



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 36 October 2017

Welcome



G'day to everyone, and welcome to Issue 36 (October 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.

What a difference a month can make on the bands. Generally, over the past few months propagation has been pretty average on the long path on 20m to Europe during our afternoons. But it is almost as though someone has flicked on a switch, with long path and short path conditions being very good the past 3 weeks or so. I've been getting home from afternoon shift at around 11.30 p.m. local time and working into Europe on the short path on 20m, with some very good signals being received. And conditions have been quite good

out in the field as well, with European stations now featuring again in my portable logs. Let's hope that this is a sign of things starting to improve.

Despite the rather good weather during September, only myself and Marija VK5FMAZ and Les VK5KLV ventured out into the field to activate some parks. Of course Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG continued to fly the SOTA flag proudly, with a number of SOTA activations in the Mid North of South Australia.

We are now coming into some nice weather, so come on, dust off your gear and head out into the field and activate a SOTA summit or a park. There are plenty of parks all across the State to choose from, and two very easily accessible SOTA summits – Mount Lofty and Mount Gawler right on Adelaide's doorstep.

As we are heading into the warmer weather, the sighting of snakes around the State has increased dramatically. In this issue there is a small article on advice re snake bite from the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

You can also read about the SOTA exploits of Ian VK5CZ who is continuing his quest for Mountain Goat. This is where SOTA activators achieve 1,000 SOTA points. Not an easy feat here in VK5, and Ian is well on the way to becoming the very first SOTA Mountain Goat. Keep at it Ian, you will soon reach Goathood.

I have decided to resurrect the Ham Introductions column. In this issue you can read a little about my good wife Marija VK5FMAZ, who is an avid park & SOTA activator and hunter/chaser. If you would like to contribute some info & photos about yourself, I would certainly welcome your contribution.

In this issue you can also read part 3 of Andy VK5MAV/VK9MAV's Coral Sea, Islands on the Air (IOTA) expedition.

Upcoming SOTA & Parks events include....

- 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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Getting close to 5 years of SOTA in VK5

By Ian VK5CZ



Getting close to 5 years of SOTA in VK5, this time back then I was busy getting the summit list organised and finalised with the SOTA Management Team in the UK. It was an exciting time but also some nervous tension involved hoping and making sure I had all the relevant information for the MT to upload to the SOTA database, and the ARM written properly as I was to take on the role of Association Manager for VK5.

My new KX3 had arrived and I was keen to get out on a summit and be ready to go when the first day of October rolled around.

This weekend I was a couple weeks earlier for the anniversary but today was my chance to get back to Mt Horrocks again. I now have to ask a new land owner for permission but he was very

good and allowed access for me to make a hike in from the western side of the summit which is right on 3 km from where I parked my ute. I probably could have driven closer as the gate was not locked but it was a good easy hike at this end of my SOTA season and I only asked permission to hike in anyhow.



Really nice green rolling hills this time of year in The Clare Valley



With great all round views from the top.

It was quite windy on top so I set up down a bit on the southern side this time using the 20/40 link dipole with extensions for 80 run out to use first.



I made contact with VK5WG VK5MBD VK5MJC on 3.6 Mhz but soon run out of chasers on that band so with a Spot I was able to find some chasers on 7 Mhz ssb to boost my score followed by some cw chasers on 7 Mhz.

After it died down I went to 14 Mhz to find ZL1BYZ waiting for me on cw and he asked me to try ssb and I found ZL1WA on ssb who had a nice signal as well.

A nice way to spend the morning without having to travel very far from home is a nice change for me.

Thanks to Ben the very helpful land owner and all the chasers today doing a good job under poor band conditions.

Regards from

Ian VK5CZ

Ham introductions

By Marija VK5FMAZ

Hi, I'm Marija VK5FMAZ, the 'better half' of Paul VK5PAS. I obtained my Foundation licence in March 2016, studying the Foundation manual on the bus, to and from work.

I'm no-where near as keen as Paul, but I still enjoy getting out into the field operating from a park or a summit. At home I enjoy chasing and hunting the Park & SOTA activators.



Above:- in the shack at home. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

My best DX so far has been a contact with VP6EU on Pitcairn Island and EA in Spain on 40m (he was using a 3 element yagi and I got a 5/5 signal report – I was very excited).

I have activated 38 different parks for the World Wide Flora & Fauna (WWFF) program and the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award.

I have qualified for the VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 275 and the Gold VKFF Activator Award. I also have the Murray River Parks Hunter certificate, the OCCFF-H-7 certificate, Park to Park 88 certificate, the global Activator 11 certificate, and the global Hunter 264 certificate.

In the SOTA program I have activated 7 different SOTA summits (VK3, VK5 & VK9, including Mount Bates on Norfolk Island.

I have obtained the Chaser 250 points certificate and the Summit to Summit 250 points certificate.



Above:- Marija operating from Mount Bates on Norfolk Island. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS.

If you would like a QSL card, please send me your direct to PO Box 169, Mount Barker, S.A. 5251.



73 and 88,

Marija VK5FMAZ.

NMEATime2

By Phil VK6ADF

Back in the late 90's - early 2000's I used a GPS to set my PC clock. It was a simple handheld Garmin handheld and connected to the PC via a serial cable. In those days, I only had dialup internet and not 24 hours a day like most have nowadays so a method of keeping accurate time on the PC for satellite operating was desired.

Now it is easy to keep the clocks accurate with online time servers and software but what to do if operating portable or as in my case, no 24hr internet because I only have a wireless dongle. The software I used previously either was no longer available or required a serial port. Sure you can get usb to serial adapters but I found they did not work for the purpose I wanted. So I set about searching for ideas a couple of years ago, but did not find what I was looking for. So every so often I would start searching again for a suitable method. I spent quite a while looking for this method and someone else might find the info of use.

