

1
00:00:06,150 --> 00:00:13,699
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2
00:00:09,119 --> 00:00:13,699
from Australia for science and reason

3
00:00:21,949 --> 00:00:28,399
hello and welcome to the skeptic zone

4
00:00:24,839 --> 00:00:32,340
episode number 342 for the tenth of may

5
00:00:28,399 --> 00:00:35,519
2015 and if it's your birthday today

6
00:00:32,340 --> 00:00:38,879
happy birthday Richard Saunders here

7
00:00:35,520 --> 00:00:44,760
with you from Sydney Australia with Fred

8
00:00:38,878 --> 00:00:47,459
the cat hello Fred oh that's the sound

9
00:00:44,759 --> 00:00:50,549
of a cat sniffing a microphone yeah he's

10
00:00:47,460 --> 00:00:53,908
not very chatty tonight what's coming up

11
00:00:50,549 --> 00:00:56,488
on this week's show the raw skeptic

12
00:00:53,908 --> 00:00:58,588
report with highly Robinson Heidi is

13
00:00:56,488 --> 00:01:01,619
going to review do a book review she's

14
00:00:58,588 --> 00:01:04,679
going to review the book relax it's just

15
00:01:01,619 --> 00:01:07,289
God bye Wendy thomas russell now this is

16
00:01:04,680 --> 00:01:08,520
a book aimed at parents everywhere about

17
00:01:07,290 --> 00:01:10,859
what it's like to have that conversation

18
00:01:08,519 --> 00:01:14,039
with your kids when they ask about God

19
00:01:10,859 --> 00:01:16,890
and religion and what should the

20
00:01:14,040 --> 00:01:19,320
skeptical parents say what should the

21
00:01:16,890 --> 00:01:21,618
skeptical parents a highly reviews the

22
00:01:19,319 --> 00:01:24,569
book and give some of her own insights

23
00:01:21,618 --> 00:01:26,519
along the way from her own experience

24
00:01:24,569 --> 00:01:28,169
really interesting stuff following that

25
00:01:26,519 --> 00:01:29,640
it's a week in science for our good

26
00:01:28,170 --> 00:01:33,530
friends at the Royal Institution of

27
00:01:29,640 --> 00:01:33,530
Australia now let's all sing together

28
00:01:34,040 --> 00:01:40,980
www.start all day you know not and to

29

00:01:38,790 --> 00:01:44,550
round off the show it's an interview I

30
00:01:40,980 --> 00:01:47,670
did last year late last year with James

31
00:01:44,549 --> 00:01:49,439
Valentine on Sydney radio 702 now this

32
00:01:47,670 --> 00:01:53,040
was just before the national convention

33
00:01:49,439 --> 00:01:56,189
last year and James asked me about that

34
00:01:53,040 --> 00:01:58,590
but also lots of really wide ranging

35
00:01:56,189 --> 00:02:01,219
skeptical comments and talk and general

36
00:01:58,590 --> 00:02:04,320
stuff and I take some call back

37
00:02:01,219 --> 00:02:08,008
questions as well now for those people

38
00:02:04,319 --> 00:02:10,829
in Sydney I'm pleased to say that well

39
00:02:08,008 --> 00:02:12,768
from right now in other words night time

40
00:02:10,830 --> 00:02:15,959
when i'm recording this but if you go to

41
00:02:12,769 --> 00:02:18,800
204 to cafe and deli in King Street

42
00:02:15,959 --> 00:02:21,900
Newtown you can see some of my

43
00:02:18,800 --> 00:02:24,209

photography on display on the wall and

44

00:02:21,900 --> 00:02:26,580

in fact you could even buy some if you

45

00:02:24,209 --> 00:02:28,620

feel so inclined that money goes to help

46

00:02:26,580 --> 00:02:31,200

the skeptic zone or just go along for a

47

00:02:28,620 --> 00:02:32,140

coffee they make wonderful hamburgers

48

00:02:31,199 --> 00:02:34,149

and

49

00:02:32,139 --> 00:02:38,469

their eggs benedict to salmon is really

50

00:02:34,150 --> 00:02:40,450

good to check it out it's very exciting

51

00:02:38,469 --> 00:02:43,090

first time I've had a photography

52

00:02:40,449 --> 00:02:45,280

exhibition also I'd like to give a big

53

00:02:43,090 --> 00:02:47,680

shout out to our friends then Morty

54

00:02:45,280 --> 00:02:49,629

skeptics down there in Victoria just

55

00:02:47,680 --> 00:02:52,719

south of melbourne if you're in that

56

00:02:49,629 --> 00:02:55,930

area and Google Morty skeptics mor di

57

00:02:52,719 --> 00:02:58,870

skeptics what a what a welcoming Bunch

58
00:02:55,930 --> 00:03:01,270
they are and they have usually have a

59
00:02:58,870 --> 00:03:03,580
good lineup of speakers throughout the

60
00:03:01,270 --> 00:03:05,650
year as do our friends in the camera the

61
00:03:03,580 --> 00:03:07,239
Canberra skeptics it's one of the most

62
00:03:05,650 --> 00:03:08,319
pleasing things about being a skeptic I

63
00:03:07,239 --> 00:03:10,599
think knowing there are lots of

64
00:03:08,319 --> 00:03:12,849
like-minded people out there not just

65
00:03:10,599 --> 00:03:14,620
sitting at home but getting out there

66
00:03:12,849 --> 00:03:16,659
and putting on talks inviting people

67
00:03:14,620 --> 00:03:19,269
having a good time skeptics in the pub

68
00:03:16,659 --> 00:03:21,969
is a wonderful a wonderful initiative I

69
00:03:19,269 --> 00:03:24,759
think ah later this month we've got a

70
00:03:21,969 --> 00:03:27,129
Sydney skeptic camp I would certainly be

71
00:03:24,759 --> 00:03:29,109
there to report I uncle hope mean art

72
00:03:27,129 --> 00:03:32,379
and Joe alabaster will be there as well

73
00:03:29,110 --> 00:03:34,660
but as ever you can just google your

74
00:03:32,379 --> 00:03:37,449
local skeptics in the pub or skeptical

75
00:03:34,659 --> 00:03:39,219
activity wherever you are in the world

76
00:03:37,449 --> 00:03:42,429
and if there is no skeptics in the pub

77
00:03:39,219 --> 00:03:45,030
where you are well why not start one and

78
00:03:42,430 --> 00:03:48,790
a big shout out to our friends in in

79
00:03:45,030 --> 00:03:52,569
Scandinavia my goodness me the Swedish

80
00:03:48,789 --> 00:03:53,979
skeptics the Norwegian skeptics I think

81
00:03:52,569 --> 00:03:55,629
pretty soon we're going to be hearing

82
00:03:53,979 --> 00:03:56,949
from the finish skeptics although is

83
00:03:55,629 --> 00:04:00,039
that Scandinavia I don't think it's

84
00:03:56,949 --> 00:04:03,518
quite anything whatever whoa here for

85
00:04:00,039 --> 00:04:06,039
the case is all around the world huh so

86

00:04:03,519 --> 00:04:09,629
but enough of that it's time for me not

87
00:04:06,039 --> 00:04:15,069
to run anywhere because right here i

88
00:04:09,629 --> 00:04:18,370
have my what is it curry and rice curry

89
00:04:15,069 --> 00:04:20,620
and rice lentil curry I think while I'm

90
00:04:18,370 --> 00:04:23,069
enjoying that I hope you enjoy the

91
00:04:20,620 --> 00:04:23,069
skeptics

92
00:04:41,079 --> 00:04:47,649
it's the raw skeptic report with Heidi

93
00:04:45,050 --> 00:04:47,650
Robertson

94
00:04:52,310 --> 00:05:00,180
hi everyone background noises you may or

95
00:04:57,360 --> 00:05:04,920
may not hear this week come to you

96
00:05:00,180 --> 00:05:09,750
courtesy over my dogs and my children

97
00:05:04,920 --> 00:05:11,520
let's see how we go this week I'm going

98
00:05:09,750 --> 00:05:14,160
to chat about a book I've just finished

99
00:05:11,519 --> 00:05:17,639
the book was sent to Richard a few weeks

100
00:05:14,160 --> 00:05:19,380

ago by the author's PR person and I put

101

00:05:17,639 --> 00:05:21,750

my hand up to read it and have a talk

102

00:05:19,379 --> 00:05:24,089

about it on the skeptic zone it

103

00:05:21,750 --> 00:05:27,120

interested me in particular as I'm at a

104

00:05:24,089 --> 00:05:28,849

point as a skeptical parent at which the

105

00:05:27,120 --> 00:05:34,470

subject matter is becoming increasingly

106

00:05:28,850 --> 00:05:38,129

relevant for me the book is titled relax

107

00:05:34,470 --> 00:05:40,560

it's just God how and why to talk to

108

00:05:38,129 --> 00:05:44,389

your kids about religion when you're not

109

00:05:40,560 --> 00:05:46,949

religious by Wendy thomas russell

110

00:05:44,389 --> 00:05:48,659

religion is somewhat of a difficult

111

00:05:46,949 --> 00:05:50,879

subject to tackle at the best of times

112

00:05:48,660 --> 00:05:53,070

in the sense that the issue generates

113

00:05:50,879 --> 00:05:56,219

strong opinions that can sometimes make

114

00:05:53,069 --> 00:05:59,269

for passionate and sometimes unpleasant

115
00:05:56,220 --> 00:06:01,500
dialogue amongst many people I

116
00:05:59,269 --> 00:06:05,549
appreciate that there are some skeptics

117
00:06:01,500 --> 00:06:08,069
that are atheists some agnostic some who

118
00:06:05,550 --> 00:06:11,400
described themselves as humanists free

119
00:06:08,069 --> 00:06:14,129
thinkers pluralists whilst some

120
00:06:11,399 --> 00:06:17,039
altogether indifferent it's just not an

121
00:06:14,129 --> 00:06:18,569
important part of their lives and of

122
00:06:17,040 --> 00:06:20,280
course there are others who don't really

123
00:06:18,569 --> 00:06:22,740
fit into any of those so-called

124
00:06:20,279 --> 00:06:25,319
categories of course there are also

125
00:06:22,740 --> 00:06:29,120
skeptics and scientists who have strong

126
00:06:25,319 --> 00:06:31,740
religious beliefs we are a diverse Bunch

127
00:06:29,120 --> 00:06:33,720
my own views on religion have changed

128
00:06:31,740 --> 00:06:36,769
over the years and the relevant question

129
00:06:33,720 --> 00:06:40,860
for me now as a skeptic parent and

130
00:06:36,769 --> 00:06:44,370
atheist is how and why I should educate

131
