



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 19, May 2016

Welcome



G'day all, and welcome to Issue 19, May 2016, of *'Out and About in VK5'*. This newsletter focuses on VK5 activities relating to Summits on the Air (SOTA), Parks (including WWFF and the VK5 Parks Award), portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc.

'Out and About in VK5' has now been in circulation since November 2014, and since its humble beginnings, is now read by amateurs in Europe and North America. I appreciate all the emails I get from the overseas readers.

The month of April, 2016 was a very busy month, particularly with parks activities here in South Australia. The 3rd year anniversary of the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award was held on the weekend of Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd April 2016. Although the number of participating amateurs as activators was down

compared to last year, the weekend was still very successful.

A total of 26 different call signs showed up as activators over the weekend, with around 62 different parks activated all across Australia. This included parks in the Adelaide metro area, the Adelaide Hills, the South East, the Riverland, the Yorke Peninsula, and the Mid North. More than 2,500 QSOs were made by the activators.

I was certainly kept very busy in the weeks following the activation weekend, sending out numerous award certificates for both the VK5 Parks Award and WWFF. I was also kept very busy uploading activator logs. All of the Activators will receive a Participation certificate in the very near future.

On the subject of logs, please allow up to 14 days for logs to be uploaded to WWFF Logsearch, and certificates to be sent out. As much as I would like to be retired, I still work full time and amateur radio is just one of many hobbies I have. So emails which are sent to me 24 hours after applying for an award, asking where the award is, will no longer be answered.

I am still busy trying to finalise the WWFF global rules and also modification to the VKFF rules. I am hoping this will be completed by the end of the month. Many of the archaic global rules should be eliminated, making activating and hunting that much easier.

I am off to Norfolk Island (VKFF-0392) in May for the WIA AGM. I will be active on the island (whenever possible) as VK9PAS. I hope to get you in the log.

There are plenty of great events coming up this year, including the VKFF Team Championships in November, and the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) weekend. If you do intend to enter into the VKFF Team Championships, then remember that you must register with me. More information can be found on the WWFF Australia website.

Re the KRMNPA activation weekend in November, if you have never taken part as an activator, I can highly recommend the weekend.

It is a lot of fun. Why not pick out a park just over the border.

I will announce the winner of the VKFF Annual Photographic Competition in the next issue of ‘Out and About. It was very pleasing to see so many entries. These can be viewed on the WWFF Australia website.

If you have any information that you would like to see in the next issue, please drop me an email at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au



Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.
Paul, VK5PAS.

Contents.

Please try different bands	5
BRL Gathering	5-6
The 1 st Mt Gambier Scout Group Family Fun Day	7-8
VK5 Parks flags	9
The WWFF Logsearch registration process	9
3 rd year anniversary event-VK5 Parks Award	10
New Facebook site	10
2016 VKFF Activation Weekend	10-11
International Field Radio Event	11
New features for FLE	11-12
Mapping for VK5 Parks	12
Promotional video for VK5 Parks Award	12
VK5 QSL Bureau	13
The solar cycle is crashing	13
Out and About in VK5 stickers	13-14
Ham introductions	14-15
Please keep 7.125 clear	15-16
Recent Park activations	16-24
Recent SOTA activations	24
New VK5 Parks Yahoo members	24
ZL3 SOTA to go live	25
KRMNPA Activation Weekend 2016	25
New VK5 Parks Facebook members	26
Unactivated list on Logsearch	26
KN-Q7A transceiver	27

Recent Award recipients	27-33
ANZAC Day Activation	33
ANZAC Day Poem	34-35
VKFF Team Championship 2016	35-36
3 rd year anniversary of the VK5 Parks Award	36
VK5 Parks 3 rd Anniversary weekend activations	37-38
My first Parks Activation weekend	38-41
An activation to commemorate the third year anniversary	41-44
Field Radio Adventure	44
Some upgrades	44
Sunspot AR2529	44
New addition to parksnparks	45
A brand new park	45-46
SOTA CW Net	46
Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF	46-47
Tiny fuel cells at a wee cost	47
Latest videos	47-48
VKFF Photographic competition	48-49

Please try different bands

By Paul VK5PAS



Some time ago a few of the Foundation operators from VK4 and VK2 contacted me via email, asking if I could please try the 15m band during my activations. Often, propagation just isn't there for them on 40m, and of course 20m is outside of their operating privileges.

So for the past couple of months I have been giving 15m a go during most of my activations, and I have been pleasantly surprised. Not only does 15m give the VK6, VK4, & VK2 Foundation ops a go, but it also opens up some exciting DX possibilities.

On 15m, I have now worked Guam, USA, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, New Zealand, South Cook Islands, just to name a few countries. Along with some excellent signals from VK2, VK3, VK4, VK6, VK7 and VK8.

So, please don't just stick to 40m during your next activation. Why not try some different bands such as 15m.

BRL Gathering

By Paul VK5PAS

On 16th & 17th April, the BRL Gathering was held again up at the historic Overland Corner Hotel in the Riverland region of South Australia. It was a terrific show and I highly recommend the BRL Gathering to anyone who has not previously been. The Gathering is organized by the Riverland Radio Club.

The Saturday morning kicked off with a breakfast cooked on the BBQ by Ivan VK5HS and Peter VK5FLEX. Later in the morning a boot sale was held, with many bargains on offer. Ron VK5MRE held the Riverland Radio Club Net, portable from the garden at the hotel.



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ with a bargain.

Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

An enjoyable lunch from the hotel followed. After lunch, each attending ham gave a short talk on themselves, and this was followed by the presentation of the Riverland Radio Club Net Award to Tony VK5FTVR. A number of prizes

were also awarded following the draw of the raffles.

I also gave a short talk on the WIA, and announced that the highest level for the Murray River Parks Award would be a trophy in honour of Larry VK5LY (now SK). A minutes silence was observed for Larry.



*Above: Ron VK5MRE on air, with John VK5FMJC, Bill VK5MBD and Frank VK3VEF.
Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.*

Whilst up in the Riverland, Marija and I snuck in a few park activations. They included:-

- Pike River Conservation Park
- Pooginook Conservation Park
- Cooltong Conservation Park
- Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ on air in Cooltong CP. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

More information on those activations can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

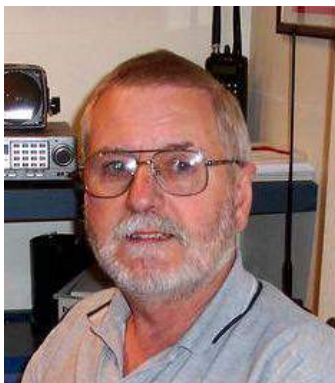
<https://vk5pas.org/>



Above:- The BRL Gathering group. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

The 1st Mount Gambier Scout Group Family Fun Day

By Col VK5HCF



This is now a biannual event and the second time that the South East Radio Group had been invited to participate. We were not able to on the previous occasion due to other commitments but this time we went for it.



After being allocated an ideal position we set up our 3 metre square gazebo and sprinkled the table with promotional brochures for Amateur Radio in general and the WWFF and VK5 parks award plus S.O.T.A.

Greg, VK5ZGY and xyl Gabi had a portable HF station set up next to our gazebo and although it attracted a bit of interest the conditions were not very favourable on the day and Greg was not able to show people what HF is all about to the extent that he would have liked.



We had a scanner running with the R.A.A.F. and airport frequencies being constantly scanned and a few people found that quite interesting.

We had a few stop and ask questions and, at one point, we thought that we might have attracted a couple of new members. Sadly we have never heard from them again.

The weather was kind to us and the event attracted very good numbers.

Tim, VK5AV was present along with John, VK5DJ, Greg, VK5ZGY and xyl Gabi, Andrew, VK5MAS, Andrew, VK5FAWS, Col, VK5HCF and we had visits from David, VK5HDW, Tom, VK5NFT, Robin, VK5TN and xyl Denise and a number of other members and families.

The C130 Hercules attracted big crowds and many people queued for a long time to have a look inside.



The R.A.A.F. Roulettes strutted their stuff and an excellent display of precision flying was put on for us.



Koala and her team from the Scout troop did a fantastic job and everything went like clockwork.

A credit to a very dedicated team of volunteers.



Obviously Amateur Radio is not for everyone but the exposure to the general public certainly does no harm.

All members present enjoyed the event and we felt that it was worth doing for sure. We will be back at the next one if we can.

All images courtesy of Col VK5HCF

VK5 Parks flags

By Paul VK5PAS



If anyone is interested, I am going to take a third order for flags for the VK5 Parks Award.

Should you be interested in buying a flag, please send me an email to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

The flags are \$17.00 each (depends on how many we order). Plus a small charge for me to post out the flag/s to you, or you can collect them from me.

The flags are made by ‘Australian Flag Makers’ and are made from 200D knitted polyester, designed for outdoor use. The flags are single sided, with 2 grommets so you can attach the flag to a squid pole. The flags are 40cm X 60cm in size.



