



# "OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 10, August

## Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 10, August 2015, of 'Out and About in VK5'.

July was a very quiet month for VK5 SOTA & park activating. Not surprising considering the weather. It has been very cold and wet. Bring on Spring!

It is great to see the WWFF program increasing in popularity across Australia. I have certainly been very busy uploading activator logs and sending out award certificates.

And in July I was also successful in having a total of 75 South Australian Conservation Parks added to the WWFF program. This now leaves just over 100 of the 271 SA Conservation Parks to be added. I am hoping that by the end of next year, all SA Conservation Parks will be part of the VKFF program. And I'm currently liaising with Tony VK3VTH re adding additional parks in Victoria. Additional parks

will be added in the other States & Territories once a certain percentage of parks have been activated.

As I've mentioned before, I encourage amateurs to contribute articles for 'Out and About'. I seem to have to chase to get articles and I'm sure you are sick of seeing my name appearing as the author of articles. Surely, there is something out there that you would like to share with your fellow hams regarding portable activity, mobile, QRP, etc. It might have been an article you read, a home brew project, a favourite park, a recent activation. So come on, I welcome any contributions. It would be terrific to see some new names and call signs appear in Out & About. Please email me at.....

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

Paul, VK5PAS.

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## A popular summit

By Bob VK5FO



On Sunday 28th June Ben, VK5BB completed his first SOTA activation at Mt Gawler.

In his words below.....

*My 1st SOTA activation this afternoon, logged 12 stations, all VK's, kit worked out OK using my KX3, home brew headset adapter and an inverted V linked dipole, up 7m. Got a number of VK5 Parks in my log as a bonus.*

*Good fun, got cold towards the end, might become a regular thing, this SOTA and Parks stuff??*

Twelve contacts on 40M using the KX3 and a linked dipole, but a more important milestone - the 100th Activation of Mt Gawler.

### 50 Most Recently Activated Summits

| SOTA Ref   | Name           | Alt (Metres) | Alt (Feet) | Points | No. of Activations | Last Activation | Last Call | History              |
|------------|----------------|--------------|------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|
| HL/CB-246  | Nogobong       | 305          | 1001       | 1      | 2                  | 28/Jun/2015     | D53FYA    | <a href="#">View</a> |
| VK3/VG-006 | Mt St Leonard  | 1012         | 3320       | 6      | 35                 | 28/Jun/2015     | VK3XDM/P  | <a href="#">View</a> |
| VK5/SE-013 | Mt Gawler      | 541          | 1775       | 2      | 100                | 28/Jun/2015     | VK5BB     | <a href="#">View</a> |
| VK3/VG-045 | Mt Livingstone | 1227         | 4026       | 8      | 12                 | 28/Jun/2015     | VK3MCD/P  | <a href="#">View</a> |
| VK1/AC-042 | Black Mountain | 812          | 2664       | 1      | 51                 | 28/Jun/2015     | VK4JAZ    | <a href="#">View</a> |

It is always good to see more Operators getting

out portable and great to see another callsign activating Mt Gawler!

### Activation History

| Date        | Activator Callsign |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 28/Jun/2015 | VK5BB              |
| 14/Jun/2015 | VK5FO              |
| 13/Jun/2015 | VK5FO              |
| 05/Jun/2015 | VK5NIG/P           |

Cheers,

Bob  
VK5FO



Above:- Map showing Mt Gawler.  
Courtesy of mapcarta.

Editors note.....

*Nigel VK5NIG, be careful. You are going to have to relinquish ownership of this summit if you are not careful.*

*Ian, perhaps a special certificate should go the way of Ben for the 100<sup>th</sup> activation?*

## My 1<sup>st</sup> SOTA summit

By Ben VK5BB



Since upgrading from a “Z call” to a “Full Call” late 1979, I have not been an overly active operator on the bands. However whenever I was travelling around Australia, for either my employer or holidaying etc, whenever the opportunity arose, I would pack and take my portable HF equipment with me and in the evenings would make one or two contacts. In the early years, the rig was what I had at the time, FT301, later an IC 745, home brew ATU and either 13m (40 feet) of wire for the antenna and another 13m for a counterpoise or an old Traeger 35 foot telescopic whip antenna and counterpoise.

Yes contacts were made, even the odd DX contact. Locations I operated from were varied from the Northern Flinders to various points in the remote outback of SA and closer to the home QTH.

Later my dreams came to fruition when I could afford and bought the new “all singing and dancing” compact HF rig and my first was the Yaesu FT100D. Back about 2000, a friend who

is a mad keen fisherman, gave me a 9m squid pole. This was so much more compact and lighter than the Traeger 35 foot whip, so that was retired. The squid pole could be used to hold up the 40 feet of wire as an alternative of throwing it over a tree or something similar.

A number of times in my travels, either for work or in support of Operation Flinders, my travelling companions were also Hams so we had fun in the evenings when the days activities were over, warming up by the camp fire with a red and when warm, out to the HF set up on the bonnet of our vehicle, work a couple of stations, then back to the fire and change of operators.

Photo 1: Operation Flinders at Angepena Station, east of Copley.



*Image courtesy of Ben VK5BB*

And so my portable activities continued, I changed rigs to an IC7000, but the rest of the set up remained much the same.

Then came the introduction to the Elecraft KX3! A couple of fellow ham work colleagues bought the KX3 and built them up and I saw all sorts of possibilities, so in 2013 I added a KX3



to my list of equipment. About the same time there was this big promotion of both the SOTA and various Parks programs being actively promoted here in both VK in general and via Paul VK5PAS, especially here in VK5 land with the VK5 National and Conservation Parks award. My interest was peaked and tweaked! When events were being promoted, from my shack I started to tune around and made contacts as a “chaser” though I was not super serious and treated it casually but logged the calls and gave numbers to those “out there” in the Parks!

I made a up a “Grab and Go” kit with my KX3 in a small camera backpack and any time my wife and I travelled out of Adelaide, the “Grab and Go” kit and a squid pole were packed.

Photo 2: Grab and Go kit.



*Image courtesy of Ben VK5BB*

When the opportunity arose, on the lawns at the Seven Hills winery, Burra Gorge or similar locations, I would set up my portable station, make a couple of calls on the KX3 then pack up and move on. These activities were not overly successful with few contacts made. I could often hear them but not work them! I compared my efforts with other club mates who were proving very successful during many Parks activations etc. My conclusions, it had to be the vertical antenna, I really need something like the inverted Vs to take advantage of NVIS propagation. So I built myself a 40, 20, 15 & 10 “linked dipole” using a squid pole to hold the centre up, as most activators are using.

So here I was now, ready to go with the KX3 kit and a new antenna, having only been tested at the QTH back yard!

Well Bob VK5FO was scheduling up operators for the VI5MCP Special Event operation commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of the Morialta Conservation Park and I was “press ganged” into being rostered to operated on several days.

At this stage I had not tried out my new antenna seriously in the field and if I was to operate at the Morialta CP as part of this Special Event and not embarrass myself, then I had better prove my equipment before the critical days. Hmm, how and where?