00:06:40,860 --> 00:06:46,410
my children about religion or even if I

132
00:06:44,370 --> 00:06:48,720
should at all I would love some feedback

133
00:06:46,410 --> 00:06:50,730
from you after you hear this report

134
00:06:48,720 --> 00:06:53,880
about whether you agree with the author

135
00:06:50,730 --> 00:06:56,910
disagree and what your own experiences

136
00:06:53,879 --> 00:06:58,560
and opinions are and have been i'll give

137
00:06:56,910 --> 00:07:00,270
you the contact details at the end of

138
00:06:58,560 --> 00:07:03,300
this report if you'd like to get in

139
00:07:00,269 --> 00:07:05,839
touch Wendy thomas russell the author

140
00:07:03,300 --> 00:07:08,990
describes herself as quote

141
00:07:05,839 --> 00:07:11,399
science-minded non-believer an

142
00:07:08,990 --> 00:07:15,740
award-winning journalist author and

143

00:07:11,399 --> 00:07:18,508
secular parenting blogger end quote

144
00:07:15,740 --> 00:07:20,759
she's a former newspaper reporter and

145
00:07:18,509 --> 00:07:24,689
lives with her husband and daughter in

146
00:07:20,759 --> 00:07:26,970
California the author begins by relating

147
00:07:24,689 --> 00:07:29,370
an incident with her then five-year-old

148
00:07:26,970 --> 00:07:31,080
daughter in which she was driving with

149
00:07:29,370 --> 00:07:34,819
her in the car when the daughter piped

150
00:07:31,079 --> 00:07:40,019
up out of the blue as five year olds do

151
00:07:34,819 --> 00:07:42,360
mummy you know what God made us to which

152
00:07:40,019 --> 00:07:45,538
mum became speechless with fear and

153
00:07:42,360 --> 00:07:48,240
anxiety she describes feeling totally

154
00:07:45,538 --> 00:07:53,128
unprepared and unsure of how to respond

155
00:07:48,240 --> 00:07:56,519
i can relate my son also recently piped

156
00:07:53,129 --> 00:07:58,710
up in the backseat of the car mum you

157
00:07:56,519 --> 00:08:01,019

know how ma says stuff before we eat

158

00:07:58,709 --> 00:08:04,529

dinner and then says are men at the end

159

00:08:01,019 --> 00:08:08,639

is I mean something to do with the x-men

160

00:08:04,529 --> 00:08:11,218

or what yep I nearly drove off the road

161

00:08:08,639 --> 00:08:14,129

and suddenly realized with not a small

162

00:08:11,218 --> 00:08:16,740

amount of guilty mother syndrome that my

163

00:08:14,129 --> 00:08:21,478

kids have no religious literacy

164

00:08:16,740 --> 00:08:24,509

whatsoever that son my eldest who is 8

165

00:08:21,478 --> 00:08:27,949

seems to have a naturally inquiring and

166

00:08:24,509 --> 00:08:32,099

skeptical mind when I explained that ma

167

00:08:27,949 --> 00:08:35,668

grandma believes in God he was quiet for

168

00:08:32,099 --> 00:08:38,270

a while before saying I don't get why

169

00:08:35,668 --> 00:08:41,098

adults need to have imaginary friends I

170

00:08:38,269 --> 00:08:43,379

had to stifle a giggle whilst at the

171

00:08:41,099 --> 00:08:46,800

same time wondering how I should tackle

172
00:08:43,379 --> 00:08:48,958
that I needn't have worried right then

173
00:08:46,799 --> 00:08:50,879
and there because he went on to ask what

174
00:08:48,958 --> 00:08:53,519
was for dinner and that was the end of

175
00:08:50,879 --> 00:08:57,389
that at least for the time being two

176
00:08:53,519 --> 00:09:00,328
weekends ago my son who is 6 that's my

177
00:08:57,389 --> 00:09:02,970
other son was looking at a piece of art

178
00:09:00,328 --> 00:09:05,039
at the markets depicting Jesus at the

179
00:09:02,970 --> 00:09:08,790
Last Supper with cartoon characters

180
00:09:05,039 --> 00:09:11,370
depicted in place of the disciples we

181
00:09:08,789 --> 00:09:15,269
went through who each cartoon character

182
00:09:11,370 --> 00:09:17,159
was with no trouble we came to Jesus he

183
00:09:15,269 --> 00:09:20,818
said in a loud voice

184
00:09:17,159 --> 00:09:25,289
he's no cartoon character who the hell

185
00:09:20,818 --> 00:09:29,039
is he to the somewhat amused glances of

186
00:09:25,289 --> 00:09:31,198
the people surrounding us hmm it seems I

187
00:09:29,039 --> 00:09:35,129
am at that point at which I can no

188
00:09:31,198 --> 00:09:36,809
longer ignore the issue what this book

189
00:09:35,129 --> 00:09:38,699
has helped me with is how I might

190
00:09:36,809 --> 00:09:40,578
approach the issue in a way that will

191
00:09:38,698 --> 00:09:43,318
encourage critical thinking without

192
00:09:40,578 --> 00:09:46,409
indoctrination into any one religion or

193
00:09:43,318 --> 00:09:50,849
in fact into indoctrination into my own

194
00:09:46,409 --> 00:09:52,828
lack of belief the author began her

195
00:09:50,850 --> 00:09:54,720
mission to find out how best to deal

196
00:09:52,828 --> 00:09:57,028
with the issue of religious literacy

197
00:09:54,720 --> 00:09:59,699
after her daughter's statement in the

198
00:09:57,028 --> 00:10:02,389
car she interviewed parents who were

199
00:09:59,698 --> 00:10:05,899
both religious and non-religious

200

00:10:02,389 --> 00:10:09,060
parenting experts religious scholars

201
00:10:05,899 --> 00:10:13,049
psychologists secular leaders and more

202
00:10:09,059 --> 00:10:17,278
the end result she says quote I wrote

203
00:10:13,049 --> 00:10:19,649
the book I wanted to read the issues the

204
00:10:17,278 --> 00:10:21,720
book looks at are specifically how to

205
00:10:19,649 --> 00:10:24,870
deal with young children about your

206
00:10:21,720 --> 00:10:28,560
beliefs or non beliefs in an open and

207
00:10:24,870 --> 00:10:31,259
truthful manner that quote promotes

208
00:10:28,559 --> 00:10:34,258
kindness compassion and critical

209
00:10:31,259 --> 00:10:37,470
thinking end quote how to deal with

210
00:10:34,259 --> 00:10:40,409
religious relatives how to teach kids to

211
00:10:37,470 --> 00:10:42,990
be tolerant of others beliefs how to

212
00:10:40,409 --> 00:10:45,809
talk about death without using religious

213
00:10:42,990 --> 00:10:48,419
imagery for backup and how to give kids

214
00:10:45,809 --> 00:10:51,479

religious literacy without boring them

215

00:10:48,419 --> 00:10:54,179

in speaking with parents Russell found

216

00:10:51,480 --> 00:10:56,699

10 main challenges that parents were

217

00:10:54,179 --> 00:10:59,879

experiencing in discussing religion with

218

00:10:56,698 --> 00:11:02,129

their children I wonder if any of these

219

00:10:59,879 --> 00:11:04,470

points resonate with you as they did

220

00:11:02,129 --> 00:11:07,938

with me whether or not you have any

221

00:11:04,470 --> 00:11:10,980

religious beliefs number one

222

00:11:07,938 --> 00:11:13,980

indoctrination not knowing how to be

223

00:11:10,980 --> 00:11:17,430

honest without indoctrinating kids into

224

00:11:13,980 --> 00:11:19,470

one way of thinking number two language

225

00:11:17,429 --> 00:11:21,719

fear of saying something to their

226

00:11:19,470 --> 00:11:25,769

children that would be repeated in mixed

227

00:11:21,720 --> 00:11:27,750

company number three family having to

228

00:11:25,769 --> 00:11:29,909

contradict a religious family members

229
00:11:27,750 --> 00:11:33,470
while trying to keep peace in

230
00:11:29,909 --> 00:11:37,230
Emily number four age appropriateness

231
00:11:33,470 --> 00:11:41,540
not knowing what age appropriate for

232
00:11:37,230 --> 00:11:44,550
children to hear number five resentment

233
00:11:41,539 --> 00:11:47,219
keeping their own negative experiences

234
00:11:44,549 --> 00:11:52,229
or resentment out of conversations with

235
00:11:47,220 --> 00:11:54,180
their children number six death facing

236
00:11:52,230 --> 00:11:56,659
conversations about death without the

237
00:11:54,179 --> 00:12:00,269
comforts of heaven or an afterlife

238
00:11:56,659 --> 00:12:02,639
number seven tolerance separating the

239
00:12:00,269 --> 00:12:05,399
idea of religious tolerance from the

240
00:12:02,639 --> 00:12:10,529
idea of tolerating religious hatred or

241
00:12:05,399 --> 00:12:14,539
abuse number eight confusion fear of

242
00:12:10,529 --> 00:12:16,919
confusing a child number nine belief

243

00:12:14,539 --> 00:12:20,579

fear that if a child hears about

244

00:12:16,919 --> 00:12:24,289

religion she or he might start believing

245

00:12:20,580 --> 00:12:26,610

it and number ten religious literacy

246

00:12:24,289 --> 00:12:30,419

limited knowledge of religion or

247

00:12:26,610 --> 00:12:32,490

religious stories there were many other

248

00:12:30,419 --> 00:12:34,669

points in the book that struck a chord

249

00:12:32,490 --> 00:12:38,580

with me and I'll just mention a couple

250

00:12:34,669 --> 00:12:40,740

firstly a quote by Austin Klein a former

251

00:12:38,580 --> 00:12:45,270

director of the Council for secular

252

00:12:40,740 --> 00:12:47,220

humanism quote avoiding discussions

253

00:12:45,269 --> 00:12:50,549

about religion is like avoiding

254

00:12:47,220 --> 00:12:52,980

discussions about sex the parent isn't

255

00:12:50,549 --> 00:12:55,199

made to feel uncomfortable but the child

256

00:12:52,980 --> 00:13:00,000

is left on their own without rudder or

257

00:12:55,200 --> 00:13:02,160
guidance end quote he goes on to say

258
00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:04,230
that in some circumstances this will

