



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 34 August 2017

Welcome



G'day to all, and welcome to Issue 34 (August 2017) of 'Out and About in VK5'. This newsletter focuses on South Australian (VK5) activities relating to Summits on the Air (SOTA), Parks (including WWFF and the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award), portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc.

Only a few weeks I heard talk of a very dry winter being predicted. That has definitely turned out to be incorrect. We have certainly had a significant amount of rain in the past few weeks here in South Australia. But despite that I did manage to get out into the field with my wife Marija VK5FMAZ for some park activations. A number of those were unique parks for us as activators in the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program.

I also took part in the 2017 Trans Tasman Low Band Challenge and to get away from the noise at home, I operated during the contest from the Totness Recreation Park, a few km from home.

Marija and I were also pleased to read the results of the 2017 VK Shires Contest. This was Marija's first ever contest and I am pleased to report that she came in third spot in the Rover section with a total of 5,180 points. I was pipped at the post by Tony VK3XV, and came in at position number 2. Congratulations to Tony who came in at number one in the VK Single Op All Bands Rover category.

I have also been keeping quite busy, researching and adding parks for the World Wide Flora Fauna program. Each year, as the VK National co-ordinator, I can add up to 500 new parks. I'm almost at my limit, with parks

being added in VK2, VK3, VK5, VK6, and VK7. There are now over 2,000 qualifying parks all across Australia in the WWFF/VKFF program. I would like to thank those amateurs who took the time to send me a list of parks they would like to see added. Particular mention to Peter VK3PF who put in a huge effort in researching Victoria (VK3). Thanks Peter.

On the SOTA front Ian VK5CZ continues his quest to Mountain Goat. Ian ventured out with Hugh VK5NHG and Ian VK5IS, activating a number of summits in the North of South Australia. Ian reports on one of those activations, at Mount Arden, in this issue.

I'm pleased to report that in this issue we have the first of a series of articles from Andy VK5MAV/VK9MAV on his involvement in the Islands on the Air (IOTA) program. Andy recently undertook some IOTA activities in the Coral Sea.

Thanks also go to Chris VK4FR/VK5FR who has sent in an article on his cycling activation of the Morialta Conservation Park. Thanks Chris.

I mentioned this in the last issue, but thought it was worthwhile mentioning again. Whilst out in the field, either on a summit or in a park, don't just confine your operations to the 40m band. Be band and mode agile. Those activators who have been giving the 80m band a shot have been very pleasantly surprised by the results on that band, even in the middle of the day. Local propagation on 40m has been quite patchy, sometimes non-existent. But 80m has proven

to be very reliable. Give it a go next time you are out and about.

Upcoming events include....

- 19th-20th August 2017.....International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend
- 22nd October 2017.....VKFF Team Championship
- 10th-13th November 2017.....Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activation weekend
- 25th-26th November 2017.....2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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Morialta misadventure

By Chris VK5FR/VK4FR



About five or so kilometres from the city, heading towards the hills, the Fourth Creek Trail branches off and winds its way through suburbia to Morialta CP.

Sunday 23rd of July I decided it was time to hit the wireless again. Work, holidays and family commitments had kept me off the air for the better part of two months. I had managed to purchase the four band SOTA beams dipole for 20/30/40/80M and thought it was time to let it out of the bag!

As I am planning a cycling holiday later in the year with as many park activations as possible, I have decided to use my bicycle or hike to as many parks as I can as a lead up activity. My first activation was to be Morialta CP. Yes, I know this park has been done to death, but its proximity to the city lends itself to activation by UHF/VHF/HF and by hiking, public transport or cycle. So it was with great enthusiasm I overloaded a single pannier, my handlebar bag and headed off on my trusty Surly Troll and headed off up the Torrens River Linear Trail.

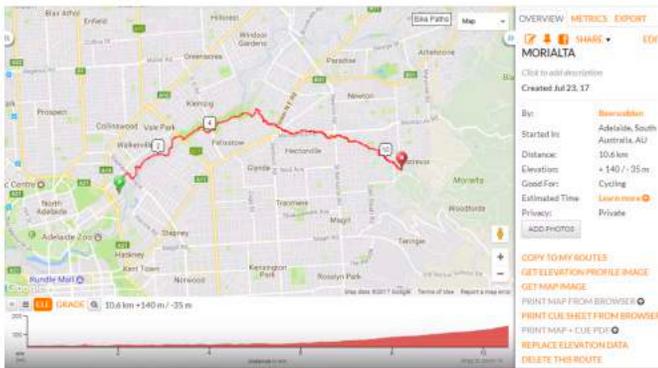


The track is a mixture of quiet suburban streets, paved and gravel trail and for the most part stays within 10 metres of the actual creek. There are some major road crossings but at no stage is there a requirement to transit any busy thoroughfare. From the Torrens/Fourth Ck junction to Morialta is approximately 5 km so is easily achievable by anyone with a reasonable

fitness level and has a regular bus service which I was able to view from the relative (to what?) protection of a small group of trees.



sorted. Laying out the dipole the first few spits of rain become evident, nonchalantly flipping on my spray jacket I continued with the set up of the dipole. The rain settled to a light sprinkling and I was entertaining the idea of operating the KX3 from underneath my spray jacket.



Arriving in the Morialta Recreation Reserve I continued on to the CP proper and leaving my bicycle on the outside of the fence moved 30 or so metres up the hill to an appealing antenna positioning site, this gave me my first view out over the gulf and approaching weather system. Hmm, a consultation with the Pocketweather app on my phone (a great VK5 success story) indicated a line of showers was clearly inbound to my position. Not to worry, having been in this situation before I knew that the average span of a shower was 20 or so minutes, it would take me that long to get my new bit of wire up and

Then it started. Whoa! This is a bit more than a shower! Rain teemed down for a solid five minutes or more, not a long time when watching a movie in the warm and dry confines of a movie theatre, but a very long time huddled under a tree in a spray jacket! Intermittently checking Pocketweather protected by the now saturated and leaking spray jacket I could discern the end of the line of weather out over the gulf bearing down on me, yet I continued to pride myself on my meteorologist like weather predicting capabilities (20 minute showers?!??@\$) when I noticed that at the start of each 10 minute refresh of the BOM radar a new cell was generating behind the previous one....this would be a very long 20 minute shower!!

