

Trans Tasman Contest 2020 – Soapbox Comments

This year saw 20 extra logs compared to previous years. Propagation was excellent but was marred with pulse radar noise on 80 and 40m making it sometimes difficult to complete a QSO. Most enjoyable contest I've had for a while. I worked over 100 in an hour at one stage. A total of 8,846 QSO's were obtained from 97 logs. 1,431 on 160m, 6,318 on 80m and 1,097 on 40m. Overall error rate was 6%. Common mistakes included incorrect times in the log, forgetting to press enter to log a QSO thereby missing a contact, missing the number in a call (eg VKSN), and logging a call incorrectly – then using the wrong call for the rest of the evening, probably because it was displayed from the original contact. The comments below will fill you in on the rest. 73, de Alan VK4SN.

Call Sign Category Mode Soapbox

- VK2BBQ** SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW Thank you to the organisers.
- VK2EFM** SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH Enjoyed the Contest....) I was still soldering and downloading software 5 minutes before the start. 80m was a bit rough with RADAR QRM unless you were in the sweet spot around 3.63 I really enjoyed myself and worked a few ZLs on 160m
- VK2IG** SINGLE-OP MIXED QRP Thanks for managing another enjoyable Trans-Tasman contest! Operated CW only this year. Station TS-480HX at 5W output, 1/4 wave sloping wire on 160m, inverted vee on 80m, switchable Y-doublet on 40m. 73, and see you all next contest!
- VK2IO** SINGLE-OP MIXED QRP Operated portable at Gir-um-bit State Conservation Area VKFF-1318 (QF57XG). Rig was a KX3. Antenna for 40m was a ZS6BKW 9m high. Antenna for 160m/80m was a double-sized ZS6BKW 9m high. 40m seemed poor however 80m and 160m were good until a radar started on 80m. QRM was low and participation high. Enjoyed the contest this year!
- VK2MG** SINGLE-OP MIXED QRP Portable from Brisbane Water National Park (VKFF-0056); Bulgandry Rd Kariiong A lot of woodpecker type interference on 80m made things, ... interesting
- VK2MT** SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW Location - Operated portable from a caravan near Wisemans Ferry (NW of Sydney). Rig - Icom IC-7100 Antenna - Dipole suspended 60' up a helpful Gumtree. 40m - Good but only a few stations amongst the many O/S sigs. 80m - Excellent until the S7+ radar pulse QRM hit us all. (And no Alan it wasn't just local to you!) 160m - Got better/less noisy along with more stations as they "escaped" the 80m QRM. Overall a very enjoyable Contest. Thanks everyone!
- VK2QN** SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW Great contest as always.
- VK2QV** SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH Had good fun. Equipment IC7300, SPE Amp, Antenna 160/80m sloper, 40m delta loop
- VK2TTL** SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH 160m 80m dipole, 100W , Tuner, low erp. 80m dipole, 300W 40m dipole, 100W. Rig for all IC7300. Conditions were fair, woodpecker intruded 90% of 80m after 9pm Thanks to all . A good 6 hours.
- VK2WQ** SINGLE-OP CW LOW Running IC 7300 at 100w to a North - South 41m end fed wire via 491 balun Conditions within VK and to ZL seemed reasonable. Hope for more CW stations next time.
- VK2WY** SINGLE-OP MIXED QRP what a bloody blast!!
- VK2XIC** SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW First time in the TransTasman, enjoyed myself and first time did direct data entry into the software. This is the third time I have used the software and find every thing "very nice" once one get ones head around it.... Well done to the software person/s Very Good.....
- VK2XOR** SINGLE-OP MIXED QRP Xiegu X1M Pro 5w into OCF Dipole
- VK2YW** SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW Good fun as usual except woodpecker on 80m
- VK2ZK** SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW IC-7300 barefoot Trapped 80/40 metre dipole @ 9 metres Random long wire
- VK3ANL** SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW Thanks organisers! First time this contest, & new to 160m. I enjoyed! 40m poor, 80m alive. 160m alive.
- VK3CTM** SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW An excellent contest!