The WWFF Logsearch registration process

By Paul VK5PAS

I have placed some info on the WWFF Logsearch registration process on my Wordpress site. It can be located at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/2016/04/12/registering-for-wwff-logsearch/>

I will also place this info on the WWFF Australia website in the very near future.

I hope this provides some help as to what happens when you register to use Logsearch.

3rd year anniversary event – VK5 Parks Award

By Paul VK5PAS

The special VK5 Parks Award Activation Weekend to celebrate the 3rd year anniversary was held on....

**Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd
April 2016**

I am still compiling the stats, but at this stage, a total of 25 different call signs took part in the event and around 62 different parks were activated across South Australia. Over 2,500 QSOs were made by the activators.

Activator numbers were down on last year (in 2015, a total of 41 amateurs took part) and there were a total of 81 unique parks activated.

Thanks to Tony VK3VTH who ventured across the border again to take part in the weekend.

I will be forwarding out a participation certificate soon, to all those hams who took part as activators.

Thankyou to everyone who took part, both activators and hunters. Looking forward to next year.

New Facebook site

By Paul VK5PAS

Ben VK5TX has released a new Facebook site called ‘VK Home Brew’. People can share their home brew projects on the site. So, if you like building and using home brew equipment, you may find the site interesting.

It can be found at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1689037384702683/>

2016 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

A reminder that the 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend will be held on.....

**Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th
November 2016.**

Last years inaugural VKFF Action Weekend (held in November just gone), saw a total of 51 amateurs venture out to activate 77 unique parks all across Australia. There were over 3,200 QSOs made over the 2 day period.

Again, please drop me an email should you be intending on activating a park.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

**World Wide Flora Fauna
(WWFF)**




VKFF Activation weekend.

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th

November 2016



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

Personalized and numbered participation certificates will be available to all through email. FREE!

A limited number of patches will be made available for purchase. (Design coming soon!)

Group SSB	Calling (Single	Frequencies Sideband)
40 metres	–	7.181 Mhz
20 metres	–	14.281 Mhz
17 metres	–	18.140 Mhz
15 metres	–	21.281 Mhz
10 metres	–	TBA
2 metres – TBA (simplex only)		

CW	(Morse	Code)
40 metres	–	7.035 Mhz
30 metres	–	10.115 Mhz
20 metres	–	14.035 Mhz
17 metres	–	18.075 Mhz
15 metres – 21.035 Mhz		

On any modes that you are licensed to operate!

International Field Radio Event

By Paul VK5PAS

INTERNATIONAL FIELD RADIO EVENT
Inaugural Event (An activity, not a contest!)

28.05.2016 / 0000 - 2359 UTC

Goal:

Work as many contacts as you can, preferably while operating portable. Keep track of how many Field Radio members you contact and tell the others about the Facebook group!

New features for FLE

By Paul VK5PAS

A new version of Fast Log Entry (FLE) has now been released. Version 2.6 now contains some fantastic features for park activators for the WWFF program.

FLE is a great program which I highly recommend if you use a paper log out in the field (like me), and want to create an ADIF file for uploading to WWFF Logsearch, and perhaps your own electronic logging program.

I have added a quick post to my Wordpress site re the new WWFF features in FLE. It can be found at.....

<https://vk5pas.org/2016/04/12/fast-log-entry-file/>

Mapping for VK5 Parks

By Paul VK5PAS

Just a reminder that an excellent mapping resource for locating South Australian parks is *Location SA Map Viewer*.

It can be found at.....

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

Unlike Google maps, it shows you ALL of the parks in South Australia.

You can also select a number of Datasets including NPW and Conservation Reserve boundaries.

It is an excellent resource.



Promotional video for VK5 Parks Award

By Paul VK5PAS



I am seeking video & photos for a promotional video for the VK5 Parks Award.

I have created a folder in Dropbox for collection of the video and photos.

If you would like to contribute, please drop me an email and I will send you a link to the Dropbox folder.

I would greatly appreciate as much input as possible.

VK5 QSL Bureau

By Paul VK5PAS

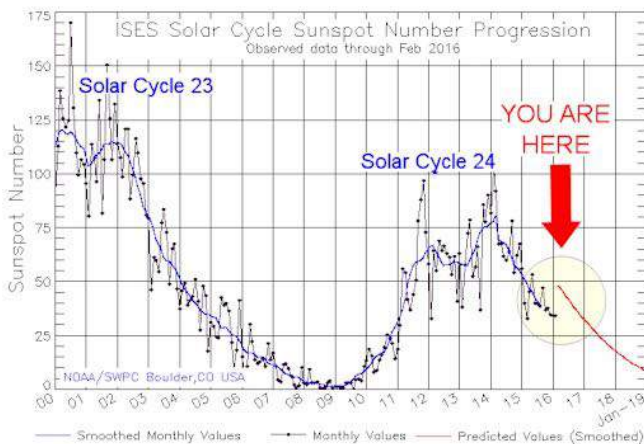


The Amateur Radio Experimenters Group (AREG) are now the new WIA VK5 inwards QSL Bureau. The club will be following the existing WIA QSL policy and will continue to encourage all amateurs that use the QSL Bureau to join the WIA.

The Solar Cycle is Crashing

By Paul VK5PAS

Anyone wondering why the sun has been so quiet lately?



More information can be found at the following.....

<http://news.spaceweather.com/the-solar-cycle-is-crashing/>

Out and About in VK5 stickers

By Paul VK5PAS

Who is interested in an 'Out and About in VK5' sticker?

I have a quote back from Price Screen & Digital in Adelaide. They can do 50 x stickers at a total cost of \$336.00. That works out to be \$4.42 per sticker. Or 100 x stickers at a total cost of \$359.70. That works out to be \$2.42 per sticker. Next batch would be 250, which totals \$456.50 and works out to be \$1.32 per sticker. But I suspect I would never get interest in 250.

So, if people are interested, please let me know. Either drop me an email or post a message here.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

I did look at another large company that could do it cheaper, but I read a lot of reviews suggesting that their quality was quite poor.

Looking forward to hearing from people.



Ham introductions

By Paul VK5PAS

This months Ham Introductions features a ‘new kid on the block’....my wife, Marija VK5FMAZ.

Hi all,

My name is Marija and I am the wife of Paul VK5PAS, and the proud recipient of a brand new Foundation call of VK5FMAZ.



In the past 4 years I have been all over the countryside with Paul whilst he has activated parks and summits, and I decided earlier in the year that I would like to get my amateur radio licence.

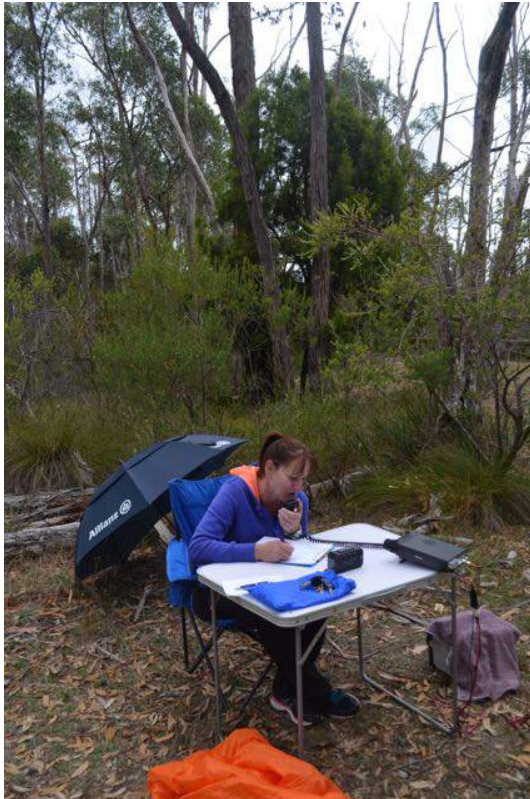
Thanks to the trainers at the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS), this became a reality in March, after I passed the 2 day training workshop for the Foundation licence. I studied using the Foundation manual whilst on my way to and from work on the bus. I am not from an electronics background. I work in the banking/insurance industry.

On April 6th I got on air for the very first time at the insistence of Paul. I had just arrived home from work and Paul came running out to the car to tell me that there was a station in a park on air. I quickly went up to the ‘shack’ and spoke with Adam VK2YK who was operating portable from the Georges River National Park. Adam was my first ever contact on air, and has been kind enough to send me my very first QSL card.



Later that night, with Paul’s help I joined the 7130 DX Net. I made contacts into New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and also made some DX contacts into New Zealand (Wellington and Nelson), and also William FO5JV in French Polynesia. Even though I was only 5/3 to William I was very excited that he could hear my 10 watt signal out in the Pacific.

I activated my very first park on Sunday 10th April 2016. This was the Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park 5CP-104 and VKFF-0781. I was very nervous but I made a total of 69 contacts into the ACT, NSW, Victoria, QLD, WA and Tasmania and included four Park to Park contacts.



