

The Victorian Local Government Award 2017 Challenge

This unique “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.

2017 LGA Challenge Awards

Major Awards:

1/ #1 Most VK3 Local Government Areas **activated** in 2017

2/ #1 Most VK3 Local Government Areas **worked** in 2017

Amateurs may enter, and indeed are encouraged to participate, in both Categories.

The 2017 Challenge #1 winner in either category will receive, at no cost, a professionally designed, engraved and presented **Wall Plaque**, which will be suitable to display, with pride, in any shack.

Minor Awards:

1/ professionally printed and sequentially numbered, Award Certificates will be presented, at no cost, to all participants submitting an eligible Activator Log. Sequential Numbering will be derived from Dates and UTC Times on the submitted log.

2/ professionally printed and sequentially numbered, Award Certificates will be presented, at no cost, to all participants submitting an eligible Hunter Log. Sequential Numbering will be derived from Dates and UTC Times on the submitted log.

The “**2017 Challenge**” is open to all Amateurs as either “Activators” of Victorian Local Government Areas or “Hunters” of Victorian Local Government Areas. Participation in both programs is encouraged.

“2017 LGA Challenge” Rules and Requirements

Dates & Times: The **2017 LGA Challenge** commences **January 1 2017 (0001UTC)** and concludes **December 31 2017 (2359UTC)**. Contacts outside of this period are **not** eligible for the 2017 LGA Challenge.

Valid Contacts: A radio amateur must be identifiable within a VK3 municipality, usually by their announcement during a QSO. Contacts from within Parks Victoria controlled areas and unincorporated areas like French Island, various snow resorts and light house reserves are also eligible, providing the Portable Operator, again, clearly identifies the Victorian Local Government area where the activation is located.

All Bands and Modes (subject to operators Licence conditions) are valid for the 2017 Local Government Award Challenge, however Repeater, IRLP or Echolink contacts are not valid for this award and shall not be submitted in the Award context.

A Contact is considered **valid**, providing a correct Call Sign and Signal Report , without outside 3rd party assistance and the Local Government Area (Municipality, Shire etc.) again, without 3rd party assistance, is exchanged. Both parties must be aware of their correct LGA. The Local Government Area name may be abbreviated, if desired, by using the accepted VK Shires published list.

Examples: Golden Plains Shire Council or GP3 / Hobsons Bay City Council or HB3

Only ONE contact is required from or to the listed VK3 Local Government Area to be valid for the Award/s. Multiple contacts are of course encouraged in the spirit of the 2017 Challenge.

Home, Portable and Mobile contacts are valid for the Challenge.

No QSL cards or eQSL are required for the **2017 Victorian LGA Challenge**.

Submission for Award;

It is important to accurately Log all contacts with correct Date and Time in UTC, as a time countback of submitted Logs may be required to determine the winner/s chronologically. This is vital as the winner/s and numbered Certificates will be assessed on the logged Time Line of the submitted Log entries.

Log submissions for the 2017 Challenge will **only** be accepted between January 1 2018 and January 31 2018. Logs received outside of these Dates will be deemed ineligible for the 2017 Challenge Award. If you are unable to comply with this requirement, contact the Amateur Radio Victoria Award Manager.

Logs may be submitted on the provided spreadsheet/s located on the Amateur Radio Victoria Awards website: <https://www.amateurradio.com.au/awards>

Logs may be posted to:

Awards Manager
Amateur Radio Victoria
40g Victory Boulevard
Ashburton, Victoria 3147

Or can be delivered electronically to: awards@amateurradio.com.au

At the Award Manager discretion, cross-checking and validity checks may be carried out on submissions.

Involvement & Resources

An On Line map of the 79 VK3 Local Government Areas can be found here:

<https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils#map>

It is important to note some Parks have borders in several Local Government Areas. It is your responsibility to ensure you are in the correct location for Award purposes.

All eligible contacts made in the “The Victorian Local Government Award 2017 Challenge” are valid for the ongoing **Amateur Radio Victoria** VK3 Local Government Award <https://www.amateurradio.com.au/awards> and the Australia wide VK Shires Award.

You are encouraged to use the facilities of the excellent website www.parksnpeaks.org/index.php to announce your intentions and / or to search for activation notifications.

The List of current VK3 Local Government Areas is available here www.amateurradio.com.au/awards or on request from the Awards Manager awards@amateurradio.com.au

The Australia wide VK Shires Contest held June 10-11 2017 is also an excellent resource for VK3 LGA's

Should the Local Government Areas change during the 2017 Challenge the Official Government gazette List as of Dec 31 will be the accepted official list for Award purposes.

VK3 Local Government Areas History note

The start of local government in Victoria in 1841 occurred while it was one of the six British colonies, well in advance of the proclamation of the Federation of Australia as a Commonwealth in 1901. In the 1850s and 1860s, encouraged by generous subsidies, local government entities were established to provide local services, achieve community representation and to levy rates.

The 1980s saw strong concerns about the inefficiency of 210 local government areas, a new reform-driven state government, and an economic downturn, amalgamations of groups of them occurred resulting in a reduction to 79 today.