5FO also has some videos on his Wordpress site at.....

<http://vk5fo.com/>

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS

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

- Gordon VK5GY

What do you need to go portable?

By Paul VK5PAS

I thought I would talk a bit about bothy bags. I can hear some of you asking now, what the hell is a bothy bag?

A bothy bag is a portable lightweight emergency shelter which is made of waterproof fabric, which is designed for use in wilderness to protect from harsh environment and avoid hypothermia.

The front of a bothy bag may have one or more transparent windows and the back usually has a vent sleeve. A small bothy bag typically weights about 300 grams.

I have a bothy bag which I have put to very good use whilst I've been on the top of a summit, and whilst out in parks.

It is a Mountain Leaders 2-3 man Bothy bag, which I purchased from the Outdoor Superstore in the UK, via ebay.



A bothy bag in your kit certainly won't go unused.

SERG Convention 2015

By Col VK5HCF



**South East Radio
Group, 51st
Convention and
Foxhunting Weekend.**

When:

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June 2015. Doors open Saturday 7th at midday and 9:00am on Sunday.

Where:

Mount Gambier Scout Group Hall in Margaret Street, Mount Gambier.

Catering:

Excellent, reasonably priced catering will be continuously available for the duration of the convention including the famous steak sandwich, soup, hamburgers, Sunday breakfast selection, cakes and goodies, coffee, soft drinks and of course a happy smile from the helpers.

The highly successful Convention Dinner on Sunday evening will be repeated this year.

What:

The Australian Fox Hunting Championship is a highlight of the event. Beginning at 11:00 AM on the Saturday the nine event programme runs until early Sunday afternoon. Some events may need physical agility and speed, others guile and there is always an

event or two to surprise and challenge the competitors.

A home brew competition with great prizes will be held as is our tradition and there are tables of new equipment, pre-loved gear and parts that no shack should be without.

Paul, VK5PAS will have a table with information on S.O.T.A., The VK5 Parks Award and the Worldwide Flora and Fauna Award as well.

Entry fee is \$5 for the weekend and this includes the lucky door prize raffle. To book a table contact our Secretary via email using vk5sr@wia.org.au

Contact us:

Programme information and where to find us may be found on the club website at

<http://serg.mountgambier.org>

Accommodation should be booked early as this is a busy weekend in Mount Gambier.

QSL cards

By Paul VK5PAS

This is a new section, where I will place any QSL cards received from stations activating SOTA peaks and parks.

If you have any QSL cards that you've received from a SOTA or Park activator, please send me a scanned copy, and I will place them in the newsletter.

VK9N/SM3TLG



VK2FMIA

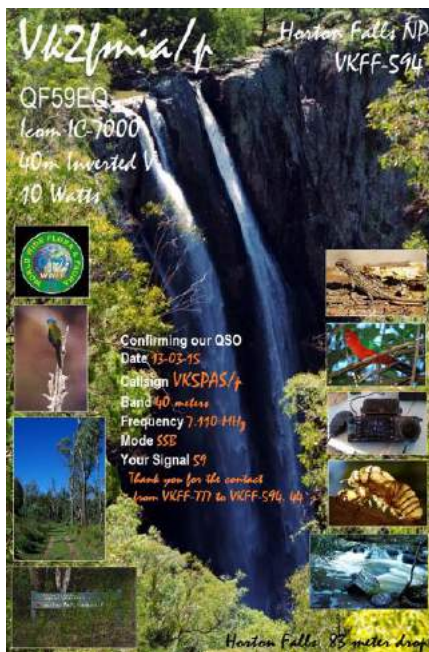
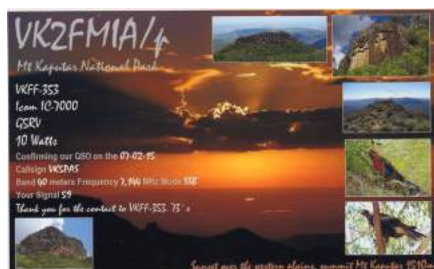


Image courtesy of upfromaustralia.com

So when you make that next contact with an interstate station whilst you are sitting on a SOTA summit or in a park, just have a think about how far that signal of yours is actually travelling.

Taking our size for granted

By Paul VK5PAS

I often think about how much for granted we as Aussies, take the size of Australia for granted. What we call a 'local' contact, in other parts of the world they call a DX contact.

As an example, a contact between a VK2 in Sydney with a VK6 in Perth....this is a distance of about 4,000 km.

Getting Started with Li Po batteries

By John VK5BJE



Introduction

In my life time battery technology has changed dramatically. When I studied for my licence (in the early 1970's) there were just two types in common use by

amateurs: alkaline dry cells (1.5 volts) and lead acid batteries (approximately two volts per cell). Then came Nicads (Nickel Cadmium) and what a huge step forward they were. Good quality ones could be re-charged many times, e.g. 300/400, but I did better than that keeping some in service for over 20 years. But they were heavy, gave 1.2 volts per cell and developed a memory if they were not fully discharged before re-charging.

