



offers to fill my cup, either. It's amazing the camaraderie that can spring up among this many relative strangers, some of whom have only ever met each other in cyberspace.

My favourite story, oft-repeated in the two days I was lucky enough to get away for, had to be the one about Margaret Durante's homemade lamingtons. Rob graciously accepted one of the dainty cakes and was nonplussed to discover they

were only lamingtons as deep as the chocolate, with bedding foam within.

with confetti (the kids had to pick it up later; a way to keep them busy!), awards and laughter. Ed Zwerus won the award for being the person who most embodied the 'spirit of the group' after he bravely ate not one but three bites of the dodgy lamingtons offered by Rob because he thought Carol had made them and he didn't want to offend her.

By Friday night, I was starving, having lived on a diet of cold tuna sandwiches all day long and taking my gleaming white hire car 4WDing down by the shrunken dam, some small percentage of its former glory. Much to my stomach's pleasure, Rob and Carol invited me to eat with them and friends. The meal featured

### "I WAS TREATED TO A VERITABLE SMORGASBORD OF FRIENDLY FIRE PITS AND NO SHORTAGE OF OFFERS TO FILL MY CUP"



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#### CEREMONIOUS CONCLUSION

Friday morning was my own ordeal, talking to the group about reviewing camper trailers for this magazine. But thanks to a genuinely grateful crowd, I felt right at home. Before me, Rob led the group through a morning of Tai Chi, which looked like heaps of fun.

Later in the afternoon, the group held its official closing ceremony, replete

camp oven roast beef, vegetables, gravy and rolls and easy conversation, with little 12V lights hanging from wires above us like a Christmas barbecue.

The fire was warm against the country night, and we all sat around and looked up at the million stars, on many of the campers' last night here. Everyone was already talking about next year's national meet at Peak Hill, NSW, from September 29 to October 3. The group hopes to lure a few more Victorians next time around by bringing the party a little closer to home.

For more information and lots of pics, check out [www.campertrailers.org](http://www.campertrailers.org) ■



**Clockwise from left:** Geoff Lane, Mike Sargeant and Richard Jolley emulate Rob Sanderson; Rob himself; fun during the closing ceremony; families camping together; Savannah Zwerus won the kids' cooking competition with her cake.