One search brought me to an Elecraft Blog page which mentioned as a passing comment a particular program. So changing my search criteria I came across a PDF article, **Use GPS to Set Computer Time for WSJT-X Modes and Field Applications** by Gene K5PA.

This really got my interest up. His paper was about the previous program NMEATime which has been updated since to NMEATime2.

NMEATime2 from VisualGPS, LLC (<http://www.visualgps.net>) is a low cost 30 day trial and US\$20.48 registration program that sets the PC clock using the data received from a GPS. Now I am not going to get all technical with explanations, just say it works with a variety of the puck style USB GPS receivers that are often found in vehicles and can be easily obtained from online sources, I got mine from eBay.



My GPS, a Globalsat BU-354-S4, purely because it was the one mentioned in the K5PA article but there are other makes, some cheaper, that will also work. I could get the Globalsat GPS for around \$35 from Asia if I wanted to wait for shipping, but I decided to pay more and get it from an Australian source in a week.

You can read on the NMEATime2 page an explanation of how it works.

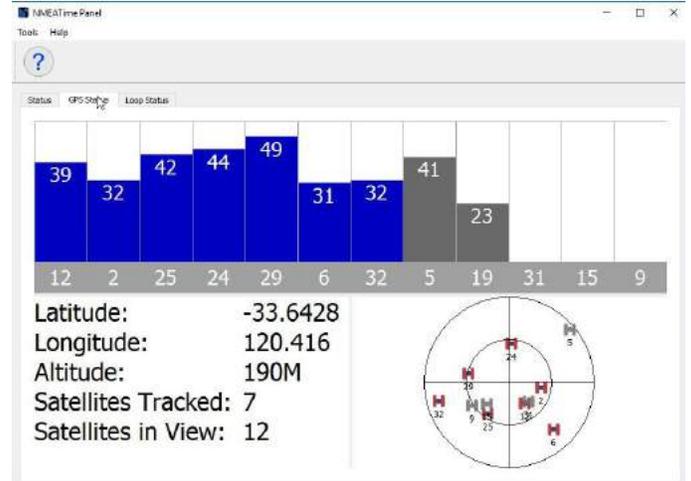
As soon as I tried the software, it worked and I sent off my registration fee via PayPal. The registration code was emailed next day.

Now I don't need 24hr internet access to keep my laptop clock correct and can use digital modes with no time errors when out in Parks. Ideal for FT8 or JT65.

After I got this operating, I found out a presentation of this software was given at Gippstech 2017 by Rex VK7MO who went into more technical detail.

<http://www.k5pa.com/Ham%20Radio/Downloads/Using%20GPS%20to%20Set%20Computer%20Time.pdf>

<http://www.visualgps.net/#nmeatime2-content>



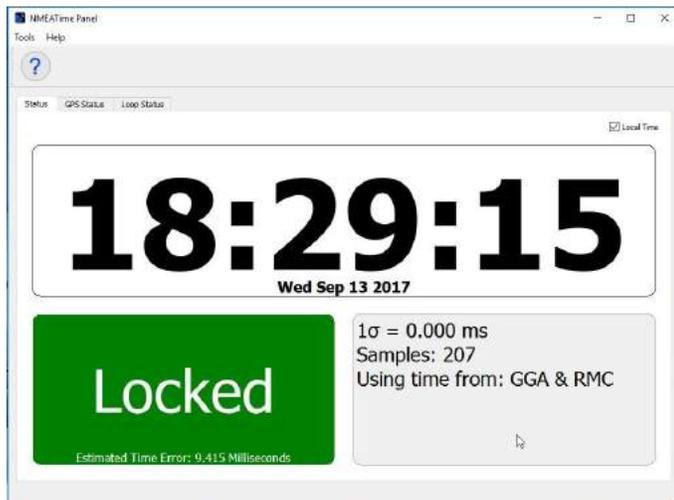
Not in or on your vehicle
By Paul VK5PAS



A quick reminder that for a valid VK5 Parks Award activation, you need to be autonomous to your vehicle.

Rule 4 (e) of the VK5 Parks Award rules states:-
"Mobile operation (defined as in or on a vehicle) from within a South Australian National Park / and or Conservation park is not permitted. "

You are able to operate in close proximity to a motor vehicle, e.g. under an annex attached to a camper van.



There is no specified distance from a motor vehicle that you may operate.

But you cannot sit in your vehicle, or use an antenna attached to your vehicle for example.

The award was designed specifically for amateurs to set up a 'true' portable station.

Mobile operation is allowed in WWFF/VKFF.

I try to encourage activators to quote both references during their activation if it is a valid VK5 Parks Award activation as well as WWFF/VKFF. That way it often reduces the confusion with the hunters. If you are quoting the 5CP or 5NP number they know it is a definite VK5 Parks activation as well.

If you are in doubt, ask the activator.



Coral Sea adventure, part 3

By Andy VK5MAV/VK9MAV



I slept for a couple of hours and opened my eyes with difficulty. The electric boiler boiled water (again thanks to Larysa), drank coffee and only then, accidentally glancing towards the sea, I understood - I have problems. And big problems.

Perhaps not so big - but so far completely incomprehensible. When I was going to bed, I instinctively checked the condition of the antennas - suddenly VDA, still not used because of the lack of propagation on 20 m band, suddenly indicated VSWR about 1:3, and it was constantly changing smoothly. But, deciding that any movements in total darkness are useless (the only source of light I had was a headlamp, discharging every 2 hours, and then there was only a glowing laptop screen), I postponed the clarification for the morning.

