

# Take an Internet Dip in *The Skeptic Tank*

In the dark dim days of 1996, I shared a house with the well-known Sydney entertainer, Stefan Sojka. Our day would start at about 3pm when we would wake up, get ready for the night's gig, travel, set up, do the gig, pack up, come home and jump straight onto the Internet until we fell asleep at about 6am.

As it turned out, we were doing some cutting edge stuff with web page design and animations. It seems all that time spend over a computer

screen paid off as now in 2001, Stefan is the drive-time (or anti drive-time as he calls it) DJ on netFM, an Internet radio station based in Sydney.

During his first week on air, Stefan called me up and asked if the Skeptics would like to appear on his new show. Needless to say I jumped at the offer! Joining me on the first show were Richard Lead and Helen Vnuk from the NSW committee.

Although we had no set topic, Stefan told us to sit back and just chat about the Skeptics and Skeptical things in general. To our delight, the show went over very well with Richard Lead telling the global audience how to pull off a scam or two, Helen Vnuk lamenting the growth of alternative medicine and ended with a demonstra-

tion of spoon bending by your correspondent.



*Radio stations have Disc Jockeys - The Skeptic Tank has Dick Jockeys. Richards Lead and Saunders in full flow.*

We stayed for almost an hour with Stefan playing songs along the way. During the song breaks we quickly discussed what to talk about next, laughed loudly and carried on with the show.

After it was over, Stefan, Richard and I headed off for a fine dinner in the city and decided to come back the following week to do another show.

In the weeks that followed, Skeptics Karen Stollznov from NSW and Steve Roberts from Victoria both appeared on the show, covering such topics as ghosts, Internet myths, psychic twins, reflexology, UFOs, pyramid schemes, the Skeptics Convention in Brisbane, the Great Skeptic CD and anything else that cropped up as part of the flow of conversation.

People from all over the planet can listen in for a Skeptical point of view and talk to us live via their computers using a 'chat' screen from the [www.netFM.net](http://www.netFM.net) web site. We are told that anywhere from 10,000 to 50,000 people tune in to the show each week. One of these people, calling himself 'Dr. Feg', subjected we should call our segment *The Skeptic Tank*. The name stuck.

We plan to have many more Skeptics join us in the *Tank* to talk about their areas of interest. We also make sure that in the each show our own web site [www.skeptics.com.au](http://www.skeptics.com.au) gets a mention even going so far as to spell out the word 'S-K-E-P-T-I-C-S.'

One of the best things about the whole experience is the chance to dine with fellow Skeptics and Stefan after the show where the conversation carries on for hours! *The Skeptic Tank* can be heard worldwide by visiting [www.netFM.net](http://www.netFM.net) each Thursday at 6pm Sydney Time. Our thanks go to Stefan Sojka and the management of netFM for having Australian Skeptics on board.

**Richard Saunders**