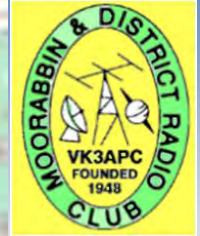


APC NEWS



M&DRC CLUB Summits On The Air ACTIVATION.

The M&DRC will hold a Club SOTA activation on Saturday 22nd February at Mt Dandenong.

Come and take part.

Members of the Gippsland Gate Radio and Electronics Club, The Frankston and Mornington Peninsular Amateur Radio Club and the Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club are invited to attend and participate.

This is the closest and easiest access peak for most of our members. This activity is intended to demonstrate what is involved in a SOTA activation and hopefully answer all those questions you might have.

We will have at least two SOTA stations set up and on air from 10:00 AM to Noon. You can have your first SOTA activation and have a National Parks activation as well.

Please note there is a parking fee to park at the summit. No dogs in the National Park, on a leash elsewhere and no alcohol allowed. BBQ's also not allowed.

You only need a 2 m hand held radio to activate and a notebook to record the contacts. But you don't have to bring your own station – you may use one of those set up. One station will be in the Dandenongs National Park at a site just North of the Observatory road but still within the SOTA activation zone. Note that most of the activation zone at Mt Dandenong is in a city park area and not part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

Bring your own lunch for a picnic under the trees or buy one at the Kiosk or the Observatory Restaurant.

Want more info on SOTA? Go to the web site www.sota.org.uk or contact Ron VK3AFW or Tony VK3CAT

If you are going to have a SOTA activation and you drove to a summit car park you will, if able bodied, be required to walk down and back to a point on Observatory Road to near the junction with Mt Dandenong Road to comply with the SOTA Rules requiring final entry to the activation zone by non-motorised means. Or you can use the track from the CFA station to descend a minimum of 25 m below the summit. Please note that if you have trouble with steps or use a walking stick or a wheelchair this requirement will be waived. The activation zone is roughly outlined by Observatory Road and generally stations will be set up in this area.

This is not a completion day. It is a “getting together to have fun” day. It's also a learning day. While the Club activators will pack up around noon for lunch, others may continue on.

If the weather is inclement we will instead head for the Club rooms at Highett.