And in the morning after a short glance towards the sea - and much became clear, and something - even more incomprehensible.

VDA wasn't visible, but the GP was leaning. Coming closer to the water edge, I saw that the VDA, strangely changing its shape, peacefully floats slightly to the side, kept from going to seas by the cable. GP stood "on an honest word." It's radials were formed a cobweb with supporting ropes and partially wound around the base.



Plastic anchors lay loosely on the sand, rolling by waves - not all. One of them was on the branches of a tree ☺. How I worked last night - it was completely unclear.

As it turned out, the high tide almost reached the roots of the trees on the shore and my chair, stopping in centimetres from the feedpoint.



The water had already started to go away, and when VDA was pulled closer to the shore, I realized that I would have to do something different. Falling, the antenna stuck into the sand and the central cross collapsed into pieces. Of course, I could try to find some branches and use the magic “blue isolation tape” ☺ to attach the remains. But remembering how I put the VDA up yesterday, and having not a clue how I will install a now loosely wobbling design - I refrained from thinking about the restoration. Reinstalling the GP, I tried to drive anchors as deep as possible into the sand (as demonstrated the next morning, this did not help) and moved the radials so that they did not go off to the sea. As a result, I got a narrow "eight" formed by radials, 4 to each side, stretched almost parallel to the shore and the ground. The next night the water rose and stood, completely covering the

radials, all the time while the propagation lasted for 40 m. Perhaps this is the cause of the mystically loud signals.

All those tasks took several hours, and since I have no 20 m band antenna temporarily I decided to continue on 40 m. Later I just took the central element of the VDA and pulled it onto the mast as Inverted V. As the following days demonstrated - on 20 m band I was heard at least 2 S points weaker, but alas.

While there was no propagation, I set up a tent. Initially, I was supposed to work from it. But the canopy was much more convenient. The tent doesn't save from mozzies, the air inside isn't warmer because of the large ventilation slots at the top. And most importantly - the spiders are looking for quiet places, where a lot of flying food is available. And that flying food is attracted by a larger pile of food - by me.

longer. The size is slightly less than the palm of my hand.



And besides, because of a constant wind of 20-30 km / hour with every minute gusts up to 50-60 km / hour the tent constantly "breathed". The difference between the photos is 1 minute.



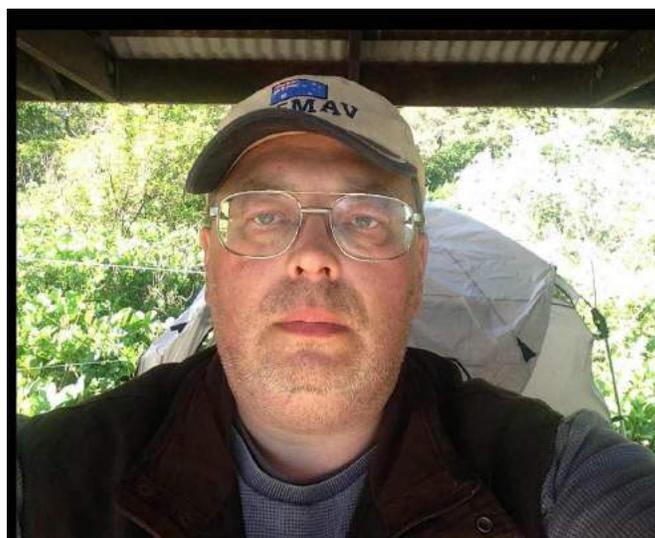
Below one of the visitors, seen by me, when I fell asleep - I just said "hello" to him automatically and turned off without experiencing anything. Apparently, he took it as a manifestation of cordiality and stayed for



Unfortunately, it was not possible to install the tent properly – because of very little space; I had to tie the ropes to the canopy, bushes and the tank, leaving a 30 cm passage. Although it seems that the space is enough, in fact it is a very tiny oasis with trees, bounded by small mounds, where there is a canopy and a rainwater tank. Further around - only bushes.

On June 19, at 06.46 UT, the pile-up of the previous night continued, again at 40 m and lasted until 13.00 UT without interruptions. Japan, USA, Canada, Mexico ... Of course, there were small breaks - to make coffee, to refill the generator, to smoke and yell insulting words to some visitors of the air zoo ☺. Then, after a 2-hour break, at 15 UT the propagation was opened to the Asian part of Russia, and then to the European part and Ukraine. All those calling stations were diluted by signals from Japanese stations, but at 21 UT the band closed. I could still hear individual signals, but very ghostly. I remember several operators, regularly, every hour making repeated QSOs - usually so loud that I took them from 1-2 kHz aside - but answered, otherwise no one else was heard. And also others, who had been calling loudly for hours without hearing my

answer at all. After 5-10-15 responses, I usually stopped paying attention to this callsign. So if someone could not make the contact - sorry, check the receiving part of your setup.