*Above:- Marija in the Kenneth Stirling CP.
Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

Two of the highlights of that activation were to speak with Julie VK3FOWL, and Connie VK2FCON. I was Connie's first ever HF contact.

Since then I have activated a further 4 Conservation Parks up in the Riverland. I'm hoping to do a SOTA activation soon at Mount Lofty.

I look forward to speaking with you soon and hope to get you in the log.

73 and 88,

Marija, VK5FMAZ.

**Please keep 7.125
clear**

By Paul VK5PAS



On a sad note, I received a complaint during April that a VK5 Parks activator was operating on 7.125.

There were claims made that Parks & SOTA activators had been 'frequently' using 7.125, thus resulting in this frequency being unusable by AM ops. The suggestion was that this was 'making parks and peaks activators not to popular' and that this was a 'potentially divisive issue'.

The gentleman concerned also wanted Parks and SOTA activators to keep 7.130 also clear.

Out of interest I checked my log since January of this year and I have hundreds of Parks & SOTA contacts in the log. Only ONE of those contacts was on 7.125 and as it turned out that was today.

Personally, I'm aware that 7.125 is used by the AM ops, so I tend to stay clear of it.

To keep the peace, could the PARKS activators please be cognisant that 7.125 is used by the AM stations, and to please try to stay clear of that frequency.

Thankyou very much for your assistance.

Recent Park Activations

The month of April saw the 3rd year anniversary of the VK5 Parks Award, so as would be expected there was a large amount of activity.

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

- Morialta Conservation Park 5CP-142 and VKFF-0783, Theo AX5MTM/p (25/4/2016)
- Morialta Conservation Park 5CP-142 and VKFF-0783, AX5ARG/p (25/4/2016)
- Ferries McDonald Conservation Park 5CP-067 and VKFF-0881, Paul AX5PAS/p (25/4/2016)
- Swan Reach Conservation Park 5CP-221 and VKFF-0832, Chris AX4FR/5 (25/4/2016)
- Coorong National Park 5NP-005 and VKFF-0115, Chris VK4FR/5 (24/4/2016)
- Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park 5NP-007 and VKFF-0176, David VK5PL/p (22/4/2016)
- Belair National Park 5NP-001 and VKFF-0022, Marcus VK3TST/5 (20/4/2016)
- Belair National Park 5NP-001 and VKFF-0022, Eric VK5KBB/p (20/4/2016)
- Murray Sunset National Park VIC VKFF-0373, Stef VK5HSX/p (19/4/2016)
- Murray River National Park VKFF-0372 and 5NP-016, David VK5KC/p (18/4/2016)
- Little Desert National Park VIC, VKFF-0291, Stef VK5HSX/3 (30/4/2016)
- Wiljani Conservation Park 5CP-274 and VKFF-1159, Paul VK5PAS (30/4/2016)



Above:- David VK5KC in the Murray River National Park.

- Morgan Conservation Park 5CP-141 and VKFF-0911, Stef VK5HSX/p (17/4/2016)
- Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park 5CP-123 and VKFF-0827, Paul VK5PAS (17/4/2016)
- Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park 5CP-123 and VKFF-0827, Marija VK5FMAZ (17/4/2016)
- Cooltong Conservation Park 5CP-046 and VKFF-0823, Paul VK5PAS (17/4/2016)
- Cooltong Conservation Park 5CP-046 and VKFF-0823, Marija VK5FMAZ (17/4/2016)
- Brisbane Ranges National Park VIC, VKFF-0055 John VK5BJE/3 (17/4/2016)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park 5CP-203 and VKFF-0933, Will VK5AHV/p (17/4/2016)
- Mount Buangor State Park VIC VKFF-0766, John VK5BJE/3 (16/4/2016)

- Pooginook Conservation Park 5CP-186 and VKFF-0929, Marija VK5FMAZ (16/4/2016)
- Pooginook Conservation Park 5CP-186 and VKFF-0929, Paul VK5PAS (16/4/2016)



*Above:- Paul VK5PAS in the Pooginook CP.
Image courtesy of VK5PAS.*

- Morialta Conservation Park 5CP-142 and VKFF-0783, Eric VK5KBB/p (16/4/2016)
- Pike River Conservation Park 5CP-180 and VKFF-0831, VK5PAS (15/4/2016)
- Pike River Conservation Park 5CP-180 and VKFF-0831, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (15/4/2016)
- Grampians National Park VIC VKFF-0213, John VK5BJE/3 (15/4/2016)
- Black Range State Park VIC, VKFF-0751, John VK5BJE/3 (15/4/2016)
- Murray Sunset National Park, VIC, VKFF-0373, David VK5KC/3 (12/4/2016)

- Mount Arapiles/Tooan State Park VIC, VKFF-0765, John VK5BJE/3 (11/4/2016)
- Mount Remarkable National Park, VKFF-0360 and 5NP-015 Peter VK5FKLR/p (10/4/2016)
- Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park 5CP-104 and VKFF-0781, Marija VK5FMAZ (10/4/2016)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ in Kenneth Stirling CP. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

- Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park 5CP-104 and VKFF-0781, Paul VK5PAS (10/4/2016)
- Butcher Gap Conservation Park 5CP-027 and VKFF-0793, John VK5BJE/p (10/4/2016)
- The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park 5CP-228 and VKFF-0817, Les VK5KLV/p (9/4/2016)
- Mount Remarkable National Park, VKFF-0360 and 5NP-015 Peter VK5FKLR/p (9/4/2016)
- Coorong National Park 5NP-005 and VKFF-0115, Greg VK5ZGY/p (7/4/2016)
- Butcher Gap Conservation Park 5CP-027 and VKFF-0793, Greg VK5ZGY/p (7/4/2016)
- Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Park 5CP-152 and VKFF-0919, Greg VK5ZGY/p (6/4/2016)
- Poonthie Ruwe Conservation Park 5CP-187 and VKFF-1082, Greg VK5ZGY/p (6/4/2016)
- Desert Camp Conservation Park VKFF-0594 and 5CP-055, Stef VK5HSX/p (5/4/2016)
- Fort Glanville Conservation Park VKFF-1031 and 5CP-069, Greg VK5ZGY/p (5/4/2016)
- Bullock Hill Conservation Park 5CP-265 and VKFF-0873, Greg VK5ZGY/p (4/4/2016)

- Myponga Conservation Park 5CP-157 and VKFF-0921, Paul VK5PAS (4/4/2016)
- Penola Conservation Park 5CP-177 and VKFF-0803, Tony VK3VTH/5 (4/4/2016)
- Little Dip Conservation Park 5CP-120 and VKFF-0904, Stef VK5HSX



*Above:- Stef VK5HSX in the Little Dip CP.
Image courtesy of VK5HSX.*

- Beachport Conservation Park 5CP-014 and VKFF-0791, Stef VK5HSX (3/4/2016)
- Furner Conservation Park 5CP-072 and VKFF-0882, Col VK5HCF (3/4/2016)

- Reedy Creek Conservation Park 5CP-196 and VKFF-0931, Col VK5HCF (3/4/2016)
- Mokota Conservation Park 5CP-137 and VKFF-1062, Andrew VK5MR/p (3/4/2016)
- Mimbara Conservation Park 5CP-272 and VKFF-1060, Andrew VK5MR/p (3/4/2016)
- Hopkins Creek Conservation Park 5CP-093 and VKFF-0893, Andrew VK5MR/p (3/4/2016)
- Redbanks Conservation Park 5CP-195 and VKFF-1086, Andrew VK5MR/p (3/4/2016)



- Onkaparinga River National Park 5CP-019 and VKFF-0402, VK5ARC South Coast ARC (3/4/2016)
- Onkaparinga River National Park 5NP-019 and VKFF-0402, VK5TTY South Coast ARC (3/4/2016)
- Fort Glanville Conservation Park 5CP-069 and VKFF-1031, David VK5AAH/p (3/4/2016)
- Morialta Conservation Park 5CP-142 and VKFF-0783, Steve VK5SFA (3/4/2016)



Above:- The set up of Steve VK5SFA in the Morialta CP. Image courtesy of VK5SFA.

- Telford Scrub Conservation Park 5CP-226 and VKFF-0805, Tim VK5AV/p (3/4/2016)
- Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park, 5CP-104 and VKFF-0805, John VK5BJE/p (3/4/2016)



Above:- John VK5BJE's set up at Kenneth Stirling CP. Image courtesy of VK5BJE

- Eric Bonython Conservation Park 5CP-062 and VKFF-0877, Paul VK5PAS (3/4/2016)
- Clements Gap Conservation Park 5CP-043 and VKFF-0812, Chris VK5FCHM (3/4/2016)
- Pike River Conservation Park 5CP-180 and VKFF-0831, Peter VK5FLEX/p (3/4/2016)
- Pualco Range Conservation Park 5CP-190 and VKFF-1083, Andrew VK5MR/p (2/4/2016)
- Caroon Creek Conservation Park 5CP-037 and VKFF-0875, Andrew VK5MR/p (2/4/2016)
- Pandappa Conservation Park 5CP-170 and VKFF-1131, Andrew VK5MR/p
- Swan Reach Conservation Park 5CP-221 and VKFF-0832, David VK5PL/p (3/4/2016)
- Marne Valley Conservation Park 5CP-128 and VKFF-0806, David VK5PL (3/4/2016)
- Waitpinga Conservation Park 5CP-243 and VKFF-0940, Paul VK5PAS (3/4/2016)



Above:- Paul VK5PAS in the Waitpinga Conservation Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS.