Ron VK3AFW, vk3afw@optusnet.com.au Tony VK3CAT, akmelec@bigpond.net.au

Summit Information for VK3/VC-025

Mt Dandenong - 630m, 2 points

Association: Australia - Victoria **Region:** Victoria - Central Region

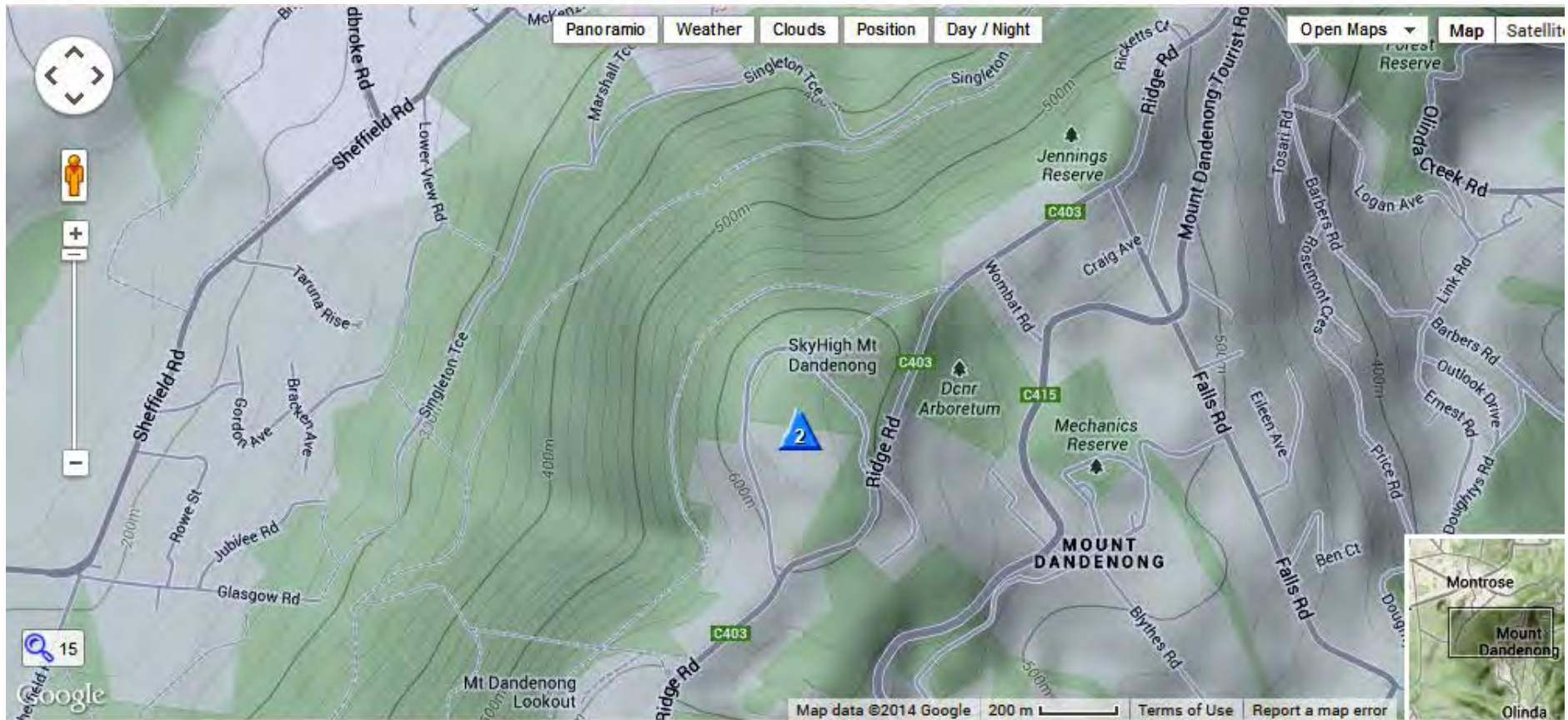
Latitude: 37 49 40 S, **Longitude:** 145 21 12 E

Getting there.

From Melbourne take the Burwood Highway or Ferntree Gully Road. The latter joins the Burwood Highway at Ferntree Gully. Continue 3 km crossing the railway line at Upper Ferntree Gully and keep to the left into the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road. Travel through Ferny creek Sassafrass and Olinda. Less than 1 km past the centre of Olinda turn left into Ridge Road. After about another kilometer turn left into Observatory Road. This junction is outside the activation zone. Continue a short distance and pay the entry fee and find a suitable car park.

You can also travel via Canterbury Road and take the right turn into Mt Dandenong Tourist Road and right again at Kalorama into Ridge road.

The peak is occupied by the Sky high Restaurant who lease the site and the surrounding garden area.



Map of Mt Dandenong from the SOTA web site showing 20 m contour lines and roads.