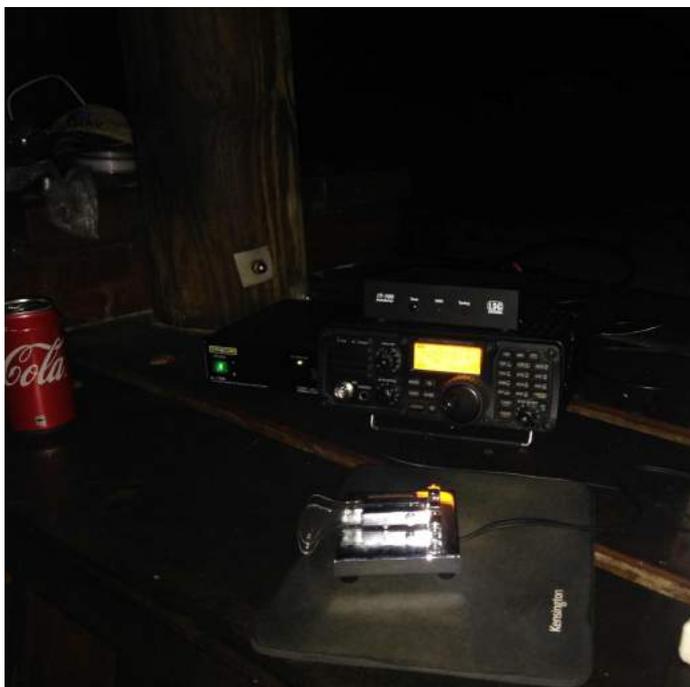


It's how looked like at night - and at daytime. Do not be surprised by the waistcoat - it was really cold there. By the way, on the last night on the OC-267 I tried the recipe Larysa told me about - I just got into the sleeping bag, buttoned up to my throat and worked - if I would try it before ... But back to the radio.

On June 20, at 03:30 UT, the first QSO took place at 20 m band- of course, it was a station from Japan JF6XQJ. Previously, my long CQs did not bring any response back, but now the band was opened, but in very weird way - everyone was calling at the same time - Japan, USA, Europe. And almost all the time the propagation was unstable - as if someone was playing around with a switch. All stations were loud, and all disappeared suddenly, in the middle of transmission. And again. Because of this effect, many had to call me again and again - and I had to answer again and again. At 10 UT, the propagation did not just calm down, but turned off in a second, like in the Arctic.

propagation will close in few seconds was the QSO with South America. Just one - Chile, Brazil. My evening started with the same mixed propagation, but not for long, 1-2 hours. Then, when it was already completely dark and the high tide came into its own, covering the radials and the base of 40 m GP - insanity on 40 m band began.

All the rest of the time between propagations I either slept, or wandered through the sand and coral reef, as in the afternoon, at low tide, a lot of places for walks were opened. Or sitting just looking at the sky...



Same behavior was exactly repeated in all following days - early in the morning (mine) – propagation on 20 m, weakly exciting Sweden, Finland, England, a bit of Spain, Romania, Portugal and suddenly transferring to Japan and the USA. After 3-4 hours, a fairly slow pileup died down for 7-9 hours. A sign that the





I collected shells washed by the tide and every day they are different.



And looked in amazement at the strange, very even holes in the sand, appearing right after the low tide. Who did make them - I wasn't able to understand. Maybe - some fish. Perhaps - crabs or sea snakes, to wait until the next tide.



In addition - a couple of times I was engaged in the repair of the generator. I took, just in case, a small repair kit with me - a spare spark plug, a wrench, a bottle of oil and filters.



As it turned out, mozzies were strongly attracted by the light of my headlamp, especially when I refueled the generator at night and got into the tank. Well, the fuel purchased at Mackay wasn't very good as well. Mozzies - it was a separate problem. Till now (10 days have passed already) not all bites on arms and legs disappeared. My night shift on the air usually looked like this - with one hand I moved through pile-up on the transceiver, with other I entered the callsign into the laptop, with third I drove off mozzies, with fourth I work on the key, my head and legs also drove off mozzies and scratched one other. Legs also took an active part in scratching 😊.

Several times the weather was rainy, and then I had to take an action.



Life on the island went into the usual rut, the days were rather monotonous. Unexpected minor accidents only added colors. So, one day I suddenly climbed my shoulder into a spider web, unexpectedly strong, I did not even break it. In this case, the owner of a size bigger than my palm did not even pay attention - all kinds of things are running around here. The other day, making my way to the bench to continue operating at deep night, I was met by a 3-4 meter jet of liquid. It vividly reminded me of my childhood, when we made similar squirts from empty plastic bottles and ran in the summer with them along the street. It turns out that one of the plastic milk containers, completely forgotten, chose this particular moment, to a second, to finally break through and pellet me, at last.

One day, closer to the end of my stay on the island, I slept in a tent and was suddenly awakened by a rhythmic metallic knock. Something knocked on the water tank. With a smile, stretched, thinking about the birds - and sat up abruptly, having heard the interrogative "Hello?"

Dispersing the rest of my sleep, jumped out on all fours out of the tent and saw quite unexpected picture - few plastic buckets with soaked linen and a man pouring water on the woman's soapy head. It was simple - Michael and Cathy live on a yacht, wandering around the world. Once near, they decided to use rainwater collected in a tank on the island. So they went in ... When they finished, hung the wet clothes on the bushes to dry, we talked for a couple of hours about yachts, radio, travel and everything else ...

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things:
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--
Of cabbages--and kings--
And why the sea is boiling hot--
And whether pigs have wings."

After taking away the washed stuff and filling jerry cans with clear water, they left on the inflatable boat to their yacht, continuing the way.

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

What to do?



SOTA at Mount Bryan

By Ian VK5CZ



Roger and I met at Mt Bryan township early on Saturday morning to activate the two local summits nearby.

Mt Cone vk5/se-002 in the morning then Hallett Hill vk5/se-003 after smoko.

The wind was blowing quite hard when we first headed for the hills and by the time we arrived at Mt Cone it was extremely strong, and we had to hide behind the comms hut to shelter and make it at least possible to even activate.

The antenna was only put up to 6 metres as it was bending badly and I remember Paul breaking his squid pole a few years ago on Hallett Hill in similar conditions.



