



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 37 November 2017

Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 37 (November 2017) of '*Out and About in VK5*'. This newsletter focuses on South Australian (VK5) activities relating to Summits on the Air (SOTA), Parks (including WWFF and the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award), portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc.

This issue is a little late. In fact a bit more than a month late. And I'm also late with Issue 38. My apologies. But I was so busy with WWFF issues during October, and then Marija & I headed away at the start of November for a 2 week holiday to Victoria and New South Wales, as part of the 2017 Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) Activation Weekend.

As a result, this is going to be a very short issue.

In this issue you can read part 4 (the final part) of Andy VK5MAV/VK9MAV's Coral Sea IOTA adventure. Having read some of Andy's stories in the past, and having listened to Craig VK5CE's excellent presentation at the 2017 WIA AGM in Handorf, it gives great insight into the large amount of effort put in by IOTA activators, for the enjoyment of others.

There is also a short report on the 2017 VKFF Team Championship which was held on the 22nd October, with 7 teams taking part. I would like to thank SOTABEAMS and Pages of Cobran, both of whom sponsored the event again this year. SOTABEAMS offered a

WSPRLite, an excellent prize, for the winners of the QRP section. I am pleased to say that was the Special K's comprising Les VK5KLV and Peter VK5KPR. The Foundation section was one by Team Onka, comprising of Mike VK5FMWW & Larry VK5FHLR.

And of course there are all the regular columns, including the latest SOTA & Parks activations, Space weather, and the latest award recipients.

October was a very quiet month in South Australia for SOTA & Parks. Only Ian VK5CZ and Ian VK5IS ventured out, for one SOTA activation in the Mid North of South Australia. On the parks front, there were only 3 activators: Warren VK3BYD/5, Marija VK5FMAZ, and myself. I activated the Coorong National Park in late October, which coincided with National Bird Week. The Coorong is a mecca for bird watching. Sadly, I 'blew up' my Yaesu FT-857d during this activation. I've since delivered it to Victoria to be looked at. I have my fingers crossed that there is no significant damage. But I did get approval from Marija to buy a new FT-857d, and I was also lucky enough to be the successful bidder in the AHARS deceased estate, for a Yaesu FT-897. So now, along with the little FT-817nd, I have no shortage of portable transceivers.

I did not get any nominations for the 'Ham Introductions' segment for October. If you would like to contribute some info & photos about yourself, I would certainly welcome your contribution, and I am sure that others would love to read about your life in amateur radio,

particularly your involvement in portable, QRP, etc.

Upcoming SOTA & Parks events include....

- 5th anniversary of the VK5 Parks Awatd, Special Activation Weekend, 17th & 18th March 2018

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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Oceania DX Contest & AREG

By Grant VK5GR

The Oceania SSB DX Contest is over for another year, and AREG again participated in the Multi-Multi category. The team set the bar very high for themselves this year with a new site and new antennas and equipment to try out. It has taken 4 months of construction work (since the Australian Contesting Technical College event held in May) but the results were worth it, with the club improving over our previous all time best scores.

More detail can be found on the AREG website at.....

<http://www.areg.org.au/archives/207562>



Above:- AREG members at the field site. Image courtesy of AREG.

WWFF logs

By Paul VK5PAS

The following information is via Andrew M0YMA, the Logsearch Administrator.....

If a log contains errors (and these are reported at upload time) then no part of the log is uploaded.

So if a correction log (just containing the corrections) is then uploaded, only those QSOs are uploaded. You need to upload the whole log!

In the past, the good QSOs were uploaded, and the bad ones rejected.

So, the old days of addendum logs are over. If your log contains an error/s, I will need the entire log again.

To avoid this issue, PLEASE vet your logs before sending them to me.



Valid contacts for WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

I didn't want to have to post this, but PLEASE remember that for a contact in VKFF to be valid, the exchange of call signs and a signal report are required.

Call signs and signal reports are not to be relayed by other stations. Doing so, makes the contact void.

I've heard a few questionable contacts of late myself, and have had this issue raised with me, thus the reason for this post.

VKFF activators, please do not log the contact unless the threshold above has been met.



Coral Sea adventure, part 4 (final)

By Andy VK5MAV/VK9MAV



Coral Sea Adventure

Part 4. «Comin' in on a wing and a prayer...”

Behind all these worries and IOTA, in the background, I constantly had the thought - and how will I get out of here? And the perspectives were not easy. I could contact via satellite phone to a diver ship somewhere nearby - maybe the current tour was ending soon and they could bring me back to the continent - no matter to Mackay or another town on the coast. Or I could contact Ron and ask, in extreme case, to send the same high-speed boat. However, both options implied very high additional costs and uncertain dates.

What to do?

But this thought was not the main thing, it was just constantly present. All consciousness was consumed by the fear of missing short periods of propagation, the fear that magic could end with the sudden activity of the Sun, and a constant scratching.

Work on air has already begun to get some kind of order and go into the framework. The callers have got idea how I manage the pile-up and after PSE PSE PSE NA/VK /DL /UA transmitted almost everyone stopped calling. Unfortunately, at the very beginning it did not bring almost any effect. But realizing that I would just do QRX for a while, almost everyone accepted the rules of the game. I did not limit dupes, understanding perfectly how hard everyone would want to be in the log. However, in last days of activation I started to send Dupe or QSO b4 to particularly zealous fans. Some did make up to 5 dupes on the same band. What for? For me this is a big mystery.