Then came various lithium chemistry batteries. Lithium ion batteries are commonly made for hand-held radios. They can be recharged at any time they are small and have pretty good capacity. My hand held radios use these.

Lithium Polymer

I am going to provide a brief introduction to Li Po Batteries. In a later article I will introduce Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries (LiFePO₄).

These batteries were developed for the Radio Control market. They are built into pouches or plastic containers not

metal cylinders. So there is a weight saving up front. And there is no lead (Pb) and this is very important in reducing weight. The picture (1) shows two lithium polymer batteries. The first one is rated at 4000 milliamp hours and it weighs 650 grams. It contains four cells (4s) rated at a nominal 14.8 volts. The cell voltage is 2.7 v discharged and 4.23 fully charged and they need to be protected during the charging process by limiting the voltage to per cell.

And the second one is a 5000 mAh two (2s) battery producing 7.4 volts: ideal for powering a hand held radio all day. They are from different manufacturers. The larger battery is wrapped in tape and the second one is in a hard plastic container.

These batteries require charging with a balanced charger and care needs to be taken when charging. I place Li Po batteries on a concrete floor, or a china plate for charging. I also remain nearby during the charging process.

There are lots of horror stories about Li Po

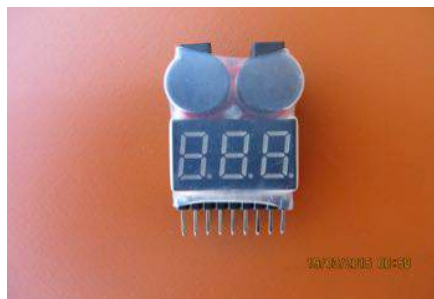
batteries exploding, catching fire and generally causing mayhem. There are no shortage of illustrations on *You tube*. However, care needs to be taken and it is wise to keep the battery from getting hot. Picture 3 shows a Li Po bag. I always store my batteries in this bag at home and for travelling and in the car I always bury the bag under clothes and other insulating material to keep them cool. I have used mine in four states, charged them in hotel rooms and taken them into parks and onto peaks without any problems. I always use the alarm which causes great consternation amongst the wild-life when it goes off when the battery reaches its discharge voltage! I always use an inline voltmeter after the battery and voltage reduction circuitry and before the radio and keep an eye on this during my operations.



Picture 1

You will notice two leads coming from each battery. The thick leads are for taking the power to the load and for charging. The multi-stranded cables are for balancing and powering a Li Po alarm.

Picture 2 shows a Li Po alarm. These alarms are cheap (\$2 or \$3 each depending on where you purchase them) and are usually programmed to send off the alarm at the nominated minimum voltage. You will have to work out how to plug them into the cable, because the alarms have more pins than the balance connector. Once the alarm is working it will cycle through the cells: 1, 2, 3 and 4 or 1 and 2 and you can see the voltage read from each cell. All voltages will be close. Obviously the alarm is disconnected when charging.



Picture 2: Li Po alarm



Picture 3: Li Po bag

There is plenty of room for four or five batteries under 5000 mAh in my bag. After struggling with lead acid batteries and carrying at least two on hikes these are simply marvellous.

If and when you decide to use Li Po batteries you will need to do some other calculations and adjustments because there batteries are not designed for 13.8 volt radios. Li Po batteries come in a variety of voltages: it all depends on how many cells are put together to make the battery. Amateurs typically use either three or four cell batteries. If you use an FT817nd only, you may choose to use a three cell Li Po battery. An FT817 can operate at a lower voltage than 100 watt radios. If you use a variety of radios then buy four cell batteries and make a voltage reducer.



Picture 4: In-line voltage/power meter

My nominal 14.8 volt battery when fully charged puts out 16.2 volts without a load. You will see with these batteries compared with lead-acid batteries that they are stiff. That is it will continue to read quite high until the battery begins to drain.

Picture 5 shows two voltage reduction circuits: one using three diodes and one using two diodes. These rely on the forward voltage drop of about one volt per diode to reduce the voltage to a safe level for your radio. I begin with three diodes and finish with two. Those of you who have read QST over the years and other US publications will have seen various projects, including QRP transmitters, built into an *Altoids* tin. Those of you who can read a mirror image will see that I used an *Altoids* tin for my three diode reducer. And I purchased this tin full of

mints in Adelaide! This method of voltage reduction is not perfect. But it is entirely satisfactory for QRP and low power operations, say to 20 watts PEP. If you want an absolutely stiff supply I would use a regulator circuit (see Smith, 1983, pp 2, 3 for a discussion of load characteristics). Hallas (2015, pp. 39 – 41) has suggestions for a one and two diode reducer for a four cell battery where a sensor and relay switches out the second diode when the voltage reaches the appropriate point in the discharge cycle. I can say that my manual system relying on checking with a voltmeter works well in practice and has done so over nearly two years.



