



# "OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 12, October 2015

## Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 12, October 2015, of *'Out and About in VK5'*.

The Out and About newsletter has now been going for one year. Amazing to think where that time has gone. I would like to say thankyou to all the readers, and particularly to everyone who contributes to the newsletter.

However, despite many pleas, I am still struggling to get contributors for the newsletter. The same contributors appear over and over. I know there are lots of readers in VK5, but very few seem to want to contribute.

I have committed myself to further study at work and possible external study. Not to mention my promise to re learn CW. Putting Out and About together takes time. More time, if I am the one providing the majority of the content.

So I will try for just 2 more issues. If I do not get a suitable response, sadly, Out and About in VK5 will be no more.

Out and About is released at the end of the month, so as long as I receive your info by then, it will appear in Issue 13 in November.

So, **VK5's**, this is your last chance to contribute and keep Out and About alive in its current format.

So come on. Contribute. I'm sure there are some readers out there with some interesting info that they could share.

Please drop me an email at.....

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

I have been asked to make this newsletter into a NATIONAL publication. I am currently gauging interest in that. It is highly likely if this were to occur that more of the regular SOTA and park activators would submit articles, so it is an option that remains open to me.

Best 73 and happy activating.

Paul, VK5PAS.

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## ‘kicked out of park’

By Paul VK5PAS



A post recently appeared on the Keith Roget Yahoo group from a VK3 amateur who had been ‘kicked out’ of a National Park in Victoria.

As poor as this first sounded, after a few more posts on the group it appears that the amateur concerned was set up on the grass roadside on the access road into the park.

Through his own admissions the amateur concerned was “*not in the park proper.....I was on the skirts of it opposite the highway*”. This would have made the activation for VKFF/WWFF void in any event, as the rules clearly state....

“While activating a VKFF area, all equipment (including antenna/s, transceivers, power supply/ies, etc), must be within the boundaries of the relevant VKFF area”.

PLEASE, if you are going to participate in a program, read the rules. I get quite a few questions from amateurs about the VKFF program, the answers for which are contained in the rules. And remember, this is an honour system. No documentary/photographic proof is required for an activation. You are only cheating ‘yourself’ if you decide to bend the rules.

On the issue of engagement with parks officials, prior to the commencement of the VK5 Parks Award, I wrote a letter to the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR). I explained the hobby of amateur radio and the proposal to commence a parks award.

I received a reply back stating....

*‘with regard to your query, given the temporary and minimal impact of your recreational activity, no permitting or licensing is required...’.*

The CEO further went on to say.....

*‘All the best with the development of the amateur radio award and I look forward to seeing its progression’.*

I know that Col VK5HCF carries a copy of this letter with him during his activations, along with a copy of his amateur radio licence. Additionally, Col has been to the local DEWNR office and shown them the letter and explained the amateur radio activities in the parks. As a result, Col advises that DEWNR has been ‘all for it’ and have been very helpful when the hams in the South East have had any questions.

Fortunately in over 250 activations, I’ve only had 2 incidents. One was at Belair when a rather condescending ranger asked me to untie the end of my dipole from a tree. To save an argument I obliged. And then recently at Wilpena Pound in the Flinders Ranges National Park a ranger approached and I had a conversation with him. The gentleman concerned told me that I should seek permission first before setting up. When I asked why, he stated that people might be curious and wonder what I was doing.

Personally I encourage people who are inquisitive, and I have had many engaging chats with passers by about the hobby of amateur radio.

I should point out, that many rangers have approached me during activations, and once telling them what I was doing, they were extremely interested and very positive about my activities.

The Wilpena Pound ranger also stated that I should seek permission first before putting my squid pole holder in the ground. When I queried him about this, asking how it was any different to a tent peg or a totem tennis pole, he backed down. I think the saying is, ‘there’s always one’.

So if you do have some negative contact with a park ranger, here are some tips on how to avoid conflict.....

- Acknowledgement of the other person’s concerns
- Be a good listener
- Calmly discuss one another’s concerns
- Give the other party a chance to speak
- Put yourself in the other person’s shoes
- Respond to the other person with respect
- Use some humour if appropriate (this often lighten the tension)



PLEASE remember, that your actions may reflect on everyone else in the amateur radio portable activity community.

Please remember that occupational health and safety issues may have an impact on where you operate from, and that park rangers have a duty of care for other park users.

For info on visiting South Australian parks, please see.....

[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/Visiting/General\\_information](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/Visiting/General_information)

## New Zealand WWFF Facebook site

By Paul VK5PAS



Ken ZL4KD who is the brand new ZLFF coordinator has put together a New Zealand Facebook site.

It can be located at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1387753918190265/>

## To alert or not to alert?

By Paul VK5PAS



If you want to boost the number of QSOs in your log for your next SOTA or park activation, I highly recommend that you ‘advertise’ to as many chasers and hunters as possible that you are going to be out there.

Sure, you could just turn up to a summit or a park, and get the required 4 QSOs for SOTA, or the required 10 QSOs for the park. But, I’m sure you would have probably disappointed many of the dedicated SOTA chasers and park hunters, and dramatically affected the number of QSOs in your log.

Believe it or not, there are many ‘crazy’ SOTA chasers and park hunters who tailor their day around intended activations.

Alerting may not always be possible. You may do a spur of the moment activation. But if you have planned ahead, an alert of some of the various platforms available to you, should

greatly assist both you the activator, and your chasers/hunters.

So lets start with SOTA. I’m sure that most hams would have heard of the DX cluster which is basically a central computer connected to a network of websites which collects, stores and disseminates information that hams send to it. The DX cluster allows you to ‘spot’ a station that you’ve just worked and share the information with your fellow hams. Well the SOTA program has SOTA Watch which will allow the chasers to spot, but also, will allow the activators to ‘alert’.

A ‘spot’ basically is saying that ‘VK1ABC ham has been observed on this frequency, at this time, on this particular summit.’

An alert is saying, ‘I’ll be on air at this time, on our around this frequency, from this particular summit.

Although frowned upon, on the DX Cluster, it is acceptable for SOTA activators to self spot on SOTAWatch.

SOTAWatch can be located at.....

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



**SOTAWatch2** Logged in as VK

[Home](#) | [Spots](#) | [Alerts](#) | [Summits](#) | [Reflector](#) | [Website](#) | [Database](#) | [Video](#)  
[Photos](#) | [Recent Info](#) | [Shop](#) | [Mapping](#) | [Facebook](#)

This page refreshes every 1 minute. Last updated 02:43:36 UTC.

### Latest Spots

>> [more spots](#) | [new spot](#)

Sun 02:41	VK1NAM/2 on <a href="#">VK2/ST-006</a> *[via SOTA Goat] (Posted by VK1NAM)	7.090 ssb
Sun 02:35	VK3PF on <a href="#">VK3/VG-045</a> Quick Activation (Posted by VK3FPSR)	7.080 ssb
Sun 02:22	VK2IB/3 on <a href="#">VK3/VE-058</a> *QRV now [via SOTA Goat] (Posted by VK2IB)	7.085 ssb
Sun 02:21	VK1NAM/2 on <a href="#">VK2/ST-006</a> *CQ cq [via SOTA Goat] (Posted by VK1NAM)	144.200 ssb



You could also post your intentions on the SOTA Australia Yahoo group, or a post on the VKFF and SOTA Facebook site, which can be located at.....