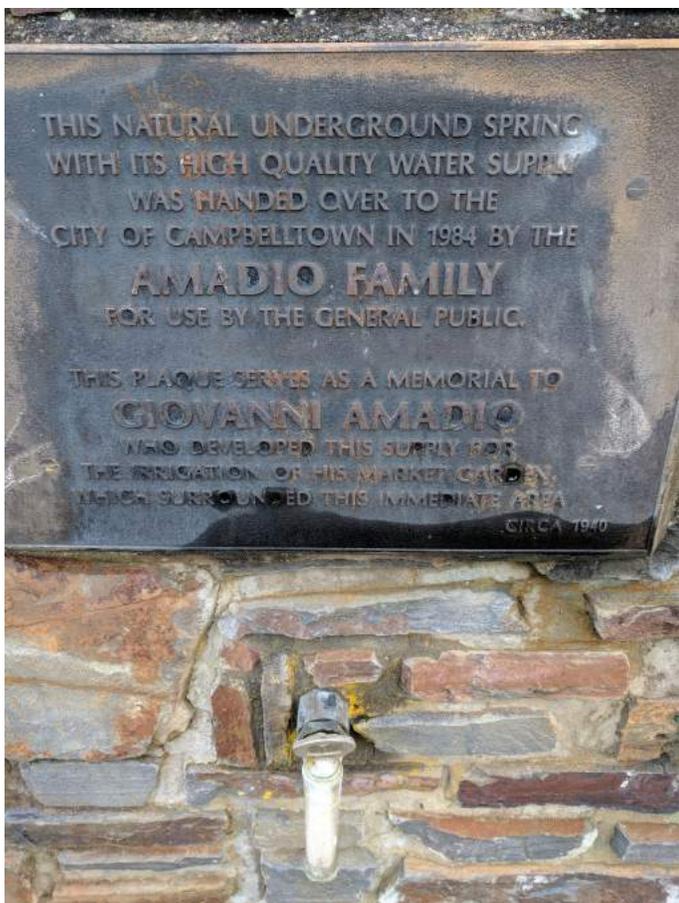


Finally after 55 minutes of consistent, and at times, very heavy rain I called it quits, pulled down the antenna and repacked the Troll. Departing Morialta it was still raining very heavy and I found a new appreciation of a moderately loaded touring bike, downhill in the rain. I get a huge adrenalin rush just brushing my teeth nowadays so coming off the Adelaide Hills at speed, in the rain on a poorly loaded pushie tested my comfort zone out somewhat!

By this stage Fourth Ck was becoming swollen and free flowing, while the rain slowed and eventually ceased the return trip downstream was very different to the morning sortie upstream in beautiful sunshine and optimism.



On the return journey I stopped at a natural water source that had been gifted to the Campbelltown Council by a pioneering family. Unfortunately the tap was immovable, due I guess to years of not being required in today's society of convenience, but it was still nice to acknowledge the significant contribution of a pioneering family and the importance they placed on the rarest of natural resources.

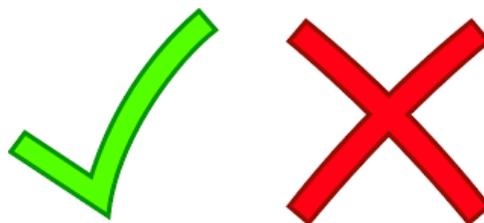


otherwise have seen and appreciate the outdoors, even in suburbia.

Chris
VK5FR

What are the green ticks and red crosses?

By Paul VK5PAS



Good morning all,

I was recently asked what the 2 green ticks mean in the validity column on the Activator Reference Statistics page.

The 2 green ticks indicate that you have had 200 or more QSOs from that particular reference, thereby qualifying for the YOFF Activator Award which is issued by Romanian (YOFF) National program. Details of that award can be found at.....

<https://translate.google.com.au/translate?hl=en&sl=ro&u=http://wff-yo.blogspot.com/2009/09/1.html&prev=search>

While at the end of the day I achieved no contacts, not a single QSO or even a radio hooked up, the VK5 parks award had done what it has always done for me, got me out of the shack, made me visit places I wouldnt



The single green tick indicates that you have made 44 or more QSOs from the reference area, thus qualifying for the WWFF global activator awards.

What about a red cross. This indicates that you have not obtained 44 QSOs from that particular reference.

Thanks to Bill VK4FW for the question, and thanks to Andrew M0YMA for the clarification.

Hope that assists a few people.

HAMSPOTS

By Paul VK5PAS



If you are a previous user of HAMSPOTS, the WWFF, IOTA and Beacon spot pages have been removed and are no longer available.

Don't forget though that the WWFF-watch DX Cluster is up and going. It can be located at.....

<http://wwff.co/dx-cluster/>

LOGSEARCH

Search Results

Start New Search

All-Time Mixed Mixed All Programs Hunter Activator

Summary Stats National Awards Special Awards Activity References DX Entities

Note: Award applications must ONLY be made using your OWN call-sign(s)

Activator Reference Statistics for user VK5PAS (using call-sign VK5PAS, AX5PAS, VK9PAS)

You have activated 383 references

#	State	Location Name	DXCC	Active	QSOs	Members	Validity
1	0MFF-0047	Nature Park Hoho-Venn-Efal	EU / DL	1	51	51	🟢
2	0MFF-0001	Die Hohe Venen/The High Penn/Hautes Fagnes	EU / OH	1	51	50	🟢
3	0MFF-0021	Bolar National Park	OC / VK (VK-SA)	9	333	245	🟢
4	0MFF-0075	Carumbe National Park	OC / VK (VK-SA)	2	50	49	🟢
5	0MFF-0104	Cooceerra National Park	OC / VK (VK-NSW)	1	50	50	🟢
6	0MFF-0105	Coffin Bay National Park	OC / VK (VK-SA)	1	9	9	🟢
7	0MFF-0110	Coorong National Park	OC / VK (VK-SA)	5	494	393	🟢
8	0MFF-0171	Flinders Chase National Park	OC / VK (VK-SA)	2	39	36	🟢
9	0MFF-0176	Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park	OC / VK (VK-SA)	1	71	67	🟢
10	0MFF-0189	Vulkathuntha-Gammon Ranges	OC / VK (VK-SA)	2	52	48	🟢
11	0MFF-0213	Grampians National Park	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	2	85	53	🟢
12	0MFF-0219	Greenmount National Park	OC / VK (VK-WA)	1	14	12	🟢
13	0MFF-0231	Hattah-Kulkyne National Park	OC / VK (VK-VIC)	2	67	64	🟢
14	0MFF-0241	Innes National Park	OC / VK (VK-SA)	4	175	152	🟢