Use heavy duty diodes. Mine are rated at 1000 volts and 7 amperes. They will dissipate quite a bit of heat, especially if you are using key down

modes, such as CW or digital.

Lithium Polymer batteries are available from model shops in Adelaide and are a good investment if you find you are becoming *addicted* to portable activity in parks and peaks, especially if you combine your radio activities with walking and climbing.

References

Dawes, J., 2014, *Using Lithium Phosphate Chemistry Batteries*, Paper prepared for Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society, Parks & Peaks Symposium, 9th March 2014.

Hallas, P., 2015, *Voltage Reducer for Lithium-ion Polymer Four-Cell Batteries*, QST, April 2015, pp. 39 – 41.

Smith, D., 1983, *Australian Semiconductor Data & Application Book for the Practical Engineer & Weekend Professional*, 2nd Edition, Dick Smith Management Pty Ltd. North Ryde.

The time zone saga

By Paul VK5PAS



As most would know there has been a lot of talk about the possibility of changing South Australia's time zone.

South Australia is one of only a few places around the world that has a half hour time zone.

There have been some very interesting comments made publically about the proposed time zone change.

I noted that the ANZ Chairman, Jane Yuile, stated that the half hour was 'a bit confusing'. Personally I'm not really sure what she means by that. She also went on to say that it creates confusion with meetings nationally, and also created confusion with

doing business in the Pacific region and internationally.

A 2008 report conducted by the SA Centre for Economic studies identified a gain for South Australia of 569 million dollars a year through a combination of savings and revenue gains which would flow from aligning our clocks with the south east Australia commercial hub.

Recently there were consultation meetings over on the Eyre Peninsula, where clearly any time changes may have some big impacts.

There is a website which I would encourage you to all attend and place your vote. The website can be found at.....

www.yoursay.sa.gov.au

References.

www.adelaide.now.com.au

Space Weather Prediction Center

By Paul VK5PAS

Get advance warning of solar storms and geomagnetic forecasts sent to your email.

Simply go to the "Subscribe" button on the SWPC site.

As an example, 10m and 12m often has great openings just prior to a solar storm hitting the earth.

SWPC provides a wide range of alerts, warnings, watches and forecasts you can receive through e-mail within moments of being issued.

Visit the SWPC website at.....

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

Holes in the sun

By Paul VK5PAS

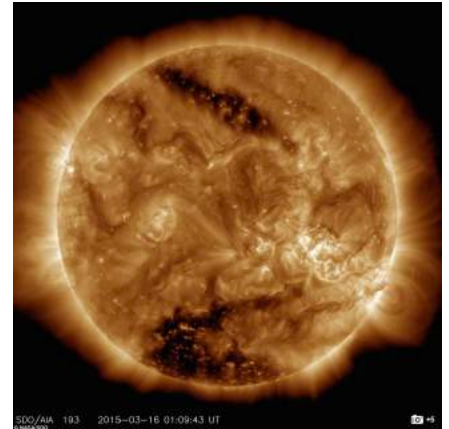


Image courtesy of www.dailymail.co

NASA has spotted a pair of huge 'holes' on the surface of the sun. They cover almost 10% of the solar surface.

For more info, click on this link.....

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2999520/Is-sun-going-dark-Latest-Nasa-images-reveal-TWO-giant-holes-one-covering-10-solar-surface.html>

VK5 Parks Award, a VK4 perspective

By Rob VK4FFAB



Initially when I heard about this award scheme I was kind of sceptical about how successful I might be as a VK4 F call in participating in and working towards the various awards within the VK5 Parks award.

My experience thus far with the VK3 Keith Roget award has been somewhat dismal, due to the majority of activations being daytime and mostly on 40m. This of course makes it rather difficult with pretty much no propagation into VK4 at those times. And so I was thinking, well the VK5 Parks award might be a long term project much the same as the Keith Roget is.

And then along came the Summer Activation events and everything changed. 5 or more parks being activated at the same time, in twilight when there is propagation to VK4 and all of a sudden, I am working park after park and even started filling out my spreadsheet to keep abreast of all the stations I have worked.

Interestingly, I currently have more points accrued in the VK5 Parks Award (19) than I do in the WWFF (18) and that is not calculating in the conservation parks that I have worked a number of times, which would put me easily into the 30 point range.

So thank you to all the VK5 park activators and thank you for timing your activations so that we VK4's can get a chance to work you and be part of your wonderful award scheme. Keep up the good work and I hope to work you in a park near you soon.

Great Blogs to check out

By Paul VK5PAS

I have listed a few Wordpress sites and blogs previously which are well worth a look. I will place details of interesting sites as I come across them.

If you have seen an interesting site, please drop me an email.

Doug VK2FMIA

<http://vk2fmia.com/>

Park stats

By Paul VK5PAS

If you want to see if a particular WWFF reference has been activated before, you can go to the WWFF LogSearch page, and then click on 'Reference Report'.