Also, it was bit inconvenient that many Japanese stations (apparently because of the standard setup?) loose first dot in the transmission. Along with the beautiful manner of not responding if the call sign is wrong at least in one character (I really appreciate it), it caused delays - at first I automatically reacted to OA, being afraid that propagation is open to South America, and I missed it. Then realizing that this is most likely JA, the time was lost for a response / repeated reply, and a character had been sent by me incorrectly. I've noticed Japanese stations here, because about 50% of all QSOs have been conducted with them. Of course, my "merits" are counted as well. The key moves around the desk, mozzie bite at the most inappropriate moment, the roar of gusts of wind. And just fatigue.

On June 22, I again woke up from a rhythmic tap on the water tank. No longer frightened, got out of the tent and was greeted with welcoming smiles of the same Michael and Cathy. They, as it turned out, decided to stay around bit

longer, fishing, and decided to replenish clear water supplies. And then Michael said to me "You've been here for a few days on the island. When are you returning to civilization?" I began to explain the difficult situation with the return. Interrupting me in mid-sentence, Cathy smiled. "Well, we thought so. Especially I - you, males, think that the main thing is to get involved into a fight. How to get out of it, you do not always imagine". There was nothing to discuss, the true is true, and I, smiling in return, did not say anything.

And then a proposal came out and it was impossible to refuse.

"We talked to friends yesterday. They are waiting for us in Bowen, it's about 200 km from Mackay. If you want, we can take you with us. On the continent, you'll figure it out without any problems". I tried to recall the map, "And how are you going to go - on the high seas parallel to the Great Barrier Reef or in more calm waters, between the GBR and Australia? "

The answer was the one I hoped for - of course, in a more peaceful area. Then I asked the second question - you will still go through Whitsundays island group - maybe throw me there? The reaction to the question was unexpected - the couple looked at each other and laughed - as it turned out, they planned to stop for a day at the island of Scawfell. After asking for a minute, I digged into the IOTA Directory, downloaded to the laptop, and made sure that Scawfell Island is in the OC-160.

Bingo!

Seeing that I'm just happy, Michael and Cathy decided their today visit is finished and went to the yacht, warning that they prefer to sail at daytime and tomorrow at 8 am I have to have everything packed already.

I started packing right away, leaving only a GP for 40 m, a transceiver, a generator and a laptop. Everything else by the beginning of my last propagation on OC-267 was dismantled and packed - a tent, a dipole for 20 m, food, water, garbage bag, etc. I left myself only a sleeping bag, into which I climbed completely. It was warm and comfortable to work on the air, but too tight.

At 20.30 UT (6.30 am local time) I did make the last QSO with PY1VOY and packed the remaining equipment.

Good wizards did not keep me waiting - Michael on the inflatable boat appeared around 7 am. 6 round trips (the boat is small), and all my luggage is on board of the yacht Lady D, not new, but neat, 12-14 meters long. To my delight, all the loading took place at a high tide, and I did not have to carry anything too far, since the boat approached almost to the canopy😊.

Frankly, to my shame, I immediately went to the cot and turned off almost until the arrival to the OC-160, having slept for about 10 hours in a row. And even more upsetting is that I did not make a single photo of my rescuers. At first I put it off for later, and when I woke up, I realized that we were almost at OC-160.

Besides, it was raining outside.



The landing was quick.





Scawfell Island is much closer to Mackay (about 60 km or 2-3 hours by boat depending on the boat and weather). It is a fairly popular holiday destination and equipped better. In particular, in addition to the canopy and rainwater tank, there is also a toilet and additional tables for picnics.



Unfortunately, since it was Friday evening, a family with children had occupied the canopy, and I had to settle on a separate table. It served me both as a shack and as a bed. I looked there, sleeping wrapped in a sleeping bag, weird but I didn't care.

The island itself is slightly mountainous, with tall trees and an equally high tide. Remembering the previous experience, GP was installed similarly, with an attempt to repeat conditions in which it worked perfectly. The dipole – as well. However, it turned out in the morning that I fixed the center of the dipole badly and it blew off in the wind. But there was no any power left to fix it, and I left it as it is.



I cannot say anything very interesting or unusual about operation from OC-160. Most likely, the volume of impressions exceeded the volume of my short-term memory, so I remember it in pieces.

It was necessary to explain repeatedly to each new arriving company, what I'm doing here and why I do not do fishing. In addition, there were complaints about the generator's noise, interfering with sleeping children.

The weather was cloudy all the time, with intermittent showers.

In periods of lack of propagation I was able to ring Chris at Mackay. He was pleased me that on Sunday 25th of June he has a client for fishing for the whole day, on Wet Hooker, and

will be able to pick me up around 10 am to return to Mackay before fishing.

Having worked till 2 am on Sunday and having last connection with SP3NNH, I fell asleep, going to wake up at 8 o'clock and slowly pack everything.

Opening my eyes, the first thing I saw was Chris, who had already jumped off the boat. As it turned out, the weather forecast changed for the worse and he decided to pick me up as quickly as possible.