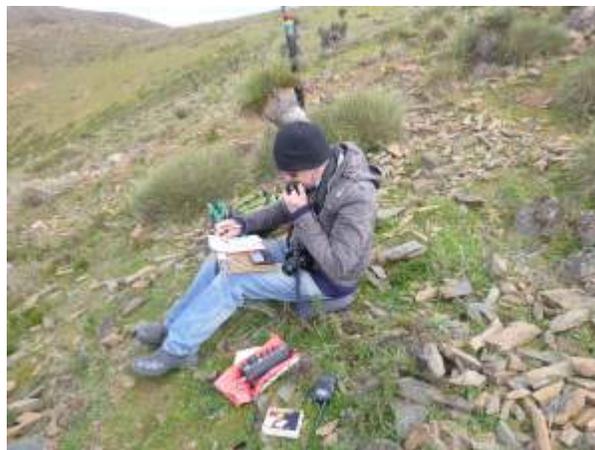
Mount Arden repeater & SOTA

By Ian VK5CZ

Peter VK5BWH had been trying to get a team of helpers to Mt Arden for quite a while and last weekend it all came together. For myself vk5cz lan vk5is and Roger vk5we it was a good opportunity to do the SOTA summit while we were there. We arrived at Argadells early so the

property manager said we could head up to the Mountain before the other team had arrived. It is about a 40 minute trip to the top from the homestead with a rocky steep climb for the last couple kilometres. The track was a lot more eroded this time than it was last year but we made it without any problems keeping the Colorado in second gear low range to give enough momentum for the obstacle on the track.

We had to set up on the southern side of the hill as it was very windy right on top but a very nice sunny cold day . We had a couple contacts on 80m first with vk5wg and vk5mbd to get the activation under way. Roger went first on 40m ssb to find not many chasers to start out and after another spot he started to get some callers. Ian went second on 40m ssb and just managed to get the two more contacts to qualify. I went last on 40m cw and just made two more contacts as well to get 4 the chasers we all needed.



Ian looking for two more on 40m to qualify, it's always hard to find contacts going second.



Working Nev and Bill on 80m ssb then hoping to find the rest on 40m cw to qualify. The band conditions on 40m were good enough to make contacts there just weren't many chasers this time.



Coats and woolly hats standard kit in this weather, Roger working his pile up, I think he made six contacts the most of all.

By the time we all qualified the SOTA summit Peter and the repeater repair team had made it to the top as well and we could get on with helping lower the antenna tower.



A rope and pulley team ready to lower the pipe tower to fix the feed line. We were a bit worried about the strong wind but in the end it all went smoothly.



A complete new feed line was installed and refitted to the tower then we were able to pull it back up and into place.



View inside the Box.

I am not sure what went wrong to put the repeater off the air in the first place but it will be better for the new run of feed line and a reset in the box.



Great views from Mount Arden.

Thanks Peter for organising the trip so we could slot in an activation and for fixing the repeater.

Thanks to the chasers and land owners for access to the summit.

Two Ian's and Roger.

vk5cz vk5is vk5we.

Thanks for reading my blog

Ian VK5CZ

Coral Sea Adventure

By Andy VK5MAV/VK9MAV

First of all – I want to express my deepest appreciation to all who did help to make the expedition happen.

Sponsors – clubs and companies:

German DX Foundation and Most Wanted DX site – their donations have been granted when they need much – before the expedition

CDXC and RSGB Expedition Fund – their donations have been granted as soon as the expedition started on air

IREF and Clipperton DX Club – their donations will be granted after article provision to cover costs

And even more important – support of hams from over the world, 31 countries in total, especially American, Japanese and Russian hams. I really appreciate your support – and donations are still coming.

Part 1. "It was smooth on paper - but forgot about ravines"

The Marion Reef attracted my attention as the goal of a possible next expedition around May 2016, between the return from Breaksea Island OC-243 and the difficult expedition to Viney Island OC-266. By the way, I constantly have 2-3 islands in my plans. And now I... but I would better keep silence, for a while.

A slow gathering of information began, which, due to the remoteness of the reef and its location away from the main shipping routes, was surprisingly small.

First, of course, there were two questions - how to get there and how, after arrival camp there for several days legally?

The first results provided by Google, pleased - at least 10 different tours to Marion – for anglers, divers. But a more detailed study and numerous phone calls showed that everything is not easy at all. The vast majority of sites contained outdated information - in fact, the companies advertised were carried out last tour to Marion 5-7-10 years ago and new ones were not planned.

Realizing that there are no options, I began to work out options for delivery by helicopter or seaplane. However, I realized from the very beginning the cost will be very high - and was

wrong. Real cost were 5-6 times more than expected, so this option has disappeared after 3-4 phone calls. There were no options at all (in my price category, because if I could pay \$ 30-40K, It's not a problem to charter a ship).

At the same time, I walked a bit in the bureaucratic loops, trying to understand which government department is responsible for managing Marion. After several repeatable loops, around October 2016, the situation cleared up, I've got application papers. As usual with one "but" - the application must include the name and data of the vessel.

After that, the search for the vessel began with a tripled energy (all this during the preparation/operation of OC-266 and after it). Unfortunately, everything was in vain. There were no tours ... Until then, from hopelessness, I did start to pay attention to unloved Internet resources. It was right decision.