259
00:13:02,159 --> 00:13:06,719
lead children into seeking their answers

260
00:13:04,230 --> 00:13:09,029
elsewhere and being vulnerable to all

261
00:13:06,720 --> 00:13:13,050
sorts of beliefs that may in extreme

262
00:13:09,029 --> 00:13:14,429
cases be potentially harmful the other

263
00:13:13,049 --> 00:13:16,949
point that really stood out for me was

264
00:13:14,429 --> 00:13:19,349
the fact that it is undeniable that

265
00:13:16,950 --> 00:13:23,759
religion whether or not we like it is

266
00:13:19,350 --> 00:13:27,330
everywhere it is quote in our art and

267
00:13:23,759 --> 00:13:30,389
architecture music and literature plays

268
00:13:27,330 --> 00:13:33,570
poetry and movies it's steeped in our

269
00:13:30,389 --> 00:13:35,309
language expression and cliches it fills

270
00:13:33,570 --> 00:13:39,750
our history books and guides our

271
00:13:35,309 --> 00:13:42,299

politics and quote in not teaching our

272

00:13:39,750 --> 00:13:43,960

kids comparative religion do we run the

273

00:13:42,299 --> 00:13:46,629

risk of doing them a

274

00:13:43,960 --> 00:13:48,300

service by possibly denying them a

275

00:13:46,629 --> 00:13:52,659

deeper understanding of history

276

00:13:48,299 --> 00:13:55,029

philosophy art architecture and the rest

277

00:13:52,659 --> 00:13:59,110

of the aforementioned areas of culture

278

00:13:55,029 --> 00:14:01,389

and aspects of everyday life the author

279

00:13:59,110 --> 00:14:02,740

is supportive of parents who expose

280

00:14:01,389 --> 00:14:05,860

their children at an age appropriate

281

00:14:02,740 --> 00:14:08,230

level two religions and beliefs as well

282

00:14:05,860 --> 00:14:10,240

as non religious philosophies of all

283

00:14:08,230 --> 00:14:11,889

kinds in a manner that invites

284

00:14:10,240 --> 00:14:14,289

questioning tolerance and an

285

00:14:11,889 --> 00:14:16,360

understanding of how religion or non

286

00:14:14,289 --> 00:14:19,929

religion fits into their own culture and

287

00:14:16,360 --> 00:14:22,419

others she argues that in resisting the

288

00:14:19,929 --> 00:14:25,019

urge to sway our children's beliefs and

289

00:14:22,419 --> 00:14:28,000

opinions so that they align with our own

290

00:14:25,019 --> 00:14:30,159

we are empowering them by allowing them

291

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:32,830

to realize that their own opinions are

292

00:14:30,159 --> 00:14:35,139

important and that the process by which

293

00:14:32,830 --> 00:14:39,009

they come to form those opinions is

294

00:14:35,139 --> 00:14:40,960

equally if not more important it is this

295

00:14:39,009 --> 00:14:43,569

process of critical thinking that

296

00:14:40,960 --> 00:14:45,610

parents can teach their kids and in so

297

00:14:43,570 --> 00:14:47,800

doing trust that their kids will form

298

00:14:45,610 --> 00:14:52,149

their own world views with intelligence

299

00:14:47,799 --> 00:14:54,459

and a healthy dose of skepticism she

300
00:14:52,149 --> 00:14:57,159
gives practical tips on how to talk to

301
00:14:54,460 --> 00:14:58,930
kids for example not to overwhelm them

302
00:14:57,159 --> 00:15:01,750
with information but rather let the

303
00:14:58,929 --> 00:15:04,629
child take the lead and ask questions as

304
00:15:01,750 --> 00:15:07,870
they come up to use opportunities in

305
00:15:04,629 --> 00:15:09,639
everyday life to educate and inform for

306
00:15:07,870 --> 00:15:11,850
instance if a child sees a person

307
00:15:09,639 --> 00:15:14,799
dressed in traditional religious attire

308
00:15:11,850 --> 00:15:16,810
use that as an example to talk to the

309
00:15:14,799 --> 00:15:18,759
child about why they dress that way and

310
00:15:16,809 --> 00:15:22,899
the basis of the beliefs that lead them

311
00:15:18,759 --> 00:15:25,509
to do so to recognize not only Christmas

312
00:15:22,899 --> 00:15:28,329
and Easter but all religious holidays

313
00:15:25,509 --> 00:15:32,830
and educate them about what they mean to

314

00:15:28,330 --> 00:15:35,670
those groups of people the book is 173

315
00:15:32,830 --> 00:15:38,139
pages of easy-to-read practical and

316
00:15:35,669 --> 00:15:41,949
informative information for parents who

317
00:15:38,139 --> 00:15:45,069
are unsure of how to or how not to bring

318
00:15:41,950 --> 00:15:47,710
their kids up with religion it's written

319
00:15:45,070 --> 00:15:49,960
in the style of one parent talking to

320
00:15:47,710 --> 00:15:52,629
another parent with examples of the

321
00:15:49,960 --> 00:15:55,110
authors and others experiences thrown in

322
00:15:52,629 --> 00:15:57,759
to illustrate some of the points made

323
00:15:55,110 --> 00:16:00,100
it's useful also for those

324
00:15:57,759 --> 00:16:02,100
who are religious in opening up avenues

325
00:16:00,100 --> 00:16:04,480
of thought about religious tolerance

326
00:16:02,100 --> 00:16:07,210
giving them an understanding about what

327
00:16:04,480 --> 00:16:09,009
secular parents may be worried about in

328
00:16:07,210 --> 00:16:12,310

relation to their children's religious

329

00:16:09,009 --> 00:16:15,009
upbringing or lack thereof and as he's

330

00:16:12,309 --> 00:16:17,949
mentioned in the book basic guidelines

331

00:16:15,009 --> 00:16:23,019
about how not to be a dick about the

332

00:16:17,950 --> 00:16:25,690
subject I have so far avoided taking my

333

00:16:23,019 --> 00:16:27,460
children to a church because of an

334

00:16:25,690 --> 00:16:29,740
incident that occurred at my son's

335

00:16:27,460 --> 00:16:32,230
school during the one and only religious

336

00:16:29,740 --> 00:16:34,810
education session he had at his

337

00:16:32,230 --> 00:16:38,470
government school he was five years old

338

00:16:34,809 --> 00:16:40,239
and came home visibly upset I finally

339

00:16:38,470 --> 00:16:44,889
got it out of him that he had been told

340

00:16:40,240 --> 00:16:47,470
that Jesus died for his sins even now

341

00:16:44,889 --> 00:16:50,470
three years later he sometimes brings

342

00:16:47,470 --> 00:16:53,529
that up still unsure of how he might

343
00:16:50,470 --> 00:16:56,830
have caused someone else to die despite

344
00:16:53,529 --> 00:16:58,269
my efforts at reassuring him I'm now in

345
00:16:56,830 --> 00:17:00,070
a position where I've realized that I

346
00:16:58,269 --> 00:17:02,559
want to be the one in charge of his

347
00:17:00,070 --> 00:17:04,360
religious education I want to be the one

348
00:17:02,559 --> 00:17:07,509
to guide him and his brother in this

349
00:17:04,359 --> 00:17:09,669
it's too important to ignore it's too

350
00:17:07,509 --> 00:17:12,338
important to be scared of it or heaven

351
00:17:09,670 --> 00:17:16,180
forbid excuse the pun leave it up to

352
00:17:12,338 --> 00:17:17,980
others to do it it's certainly not only

353
00:17:16,180 --> 00:17:20,350
Christianity that I will be talking to

354
00:17:17,980 --> 00:17:22,959
them about I'll tell them the good the

355
00:17:20,349 --> 00:17:26,129
bad and the ugly at appropriate times

356
00:17:22,959 --> 00:17:28,690
I'll educate myself more in the process

357
00:17:26,130 --> 00:17:31,510
about the different religions and try to

358
00:17:28,690 --> 00:17:33,519
be as honest with them as I can letting

359
00:17:31,509 --> 00:17:36,039
their critical thinking skills develop

360
00:17:33,519 --> 00:17:39,250
without trying to sway them in any one

361
00:17:36,039 --> 00:17:41,649
direction I need to let them see that I

362
00:17:39,250 --> 00:17:44,349
value their opinions their questions and

363
00:17:41,650 --> 00:17:47,950
that as their mum I will support them

364
00:17:44,349 --> 00:17:51,599
throughout except if they decide to

365
00:17:47,950 --> 00:17:56,170
study homeopathy then all bets are off

366
00:17:51,599 --> 00:17:58,089
just kidding I'm taking baby steps and

367
00:17:56,170 --> 00:17:59,830
like a toddler taking baby steps I'm

368
00:17:58,089 --> 00:18:02,740
sure I'll trip up along the way and

369
00:17:59,829 --> 00:18:05,349
probably have the odd tantrum hopefully

370
00:18:02,740 --> 00:18:07,870