Well my QTH is only 20 minutes drive from Mt Gawler and it was a sunny day Sunday 28 June, there were no further excuses that I could use not to go there and try out my new portable station configuration. So, getting clearance, I packed my kit and my daughter and I drove to Mt Gawler, surveyed likely spots, (previously

checking with Bob VK5FO and confirming the active activation zone) and selected a spot to set up. Squid pole went up and the inverted V linked dipole tied out in the 40m configuration. KX3 set up on a small portable aluminum table, headset plugged in and I tuned around plus and minus 7.100MHz. Signals were romping in, generally 59 plus!

Photo 3: the VK5BB Mt Gawler operation.



*Image courtesy of Ben VK5BB*

Well around 0532z I heard John VK5BJE closing off a QSO so I gave a call on his tail. He came straight back with a 59, though I gave him a 55. He was operating from VKFF-782 Mark Oliphant CP and was my first contact as a SOTA operator, though at this stage I was not serious with the SOTA bit. QSO over, tuned around and heard Richard VK5ZRY calling from VKFF815 Ramsay CP on YP. So I put in a call and he came straight back with a 58 for my 54. Hmm, this seems to be working OK, lots of activity on various frequencies, most quite strong and easily readable and my noise floor was S1!

Tuning down, 7.085 seemed to be clear and I put a call out and yes it was still clear! So here goes, let us give it a try and see what happens. Put out a CQ CQ CQ portable Mt Gawler. Nothing! Called again and VK4CPS Paul came back. We exchanged numbers, closed the QSO and BANG! Paul VK5PAS was there! He welcomed me to portable operations in the field and SOTA operations. We exchanged numbers, pleasantries and he left me to it. It did not stop, I had stations calling me, someone said that they had “spotted me”! Hmm I thought, I did not really want that sort of pressure that I knew would come of this! Well, it was out there and I experienced my first pile up in many years! I worked a further 9 stations by 0622z.

Then the propagation gods threw and closed the big Knife Switch in the sky and I was stomped on by a DX contest station, smack on my frequency! So much for that! It was getting late and cold and I was on notice, so I started to pack up when Bob VK5FO and Ray VK5RR pulled up.

Bob said that he heard I was up here and thought they would visit and say “G'Day!” Bob said that I was the 100<sup>th</sup> Call to active Mt Gawler and I should submit my log on the SOTA website. This was now serious! I had worked more than the 4 calls needed for my activation of Mt Gawler.

Later that evening, I logged in to the SOTA website, registered and loaded my log. That is it! I am now officially a SOTA activator and this is the start of more field activations of both SOTA and Parks. I hope to see you out there, work and log you as either activators or chasers.

73, Ben VK5BB



## Amendments to WWFF rules

By Paul VK5PAS



Hi all,

I have volunteered to undertake a substantial review of the WWFF global rules.

Although there have been no substantial 'practical' issues, there are a number of areas of the rules which are unclear, where information is missing, and grammar needs correcting.

This includes what bands and modes can be used. In summary, all bands and modes can be used except for repeaters, echolink, etc.

There has also been a number of queries recently about the 44 QSOs, e.g. can you work the same station on different bands. The answer is yes. However the global rules imply differently and have not been updated. So this is another issue I will be looking at.

I am slowly running through the rules making the corrections. It is a work in progress.

But please note, there are no major rule changes planned.

## KRMNPA Activation weekend 2015

By Tony VK3VTH



Hi Folks,

The KRMNPA activation period is 5 Months away. November 13-16.

To date I have 16 National Parks registered to be activated by 11 operators.

These National Parks are:

1. Alfred (VK3VTH)
2. Burrowa Pine Mountain (VK3BYD)
3. Coopracambra (VK3VTH)
4. Croajingolong (VK3VTH)
5. Errinundra (VK3VTH)
6. French Island (VK3YSP and VK3FOWL)
7. Grampians (VK3PMG and VK3FMPB)
8. Great Otway (VK5PAS)
9. Hattah-Kulyne (VK3OF and VK3FMPB)
10. Kara Kara (VK3FQSO)
11. Lind (VK3VTH)
12. Little Desert (VK3PMG)
13. Lower Glenelg (VK5AV)

14. Murray Sunset (VK3OF and VK3FMPB)
15. Port Campbell (VK5PAS)
16. Wyperfeld (VK3FMPB)

Rules of engagement can be found on the Amateur Radio Victoria website:

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

Keep in mind, all VK3 National Parks are now eligible for the VKFF Award program.

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/australian-wwff-award-rules.html>

It will be an excellent opportunity to participate in both Award programs for the price of one!

Please give some consideration to participating as an Activator and / or Hunter.

Best Regards

Tony VK3VTH  
KRMNPA Manager

## VK100ANZAC – Farina QSL card

By Paul VK5PAS

A special QSL card has been designed for the recent activation at Farina of VK100ANZAC (by John VK5BJE, David VK5KC, & Paul VK5PAS).

I can send the card for FREE as a PDF and/or JPEG. Please drop me an email to....

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

Or if you would like a printed version, please send a Stamped Self Addressed envelope to....

Mr. Paul Simmonds,  
PO Box 169,  
Mount Barker,  
S.A.  
5251



## A great mapping tool

By Paul VK5PAS

Following up on the information provided by Colin VK5FCJM in the last issue, re the new SA mapping site: **LocationSAMapViewer**.

<http://www.location.sa.gov.au/viewer/>

If you click on Datasets, go to Environment & Climate, then tick both NPW and Conservation

Properties & NPW and Conservation Reserve Boundaries, then click the X to close the datasets and check out the map. It will show you all SA National Parks in pink, and Conservation Parks in green.

Below is an example of Kangaroo Island.



This is an excellent mapping tool. Give it a try.

## Recent Park Activations

Here is a list of recent park activations by VK5's (that I am aware of). A very very quiet month. Bring on the warm weather!

- Latham Conservation Park VKFF-903, Rob VK4AAC/5 (31/7/2015)
- Cromer Conservation Park VKFF-779, Paul VK5PAS (31/7/2015)
- Morialta Conservation Park VKFF-783, VI5MCP (25/7/2015 & various other dates)
- Vivonne Bay Conservation Park VKFF-811, Rob VK4AAC/5 (13/7/2015)

- Warren Conservation Park, Bob VK5FO (9/7/2015)
- Flinders Chase National Park VKFF-173, Rob VK4AAC/5 (8/7/2015)

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.wwffaustalia.com/>

## Recent SOTA activations



Very quiet on the SOTA front this month as well.

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

- Mt McKay VK3/ VE-007, Keith VK5OQ (28/7/2015)

- Brown Hill Range VK5/ SE-004, Ian VK5CZ (18/7/2015)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Nigel VK5NIG (18/7/2015)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Stuart VK5STU (18/7/2015)
- Mount Bryan VK5/ SE-001, Ian VK5CZ (17/7/2015)
- Hogshead Hill VK5/ NE-051, Ian VK5CZ (5/7/2015)
- Maurice Hill VK5/ NE-049, Ian VK5CZ (4/7/2015)

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

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

## G/ SP-013 Gun

By Mike 2EOYYY



Quick Activation Report G/SP-013 Gun  
01/07/2015, my first activation for three weeks!

For the DX junkies amongst you, there's little doubting the higher HF frequencies are very

hard work. This morning, I was QRV on a very windy Gun at 0545z working the 20m band and rather unexpectedly, walked straight into three North Americans. First up was Jerry NG6R in California, for his first ever EU SOTA contact, 5 minutes later Peter WA7JTM in Phoenix Arizona called and four minutes later Falcon KI4FKW in Alabama answered my CQ. And that folks was the end of the North American action.