There you will be able to view the number of

activations, the total number of QSOs, the number of unique calls, and the % logged.

Unfortunately at this stage there isn't a database for either the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award or the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award. However there is one under development for the VK5 Parks Award.

VK5 Parks anniversary

By Paul VK5PAS



The 2nd anniversary special activation weekend for the VK5

Parks award was held on Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th March 2015.

I have compiled about 90% of info from activators. I am still awaiting info from 3 x activators.

There were a total of 41 x different activators and a total of 111 activations. Of those 111 activations, 81 x were UNIQUE parks. So far with about 90% counted, there were 2,783 QSOs.

Here is a list of 'known' activations that I have at this stage. There may be more.

FRIDAY 27th

- **Innes National Park**, Paul VK5PAS (27/3/2015)
- **Lowan Conservation Park**, Geoff VK5HEL, (27/3/2015)
- **Dudley Conservation Park**, Chris VK4FR/5 (27/3/2015)
- **The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park**, Tony VK3VTH/5 (27/3/2015)
- **Ngarkat Conservation Park**,

Greg VK5ZGY (27/3/2015)

- **Mount Boothby Conservation Park**, Greg VK5ZGY (27/3/2015)

SATURDAY 28th

- **Gammon Ranges National Park**, Tony VK3VTH/5 (28/3/2015)
- **The Knoll Conservation Park**, Roy VK5NRG (28/3/2015)
- **Mark Oliphant Conservation Park**, Roy VK5NRG (28/3/2015)
- **The Knoll Conservation Park**, David VK5KC (28/3/2015)
- **Mark Oliphant Conservation Park**, David VK5KC (28/3/2015)
- **Baudin Conservation Park**, Chris VK4FR/5 (28/3/2015)
- **Pelican Lagoon Conservation Park**, Chris VK4FR/5 (28/3/2015)
- **Beyaria Conservation Park**, Chris VK4FR/5 (28/3/2015)
- **Seddon Conservation Park**, Chris VK4FR/5

- (28/3/2015)
- **Bullock Hill Conservation Park,**
Peter VK5PET
(28/3/2015)
- **Cox Scrub Conservation Park,**
Peter VK5PET
(28/3/2015)
- **Lower Glenelg River Conservation Park,** Col VK5HCF
(28/3/2015)
- **Lower Glenelg River Conservation Park,** Tom VK5EE
(28/3/2015)
- **Lower Glenelg River Conservation Park,** Alan VK5FAJS
(28/3/2015)
- **Morialta Conservation Park,**
Gary VK5FGRY
(28/3/2015)
- **Cleland Conservation Park,**
David VK5AAH
(28/3/2015)
- **Black Hill Conservation Park,**
David VK5AAH
(28/3/2015)
- **Spring Gully Conservation Park,**
Ian VK5CZ
(28/3/2015)
- **Parndarna Conservation Park,**
Chris VK4FR/5
(28/3/2015)
- **Port Gawler Conservation Park,**
Arno VK5ZAR

- (28/3/2015)
- **Hogwash Bend Conservation Park,**
Peter VK5KX
(28/3/2015)
- **Coorong National Park,** Mark VK5QI
(28/3/2015)
- **Coorong National Park,** VK5AKH
(28/3/2015)
- **Carribie Conservation Park,**
Paul VK5PAS
(28/3/2015)
- **Innes National Park,** Paul VK5PAS
(28/3/2015)
- **Angove Conservation Park,**
Bob VK5FO
(28/3/2015)
- **Hallett Cove Conservation Park,**
Hans VK5YX
(28/3/2015)
- **Hallett Cove Conservation Park,**
Lesley VK5LOL
(28/3/2015)
- **Mokota Conservation Park,**
David VK5NQP
(28/3/2015)
- **Caroona Creek Conservation Park,**
David VK5NQP
(28/3/2015)
- **Redbanks Conservation Park,**
David VK5NQP
(28/3/2015)
- **Kyeema Conservation Park,**

- Greg VK5GJ
(28/3/2015)
- **Kyeema Conservation Park,**
Norm VK5GI
(28/3/2015)
- **Mount Magnificent Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5GY
(28/3/2015)
- **Mount Magnificent Conservation Park,**
Norm VK5GI
(28/3/2015)
- **Furner Conservation Park,**
Tom VK5FTRG
(28/3/2015)
- **Reedy Creek Conservation Park,**
Tom VK5FTRG
(28/3/2015)
- **Lake Frome Conservation Park,**
David VK5HDW
(28/3/2015)
- **Bird Islands Conservation Park,**
Adrian VK5FANA
(28/3/2015)
- **Ramsay Way Conservation Park,**
Richard VK5ZRY
(28/3/2015)
- **Minlacowie Conservation Park,**
Richard VK5ZRY
(28/3/2015)
- **Danggali Conservation Park,**
Peter VK5FLEX
(28/3/2015)
- **Mokota Conservation Park,**

