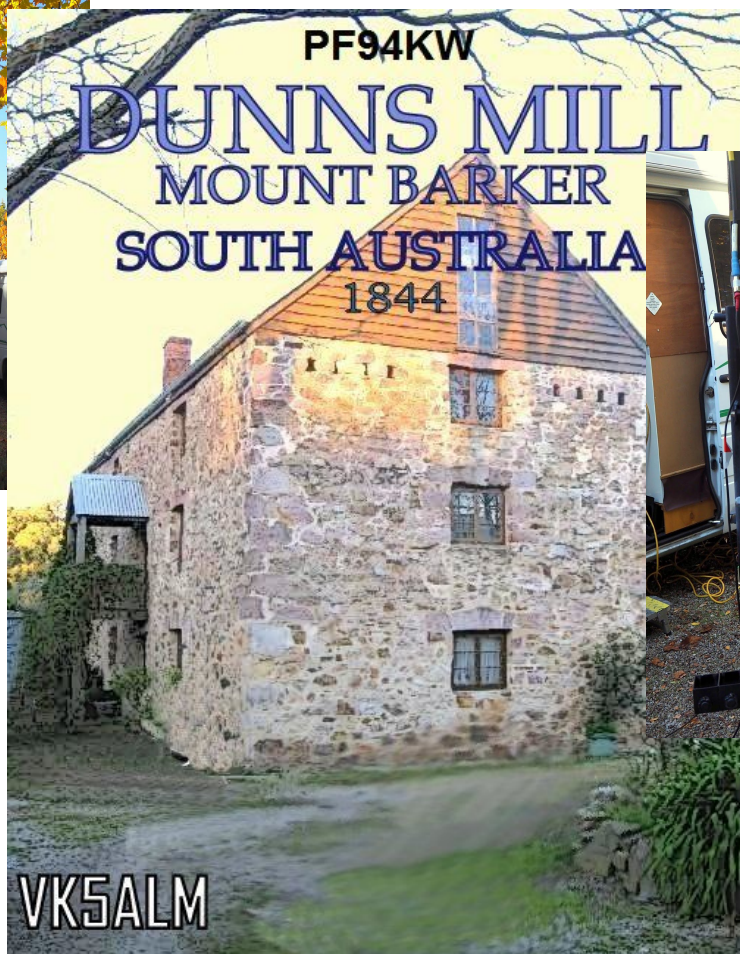


Australia's first involvement with the
**INTERNATIONAL
MILLS ON THE AIR EVENT.**



Tri-Band



Working

On a weekend in May each year British and European radio amateurs set up stations in windmills and watermills all over the country. Apart from being an exciting time for those involved, the event promotes both the mill itself and amateur radio.

The event is organised in conjunction with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) in England.

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

SPAB was founded in 1877 to counteract the highly destructive 'restoration' of medieval buildings being performed by many Victorian architects. Today it is the largest, oldest and most technically expert national pressure group fighting to save old buildings from decay, demolition and damage.

Their membership includes many of the leading conservation practitioners as well as home owners living in houses spanning all historical periods and those who simply care about old buildings. Thousands of buildings survive which otherwise would have been lost, mutilated or badly repaired without their intervention.

National Mills Weekend

The [Mills on the Air](#) weekend is timed to coincide with [National Mills Weekend](#).

National Mills Weekend is the annual festival of our milling heritage and provides a fantastic opportunity to visit mills, many of which are not normally open to the general public.

How the Mills on the Air Event Started

In 2008, Jasmine Marshall, G4KFP, a member of [Denby Dale Amateur Radio Society \(DDARS\)](#) spotted a request in the RSGB news asking for any radio amateur willing to put on a station at one of their windmills or watermills. She contacted SPAB and initially six groups of amateurs set up at six different Mills. As the word spread however this number rocketed to 30.

This event is not a contest, just an opportunity to have a good time and promote Amateur Radio while helping to preserve some of our heritage.

2017 Was the first year Australia became involved in this event with two Mills registered, Anderson's Mill at Smeaton in Victoria by the Central Gold Fields Amateur Wireless Group VK3BI and Dunn's Mill in Mt Barker South Australia the Lower Murray Amateur Radio Club VK5ALM. With just two club operators attending we set up Saturday morning and noticed only the 40mtr band seem to be working. Our first contact was with VK5WOW Paul a short way up the road at Nixon's mill, the first interstate contact was VI4VI100 Diane operating a special call station Followed by the only other registered mill VK3BI Mick at Anderson's Mill in Victoria.

A brief opening on 40 mtrs allowed us contact with P29VTT Steve in New Guinea who was on a dying battery. Several JA stations were heard but none returned our call.

Although the goal was to attempt to contact our northern mills the conditions failed us.

24 contacts were made.

Two Australian Mills were contacted.

VK3BI Mick at Anderson's Mill in Victoria.

VI5WOW Paul at Nixon's Mill in Mt Barker. Paul was heard later Sunday afternoon at Laukies Mill in Strathalbyn on 80mtr but we were unable to make the contact not having a suitable 80mtr antenna.

1 DX station.

P29VTT Steve in New Guinea on 20 mtr. Several JA stations were called but none replied.





Geoff VK5HEL

Glynn VK5GP

Log for the Weekend.

```
1 # Header MIL LS on AIR DUNN'S MILL Mt Barker
2 operator
3 mycall VK5ALM
4 date 2017-05-13 2303 40m SSB
5
6 # Log
7 0149 vk5wow 59 59 <nixons mill>
8 0152 vk5hel 20
9 vi100trf 45 54
10 0329 vk3bi 59 59 <Mick>
11 0344 vk3mab 59 59
12 0346 vk3fles 55 56
13 0349 vkfvic 59 55 <trever>
14 0353 vk3fbng 52 55 <bruce>
15 0506 vk2od 59 59 <bob>
16 0515 vk4alr 53 54 <alan>
17 0516 vk2kqb 57 57 <keith>
18 0516 vk3tjc 59 59 <tim>
19 0526 vk3pat 59 57 <chris>
20 0526 vk3ysp 59 59 <joe>
21 0532 vk5pas 57 59 <paul>
22 0533 vk6apz 57 54 <peter>
23 0536 vk3frjd 59 59 <chris>
24 0543 vk3rv 59 58 <peter>
25 0547 vk7dw 56 57 <andrew>
26 0549 vk7hsc 57 59 <shirly>
27 0552 vk2hju 42 58 <ray>
28 0557 vk2mtc 59 59 <greg>
29 0626 vk4hre 57 57 <bob>
30 date 2017-05-14 0646 p29vtt 55 55 <stewen>
31 date 2017-05-14 0647 vk5wow 59 59 20m <paul>
32 1111 vi100trf 57 59 40m <Dian>
33
```