*Above:- the operating spot on G/ SP-013.  
Photo courtesy of Mike 2EOYYY*

SOTA regulars Paul VK5PAS called in at 0600z and a little later Ron VK3AFW who gave me a shout, and this folks concluded the mornings DX on 20m.



Ten metres was pretty much hopeless, although I did find three local chasers. I did have a listen on the 15m band and it was well and truly dead :-)

Thanks to all the Chasers, It was good to be back out on a summit in the wonderful sunshine!

Just 40 contacts for the activation...

73 Mike  
2EoYYY

## Recent videos

By Paul VK5PAS

Here are some links to some recent videos posted by SOTA & Park activators.....

Joe VK3YSP and Julie VK3FOWL operating from the Melbourne Museum, as heard by me in the mobile at Brachina Gorge in the Flinders Ranges National Park. It can be found at.....

<https://youtu.be/YKqYkyZ4mus>

A quick video of VK100ANZAC operating at Farina. That video can be found at.....

<https://youtu.be/EwFe1b2hLjY>

If you like the videos, please take the time to click on the 'Like' button on You Tube and leave a comment.

If you have put together a video or seen a video on a website or on You Tube that you think is

related to the subject material in this newsletter, please drop me an email at.....

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

## New VKFF Activator certificate

By Paul VK5PAS

I have created a new certificate for the VKFF program. It will be issued to the Top VKFF Activator each year. I have issued the certificates retrospectively.

In 2013, the winner was Joe VK3YSP.



In 2014, the winner was John VK5BJE.





## Field Radio

By Paul VK5PAS



The Field Radio facebook group was formed to exchange knowledge and experiences of amateur radio operations in the field.

All members are encouraged to display and describe outdoor setups of any amateur band, wattage, transceiver type or power source.

However great emphasis should be placed on DC powered portable operations and mobiles with stationary antenna setups.

No question is stupid to ask or be answered. ALL levels of expertise are welcome here!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FieldRadio/permalink/1163033303722205/>

## Naming your WWFF logs

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder please, that when submitting logs for upload to WWFF LogSearch, please use the following format.....

**callsign @ reference YYYYMMDD**

If logs are not named in this format, they will be returned for correction.

My thanks to all activators

Paul VK5PAS  
VKFF Co-ordinator

## VKFF & SOTA Facebook site

By Paul VK5PAS

Just a reminder re the ‘VKFF & SOTA Activations’ Facebook site. This is an excellent site which I highly recommend. The moderator is Brett VK4FTWO.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/959490830770023/>

## New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

- No new members for this period

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

<https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sanpcpa/info>

It is FREE and EASY to join.

## New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



Welcome to the following new members of the VK5 Parks Facebook site.....

- Kym, VK5FKYM
- Ivar VK4HG
- Allan VK5FTAZ

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

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

I am pleased to report that we now have 68 members from around Australia, NZ & overseas.

## Leading zeros added to WWFF reference numbers

By Paul VK5PAS

As many countries in the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program have now exceeded 1,000 references, leading zeros have been added to reference numbers.

So, as an example VKFF-112, now becomes VKFF-0112.

## Field Radio

By Jonathan VK6JON



If you are going to be climbing that next summit or operating in the field then why not let other members of the group know about it?

Well now you can.

We've added a page to the new group website where you can let us know when you'll be QRV and it will automatically be listed on the site at

<http://www.fieldradio.org/portable-session>.

To ensure that it is accessible to group members only, you will need to enter a password and this can be obtained from one of the group admins.

Have fun and please don't hesitate to PM me with any queries or comments.

Jonathan, VK6JON

## Danger in St Elmo

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently saw the following on the realhfmobile Yahoo group.....

*A box of old blasting caps (mercury fulminate/ $\text{KClO}_3$  mix ) was just found in one of the old buildings in the old mining town of St. Elmo, CO, 2 July 2015.*

*(When members of Historic St. Elmo and Chalk Creek Canyon Inc. cleaned out the outhouse behind the Home Comfort Hotel in St. Elmo Tuesday, they found a potentially explosive surprise.*

*On the floor of the outhouse, they found what they believed to be dynamite, said Walter Roth, a member of the historical group.*

*Later in the day a bomb squad found blasting caps rather than dynamite).*

*i have operated 50W Pedestrian Mobile right in front of that Hotel !*

*While the electric caps are usually shorted and would not be effected by a*

*QRP radio, 50W is a dangerously high level to be near a blasting cap.*

*It would be a smart idea to avoid operating in*

*any area where unexploded ordinance exists.  
Happy Forth of July....*

*Paul WoRW*

## SOTA update

By Ian VK5CZ



Since my last article in Out and About I have been busy activating several summits . This time Hugh vk5nhg and I did 4 activations in the same weekend and stayed overnight at Orroroo for a couple nights.

The first activation was Marchant Hill in the northern part of the Bendelby Ranges so we needed a 4x4 to get out to all summits this time, Hugh's Mitsi got the job to take us there. The tracks were ok nothing too adventurous and we had a long hike to Marchant Hill because the walking track was not well defined and we were a bit lost for a couple kilometres. We could see the trig on the hill but finding the right saddle to get us there took a bit more effort. In the afternoon we went to the southern part of the Bendelby Ranges to Eke Hill this one we could drive a lot closer to but it was an interesting climb to the summit once we sighted the stone

cairn on top of the summit and abandoned climbing the wrong hill. The accent was along a poorly marked walking trail which eventually headed up a creek with lots of rock steps and if it was wet it would be a great water cascade. It made our climb easier because once we got to the head of the creek we had gained a lot of altitude then the lung buster for the other few hundred metres picking a line along the rock ridges .

This summit has a nicely made stone cairn also and is a pretty summit as far a view goes we could see Marchant Hill way off to the north and Black Rock to the south our Sunday summit. Hugh and I both made plenty of contacts on 40m ssb and I made a few on cw to catch up my tally.

Sunday morning we left Orroroo early in the morning and headed for Black Rock out east of town this time and once on the old road through the hills we had to find the track that leads up the eastern side of the summit. The track started out along the creek then after a while we started to ascend ridge by ridge and this track was a bit more serious for Mitsi but it handled it ok . We got to the top of the saddle to see our previous days summits off to the north and Depot Hill to the south our afternoon activation. Hugh quickly picked a track to the top as we had to walk some of the way, we decided to walk from the eastern side to save 4x4 for another km then have to walk anyhow. Black Rock is an impressive summit with nothing in its way for many kilometres and isolated from mains power so the radio installations there are solar powered, I don't think the channel 3 uhf cb repeater would work very well it had no antenna left it must have broken at some stage. We made some good

contacts on 40m but not many on 20m then it was time to get back down to the Mitsi and head to Depot Hill. We had to travel about 25 kilometres around the south side of Depot Hill to find the track up from the southern end, it is quite a big rock uplift on the Northern side so any tracks will be on the other side. When we got there we found 3 tracks to choose from some not marked on our maps so we decided to take the track on the CFS map which disappeared part way up the ridge and with the long spinifex grass we did not chance driving any further and walked about 1 km to the top of the ridge to discover it was not the summit. By this time the track was visible again and in good order so we pushed on through a patch of thick scrub to finally make the top of the summit. No trig or cairn on this one so we set up on the eastern side behind a bush out of the wind. We had lots of contacts and I even got some dx to Europe on 20m cw, after Hugh worked the locals on 40m ssb I even had enough vk stations on cw to qualify this one . We had a good walk back down and worked out where the track goes for next time we activate there and might need a saw with us to fix up a branch on a tree that is growing over some of the track . 540 kilometres this trip and a couple nice friendly nights in the pubs of Orroroo meeting up with the locals who all seemed interested in our stories about climbing hills.