Hastily gathering everything, we loaded and set off on the return journey. Chris warned that there will be a whining, since the excitement of the sea is 3-4 points, plus a wind of 3-4 points. In addition, the return trip will take longer, since most of the way he plans to pass not by the shortest distance, but hiding behind the islands. I, as before, sat on the locker in front of the windshield, now firmly clinging to the handrails and not letting go off them for a second. The boat was running at its 40 knots, constantly bouncing off the waves. Water rinsed all with regularity in a few seconds, and it was cold.

Passing between picturesque, even in such a gray and unfriendly weather, numerous Whitsundays islands about an hour, Chris threw off his speed and hid in the shade of a private (with the airfield) island. Completely filled the tank with fuel, checked everything, he warned me that it would be worse after that, because we go out into the open part of the way to Mackay.

Indeed, it was much worse. The boat periodically took off on the waves, and flying 4-5 meters in the air, fell to hard water from a

height of about a meter, all at the same speed of 40 knots. Actually I had an impression that the boat has a secret dream – to be an airplane☺.

All this did not last very long, as, once again jumping high; the boat began to fall back. I almost self-deprecated the movement of my body down with my hands, and at that moment the boat hit harder from below.

At that moment I realized that maybe that's it. Finito. I lost the vision, replaced by a burning, unbearably white light, flooded the world around. Attempts to breathe ended with nothing. Plus the spine has turned into one pillar of pain. All this lasted no more than 3-4 seconds, but it felt like an eternity.

Chris noticed immediately that something was going on with me, and slowed down a bit. It gave me time to catch my breath and recover. I understood very well that there is no other option than to continue moving. Therefore, I comfortingly waving my hand and shouting through the roar of the engine and the wind something unreadable and stood up, fixing hands on the side of the boat.

At that moment, the wave hit again and everything happened again, since I just did not have time to fix myself yet. But this time it was a little easier, and we continued the way to Mackay.

The remaining 2 hours I remember vaguely, sagging all this time on tightly bound with the handrails hands. When we finally came to Mackay, I could barely get on board of Norval and, with all my strength showing that everything was OK, slide inside, where I fell into

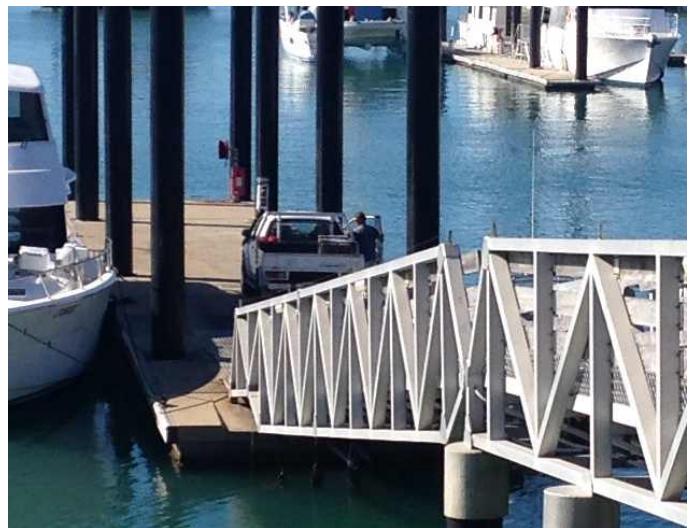
the bunk. The next few hours I tried to get warm and fall asleep, but everything was in vain. I did have no strength to go to the hotel, which was about 500 m away. Relaxed a bit in the evening, I was pulled myself by hands, crawled out onto the deck.

By this time Chris returned from fishing with the client. He looked carefully at me and forced to go to his house to take a hot shower (the shower was available at Norval, but you can imagine yourself how piss-like it is ☺).

Chris's mum, a retired nurse, was happy to remember her previous work and drove me into a hot bath with salts, where I was laying for about half an hour, after that I was fed by dinner and interrogated.

We quickly found a common language with her, because in addition to the cordiality and comfort, which simply stood as a warm cloud around her, both turned out to be cat-owners. And her 3-year-old red handsome cat Basil accepted my presence too, with a restrained sniff and rubbing against the palm of my hand. To beg for the night would be fair at all, I felt better after the bath, and I asked Chris to take me to the hotel. There, the first thing I did was to re-book flight for a day later, because it would be crazy to fly tomorrow, and there were still things to do - to send the generator, antennas and everything I could to Adelaide.

The next day Chris drove to Norval in the morning, where by that time I came in already, spent good half an hour walking slowly from the hotel. He loaded all my boxes into the boat, and then, passing through the harbor, into the ute.



Although my condition wasn't too good, I still had some interesting things to see in the marina while waiting for Chris. And make the final selfie for memory.





Mackay CBD with the transport company office is far enough from the marina. After spending half an hour, we got there and I made out the delivery (it's all already arrived, within 6 days). Then I was taken back to the hotel, where I stayed for another day waiting for the plane home.

I will not say that the flights were easy; it was a bit uncomfortable to sit. By the way, the plans for Marion and the police interest came up again on the way back. In addition to the security check, I was carefully, to the smallest corner and soles, "sniffed" by a special device, apparently in search of traces of drugs.

But at home – Larysa and cat met me with great joy. This event everyone can imagine himself. For 2 weeks now I am at home, on pills and painkillers, but now I almost try to bend my back ☺. I hope tomorrow the doctor will say something good, as the preliminary diagnosis sounded unpleasant. And I would not want to be absent from work for too long, summing up colleagues.