Roger vk5we worked the pile up on 80m first then it was vk5cz turn, then Roger went back onto 40m ssb to hand out a few more points for our regular band of faithful chasers. I went onto 40m cw but only made 3 cw contacts but I managed 6 ssb qso's before on 80m ssb, it sure is worth using that band these days to give the local chasers and us a chance to qualify.

After a battering from the wind we packed up and descended back to the farm yard for smoko and a chat before heading across to Hallett Hill only a few kilometres away.

I think by the time we got onto the Hallett Hill range the wind was even stronger and we took the road through the wind farm to get to the actual summit. There are a few gates on this

property to open and close so this time we took Rogers car so I could take a turn opening the gates. Well we stopped at the first set of gates and I was on the windward side in the car and I could not open the door, firstly I thought maybe it was locked but no it was the wind holding it firmly shut. Roger had to turn his car around so my side was out of the wind to get out and open the set of double gates, then once I was ready to get back in he had to park the same on the other side of the shut gates.



We set up on the northern fence line across the top of the summit as best we could to get some protection from the wind, we did not have much luck with 80m so Roger and I both used 40m with quite good results. He had several chasers on 40m ssb and I had a nice pile up on cw then

it was pack up and get out of this raging gale. No hats or inhibitions with hair styles worn on this summit. I remember the first time Paul and I went there the wind was not quite as strong but it broke Paul's squid pole in two places and it was 4 degrees extremely cold.

That will be the last summit Roger or the two lan's will do for this season so hope they can do more summits and work you all again next year. I have 7 more on my list for this year but I think the early summer will beat me on the Hawker summits.

Beware of snakes

By Paul VK5PAS



Keith VK2PKT recently posted a timely reminder about snakes. The following information concerning snake bite was recently released by the Royal Flying Doctor Service....

- **Do NOT** wash the area of the bite or try to suck out the venom. It is extremely important to retain traces of venom for use with venom identification kits.
- **Do NOT** incise or cut the bite, or apply a high tourniquet. Cutting or incising the bite won't help. High tourniquets are ineffective and can be fatal if released.

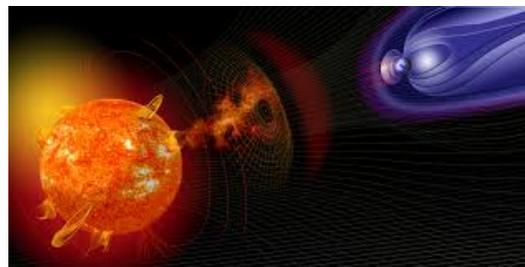
- **Do** bandage firmly, splint and immobilise to stop the spread of venom. All the major medical associations recommend slowing the spread of venom by placing a folded pad over the bite area and then applying a firm bandage. It should not stop blood flow to the limb or congest the veins. Only remove the bandage in a medical facility, as the release of pressure will cause a rapid flow of venom through the bloodstream.
- **Do NOT** allow the victim to walk or move their limbs. Use a splint or sling to minimise all limb movement. Put the patient on a stretcher or bring transportation to the patient.
- **Do** seek medical help immediately as the venom can cause severe damage to health or even death within a few hours.

More information can be found at.....

<https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/news/flying-doctor-issues-new-snakebite-advice/>

Space weather

By Paul VK5PAS



Space Weather Message Code: ALTK07
Serial Number: 111
Issue Time: 2017 Sep 28 0805 UTC

ALERT: Geomagnetic K-index of 7
Threshold Reached: 2017 Sep 28 0805 UTC
Synoptic Period: 0600-0900 UTC

Active Warning: Yes
NOAA Scale: G3 - Strong

NOAA Space Weather Scale descriptions can be found at...

www.swpc.noaa.gov/noaa-scales-explanation

Potential Impacts: Area of impact primarily poleward of 50 degrees Geomagnetic Latitude. Induced Currents - Power system voltage irregularities possible, false alarms may be triggered on some protection devices.

Spacecraft - Systems may experience surface charging; increased drag on low Earth-orbit satellites and orientation problems may occur. Navigation - Intermittent satellite navigation (GPS) problems, including loss-of-lock and increased range error may occur.

Radio - HF (high frequency) radio may be intermittent.

Aurora - Aurora may be seen as low as Pennsylvania to Iowa to Oregon.

Space Weather Message Code: ALTK07
Serial Number: 110
Issue Time: 2017 Sep 28 0600 UTC

ALERT: Geomagnetic K-index of 7
Threshold Reached: 2017 Sep 28 0559 UTC
Synoptic Period: 0300-0600 UTC

Active Warning: Yes
NOAA Scale: G3 - Strong

NOAA Space Weather Scale descriptions can be found at.....

www.swpc.noaa.gov/noaa-scales-explanation

Potential Impacts: Area of impact primarily poleward of 50 degrees Geomagnetic Latitude. Induced Currents - Power system voltage irregularities possible, false alarms may be triggered on some protection devices.

Spacecraft - Systems may experience surface charging; increased drag on low Earth-orbit satellites and orientation problems may occur. Navigation - Intermittent satellite navigation (GPS) problems, including loss-of-lock and increased range error may occur.

Radio - HF (high frequency) radio may be intermittent.

Aurora - Aurora may be seen as low as Pennsylvania to Iowa to Oregon.

Space Weather Message Code: WARK07
Serial Number: 73
Issue Time: 2017 Sep 28 0537 UTC

WARNING: Geomagnetic K-index of 7 or greater expected
Valid From: 2017 Sep 28 0536 UTC
Valid To: 2017 Sep 28 0900 UTC
Warning Condition: Onset
NOAA Scale: G3 or greater - Strong to Extreme

NOAA Space Weather Scale descriptions can be found at

www.swpc.noaa.gov/noaa-scales-explanation

Potential Impacts: Area of impact primarily poleward of 50 degrees Geomagnetic Latitude. Induced Currents - Power system voltage irregularities possible, false alarms may be triggered on some protection devices.