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

What about parks?

Well in VK, we now have the excellent site called parksnparks, created by Allen VK3HRA. This will allow park activators to alert, and park hunters to spot. When a park activator is spotted on parksnparks, an audible alert in the form of a kookaburra laugh is emitted.

Parksnparks can be located at.....

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

UTC Fri.02-10-15 4:57 SOTA VK3/VG-045 - VK3PF/P on 7.090 ssb Cq cq. Posted by VK3PF  
UTC Fri.02-10-15 4:43 SOTA VK3/VN-095 - VK3BYD/P on 7.034 cw Gud sig warren hr now. Posted by VK3CAT  
UTC Fri.02-10-15 4:32 WWFF Crowdy Bay NP(VKFF-0120) - VK3JDC on 7.095 SSB Dave 3x7 into SCONe but severe noise on band. VK3LEE. Posted by VK3LEE  
UTC Fri.02-10-15 4:16 WWFF Crowdy Bay NP(VKFF-0120) - VK3JDC on 7.095 SSB David Calling CQ NOW. Posted by VK3FFAB  
UTC Fri.02-10-15 3:55 WWFF Green Lake REP(VKFF-0967) - VK3PMG/P on 7.110 SSB Tnx Mick. Good sigs to VK5. Posted by VK3NIG  
UTC Fri.02-10-15 3:48 SOTA VK3/VG-064 - VK3PF/P on 7.090 ssb CQ now. Posted by VK3LED  
UTC Fri.02-10-15 3:31 WWFF Green Lake REP(VKFF-0967) - VK3PMG on 7.110 SSB Tnx Mick. Enjoy the sunshine.. Posted by VK3DBP

You could also try posting your intentions on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group, or the VK5 Parks Yahoo group.

Why not try posting your intentions on the WWFF Facebook site at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WWFF44/>

Or the Field Radio Facebook site, which can be located at.....

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

/

There is also the WWFF Forum which can be located at.....

<http://forum.wwff.co/>

There is a specific area on the Forum with regards to ‘Upcoming activations’.

So next time you’re heading out to activate a summit or a park, consider promoting yourself and advertising your intentions. By doing this, you will definitely increase your number of chasers and/or hunters.

THE MORE PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU ARE OUT THERE, THE BETTER.

## Ham humour

My greatest fear is that I'll die and my wife will sell my



radios for what I told her I paid for them.

## A VK4 out and about in VK5 (Part 2)

By Rob VK4AAC/5



In the last issue of "Out and About in VK5" I had finished up at the Gammon Ranges NP VKFF-189. Since then my wife and I have been on Kangaroo Island for about 3 months, from the 27th of May to the 30th of August. We were camped on an 8000 acre cattle property down the western end of the island approximately 30kms from Cape Borda lighthouse. The location was just spectacular, we had the caravan parked next to the property homestead overlooking Investigator Strait at an elevation of approx 170m, with the coastline approximately 1km away as the crow flies.

We were there as caretakers for 3 accommodation lodges perched high up on the side of cliffs overlooking a private cove called "Kangaroo Beach". To say we had hit the jackpot, location wise, was spot on.

The view from our caravan....



Our caravan site!!



Now onto the good stuff!!

When we arrived on the island there were 4 parks listed on VKFF. So I made the decision to try activate all 4 more than once so that as many hunters as possible had a chance to get them in their logs.

First was Flinders Chase NP VKFF-173. We headed out to the park, which was only about 15kms from our location to the boundary, but, I needed to find a suitable spot in the park. So



we headed west towards Cape Borda and then south down Shackle Rd into the centre of the park and eventually found a clear spot. The squid pole and dipole were erected and I proceeded to call CQ WWFF.



No, that's not a two tone paint job on my car, that's due to KI's lovely dirt roads!!

It was a drizzly and cold day but we started at approx 0430utc and managed to make 74 contacts, of those 30 were non VK. Good signals all round with approx 5/3 to 5/5 for the non VK's and up at mostly 5/9 for the VK contacts. All in all and good afternoon finishing at just after 0700utc.

Soon after activating all 4 parks on the VKFF list, 5 more parks were added, thanks to the tireless efforts of Paul VK5PAS. So I proceeded to travel all around the island in the last few weeks to activate the new parks. Considering that Kangaroo Island is about 150kms long by about 50kms wide, we managed to clock up quite a few kilometres in the Landcruiser. The 5 new parks were VKFF-874 Cape Gantheaume CP, VKFF-902 Lashmar CP, VKFF-903 Latham CP and VKFF-926 Pelican Lagoon CP.

Cape Gantheaume CP is quite large and has several camping areas and lookouts to the ocean. It was quite windy during my activation and I suspect it is a windy spot most of the time, due to it's location on the southern side of the island.

My setup at Cape Gantheaume CP .....the squid pole required some additional guying to keep it upright!!



Kelly Hill CP is well known for it's underground cave system containing stalactites and stalagmites. The guided tour is quite interesting, especially when all the lights are switched off, and the guide amused us with stories of 19th century tourism adventures through the caves. Even back then they were quite serious about preserving the environment underground. The naming of the caves is a little cloudy, the story goes that a stockman's horse fell through the roof of the caves whilst he was chasing some strays. The horse's name was "Kelly" but the remains were never found.

Below is my setup at Kelly Hill C.P. ....



township of Parndana. This park is not easy to find, there are no signs on the main road. It took a little driving and investigating to eventually find the park a few kilometres down a lonely dirt road called "Yacca Jacks Rd". There is really no access, a boundary road skirts the park, so our only option was to find a clearing on the park side of the boundary road. Luckily we found such a spot up high on a hill.

The image below is the activation at Parndana C.P. ...

Vivonne Bay CP is very picturesque and the beach in the bay is quite pristine. There are camping facilities near the water and back up at the main road is a general store that boasts the best "Whiting Burger" in Australia. Naturally we had to challenge this statement....3 times, yes the burgers were very yummy!!

This is the activation at Vivonne Bay C.P. ....another windy spot, and the squid pole did a great job.



Pelican Lagoon CP is located east of the township of American River. Again, there was no signage on the main road, we eventually found a sign on the northern boundary along a dirt road heading towards some beach shacks. This is another park that had very little access and so a scout around revealed an open area overlooking the lagoon, an ideal spot for radio!!

Parndana CP is quite small and located near the centre of the island, about 5kms from the

Below is the spot we setup our antenna....



Dudley CP had no facilities or public access apart from a boundary road around the park. A spot was found on a hill alongside the boundary road, but one side of the dipole had to be strung across the track. A local using the road stopped for a chat and quizzed us about the strange contraption up in the trees (read dipole).

To summarise my activations on Kangaroo Island:-

VKFF-173 : 4 activations, 265 QSO's (incl 148 non VK's).

VKFF-809 : 1 activation, 70 QSO's (incl 17 non VK's).

VKFF-810 : 1 activation, 91 QSO's incl (6 Non VK's).

VKFF-811 : 2 activations, 176 QSO's (incl 124 non VK's).