Here, finally, the end of the story.

Pro - I could never make myself a birthday present better than this. I felt great with multinational support. 4,500 QSO. Over 100 DXCC countries from each of the islands. Lost more than 5 kg of live weight. Survived simply perfect pileups.

Contra - I have no headset any longer. I have no transceiver any longer (three hours submerged into salty sea water on the way from OC-160 to Mackay, and 3 days with water inside, until I finally gathered up and opened it, washed and dried - alas, everything was corroded. However, an easy explosion when turned on, a broken display and a pair of broken knobs made it clear that the repair would cost more than the new one). Uncertain physical state.

Future plans:

This year I fulfilled my promise to myself to activate at least 2 islands. In 2018 - one island awaits its hour, it remains only to arrive there. Another one - in the process of finding an official who will take the trouble to issue a permit. And the third one - in process of understanding how to get there, everything else is ready. All three - below 20%, that is "rare" in the IOTA classification. Alas, it depends not only on time and money, but also on the ability of my work to pay me enough to buy a new transceiver ☺. For now all perspectives are vague.



Departure from Adelaide, OC-267, return to Mackay. The slight stamina of madness in the eyes, like the beard, increases noticeably with each next photo ☺.

What if my WWFF log has an error?

By Paul VK5PAS.

Just a reminder that if you detect an error with your log, the appropriate place to ask for an amendment to be made is via the Forum on the wwff.co website. Add your request in the Log Corrections folder.

Please do not send me an email as I cannot modify logs once they have been uploaded to Logsearch. That needs to be done by Andrew in the UK.

So, once again, please VET your log prior to sending it off to me.

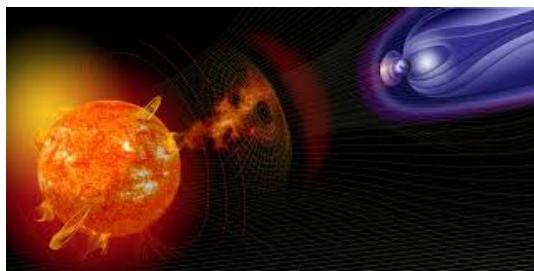
For details on log corrections please see the following page on the WWFF Australia website.....

<https://www.wwffaustralia.com/log-errors-and-corrections.html>



Space weather

By Paul VK5PAS



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

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK
#17-44

2017 October 29 at 11:07 p.m. MDT (2017
October 30 0507 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For October 23-29

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels occurred
on 24-25 October due to coronal hole high
speed stream effects.

Outlook For October 30-November 5

No space weather storms are expected.

Data used to provide space weather services
are contributed by NOAA,
USAF, NASA, NSF, USGS, the International
Space Environment Services

and other observatories, universities, and
institutions. More information is available at
SWPC's Web site

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

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

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK
#17-43

2017 October 22 at 9:40 p.m. MDT (2017
October 23 0340 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For October 16-22

R1 (Minor) radio blackouts were observed on
20 October due to flare activity from active
sunspot Region 2685.

Outlook For October 23-29

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels are likely
on 24-26 October with G2 (Moderate) levels
likely on 25-26 Oct due to recurrent coronal
hole high speed stream effects.

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

<http://swpc.noaa.gov>

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

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK #17-42

2017 October 15 at 9:44 p.m. MDT (2017
October 16 0344 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For October 9-15

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels were observed on 11-15 October and G2 (Moderate) geomagnetic storm levels were observed on 13 October due to coronal hole high speed stream effects.

Outlook For October 16-22

There is a chance for G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels on 18-19 October due to coronal hole high speed stream effects.

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

<http://swpc.noaa.gov>

Log4OM update

By David VK5PL

For those of us who use Log4OM, I have managed to load all the new parks into the WFF award and sent the XML file to the Log4OM awards manager to add to the program. Hopefully we will see the new additions soon. 481 new references I think it was.

Recent Park Activations



Despite some nice weather, October was again quiet month for park activations around South Australia. Lots of park activity interstate, but here in VK5, just Warren VK3BYD, Marija VK5FMAZ and Paul VK5PAS ventured out.

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

- Coorong National Park 5NP-005 & VKFF-0115, Paul VK5PAS/p (27/10/2017)

- Kanku Breakaways Conservation Park VKFF-1008, Warren VK3BYD/5/p (22/10/2017)
- Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park 5CP- & VKFF-1763, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (22/10/2017)
- Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park 5CP-276 & VKFF-1763, Paul VK5PAS/p (22/10/2017)



Above:- Paul VK5PAS operating in the Monarto Woodlands CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

- Mount Billy Conservation Park 5CP-143 & VKFF-0912, Paul VK5PAS/p (15/10/2017)
- Porter Scrub Conservation Park 5CP-189 & VKFF-0787, Paul VK5PAS/p (2/10/2017)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park 5CP-204 & VKFF-0933, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (1/10/2017)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park 5CP-204 & VKFF-0933, Paul VK5PAS/p (2/10/2017)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ in the Sandy Creek CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

For more information on the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award please have a look at.....