Spacecraft - Systems may experience surface charging; increased drag on low Earth-orbit satellites and orientation problems may occur.

Navigation - Intermittent satellite navigation (GPS) problems, including loss-of-lock and increased range error may occur.

Radio - HF (high frequency) radio may be intermittent.

Aurora - Aurora may be seen as low as Pennsylvania to Iowa to Oregon.

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

SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY OUTLOOK #17-39

2017 September 24 at 9:51 p.m. MDT (2017 September 25 0351 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For September 18-24

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm conditions were observed on 18 Sep due to coronal hole high speed stream influence.

No other significant space weather was observed during the summary period.

Outlook For September 25-October 1

G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storms are likely on 27 and 29 Sep while G2 (Moderate) geomagnetic storms are likely on 28 Sep, all due to effects from the anticipated arrival of a recurrent coronal hole high speed stream.

No other significant space weather is 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 #17-38

2017 September 17 at 8:11 p.m. MDT (2017 September 18 0211 UTC)

**** SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK ****

Summary For September 11-17

Solar radiation storms reached S1 (Minor) levels on 11-14 Sep, S2 (Moderate) levels on

11-12 Sep and S3 (Strong) levels on 11 Sep. This activity was due to effects from a R3 (Strong) radio blackout observed on 10 Sep.

Geomagnetic storms reached G1 (Minor) levels on 12-16 Sep and G2 (Moderate) levels on 14-16 Sep. The G1 activity on 12-13 Sep was related to CME effects while the G1-G2 activity on 14-16 Sep was related to CH HSS effects.

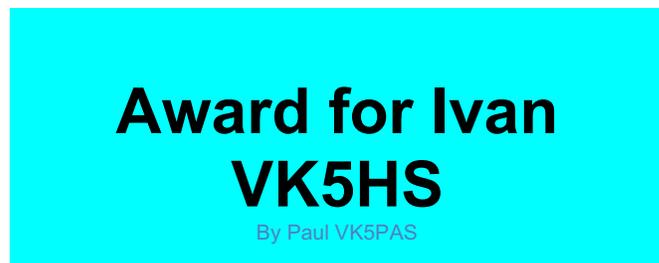
Outlook For September 18-24

R1-R2 (Minor-Moderate) radio blackouts are possible on 23-24 Sep due to the return of old active Region 2673.

S1-S2 (Minor-Moderate) solar radiation storms are possible on 23-24 Sep with any significant flare activity after the return of old Region 2673.

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>



Active park hunter & Codan rep, Ivan VK5HS is a man of many talents. He recently attended an overseas conference and was awarded the Codan Core Value Award.

Congratulations mate.



5 years of SOTA, where is everyone?

By Ian VK5CZ



Hugh and I decided the weather would be good to get the last of the Summits along the Barrier Highway this weekend which is 5 years since SOTA started in South Australia. The dry winter and spring this year made it a very dusty trip along the tracks we took and there is no green vegetation to be seen. We still saw plenty of kangaroos and sheep with a few goats thrown in, but not sure what they are eating out there.



The first goal is to hike to Nakara Hill vk5/ne-081, It's only a short hike from where we park the sota transporter. It was quite windy and cool when we were on the summit but managed to find a rock ledge to set up behind on the northern edge of the summit.



Working the pile up Hugh on ssb and me on cw.

Not many chasers on 80 m but Nev and Ian gave us both a report then Hugh went to 40 m ssb and topped up his score with 3 other regulars from vk3 then I went to cw to get my score thanks to 6 cw chasers to help me out. We packed up and headed back down for smoko then took a new way to Pitcairn Station which ended up being a shorter trip than we thought.

Waite Hill vk5/ne-066 is a great summit to visit with a big climb up the southern end of the range but to get there is a slow 10 km track which is quite rough and stoney so we have to go slowly along until we get there.



On the way up we have a goat track to follow much of the way.



Always good to see the other side of the range on these climbs, Hugh set up by the old trig point which has blown down.





Not many chasers this time only Nev on 80 m the rest were waiting for the Crows to lose the footy.

Hugh made his score with vk3led and vk3pf and another station who was pedestrian mobile walking in the water on a beach in vk3, sorry I did not get your call sign.

I was lucky my faithful chasers on cw came on before the kick off and made me a score.



Great view to the south on the way down.

Thanks to the chasers and land owners.

cheers.

vk5cz

Recent Park Activations



Despite some nice weather, September was again a fairly quiet month for park activations around South Australia. Lots of park activity interstate, but here in VK5, just Les VK5KLV, Marija VK5FMAZ and Paul VK5PAS ventured out.

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

- Nurragi Conservation Reserve VKFF-2247, Paul VK5PAS/p (30/9/2017)
- Myponga Conservation Park 5CP-157 & VKFF-0921, Paul VK5PAS (25/9/2017)
- Great Australian Bight Marine National Park 5NP-009 & VKFF-0214, Mike VK6MB/5 (23/9/2017)
- Horsnell Gully Conservation Park 5CP-094 & VKFF-0894, Paul VK5PAS/p (16/9/2017)
- Giles Conservation Park 5CP-076 & VKFF-0884, Paul VK5PAS/p (16/9/2017)



Above:- 'the shack' at Giles CP. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

- Whyalla Conservation Park 5CP- & VKFF-0808, Les VK5KLV/p (16/9/2017)
- Mylor Conservation Park 5CP-156 & VKFF-0785, Paul VK5PAS/p (3/9/2017)



Above:- Paul VK5PAS in the Mylor Conservation Park. Photo courtesy of VK5PAS

- Winninowie Conservation Park 5CP-255 & VKFF-0820, Les VK5KLV/p (2/9/2017)
- The Knoll Conservation Park 5CP-229 & VKFF-0937, Paul VK5PAS/p (2/9/2017)
- The Knoll Conservation Park 5CP-229 & VKFF-0937, Marija VK5FMAZ (2/9/2017)



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ in The Knoll Conservation Park. Photo courtesy of Paul 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



Just a handful of SOTA activations in VK5 during August. 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.....