VKFF-874 : 1 activation, 148 QSO's (incl 98 non VK's).

VKFF-902 : 1 activation, 85 QSO's (incl 41 non VK's).

VKFF-903 : 1 activation, 50 QSO's (incl 23 non VK's).

VKFF-925 : 2 activations, 230 QSO's (incl 157 non VK's).

VKFF-926 : 2 activations, 93 QSO's (incl 43 non VK's).

For most of the time on Kangaroo Island propagation was good, so much so that I managed to make 1,905 contacts for the entire stay on the island, of those, 1208 QSO's were from my park activations and the rest from my caravan site on the farm and the lighthouse weekend. I had 1000 special cards printed and soon placed an order for another 1000 cards from Gennady UX5UO, excellent quality and quite inexpensive.

I also managed to activate Cape Borda Lighthouse and Cape Du Couedic Lighthouse on the ILLW weekend with a total of 105 QSO's. Propagation was not too good and the RD contest was also running the same weekend, but we had a good time and gave our hobby a bit more exposure to the public on Kangaroo Island. For about the last 3 weeks of our stay, propagation conditions were average to very poor.

Considering it was winter and most days through July and August were cold, overcast and drizzly, our time on KI was incredible. We experienced most of what the island had to offer. The natural bush land and spectacular coastal scenery has to be seen to be believed. We sampled as much of the local produce that we could, including honey, marron, sheep's cheese and locally caught fish. As avid bushwalkers we managed to do many of the walks in the national and conservation parks, the most memorable being the "Ravine Des Casoars" walk which was 7km return and takes you along a river and brings you out to a stunning beach with caves on both sides full of stalagmites and stalactites.



We highly recommend Kangaroo Island as a destination for a holiday. The ferry crossing is expensive, but, the island has a lot to offer. There is a wide range of accommodation and plenty of eating places. The scenery is stunning and the wildlife is abundant, especially the kangaroos and koalas. Birdlife is plentiful, I have not seen so many Wedge Tailed eagles in my life.

If you are visiting from just across the strait or from half way around the world consider a Kangaroo Island trip and don't forget the radio gear!!

73's and 44's  
Rob  
VK4AAC

## How to fill up your logbook

By Paul VK5PAS



I recently corresponded via email with a ham who was on a trip around Australia and had tried some park activations along the way. But did not have a single QSO. I was very disappointed for the amateur, but I was a little surprised, considering the popularity of the

various parks programs nowadays.

But it can happen....if propagation is lousy, or there is equipment failure, etc.

So here are some tips on how to fill up your logbook on your next SOTA outing or park activation.

- **The secret is the antenna**

Yes, its been said many times. But it is true. Many good publications will tell you that your antenna will compose one third of your portable/QRP station. The other two thirds are your operating equipment and your operating skills.

- **Operating skills**

Hone your operating skills. Learn how to work a pile up.

Try telling the stations to spread out their calls, and then jot down what you hear, and bring stations in that way. You may find it easier than trying to pull out a call when everyone is calling at once.

- **Don't give up after your third CQ call.**

Perseverance is the key. If you've had no calls after your third CQ call, don't give up. Keep going. Once people know you are there, you will probably end up with a mini pile up.

Don't hop from one frequency to another.

- **Try different bands**

Propagation is not always kind on 40m for

the longer hauls around VK. And certainly not for DX if you are running QRP. So, if possible, try operating on a selection of bands. This may not always be possible due to restrictions with licences and lack of appropriate antennas. But to give amateurs further afield a chance to get in the action as well, consider using 15m or 20m.

- **Advertise the fact you are going to be out and about**

I can't emphasis this enough. The more people who know you are going to be up on top of a SOTA peak, or out in a park, the better. Try the following:-

- Parksnparks
- SOTAWatch
- Facebook sites
- Yahoo groups.

- **Consider the time of day/Know when the bands are open**

Who is your targeted audience? There is no point in going out in the middle of the day if you want to work Europeans on 20m on the long path. So try to time your activations for those that you would like to get in the log.

- **Look at the solar figures/propagation conditions**

Propagation conditions are extremely important. If the solar figures are suggesting poor conditions, then maybe consider putting off the activation until another day.

- **Ask someone to place you on the DX cluster**

- **Consider setting up an SMS group**

An SMS group on your mobile is another option. Each time you hear an activator, or perhaps things are running a little slow for you when you're on the top of the hill or fighting off the mosquitos in a park, send out a group email to your fellow hams, to let them know where you are.

- **Try a group email**

- **Use the local repeater**

## New OCCFF Award

By Paul VK5PAS



Recently a new OCCFF Hunter certificate was released for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program.

The certificates are issued in increments of 7, for working entities in Oceania. This includes Oceania DXCC entities and VK States and Territories.

The certificates are available for FREE via



WWFF Log Search and will be issued by VK5PAS, the VKFF coordinator.

A full list of Oceania entities can be found on the WWFF Australia website at....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/occff-hunter-award.html>

I would like to thank Pit YO3JW for designing the certificates.



## More summits in the north

By Ian VK5CZ



Out of Bed 4.30 am on Friday 11th to get organised to meet Hugh at his house to reload Mitsi for our journey to Pualco Range vk5/ne-107. This time after much investigative work from Hugh he found an easier way to get there, last year we just kept travelling east across the salt bush plain when the track run out. We entered into sheep station country east of Mount Bryan and followed some good dirt roads for about 50 km before our first fence line track to the entrance to the summit paddock which is about 40 square miles. The track inside the paddock was in good order and some creek crossings had been fixed and we made the northern side of the summit in about 3 hours from Hugh's house.

That's the summit in the back ground we are on a ridge line here gaining altitude before the main assault there are big Yuka's growing here and lots of spinifex grass and a few Mallee trees.



We huffed and puffed for another kilometre along this ridge then it got steep and lots of rock ledges to pick a way through, Hugh is the lead goat on these climbs and is good at reading the terrain to find a way.

Hugh is on a mission.



I need a spell and to run some guts off, fancy taking the photo as I exhaled.





Great view out to the west from here, we are just over half way to the top.

The stone Cairn has collapsed on the trig but we made it.



Hard at it working my faithful following on cw I managed to get 4 on cw and 4 on ssb so qualified on each mode then handed over to Hugh while everyone was still interested.



Hugh making a score, it was windy so ear buds were needed, the wx was a very pleasant day not too hot.



View out East, we need to investigate if that hill is not a summit also.



View to the South.



The antenna Sota beams 20/40 link dipole 8m hi and KX3 at 10 watts.



View east along the range from the top.



A Brachyscome bush in full bloom , pretty harsh environment to survive in but I must say the country looked nice and as lush as it can . Lots of Kangaroos with young Joeys so they must know the season is good, saw a few ferrel goat but not many.





I recon these are the biggest Yukas I have ever seen they must be hundreds of years old and still look nice and healthy.



Well not much else to say about this one but I was relieved to find 40m in fairly good shape as we have had bad conditions for my last two activations barely qualifying at times. 20m to vk4 was really good on cw . Thanks to all the chasers and sorry to those in the short skip zone we could not work.