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

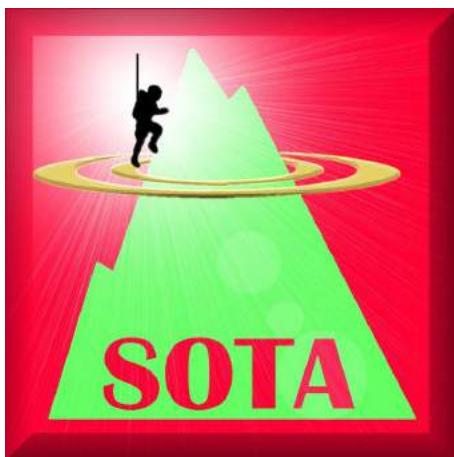
And for more information on the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, please have a look at.....

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

and

<http://wwff.co/>

Recent SOTA activations



October was very very quiet for SOTA activations in VK5. Only 2 brave activators headed out, they being Ian VK5CZ and VK5IS.

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

- The Bluff VK5/ NE-065, Ian VK5CZ/p (13/10/2017)
- The Bluff VK5/ NE-065, Ian VK5IS/p (13/10/2017)

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

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

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

➤ Aaron VK1LAJ

A reminder that the VK5 Parks Award Yahoo group can be found at.....

https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sanpc_pa/info

It is a great way to keep up to date with the latest news, who is activating what park and when, etc.

It is FREE and EASY to join. Why not check it out and consider joining

VKFF Team Championship

By Paul VK5PAS



The VKFF Team Championship has been and gone for another year. This year it was held on Sunday 22nd October 2017, 0000 UTC-0600 UTC

The following teams took part.....

- Special K's - Les VK5KLV & Peter VK5KPR
- The VK4WIPeouts - Mark VK4SMA & Murray VK4MWB
- Team Kookaburra - Mick VK3GGG & Tony VK3XV
- Team Onka - Mike VK5FMWW & Larry VK5FHLR
- The Walkie Talkies - Paul VK5PAS & Marija VK5FMAZ
- Penguin Pirates - Hans VK6XN & Phil VK6ADF
- The 2 Robbies - Rob VK4AAC & Rob VK4FFAB



Above:- Hans VK6XN, one half of the Penguin Pirates. Image courtesy of VK6XN

This year the event was again sponsored by SOTABEAMS and Pages of Cobram, and I thank them very very much for their support, and encourage you whenever possible to support these businesses. Thanks Richard, and thanks Peter.

The QRP section, which was won by the Special K's, won a WSPRLite provided by SOTABEAMS.

The Foundation section, which was won by Team Onka, won a \$50.00 voucher from Pages of Cobram.





There were also 2 donors of cash (\$200), who wish to remain anonymous. Through their efforts, glass etched trophies were again available.



Above:- The VK4WIPeouts, Mark VK4SMA & Murray VK4MWB. Image courtesy of VK4SMA

The overall winners this year with 197 QSOs were The Walkie Talkies.



Each amateur who took part as an activator was issued with a participation certificate.



More information can be found on the WWFF Australia website at.....

<https://www.wwffaustralia.com/2017-results.html>

5th year anniversary activation weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



The 5th year anniversary activation weekend for the VK5 Parks Award will be held on **Saturday 17th March 2018 and Sunday the 18th March 2018.**

This is NOT a contest. It is a weekend to promote the VK5 Parks Award.

Head out to your favourite park/s on either Saturday and/or Sunday and enjoy the fun of the weekend.

If you intend to activate a park that weekend, please drop me an email so I can add your activation/s to the list.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

VK5 NATIONAL & CONSERVATION PARKS AWARD

5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY ACTIVATION WEEKEND

SATURDAY 17th AND SUNDAY 18th MARCH 2018

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

More information can be found at.....
<http://www.vk5parks.com/5th-year-anniversary.html>



New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 97 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

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

- Wayne VK5VTD
- Aaron VK1LAJ
- John VK6HZ
- Paul (SWL from VK7)
- Neil VK4HNS

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

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

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS



Here is a list of South Australian amateurs who have recently qualified for award certificates for SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, VK5 Parks, and KRMNPA.

Interstate recipients of the VK5 Parks Award are also included.

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

[Summits on the Air \(SOTA\)](#)