- Waite Hill VK5/ NE-066, Ian VK5CZ/p (30/9/2017)

- Waite Hill VK5/ NE-066, Hugh VK5NHG/p (30/9/2017)
- Nackara Hill VK5/ NE-081, Ian VK5CZ/p (29/9/2017)
- Nackara Hill VK5/ NE-081, Hugh VK5NHG/p (29/9/2017)
- Hallett Hill VK5/ SE-003, Ian VK5CZ/p (23/9/2017)
- Mount Cone VK5/ SE-002, Ian VK5CZ/p (23/9/2017)
- Mount Horrocks VK5/ SE-0012, Ian VK5CZ/p (17/9/2017)

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



A reminder that this years VKFF Team Championship will be held on.....

Sunday 22nd October 2017, 0000 UTC-0600 UTC

I have also attached some photos of the trophies that were awarded last year. If we get sufficient sponsorship again this year, then trophies and prizes will be on offer again.

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is prepared to contribute.





- Team Onka – Mike VK5FMWW & Larry VK5FHRLR
- Penguin Pirates – Hans VK6XN & Phil VK6ADF

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.wffaustralia.com/>

If you wish to take part in this year's event, please register by sending me some details of your team.

So far I have the following:-

- Team Kookaburra - Mick VK3GGG & Tony VK3XV
- The VK4WIPeouts - Mark VK4SMA & Murray VK4MWB
- Special K's - Les VK5KLV & Peter VK5KPR
- The Walkie Talkies - Paul VK5PAS & Marija VK5FMAZ
- Tassie Devils – Jonathan VK7JON & Helen VK7FOLK

2017 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder about the upcoming VKFF Activation Weekend on **Saturday 25th November 2017 and Sunday the 26th November 2017.**

This is NOT a contest. It is a weekend to promote the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program in Australia.

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

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

I will continue to update the participation list here on Facebook, and the WWFF Australia website and the WWFF Australia Yahoo group.

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

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

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

- Andrew VK5MR

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

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

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)

- Les VK5KLV
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 450
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 475

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS



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

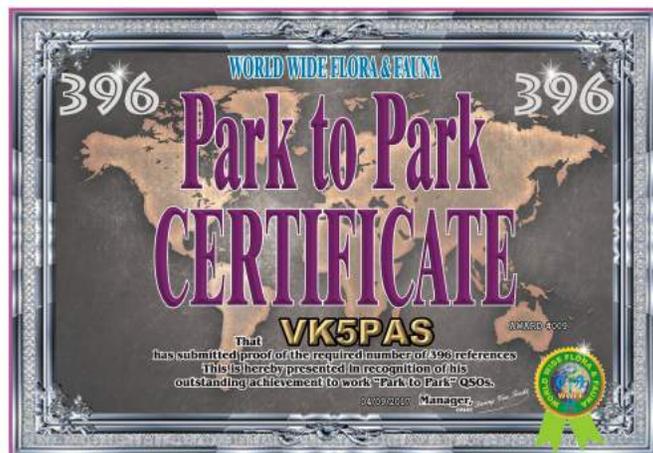




- **David VK5PL**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 350



- **Paul VK5PAS**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 725
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 750
 - Park to Park 396



- **Adrian VK5FANA**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 650

- **Greg VK5GJ**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 250
 - Murray River Parks Hunter 20



- **Marija VK5FMAZ**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 250



- **Stef VK5HSX**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 200

- **Brett VK2VW**
 - Silver CP Uniques



VK5 Parks Award

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **Keith VK2PKT**
 - Silver CP Uniques

- **NIL KNOWN**

Other.

- **Nil known for this period**



Aussie Backyard Bird Count

By Paul VK5PAS



Spring has well and truly sprung, and birds are singing and nesting – ready to be counted for BirdLife Australia's fourth annual Aussie Backyard Bird Count.

Why not head out to a park for an activation and do a bit of bird watching at the same time.

More info on the Aussie Backyard Bird Count can be found at.....

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>



VK/ZL/JA-EU SOTA event

By Paul VK5PAS

The next VK/ZL/JA - EU Summit to Summit event is planned for Saturday 21st October 2017.

So why not head to a summit (maybe in a VKFF area) and get involved.

The last event held in March was a lot of fun. Have a look at my post on my Wordpress site for more info about the March event....

<https://vk5pas.org/.../mount-lofty-vk5se-005-and-cleland-con.../>

**The next VK/ZL/JA <> EU HF
S2S event is planned for
Saturday 21 October 2017
from 06:30 to 08:30 UTC.**

Unmissable for the DX'ers!

<http://www.birdlife.org.au/get-invol.../.../national-twitchathon>

It's twitching time

By Paul VK5PAS

Twitching time is here...

Is spring your favourite time to head out birding? Do you like getting together with your friends to see how many birds you can see?

Would you like to raise money for threatened bird conservation?

Then the Twitchathon is the race for you!