Thanks Hugh for all the ground work finding permission from land owners and a way to get

there easier than last time well done. We travelled some good made roads, fence lines and station tracks with lots of gates to open and close it was a way to keep my body loosened up jumping in and out of Mitsi.

Lets head off the our next activation Kanaka Hill in the afternoon.

cheers from Ian vk5cz and Hugh vk5nhg.

## 5<sup>th</sup> annual KRMNPA Activity period

By Tony VK3VTH



The 5th annual Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activity period, to be held across November 13-16 2015, has already attracted 22 VK3 National Park registrations.

National Parks to be activated in 2015 are well represented across VK3.... from the South West of the State to East Gippsland.



Activators will include: Tim VK5AV, Paul VK5PAS, Tim VK3MTB, Rex VK3OF, Greg VK3BRQ, Mick VK3PMG, Amanda VK3FQSO, Warren VK3BYD, Joe VK3YSP, Julie VK3FOWL, Johnno VK3FMPB & Tony VK3VTH.

Joe and Julie will be activating **French Island National Park** and will also be participating in the Island On The Air or IOTA program. French Island is designated IOTA OC-136. This will be good opportunity to bag both a Park and an Island in the one contact. Paper QSL available.

Warren and Amanda will also be offering the chance to Log a “**double**”, with their chosen locations being SOTA Peaks within a National Park, so keep a look out for **Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park** and **Kara Kara National Park** respectively on the weekend.



Our most welcome visitors from VK5, Tim and Paul, will be on air from **Lower Glenelg National Park**, **Great Otway National Park** and **Port Campbell National Park**. A special “thank you” to our VK5 visitors!

Please be aware that all VK3 National Parks are included in the World Wide Flora and Fauna program.....So all Activations and Hunting activities are also eligible for VKFF / WWFF program.

A complete list of the KRMNPA activations across the 13-16 November is available from the “files” section of the KRMNPA Yahoo Group and is also available on the front page of the Amateur Radio Victoria website. Likewise the Rules for KRMNPAward are available from these sites.

With 45 National Parks in VK3 being eligible for the weekend, that leaves 23 National Parks still looking for some Amateur Radio activity across the period. Please consider joining us “out and about” in November!

All inquiries to Tony VK3VTH at [vk3vth@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:vk3vth@amateurradio.com.au)

## What sound is that?

By Paul VK5PAS

Ever wondered what that sound was on the bands. Well check this out.....

<http://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Database>

## Recent Park Activations

During September, band conditions on 40m proved to be quite challenging at times. Local propagation was virtually non existent.’

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

- Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Park  
VKFF-919, Paul VK5PAS (19/9/2015)



- Murray River National Park, John  
VK5BJE/p (13/9/2015)



*Above:- John VK5BJE/p in Murray River NP.  
Photo courtesy of Peter VK5FLEX.*

- Sandy Creek Conservation Park, Gordon  
VK5GY/p (12/9/2015)
- Murray River National Park, John  
VK5BJE/p (12/9/2015)
- Kati Thanda - Lake Eyre National Park,  
Chris VK4FR/5 (12/9/2015)



*Above:- the operating spot of Chris VK4FR/5  
at Lake Eyre NP*



*Above:- Chris provided this great photo of  
Sturt Desert Pea at Lake Eyre.*

- Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Park, VFF-919, Paul VK5PAS (10/9/2015)
- Giles Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (5/9/2015)
- Hale Conservation Park, Rob VK4AAC/5 (5/9/2015)
- Horsnell Gully Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (5/9/2015)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park, Stuart VK5STU (30/8/2015)

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.wwffaustralia.com/>

## Recent SOTA activations



Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG kept the SOTA flag flying during September, with a number of activations in the north of South Australia.

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

- Waite Hill VK5/ NE-066, Ian VK5CZ (25/9/2015)
- Waite Hill VK5/ NE-066, Hugh VK5NHG (25/9/2015)
- VK5/ SE-006, Ian VK5CZ (25/9/2015)
- VK5/ SE-006, Hugh VK5NHG (25/9/2015)
- Pualco Range VK5/ NE-107, Ian VK5CZ (11/9/2015)
- Pualco Range VK5/ NE-107, Hugh VK5NHG (11/9/2015)
- Nackara Hill VK5/ NE-081, Ian VK5CZ (11/9/2015)
- Nackara Hill VK5/ NE-081, Hugh VK5NHG (11/9/2015)
- VK5/ NE-041, Ian VK5CZ (6/9/2015)

- Mount Cone VK5/ SE-002, Hugh VK5NHG (5/9/2015)

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

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

## New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

- NIL for this period

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

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

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

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

## VK5 Parks 3<sup>rd</sup> year anniversary

By Paul VK5PAS

The 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary activation weekend for the VK5 Parks award is coming up early next year.

**VK5 National & Conservation  
Parks Award**



**3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY ACTIVATION WEEKEND**

***Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016.***



**If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please  
send an email to Paul VK5PAS, at [vk5pas@wia.org.au](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)**

It will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2016.

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please send an email to Paul VK5PAS at

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



## VKFF Activation weekend.

By Paul VK5PAS

The VKFF Activation weekend will be held on...  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015.



Again, if you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please send an email to Paul VK5PAS at

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

## New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

➤ Andrew VK5FMAC

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 over 70 members from around Australia, NZ & overseas.



## Recent Award recipients

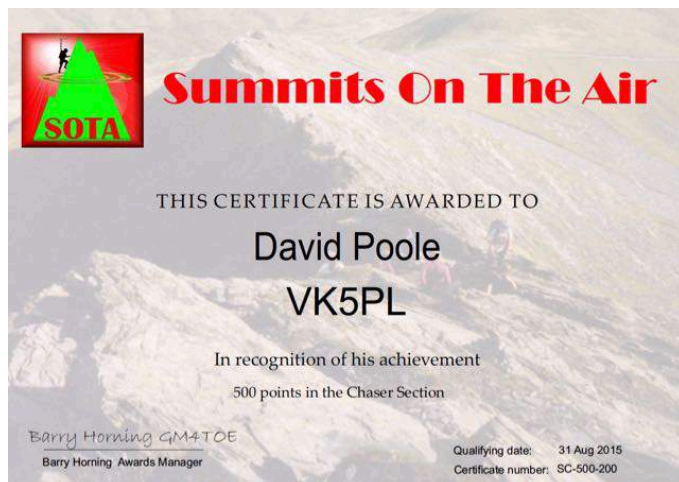
By Paul VK5PAS

Here is a list of VK5's who have recently qualified for SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, VK5 Parks, and KRMNPA awards. 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.

### Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- **David VK5PL**
  - **500 Chaser points**



### World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Paul VK5PAS**
  - **Sapphire VKFF Hunter**
  - **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 100**
  - **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 125**
  - **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 150**
  - **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 175**
  - **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 200**
  - **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 225**
  - **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 250**
  - **WWFF global activator 44**
  - **WWFF global Hunter 396**





▪ **Adrian VK5FANA**

- **OCCF-H-7**
- **Sapphire VKFF Hunter**
- **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 100**
- **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 125**
- **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 150**

▪ **Charlie VK5KDK**

- **Bronze VKFF Hunter**

▪ **John VK5BJE**

- **OCCF-H-7**



▪ **Col VK5HCF**

- **OCCF-H-7**

▪ **Les VK5KLV**

- **Diamond VKFF Hunter**



- **David VK5PL**
  - **Sapphire VKFF Hunter**
  - **VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 100**
- **Greg VK5ZGY**
  - **Sapphire VKFF Hunter**

### VK5 Parks Award

- **NIL**

### Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

**NIL KNOWN**

## Aeronautical mobile

By Paul VK5PAS

During September I was fortunate enough to make contact with Jerry PH9HB who was aeronautical mobile in the pilot seat of a Boeing 737 over Europe.