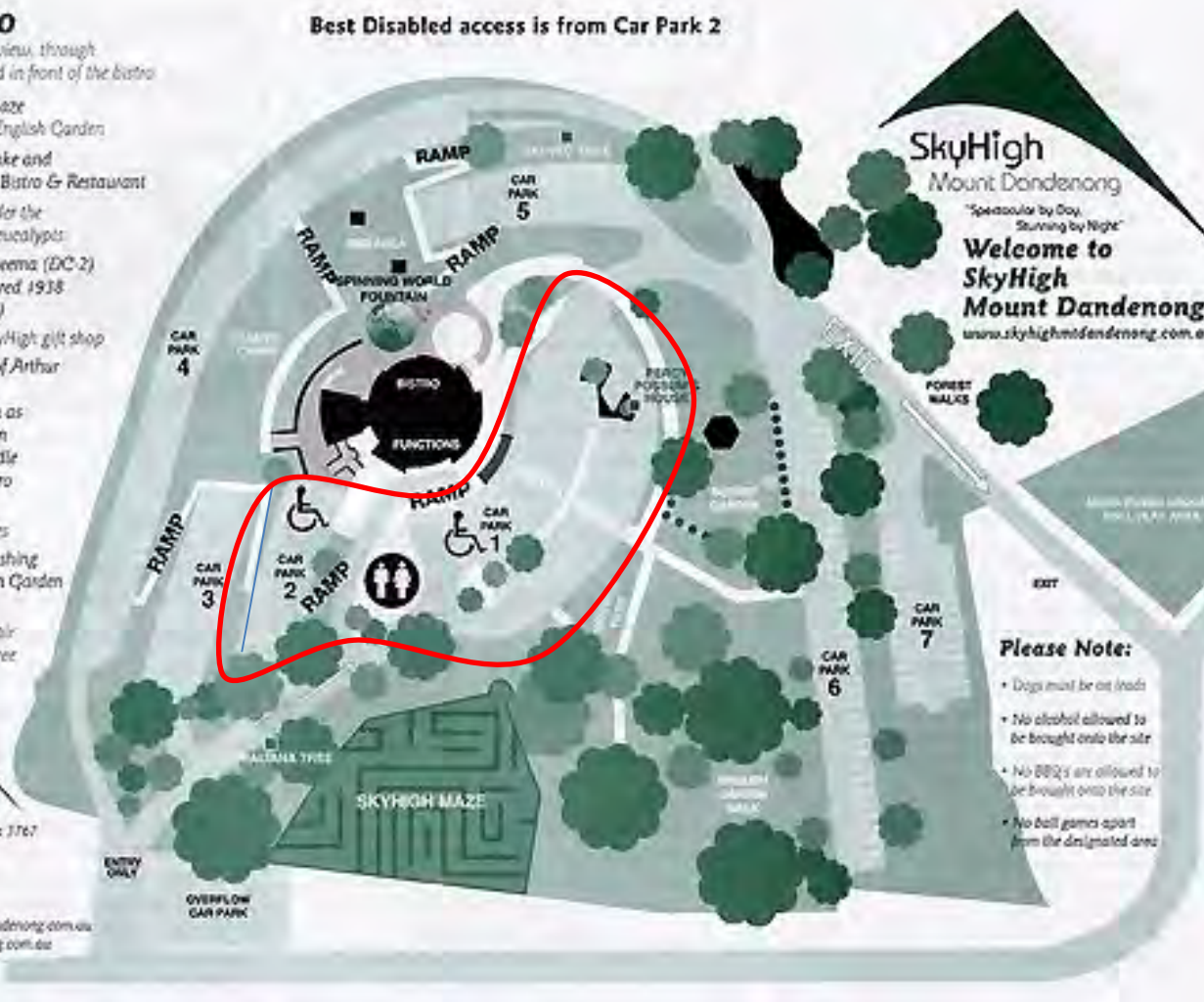
THINGS TO DO

- Enjoy the spectacular view, through our binoculars, located in front of the bistro
- Explore our SkyHigh Maze
- Meander through our English Garden
- Enjoy a meal or just cake and coffee, in our Licensed Bistro & Restaurant
- Enjoy a forest walk under the canopy of Australian eucalypts
- Walk around to the Kyema (DC-2) plane crash site, occurred 1938 (Burkes Look Out Trail)
- Browse through the SkyHigh gift shop
- Artist Trail, a replica of Arthur Streeton, "Storm over Macedon" also known as "The Cloud" painted in 1936. Located on middle terrace next to the bistro
- Enjoy our picnic lawn and BBQ facilities
- Make a wish at the wishing tree adjacent to English Garden
- Visit Percy Passum's House, the Giant's Chair and the Australiana Tree