- Andrew VK5MR
(28/3/2015)
- **Martins Washpool Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5ZGY
(28/3/2015)
- **Messent Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5ZGY
(28/3/2015)
- **Mount Scott Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5ZGY
(28/3/2015)
- **Caroona Creek Conservation Park,**
Andrew VK5MR
(28/3/2015)
- **Paranki Lagoon Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5ZGY
(28/3/2015)
- **Sandy Creek Conservation Park,**
Nigel VK5NIG
(28/3/2015)
- **Naracoorte Caves National Park,** Tim
VK3MTB/5
(28/3/2015)
- **Clements Gap Conservation Park,**
Bill VK5MBD
(28/3/2015)

SUNDAY 29th

- **Hogwash Bend Conservation Park,**
Peter VK5KX
(29/3/2015)
- **Flinders Chase National Park,**
Chris VK4FR/5

- (29/3/2015)
- **Kelly Hill Conservation Park,**
Chris VK4FR/5
(29/3/2015)
- **Mount Taylor Conservation Park,**
Chris VK4FR/5
(29/3/2015)
- **Vivonne Bay Conservation Park,**
Chris VK4FR/5
(29/3/2015)
- **Onkaparinga River National Park,**
Peter VK5PET
(29/3/2015)
- **Jip Jip Rocks Conservation Park,**
Tony VK5ZAI
(29/3/2015)
- **Mount Scott Conservation Park,**
Tony VK5ZAI
(29/3/2015)
- **Sandy Creek Conservation Park,**
Keith VK5OQ
(29/3/2015)
- **Montacute Conservation Park,**
Matt VK5MLB
(29/3/2015)
- **Mary Seymour Conservation Park,**
Col VK5HCF
(29/3/2015)
- **Mary Seymour Conservation Park,**
Tom VK5EE
(29/3/2015)
- **Scott Conservation Park,** Greg VK5GJ
(29/3/2015)

- **Stiptipurus Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5GJ
(29/3/2015)
- **Hallett Cove Conservation Park,**
Hans VK5YX
(29/3/2015)
- **Hallett Cove Conservation Park,**
Lesley VK5LOL
(29/3/2015)
- **Calectasia Conservation Park,**
Andrew VK5KET
(29/3/2015)
- **Penola Conservation Park,**
Andrew VK5KET
(29/3/2015)
- **Telford Scrub Conservation Park,**
Tim VK5AV
(29/3/2015)
- **Flinders Ranges National Park,** Tony
VK3VTH/5
(29/3/2015)
- **Coorong National Park,** Mark VK5QI
(29/3/2015)
- **Coorong National Park,** Andy VK5AKH
(29/3/2015)
- **Clinton Conservation Park,**
Bob VK5FO
(29/3/2015)
- **Beachport Conservation Park,**
David VK5HDW
(29/3/2015)
- **Leven Beach Conservation Park,**

- Paul VK5PAS
(29/3/2015)
- **Warrenben Conservation Park,**
Paul VK5PAS
(29/3/2015)
- **Warrenben Conservation Park,**
Richard VK5ZRY
(28/3/2015)
- **Point Davenport Conservation Park,**
Paul VK5PAS
(29/3/2015)
- **Point Davenport Conservation Park,**
Richard VK5ZRY
(29/3/2015)
- **Innes National Park,** Paul VK5PAS
(29/3/2015)
- **Big Heath Conservation Park,**
Col VK5HCF
(29/3/2015)
- **Big Heath Conservation Park,**
Tom VK5EE
(29/3/2015)
- **Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park,**
Gordon VK5GY
(29/3/2015)
- **Tantanoola Caves Conservation Park,**
Tom VK5FTRG
(29/3/2015)
- **Reedy Creek Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5ZGY
(29/3/2015)
- **Gower Conservation Park,**
Tom VK5FTRG
(29/3/2015)
- **Little Dip Conservation Park,**
Tim VK3MTB/5
(29/3/2015)
- **Glen Roy Conservation Park,**
Col VK5HCF
(29/3/2015)
- **Glen Roy Conservation Park,**
Tom VK5EE
(29/3/2015)
- **Morialta Conservation Park,**
Steve VK5SFA
(29/3/2015)
- **Whites Dam Conservation Park,**
David VK5NQP
(29/3/2015)
- **Brookfield Conservation Park,**
David VK5NQP
(29/3/2015)
- **Conservation Park,**
Arno VK5ZAR
(29/3/2015)
- **Peebinga Conservation Park,**
Peter VK5FLEX
(29/3/2015)
- **Hopkins Creek Conservation Park,**
Andrew VK5MR
(29/3/2015)
- **Redbanks Conservation Park,**
Andrew VK5MR
(29/3/2015)
- **Kungari Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5ZGY
(29/3/2015)

- **Furner Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5ZGY
(29/3/2015)

MONDAY 30th

- **Belt Hill Conservation Park,**
Greg VK5ZGY
(30/3/2015)
- **Lake Torrens National Park,** Col VK5HCF (30/3/2015)
- **Minlacowie Conservation Park,**
Paul VK5PAS
(30/3/2015)

TUESDAY 31st

- **Flinders Ranges National Park,** Tony VK3VTH/5
(31/3/2015)

I will place some completed stats about the weekend in the next issue of Out and About, and I am sure there will also be some activator reports.