For over 30 years, hundreds of passionate birdwatchers have been racing around the countryside competing in this unique sporting event. The aim? To see or hear as many bird species as possible, to have a great time in the great Australian outdoors and in the process help protect our birdlife for years to come.

In 2017, the BirdLife Australia National Twitchathon is back, bigger and better than ever. Whether it's your first time spotting or you're a fully-fledged twitcher, the Twitchathon caters for all birders. No matter where you live you can take part and raise funds for BirdLife Australia's important conservation work.

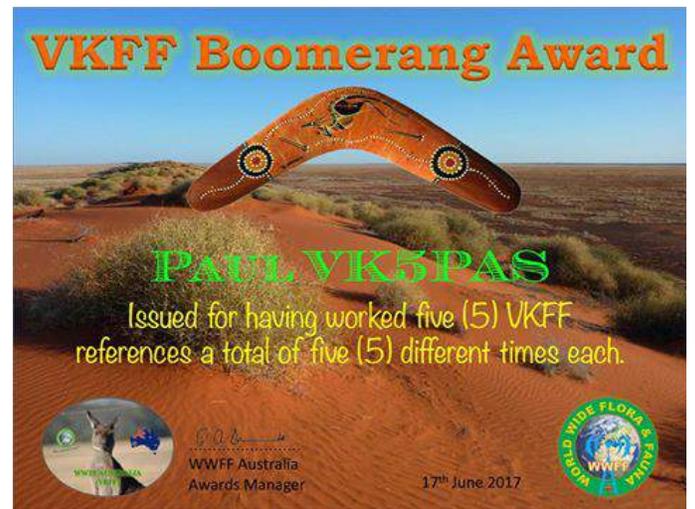
This year, the event will be held on 28–29 October in all states and territories.

More info can be found at.....



Boomerang Award

By Paul VK5PAS



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

Activators

Activated 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Activated means for VKFF purposes (10 QSOs).

Hunters.

Worked 5 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 10 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

Worked 15 x VKFF references - 5 different dates each

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

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

73 and '44',

Paul VK5PAS.

Special award in VKFF

By Paul VK5PAS

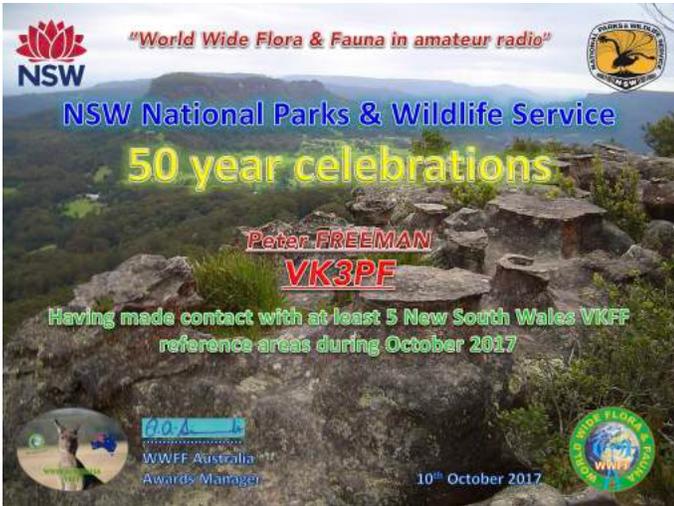


NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) celebrates its 50 year anniversary this year.

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

Examples of the award certificates are shown below.

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



Naming of log files in WWFF
By Paul VK5PAS

Please remember to name your activator logs in the following fashion.....

callsign@reference YYYYMMDD

e.g. VK1ABC@VKFF-0115 20150501

I am still getting a few logs named with just the callsign or just the reference. This presents problems, because Logsearch will not accept file names of the same name.

Please check out the following page.....

<http://www.wffaustralia.com/naming-of-log-files.html>

Another quick reminder
By Paul VK5PAS

CORRECTIONS

Another quick reminder.....

If you have corrections to be made to a log that you have submitted, please place a post in the Forum area on the wwff.co website.

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

Go to the log corrections area, and submit your issue there.

Please don't send me requests to fix log errors before doing this.

Andrew M0YMA in the UK who is the Logsearch Administrator has direct access to WWFF Logsearch (including modifying privileges, which I don't) and can normally fix your issue quickly.

If you get no pleasure via the Forum within a few weeks, then please drop me an email and I will be only too happy to follow up the issue for you.

CSV files for WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

I am getting a few logs from activators using the 'old' csv file. This does not include Park to Park contacts. Please ensure that you are using the up to date csv file which can be downloaded from the WWFF Australia website at.....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/csv-template.html>



FT8 supported

By Paul VK5PAS

Version 3.0.6 of the ADIF specs was released on 13th August 2017, and includes the new FT8 mode.

As such, Logsearch now recognises FT8.



Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

LIFE IS SIMPLE



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

- YT2ZZ/p, YUFF-0051 (30/9/2017)
- IK2SAV/p, Italian Abbeys Award (30/9/2017)
- JS1KSU/mobile (27/9/2017)
- SP9YFF/p, SPFF-0667 (26/9/2017)
- DC8TM/p, SOTA DL/ZL-127 & DLFF-0087 (23/9/2017)
- ZL2ATH/p, SOTA ZL/ WL-054 (22/9/2017)
- JS1KSU/mobile (19/9/2017)

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

vk5pas@wia.org.au

...and I will include it here.

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

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

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.

VK9VKL Christmas Island



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.

Interview with G0SBW re pedestrian mobile

<http://www.qsotoday.com/podcasts/g0sbw>

Ham humour



"Mr. Nelson...I'm afraid you will have to leave the air for a while during this procedure."