- **Nil known**

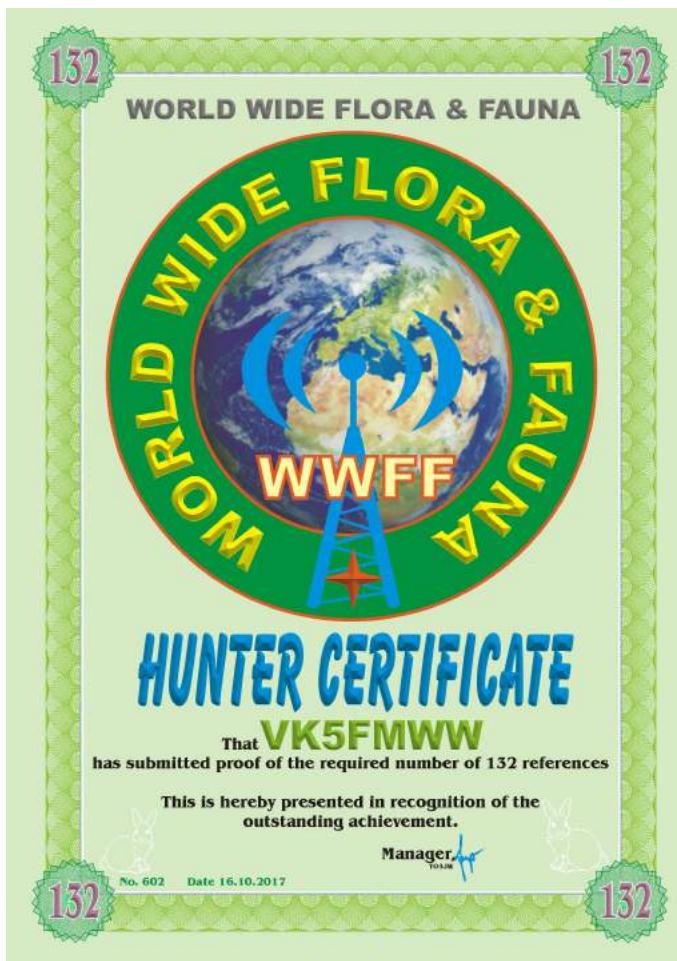
- **Marija VK5FMAZ**

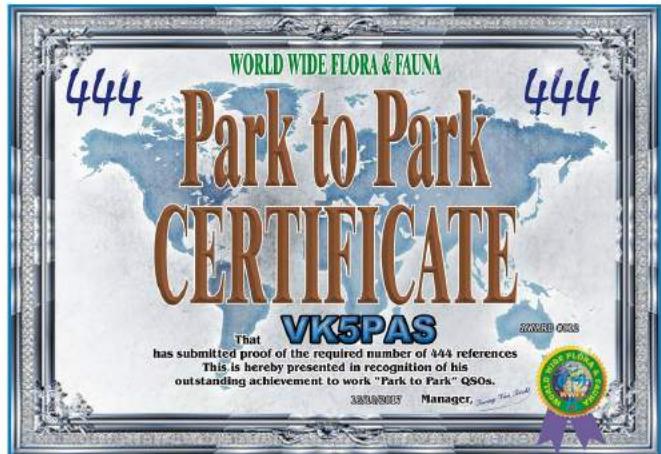
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 275
- NSW NPWS 50 year – Hunter
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 300

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Mike VK5FMWW**

- WWFF Global Hunter 132



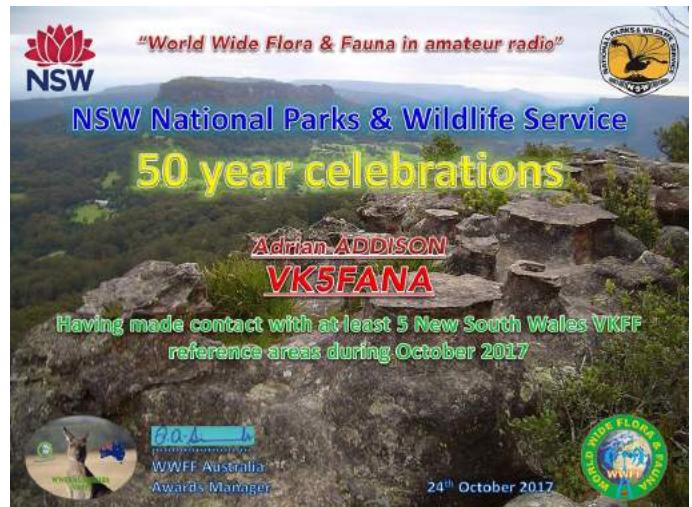
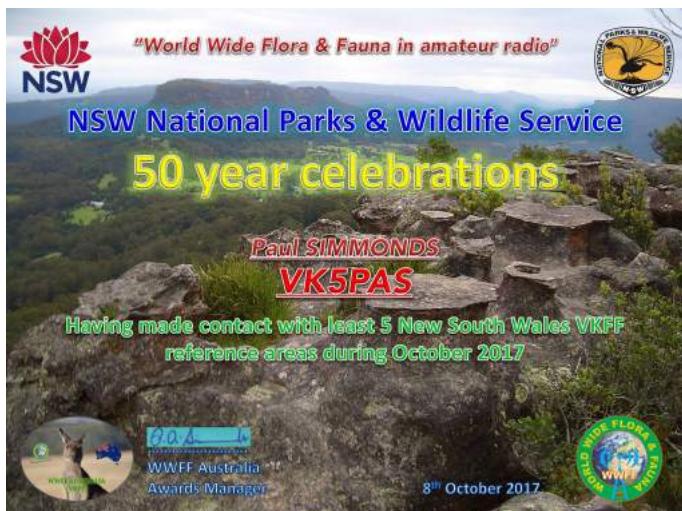


- **Paul VK5PAS**

- NSW NPWS 50 year – Hunter
- Park to Park 444

- **Adrian VK5FANA**

- Nsw NPWS 50 year Hunter
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 675





VK5 Parks Award

- Mark VK4SMA
 - Bronze Hunter
 - Silver Hunter



Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- NIL KNOWN

Other.

- Nil known for this period

PDF version of the WWFF Directory

By Paul VK5PAS

If you would like a PDF version of the WWFF Directory, showing all qualifying WWFF references worldwide, go to the wwff.co website. Then hover over 'Directory' in the top toolbar. Then select PDF Directory. Your download will then commence.