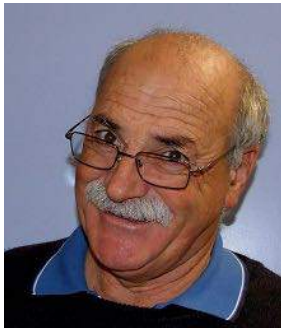
Thanks to everyone that participated. The weekend was a huge success.

I would particularly like to thank Tony VK3VTH and Tim VK3MTB who took the time to travel across the border and conduct multiple

activations. Thanks for your support Tony & Tim, and I hope that we see you back next year.

Lowan Conservation Park

By Geoff VK5HEL



I managed to gain entry to a part of the park which was just a track that led to a large, circular shaped open area. The track ended so I camped in a clearing and spent the rest of the time exploring on foot. I did locate a road which seemed to run through the centre of the park, but I am unsure how to access it.

I found that the country changed slightly from the mallee to areas of native pine and open grassland. The park is home to

Malleefowl, an endangered species. I have never seen one here, nor have I ever found their distinctive nesting mounds (although I may have and not even known it), but this park would be a good place to start looking.

It is home to numerous bird species and I was lucky enough to see and photograph a Southern Scrub-robin, which are apparently not often seen. (The photograph was a bad one, but you can still recognise the bird). Some monster Wedge-tail Eagles call this and the surrounding areas home and I have seen one fairly close up as it was roosting in a tree in the middle of one of open areas. It's size was quite surprising, especially when it launched into flight.

Kangaroos are also common and it is a good place to see Echidnas. Walking through this park is interesting, but it is very easy to lose track of direction. A compass needs to be carried, because there are no clear paths.

No facilities and no marked campground, bush camping is the only

option. Spring is the optimum time of the year to visit.

Noted for its breeding populations of wedge-tailed eagles and Mallee fowl, (Lowan CP) is 13 km south-east of Bowhill. This park of mallee scrub and grey cypress pines has no facilities, but bush camping is allowed (a fee is payable (085) 82 2644). Access is via the Bowhill-Karoonda Road which provides access to the eastern boundary.

I accessed the Park via the northern entrance via the bitumen Murray Bridge to Bowhill road then east via Gribble Bore Road the GPS measured the distance from Murray Bridge to the park entrance as 40km. The last 5km require travel on wide hard dirt road.

By 06:20z I was set up and on air with near to 0 QRM the band was working well on 40mtr and made my first contact park to park on 7.085 with VK5ZGY Greg at Mt Boothby CP.

In 2 hours had 23 contacts including 2 Park to Park. 40mtr one VK2

pedestrian mobile near Woolingong 20mtrs I discovered was very crowded with european stations.

Operating 10w Icom IC-7000 20-40mtr linked dipole.

- 7.085 VK5ZGY/ Greg Mt Boothby CP
- 7.110 VK5KLM Graham Onkaparing QTH
- VK5TR Jim Morphet vale
- VK3PMG Mick Stall
- VK5FMID Brian Mt Gambier
- VK2FMIA/ Doug Mt Gumadal vkff
- VK3TKK/ Peter Melbourne portable.
- VK3OHN Mark Donvale
- VK3DAC Fred Yarra Vale.
- VK3PF Peter Latrobe.
- VK2YK Adam Newcastle.
- VK5TD John Adelaide.
- VK5GJ Greg Adelaide
- VK3FMDS/ Nathan Yarrawonga.
- VK5WG Ned Crystal Brook.
- VK5FLEX Peter Renmark.
- VK5EE Tom Mt Gambier.

- VK5YX Hans Hallett Cove QTH.
- VK5FANA Adrian Moonta.
- VK5RZY/ Richard Maitland portable.
- VK3DBP Pall Melbourne
- VK3NAD Peter Castlemain.
- 14.180 VK2BSY Dave Pedestrian Mobile Woolangong.
- 7.105 VK4FR/5 Christopher Dudley CP

Thank you to all who took part with this activation.

73 Geoff VK5HEL.

New park proposed on the Yorke Peninsula

By Paul VK5PAS



The following info is courtesy of Greg VK5GJ, who found it in the Summer 2014/2015 issue of the Parks and Wildlife Supporters newsletter (PAWS)....

At the 'foot' of Yorke Peninsula, work is progressing towards the creation of the new 860 hectare Thidna Conservation Park. This landscape is highly diverse, containing coastal shrublands, tea-tree swamps, mallee and samphire shrublands, and melaleuca woodlands.