not in front of the kids I've already

371

00:18:05,349 --> 00:18:11,339
got Daniel Loxton 'he's evolution book

372
00:18:07,869 --> 00:18:14,159
for kids and right alongside it is

373
00:18:11,339 --> 00:18:17,849
runs book of world religions they'll be

374
00:18:14,160 --> 00:18:20,190
getting the lot including pastafarian

375
00:18:17,849 --> 00:18:23,009
ism I'm sure the flying spaghetti

376
00:18:20,190 --> 00:18:27,210
monster will delight them as much as it

377
00:18:23,009 --> 00:18:29,579
has for me so once again if you're

378
00:18:27,210 --> 00:18:32,519
interested the book is relax it's just

379
00:18:29,579 --> 00:18:34,679
God how and why to talk to your kids

380
00:18:32,519 --> 00:18:39,569
about religion when you're not religious

381
00:18:34,680 --> 00:18:42,060
bye Wendy thomas russell if you're a

382
00:18:39,569 --> 00:18:43,980
parent how have you tackled the religion

383
00:18:42,059 --> 00:18:46,559
and kids thing if you're not a parent

384
00:18:43,980 --> 00:18:48,660
what do you think if you're a skeptic

385
00:18:46,559 --> 00:18:51,599

and hold religious beliefs what are your

386

00:18:48,660 --> 00:18:54,540

thoughts if you'd like to share your own

387

00:18:51,599 --> 00:18:56,369

opinions and/or experiences about

388

00:18:54,539 --> 00:18:58,879

bringing kids up with or without

389

00:18:56,369 --> 00:19:01,769

religion we'd love to hear from you

390

00:18:58,880 --> 00:19:04,350

visit the skeptic zone podcast on

391

00:19:01,769 --> 00:19:06,920

facebook and leave your comments on the

392

00:19:04,349 --> 00:19:09,419

thread we will post on this subject

393

00:19:06,920 --> 00:19:13,050

alternatively the skeptic zone can be

394

00:19:09,420 --> 00:19:20,610

found on twitter as can I at the twitter

395

00:19:13,049 --> 00:19:26,159

handle heidi howdy which is hidi h.o.w d

396

00:19:20,609 --> 00:19:28,619

I thanks everyone bye for now I'm off to

397

00:19:26,160 --> 00:19:37,050

put a colander on my head and play with

398

00:19:28,619 --> 00:19:40,439

the kids on Maynard calm da are you a

399

00:19:37,049 --> 00:19:42,779

burger why the inner city is even

400
00:19:40,440 --> 00:19:45,120
involved in making decisions about what

401
00:19:42,779 --> 00:19:46,680
happens in the country it eludes me

402
00:19:45,119 --> 00:19:49,079
somebody said all your butt fracking

403
00:19:46,680 --> 00:19:52,259
gets into the water systems does it

404
00:19:49,079 --> 00:19:54,179
prove it no doubt you already got your

405
00:19:52,259 --> 00:19:56,279
umbrage on you've got your chest puffed

406
00:19:54,180 --> 00:19:58,200
out and you can't believe that someone

407
00:19:56,279 --> 00:20:01,410
would say this the trouble with fracking

408
00:19:58,200 --> 00:20:06,210
is it's still going on and its ongoing

409
00:20:01,410 --> 00:20:09,600
and the problems it's causing are yet to

410
00:20:06,210 --> 00:20:11,610
be clearly defined you clearly define

411
00:20:09,599 --> 00:20:13,980
those and no government will be able to

412
00:20:11,609 --> 00:20:16,469
allow it at the moment there's too much

413
00:20:13,980 --> 00:20:20,069
wiggle room in the effects of fracking

414
00:20:16,470 --> 00:20:23,039
so nail it and then when the the

415
00:20:20,069 --> 00:20:23,950
argument but at the moment farmers many

416
00:20:23,039 --> 00:20:26,138
of them are

417
00:20:23,950 --> 00:20:28,330
with fracking because it's keeping them

418
00:20:26,138 --> 00:20:30,609
alive thanks very much to all those

419
00:20:28,329 --> 00:20:32,589
people in the inner city but start

420
00:20:30,609 --> 00:20:34,418
putting your thinking caps on and get

421
00:20:32,589 --> 00:20:36,308
out of your VW and start walking like

422
00:20:34,419 --> 00:20:40,320
real people quickly let's move on to

423
00:20:36,308 --> 00:20:40,319
something this controversial religion Oh

424
00:20:41,519 --> 00:20:49,538
what's gonna happen now on Manor calm da

425
00:20:45,669 --> 00:20:51,519
are you welcome to a week in science

426
00:20:49,538 --> 00:20:53,710
from our iOS bringing you the science

427
00:20:51,519 --> 00:20:56,319
you need to know the moon landing was

428

00:20:53,710 --> 00:20:58,298
faked 9-11 was an inside job and Barack

429
00:20:56,319 --> 00:20:59,950
Obama was born in Kenya what do these

430
00:20:58,298 --> 00:21:02,138
things have in common well the

431
00:20:59,950 --> 00:21:07,899
conspiracy theories so why do people

432
00:21:02,138 --> 00:21:09,819
fall for such falsehoods we've all had

433
00:21:07,898 --> 00:21:12,069
outlandish tales of aliens the

434
00:21:09,819 --> 00:21:14,079
Illuminati and lizard people but to

435
00:21:12,069 --> 00:21:16,750
really be considered a conspiracy theory

436
00:21:14,079 --> 00:21:19,199
the Act has to be secret planned and

437
00:21:16,750 --> 00:21:22,179
performed by a group with sinister aims

438
00:21:19,200 --> 00:21:24,220
the scientific method doesn't apply for

439
00:21:22,179 --> 00:21:26,350
conspiracy theorists as research has

440
00:21:24,220 --> 00:21:28,329
found their immune to evidence and any

441
00:21:26,349 --> 00:21:30,879
facts will be twisted to fit with the

442
00:21:28,329 --> 00:21:34,349

conspiracy theory no one of any age

443

00:21:30,880 --> 00:21:37,419

gender race income politics education

444

00:21:34,349 --> 00:21:39,308

occupation or intelligence level is more

445

00:21:37,419 --> 00:21:41,470

or less likely to believe in conspiracy

446

00:21:39,308 --> 00:21:42,970

theories but which conspiracy theories

447

00:21:41,470 --> 00:21:45,250

people believe in a more predictable

448

00:21:42,970 --> 00:21:47,230

those on the right wing tend not to

449

00:21:45,250 --> 00:21:49,240

trust institutions like universities and

450

00:21:47,230 --> 00:21:50,919

though the left of the spectrum are more

451

00:21:49,240 --> 00:21:55,659

likely to place blame on capitalist

452

00:21:50,919 --> 00:21:57,580

corporations while conspiracy theories

453

00:21:55,659 --> 00:21:59,320

themselves are immune to evidence the

454

00:21:57,579 --> 00:22:01,599

psychology behind why people believe

455

00:21:59,319 --> 00:22:03,548

them is not research has shown that

456

00:22:01,599 --> 00:22:05,648

conspiracy theories give people a sense

457
00:22:03,548 --> 00:22:07,960
of control often much needed after

458
00:22:05,648 --> 00:22:10,148
disasters or traumatic events which can

459
00:22:07,960 --> 00:22:12,639
cause stress anxiety and a loss of

460
00:22:10,148 --> 00:22:14,558
control conspiracy theorists are also

461
00:22:12,638 --> 00:22:17,079
more likely to experience cognitive

462
00:22:14,558 --> 00:22:19,599
dissonance this is the mental discomfort

463
00:22:17,079 --> 00:22:21,278
of holding two conflicting views the

464
00:22:19,599 --> 00:22:23,129
theories help explain how two different

465
00:22:21,278 --> 00:22:25,028
things could both be possible and

466
00:22:23,130 --> 00:22:27,340
conspiracy theorists are prone to

467
00:22:25,028 --> 00:22:29,380
confirmation bias where you tend to only

468
00:22:27,339 --> 00:22:31,538
notice evidence which already supports

469
00:22:29,380 --> 00:22:32,889
your opinion well I'm pretty confident

470
00:22:31,538 --> 00:22:36,069
we don't have to bust out the tinfoil

471
00:22:32,888 --> 00:22:37,148
hats just yet but to be on the safe side

472
00:22:36,069 --> 00:22:39,249
I

473
00:22:37,148 --> 00:22:41,858
one welcome our new insect overlords and

474
00:22:39,249 --> 00:22:46,329
now for fast facts about conspiracy

475
00:22:41,858 --> 00:22:48,519
theories the term conspiracy theory has

476
00:22:46,329 --> 00:22:51,088
been in use for over a century making

477
00:22:48,519 --> 00:22:53,710
its first confirmed appearance in 1909

478
00:22:51,088 --> 00:22:55,178
originally a neutral term in the wake of

479
00:22:53,710 --> 00:22:57,819
president john f kennedy's assassination

480
00:22:55,179 --> 00:22:59,979
the phrase began to develop its current

481
00:22:57,819 --> 00:23:01,628
connotation with paranoia the most

482
00:22:59,979 --> 00:23:03,249
reliable way to predict whether someone

483
00:23:01,628 --> 00:23:05,228