The screenshot shows a table titled "World Wide Flora & Fauna Directory" with columns: Log, Reference, Status, Reference Name, Date, Region, MAMM/Other ref, Change Log. The table contains several entries, each with a unique ID, status (active), reference name, date (e.g., 2017-09-01), region (e.g., Africa), and a detailed change log. The log includes information about who updated the entry, when, and what changes were made.

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State/Territory reps for WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

The WWFF program has been running in Australia since March 2013, so about 4 & 1/2 years. In that time the program has exploded in popularity, with park activators now being heard almost every day of the week (even in the middle of the week).

I have now issued just a little short of 2,100 VKFF certificates to VK's and other amateurs all around the world during that period.

Now has come the time that I need a little help to keep the VKFF program afloat, as I am spending a number of hours each day in front of the computer, maintaining the website, issuing awards, and uploading logs. Much to the chagrin of my very understanding wife Marija. This together with a number of other pies I have my fingers in.

I have now sourced some very good volunteers who are going to assist in the VKFF program, and I thank these individuals very very much. They are as follows:-

Ian VK1DI.

Gerard VK2IO.

Mick VK3GGG.

Mark VK4SMA.

Hans VK6XN.

The screenshot shows a table titled "World Wide Flora & Fauna Directory" with columns: Log, Reference, Status, Reference Name, Date, Region, MAMM/Other ref, Change Log. The table contains several entries, each with a unique ID, status (active), reference name, date (e.g., 2017-09-01), region (e.g., Africa), and a detailed change log. The log includes information about who updated the entry, when, and what changes were made.

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Jonathan VK7JON.

Commencing Wednesday 18th October 2017 the above gentlemen will act as State/Territory representatives in the VKFF program. They will be responsible for uploading logs for activations from their respective State/Territory, & also processing & forwarding award applications/certificates for amateurs from their respective State/Territory.

So, for example, if you activate a park in VK1 (no matter what your call may be), the log will now be forwarded to Ian VK1DI. If you activate a park in VK2, then Gerard VK2IO is your contact, etc, etc.

If you apply for a VKFF award (excluding OCCFF & the special awards), you will receive the award via the respective State/Territory rep mentioned above.

Hans VK6XN will also be doing VK8.

I will continue to upload logs and process awards for VK5's.

I will also continue in my role as the VKFF National co-ordinator, and thanks to the volunteers mentioned above, I will now be able to focus more on National VKFF issues.

More info on the new VKFF Team can be found on the WWFF Australia website at.....

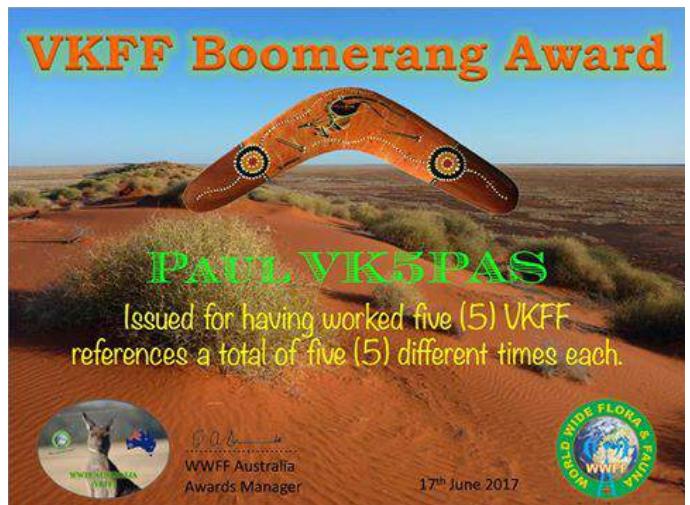
<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/vkff-team.html>

I again, thank the gentlemen mentioned above for volunteering their time. It is greatly appreciated.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Boomerang Award

By Paul VK5PAS



To encourage repeat activation of parks by activators, and to encourage hunters to log the same park more than once, I have created the VKFF Boomerang Award.

Activators

Activated 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated means for VKFF purposes (10 QSOs).

Hunters.

Worked 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

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

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

73 and '44',

Paul VK5PAS.

Special award in VKFF

By Paul VK5PAS

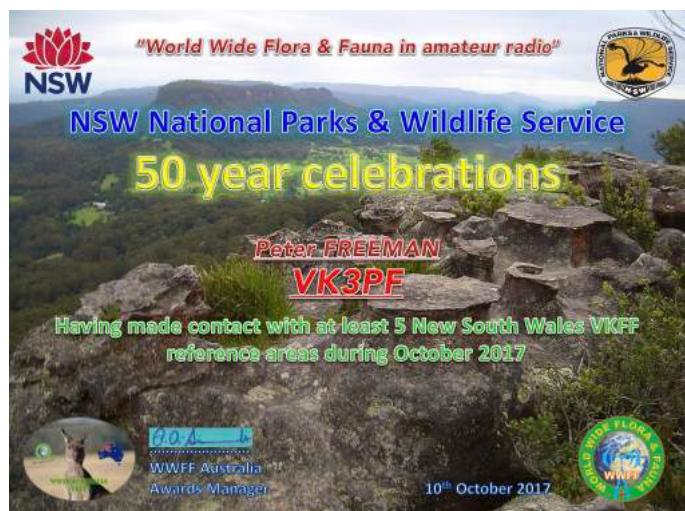


NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) celebrates its 50 year anniversary this year.