- Lake St Clair Conservation Park 5CP-112 and VKFF-1047, Tom VK5NFT/p (3/4/2016)
- Belt Hill Conservation Park 5CP-106 and VKFF-0870, Tom VK5NFT/p (3/4/2016)
- Glen Roy Conservation Park 5CP-077 and VKFF-0797, Tony VK3VTH/4 (3/4/2016)
- Big Heath Conservation Park 5CP-018 and VKFF-0792, Tony VK3VTH/5 (3/4/2016)
- Innes National Park 5NP-010 and VKFF-0243, Adrian VK5FANA/p (3/4/2016)
- Carribie Conservation Park 5CP-039 and VKFF-0876, Adrian VK5FANA (3/4/2016)
- Bakara Conservation Park 5CP-008 and VKFF-0868, Norm VK5GI/p (3/4/2016)
- Bakara Conservation Park 5CP-008 and VKFF-0868, Greg VK5GJ/p (3/4/2016)

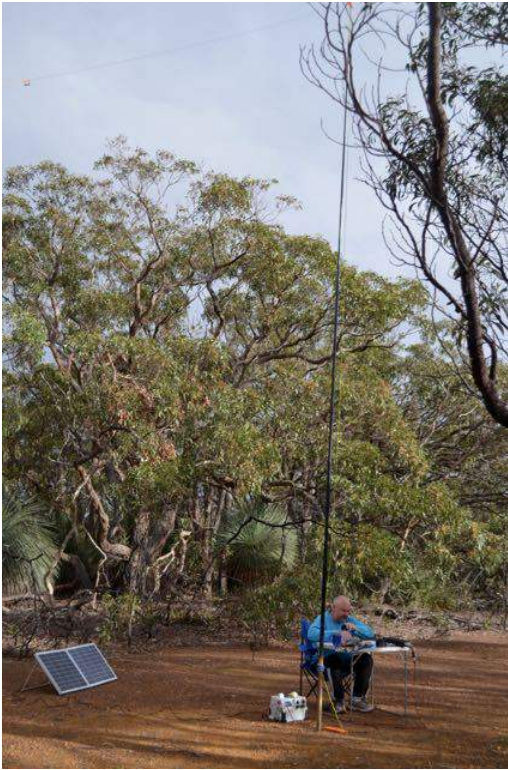
- Mantung Conservation Park 5CP-269 and VKFF-1055, Norm VK5GI/p (3/4/2016)
- Mantung Conservation Park 5CP-269 and VKFF-1055, Greg VK5GJ/p (3/4/2016)
- Bandon Conservation Park 5CP-263 and VKFF-0999, Norm VK5GI/p (3/4/2016)
- Bandon Conservation Park 5CP-263 and VKFF-0999, Greg VK5GJ/p (3/4/2016)
- Monarto Conservation Park 5CP-131 and VKFF-0828, Greg VK5ZGY/p (3/4/2016)
- Billiatt Conservation Park 5CP-019 and VKFF-0821, Greg VK5ZGY/p (3/4/2016)
- Cox Scrub Conservation Park 5CP-048 and VKFF-0824, Tony VK5FTvR/p (3/4/2016)



Above:- Tony VK5FTVR in the Cox Scrub CP. Image courtesy of VK5FTVR.

- Deep Creek Conservation Park 5CP-054 and VKFF-0780, Paul VK5PAS (2/4/2016)

- Talisker Conservation Park 5CP-223 and VKFF-0790, Paul VK5PAS (2/4/2016)



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

- Narracoorte Caves National Park 5NP-017 and VKFF-0380, Tony VK3VTH/5 (2/4/2016)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park 5CP-204 and VKFF-0933, Keith VK5OQ/p (2/4/2016)
- Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park 5CP-097 and VKFF-0897, Keith VK5OQ/p (2/4/2016)
- Bullock Hill Conservation Park 5CP-265 and VKFF-0873, Tony VK5FTVR/p (2/4/2016)

- Cudlee Creek Conservation Park 5CP-050 and VKFF-1023, Greg VK5LG/p (2/4/2016)
- Morialta Conservation Park, 5CP-142 and VKFF-0780, Steve VK5SFA/p (2/4/2016)
- Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Park 5CP-152 and VKFF-0919, Norm VK5GI/p (2/4/2016)
- Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Park 5CP-152 and VKFF-0919, Greg VK5GJ/p (2/4/2016)
- Ettrick Conservation Park 5CP-267 and VKFF-1029, Norm VK5GI/p (2/4/2016)
- Ettrick Conservation Park 5CP-267 and VKFF-1029, Greg VK5GJ/p (2/4/2016)
- Lowan Conservation Park 5CP-122 and VKFF-1052, Norm VK5GI/p (2/4/2016)
- Lowan Conservation Park 5CP-122 and VKFF-1052, Greg VK5GJ/p (2/4/2016)
- Poonthie Ruwe Conservation Park 5CP-187 and VKFF-1082, Norm VK5GI/p (2/4/2016)
- Poonthie Ruwe Conservation Park 5CP-187 and VKFF-1082, Greg VK5GJ/p (2/4/2016)
- Karte Conservation Park 5CP-099 and VKFF-0898, Greg VK5ZGY/p (2/4/2016)
- Peebinga Conservation Park 5CP-173 and VKFF-0830, Greg VK5ZGY/p (2/4/2016)

- Bird Islands Conservation Park 5CP-021 and VKFF-0871, Richard VK5ZRY/p (2/4/2016)
- Kyeema Conservation Park 5CP-107 and VKFF-0826, Peter VK5PET (2/4/2016)



Above:- The set up of Peter VK5PET at the Kyeema Conservation Park. Image courtesy of VK5PET.

- Warrenben Conservation Park 5CP-248 and VKFF-0818, Adrian VK5FANA/p (2/4/2016)

- Whyalla Conservation Park 5CP-253 and VKFF-0808, Peter VK5FKLR/p (2/4/2016)
- Beachport Conservation Park 5CP-014 and VKFF-0791, Stef VK5HSX/p (2/4/2016)



Above:- The station of Stef VK5HSX at Beachport CP. Image courtesy of Stef VK5HSX.

- Little Dip Conservation Park VKFF-0904 and 5CP-120, Stef VK5HSX/p (1/4/2016)
- Innes National Park 5NP-010 and VKFF-0243, Adrian VK5FANA/p (1/4/2016)
- Leven Beach Conservation Park 5CP-117 and VKFF-0814, Adrian VK5FANA/p (1/4/2016)
- Deep Creek Conservation Park 5CP-054 and VKFF-0780, Paul VK5PAS (1/4/2016)
- Mount Magnificent Conservation Park 5CP-148 and VKFF-0916, Peter VK5PET/p (1/4/2016)

- Yulte Conservation Park 5CP-261 and VKFF-1128, Paul VK5PAS (1/4/2016)
- Ramsay Way Conservation Park 5CP-194 and VKFF-0815, Richard VK5ZRY/p (1/4/2016)

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 kept flying the flag here in VK5 for SOTA, along with some activations in Victoria by John VK5BJE.

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

- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, AX5FO/p (25/4/2016)
- Tothill Range VK5/ SE-010, Hugh AX5NHG/p (25/4/2016)
- Brown Hill Range VK5/ SE—004, Ian AX5CZ/p (25/4/2016)
- Mount Remarkable VK5/ NE-010, Ian VK5CZ/p (19/4/2016)
- Black Bullock Hill VK5/ SE-016, Ian VK5CZ/p (16/4/2016)
- Mount Zero VK3/ VW-020, John VK5BJE/3 (15/4/2016)
- New Campbell Hill VK5/ SE-007, Ian VK5CZ/p (13/4/2016)
- Hogshead Hill VK5/ NE-051, Ian VK5CZ/p (12/4/2016)
- Maurice Hill VK5/ NE-049, Ian VK5CZ/p (12/4/2016)
- Mount Arapiles VK3/ VW-022, John VK5BJE/3 (11/4/2016)
- Coomaroo Hill VK5/ NE-088, Ian VK5CZ/p (11/4/2016)
- The Battery VK5/NE-055, Ian VK5CZ/p (11/4/2016)
- Bumbunga Hill VK5/ SE-015, Ian VK5CZ/p (3/4/2016)

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.....

- Greg VK5LG
- Mike VK5FVSV
- Aaron VK3FAPH

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.