will believe in a conspiracy theory is

484
00:23:03,249 --> 00:23:07,298
that they believe in other conspiracy

485

00:23:05,229 --> 00:23:09,338
theories one quick way to debunk a

486
00:23:07,298 --> 00:23:11,528
conspiracy theory is to ask does it

487
00:23:09,338 --> 00:23:14,138
affect the rich and powerful if so it's

488
00:23:11,528 --> 00:23:16,450
likely just a theory that's it for this

489
00:23:14,138 --> 00:23:18,579
week in science for more information on

490
00:23:16,450 --> 00:23:23,200
conspiracy theories go to the RI odds

491
00:23:18,579 --> 00:23:25,538
website RI aus org dot a you follow us

492
00:23:23,200 --> 00:23:27,819
on twitter at our iOS and like us on

493
00:23:25,538 --> 00:23:30,838
Facebook I'm Casey Harrigan and we'll

494
00:23:27,819 --> 00:23:30,838
catch you next week

495
00:23:43,460 --> 00:23:47,640
hi there Rose Bowl chair with an

496
00:23:45,839 --> 00:23:50,189
Australian skeptics National Convention

497
00:23:47,640 --> 00:23:51,810
update this week we are excited to

498
00:23:50,190 --> 00:23:54,480
announce our final group of speakers

499
00:23:51,809 --> 00:23:57,029

from the USA we are joined by veteran

500

00:23:54,480 --> 00:23:58,890

skeptic campaigner Eugenie Scott we're

501

00:23:57,029 --> 00:24:01,079

also pleased to welcome fear Clark in

502

00:23:58,890 --> 00:24:02,970

Chrissy Wilson Dave Hawks will be

503

00:24:01,079 --> 00:24:04,710

joining our parenting skeptically panel

504

00:24:02,970 --> 00:24:06,630

and I am pleased to introduce your host

505

00:24:04,710 --> 00:24:09,090

for the event imaginary friend show

506

00:24:06,630 --> 00:24:10,740

producer Jake far Wharton and skeptical

507

00:24:09,089 --> 00:24:13,740

activist and writer chris stevenson

508

00:24:10,740 --> 00:24:16,680

don't forget our other speakers Brian

509

00:24:13,740 --> 00:24:19,769

Schmidt Joe Nickell Susan Kovac miles

510

00:24:16,680 --> 00:24:22,680

power Lynn Kelly catan Joshi Loretta

511

00:24:19,769 --> 00:24:25,410

Marin John Cook Mel Thompson Peter

512

00:24:22,680 --> 00:24:27,330

Ellerton cigna k Nepali worland and our

513

00:24:25,410 --> 00:24:29,640

parenting skeptically panel Joe

514
00:24:27,329 --> 00:24:31,500
alabaster Lauren Cochran and Allison

515
00:24:29,640 --> 00:24:33,450
Gaylord i'll also be giving a

516
00:24:31,500 --> 00:24:35,609
presentation make sure you arrive in

517
00:24:33,450 --> 00:24:37,680
Brisbane early hour Friday skeptic amp

518
00:24:35,609 --> 00:24:39,569
speaker roster is fully booked with some

519
00:24:37,680 --> 00:24:41,580
great submissions and the welcome event

520
00:24:39,569 --> 00:24:44,099
has an evening packed with entertainment

521
00:24:41,579 --> 00:24:47,279
tickets are on sale now at convention

522
00:24:44,099 --> 00:24:49,409
brisbane skeptics dog ensure your seat

523
00:24:47,279 --> 00:24:51,359
at the front row with our premium and

524
00:24:49,410 --> 00:24:52,950
early bird tickets do you want to help a

525
00:24:51,359 --> 00:24:55,469
student or pension to attend the event

526
00:24:52,950 --> 00:24:57,809
you can donate a half or full concession

527
00:24:55,470 --> 00:24:59,430
ticket the Australian Skeptics National

528
00:24:57,809 --> 00:25:01,289
convention will take place on the

529
00:24:59,430 --> 00:25:05,029
sixteenth to the 18th of October this

530
00:25:01,289 --> 00:25:05,029
year in Brisbane see you there

531
00:25:11,700 --> 00:25:16,058
what should be skeptical of at the

532
00:25:14,409 --> 00:25:17,830
moment of their particular thing so I

533
00:25:16,058 --> 00:25:19,989
cuz i think is almost like trends and

534
00:25:17,829 --> 00:25:22,598
things we need to be skeptical oh oh

535
00:25:19,989 --> 00:25:24,129
there's certain things it might be you

536
00:25:22,598 --> 00:25:26,499
know maybe one point with tarot card

537
00:25:24,128 --> 00:25:29,408
readers and it's kind of spoon bending

538
00:25:26,499 --> 00:25:32,169
maybe now it's kind of like the kind of

539
00:25:29,409 --> 00:25:33,489
people that are contacting your deceased

540
00:25:32,169 --> 00:25:35,139
relatives although I think those are

541
00:25:33,489 --> 00:25:36,909
mediums have been around for a while but

542

00:25:35,138 --> 00:25:38,378
this needs to be television versions of

543
00:25:36,909 --> 00:25:40,659
that which perfectly popular at the

544
00:25:38,378 --> 00:25:42,398
moment so you may have some ideas their

545
00:25:40,659 --> 00:25:44,080
arm of things you've noticed we should

546
00:25:42,398 --> 00:25:45,969
be a perhaps a little skeptical off and

547
00:25:44,079 --> 00:25:48,098
then I'm also intrigued about what's the

548
00:25:45,970 --> 00:25:51,190
sort of is there a sort of level of

549
00:25:48,098 --> 00:25:52,388
skepticism that is a healthy level and

550
00:25:51,190 --> 00:25:54,369
at some point do you have to have a

551
00:25:52,388 --> 00:25:56,498
certain amount of trust and belief or

552
00:25:54,368 --> 00:25:59,108
you know should you just always be

553
00:25:56,499 --> 00:26:01,149
skeptical the good news is that I've got

554
00:25:59,108 --> 00:26:03,538
Richard Saunders is a life member and

555
00:26:01,148 --> 00:26:05,918
former president Australian skeptics to

556
00:26:03,538 --> 00:26:09,009

discuss these things with as well as you

557

00:26:05,919 --> 00:26:11,139

you can call 1 300 ripple 2702 if you'd

558

00:26:09,009 --> 00:26:12,819

like to if you'd like to join us our

559

00:26:11,138 --> 00:26:15,339

Richard Saunders good afternoon good

560

00:26:12,819 --> 00:26:17,829

afternoon again it's been a long time in

561

00:26:15,339 --> 00:26:23,288

fact i was on the afternoon show 25

562

00:26:17,829 --> 00:26:25,658

years ago doing origami with you this is

563

00:26:23,288 --> 00:26:29,378

the kids through the kids TV show is

564

00:26:25,659 --> 00:26:30,909

funny were you an origami expert i came

565

00:26:29,378 --> 00:26:32,648

in there was a section called keep it

566

00:26:30,909 --> 00:26:34,330

clean or something like that and you

567

00:26:32,648 --> 00:26:35,978

were suggesting instead of throwing

568

00:26:34,329 --> 00:26:37,839

paper away we could recycle it by

569

00:26:35,979 --> 00:26:39,700

turning it into Oregon Hadji that was

570

00:26:37,839 --> 00:26:40,808

that there was a genius idea it was why

571
00:26:39,700 --> 00:26:45,220
wasn't that picked up at a national

572
00:26:40,808 --> 00:26:47,348
level i would thats very very funny uh

573
00:26:45,220 --> 00:26:49,960
Richard will lovely to talk to you again

574
00:26:47,348 --> 00:26:53,618
think of it let's do this every 25 years

575
00:26:49,960 --> 00:26:55,028
uh what so you the national conventions

576
00:26:53,618 --> 00:26:57,668
on what kind of things are only on the

577
00:26:55,028 --> 00:27:00,579
menu there everything from Consumer

578
00:26:57,669 --> 00:27:02,619
Affairs too spooky things to talking

579
00:27:00,579 --> 00:27:04,418
with the dead maybe alternative medicine

580
00:27:02,618 --> 00:27:06,428
certainly gets a mention in there in

581
00:27:04,419 --> 00:27:08,349
fact we're really lucky this year we've

582
00:27:06,429 --> 00:27:09,669
got some of the the checkout people the

583
00:27:08,348 --> 00:27:11,950
chase of people coming along for a

584
00:27:09,669 --> 00:27:13,570
consumer affairs panel with choice

585
00:27:11,950 --> 00:27:16,330
magazine looking forward to that yeah

586
00:27:13,569 --> 00:27:18,608
yep so skip your skepticism is not just

587
00:27:16,329 --> 00:27:21,158
say the paranormal all the old or the

588
00:27:18,608 --> 00:27:23,378
spooky your skepticism the Australian

589
00:27:21,159 --> 00:27:24,340
skeptics are about being well informed

590
00:27:23,378 --> 00:27:26,798
in all area

591
00:27:24,339 --> 00:27:28,928
that it absolutely i mean at hard the

592
00:27:26,798 --> 00:27:32,168
core and the reason we really formed

593
00:27:28,929 --> 00:27:34,000
over 30 years ago was the paranormal

594
00:27:32,169 --> 00:27:35,620
people were skeptical of the claims of

595
00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:38,319
the paranormal talking to the dead