As a stop press bit of news last weekend I worked JS1UEH/2 Takeshi who was doing the first activation on Mt Fuji in Japan . He was operating on 17m band 18 mhz cw I am not sure of his equipment or power but I guess it was the usual SOTA kit . He had a steady pile up of chasers but at the same time a JCC qso party was on and the band was very busy with portable stations from all around Japan who

were out operating in that event. JCC number collecting is something like a prolonged shire contest here, they set up in different districts or local government districts from my understanding of it but it can be done all year round, almost any weekend you will hear JA stations out portable swapping JCC numbers.

If SOTA kicks of big time in Japan I am hopeful to make some S2S qsos with them, our time difference and good skip distances will be a good opportunity for us to qso with each other probably easier than Europe and especially USA IMHO.

73 everyone take care in them hills.

Ian vk5cz .

## SOTA Japan

By Paul VK5PAS



The Summits on the Air (SOTA) program is now up and going in JAPAN. The JA, JA5, JA6, and JA8 Associations went live on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

For more information.....

<http://www.kawauchi.homeip.mydns.jp/sotajp/>

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



## Dangers of Wi-fi

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently came across this interesting article on alleged dangers of Wi-fi.

[http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-10/clay-wi-fi-might-not-hurt-us-but-fear-of-it-certainly-does/6607860?fb\\_ref=Default&fb\\_source=message](http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-10/clay-wi-fi-might-not-hurt-us-but-fear-of-it-certainly-does/6607860?fb_ref=Default&fb_source=message)

## NOT Out and About

By Chris VK4FR



This article does not fit into the 'Out and About' ethos but at this time of the year a great many of us are spending time in shacks. This doesn't mean there isn't something to do!

Here are some of the things that are filling in my time.

### Ham Nation

This weekly on line TV show has a focus on US activities and some projects. It's hosted by Bob Heil of Heil radio fame.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TWiTHamNation>

### Amateur Logic

Is a monthly on line TV show. It mainly has a project focus and while also coming from the US has a local flavour with one of the co hosts coming from Victoria, VK3PB, Peter Berrett.

<http://www.amateurlogic.com/blog/>

### TX Factor

An English based TV show which has very good quality video. They have had several excellent articles on SOTA and portable operations along with visits to several historical sites.

<http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/>



For those who have a regular commute podcasts are a great way to pass the time. Apart from the regular weekly WIA podcast some of the others I listen to are:

### QSO Today

I find this an absolutely fascinating podcast. 4Z1UG, Eric has a guest each week and

interviews them on all things radio. Some notable guests have been: Bud Drummond W3FF, inventor of the Buddipole. Steve Galchutt, WGoAT, SOTA founder.

### The RAIN Report

A quick (5 minute or so) wrap up of important radio around the world.

Podcasts require a downloader and one of the best in the world, recently receiving an international award, is a VK5 project 'Pocket Casts'. Give it a go, I'm sure you will enjoy it.

If anyone else has some good ones please let me know.

Regards  
Chris  
VK4FR/5

## Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS

A very quiet period for VK5's receiving certificates for the various portable programs. I've sent out a significant number of certificates this month, but mostly to overseas hams for VKFF & VK's outside of VK5 for VKFF.

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.

### SOTA

#### **Adrian VK5FANA**

- SHACK SLOTH (1,000 points as a Chaser)

### WWFF

#### **Rob VK4AAC/5**

- Platinum VKFF Hunter
- Diamond VKFF Hunter



#### **Adrian VK5FANA**

- 132 references Hunter



Paul VK5PAS

- 18 SPFF references Hunter



VK5 Parks Award

NIL

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

NIL KNOWN

## VKFF activation weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>, a VKFF Activation weekend will be held. It is envisaged that there will be park operators out and about all across Australia.



If you do intend to activate a park, please either send me an email to....

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



Or place your intentions on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group at.....

<https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wwff/australia/info>

## Molenbeekvallei ONFF-177

By Danny OT4V

Only once activated and still a very rare one  
: **ONFF-177 Molenbeekvallei** in Herent

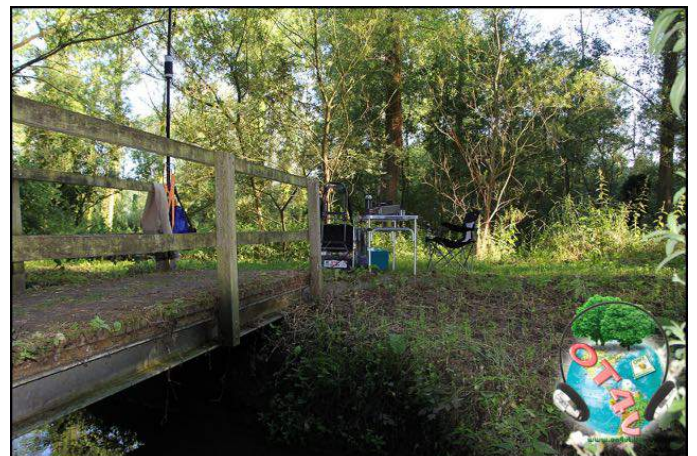


QSO's in 36 DXCC, 5 continents. 145 CW and 156 SSB QSO's.



**OR7Z/p** did the digital part and some 40m and 20m SSB.

Very sympatic visit of Belgium's number  
1 **SOTA chaser** Karel, **ON4FI**.



Again an early start with good runs on 20 meter SSB and CW ... nice DX in the log : VE7, VE6, K5, VK5 (VK5PAS), VK2, EA8. 30m and 40m gave also a lot of good pile ups ending with 301



*All above images courtesy of Danny OT4V*

## Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

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

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

...and I will include it here.

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

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

And WWFF Hamspots.....

<http://hamspots.net/wwff/>

Below is a list of VK5 to DX (SOTA & parks contacts) that I am aware of.

Paul VK5PAS.

