

## Steven M Watts. 1947-2016 Rest In Peace

Recently the world lost another one of its outdoor greats; Steve sadly passed away not long ago, but left behind his mark on our outdoor community, the lucky ones who got to sit by him fireside will each have their own tales to tell about the man that in my eyes was an inspiration to many, myself included.

During the course of my own journey into the world of the outdoors and wilderness skills, I've sought many books for knowledge, attended courses led by professionals and of course what I could find on the internet. I came across Steve's book 'Practicing Primitive- A Handbook of Aboriginal skills' and I was instantly drawn into a part of this man's world. When I finally made contact I was greeted by a man who was clearly enthused about sharing his knowledge and passion for the outdoors with everyone. We corresponded many times over the short period that we knew each other, one thing was for sure; I really liked this man's style, he certainly was responsible for me buying more canvas made equipment! He was always happy to give advice to me personally and was always very complimentary of the things that I shared.

However the biggest compliment was when Steve said he really liked what we were doing with our magazine and the direction we aimed for and should I ever find myself Stateside I always had somewhere to stay, this to me speaks volumes about the man and how generous and kind he was.

Of course his contributions to the magazine throughout the last year have been amazing together with David Wescott, and I personally have gained so much from their lessons, I know a lot of others feel the same way also. He left a mark on so many folk from around the world on his and their travels; he will never be forgotten and will go down in history as one of the greats in outdoors education.

I want to leave you with a quote from his book...

***"Beyond the light of the fire, the shadows of our ancestors beckon. They are us... You and I... related."***

Thank you for everything, Steve.

**Danny Reid**  
Editor