Facebook and registration in all sorts of local groups around Queensland Coast, from where even theoretically ships may go the area, brought the result. Bingo! The local people told me that there is a ship called "Norval", which specializes in trips to Marion mainly. They provided me with the site' URL (then it was somewhere on the 7-8 page of Google search results, but thanks to me, I believe, moved much higher now). Inspired, I contacted Ron Murphy, the owner of the ship, and he confirmed everything. My happiness was great. It was possible to begin filing an application for access and stay at Marion Reef.

And so, on December 19, 2016, just before Christmas, the long-awaited permission arrived

to my mailbox electronically and week later as paperwork. And in it, although I asked for Marion only, Diamond Islands were too (thank you, personally unknown to me, officer of the department)! The permit was containing another Island as well, but it was not in plans. The permit was issued by the end of June (important).

We agreed with Ron Murphy that the best time for my trip is the end of May - June 2017.

When Christmas and New Year Holidays passed by, I started technical preparation for the expedition. The transceiver was sent to the ICOM (Melbourne) office to repair everything that theoretically could break and for tuning/adjustments. Antennas have been installed in the backyard, tested and packed - 3 el VDA for 20 m, and GP for 40 m. Pelican boxes for transportation have been purchased. The Honda EU-20i generator has been purchased and severely tested. The N1MM + software, all sorts of equipment manuals, propagation forecasts and so on are copied to a laptop. All software is separately recorded on a flash drive. Annual leave had been requested and approved. From now – just wait...

But it was extremely difficult to wait. On March 26th, all news channels were filled up with forecasts that Debby cyclone (the strongest in the last 2 years, officially the category 4 out of 5, the wind speed reached 300 km / h) was born just in the Marion Reef area and instead of vanish peacefully over the ocean, it intensifies and goes to the coast of Queensland.

The cyclone was slowly approaching and, according to all forecasts, prepared to reach the coast near the town of Airlie Beach, where

Norval stood at local marina. Finally, on March 28th, the cyclone reached the continent. Forecasts of meteorologists, alas, were real. The cyclone came in with a front about 200 km from the center situated exactly at Airlie Beach. Huge part of Airlie Beach was swiped out and ruined. No infor came from Norval owner and I wasn't able to contact him - in the vicinity there were no electricity, communication, water, no access - roads were destroyed and flooded.



That's what the harbor looked like before and after the cyclone.

Finally in the first days of April, Ron wrote on Facebook that just the day before the cyclone hit, he managed to take the ship to Gladstone. Although the cyclone also hit it well, a dinghy was torn off and carried away, the electric and communication equipment flooded with water and other, smaller problems.

And again - waiting.

In late May, skipper Pete on the phone confirmed that we leave on June 9th. Suddenly, quite by accident, it turns out in the conversation that I do not need to fly to Gladstone, but to Mackay, where the ship was

again overtaken to. I book tickets for Mackay on 8/06 and back for 19/06, overnight stay at the hotel on the way there and back, insurance for the trip, sent a generator and Pelican ca with antennas to Mackay to the hotel address via courier, got approval of annual leave at work.

In the first days of June, Norval made a test trip to Marion. Again a failure did happen, one more dinghy was lost, a remote beam was torn off, and an anchor was lost - a storm. And the most unpleasant issue was that the problems with the gearbox started - it's warming up, chasing the oil, not all gears can be switched to. The gearbox needs a replacement.

Ron called me and notified that the trip is postponed to June 16. Immediately, with fines I re-booked flights and the hotel - the administrator kindly agreed to keep my boxes. I did hardly explain the situation to my boss at work with annual leave dates moved again.

I perfectly understand that my calls wouldn't help at all, but I wasn't able to stop myself - I did call Ron every 3 days.

OK, now it seems to be all right, I'm flying out on the 15th early morning. But the night before the flight Ron wrote short message on his page – not addressed directly to me, but it didn't let me sleep well before flight - the ship is not ready and fix will take a few more days.

In mixed feelings and anxiety at 6 am I was flying out of Adelaide on 15th of June. 2.5 hours flight to Brisbane, where another flight to Mackay was waiting. At Brisbane stopover (1.5 hours), I've decided to go out for a smoke. I turn on the phone - a voice message from the

Norval skipper was sent to me 40 mins ago. The ship is not ready, how many days it will take - it's not known. I call Pete, the skipper, he said he doesn't have a clue - call Ron. Ron's phone is off. In complete confusion I get back to the airport to pass security - and suddenly get stuck. The young security girl started to ask questions about purpose of the iambic paddle. Ham radio and Morse code didn't tell her anything and she took it away somewhere. However, the transceiver and numerous cables in the same backpack did not attract any interest. After 15 minutes I was let to go - but, as I understand, somewhere in the security system the "bell" rang. But I understood it only afterwards. In the meantime, another 1.5 hours of flight to Mackay, full of thoughts about revenge ...

Mackay Airport, taxi, hotel, Ron's phone is still unavailable. I'm in the fuse, throwing things in the room and starting to call and run around for any boat companies and the marina administration in search of at least some kind of replacement or passing boat. Everything is in vain ... Closer to the evening, Ron's phone finally responded and he confirms that everything has been fixed and we still leave on the 16th at about lunch time. Exhausted, I finally took a shower and fall asleep.

On the next morning Ron explained where Norval is moored at the marina.



I find the boat easily, get acquainted, agreed when they take my boxes from the hotel. Pete, the skipper, who didn't want to answer my questions, it turns out, was already fired at that moment. Instead of him - Chris. For me - it was a huge luck. Thanks to his tips, huge help and participation it everything – he did make the expedition real.



During this time, Norval moved to another pier to fill fuel tanks. At the same time, I bought jerry cans and filled them with 120 litres of petrol for the generator. Then, on the way, they throw me into a shopping center, where I buy water, food, cigarettes and folding chair/table. At the same time work on Norval is still going on - in particular, attaching a new anchor. On the left is Ron Murphy, the owner of Norval.



We leave closer to the evening. After about 4 hours (the cruising speed of Norval is 20 knots) we are at the first of many Whitsundays Islands OC-160. Guys quickly throw me ashore, did

help to install the dipole and I tried to start working. Only light source I used to have was a headlamp flashlight.