- F/PC5Z/p, FFF-833 FRANCE (31/7/2015)
- ON5SWA/p, ONFF-475 BELGIUM (31/7/2015)
- DD5LP/p, SOTA DL/AL-170 GERMANY (30/7/2015)
- M3FEH/p, SOTA G/DC-003 ENGLAND (30/7/2015)
- F/PC5Z/p, FFF-835 FRANCE (30/7/2015)
- 2EoYYY/p, G/ SP-013 ENGLAND (30/7/2015)
- IZoMQN/p, Italian Castle (22/7/2015)
- ON5SWA/p, ONFF-253 BELGIUM (22/7/2015)
- IZ5GST/p, Italian castle (21/7/2015)
- IZ5GST/p, Italian castle (20/7/2015)
- DHoKAA/p, Lighthouse GERMANY (16/7/2015)
- ON5SWA/p, ONFF-088 BELGIUM (16/7/2015)
- DF9PE/p, DLFF-114 GERMANY (11/7/2015)
- SP9YFF/8, SPFF-502 POLAND (11/7/2015)
- ON4CEQ/p, ONFF-136 BELGIUM (11/7/2015)
- F5TLN/p, FFF-1489 FRANCE (11/7/2015)
- G7UFI pedestrian mobile (11/7/2015)
- EI/VK6NU, SOTA EI/IE-054 IRELAND (11/7/2015)
- SP9YFF/8, SPFF-744 POLAND (11/7/2015)



- SP9YDD/p, SPFF-033 POLAND  
(10/7/2015)
- OT4V/p, ONFF-177 BELGIUM  
(10/7/2015)
- ON5SWA/p, ONFF-220 BELGIUM  
(10/7/2015)
- G7UFI, pedestrian mobile, (9<sup>th</sup> July 2015)
- G4AKC, pedestrian mobile, (9/7/2015)
- John EI/VK6NU/p, SOTA IRELAND  
(8/7/2015)
- ON5SWA/p, ONFF-047 BELGIUM  
(8/7/2015)
- Eugene UV5EVZ/p, URFF-042  
(6/7/2015)
- IQ4FE/p (5/7/2015)
- IZoMQN/p (5/7/2015)
- IK2SAV/p (4/7/2015)
- IZoMQN/p (2/7/2015)
- F4HEC tractor mobile (2/7/2015)
- IK2SAV/p (1/7/2015)
- OT4V/p, ONFF-389 BELGIUM  
(1/7/2015)
- Mike 2EoYYY/p, SOTA G/ SP-013  
(1/7/2015)

I haven't been receiving much info for this item. I'm sure that there are some of you out there who have worked some portable DX ops. If you have, please drop me an email at....

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

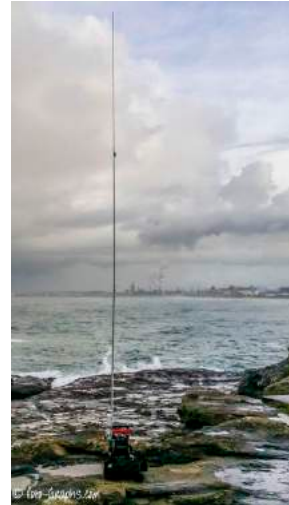
## Tractor mobile

Paul VK5PAS

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 I was tuning around 20m when I heard French station Freddy F4HEC calling CQ from his tractor. So I gave Freddy a call and we had a nice QSO for a couple of minutes. Freddy's signal was a good 5/7. I have worked Freddy previously whilst he has been out in the fields in his tractor. And although stronger on previous occasions, Freddy was still a very nice signal from out in the field in the cabin of his tractor.

Keep an ear out for Freddy as he is quite active on 20m on the long path during our afternoons.





*Images above courtesy of Freddy F4HEC*

## VK2BSY pedestrian mobile

By Paul VK5PAS

Dave VK2BSY can often be heard on 20m, operating pedestrian mobile. Dave almost always has a very strong signal here. Keep an ear out for Dave, and if you hear him, please give him a shout.

## Why so many Facebook sites?

By Paul VK5PAS

Just following on from the above article re the new VKFF & SOTA Facebook site. I can hear many of you now, asking, “Why so many sites?”

Each has a specific target audience. But even those that are ‘double ups’, personally I’ve found that the more exposure the better.

Here are some links to some very good sites.....

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

WWFF: <http://www.wwff.co/>

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

VK5 Parks: <http://www.vk5parks.com/>

Keith Roget Award:

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

Australian Activation  
<http://www.parksnpeaks.org/>

Spotting:

*version 5.62 of MacLoggerDX has been released.*

*What's New in this version:*

- \* Added SMS Text Alarms (requires 10.10+ and SMS Relay).*
- \* Icom IC-7600 Alternate VFO display (requires V2.0+ Firmware).*
- \* Icom IC-7800 Alternate VFO display (requires V3.10+ Firmware).*
- \* Added Icom IC-7851Driver. Icom IC-7600, IC-7700, IC-7800, IC-7850, IC-7851 Set Time.*
- \* Flex SmartSDR Drivers improved for VFO, Split, Power reporting, Volume, Squelch (FM), S Meter, Filter Width display.*
- \* DX Panel Email, URL editable.*
- \* Intermittent Mode tuning bug fixed.*

*MacLoggerDX is the Total Mac Ham Radio Assistant and premier Mac logger:*

*Organizing and filtering the spots from your favourite DX Cluster for DXing, Contesting or casual rag-chewing.*

*It supports close to a hundred radios, automatically tuning to the spots you are interested in and optionally swinging your beam around.*

*Alerting you to rare contacts or Band Openings and looking up, displaying on 2D, 3D and Satellite Maps and logging your contacts to a super fast sql database.*

*MacLoggerDX can also email you when the Bands are open or that rare DX is spotted.*

*Awards Tracking, Band Activity, Schedules, Memories, QSL Generation, ADIF import,*

## NPOTA

By Paul VK5PAS

This month, the ARRL had a Board meeting, during which a new ARRL operating event was planned for 2016. It is proposed that there will be a National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) operating event in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Service centennial.

The USA National Park Service turns 100 on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

For more information, please see.....

<http://www.nps.gov/subjects/centennial/index.htm>

As more information comes to light, I will let you all know.

## Version 5.62 of MacLogger DX has been released

By Paul VK5PAS

Version 5.62 of MacLogger DX has now been released. Here is what the official release said.....

*Dog Park Software is pleased to announce that*



*export, eQSL, LoTW Confirmations and much more.*

*This is a free update for all Version 5 customers and can be downloaded from:*  
<http://dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html>

*73 de VE3VRW Don Agro*

## VI5MCP

By Paul VK5PAS

The special event station VI5MCP was very active during July from the Morialta Conservation Park as part of the 100 year anniversary of the park.

A great effort from the guys at the Amateur Radio Experimenters Group (AREG) considering the weather.

In next month's issue, I hope to get a bit more information on how many stations were worked, etc.



*Images above courtesy of AREG*

## Problems with 14.244

By Paul VK5PAS

I've found over the past couple of months that 14.244 is virtually un-usable here in VK. This is a nominated starting point on 20m for WWFF activators. A group of VK's & USA hams congregate there virtually everyday (on or around 14.244) for a chat.

So if you are in Europe reading this, and you are trying to get some VK's in your log, please bear in mind that 14.244 is no good here.



In VK, we find that anything above 14.300 is much better.

14.310 has been an ‘adopted’ frequency for both SOTA & park activators. That freq can also be a challenge at times due to German speaking stations that congregate on 14.307. But it is much better than 14.244.

## Amendments to NPWA

By Paul VK5PAS



**Government of South Australia**  
Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

Some time ago, I received an email from John VK5BJE advising me that there was a Consultation Draft out regarding amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

It has taken me a while, but I have finally got an official response from Department Water Natural Resources (DEWNR). In summary, the Act amendments have been put on hold due to changes in Government priorities. The DEWNR rep who got back to me stated that they hope that a number of the key objectives of the amendments may be implemented via other projects in the future.

