



National Parks Award – history

The aim of the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award has always been to encourage portable operation in Victoria's National Parks.

The Award started around 1970 as the Victorian National Parks Award. The driving force behind it was Keith Vidmore Roget VK3YQ (sk), on the WIA Victorian Division Council after serving in the RAAF during World War II.

Wanting to keep the ideals of the Award, his widow Jean agreed in the mid-1980s that it was fitting it be renamed in his memory as the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

Discussions were held with Parks Victoria which notified its regions and rangers that they may expect to see Amateur Radio activity in National Parks.

Roger Baker VK3BKR was made its custodian. The Award was further revamped in September 2008, covering Victoria's 40 National Parks with the manager being Chris Brennan VK3QB. Thank you to both for their efforts.

In 2009 Tony Hambling VK3VTH showed plenty of interest in portable operations using his station, and soon took on the position of Award Manager. One of his first major tasks was to promote the Award.

It proved to be a huge success for the Centenary Year of 2011, and an activation weekend has been held in November each year ever since. In April 2014 saw the introduction recognition Plaques those who work to, and from, 'all parks'.