

# A Breath of Fresh GASS

## Richard Saunders reports from the front line:

I think I have found a new recipe for pure enjoyment. The ingredients are as follows;

- 1 bed of nails
- 3 days on your feet
- 200 tea spoons
- 1000 school children

Throw in some general public, 'psychic readings', and the most important ingredient of all, a team of enthusiastic Victorian Skeptics. What do you get? The Australian Skeptics stand at the Great Australian Science Show, Museum of Victoria.

On the first day I gave a talk to about 90 school kids in one of the lecture theatres and showed them how dowsing seems to work. The kids laughed and so did I. Their questions were great and ranged from UFOs to the Loch Ness Monster. On the way out one of them turned to me and said "Thanks Skeptic Dude!"



*Rosemary Sceats takes it easy on a bed of nails*

The rest of the time I tried to simply help out at the stand the best I could. This seemed to be a mixture of spoon bending lessons, showing people the 'what is your real star sign' computer program, lying on the bed of nails and answering questions. I even found time to sneak away and look at the rest of the Museum. So that's what Phar Lap looks like!

The real stars of the show were all the Vic Skeptics who gave up their time to organise and attend for some or all of the three days. I must make a special mention of Lynne Kelly who did a 'psychic reading' act that would put any 'real' psychic to shame. Even though Lynne explained to each 'client' (she had a sign that said she was charging \$0) that she was a fake, most gave her an accuracy rating of 80% or more. In fact one woman gave her 99.9%!

Getting the message out is one of the best things we all can do. Hundreds of people passed by the stand and were given information about the Skeptics and what we do. To see the expression on people's faces as they thought about what we said was priceless. Hats off to the Victorians!

Looking into the future (well, a damn good guess anyway) I can see Melbourne being invaded by a gang of keen Skeptics from all over the country for the next Great Australian Science Show.



*Lynne Kelly demonstrates "chopstickology"*



*Richard S among cheerful Vic Skeptics at GASS*