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A little bit about us

- Paul VK5PAS
 - Licenced in June 2010 – Foundation call VK5FPAS
 - Upgraded 12 months later to Standard - VK5PAS
 - Since 2013 - about 500 park activations & about 150 SOTA activations
 - Activated in VK1, VK2, VK3, VK5, VK6, VK9, Belgium & Germany
 - VKFF National Co-Ordinator since 2013
 - VK5 Parks Award Manager since 2013
 - Nov 2017 – served as the WWFF Chairman for about 12 months




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A little bit about us

- Marija VK5MAZ
 - Licenced in March 2016 Foundation call VK5FMAZ
 - Upgraded March 2021 to Standard call of VK5MAZ
 - Since 2013 - about 250 park activations & about 26 SOTA activations
 - Activated in VK2, VK3, VK5, & VK9




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What parks programs exist in Australia?

- ◆ World Wide Flora & Fauna program (WWFF) 
- ◆ VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award (SANPCPA) 
- ◆ Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) 

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About WWFF

- Large & very popular international program
- Commenced 1st November 2012
- *"draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora & fauna and to encourage the development of radio skills, especially in portable operations."*
- Operate from designated nature parks/protected nature areas – about 24,000 worldwide
- Global award program
- National programs
 - 56 participating countries
 - Australia (VKFF)
 - Various National Awards offered.



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About WWFF

- Open to.....

- Activators
- Hunters
- Short Wave Listeners

p.s. WWFF does not have Chasers



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About WWFF in Australia

- The Australian 'chapter' of WWFF commenced in March 2013 (VKFF).
- VKFF is a recognized National program of WWFF
- March 2013 - Paul VK5PAS became the VKFF National Co-Ordinator.
- October 2017, the VKFF program became so popular that State/Territory representative positions were created.

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VKFF Team

- Ian VK1DI
- Gerard VK2IO
- Peter VK3ZPF
- Mark VK4SMA
- Paul VK5PAS
- Hans VK6XN
- Jonathan VK7JON
- Marija VK5MAZ (Treasurer)



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WWFF Directory & references

- WWFF Directory – reference source for all qualifying parks in the program
- Each park is issued with a unique identifying reference number
 - ITU allocated prefix, FF for Flora & Fauna, and a unique identifying number, e.g. VKFF-0010
- In Australia – over 3,100 qualifying parks
- New parks can and are added to the program



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WWFF/VKFF Rules

- Be in a qualifying park
 - All equipment must be within the boundary of the reference area
- Valid contact exchange
 - Callsigns, signal report, wherever possible the VKFF reference number (Definitely no relays of info).
- 10 QSOs – park is qualified for VKFF
- 44 QSOs – park is qualified for WWFF
- Marine parks
 - Within 100 metres of the high-water tidal mark
- Mobile operation is allowed
- Aeronautical mobile, repeaters, IRLP – NOT allowed

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What does '44' mean?

- During a WWFF QSO you may hear reference to '44'.
- The first digit '4' represents the four elements: earth, water, air, and fire.
- The second digit '4' represents the four directions: north, south, east, and west.



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WWFF Log Search



- WWFF on-line database
 - It is where you track your progress and apply for Awards
- Database launched on 16th February 2013
- Activator logs uploaded by National Co-Ordinators
 - Hunters do not provide logs & don't have to submit anything.
- 14,548,606 QSOs in the database
- from 26,697 different references
- in 142 DXCCs different references

Figures accurate as of 5th April 2021

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Hand in hand with other programs & activities

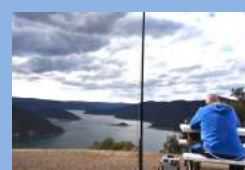
- VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award
- Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award
- Summits on the Air (SOTA)
- Beaches on the Air (BOTA)
- Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW)
- John Moyle Field Day
- VHF/UHF Field Days



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Why get involved?

- Lots of Fun
- Escape the noise floor at home
 - Plasma TV, solar inverters
- Experimentation
 - Antennas, home brew tx
- Become the centre of a 'Pile-up'
- Working DX
- Great way to see our beautiful country



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Why get involved?

Combine other interests

- Bushwalking
- birdwatching
- Photography
- 4WDing
- Caravanning
- your partner
- Family picnic



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Why get involved - wallpaper!



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Promote our hobby

- Talk to onlookers
- Explain what you are doing
- Sell the hobby of AR
- Ask if they would like to say 'hi' on air
- Talk with National Parks staff
- Carry promotional material with you



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Recommended frequencies

• PHONE

- 3.610
- 7.144
- 14.244 or 14.310
- 21.244
- 28.444

• CW

- 3.544
- 7024
- 14.044
- 21.044
- 28.044



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What equipment do I need?

1. Transceiver
2. Antenna
3. Power supply
4. Other sundry gear e.g. squid pole, suitable clothing, maps, compass, GPS, etc



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Transceivers

- Yaesu FT-857d
- Yaesu FT-817-nd
- Yaesu FT-897
- Elecraft KX3
- Wouxon X1M
- Bitx40



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Antennas

- HF
 - Linked dipole
 - Vertical
 - End fed
- VHF/UHF



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Power sources

- Sealed Lead Acid (SLAB)
- Lithium Polymer (LiPo)
- Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO)



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Sundry equipment

- Squid poles
- Octopus straps
- Watch
- Pens/pencils
- Camera/video
- First aid kit
- Sunscreen
- Mozzie repellent
- Sit mat/cushion
- Bothy bag
- Whistle
- GPS/compass
- Maps
- Water/food
- Appropriate clothing
- Spare clothing (in the car)



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Logging

- Paper in the field.
- Fast Log Entry (FLE)
- VK port-a-log (by Peter VK3ZPF)
- Parksnparks app (by Sue VK5AYL)



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Spotting & Alerting

- parksnparks
- hamspots.net/wwff
- DX cluster



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How do you fill up your logbook?

- The secret is the antenna
- Try different bands & modes – be band & mode agile
- Be patient and persistent
- Place your intentions on as many forums as possible
- Consider the time of day/know when the bands are open
- Solar figures/propagation conditions – HAP charts
- parksnparks/DX Cluster
- Facebook
- Consider setting up an SMS group with friends
- Try a group email prior to the activation
- Use the local repeater to advise people you are there

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Operating skills/practice - Activators

- Call for park activators
- Then for QRP stations
- Then for portable/mobile
- Then for DX – you never know who is listening
- Then for those that can hear you, but with difficulty
- And finally, for everyone else (now the fun starts!)

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Operating skills/practice - Hunters

- Keep an eye on parksnparks
- Join the Facebook page & Groups.io site
- Do not queue jump
- Do not call CQ on a frequency until you know the frequency is not in use
- Don't have an extended QSO with the activator – keep the contact short
- Always remember the DX Code of Conduct



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VKFF Activation Weekend

- Held every November
- 2015 Inaugural event
- Next event – Sat 27th & Sun 28th Nov 2021
- 2020
 - About 42 activators
 - About 62 different parks
 - about 2,000 QSOs
 - Over 710 Park to Park contacts



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VKFF Team Championship

- Held each year in October
- Fun team event
- This year's event – 24th October 2021



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Useful links

www.wvffaustralia.com

www.wvff.co

<https://groups.io/g/wvffaustralia>

WVFF Australia Facebook page

www.parknpeaks.com

<http://wvff.co/de-cluster/>

<https://vk5pas.org/>

<https://www.vk5pas.com/>

Various Facebook sites - Global WVFF, WVFF/SOTA, Field Radio

Various Blogs – active portable amateurs

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Beware of the portable bug!



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