Very cold, very humid, windy weather. 5 minutes - and all boxes are covered with a layer of water - I had to cover myself and the equipment with a big piece of plastic. I was very much afraid that there would be a short circuit and the expedition would end there. No propagation on 40 or 20 m band. Nowhere. Nothing. Nada. After roughly 40 minutes of CQ with no response, I hardly manage to make the first (and the only one in this attempt) QSO with A65CA. His CW signal was below noise level but we both confirmed the QSO. Again, long CQ with no response for another hour. The air was crackling, hissing, and I even can't hear usual Chinese broadcasters or fishermen. Suddenly a dinghy from Norval came out of darkness - we forgot two more fishermen in Mackay, belatedly with arrival, and we return. The night sleep at the boat passed with no dreams.

The early morning begins unexpectedly - a call to Ron, after which he beckons me with the

words "here someone is interested in your hobby." I took the phone and ... remember the "bell" at the airport security ? "Good morning, this is the police sergeant at Mackay ... we have information that you brought the communication equipment to Mackay and are going to Marion ... Please confirm your name and date of birth ... and why ... why ... VK9MAV - is it your callsign? Here I am on your page ... no. It's all right. I'll probably come up. Where is the boat at the marina?" But he did not come - and I do not regret.

As Ron later told me, similar things did happen to Norval a couple of years ago, but everything was more serious. It was under surveillance. As it turned out, Marion was (and, probably, still is) one of the famous drug trafficking points to Australia. And that's why everyone who shows interest in Marion Reef attracts attention himself.

In the morning I also meet the crew. The skipper is Chris. Cook and deck sailor - Frostie. Surprisingly bright personality, very friendly, helping and just a nice hippie. Immediately, a conversation is fastened (or rather his monologue about the Nibiru planet, secrets of Egyptian civilization, Armageddon and the survival of mankind ...)



An additional turmoil begins. Additional food delivered. It turned out that they didn't take enough beer. Fixed.



Well, it seems like all done finally – and we left the marina closer to 6 pm, June 17, Saturday. 12 anglers of all ages and physical conditions, I, Ron - owner, Chris - skipper, Frostie - cook/deck sailor and another sailor - alas, the name has faded from memory. Anglers began to celebrate the beginning of the tour with free beer immediately.



From the moment of sailing I was sitting at the Norval's bow, imagining how I will work, planning and dreaming. So almost 2 hours passed, the night was completely dark, Mackay's lights disappeared, only a light spot over the horizon could still be seen.

Suddenly I noticed that people began to somehow randomly move around the ship, and it itself slowed down very much and began to somehow uncertainly scour the course.

As it turned out, the already repaired gearbox began to heat up again, spitting with oil. And besides, we started taking water a little by little. A slight panic - but, unfortunately, the

consequences for me personally were not so easy. In the chaotic movement of passengers on the ship, my backpack, in which the headset was located, was dropped and repeatedly passed through it. As a result, ALL QSOs from both islands, all 4.5 thousand, were made to the internal speaker-pincher of the transceiver. It was not easy in the pileups, especially with constant wind noise. I would never have believed that this is possible - I tried to work like that a couple of times before. It's a perversion.

However, everything ended more or less well. Particularly nervous passengers were offered the evacuation to Mackay on 2 dinghy attached to the stern, but all refused. Slowly and hesitantly, at a speed of 5 knots, we reached Mackay well over midnight.

This entire time situation on the ship was uneasy. A large amount of already consumed beer, collapsed plans and incurred costs almost provoked the riots, but more reasoned cold minds helped to cope with this. All that time I was sitting again at the bow and repeating one phrase "That's all ...". I didn't have any other thoughts on my mind. There was no anger, just a cold calm.

In Mackay Norval moored back at the same place where he left a few hours ago, anglers fell asleep in the cabins. Only me, Ron and Chris with Frostie wandered about the ship in anguish. However, Chris and Frostie on the motorboat gone to a bar, they persistently invited me to go with them. But I try not to drink at all in expeditions and refused. Tried to go to bed - it was useless, sleep did not come.

After 2 hours, Chris and Frostie returned, reasoning sensibly that everything is expensive at a bar, and Norval has beer reserves almost untouched. And since the trip is canceled - no one needs them. They invited me again - there was nothing else to do, and we came upstairs to a small upper deck, sat down there.

This was a good remedy for melancholy - drinking beer, Frostie played acoustic guitar (he writes lyrics and music himself, quite professionally), we shouted songs to the whole harbor, spoke for life. I didn't have a jam-session with a live guitar for last 30 years.

The guys asked me again and again about ham radio, there were some relatives and friends who also have the same hobby. They tried to understand how important it is for me to have plans of the expedition totally crashed. And so, when time came closer to dawn, Chris asked me a simple and obvious question that changed everything ...

To be continued.

Andy VK5MAV/VK9MAV

Space weather

By Paul VK5PAS

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

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK
#17-30

2017 July 23 at 9:20 p.m. MDT (2017 July 24 0320 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For July 17-23

G2 (Moderate) Geomagnetic Storm conditions were observed on 17 July due to CME effects.

G1 (Minor) Geomagnetic Storm conditions were observed on 22 July due to coronal hole influence.

No other significant space weather storms were observed

Outlook For July 24-30

No space weather storms are expected for the outlook period.

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

<http://swpc.noaa.gov>

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

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK #17-27

2017 July 2 at 7:17 p.m. MDT (2017 July 3 0117 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For June 26-July 2

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storms were observed on 02 July.

No other space weather storms were observed during the summary period.

Outlook For July 3-9

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storms are likely on 03 July.

No other space weather storms are expected during the outlook period.

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

<http://swpc.noaa.gov>

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

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK #17-29

2017 July 16 at 6:33 p.m. MDT (2017 July 17 0033 UTC)

Please stay clear of 7.125

By Paul VK5PAS



Just a friendly reminder to try to stay clear of 7.125 if possible during your park activation/s.

7.125 is used by many AM ops, as their tx's are often crystal locked on 7.125.

Other frequencies to bear in mind are.....

7.105....weeekdays.....10AM Net

7.093....weekedays.....Kandos Net

7.115....Wed & Sat mornings.....Riverland Radio Group Net.

