

# VK9YA



Confirming QSO WITH	MM/DD/YY	MHz	LTO	RST	2 Way
YU4FDE	01/26/80	7	23:30	599	CW

This was my first DX trip to a rare country and the trip was exciting and very enjoyable. Cocos (Keeling) Islands are a group of coral islands in the Indian Ocean, approximately 3,000 Km NW of Perth, Australia. They are reached by a once-a-week plane ride from Perth. A complete station consisting of a TS440 and 8 element log periodic antenna for 10, 15, and 20 meters, and a delta loop for 40 meters was furnished by our host John Clunies-Ross. A total of 60 hours was spent operating during the week resulting in a total of 4,557 contacts, of which 4,087 were on CW and 470 on SSB.

During the week we were visited by tropical cyclone Frederick. The eye passed over the islands with winds peaking at 112 kph and the barometric pressure dropped to 993 HectoPascals. Luckily, very little damage was sustained. Several trees were blown over and two copra sheds were damaged. All the antennas survived with no damage. The station was shut down for a period of 15 hours and all the radio gear was transferred to a safe place during the cyclone.

Thanks are due to Cres Thursby-Pelham, VK9YC, who helped with the arrangements and our host John Clunies-Ross for a wonderful trip.

QSL to Jim Bobo, 106 Tomahawk Trail, San Antonio, Texas 78232.

73 DE JIM, W5ODD.

*VK9YA*