



# Big Foot's Chair

**I have struggled for years with those cheap camp chairs that after a few days of camping have your bum on the ground and the inside of your knees polishing your ears.**

**Y**ou're trapped and unable to escape. I'm no budgee when it comes to height, weight and shoe size, so finding a real fit-for-purpose chair has always been a problem.

It's unbelievable what gets sold as a camping chair nowadays. Some brands boast high max load figures like 200kg yet are incredibly flimsy and cheap. It's almost like they are competing G String-like for who can use the minimum of material and charge the highest price. And then there is warranty, most say 12 months.

▼ *Big Foot at work.*



A couple of chairs I've seen boast a max load capacity of 200kg and offer a 12 month warranty, yet to me they look flimsy, they have fibreglass legs and single layer material. Most have pockets; presumably these are to be filled with sand so the chair doesn't blow away. Then there's the fine print saying something like 'fair use applies'. To them fair use must mean a sitting on it less than twice a year! And I'm sure they've also got their own metric system for what a kilogram is. Sorry for being so cynical, but these chairs are out there and it's buyer be aware.

Recently, with the resignation, I went looking, for a new chair and I found one. It's Coleman Quad Big Foot Camp Chair and it's rated to hold 250kg, which is more than two of me. I inspected the chair with great suspicion, given other chairs make similar claims on max weight capacity, build and quality of material used; but this looked the goods. It's got a steel frame with stable oversized feet, it looked strong and tough, no fibreglass or poly legs here. The material used is heavy duty 600D polyester; the chair comes with its own zip up carry bag and weighs in at 6 kilograms.

Coleman's use of the name Big Foot in naming this chair, struck a chord with me. In my youth I played soccer and when thundering down the field from centre half, the chorus would go up, "Go Sasquatch". Now don't tell me you don't know what a Sasquatch is; it's a North American folklore creature that is known as Big Foot.

Seeing the name Big Foot as a good omen and despite being worried about the chair's durability, I decided to get one. Shopping around I got mine for \$79, although I saw them priced as high as \$129.

# THE THINGS YOU SEE!

with (TRUTHFUL) PHIL BIANCHI



I gave it a test run on an eight day camping trip and was very impressed. It sat firmly on the ground, the back support was excellent and the heavy duty polyester, fully cushioned seat was very comfortable. And best of all there was no tipping backwards out of the chair when leaning back. The chair was solid.

And it's got more pockets than a Kmart clothes rack. It also comes with an oversized cup holder and a Tardis-like insulated storage bag with probably enough room for all of your goodies, even a defibrillator, if you need one handy. Or if you're a thirsty fisherman, you can have one can on the go and another three on ice in the lined storage bag; making it ideal for relaxing in while waiting for the next big bite.

## **"... Your bum on the ground and the inside of your knees polishing your ears."**

Whilst these chairs aren't cheap to buy, the quality of the materials used, the way it's put together and the gratitude you'll get from your back, will give you many of years of enjoyable and comfortable seating.

Now for a humorous incident. My mate Macca, who by the way makes Twiggy look overweight, on the first night of a three week trip sits down and goes straight through the seat and gets stuck. After a dramatic rescue i.e. him pleading for help and we just laughing, the chair's only use from then on was as a commode.

Having a broken camping chair on a trip can be disastrous, especially if away for three or four weeks. Repairs I have seen or made include using cable ties, hose clamps, occy straps, 100 mph tape and dental floss. I kid you not; dental floss has incredible strength when used in multiple

strands. Use a sewing needle from your sewing kit (everyone carries an emergency sewing kit don't they) and you're away.

Here's another tip. On a freezing cold night, to keep warm, many of us place a small heap of hot coals under the chair or just behind the chair, this works a treat. Don't overdo the coals though or the heat could soften any synthetic seating material and it will slowly give way and sag more than a full nappy. You'll find your butt will almost be on the ground.

As for the name Big Foot, I am sure if they ever find one, he would be delighted to sit in a real camping chair!

*Not a Big Foot.* ▼