A plea for your help

By Paul VK5PAS



This is another plea to VKFF activators.

PLEASE vet your logs before sending them to me for upload to WWFF Logsearch.

I am still receiving the occasional email request to arrange the deletion of log/s that contain very basic errors, picked up by the activator after they have provided the log to me.

Had a simple check of the log been made by the activator prior to sending the log, many of these errors would have been detected.

Please note, I cannot delete logs or amend logs here. That needs to be done by the WWFF Logsearch Administrator, Andrew MOYMA in the UK.

If you do have a problem with a log you have provided, please place a post in the 'Log Corrections' area of the WWFF HelpDesk in the Forum on the wwff.co website. Don't send me an email initially, as I then have to place a post in the

HelpDesk. If however your problem hasn't been fixed within 2 weeks, then please drop me an email and I will follow up with Andrew.

So please, before eagerly pressing the 'send' key, glance your eye over your log to see if there are any obvious errors.

And please remember the naming format for logs.....

callsign@referenceYYYYMMDD

73 and many thanks in advance,

Paul VK5PAS
VKFF co-ordinator

'Pumped'

By Paul VK5PAS

If you didn't watch Four Corners a few weeks ago and the special report 'Pumped', here is a link.....

<http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/four-corners/NC1704H024S00>

It revealed how water destined to restore the health of wetlands, rivers and the birds that depend on them, is being siphoned off by big agribusinesses. Not to mention communities.

The episode goes for around 46 minutes, but is extremely interesting and well worth a look.

There is also a petition which Bird Life Australia is running. It can be found at.....

<https://www.change.org/p/malcolm-turnbull-stand-up-for-the-...>

Please consider signing the petition.

As park activators and lovers of nature, I'm sure we all agree that this is a very important issue.

Interesting article on VK6 Newswest

By Paul VK5PAS



The 30th July 2017 VK6 Newswest broadcast has some very interesting info on operating portable. You can find the episode at.....

<http://www.vk6.net/news/>

Spotlight on WWFF awards

By Paul VK5PAS

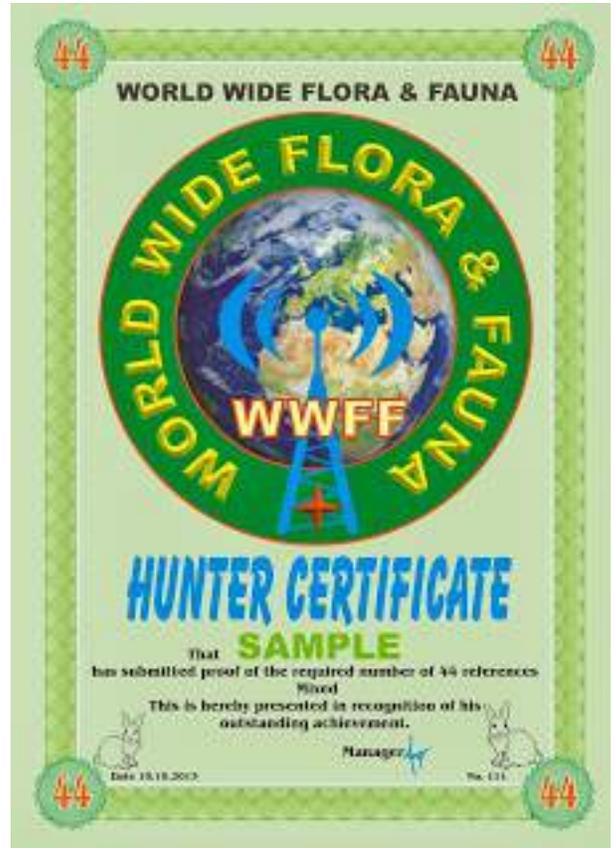


Make nature your shack!

The WWFF global program offers a Hunter award. The certificates are issued for working activators from different WWFF locations all over the world.

A special ‘novice’ certificate is issued for working 10 different WWFF references.

You then need to work 44 different references for the next level of the hunter award. Upgrades for each 44 confirmed references are issued, up to 444, where upgrades are issued every 100 references, e.g. 544, 644, 744, etc.



These certificates are applied for on-line via the wwff global website.

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

On the Logsearch page, do a search under your call. This will take you to your Summary Stats page. Then click on ‘Apply for WWFF-A if you have qualified.’



LOGSEARCH

Search Results

Start New Search

All-Time Mixed Mixed All Programs Hunter Activator

Summary Stats National Awards Special Awards QSOs References DX Entities

Note: Award applications must ONLY be made using your OWN call-sign(s)

Summary Statistics for user VK5PAS (using call-sign VK5PAS, AX5PAS, VK9PAS)

Unique	Worked	Activated
References	959 Apply for WWFF-H (944)	159 / 186 Apply for WWFF-A (165)
DXFF	42 Apply for DXFF-H (40)	6 / 8 Apply for DXFF-A (6)
Continents	6 ACFF-H	2 / 2 ACFF-A
Park To Park		482 / 616 Apply for P2P-A (396)

Continental Statistics for user VK5PAS (using call-sign VK5PAS, AX5PAS, VK9PAS)

	AF	AN	AS	EU	NA	OC	SA
Entities / Refs	2 / 2	1 / 3	3 / 5	26 / 249	(0) 0 / 0	(16) 8 / 698	2 / 2
AF:CPFF-H		AN:CPFF-H	AS:CPFF-H	EU:CPFF-H (21)	NA:CPFF-H	OC:CPFF-H (14)	SA:CPFF-H
A	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	2 / 2	0 / 0	2 / 184	0 / 0

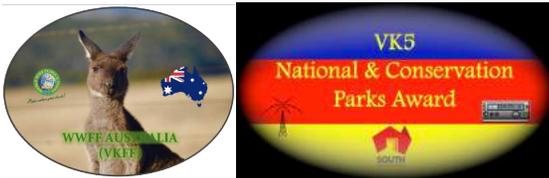
TO SEE AND APPLY FOR AWARDS PLEASE BE SURE YOUR PROFILE IS FILLED IN WITH YOUR PRIMARY CALL SIGN !!