## Survey of landscape quality

By Paul VK5PAS & Trevor VK5ATQ

I received an email from Trevor VK5ATQ advising me of a Survey of Mt Lofty Ranges Scenic Beauty, which is being conducted by Dr. Andrew Lothian, Scenic Solutions.

I have just completed the on-line survey which took me about 15 minutes.

It is interesting to see a few of the stats of the survey so far. Less than 10% who have completed this survey are aged 18-24. About 20% are aged 25-44. About 35% are aged 45-64 and around 45 % are aged 65 years and over. The number of males completed the survey, just slightly exceeds the females. About 55% of those that have completed the survey so far, live in the Mt Lofty Ranges. Nearly 90% of those that have taken part, were born in Australia.

Below is the original email from Dr. Lothian. I would encourage as many people as possible to take part.

Hi  
**SURVEY OF MT LOFTY RANGES  
SCENIC BEAUTY**

The Mt Lofty Ranges are among Australia's most beautiful areas and are enjoyed by many residents and visitors. Its lovely landscapes are the key to its popularity.

With the support of the World Heritage Bid for the Ranges, I am carrying out a survey to measure and map its landscape quality. The



results will inform and assist the Government, councils, land owners and other bodies in their planning, management and promotion of the region.

The survey comprises a set of photos of the region and involves rating them on a 1 – 10 scale of landscape attractiveness. The value of the survey depends on having as many people as possible participate.

**I invite you to participate by rating the scenic quality of the scenes.**

No qualifications or experience are required and the responses will be anonymous. It is open to anyone 18 years or older.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. If it is inconvenient to do it now, I suggest you put it aside to return to, or send it to your home email.

You can indicate at the end of the survey if you would like to see the results.

To participate simply click of the following link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5TKXM93>

**Please forward this to anyone you think might be interested. I would be particularly grateful if you would forward it to your colleagues in your radio club.**

If you have any questions about the project you can contact me by email:  
[lothian.andrew@gmail.com](mailto:lothian.andrew@gmail.com)

Thank you for your assistance in this important project.

Dr Andrew Lothian

Scenic Solutions

[www.scenicsolutions.com.au](http://www.scenicsolutions.com.au)

## New Facility for RealHF mobile

By Dave G4AKC



Hello,

This morning Dave, VK2BSY, Barrie, G7UFI and myself created a new facility to the group in order to have instant messaging between group members on our mobile phones.

All group members who have a smart phone and "whatsapp" installed can use the group facility.

The new whatsapp group is called **RealHFmobile** of course .... and so far we have 7 of our group who have joined.

It will be very useful for live group chats to synchronize frequencies and operating times and also to share pictures and recordings,

If you would like to join the group and you have or can download [whatsapp](#) then can you please send me, Dave, VK2BSY or Barrie, G7UFI (we are all administrators) your

mobile phone number and we can add you to the group or you can post it on here and I will add you if you wish.

If you want to send me your number privately then send it to: [dave@g4akc.co.uk](mailto:dave@g4akc.co.uk)

Look forward to having better instant communication between group members when planning to go out and during DX sessions.

Many Thanks ...

Dave,  
G4AKC

## Mount Remarkable NP

By Wayne VK5APN



*Image courtesy of Wayne VK5APN*

Trevor (VK5ZTJ) and myself went portable in the Mt Remarkable NP on 22nd June 2015 (PF97ad). My first time that I have activated a National Park.

Trevor had a Fan Dipole for 40m and 20m, supported by a 10m squid pole.

Forecast was for no rain, and light winds. Well that was only a guide. Once on site winds were quite strong. Both struggled to ensure the squid pole stayed upright.

Trevor checked out the system once setup and had swr issues. Eventually he gave it away.

In between trying to get the HF setup, I managed to precariously get the 2m EME array setup. Used 2x 65Amp AGM Batteries in parallel for as much battery reserve as possible. Managed to make 23 QSO's to 11 DXCC on 2m.



*Image courtesy of Wayne VK5APN*

Once the moon had set, there was a light spitting of rain. Managed to get all packed away before the rain increased.

Was a late night, many lessons learnt and improvements needed to be made for next time.

Thanks goes to Trev for supply of the HD DC cabling and some ideas.



*Image courtesy of Wayne VK5APN*

More pics and log on

<http://www.vk5apn.com/PF97.html>

Other portable EME grid activation's can be seen on

<http://www.vk5apn.com/PortableEME.html>

Regards

Wayne

VK5APN

PF95jg

<http://vk5apn.com>

## **‘Liking’ and leaving comments on Wordpress**

By Paul VK5PAS

With the many Wordpress sites and Blogs now for activators, please take the time to click the ‘Like’ button on a particular post/page that

you’ve read. And/or, take the time to leave a message on the page.

It will be appreciated by the owner of the site.

Share this:

Press This

Twitter

Facebook

Reblog

Like

One blogger likes this.

## **More features for parksnparks**

By Paul VK5PAS

Allen VK3HRA has now linked the parksnparks site with the DX cluster. So any Australian activators who are spotted on parksnparks, will also automatically be spotted on the DX Cluster. This greatly increases the exposure that the activator is there.

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

I highly recommend that park hunters, take the time to spot any park hunter that they hear/work. Not only does it help the activator, but is also helps your fellow hunter.

## Results from QRP Hours Contest

By Andrew VK1DA



Logs for the QRP Hours contest in April have been processed.

First place in the CW/PSK section went to Gerard VK2IO who operated his KX3 from a portable location with a dipole mounted on a 10m squid pole. **First place in the SSB section went to Ian VK5CZ in the Clare Valley of South Australia.**

Overall we had 14 logs submitted for the CW and PSK section, with another 5 callsigns being worked, total participation 19. For the SSB section we received 23 logs with another 16 callsigns being worked who did not submit logs, making total participation of 39. Some of the logs not submitted may have been QRO stations who did not think it appropriate to submit a log, however their participation was appreciated.

CW/PSK: First three places went to VK2IO on 14 points, VK5LJ on 13 and VK5CZ on 12 points.

SSB: VK5CZ on 31, VK2IO on 30, VK5FANA on

25 points.

Further details will be published on the club website in due course. That's

<http://vkqrpclub.org/>

Thanks to all participants and congratulations to those who operated portable and ran 1, 5 or 10 Watts to make their contacts.

73

Andrew  
VK1DA VK2UH  
(temporary contest manager)

## Tribute to Pete G6UOI

By Paul VK5PAS

During July, there was a tribute to Pete G6UOI. Pete was a very active pedestrian mobile operator, who died unexpectedly a few years ago. I worked Pete many times and he was an absolute gentleman.

In the next issue, I will have a report from Dave G4AKC reporting on how the tribute activation sessions went.

I'm sure that there were some VK's who appeared in the logs for the pedestrian mobile gang.





Above:- Pete G6UOI. Image courtesy of [fieldradio.org](http://www.fieldradio.org)

<http://www.fieldradio.org/506/pete-turner-g6uoi>

## Ham humour



## Bardon Hill G/ CE-004

By Paul VK5PAS



Joint Activation of G/CE-004 Bardon Hill, with Rob G7LAS, Saturday 17/07/2013. A tale of the superb Antron-99 antenna

Well once again, conditions were far from ideal on the higher HF bands, nevertheless Bardon Hill has a good take-off and in conjunction with the A-99 I was confident we would find a little DX. The 20m band appeared quiet at 0615, however, we persevered and after just 7 minutes were rewarded with a call from regular SOTA chaser, Ron VK3AFW.