To celebrate this event, the VKFF program is offering certificates to both activators and hunters, for having activated, or having made contact with 5 different NSW VKFF reference areas during October 2017.

Examples of the award certificates are shown below.

The award is not integrated into Logsearch, so please send an email to the VKFF co-ordinator Paul VK5PAS when applying for the award. Cut and paste from your stats on Logsearch will suffice.



Missing P2P info

By Paul VK5PAS

Have you missed out Park to Park information in your prior logs?

If so, follow the instructions below.....

1. Go to Logsearch and run your search (with Hunter selected).
2. Then select QSOs.

3. Then click on Download-this will create and download a CSV file names logsearch.csv.

4. Edit the file, to add any P2P information in the HunterRef column

5. Email the revised log to Andrew M0YMA at....

wwff_log_corrections@wwff.co



Latest WWFF news

By Paul VK5PAS

Other than here on Facebook and the WWFF Yahoo Group, you can keep up to date with the latest VKFF news on the WWFF Australia website at.....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/latest-news>

latest news

Please place a spot

By Paul VK5PAS

PLEASE PLEASE consider spotting park activators using parksnpeaks and/or Facebook after working them.

There is no doubt that placing a spot on parksnpeaks, Facebook, etc, increases the number of callers.

I know there are a few park hunters who use parksnpeaks regularly, but I've never seen a spot from them which is a little disappointing.

Placing a spot only takes about 1 minute max, and it certainly helps the activator and also helps your fellow park hunter.

So please consider spotting.

Here is a link to parksnpeaks.....

<https://parksnpeaks.org/index.php>



Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

LIFE IS SIMPLE



The past month has seen a dramatic improvement in propagation on 20, 15, & 10m. As a result I have logged a few overseas portable and mobile stations.

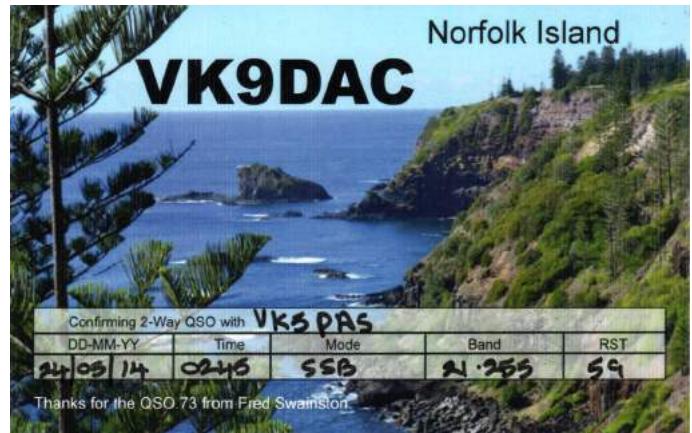
- G4AKC/p, pedestrian mobile (29/10/2017)
- 5B4AIK/mobile (24/10/2017)
- 5B4AIK/mobile (17/10/2017)
- ZL2AJ/p, SOTA ZL1/BP-208 (15/10/2017)
- SP5UUD/p, SPFF-1548 (7/10/2017)
- SP5UUD/p, SPFF-1557 (6/10/2017)
- SP5UUD/p, SPFF-1520 (3/10/2017)

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

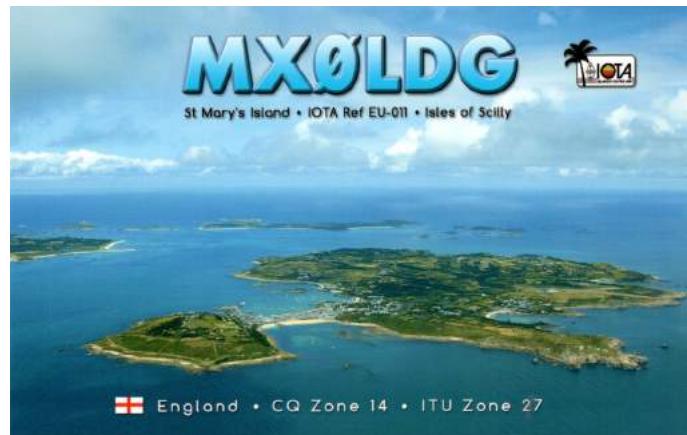
...and I will include it here.

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



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

MX0LDG, IOTA EU-011



QSL cards received

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

If so, please send me a copy.

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

OZ/PA7PA, IOTA EU-088



VK9DAC, Norfolk Island VKFF-0392

Victorian Local Govt Challenge

By Paul VK5PAS



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

The "2017 Challenge" will encourage both Portable and Base activity with VK3 stations.

More information can be found at.....

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

Latest videos

By Paul VK5PAS



If you have put together a You Tube video, or spotted a video of interest somewhere, please let me know.

Retro review: Dick Smith's Australian Amateur Radio Handbook

<https://youtu.be/79RKCtN5GiQ>

2017 Oceania DX Contest & AREG

<https://youtu.be/uugoLdHngAQ>

Magnetic Loop Antenna

<https://youtu.be/JtxrLD3acoY>

Ham humour



Strange CW Keys