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

ZL3 SOTA to go live

By Paul VK5PAS

Info from Andrew VK3ARR is that the ZL3 South Island New Zealand Association will be going live on 1st May 2016.

There are a total of 3,900 summits in ZL3.

KRMNPA Activation Weekend 2016

By Paul VK5PAS



Amateur Radio Victoria
For a century doing what we do best: in support of the amateur radio community

The 2016 Activation Weekend for the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) will be held on....

Friday 11th to Monday 14th November 2016

If you do intend to activate a park, don't forget to place an alert on parksnparks.

More information on the KRMNPA Award can be found at.....

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

There is also a KRMNPA Yahoo group which can be found at.....

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

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 88 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

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

➤ NIL for this period

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

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

Unactivated list on Logsearch

By Paul VK5PAS



After some recent discussion about a 'Most wanted' list for VKFF Parks, I liaised with Andrew MOYMA in the UK who is the Logsearch Admin. Andrew has now implemented an 'Unactivated' list on Logsearch.

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

If you go to 'Reference Report' on Logsearch and then click on 'VKKF only' from the first Dropdown box, and then click on 'Unactivated' in the second dropdown box.

This will bring up a list of Unactivated VK Parks.

I have sent off an email asking Andrew if he might be able to implement another dropdown box which separates those into separate States and Territories.

KN-Q7A transceiver

By Paul VK5PAS



There is a new kit radio out. It is the KN-Q7A SSB transceiver from CRKITS in China.

The KN-Q7A is available in three bands: 80/75m (10W), 40m (10W), or 20m (5W).

For more information please click on the following links.....

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

http://www.examiner.com/review/diy-review-kn-q7a-ssb-20m-qrp-ham-radio-transceiver-kit?no_cache=1460864336

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.

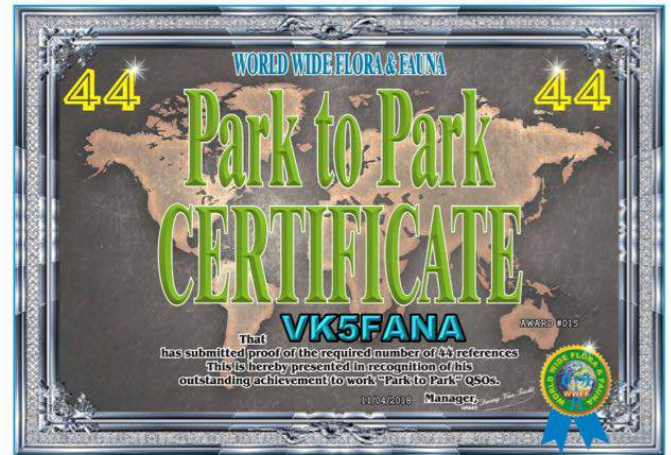
vk5pas@wia.org.au

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- **NIL known**

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Adrian VK5FANA**
 - Global Hunter 308
 - Global Park to Park 44
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 10
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 20
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 325



- **Greg VK5GJ**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 125
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 150
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 175
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 200
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 10
- **Les VK5KLV**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 150
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 10
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 20
- **Rob VK4AAC/5**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 250
 - WWFF Global Activator 55
 - WWFF Global Park to Park 44





- **David VK5PL**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 200
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 10
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 20
- **Tony VK5FTVR**
 - Murray River Parks Hunter-10
 - Sapphire VKFF Hunter
- **Stef VK5HSX**
 - Global Hunter 132
 - Global Activator 11
 - Silver VKFF Activator
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 10
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 100



- **Col VK5HCF**

- Bronze VKFF Activator
- Murray River Parks Hunter 10
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 150

- **Charlie VK5KDK**

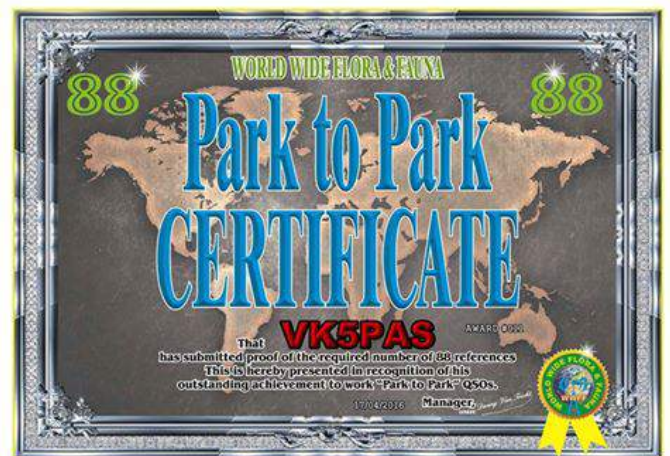
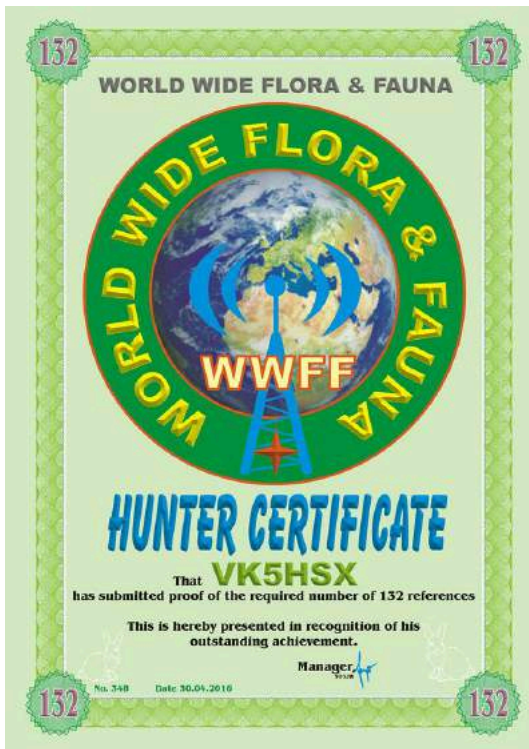
- Gold VKFF Hunter

- **Tim VK5AV**

- Murray River Parks Hunter 10

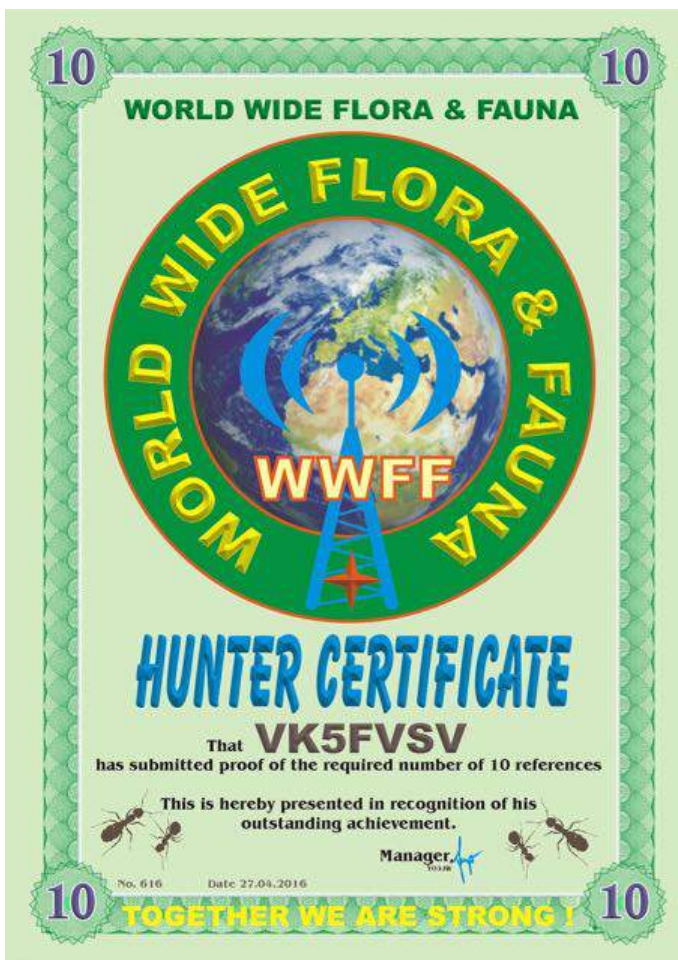
- **Paul VK5PAS**

- Global Park to Park 88
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 400
- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 425





- **Michael VK5FVSV**
 - WWFF Hunter Global 10 references



- **John VK5BE**
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 10
 - Diamond VKFF Activator
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 175

VK5 Parks Award

- **Marc VK3OHM**
 - Bronze Conservation Parks Uniques Hunter
 - Silver Conservation Parks Uniques Hunter
 - Gold Conservation Parks Uniques Hunter
 - Bronze National Parks Uniques Hunter
 - Silver National Parks Uniques Hunter
 - Gold National Parks Uniques Hunter
 - Platinum National Parks Uniques Hunter
- **VK3AV**
 - Bronze Hunter
 - Silver Hunter
 - Gold Hunter
 - Platinum Hunter
 - Bronze NP Uniques Hunter

