

Breaker, Breaker, I would like to take your attention away from dreaming of your next trip into the OUTBACK, to the latest HFOZ weekend away which was on the 4.5.6<sup>th</sup> of December. Cooperook was the little town near the State Forrest where the camp was held. What a fabulous camping spot, perfect for that weekend, get away from it all kind of place.

My son and I attended for the first time and were blown away by the atmosphere and the friendliness of all concerned, we had an absolute ball. We arrived on the Friday night and set up camp just as it started to sprinkle, had a couple of quite drinks and a bit of a chat then hit the sack only to be jolted from my sleep by the biggest clap of thunder I've heard in years. That was followed by some of the biggest rain drops that sounded like they were going to bust through the tent. When we awoke in the morning it was the perfect day.

On Saturday we learn't so much about our radios, what it can and can't do, what the future holds for us in the HF world. Doug gave some fabulous lectures and some informative demo's throughout the weekend. I got to talk to a lot of people with similar interest, not just HF Radios but travelling in the Outback. You can talk for hours with a total stranger about places that you both have seen, and I was glad to find out that I'm not the only one who mixes up the holiday's and the wife has to fix up the story.

Saturday night after tea we all got together again and talked and laughed for hours, it was as though we have known these 20 people for ages. They made us feel so welcome and part of the group and I'm sure the other first timers would say the same thing.

Sunday morning overcast, lazy start more talking then started packing up camp. We just beat the rain, got all the gear squared away and did a bit more socializing. We all stood for the group photo and took our leave. Thank you all for making our weekend such a success for my son and I.

Hope to talk to you all on the airwaves as time goes by, enjoy your TRAVELS and stay SAFE

Peter Fry - HFOZ 1684