On both occasions I fired up Flight Tracker on the web, and was able to see exactly where Jerry's aircraft was whilst I was speaking with him.



For more information, please see my Wordpress site at.....

<http://vk5pas.org/2015/09/29/aeronautical-mobile-in-the-log-again/>

<http://vk5pas.org/2015/09/24/aeronautical-mobile/>

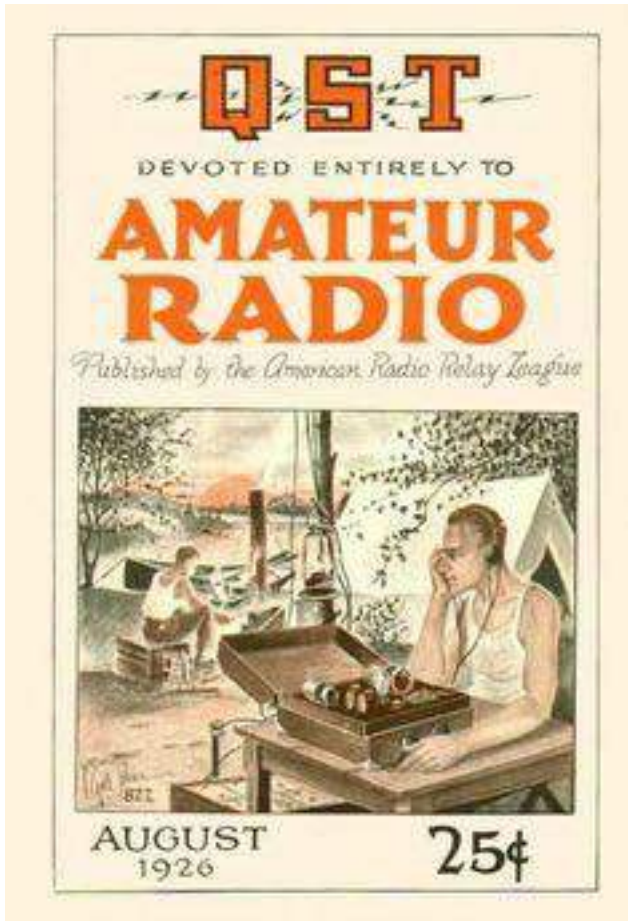


*The Netherlands*

## A blast from the past

By Paul VK5PAS

From the cover of QST magazine in August 1926.



## QRP-L

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently received an email from Ian VK3LA advising me that Out and About had been mentioned on the Daily Digest from the QRP-L group. So it prompted me to have a look and see what QRP-L is all about.

QRP-L is a mailing list relating to the subject of QRP of course.

First off head to the site which can be located at.....

<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/qrp-l/>

You need to subscribe to the mailing list. This is free and easy to do, by providing your email address, call sign, and choosing a password. Once you have done this, you will receive an auto generated email advising that your subscription request has been received. You will then receive a subscription confirmation email. By confirming your subscription, you will then receive another message stating 'awaiting moderator approval'. You should then receive an email confirming your subscription to the group

.

Then, all you need to do is POST.

## John Moyle Memorial Field Day

By Paul VK5PAS

Following on from the 2015 John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest I received a few emails from people stating that it would be nice if there was a QRP section in the contest. It prompted me to send off an email to Denis Johnstone, VK4AE, the contest manager, asking if he had considered a QRP section.

Dennis replied quite promptly. This was his response.....

*“Dear Paul,*

*There were only 4 stations who claimed QRP this year. There were some F calls of course who submitted entries.*

*Does not seem to be enough specific interest for extra categories. There are so many possible categories that I am not happy to create more at this time while there is little interest.*

*Each QRP station had their certificate so marked.*

*Best wishes,*

*Denis Johnstone”*

So it appears that in the immediate future, there will not be a specific QRP section in the JMMFD Contest.

## 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.

- MoOAT/p, SOTA G/LD-017 (30/9/2015)
- G4AKC/p, pedestrian mobile (30/9/2015)
- G4AKC/p, pedestrian mobile (29/9/2015)
- SP30OPZ/p, SPFF- 469 (29/9/2015)
- ON5SWA/p, ONFF-108 (29/9/2015)
- G4AKC/p, pedestrian mobile (28/9/2015)
- SP9YFF/p, SPFF-600 (28/9/2015)
- PH9HB/am (29/9/2015)
- SOTA EA2/BI-046 (27/9/2015)
- G4AKC/p, pedestrian mobile (27/9/2015)
- SP30OPZ/p, SPFF-117 (27/9/2015)
- S57PZ/p, SOTA S5/ JA-040 (27/9/2015)
- IZ3GOS/p, SOTA I// TN-313 (27/9/2015)
- SP9MA/p, SOTA SP/ BZ-060 (27/9/2015)
- OK/G4OBK/p, SOTA OK/ KR-013 (27/9/2015)
- DHoKAA/p, Castles Award (27/9/2015)
- OK7WA/p, OKFF-0613 (26/9/2015)
- I1FY/p, Italian Abbeys (26/9/2015)
- TY3X/p, YUFF-044 (26/9/2015)
- MoDAD/p, pedestrian mobile (26/9/2015)
- G7UFI/p, pedestrian mobile (26/9/2015)
- G4AKC/p, pedestrian mobile (26/9/2015)
- IK3PQH/p, Italian Castles (26/9/2015)
- DH7FK/p, SOTA DM/ BW-057 (26/9/2015)
- OT4V/p, ONFF-0267 (25/9/2015)
- SP30OPZ/p, SPFF-117 (25/9/2015)
- OT4V/p, ONFF-0421 (24/9/2015)
- SP30OPZ/p, SPP-104 (24/9/2015)
- PH9HB/am (23/9/2015)
- SP30OPZ/p, SPFF-104 (23/9/2015)
- G4AKC/p, pedestrian mobile (22/9/2015)
- Sp30OPZ/p, SPFF-356 (20/9/2015)
- G7UFI/p, pedestrian mobile (16/9/2015)
- G4AKC/p, pedestrian mobile (16/9/2015)
- S52N/p (6/9/2015)
- DFoWB/p (6/9/2015)
- OE4B/p (6/9/2015)
- RM3Q/p (6/9/2015)
- SX2AG/p (6/9/2015)
- SV67FF/p, SVFF-067 (6/9/2015)
- F9LM/p, Castles Award (3/9/2015)
- EM9WFF/p, URFF (3/9/2015)
- ON5SWA/p, ONFF-286 (2/9/2015)
- IZoMQN/p, Italian Abbeys (1/9/2015)
- OT4V/p, ONFF-386 (1/9/2015)