- Silver NP Uniques Hunter
- Gold NP Uniques Hunter
- Bronze CP Uniques Hunter
- Silver CP Uniques Hunter
- Gold CP Uniques Hunter



- **Rick VK4RF**
 - Silver NP Uniques Hunter
 - Silver CP Uniques Hunter
- **David VK5PL**
 - Platinum NP Uniques Hunter

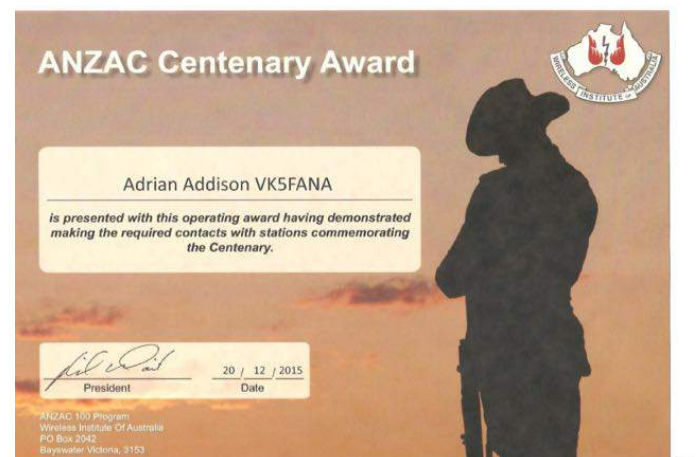
Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - **Activated 11 VK3 Parks**



Other awards

- **Adrian VK5FANA**
 - ANZAC Centenary Award



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - ANZAC Centenary Award

ANZAC Day activation

By Paul VK5PAS

I activated Ferries McDonald Conservation Park on Anzac Day and used the special AX prefix to commemorate ANZAC Day.

I ended up with a total of 121 QSOs on 40m sub, 20m ssb, & 15m ssb.



Above:- the set of VK5PAS at Ferries McDonald CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS.

Four Park to Park contacts: Tony AX3VTH/p in Kinglake NP; Ian VK1DI/p in Red Hill Nature Reserve; and Peter AX3ZPF/ in Mount Worth State Park; and Chris AX4FR in the Swan Reach Conservation Park.

About 34 DX contacts into Europe on LP on 20m:- Italy, Germany, Slovak Republic, Russia, Belgium, Lithuania, Spain, Finland, Sweden, Canary Islands, Hungary, England, & Ukraine.

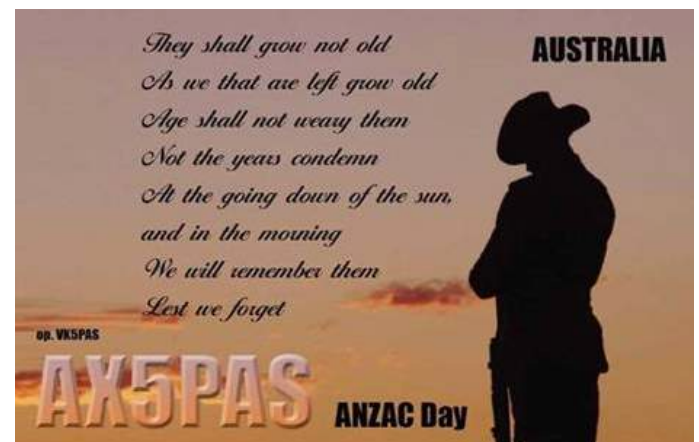
A little bit of 15m DX:- Japan and Poland, along with VK8.

Further info & photos on my Wordpress site later in the week....

<https://vk5pas.org>

Many thanks to everyone who called.

I have a special AX5PAS QSL card. If in VK you can send me a SSAE envelope with your QSL, or if you are from overseas, please QSL via MoOXO.



ANZAC Day poem

By Adrian VK5FANA

On this ANZAC Day 2016 I thought I would share a poem tht was read at the dawn service I attended this morning.

Just A Common Soldier (A Soldier Died Today) by A Lawrence Vaincourt can be found quite easily on the net

A Soldier Died Today

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the RSL,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And ‘tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his mates listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we’ll hear his tales no longer,
For ol’ Bob has passed away,
And the world’s a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won’t be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife..
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won’t note his passing,
‘Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician’s stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It’s so easy to forget them,
For it is so many times
That our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys,
Went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier—
His home, his country, his kin,

Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days..

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
“OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY.”

VKFF Team Championship 2016

By Paul VK5PAS

The VKFF Team Championship will be held on
**Sunday 16th October 2016 between
0000 UTC and 0600 UTC.**

- Create a team of 2 or more amateurs (maximum of 4)
- Create a name for your team (please be sensible)
- Register your team with the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS (failing to register will make your activation void for the VKFF Team Championship).

- Activate from a qualifying VKFF park.
- Make as many contacts as possible within the 6 hour period (0000 UTC - 0600 UTC).
- Stay in the park for as long as you like.....6 hours, 3 hours, 1 hour. What ever you choose.
- Operate on as many bands (excluding the WARC bands) as desired (but remember VKFF rules, in that repeaters, IRLP, Echolink do not count for valid VKFF QSOs).
- Operate as many stations as you would like, e.g. one op on 40m, another on 10m, etc.
- Ensure you abide by all VKFF rules.
- There is no requirement for a contest exchange, e.g. 5/9 001.
- Suggested call: *CQ VKFF Team Championship*
- At the end of the VKFF Team Championship, submit your log to the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS.
- The log **MUST** be in ADIF format or by using the CSV file template.

A variety of prizes are on offer. Sponsors include.....

- **Pages of Cobram**
- **SOTABeams**



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

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

3rd year anniversary of the VK5 Parks Award

By Peter VK5PET

A top day with SCARC activating Onkaparinga National Park, many thanks to VK5KBJ, VK5FGFK, VK5FMLO and VK5PET for their efforts. Both club callsigns activated, VK5ARC and VK5TTY, and both qualified for the WWFF Parks award. TTY 12 contacts, including 2 metres and 40, with 5 park to park, ARC made over 44, including 15+ park to park, and 2 contacts on 15.



VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 16th October 2016
0000 UTC - 0600 UTC

What is it all about?.....Over a 6 hour period, teams of amateurs compete against each other, with the goal of obtaining the most number of contacts, whilst activating from a qualifying VKFF park.

How do I take part?.....Create a team of 2 or more amateurs. Come up with a name for your team. Register with VK5PAS, VKFF co-ordinator. Head out to a qualifying VKFF park and compete against other teams of activators.

Prizes.....The winning team will receive a glass etched trophy. Second & Third place certificates will be awarded. Each team member will also receive a participation certificate.

More information?.....Detailed information on the VKFF Team Championship can be found on the WWFF Australia website at.....
<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/>



*Above: Rick VK5FGFK on air as VK5ARC,
being watched on by Mike VK5FMLO*

VK5 Parks 3rd Anniversary weekend activations

By Col VK5HCF



Three or four weeks before the activation weekend I decided that I wanted to be involved but it wasn't until 5-6 days before that I decided which parks I wanted to activate and on what days.

I finally settled on Furner C.P. Reedy Creek C.P. and Calectasia C.P. in that order and I decided that Sunday the 3rd. would be the day.

I notified Paul, VK5PAS by email and posted alerts on Parks n Peaks.

After I had finished with the South East Radio Group rebroadcast of the W.I.A. National News and the Local VK5 content followed by our club call backs I set off.

I was a little later getting to Furner than I would have liked but did the best that I could. After setting up I got stuck into it 32 qso's later I called it good and packed up. 9 of those so's

were Park to Park contacts 5 being with other VK5 Parks. A very pleasing result.



Image courtesy of Col VK5HCF

I then headed for Park number 2. Reedy Creek C.P.

Once again once I was set up I found the call rate to be quite good and I had few breaks to contend with.

41 qso's resulted of which 7 were VK5 Park to Park and a further 5 were VKFF contacts interstate.



Image courtesy of Col VK5HCF

I thoroughly enjoyed activating both of these parks.

The weather was perfect and the radio conditions were good enough that I had very little trouble copying any of the stations that gave me a call.

After packing up at Reedy Creek I was suffering a bit and also running quite late in time so I decided that I would try a very short activation of Calectasia to try and keep faith with my advertised intentions.

When I got to the entrance to Calectasia I foolishly tried to drive up to the gate but the car started to bog down. Luckily I was able to reverse back down the slope to the road with a bit of wheel spin but I did not end up bogged. (I do carry a spade in case though as I have been in that predicament before).

At that point I decided to give Calectasia a miss and headed for home, arriving just before my nominated time for arrival home with the xyl.

For a more detailed description visit my blog at:-

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

Many thanks to Paul, VK5PAS for organising another ripper weekend and also to all who gave me a call.

In particular, thank you to those who spotted me on Parks n Peaks as it very definitely helps to add stations in the log.