Ed DD5LP followed and then Tony VK3CAT. The very next call was Jerry NG6R, in Rolling Hills California. VK and then California! ...DX don't come too much better than that... Once again the A-99 was performing its magic. Nigel VK5NIG gave us a shout as did Bill W1OW in MA at 0640z.



Peter VK6RZ, called in just a couple of minutes later and at 0650, Peter WA7JTM rounded off the DX with a call from Arizona. We noticed that John EI/VK6NU, was back on the 40m band, activating EI/IE-054, so I tuned the A-99 for 40m and made the s2s. Many thanks John.

A visit to 15m produced a very quick 21 contacts, sadly no DX. I did tune the antenna for 6m fm and made a single contact with John GW4BVE. The only contact on 10m was a s2s with Antonio, EA2AG who was activating EA2/VI-039. After that we we pulled the plug. 70 contacts for the activation. Many thanks to all the callers.

73 Mike 2EoYYY.

## Clarification of SOTA rules

By Paul VK5PAS

The following is kindly reproduced from the website of Andrew VK1DA's website at.....

<http://vkfaq.ampr.org/opersota.php>

### What is the minimum distance I have to walk?

There is no fixed minimum distance. It is recognised that summits vary in their access, difficulty, slope, terrain, foliage etc. You may wish to operate from the top of the summit but it may be inaccessible to a walker. The amount of horizontal distance required depends on the gradient/slope and where you wish to operate within the activation zone. eg. a 1/10 slope means it would be 250m from the border of the activation zone to the very top of the summit.

### Do I have to operate from the top of the mountain?

Most activators like to reach the top of the mountain and operate as close as possible to it. Conquering the mountain is an achievement. Operating from the top is too. Sometimes the wind or lack of suitable antenna supports mean operating a few metres down from the top is a better idea.

### **How close to the top can I drive in my car?**

- It is permitted to drive your vehicle into the activation zone.
- You need to carry your equipment on foot, bicycle or other non-motorised means to your operating position. Equipment includes radio(s), antenna, food, water, tent or other protection etc.
- To count towards SOTA awards, you may not operate close enough to your vehicle that it becomes any part of your station, ie. it must not be used to support antennas, provide weather protection or even a wind break and must not provide power for your equipment. You must be independent of your vehicle, so that if it was removed it would not affect your operation.

### **Isn't there are rule requiring me to walk out of the Activation Zone and back in, if I drove into the AZ?**

- Not in the SOTA General rules, which take precedence over any other rules.
- The SOTA rules do not require you to enter the activation zone on foot. Most Australian SOTA association reference manuals (ARMs) required you to enter the zone on foot because association managers believed this was the intention of the SOTA rules. The SOTA General rules from SOTA.ORG.UK take precedence over individual association ARMs. The Australian ARMs are gradually being revised to remove this requirement. If in doubt ask your Association Manager whose contact

details are published in the ARM for your association/state.

## **Barefoot Table Net**

By Ian VK3VIN

Hello everyone. The Barefoot Table net is working well in its Thursday and Sunday format on 80 meters. There are regularly up to 8 Participants and the topics are varied in both depth and variety.

It is important to maintain the variety so that people at all levels of Ham radio experience and ability can be included.

Due to the variance in topics and levels, participation is likely to change significantly as people listen to, then choose to join in depending on their comfort level and interest. So, thanks to you all for going with the flow.

Now to a couple of changes.

Firstly, a slight change to the time beginning with the first Barefoot Table net in August.

If my brain has calculated it properly, the first Sunday in August is 2nd.

The starting time will change to 10.30 UTC and the frequency will remain the same--3.565.

I have noticed that conditions on 80 meters improve after 10.30 so changing the time that little bit helps me make the best of a noisy band.

So, the days will stay the same, just the time is being put back 15 minutes.

The other change is a change to the aerial system. My Doublet is almost flat top and this will change to an inverted V configuration I

think will improve reception. This will just happen so if and/or when you hear a difference in my signal, it might be the aerial. There are plans to install a .5 wave 80 meter aerial running in the opposit direction to my Doublet. This might also affect my transmit signal so keep your ears open.

With the success of the Doublet over a long period, it is time to tinker in search of that magic improvement.

Another email will be sent prior to 2 August reminding you of the change in net time. In the mean time, see you Thursdays and Sundays, 10.15 UTC on 3.565 plus or minus QRM.

73

Ian, VK3VIN



I've recently been in discussions with Ken ZL4KD, and it is hoped that in the coming months, there will be some activity coming out of New Zealand from their National Parks. This is quite exciting news.



*Above:- Mount Cook. Image courtesy of wikipedia*



I found this interesting article on the ARRL website, pertaining to a penalty handed out to an amateur in the States.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-shows-no-mercy-sustains-22-000-fine-for-egregious-on-air-behavior-by-michigan-licensee>



If you are looking for info on a particular SOTA summit, you may find the VK SOTA website put together by Ben VK5TX, an interesting starting point. It can be found at.....



<https://sites.google.com/site/vksota/>

The VK SOTA website provides details of summit located in Australia. These details may include some of the following:

- GPS location
- Maps
- Access information
- Site photos

If you would like to contribute to the website or spot any inconsistencies, please contact Ben at

[summits@vksota.info](mailto:summits@vksota.info)

## Expansion to Kangaroo Island parks

By Paul VK5PAS

The following info is from the DEWNR website.....

*Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation*

*Two Kangaroo Island conservation parks have been expanded, offering further protection to areas used by migratory waders and coastal raptors.*

*Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Minister Ian Hunter said 195 hectares had been added to the **Cygnest Estuary Conservation Park** on Nepean Bay.*

*“Part of the Cygnest Estuary Conservation Park expansion includes intertidal samphire communities, consolidating protection for a nationally-significant coastal and estuarine wetland,” he said.*

*“These are areas of very high biodiversity, with important seasonal feeding and breeding grounds for shorebirds, including migratory waders such as the sharp-tailed sandpiper, the common greenshank and the red-necked stint.*

*“At least 19 significant shorebird species have been recorded in this area, including the critically-endangered far eastern curlew and the vulnerable hooded plover.”*

*“Six hectares have been added to **Lesueur Conservation Park**, taking in about four kilometres of spectacular coastline south-west of Cape Willoughby which provides habitat for the rare osprey and white-bellied sea eagle.”*

*The new land takes Lesueur Conservation Park to a total of 1414 hectares.*

*Mr Hunter said additions such as these reinforce the island’s reputation as a pre-eminent nature-based tourism destination.*

*“It is estimated that Kangaroo Island parks are responsible for more than 20 per cent of the economic activity associated with nature-based tourism in the State,” he said.*

*“Our new Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail Project will only add to the appeal.*

*“The trail will be an internationally competitive multi-day walking experience along the South West coast, bringing economic benefits to the State, and opportunities for the private sector to invest in new tourism products on Kangaroo Island.”*

*A recent report by KPMG estimates that post construction, total visitor expenditure relating*

*to the trail will be \$4.4 million by 2020, and it will support approximately 27 ongoing jobs on Kangaroo Island and 50 across the State.*

*Mr Hunter said that since the Labor Government was elected on March 2002, 68 new parks and reserves had been proclaimed and 74 more parks had had land added to them.*

*“In that time, we have added 206,560 hectares of new land to our parks system and we’ve reclassified another 2 million hectares to a higher conservation status,” he said.*

*“More than one-fifth of the state’s landmass is now dedicated to conservation as parks and reserves, which is a great outcome for the state, and its environment.”*

## **Parks on the Air (POTA)**

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently came across some websites regarding Parks on the Air (POTA). I have sent off a few emails to clarify the status of POTA. I will update everyone in the next issue.