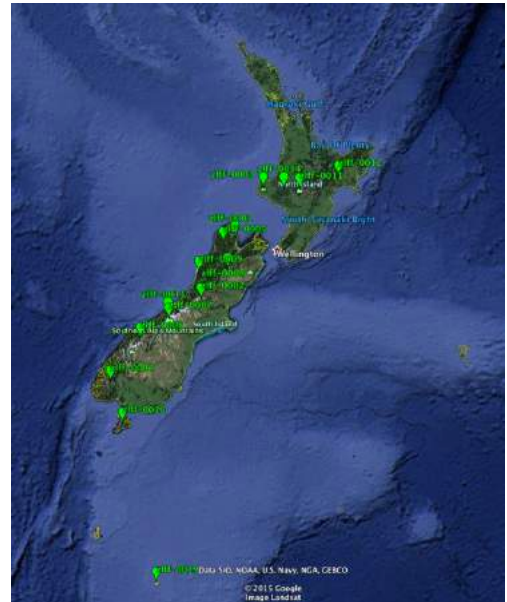
I haven't been receiving much info for this item. I'm sure that there are some of you out there who have worked some portable DX ops. If you have, please drop me an email at....

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

[www.parksnpeaks.org](http://www.parksnpeaks.org) site and some location data loading from Paul VK5PAS.

We can list up coming activations and spots in ZL onto parksnparks which I find to be the spotting site for this side of the globe.

Thanks to Allen & Paul



## ZLFF update

By Paul VK5PAS



Hi Hunters and Activators,

Great news, thanks to some work by Allen Harvie VK3HRA, the owner of

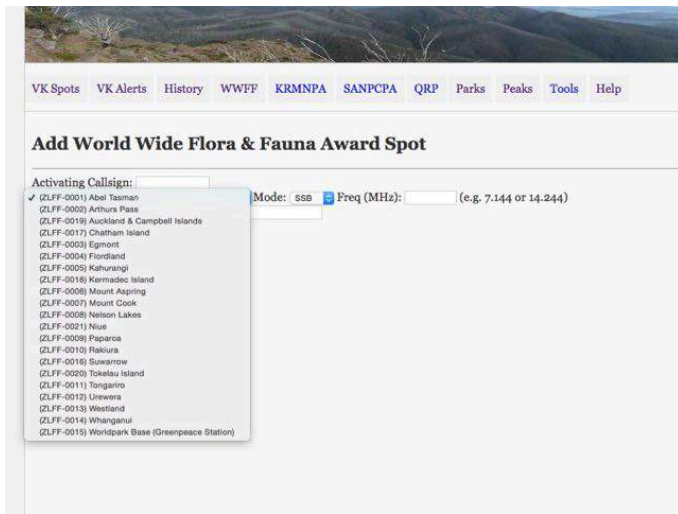
## parksnparks

By Paul VK5PAS

With ZLFF now on board, I put together a KML file of the qualifying parks and Allen VK3HRA has inputted the data into parksnparks.

So now it is possible to place spots for ZLFF activators.

Well done Allen. Parksnparks is only getting better!



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

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

## Field Radio

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder of the Field Radio Facebook site.

This 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.

## QSL cards

By Paul VK5PAS

Here are some of the latest QSL cards I've received from SOTA and park activators.

If you've received a card, please drop me an email, and I will include in the next issue.

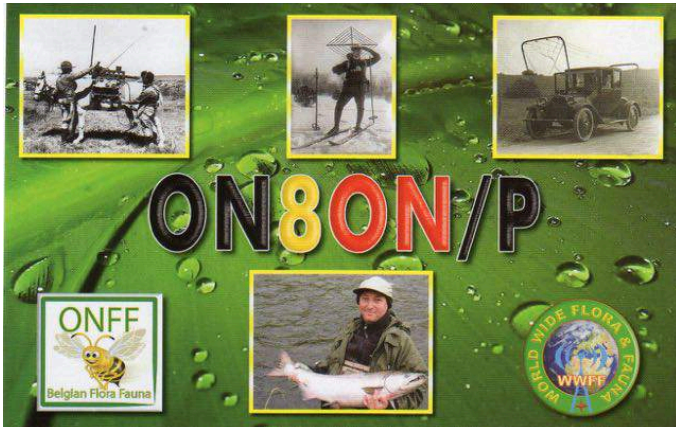
[vk5pas@wia.org.au](mailto:vk5pas@wia.org.au)

**Danny OT4V/p (WWFF)**

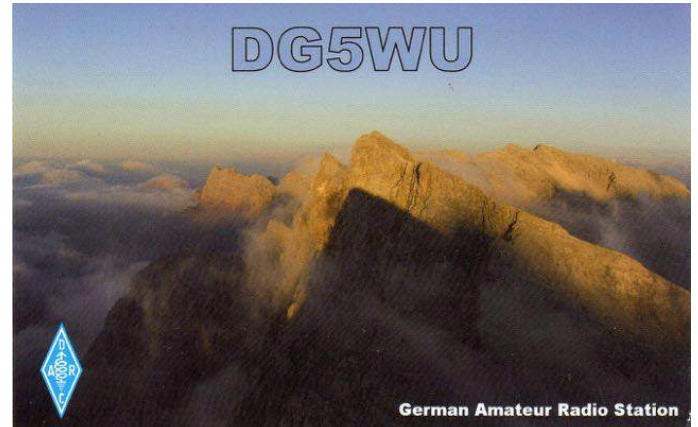




## Yves ON8ON/p



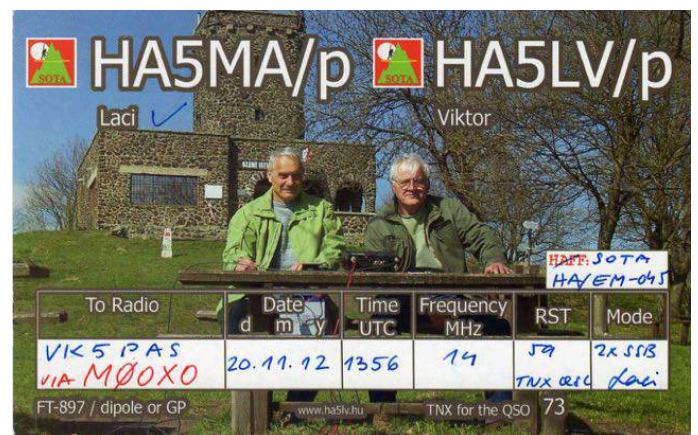
## DG5WU (SOTA)



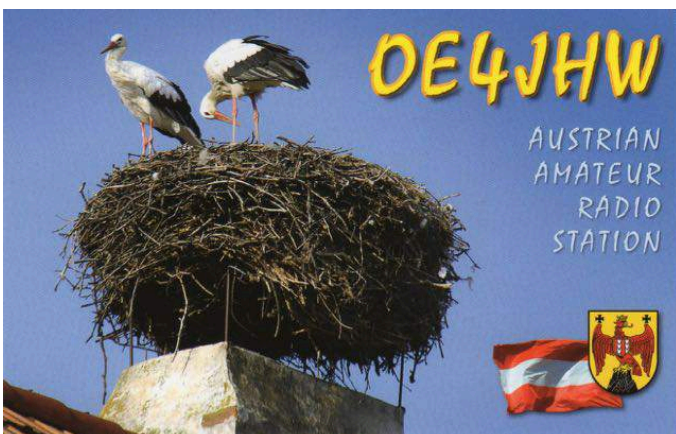
## Freddy F4HEC Tractor mobile



## HA5MA/p (SOTA)



## OE4JHW (SOTA)



## Danny OT4V/p (WWFF)







## ONFF 0386

### Heiderbros activated

By Danny OT4V

Rain from start till end. Made it myself comfortable and dry by operating from out of the car. : **ONFF-0386 Heiderbos** in AS (prov Limburg)

With this very wet and humid situation I was able to photograph the first mushrooms of the year ... fall must be around the corner !