Another really enjoyable day out playing radio and it was really good to hear so many old hands out portable having their first park

activating experience as well. From all accounts they also thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

73,

Col VK5HCF

My First Parks Activation Weekend

By Tony VK5FTVR



Saturday morning, 2nd April 2016 was overcast and a light drizzle was falling as I packed my radio equipment into my vehicle. I started having some doubts whether the weather would hold up as I left home wondering how I would handle the day as I made my way to the “Bullock Hill Conservation Park” VKFF-0873 for my first official activation. I arrived in the park with light rain falling and windy.



After walking around for a while I found a nice spot to set up my equipment. The first item to go up was the Squid Pole which I secured to a post with a couple of straps, then came the all important table and chair followed by my Yaesu FT-857D and portable battery. I admit I was very pleased with myself when I stood back and surveyed my handy work.



I was now ready for my first contact. I fired up the radio on 7.130 and put out a call, and lo and behold there was Paul VK5PAS-P working from “Talisker Conservation Park” VKFF-0790. How appropriate that Paul was my first ever Park

activation, it was Paul who revived my interest in amateur radio when I met him in the “Belair Conservation Park” where AHARS were holding a Radio Field Day in 2014.

I worked “Bullock Hill Conservation Park” from 0203 UTC until 0422 UTC and made 45 activations. Most contacts were around 5 – 9 using my 10 watts. I was surprised how clear the signals were. It was now time to pack up the equipment and move to my next Park, “Cox Scrub Conservation Park” VKFF-0824. I arrived at the park ready to set up again and feeling good with myself having survived my very first Park Activations. It was while unloading my gear. “Murphy Struck”, where was the Squid Pole, Yep you guessed it, I had left it at Bullock Hill. A very dejected radio operator loaded everything back into the vehicle and I set off retracing my steps back to Bullock Hill.

I arrived back at my Bullock Hill site and to my joy there was my Squid Pole safely secured to the post where I had left it. After loading it back into the vehicle I made a mental note to type up a “Check List” to tick off when loading my gear back into the vehicle after park activation. I pinched the idea from a pilot I sat next to while flying in the NT some years ago. It was now too late to go back to “Cox Scrub Conservation Park”. Feeling a bit flat and annoyed with myself I headed back home to Strathalbyn.

Sunday morning, 3rd April 2016 was sunny so I decided to have another go at activating “Cox Scrub Conservation Park” VKFF-0824. On this occasion I was joined by my brother Eric who was interested to see what all this amateur radio business was all about. We arrived at the Conservation Park around 1230 Hrs and It was

nice to have a helper carry all the gear into the park. I found a suitable spot to set up the antenna and radio. Feeling pleased with the setup and after a coffee it was time for my first activation from the park.



I worked Cox Scrub from 0326 UTC to 0516 UTC making 38 activations, just short of the required 44 activations. I had a visit from the Park Ranger who was very interested in the radio activations from the park; he took a photo of me working stations which he said would be used to promote the use of Conservation Parks.

Hikers in the park also stopped to see what I was doing. But then “Murphy” struck again. My portable battery was running down and contacts were becoming difficult. So I decided to pack up all the gear and return home. I now have another item to add to the check list. Make sure to put the battery on the charger when you get home ready for the next outing.



This has been a terrific weekend for me and has wetted my appetite to work the parks. It is great to get out of the radio shack and into the fresh air and share my new found hobby with other likeminded radio amateurs. It was good to talk to so many fellow operators, particularly the 26 Park to Park activations. It was good to hear from some of my friends from the “Wodonga 10 am Net” and the “Barmera Riverland Radio Group”. Paul VK5PAS, Dennis VK2HHA, Ron VK3MRH, VK5FMID, Mick VK3PMG, Peter VK5PET, Steve VK7CW, Ron VK5MRE, Dennis VK5LDM, John VK5BJE, Keith VK2PKT. Thanks fellows for your support. I can highly recommend becoming involved in the “WWFF” and “ParksnPeaks” program, you will definitely get hooked.

Catch in the Park.

73

Tony VK5FTVR

Images in this article courtesy of Tony VK5FTVR.

An activation to commemorate the third anniversary of the SA Parks Award

By John VK5BJE



I chose to activate the Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park in the Wottons Scrub section. The Park is in four sections: Filsell Hill, Wottons Scrub, White Scrub and Burdett Scrub. Filsell Hill is the largest of the four sections and some time ago I set to activate this section. The Park is only accessible through private property and as I had made no arrangements I abandoned my plans. However, Wottons Scrub is easy to find and is well sign-posted. My wife and I checked out access about a week ago and have resolved to return to Wottons Scrub for a

walk. Much of the land for this Park has been acquired for the people of South Australia and the nation by the generosity of benefactors. The park is named in memory of Kenneth Stirling, one such benefactor and so was Wottons Scrub (aMr Wotton).



I chose to set up in the park on the track which leaves the gate where I parked. I took my gear about 100 metres into the park within a small cleared area and set up my station there. I was probably invisible to motorists driving the road, but I could see back to the car park from my spot and I made sure I did not impede bushwalkers. However, there were no walkers: I had the Park to myself.





The photo shows the Yaesu 897, my LiFePo4 battery (8.4 amp hours), clock in UTC, and my log (with writing showing the end result of being a note taker for too long!).



This photo shows another view of my station. The ten metre squid pole is mounted on my tripod and the ends of the linked dipole are in

trees at about two metres from the ground. It is a splendid location.



This photo shows the view looking down the track away from the gate.



This photo is taken from the track looking back to the Gate. My operating position was on the right hand side of the track heading away from the gate.

My contacts

I was on the air at 23:45 UTC (2nd April 2016) and my first contact was with Peter, VK3PF/P in VKFF-0113, **Coopracambra National Park**, in East Gippsland. Signals were 5 and 7

both ways. A Park to Park contact over such a distance with two low power stations was a good omen. Thanks Peter for the excursion to East Gippsland.

23:17 VK4AAC/P3 Rob was in VKFF-0961 **Cobram Regional Park**. Signals were 5 and 9 both ways. A second Park to Park contact sequentially – this is really great. Thanks Rob, we appreciate your mammoth excursion. Then in succession I had contacts with: VK2BJP, VK3ZPF, VK3MCD, VK3FADM, VK4FW, VK2IO/p at 23:32. Gerard was in **Belford National Park**, VKFF-0023, 5 and 2 both ways. I had already worked Gerard in this park from home but it was great to have a Park to Park contact. Then followed VK3AFW, VK2XXM, VK3MRH and then VK6MB. I gave Mike 5 and 6 but he had noise and he gave me 3 and 2. However, it was great to have the contact on 40 metres. VK4RF and VK4HA were both 5 and 8 and I received 5 and 5. It was good to get Rick at such a good level. Then followed VK1MA, VK3DPG, VK3VWS/P, VK2NP and on the 3rd of April just after UTC rollover, Peter, VK3TKK and Tony, VK3AN, about to do a Foundation assessment for an aspiring amateur, Barry, with whom I had a discussion and wished him well and then VK7MBP near New Norfolk in Tasmania s5 and 8 and 4 and 5 received. At 02:22 Mick, VK3PMG, 5 and 7 and 5 and 5. There were no South Australians in the log at this stage. Perhaps they were all worn out and were sleeping in? I knew they were out and about and had received reports from other stations commenting on the number of VK5s in the field. There was no short skip. I saw the contact with Mick, VK3PMG as a sign conditions were beginning to change. The came VK3MCK, VK3ZMD, VK3FQSO, VK3AWG, VK3FAHP/P and VK3AN a second time.

At 00:40 I had a slightly longer contact with Tony, VK5ZAI/P3 who was camped at Laanecoorie Weir, about 30 kilometres from Bendigo, Signals were 5 and 8 and 5 and 9 received. At 00:50, VK3DBP, VK1AT/P3 at Raymond Island in Gippsland, VK5PAS/P, Paul, a Park to Park contact who was operating from VKFF-0940, **Waitpinga Conservation Park**. While we made a successful contact it was hard work for Paul, 5 and 7 and 5 and 1 received.

At 01:18 I had contacts with VK5GJ/P, Greg and VK5GI/P, Norm, who were operating from VKFF-0999, **Bandon Conservation Park**. At last a sure sign that propagation was beginning to open up locally. I then worked John, VK2YW, 5 and 9 both ways, VK3VTH/P5, Tony at VKFF-0792, **Big Heath Conservation Park** in the South East of South Australia and VK5ZGY/P, Greg in **Billiatt Conservation Park**, VKFF-0821. Then followed VK3EJS and VK5PL, David in the **Marne Valley Conservation Park**, VKFF-0906. Adrian, VK5FANA was in VKFF-0876, **Carribie Conservation Park**. I then worked Peter, VK3PF/P at Mount Raymond, in **Mount Raymond Regional Park**, VKFF-0975.