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

<http://inpota.com/>

<http://www.ospota.org/ospota/index.php>

## **The Thin Green Line**

By Paul VK5PAS

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015 I activated the Cromer Conservation Park, VKFF-779, as part of World Ranger Day, which is observed annually on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, commemorates rangers killed or injured in the line of duty, and celebrates the work rangers do to protect the world’s natural and cultural treasures.

For more information, please see....

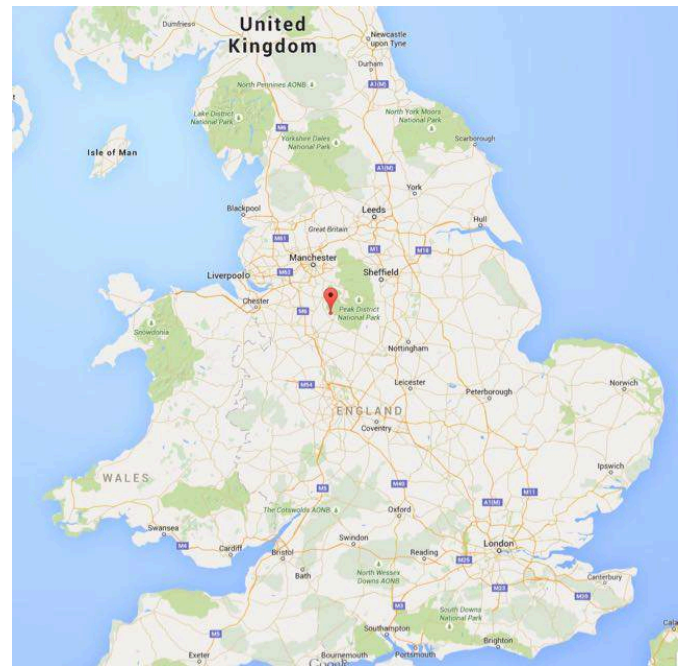
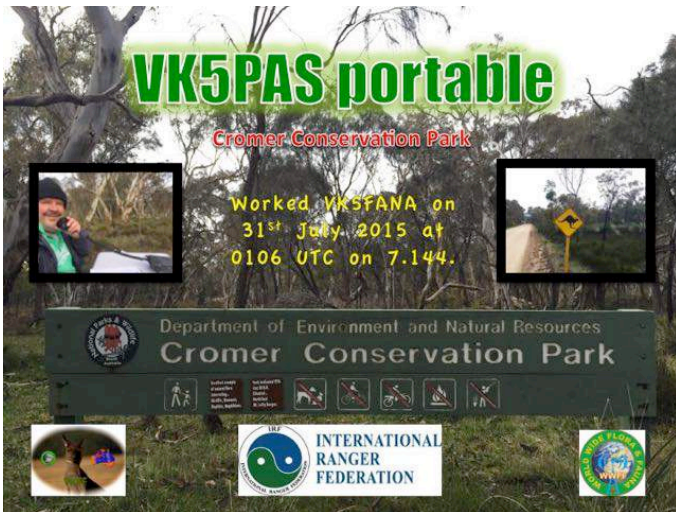
<http://www.thingreenline.org.au/>

I ended up with a total of 51 contacts on 40m & 20m SSB into VK1, VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5, VK6, VK7, Indonesia, and Slovenia.

For more information on my activation at the Cromer CP, please see

<http://vk5pas.org/>

If you worked me, I have a special QSL card which I will email to you upon request.



## SOTA & Parks news for AR magazine

By Paul VK5PAS

Allen VK3HRA has now changed the name of the ‘SOTA News’ article in the AR magazine, to ‘SOTA and Parks News’.

So if you have any information that you would like included each month, please drop an email to Allen at.....

[arharvie@gmail.com](mailto:arharvie@gmail.com)

## Activation of the Gun

By Mike 2E0YYY

Took a trip up to G/SP-013 Gun this morning. Both the WX and band conditions were poor. From my first spot on the 20m band at 0541z, to my first contact, took 25 minutes!

Things were painfully slow until Paul VK5PAS gave me a call. A number of EU contacts were made, before Gerard VK2IO, made the trip. Once again a few more EU contacts and then a call from Alice Springs, in the very difficult to find, Northern Territories from Greg VK8GM.

The only other DX I could fish out was Alberic NP5MR in Puerto Rico. Total of 36 contacts from a very wet G/SP-013 Gun.

73

Mike  
2E0YYY

## More SA Conservation Parks added to WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS



On the 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, I was successful in having the following 75 Conservation Parks added to the WWFF program.

That leaves just over 100 SA Conservation Parks to be added. I envisage that by the end of next year, all SA CP's will be in the WWFF Directory.

Here is a list of the recently added parks.

- Aldinga Scrub VKFF-866
- Angove VKFF-867
- Bakara VKFF-868
- Bangam VKFF-869
- Belt Hill VKFF-870
- Bird Islands VKFF-871
- Black Rock VKFF-872
- Bullock Hill VKFF-873
- Cape Gantheaume VKFF-874
- Caroon Creek VKFF-875
- Carribe VKFF-876
- Eric Bonython VKFF-877

- Eurilla VKFF-878
- Fairview VKFF-879
- Ferguson VKFF-880
- Ferries McDonald VKFF-881
- Furner VKFF-882
- Geegeela VKFF-883
- Giles VKFF-884
- Grass Tree VKFF-885
- Gum Lagoon VKFF-886
- Gum Tree Gully VKFF-887
- Hacks Lagoon VKFF-888
- Hale VKFF-889
- Hallett Cove VKFF-890
- Hanson Scrub VKFF-891
- Hogwash Bend VKFF-892
- Hopkins Creek VKFF-893
- Horsnell Gully VKFF-894
- Ironstone Hill VKFF-895
- Jip Jip VKFF-896
- Kaiserstuhl VKFF-897
- Karte VKFF-898
- Kelvin Powrie VKFF-899
- Lake Frome VKFF-900
- Lake Gilles VKFF-901
- Lashmar VKFF-902
- Latham VKFF-903
- Little Dip VKFF-904
- Lower Glenelg River VKFF-905
- Marne Valley VKFF-906
- Martin Washpool VKFF-907
- Mary Seymour VKFF-908
- Minlacowie VKFF-909
- Montacute VKFF-910
- Morgan VKFF-911
- Mount Billy VKFF-912
- Mount Boothby VKFF-913
- Mount Brown VKFF-914
- Mount Dutton Bay VKFF-915
- Mount Magnificent VKFF-916
- Mount Scott VKFF-918
- Mowantjie Willauwar VKFF-919
- Munyaroo VKFF-920
- Myponga VKFF-921
- Newland Head VKFF-922
- Nixon-Skinner VKFF-923
- Padthaway VKFF-924
- Parndana VKFF-925