SkyHigh

Mount Dandenong
"Spectacular by Day,
Stunning by Night"
26 Observatory Road
Mount Dandenong Victoria 3767
PO Box 190
Kalamita Victoria 3766
Tel: (03) 9751 0442
Fax: (03) 9751 0442
Email: info@skyhighmtdandenong.com.au
www.skyhighmtdandenong.com.au

Best Disabled access is from Car Park 2



SkyHigh Mount Dandenong

"Spectacular by Day,
Stunning by Night"

Welcome to
SkyHigh
Mount Dandenong

www.skyhighmtdandenong.com.au

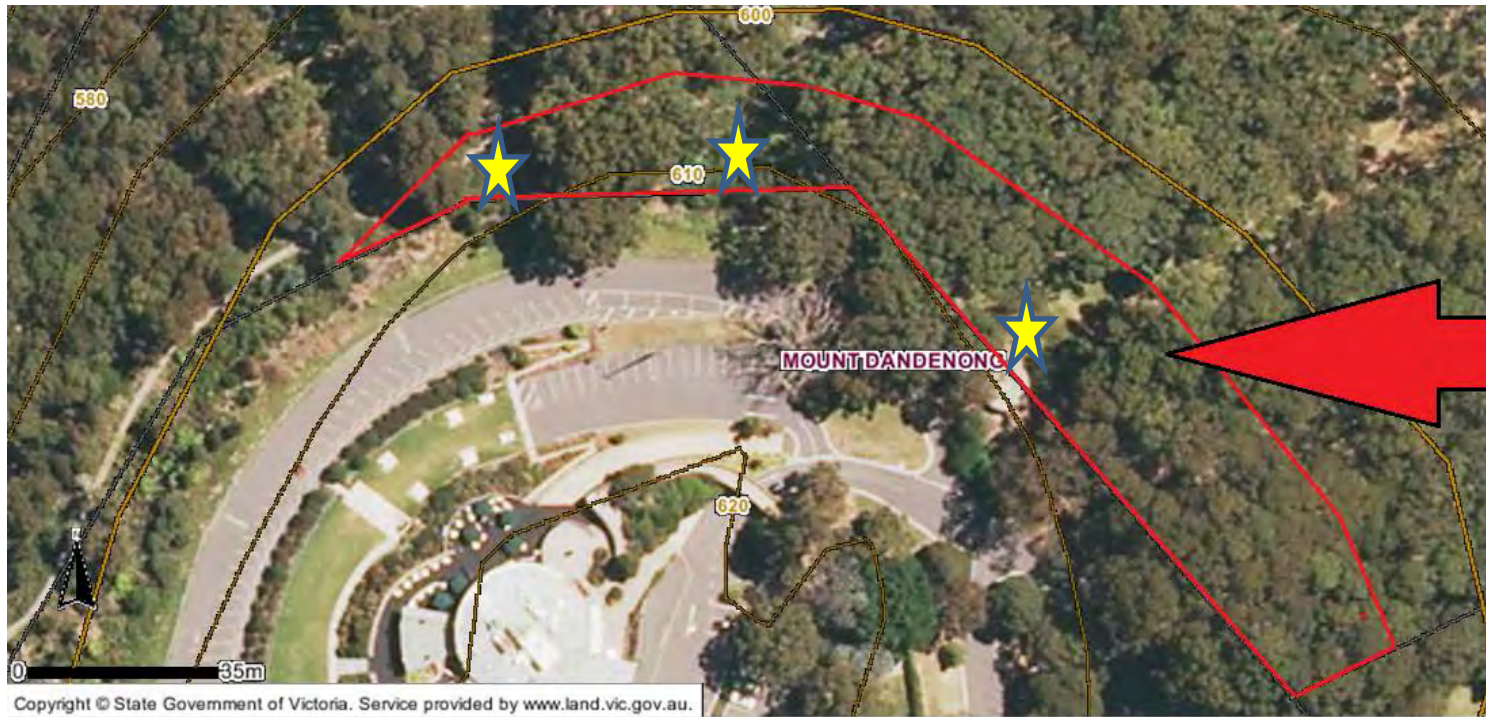
Please Note:

- Dogs must be on leads
- No alcohol allowed to be brought onto the site
- No BBQ's are allowed to be brought onto the site
- No ball games apart from the designated area

Suggested Car Parks circled in red . These have wheelchair access to the restaurant, kiosk and SOTA activation areas.