Then followed VK3AIG, VK5HSX/P, Stef in **Beachport Conservation Park**, VKFF-0791, VK5TN, VK3SIM, VK5AAH, David in the **Fort Glanville Conservation Park**, VKFF-1031, VK5PAS/P, Paul in **Waitpinga Conservation Park**, VKFF-0940, VK7CW, Steve in Tasmania, VK3MEG, VK5AV and finally, VK1AD, Andrew. This was a rare contact for Andrew and I. He is either QRP and propagation is not working in our favour or noise is an issue at his end.

In summary, I enjoyed 51 contacts and thus qualified the Park, with contacts from VKs 1 through to 7. The highlight for me was working

14 other Park operators, or Park to Park contacts. Thanks to all of the operators: at home or in the field who helped make this morning activation so successful.

Field Radio Adventure

By Paul VK5PAS



A Field Radio Contest “Adventure” will be held on 28th May 2016 between 0000 UTC – 2359 UTC.

The goal is to work as many contacts as you can, preferably while operating portable.

More information can be found at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FieldRadio/permalink/1373522719339928/>

Some upgrades

By Paul VK5PAS



Two of our friends from Victoria (VK3) who are regularly heard activating and chasing parks have upgraded.

CONGRATULATIONS to.....

Tony VK3VTH....now VK3XV

Mick VK3PMG....now VK3GGG

Well done fellas.

Sunspot AR2529

By Paul VK5PAS

Sunspot AR2529 has more than doubled in size this weekend, making it by far the largest sunspot of 2016. Around the world amateur astronomers are photographing the behemoth, which is now large enough to swallow Earth two times over. (Fortunately, we are 93 million miles away!)

New addition to parksnparks

By Paul VK5PAS



The following information is courtesy of Allen VK3ARH.....

Recently added ability to list requests for activations. The idea is for chasers to list the parks they are seeking. This will help activators prioritise activations or at least give indication as to demand for sites.

Use "Edit Requests", Select the scheme then site of interest.

The list of sites and number of chasers seeking will be displayed will be displayed in the page for each scheme.

You will receive a email when activity is detected.

Always work to improve the process (message content, most wanted list, SMS alert?) but ready for use.

Any issues let me know.

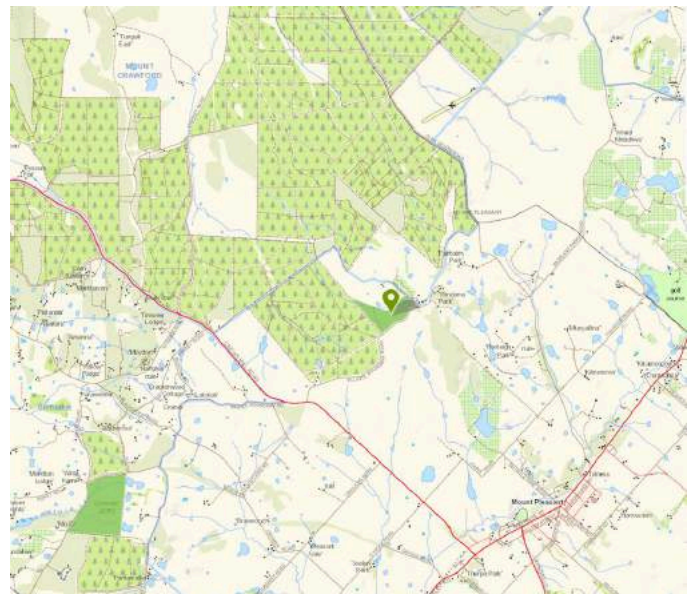
Enjoy!

*Allen
VK3ARH*

A brand new park

By Paul VK5PAS

On Saturday 30th April, 2016 I activated the Wiljani Conservation Park 5CP-274 and VKFF-1159. This was the first time the park had been activated. Many thanks to Bob VK5FO who had found the park whilst looking on the web. A check of the SA Government Gazette confirmed that it was indeed a newly gazetted park.

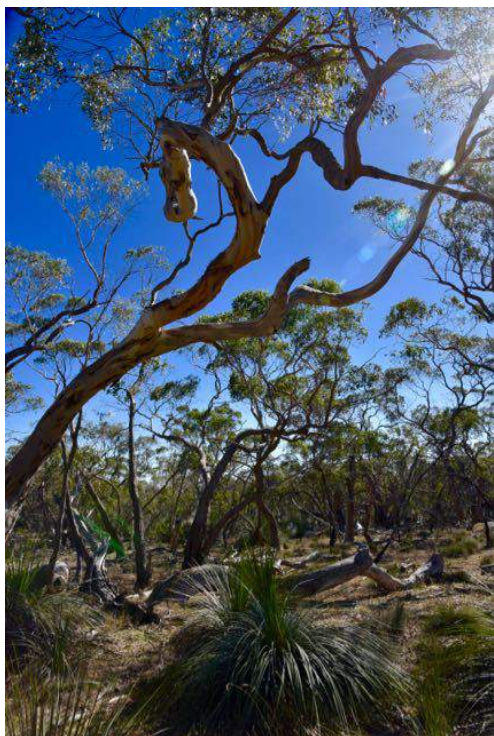


Thanks also to Luciano I5FLN who approved the park very promptly for me for WWFF, and thanks to Allen VK3ARH who allocated the park a 5CP number very promptly as well.

The park is located near Mount Pleasant in the Adelaide Hills, and is truly a beautiful park. I made a total of 101 contacts.

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

<https://vk5pas.org/>



The SOTA CW Net is held on Thursday evenings on 3540 +/- 8.30 EAST. The procedure is a SSB roll call and then CW. Ron VK3AFW runs the Net.

Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

LIFE IS SIMPLE



SOTA CW Net

By Paul VK5PAS

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

...and I will include it here.

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

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



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.

- I1ASU/p, Italian Abbeys & Castles Award (30/4/2016)
- DL3SEZ/p, Lionstone Mountains National Park (29/4/2016)
- ON25CRD/p, Belgium Castles Award (24/4/2016)
- ZL2AJ/p, SOTA ZL/ BP-201 (12/4/2016)

Tiny fuel cells at a wee cost.

By Paul VK5PAS

The following was posted on the VK Entry into Amateur Radio Facebook page by Colin, VK3. Very interesting.

Tiny fuel cells at a wee cost

RESEARCHERS have developed a miniature fuel cell costing as little as \$2 that can generate electricity from urine.

The device, a microbial fuel cell, could be used to create a renewable and carbon-neutral way of generating power to remote areas at very little cost.

Each of the fuel cells, developed by researchers at the University of Bath, Queen Mary University of London and the Bristol Bioenergy Centre, costs

between \$2 and \$4. Microbial fuel cells use natural biological processes of “electric” bacteria to turn organic matter, such as urine, into electricity.

Urine passes through the microbial fuel cell for this reaction to happen, with the bacteria then generating electricity.

This can be stored or used to directly power electrical devices. Dr Mirella Di Lorenzo, lecturer at the University of

Bath’s department of chemical engineering, said: “If we can harness the potential power of this human waste, we could revolutionise how electricity is generated.”

The researchers worked on the cell’s design to maximise the power that could be generated.

By increasing the cell’s electrodes from 4mm to 8mm, the power output was increased tenfold.

Latest videos

By Paul VK5PAS



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

Peter VK3YE pedestrian mobile

<https://youtu.be/wvcmWyrldew>

Installing an antenna into a tree the quick way

<https://youtu.be/taLqFCUdxqs>

Marija VK5FMAZ – first ever park activation

<https://youtu.be/wrC-oBPSBAY>

Marija VK5FMAZ/p as heard by VK3GGG

<https://youtu.be/hyTiboOoaV8>

Col VK5HCF, Furner CP

<https://youtu.be/jn61mN2Wz5o>

Col VK5HCF, Reedy Creek CP

<https://youtu.be/tALK7-VNBRw>

Theo VK5MTM, Morialta CP

<https://youtu.be/3oIZXA4YEUM>

Paul VK5PAS, Deep Creek CP

<https://youtu.be/ovcSSYUq3xw>

VKFF Photographic competition

By Paul VK5PAS



I am compiling info re the final entrants in the VKFF Photographic competition and will place a Poll up on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group site soon. Please take your time to cast your vote for what you consider to be the best photograph taken during an activation during March 2016.

All photos submitted can be found on the WWFF Australia website.

The winner will receive a framed certificate and a \$50.00 voucher from Jaycar.

Many thanks to Jaycar for sponsoring this competition.



VKFF ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

To be held this year during March 2016.

How do I take part?.....During March 2016, take a photograph during one of your VKFF park activations, and forward this to the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS at....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

How is the winner judged?.....Each photograph that is submitted will be placed on the WWFF Australia website and in the Files section of the WWFF Australia Yahoo site. A poll will be held on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group at the end of the March 2016, and this will be open to all WWFF participants to cast their vote for the winning photograph.

Prizes.....The winning amateur will be awarded with a framed certificate and also a \$50.00 voucher from [Jaycar](#) (many thanks to [Jaycar](#) for their sponsorship).

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

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