596
00:27:35,619 --> 00:27:40,479
ghosts all that sort of stuff but over

597
00:27:38,319 --> 00:27:43,470
the years its encompassed a wide range

598
00:27:40,480 --> 00:27:46,179
of things a lot to do with claims of

599

00:27:43,470 --> 00:27:47,769
alternative medicine and the more and

600
00:27:46,179 --> 00:27:49,720
more consumer affairs I mean if you buy

601
00:27:47,769 --> 00:27:51,308
a product like choice magazine save is

602
00:27:49,720 --> 00:27:54,460
it if it's a shock then it should be

603
00:27:51,308 --> 00:27:56,528
called out mmm the I mean when I was

604
00:27:54,460 --> 00:27:58,659
form do you think the paranormal was

605
00:27:56,528 --> 00:28:00,159
more vigorous in a way or an interest in

606
00:27:58,659 --> 00:28:02,770
the paranormal is more more vigorous

607
00:28:00,159 --> 00:28:04,600
yeah it's never it's never completely

608
00:28:02,769 --> 00:28:06,579
gone away there are still lots of people

609
00:28:04,599 --> 00:28:08,798
out there who consult tarot card readers

610
00:28:06,579 --> 00:28:10,418
and go to astrologers or fortune tellers

611
00:28:08,798 --> 00:28:14,470
or even think people can talk with a

612
00:28:10,419 --> 00:28:16,679
dead and that's that that's something

613
00:28:14,470 --> 00:28:19,990

that's really hard to get on top of but

614

00:28:16,679 --> 00:28:22,120

we have really important issues you

615

00:28:19,990 --> 00:28:24,190

might say like the the vaccine deniers

616

00:28:22,119 --> 00:28:25,689

people who are encouraging parents not

617

00:28:24,190 --> 00:28:28,899

to vaccinate their children against

618

00:28:25,690 --> 00:28:31,210

deadly diseases we find something that

619

00:28:28,898 --> 00:28:33,129

deserves our attention right and is that

620

00:28:31,210 --> 00:28:36,130

is that really would you rather have a

621

00:28:33,130 --> 00:28:38,919

focus on that then the then the ghosts

622

00:28:36,130 --> 00:28:40,210

ah personally I like the old-fashioned

623

00:28:38,919 --> 00:28:42,370

stuff that's why it's a big organization

624

00:28:40,210 --> 00:28:47,319

we've got people who can specialize I

625

00:28:42,369 --> 00:28:49,359

certainly thinks very strongly about the

626

00:28:47,319 --> 00:28:51,099

vaccination issue my itself in fact I

627

00:28:49,359 --> 00:28:53,469

made a free documentary which is online

628
00:28:51,099 --> 00:28:54,819
called the vaccination Chronicles and if

629
00:28:53,470 --> 00:28:57,100
you google that or YouTube that you'll

630
00:28:54,819 --> 00:28:59,288
find that all about vaccination but it's

631
00:28:57,099 --> 00:29:02,408
hard I love the old-fashioned type

632
00:28:59,288 --> 00:29:04,148
talking to the dead and mind reading and

633
00:29:02,409 --> 00:29:07,120
all that sort of stuff hang on you

634
00:29:04,148 --> 00:29:10,239
saying people can't do that I'm saying

635
00:29:07,119 --> 00:29:12,849
that the evidence is really crummy yeah

636
00:29:10,240 --> 00:29:17,079
but so you know I've seen a guy do it

637
00:29:12,849 --> 00:29:18,730
have you well look look to prove that

638
00:29:17,079 --> 00:29:20,710
we're not just a bunch of Wales is out

639
00:29:18,730 --> 00:29:23,528
there to spoil everybody's day we have a

640
00:29:20,710 --> 00:29:25,480
prize of a hundred thousand dollars to

641
00:29:23,528 --> 00:29:28,179
the first person who can show us under

642
00:29:25,480 --> 00:29:30,360
mutually agreed fair conditions all

643
00:29:28,179 --> 00:29:33,730
above board that they can do any

644
00:29:30,359 --> 00:29:35,949
paranormal or supernatural claim so all

645
00:29:33,730 --> 00:29:37,650
I have to do is you know turn up to the

646
00:29:35,950 --> 00:29:39,029
lab and

647
00:29:37,650 --> 00:29:41,130
is the objects around or read someone's

648
00:29:39,029 --> 00:29:43,410
mind or you know predict the fall of the

649
00:29:41,130 --> 00:29:45,240
cards and there's \$100,000 yet not even

650
00:29:43,410 --> 00:29:47,220
the lab they can do it in the comfort of

651
00:29:45,240 --> 00:29:49,500
their own home as long as everyone's

652
00:29:47,220 --> 00:29:51,870
happy with the conditions and you think

653
00:29:49,500 --> 00:29:53,549
after 30 plus years somebody would have

654
00:29:51,869 --> 00:29:56,489
collected the money by now notice the

655
00:29:53,549 --> 00:29:58,349
tests are designed for them to pass

656

00:29:56,490 --> 00:30:01,529
right if they have the powers right

657
00:29:58,349 --> 00:30:03,740
haven't found anyone yet not yet but the

658
00:30:01,529 --> 00:30:06,059
prizes there and if somebody gets it

659
00:30:03,740 --> 00:30:07,920
we'd be over the moon because it would

660
00:30:06,059 --> 00:30:09,960
mean that be a whole new branch of

661
00:30:07,920 --> 00:30:12,390
science open up and there'd be Nobel

662
00:30:09,960 --> 00:30:13,980
prizes in solve millions of dollars yeah

663
00:30:12,390 --> 00:30:15,900
I don't think it to be very exciting

664
00:30:13,980 --> 00:30:17,670
Richard Saunders with us from the

665
00:30:15,900 --> 00:30:19,080
Australian skeptics you might have

666
00:30:17,670 --> 00:30:20,700
something that you want to suggest we

667
00:30:19,079 --> 00:30:23,429
should be skeptical about you might have

668
00:30:20,700 --> 00:30:25,049
something that's perhaps you know it is

669
00:30:23,430 --> 00:30:27,960
a fashionable sort of thing we should be

670
00:30:25,049 --> 00:30:28,980

skeptical about Matt suggesting he's

671

00:30:27,960 --> 00:30:31,350

feeling fairly skeptical about

672

00:30:28,980 --> 00:30:34,140

superfoods and the kind of claims around

673

00:30:31,349 --> 00:30:36,000

the ancient grains Richard Saunders yeah

674

00:30:34,140 --> 00:30:38,340

that's I would be quite sceptical about

675

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:41,299

those two any fad diet any fed news

676

00:30:38,339 --> 00:30:44,609

tabloid the latest thing this product

677

00:30:41,299 --> 00:30:46,950

the good things will be ironed out over

678

00:30:44,609 --> 00:30:49,769

the years the best advice would be to

679

00:30:46,950 --> 00:30:51,569

eat a well-balanced diet quite frankly I

680

00:30:49,769 --> 00:30:53,970

don't think there are any such things as

681

00:30:51,569 --> 00:30:56,129

superfoods it's the old thing people

682

00:30:53,970 --> 00:30:57,930

would rather take a magic pill or what

683

00:30:56,130 --> 00:30:59,910

they think is a superfood then changed

684

00:30:57,930 --> 00:31:03,210

their dietary habits and just eat

685
00:30:59,910 --> 00:31:04,440
healthy food and exercise more 1 302 702

686
00:31:03,210 --> 00:31:07,650
is the number if you'd like to join us

687
00:31:04,440 --> 00:31:08,970
is it is it like a healthy level of

688
00:31:07,650 --> 00:31:11,450
skepticism you think can you be too

689
00:31:08,970 --> 00:31:14,039
skeptical Richard yeah but that's not

690
00:31:11,450 --> 00:31:16,590
then you stop being skeptical you start

691
00:31:14,039 --> 00:31:19,649
being a believer once you once you start

692
00:31:16,589 --> 00:31:21,240
believing that something is the case no

693
00:31:19,650 --> 00:31:23,759
matter what that's not being a

694
00:31:21,240 --> 00:31:26,130
skepticism a skeptic skeptic is somebody

695
00:31:23,759 --> 00:31:29,609
who's open to new evidence but they need

696
00:31:26,130 --> 00:31:31,800
a good proof so i could say I'll never

697
00:31:29,609 --> 00:31:34,139
believed in ghosts end the story go away

698
00:31:31,799 --> 00:31:36,809
that's not skeptical that's that's in

699
00:31:34,140 --> 00:31:39,180
the sense being a believer rise right so

700
00:31:36,809 --> 00:31:41,099
if someone can come along with

701
00:31:39,180 --> 00:31:43,380
convincing credible evidence for ghosts

702
00:31:41,099 --> 00:31:45,389
and I would have to change my mind it's

703
00:31:43,380 --> 00:31:48,150
as simple as that hmm i suppose what i

704
00:31:45,390 --> 00:31:50,790