- Lincoln National Park 5NP- & VKFF-0286, David VK5KC/p (30/7/2017)



In the next issue I will explain the global WWFF DXCC & Continents certificates.

Recent Park Activations



July was a fairly quiet month for park activations around South Australia. I suspect due to the cool and often wet conditions.

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

Above:- “the shack” of David VK5KC at Lincoln National Park. Photo courtesy of VK5KC

- Charleston Conservation Park 5CP-041 & VKFF-0777, Paul VK5PAS (29/7/2017)
- Blackwood Forest Recreation Park VKFF-1686, Paul VK5PAS (22/7/2017)
- Sturt Gorge Recreation Park VKFF-1750, Marija VK5FMAZ (23/7/2017)

- Sturt Gorge Recreation Park VKFF-1750, Paul VK5PAS (23/7/2017)
- Totness Recreation Park VKFF-1754, Paul VK5PAS (15/7/2017)
- Finnis Conservation Park 5CP-068 VKFF-1030, Paul VK5PAS (15/7/2017)
- Bullock Hill Conservation Park 5CP-265 & VKFF-0873, Paul VK5PAS (11/7/2017)



Above:- The shack of VK5PAS in the Bullock Hill Conservation Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

- Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park 5CP-276 & VKFF-1763, Paul VK5PAS (9/7/2017)
- Cox Scrub Conservation Reserve VKFF-1701, Paul VK5PAS (2/7/2017)
- Moana Sands Conservation Park 5CP-136 & VKFF-1061, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (1/7/2017)
- Moana Sands Conservation Park 5CP-136 & VKFF-1061, Paul VK5PAS/p (1/7/2017)

- Onkaparinga River Recreation Park VKFF-1738, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (1/7/2017)
- Onkaparinga River Recreation Park VKFF-1738, Paul VK5PAS/p (1/7/2017)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ/p in the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

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

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

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

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

Recent SOTA activations



Once again boys from the Mid North, Ian VK5CZ, Hugh VK5NHG, and Ian VK5IS continued to fly the SOTA flag with a number of SOTA activations.

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

- Peaked Hill VK5/ NE-098, Hugh VK5NHG/p (30/7/2017)
- Marchant Hill VK5/ NE-043, Hugh VK5NHG/p (29/7/2017)
- Marchant Hill VK5/ NE-043, Ian VK5CZ/p (29/7/2017)
- Eke Hill VK5/ NE-069, Hugh VK5NHG/p (28/7/2017)
- Eke Hill VK5/ NE-069, Ian VK5CZ/p (28/7/2017)
- Prince Hill VK5/ NE-056, Hugh VK5NHG/p (28/7/2017)
- Prince Hill VK5/ NE-056, Ian VK5CZ/p (28/7/2017)
- Mount Arden VK5/ NE-034, Ian VK5IS/p (16/7/2017)
- Mount Arden VK5/ NE-034, Ian VK5CZ/p (16/7/2017)

- VK5/ NE-0041, Ian VK5CZ/p (9/7/2017)
- Mount Brown VK5/ NE-014, Ian VK5IS/p (2/7/2017)
- Mount Brown VK5/ NE-014, Ian VK5CZ/p (2/7/2017)

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

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

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

➤ 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

VKFF Team Championship

By Paul VK5PAS



A heads up that the 2017 VKFF Team Championship will be held on **Sunday 22nd October 2017**.

This was a very popular event last year and it is hoped that even more teams will participate this year. More information re sponsorship & prizes will follow.

You can register, by sending me an email to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 22nd October 2017
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.wwfaustralia.com/>

2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

The 2017 VKFF Activation Weekend will be held on **Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November 2017**.

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please drop me a quick email with your intentions, so I can place the details on the activator spreadsheet.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

**World Wide Flora Fauna
(WWFF)**



VKFF Activation weekend

**Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th
November 2017**



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

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/>

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 96 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.



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

Interstate recipients of the VK5 Parks Award are also included.

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- Nil known

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

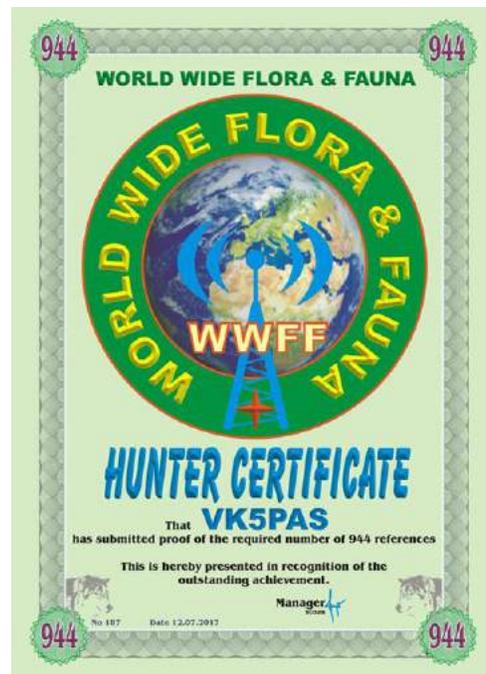
- **Stef VK5HSX**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 175