As much of the native vegetation on Yorke Peninsula has been cleared, Thidna provides an important refuge for wildlife. Its diverse habitats are home to many native species including Bead Samphires and nationally vulnerable Fairy Terns. It also links remnant bushland extending along the coast, and protects beach nesting habitat for the Hooded Plover.

This park does show up on some mapping sites. However, it is NOT yet gazetted and declared. I

will keep you updated.

A great post on finding park locations and boundaries

By Paul VK5PAS

Andrew VK3ARR has written an excellent post on his Wordpress site about finding park locations and boundaries.

The system uses GIS.

For more information have a look at.....

<https://vk3arr.wordpress.com/2015/03/23/finding-park-locations-and-boundaries/>

Compression kit for FT817

By Paul VK5PAS

Last week I purchased a compression kit for the Yaesu FT-817 from a company in Germany.

It is yet to arrive, but I will report back with a review after I have received it and tried it out.



Image courtesy of Funk Amateur

The few reviews that I have read, speak very favourably of it (this includes some VK's who are using it).

For more information, you can have a look at.....

http://www.box73.de/product_info.php?products_id=945

An update on the trip to Farina

By Paul VK5PAS

Everything is progressing well for our (VK5LY, VK5KC, VK5BJE, VK5PAS) trip to Farina in the Far North of South Australia.

I have liaised with the Plymouth Amateur Radio Club and they are organizing a special event station to specifically coincide with our activation at Farina, where we will be using the very special call of VK100ANZAC.

Here is our 'rough' itinerary of activations:

Sat 13th June

- Clinton Conservation Park
- Winninowie Conservation Park

Sunday 14th June

- Mount Arden VK5/NE-034
- Mount Benjamin VK5/NE-083

Monday 15th June

- The Devils Peak VK5/ NE-o8o
- Mount Brown Conservation Park
- The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park

Wednesday 17th June

- Lake Eyre National Park

Thursday 28th June

- Farina VK100ANZAC —

Friday 19th June

- Mount Scott VK5/ NE-111

Saturday 20th June

- Lake Torrens National Park

Sunday 21st June 2015

- Flinders Ranges National Park

A rare park close to Adelaide

By John VK5BJE

Eurilla Conservation Park is a small park located in very close proximity to Adelaide, up in the Mount Lofty Ranges. And yet it has only been activated twice.



Image courtesy of John VK5BJE

I recently activated Eurilla CP and I have posted some information on my Wordpress site about the park, including access details.

<http://vk5bje.com/2015/03/08/eurilla-conservation-park-8th-march-2015/>

Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park

By Paul VK5PAS

This is a very interesting park. Not only because it consists of four completely autonomous sections, but also due to its history.

The park consists of four separate sections:-

1. Wotton Scrub
2. Filsell Hill
3. White Scrib
4. Burdett Scrub

I spoke with Bill Filsell from Filsell's Apples, which has been a family business operated since 1903. The Filsell Hill section is named after the Filesell family.

However, the park in its entirety was named in honour of Kenneth George Stirling.



Above: Kenneth Stirling. Photo courtesy of Graham Churchett

So who was Kenneth 'Ken' George Stirling? Well I have been fortunate enough to get in contact with a gentleman called Graham Churchett, who knew Ken, and this is what Graham had to say.....

The Environment Committee was a sub committee of the Town and Country Planning Association composed of the following:

Ron Caldicot, Dr John Coulter, David Strahle, Alwin Clements, Ray Holliday, Miss Erdley, Dr Peter Guldhurst, Ken Stirling, Ralph Middenway, Elise and Gordon Gardner and myself.

This committee was active across a broad spectrum of planning and environmental issues

but it was not until money was given anonymously to the committee, and we employed Ron Caldicot as a Project Director, that some monumental changes occurred.

At the time the State Planning Authority was headed by Stewart Heart and sitting on the authority were developers and others who naturally pushed through every approval to further line their pockets at the expense of the environment and common good. The committee pressured the government and Ron was appointed to the Authority and in a short time the rules were changed to exclude those with vested interests.

With the help of the Natural History Society we brought about the protection of the wedge tail eagle, and Improved planning laws.

In May 1980 tragedy occurred. David Strahle, a gentle, dedicated man and one who worked for a better world suddenly died due to a massive heart attack. We were all stunned, he was only in

his 45th year.

In 1973 we were again shocked when Ken Stirling died from a heart attack when jogging by the uni bridge. He was only 38.

Ken, and all of us for that matter, were appalled at the scarring taking place in the north Flinders by EX Oil and Ken knew more of what was going on as he was employed by two of Australia's largest mining companies before joining Poseidon's associate, Samin Ltd, in 1969.