mean though is like at some point you

705
00:31:48,150 --> 00:31:51,509
know it like if you're too if you're

706
00:31:50,789 --> 00:31:53,819
skeptical of

707
00:31:51,509 --> 00:31:55,950
every single moment in a sense then

708
00:31:53,819 --> 00:31:57,629
that's a that's a sort of harsh way to

709
00:31:55,950 --> 00:31:59,279
live or something or you know like this

710
00:31:57,630 --> 00:32:01,140
there'd be something that you'd be a

711
00:31:59,279 --> 00:32:03,599
hard person to be around if everything's

712
00:32:01,140 --> 00:32:06,660
being questioned at every possible time

713

00:32:03,599 --> 00:32:08,399
you would I haven't met anyone like I

714
00:32:06,660 --> 00:32:09,990
think we'd boo them out of the society

715
00:32:08,400 --> 00:32:12,690
I've quite frankly no you can't live

716
00:32:09,990 --> 00:32:14,039
life like that I mean I'm talking to you

717
00:32:12,690 --> 00:32:15,840
on the phone I might have SAT him

718
00:32:14,039 --> 00:32:17,399
through all if I touch that phone like

719
00:32:15,839 --> 00:32:19,500
it electrocuted I'm quite skeptical life

720
00:32:17,400 --> 00:32:21,600
doesn't work like that a lot of things

721
00:32:19,500 --> 00:32:23,460
you simply take as read and you get

722
00:32:21,599 --> 00:32:25,349
along with your life but when a claim

723
00:32:23,460 --> 00:32:27,420
comes along which contradicts the known

724
00:32:25,349 --> 00:32:29,189
laws of nature then your ears should

725
00:32:27,420 --> 00:32:31,500
prick up and you should be skeptical you

726
00:32:29,190 --> 00:32:33,390
should demand good evidence before you

727
00:32:31,500 --> 00:32:35,720

invest your emotions or your money into

728

00:32:33,390 --> 00:32:37,650

it mmm why are you just the Australian

729

00:32:35,720 --> 00:32:39,630

scientists group no I mean I mean

730

00:32:37,650 --> 00:32:42,900

basically you're just scientific method

731

00:32:39,630 --> 00:32:44,190

all down the line right yeah but we you

732

00:32:42,900 --> 00:32:46,620

know from the early days we've

733

00:32:44,190 --> 00:32:48,570

specialized in in the paranormal side of

734

00:32:46,619 --> 00:32:51,479

things lets you know that's the core of

735

00:32:48,569 --> 00:32:53,279

it it really grew out of the 1970s when

736

00:32:51,480 --> 00:32:55,799

people like uri geller or running around

737

00:32:53,279 --> 00:32:58,259

bending spoons and things like that and

738

00:32:55,799 --> 00:33:00,509

so do we still have is that sort of

739

00:32:58,259 --> 00:33:02,250

stuff as common as it once was spoon

740

00:33:00,509 --> 00:33:03,990

bending now you at you are for the

741

00:33:02,250 --> 00:33:06,480

younger generation what spoon bending

742
00:33:03,990 --> 00:33:07,890
illness is now look at you crazy you do

743
00:33:06,480 --> 00:33:09,839
for them they think it's a great trick

744
00:33:07,890 --> 00:33:11,940
but they haven't heard about it which

745
00:33:09,839 --> 00:33:13,529
goes to show that if it was real you

746
00:33:11,940 --> 00:33:14,910
know if the people back then could

747
00:33:13,529 --> 00:33:17,009
really bend spoons with the power of

748
00:33:14,910 --> 00:33:19,019
their mind then it would be an accepted

749
00:33:17,009 --> 00:33:20,970
part of our society now what good it

750
00:33:19,019 --> 00:33:22,529
would do I'm not sure hmm so I'm trying

751
00:33:20,970 --> 00:33:24,120
to think of the equivalent like do we

752
00:33:22,529 --> 00:33:25,769
have an equivalent of spoon bending

753
00:33:24,119 --> 00:33:28,349
today you know what the spoon bending is

754
00:33:25,769 --> 00:33:30,599
morphed into ah that's a good question

755
00:33:28,349 --> 00:33:33,539
probably talking to the dead I mean we

756
00:33:30,599 --> 00:33:35,009
get the hot shots coming out here from

757
00:33:33,539 --> 00:33:36,899
the states or whatever the case may be

758
00:33:35,009 --> 00:33:38,460
and claim they can actually talk to

759
00:33:36,900 --> 00:33:41,280
deceased people which is a pretty

760
00:33:38,460 --> 00:33:44,880
far-fetched claim they'll go on tabloid

761
00:33:41,279 --> 00:33:48,629
TV morning TV the women's magazines the

762
00:33:44,880 --> 00:33:50,570
the ok so the magazines and then they go

763
00:33:48,630 --> 00:33:54,630
home what is one of the tricks to that

764
00:33:50,569 --> 00:33:56,159
the tricks are many and various you can

765
00:33:54,630 --> 00:33:59,640
buy books about it it's a quite an

766
00:33:56,160 --> 00:34:04,259
interesting study the the thumbnail

767
00:33:59,640 --> 00:34:05,520
sketch is you ask questions and you fed

768
00:34:04,259 --> 00:34:07,140
back the information

769
00:34:05,519 --> 00:34:09,148
and then you feed that information you

770

00:34:07,140 --> 00:34:11,550
get back to the person as if you're

771
00:34:09,148 --> 00:34:13,319
getting it from divine means or from

772
00:34:11,550 --> 00:34:15,780
beyond the grave there's many many

773
00:34:13,320 --> 00:34:17,820
subtleties to it it's there are many

774
00:34:15,780 --> 00:34:20,070
ways like you could say to an audience

775
00:34:17,820 --> 00:34:21,630
I'm getting a strange sensation who is

776
00:34:20,070 --> 00:34:23,490
it I'm getting a father figure here

777
00:34:21,630 --> 00:34:26,190
who's the father figure and there's a

778
00:34:23,489 --> 00:34:29,279
red car now a father figure could mean a

779
00:34:26,190 --> 00:34:31,559
father a grandfather and uncle and older

780
00:34:29,280 --> 00:34:34,409
brother a good friend who's older a

781
00:34:31,559 --> 00:34:37,320
teacher and so on and so forth so you

782
00:34:34,409 --> 00:34:38,280
really throw out a lot of questions the

783
00:34:37,320 --> 00:34:40,080
audience and they're fed back

784
00:34:38,280 --> 00:34:42,179

information and they work from there but

785

00:34:40,079 --> 00:34:44,279

there are many ways to do it some of

786

00:34:42,179 --> 00:34:46,050

them use what we call hot reading so

787

00:34:44,280 --> 00:34:47,760

they know a little bit about the person

788

00:34:46,050 --> 00:34:50,820

before they step out onto the stage so

789

00:34:47,760 --> 00:34:51,899

they've got a bit of a leg up hmm but

790

00:34:50,820 --> 00:34:54,149

it's that sort of feeling of the

791

00:34:51,898 --> 00:34:55,409

questions and it doesn't do to us it

792

00:34:54,148 --> 00:34:56,699

doesn't look like they're doing that

793

00:34:55,409 --> 00:34:59,519

doesn't know what what you did then you

794

00:34:56,699 --> 00:35:01,859

think well I would see that that people

795

00:34:59,519 --> 00:35:04,590

don't this is really interesting people

796

00:35:01,860 --> 00:35:07,349

don't and people don't remember a

797

00:35:04,590 --> 00:35:09,690

reading the true nature of a reading

798

00:35:07,349 --> 00:35:11,909

after it's happened and though the

799

00:35:09,690 --> 00:35:13,619

questions I put before I'm sensing a

800

00:35:11,909 --> 00:35:15,359

father figure can anyone relate to that

801

00:35:13,619 --> 00:35:18,900

someone will say oh yeah my uncle Jim he

802

00:35:15,360 --> 00:35:20,820

just passed away when asked later they

803

00:35:18,900 --> 00:35:23,070

will most probably say that guy was

804

00:35:20,820 --> 00:35:25,830

amazing he contacted my uncle jim he

805

00:35:23,070 --> 00:35:27,930

knew about my uncle jim right they don't

806

00:35:25,829 --> 00:35:30,449

remember telling him yeah uncle yeah

807

00:35:27,929 --> 00:35:32,309

yeah and and that's we find that a very

808

00:35:30,449 --> 00:35:34,109

common thing but that's that's the way

809

00:35:32,309 --> 00:35:38,190

the human mind works the human mind is

810

00:35:34,110 --> 00:35:40,980

not an mp3 recorder of them an old VCR

811

00:35:38,190 --> 00:35:43,019

recorder memories reconstructions of the

812

00:35:40,980 --> 00:35:44,460

past they're not recording hmm Richard

813
00:35:43,019 --> 00:35:45,989
Saunders with us from the Australian

814