Conditions were up and down, best DX **VE6UX** and **VK5PAS**. A total of 275 contacts in 35 DXCC and 4 continents. About 100 CW QSO's.



## Leading zeros

By Paul VK5PAS

As we are fast approaching the one thousand VKFF references, Andrew MoMYA has made the decision to start using leading zeros in the references.

So please start using the leading zero when you are out in the field, quoting the VKFF reference area.

Also please include the leading zero when sending logs to me for upload to WWFF Log Search.

## IOTA update

By Paul VK5PAS



Here's a link to an interesting article produced by Andy VK5MAV about IOTA in Australia....

<http://dxnews.com/australia-iota/>

## Summits and Parks event

By Allen VK3HRA

Reminder of the upcoming Summits and Parks event - 24/25 October 2015.

There will be a seminar covering aspects of portable activities. Held in Wagga Wagga, October 2015. The intent is to provide a forum for the sharing experiences and to encourage participation in this exciting and dynamic aspect of our hobby.

Date: 24/25 October 2015

Venue: Wagga Wagga Amateur Radio Club

Open to all interested parties. Topics will be broad to address aspects of portable activities.

Current topics include;

- Contact Logging
- Successful SOTA DX
- Antennas beyond the dipole
- CW Activation's for fun and profit
- Mapping Processes

Followed with discussions and meal Saturday evening.

Sunday you will be able to deploy you're the new skills with planned SOTA and WWFF activations in the local hills.

New or experienced, young or old all you need is a interest in operating portable. All Welcome.

We will be seeking confirmation of numbers for

the meal on Saturday night. More to follow.

For more details contact - [seminar2015@parksnpeaks.org](mailto:seminar2015@parksnpeaks.org)

Allen  
VK3HRA

## Update on SOTA in ZL

By Paul VK5PAS

As of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the ZL-SOTA Facebook site is showing that the 50% mark has now been reached.

### Dashboard

Region	Candidates	Checked	To Be	Checked	Named	To be	Named
Taranaki	16	16	0	16	0		
Auckland	18	18	0	18	0		
Northland	71	71	0	71	0		
Wellington	124	124	0	124	0		
Hawke's Bay	128	128	0	128	0		
Gisborne	137	137	0	137	0		
Manawatu-Wanganui	162	162	0	162	0		
Waikato	168	168	0	168	0		
Bay of Plenty	218	218	0	218	0		
Nelson	275	275	0	2	273		
Marlborough	319	319	0				
Otago	538	9	529				
West Coast	735	131	604	9	726		
Canterbury	874	238	636	53	821		
Southland	1152	450	702				

#### Surveyors Surveyed

zl3dmc	247
zl4fz	122
vk3arr	604
zl2aj	1569
ZL3AME	2

**2469 Checked Out Of 4935 Candidates = 50.030395136778 %**

## SOTA notes

By Paul VK5PAS



If you do activate a SOTA peak, please think about putting some notes in the SOTA database about that particular summit. It will certainly help activators who intend to activate that summit in the future.

You can do this by clicking on either ‘Add new external link’ or ‘Add new article’.

By clicking on ‘Add new external link’, you can add a URL address to a website you may have found re the summit.

By clicking on ‘Add new article’, you can add notes re the summit. This might be something like contact details for the landowner, or an access point, etc.

## Latest videos

By Paul VK5PAS

Not many videos this month. If you have put together a video and uploaded it to You Tube, I’d love to hear from you. Perhaps you’ve found a video on You Tube that you think would interest the readers. Please drop me an email.

### Fast Log Entry

<https://youtu.be/RF5yB5hWoAQ>

### Setting a 4 button charger to charge LiFePO4

[https://youtu.be/eX\\_Tuv6WOf8](https://youtu.be/eX_Tuv6WOf8)

### VK3YY, Ultra simple 7MHz phasing SSB transceiver

[https://youtu.be/wx8\\_RroSswE](https://youtu.be/wx8_RroSswE)

### VK3YE pedestrian mobile.

<https://youtu.be/aov5GlZxv5U>



## VIOANZAC

By Paul VK5PAS

Unfortunately there was recently a major issue with the VIOANZAC cards on eQSL. Below you can see what the card looked like. Certainly not an image of the Antarctic.



The issue has now been resolved by the parties concerned, and the card now looks like this.....



## HAP charts

By Paul VK5PAS

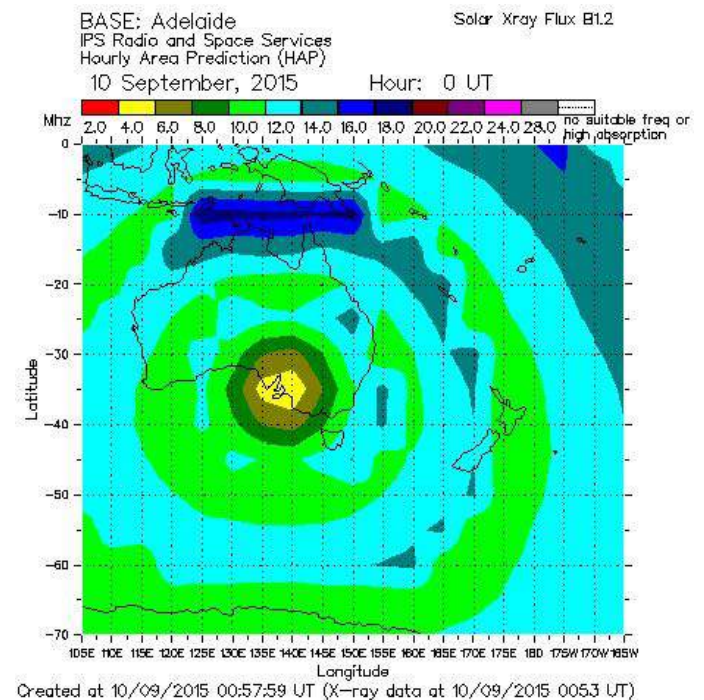
Hourly Area Prediction (HAP) charts are designed for communications between a specified base and mobile within a nominated area. HAP charts are available in several forms:

Hourly HAP Charts

Daily HAP Charts

Weekly Weather Voice and Radiofax HAPS (web)

Weekly Weather Voice and Radiofax HAPS (FTP)

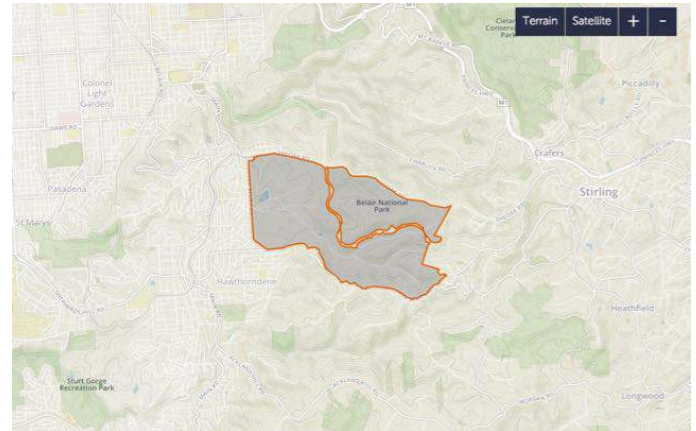


IPS HAP charts have the following features.