It was when Poseidon shares went through the roof that Ken became a millionaire and in 1972 Ken resigned from the mining industry and sought a position in the Public Service with the Department for the Environment. A series of applications were rebuffed and some were not even answered and he was bitter at this.

While waiting for something to turn up he gave unpaid service to the Birdwood Mill Museum.

His benefactions were

not known to the Public service and his intense interest in conservation not realised.

Those who examined his application may have noted with disapproval his association with the mining industry. The irony of it is that but for the mining boom, the entire conservation cause in South Australia would not have prospered without Ken's personal service and financial help.

It was only after his death we found out that Ken had given money to a variety of organisations and in particular, for Ron's full time employment as a director, \$100,000 was given to set up Radio 5UV University radio employing Keith Conlon. \$50,000 was given to State Archives, \$200,000 to the Australian Conservation Foundation for the acquisition and establishment of a national park. This park is now rightly known as the Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park.

Through Ron we achieved so much and it was then that I came to

the earnest belief that if the conservation movement was to make any meaningful headway in this cockeyed world, we had to employ key people full time.

I was privileged to have known Ron, David and Ken as friends, all be it that our time together with regard to David and Ken was short. I was saddened to hear the other day that Ron, a man I knew with a mind as sharp as a tack and a gentle manner but one who would stand his ground with great conviction, was now in a home suffering severe dementure.

What can I say other than they are fondly remembered.

Below is part of what the Advertiser columnist, Stewart Cockburn said of Ken Stirling upon his death.....

Ken Stirling was the son of a railway man. He wanted to be a boundary rider on an outback station and, for a while, he became a multimillionaire. He made his money in the

mining boom, and gave most of it away. Only since he died, have the benefactions of this humble, intensely private man become known outside his family and a small circle of friends and associates.

Android portable logger

By Paul VK5PAS

Peter VK3ZPF has some excellent information on his Wordpress site about an Android logging application that he has written to help him log QSOs whilst activating portable.

More details can be found at.....

<http://vk3zpf.com/vk3zpf-sota-logger-app>

BRL Gathering

By Mal VK5MJ



The Riverland Radio Club inc, will be holding a BRL Gathering get together at the historic Old Overland Corner Hotel over two days of the Weekend of **Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th of April**. Ron, VK5MRE will be running the BRL Group Net portable from the site on Saturday morning on our normal Net frequency on 7.078 Mhz +/- QRN/QRM at 0830 Hrs CSDLST. A car boot sale will be operating for any Amateurs wishing to sell or purchase Amateur Radio related equipment. Camping is available at the site, with ample spots available on the River Murray just below the Hotel. The Hotel is open for Meals & refreshments, but accommodation is not available. Alternative accommodation is available in the Towns of

Barmera, Kingston on Murray & also Glossop & Berri. A barbecue will be available for those wishing to cook their own breakfasts & lunches, and an official Dinner at the Hotel on Saturday evening will be held. There are opportunities available for activating National Parks for those interested as well. This event is intended to be a Social get together for all Amateurs to have a chin wag & put faces to the call signs that we often QSO with. The Old Overland Corner Hotel is a National Trust owned facility, which is leased out to a private operator to run. There is a Museum incorporated into the Hotel with interesting items from the past when the Hotel was a major stop for Cobb & Co coaches. The Old Overland Corner Hotel is situated on the Goyder Highway (main Morgan Renmark Road) approximately 20 Km from Barmera. If your XYL is Craft minded, they are very welcome to bring their Card making & Scrap booking projects, or any other Craft project, & join Jill, Mal, VK5MJ's XYL, in her craft room in Berri, on either or both of

the days, for coffee & a Social get together. She can seat comfortably around 12 persons. All XYL's are welcome.

An indication of Amateurs & XYL's who would like to join us for the Weekend would be appreciated.

A link has been provided on the Riverland Radio Clubs Web Page.

www.rrc.org.au

See also & Refer to

www.overlandcornerhotel.com.au

Hugh's hard work

By Paul VK5PAS

I was contacted by Hugh VK5NHG the other day. Hugh is involved in the Heysen Trail, and he has done a lot of research on SOTA summits in the Orroroo area and along the Barrier Highway. It is hoped that in the next few months, Hugh, Ian VK5CZ and I might be able to do some new unique summits in those areas.

Jock White Memorial Field Day

By Paul VK5PAS

<http://vk5pas.org/2015/03/01/porter-scrub-conservation-park-and-the-jock-white-memorial-field-day/>

On Saturday afternoon / evening, 28th February, I headed to the Porter Scrub Conservation Park, specifically for the Jock White Memorial Field Day. This is a New Zealand Contest centred on portable operation.

First up, I worked a number of VK stations who were keen to pick up Porter Scrub CP. I then concentrated on the Jock White and I ended up with a total of 45 New Zealand contacts on 40m.



This contest is a lot of fun, particularly if you operate portable. Why not give it a go next year.

For more information on this activation, and on the Jock White Memorial Field Day, please see my Wordpress site at.....