The yellow line shows the approximate boundary of the SOTA activation zone. Activators should make their own checks especially if near the boundary.



Part of activation zone also in Dandenong Ranges National Park

The yellow stars show sites where VK3AFW might be situated so as to activate both a SOTA peak and a SOTA summit.

SOTA QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY ANDREW VK2UH

How do I join in?

NOTE: Whether as a chaser or activator you must operate within the terms of your licence, not the call sign you might use on the day.

To participate as a chaser:

Listen for activators on the air at the times advertised as Alerts on SOTAWATCH.ORG or notified on the SOTA_Australia mailing list (not all are notified there).

- Make contacts with the activators and note the code for the summit they are operating from. Record the summit code in your log.
- You earn points for each separate summit you work in each UTC day. For this reason, you will find some activators work stations once before 0000 UTC and once after that time. This is no advantage for the activator but it does help chasers earn points.
- Go to SOTADATA.ORG.UK and register a user id (your callsign should be ok) and password. You'll receive a confirmation email. Record your password somewhere safe. This user id links your callsign to your log of contacts both as a chaser and as an activator.
- Record your contacts in the chaser log to start your award points
- Repeat until you reach the points level needed for each award level, eg. 100 chaser points, 250 etc.
- On reaching 1000 chaser points (typically 250 contacts at about 4 points each, on average) you can apply for the Shack Sloth Award. Details on the sota.org.uk site. There are higher levels of awards with no limit.

To participate as an activator:

- Select a summit you want to operate from
- Work out how you will access that summit eg. how far can you drive up the summit, do you need permission to access it, will you have phone coverage etc.
- Prepare your equipment, antenna, power source, backpack.
- On the day of your activation, take a buddy to walk with and join in the fun. For a remote summit, walk with at least two other people. Some activators walk with their family (spouse and/or kids) and others jointly activate summits with friends from their radio club. Others take their dog or their goat (see WG0AT's videos on Youtube).
- Let others know what you are planning.
- Post an Alert to SOTAWATCH several days before your activation.
- Post some comments about it on the Yahoo mailing group.
- Take a note of your intended summit code. Write it into your portable log at home.
- Advise your family where you are going and how to contact you if you are running late. Your family's cooperation and assistance is vital and could save your life in the event of an accident or injury.

On the summit:

- Ensure your "final approach to the summit" is by non-motorised means, unless you normally use a motorised wheelchair, which is permitted. Operators who have impaired mobility are encouraged to participate in SOTA. They may drive or be driven into the activation zone.
- Your station including radio, antenna and power source must be independent of any vehicle. The test for this is to remove the vehicle - it should not affect your ability to operate the radio and make contacts, and should also not affect any shelter you use to operate from.
- You don't need to go solo - joint activations with one or more others are quite legitimate and in remote areas are highly recommended for safety reasons.
- Either SPOT yourself or ask one of your contacts to SPOT you on SOTAWATCH
- Set up your equipment, work the contacts and enjoy being the dxpedition everyone wants to work
- Log your contacts
- Once you have worked 4 stations you have "qualified" the summit and you have earned your activation points for that summit. You can get those points once per calendar year.
- For some summits you can also earn winter bonus points for activating them in the winter months. Some regions have no winter bonus points and some have different winter periods. The bonus applies only to activators. The chasers are at home in a warm shack!

Back at home:

- Upload your contacts to SOTADATA
- Plan your next activation and probably how you will lighten your back pack but take more food and water.
- Have fun and stay safe.