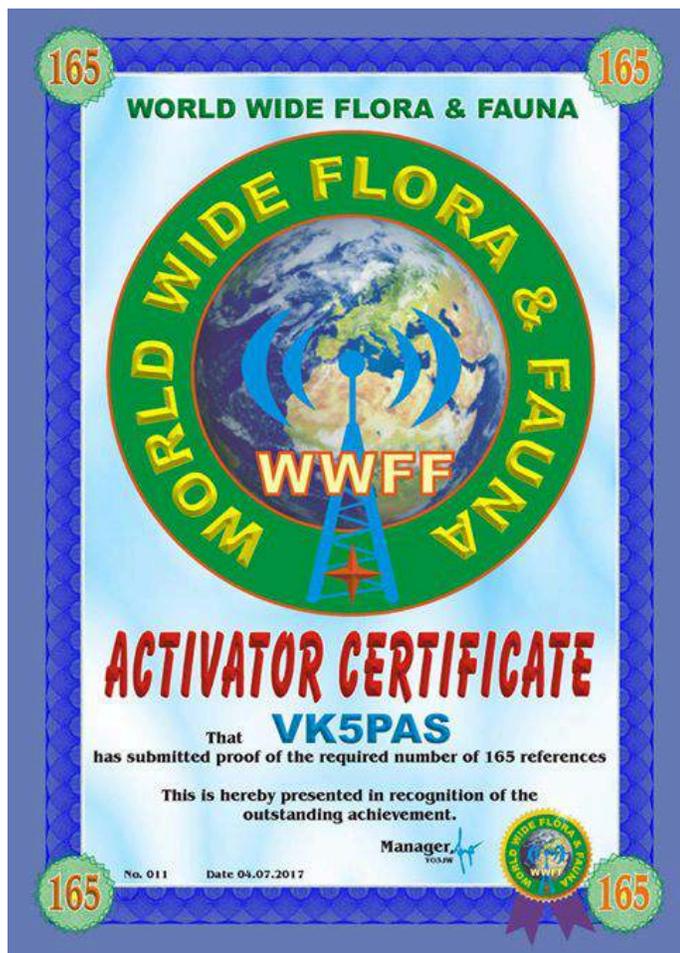


- **Adrian VK5FANA**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 600



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - WWFF Global Hunter 944
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 675
 - WWFF Global Activator 165





- **Les VK5KLV**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 425



VK5 Parks Award

- Nil for this period from VK5.
- However a number of award certificates were issued to VK3 applicants (Brett VK2VW and Peter VK3ZPF)

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **NIL KNOWN**

Other.

- Nil known for this period

Name change for park

By Paul VK5PAS



Please note the name change on the VK5 Parks Award website of the Breakaways Conservation Park 5CP-264.

Now known as the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park.

Changed your email address?

By Paul VK5PAS



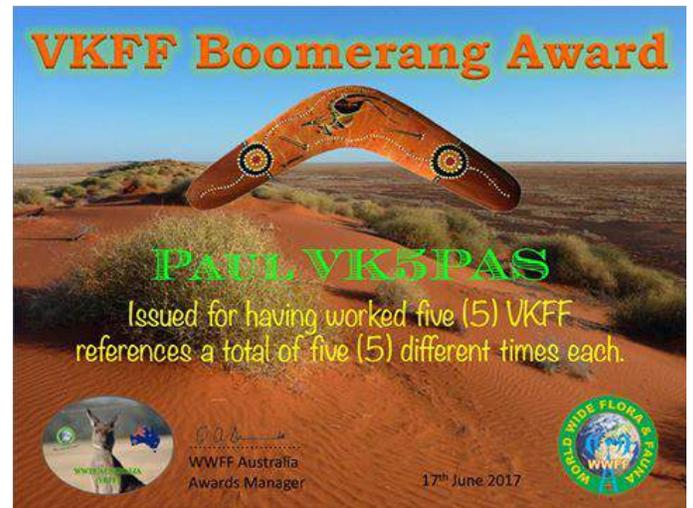
Are you a WWFF participant?

Don't forget that if you change your email address, you will need to edit your profile details via the wwff.co website.

I cannot edit your personal details here, so please do not send emails to me.

Boomerang Award

By Paul VK5PAS



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

Activators

Activated 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated means for VKFF purposes (10 QSOs).

Hunters.

Worked 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

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

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

73 and '44',

Paul VK5PAS.



I have re-written the VKFF rules to reflect the recent changes to the WWFF global rules.

Issues such as the old percentage activation rule and the time required to be in a park have been deleted.

The rules can be located at....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/wwff-australia-vkff-rules.html>

73,

Paul VK5PAS

VKFF co-ordinator



With the very poor conditions on 20m o late, there were no reported DX portable stations logged during July.

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://wwff.co/dx-cluster/>

QSL cards received

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

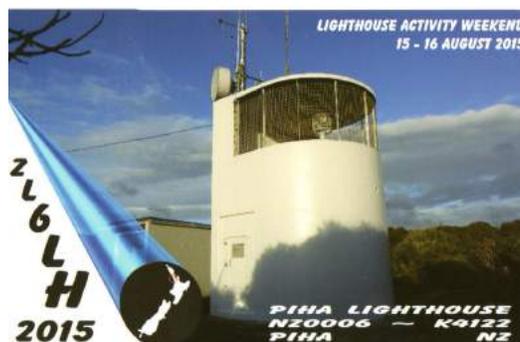
If so, please send me a copy.

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

SQ9PND (SOTA).



ZL6LH (ILLW)



Victorian Local Govt Challenge

By Paul VK5PAS



This unique and exciting **once off** special operating award has been initiated by Amateur Radio Victoria to encourage on air activity based on communicating with and between the

79 Local Government Areas (LGA) in the State of Victoria, during the 2017 Calendar year. The “2017 Challenge” will encourage both Portable and Base activity with VK3 stations.

More information can be found at.....

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

Latest videos

By Paul VK5PAS



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

Balun

<https://youtu.be/QFOx7vjchy0>

Ham humour

So I bought a new transceiver
and she asked...



“Are you going to sell any of
your old ones?”

Totness and the 2017 Trans Tasman Contest

By Paul VK5PAS

For the 2017 Trans Tasman Low Band Contest I headed out to the Totness Recreation Park VKFF-1754, just down the road from home.

I was all set up and ready to go by the commencement time of 0800 UTC.



Above:- The VK5PAS shack in the park. Image courtesy of VK5PAS

The contest is divided into three 2 hour periods. I remained out in the field until just after the commencement of the third period which was at 1200 UTC (9.30 p.m. local time). The cold weather got the better of me (got down to 4 deg C) and I packed up and headed home with a total of 171 contacts in the log. My claimed score was 2,347 points.

I made a total of 48 QSOs on the 40m band. New Zealand stations worked on 40m were:- ZL1YE, ZL3VZ, ZL1PC, ZL2ATH/p, ZL2BH, and ZL1JV.

I made a total of 123 QSOs on the 80m band. New Zealand stations worked on 40m were:- ZL3VZ, ZL1PC, ZL2BH, ZL1JV, and ZL1XS.