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VK3DEK	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	I started late, but happy to see the bands all working well.
VK3DFR	SINGLE-OP SSB LOW	DID NOT HAVE 160M. S7 NOISE ON 80M AND 40M. 40M WAS MOSTLY DEAD, BUT 80M WAS VERY LIVELY.
VK3KTT	SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH	A good fun contest lots of people on air the bands were jumping we need to promot it more and yes i had fun
VK3MB	SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH	Great Conditions on 80 and 160. Lots of Fun by all.
VK3MCL	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	my first contest and did a paper log and then converted to text after. May be so
VK3MH	SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH	160m was outstanding and worked most of the stations I could hear.
VK3ZPF	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	Worked from home due to COVID-19 restrictions Logged with VK port-a-log CONTEST version
VK4KW	MULTI-OP MIXED HIGH	Really enjoyable contest and the winter time means the low bands are superb We ran an old version of software that made the multipliers worth much more Certainly got us excited in the last two hours
VK4PL	MULTI-OP MIXED HIGH	160 & 80m - Op VK4KY, TRX K3, Antennas - Inverted L & Dipole 40m - Op VK4FY, TRX IC7000, Antennas - 1/4wl Vertical & Dipole
VK4SN	CHECKLOG MIXED HIGH	Most enjoyable contest I've had for a while. Worked over 100 in an hour at one stage. The wood pecker created havoc on 80m most of the evening making some stations unworkable. 160m had good participation as the band improved during the night. Thanks to all who participated.
VK5DT	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	Thanks for running the contest.
VK5LJ	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	Very good conditions on 160m and 80m although 80m was very noisy towards the end. Great concept with 3 x 2hr blocks keeps the bands busy. Thanks Alan for running the contest.
VK5PAS	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	Yaesu FT857d, 30 watts, linked dipole
VK5SFA	SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH	I really enjoyed the TT Contest last night. Great to work a few more ZL's this time around! SOAPBOX The surface radar QRM on 80 metres was ameliorated at my QTH by using a Magnetic Loop on RX and an Inverted L on TX. Luckily for me, the radar was coming in from the NW and most competitors were East or West. This provided some good nulling of the interfeerer. Great to see 160 metres in full flight.. Looking forward to next year!
VK5WOW	MULTI-OP MIXED HIGH	PORTABLE BROWN HILL CREEK CONSERVATION PARK VKWWFF -1688 ONE RADIO
VK6FLAB	SINGLE-OP DIGI QRP	First ever digital PSK contest QSO, didn't hear anything else on the bands. Bit disappointing to see so few digital signals. Not sure if the contest rules can be tweaked. 2200 in VK6 is 0000 in VK2/3/4 and 0200 in ZL. VK6 has poor propagation at the beginning of the contest (before sunset) and not many people to talk to at the end of the contest. Used FLDIGI on a vertical with my FT-857d from my QTH for the first time.
VK6KMS	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	My first contest
VK6NT	SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH	First half hour was the best time to make some contact.
VK6POP	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	Noise on 80m cretaed impossible conditions
VK7GH	SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH	Great conditions on 160 and terrible on 40. 40 & 80 both suffered from radar noi
VK7JGD	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	THANKS GUYS AND GALS ALL GOOD FUN AS USUAL GOOD TO HEAR SO MANY ZLS AND HAVING 160m SO GOOD 73 GARRY VK7JGD
VK7ZBX	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	First time entry in the Trans Tasman. Greta fun)
ZL2XC	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	Thnks - Really enjoyed it except for the Radar both on 40 and 80
ZL3VZ	SINGLE-OP MIXED LOW	Heavy radar QRM on 80m and the CW end of 40m did not help! Otherwise an enjoyable contest. Thank you.
ZL4RMF	SINGLE-OP MIXED HIGH	Great contest, good operators, excellent conditions. Ron ZL4RMF