- Each chart shows colours which represent the recommended HF frequencies for contacting

the base or mobile within the area bounded by the chart for a particular hour.

- The geographic zone, which is variable, is represented by a map showing latitude and longitude.
- Charts are in Universal Time (UT).
- Daily HAP charts use the IPS world ionospheric (median) maps and can be for any place, time, or ionospheric support level. The daily HAP charts presented here are for the current UT day and were produced using the IPS daily forecast T index. You can produce your own HAP charts from our on line HF prediction tools.
- HAP charts use the regional real time foF2 (vertical MUF) map and are restricted in area, and time to that of the real time map. The real time map should track ionospheric storms, this means that the real time maps may contain storm gradients (variations in vertical MUF with location) that are not present in the median ionospheric maps. The real time HAPs can be different to the daily HAPs for the same hour, as the underlying maps may be different, particularly when the ionosphere is disturbed.



<http://www.protectedplanet.net/>

## Slow CW practice

By Paul VK5PAS



Slow CW Practice Net for SOTA operators. Every Thursday night, currently on 3.540 MHz from 8:30 PM local time.

SSB check in followed by CW check in. Then some SOTA type QSOs or special practice exercises.

Speed – your speed, 5 to 18 wpm.

## Mapping

By Paul VK5PAS

Another excellent resource that you may like to look at for mapping is Protected Planet. Thanks to Ian VK1DI for bringing this to my attention.

## VK5 parks and parksnpeaks

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently received an email from David VK5PL

Hi

The numbers are internal ID's I have assigned them to support award grouping, reporting and searching.

I assign parks award numbers for SANPCPA & KRMNAP and use the WWFF id for WWFF parks.

Select \* from parks where Award ID like '5%' will return SANPCPA parks.

Leven Beach is a example of a park that existing in multiple awards - SANPCP & WWFF (WWFFID - VKFF-814)

David was right. Leven breach was initially assigned 5CP-117. This entry was incorrectly updated during a GIS import (Multiple Levens out there!) and required correction (and 3 others) so 5CP271 reflect a updated entry. Have reassigned 5CP-117 as it flows.

The ID is under review. With ZL coming online I have to distinguish between WWFF entries for different countries.

The WWFFID supports this but my current code does not;

Select \* from parks where WWFFID <> "" will return all WWFF parks VK and ZL

going forward I can't assume WWFF entry is VK only.

Select \* from parks where WWFFID <> 'VK%' will return VK WWFF parks.

Select \* from parks where WWFFID <> 'VL%'

will return ZL WWFF parks.

anyway I'll address.

Allen

## WWFF awards waiting to be collected

By Paul VK5PAS



Hi all,

Just a reminder that WWFF Log Search is the place to check out your progress as both a park Activator and park Hunter, and also to apply for awards in the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program.

Log Search can be found at.....

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

Once you have registered with Log Search (which is free and easy to do), place your call in



the 'Search Logs' box. This will bring up your Summary statistics.

If you have qualified for any of the 'global' WWFF awards you will see them in the Worked and Activated columns, e.g. Apply for WWFF-H (44) or Apply for DXFF-H (3). Simply click on the award you want to apply for. An auto-generated email will be sent to the global awards manager, you in turn will receive an auto-generated email, and your award certificates will follow soon after.

If you would like to check on your progress with the various National programs and awards, click on 'Show Programs and Awards'. This appears on the same page as above. By clicking on the 'Show Programs and Awards' button, this will show you all of the National award programs for WWFF. Simply scroll down and click on the award that you would like to apply for.

Again, an auto-generated email will be received by the relevant National co-ordinator, you will receive an auto-generated email from Log Search, and you will subsequently receive your award certificate from the National Manager in due course.

I note that a quick check of the system this morning, showed that there are plenty of award certificates waiting there for many regular park hunters. They are sitting there waiting to be collected.

So check out Log Search. You might be pleasantly surprised what certificates are waiting there for you to be collected.

Best wishes,

Paul,

VK5PAS.

## The noise we put up with at home

By Paul VK5PAS



Here's an interesting link which describes many instances of RFI encountered by ON4WW in Belgium. It includes some very interesting sound files.....

<http://www.on4ww.be/emi-rfi.html>

## Global Mountain Activity

By Paul VK5PAS



A site well worth visiting for a look is the Global Mountain Activity Group, which can be located

at.....

<http://www.cqgma.net/info01.php>

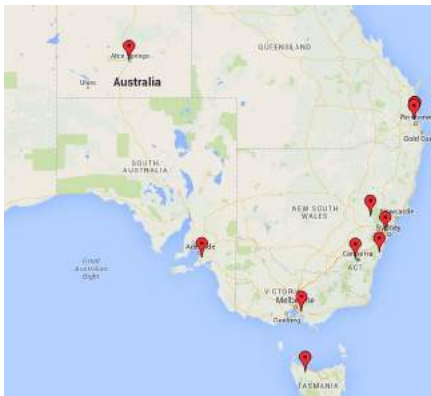
This was previously known as the German Mountain Adventure Group.

GMA offer a variety of certificates.

**QSOmap.org**

By Paul VK5PAS

A little site you may be interested in is QSOmap.org. It is google maps with QSO markers. You can display your ham radio contacts on a high resolution map.



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

There are also some other programs, including ADIF to Map, created by K2DSL.

<http://www.levinecentral.com/adif2map/>

And there is also Adventure Radio.

<http://tools.adventureradio.de/analyzer/>

## The best VK run I've ever had so far

By Danny OT4V



**ONFF-0421 Thier Pirard** is a chalk rock rising out of the river the Ourthe in Comblain-au-Pont. Very hard to find a good spot to put up antennas, I managed to setup just near the river. All surrounded by wild orchids and Canadian geese.

Conditions up and down, my first SSB call on 14.310 put VK5PAS Paul in the log. Followed by a bunch of other VK's : VK7CW, VK4HA, VK4RF, VK5CZ, VK3PL and VK2IO. ON4BB worked me over the long path ! Several kingfishers popped in to say hello ... great!

144 QSO's in the log in 21 DXCC, 3 continents.



## Mr QRP

By Paul VK5PAS

Want a bit of a laugh. Then check this out.....

<https://youtu.be/kiuOoddcJFQ>

By the video is from the 2004 movie entitled 'Downfall'. A brilliant movie should you want to watch it. The movie was produced in Germany and is all about the final ten days of Hitler's reign.