00:35:44,460 --> 00:35:48,059
skeptics yes they're still around and

815
00:35:45,989 --> 00:35:52,259
the skeptical is over 13 hundred triple

816
00:35:48,059 --> 00:35:55,049
2 702 is anima Gordon good I James look

817
00:35:52,260 --> 00:35:57,390
I think spoon bending is not too much of

818
00:35:55,050 --> 00:35:58,920
a problem it doesn't hurt anybody but I

819
00:35:57,389 --> 00:36:01,559
think the one thing that we should be

820
00:35:58,920 --> 00:36:04,110
really skeptical of is the notion

821
00:36:01,559 --> 00:36:06,630
although continuously growing economy

822
00:36:04,110 --> 00:36:08,280
hey don't use that's teresita knock that

823
00:36:06,630 --> 00:36:09,720
what are you talking about call yeah I'd

824
00:36:08,280 --> 00:36:11,550
like to know what the skeptics think

825
00:36:09,719 --> 00:36:13,709
about that one because I think all of us

826
00:36:11,550 --> 00:36:17,160
should be deeply concerned because we're

827

00:36:13,710 --> 00:36:19,300
a growing economy a continuously growing

828
00:36:17,159 --> 00:36:22,059
economies gonna spoil our planet total

829
00:36:19,300 --> 00:36:24,610
the universe is expanding Gordon why not

830
00:36:22,059 --> 00:36:27,460
the economy what a wonderful notion not

831
00:36:24,610 --> 00:36:29,440
only only I like to believe what i can

832
00:36:27,460 --> 00:36:32,650
see i think in line with most of the

833
00:36:29,440 --> 00:36:34,900
skeptics and i can't see the universe

834
00:36:32,650 --> 00:36:37,030
expanding from where i see it now that's

835
00:36:34,900 --> 00:36:39,730
true but but you know the scientists

836
00:36:37,030 --> 00:36:41,560
tell us that they are that it did it are

837
00:36:39,730 --> 00:36:43,179
and so therefore i were to think the

838
00:36:41,559 --> 00:36:45,039
economy could expand forever more to

839
00:36:43,179 --> 00:36:47,349
fill up that space at the universe it's

840
00:36:45,039 --> 00:36:49,750
providing am i right Richard Saunders it

841
00:36:47,349 --> 00:36:52,179

might well do that indeed but i'm afraid

842

00:36:49,750 --> 00:36:56,130

that expansion is out really out of our

843

00:36:52,179 --> 00:36:58,239

core level of expertise it's like we're

844

00:36:56,130 --> 00:36:59,470

analogy would be where dentist and

845

00:36:58,239 --> 00:37:01,419

someone comes along with the questions

846

00:36:59,469 --> 00:37:03,309

about the foot oh it's all very

847

00:37:01,420 --> 00:37:05,050

interesting but that's not where out

848

00:37:03,309 --> 00:37:06,610

skepticism lies are there ghosts

849

00:37:05,050 --> 00:37:08,380

involved there is there alternative

850

00:37:06,610 --> 00:37:10,630

medicine hmm we'll leave that question

851

00:37:08,380 --> 00:37:12,849

probably but the on the notion of an

852

00:37:10,630 --> 00:37:15,700

ever growing economies is that is that

853

00:37:12,849 --> 00:37:17,920

out of your yeah yeah yeah that's that's

854

00:37:15,699 --> 00:37:19,269

an interesting topic but fine for

855

00:37:17,920 --> 00:37:20,710

another day but it's not where the

856
00:37:19,269 --> 00:37:22,300
australian skeptic so place their

857
00:37:20,710 --> 00:37:25,449
interest caps for the for the economist

858
00:37:22,300 --> 00:37:26,560
1 300 triple 2 702 is that is there no

859
00:37:25,449 --> 00:37:28,480
if you're not things that you think we

860
00:37:26,559 --> 00:37:30,039
should be perhaps a skeptical about what

861
00:37:28,480 --> 00:37:33,280
you've seen people making these claims

862
00:37:30,039 --> 00:37:37,110
or saying things or or notion about how

863
00:37:33,280 --> 00:37:41,670
skeptical we should be in actual fact

864
00:37:37,110 --> 00:37:45,010
hello there are darren i can okay should

865
00:37:41,670 --> 00:37:47,860
yes oh my question is I've sort of been

866
00:37:45,010 --> 00:37:49,120
listening to a few skeptics podcasts and

867
00:37:47,860 --> 00:37:51,880
just probably for the last couple of

868
00:37:49,119 --> 00:37:53,799
years or so and i'm just wondering with

869
00:37:51,880 --> 00:37:56,800
Richards long-term experience does he

870
00:37:53,800 --> 00:38:00,039
find the internet the x access to the

871
00:37:56,800 --> 00:38:03,730
internet you know answers on tap do you

872
00:38:00,039 --> 00:38:05,980
think that provides as much BS as it

873
00:38:03,730 --> 00:38:10,119
does answers and the people sort of like

874
00:38:05,980 --> 00:38:12,849
getting believing in more you know woo

875
00:38:10,119 --> 00:38:14,799
as I like to say what do you think yeah

876
00:38:12,849 --> 00:38:16,269
what's the bosses been the effect of the

877
00:38:14,800 --> 00:38:18,760
of the internet on our skepticism

878
00:38:16,269 --> 00:38:20,050
Richard both sides or it hinders both

879
00:38:18,760 --> 00:38:23,050
sides if you want to look at it that way

880
00:38:20,050 --> 00:38:25,120
it's a it's the most marvelous resource

881
00:38:23,050 --> 00:38:26,920
the planet the human society has ever

882
00:38:25,119 --> 00:38:30,849
known for information but that

883
00:38:26,920 --> 00:38:33,190
information is a mixed bag and as long

884

00:38:30,849 --> 00:38:34,900
as you approach it careful

885
00:38:33,190 --> 00:38:37,679
and with a certain amount of skepticism

886
00:38:34,900 --> 00:38:40,858
and you're diligent the internet is

887
00:38:37,679 --> 00:38:43,419
overflowing with really good information

888
00:38:40,858 --> 00:38:45,699
you just have to weed out the bad

889
00:38:43,420 --> 00:38:47,800
information not always easy not always

890
00:38:45,699 --> 00:38:50,108
easy and I think if you're looking for

891
00:38:47,800 --> 00:38:51,519
that which will confirm your view you

892
00:38:50,108 --> 00:38:52,838
will find it and then you will say but

893
00:38:51,519 --> 00:38:55,329
it's on the internet a very reputable

894
00:38:52,838 --> 00:38:56,739
site on a reputable site this is the

895
00:38:55,329 --> 00:38:59,560
informations the scientific information

896
00:38:56,739 --> 00:39:01,358
we all do that we all we all tend to

897
00:38:59,559 --> 00:39:03,519
look for information that confirms what

898
00:39:01,358 --> 00:39:06,909

we want to be true anyway that is part

899

00:39:03,519 --> 00:39:09,579

of being human mmm is it um you know are

900

00:39:06,909 --> 00:39:11,409

we is it a personality type to have a

901

00:39:09,579 --> 00:39:13,390

skeptical questioning mind somebody who

902

00:39:11,409 --> 00:39:15,578

wants the evidence somebody who is who

903

00:39:13,389 --> 00:39:18,219

is open to change and so therefore

904

00:39:15,579 --> 00:39:20,140

that's or is it something that is

905

00:39:18,219 --> 00:39:22,838

educated in to us do we do we learner

906

00:39:20,139 --> 00:39:24,338

there's a part of our if educated world

907

00:39:22,838 --> 00:39:27,789

and that's how we should end up isn't it

908

00:39:24,338 --> 00:39:29,858

yeah ideally i mean i've been in the the

909

00:39:27,789 --> 00:39:32,409

skeptical spheres now for quite a long

910

00:39:29,858 --> 00:39:35,529

time and i have met all sorts of people

911

00:39:32,409 --> 00:39:37,629

you can't peg somebody and say this is a

912

00:39:35,530 --> 00:39:40,690

skeptical personality type we have all

913
00:39:37,630 --> 00:39:42,789
sorts of people all nationalities both

914
00:39:40,690 --> 00:39:45,519
genders and other genders if they're out

915
00:39:42,789 --> 00:39:48,818
there and size and shapes and creeds and

916
00:39:45,519 --> 00:39:50,940
everyone all walks of life I make

917
00:39:48,818 --> 00:39:54,130
skeptics around the world so you I

918
00:39:50,940 --> 00:39:56,230
imagine it's access to good information

919
00:39:54,130 --> 00:39:58,720
I think I think I've said that my you

920
00:39:56,230 --> 00:40:00,159
know if I think of the basics of my high

921
00:39:58,719 --> 00:40:02,139
school education without in worrying

922
00:40:00,159 --> 00:40:03,789
about University it was scientific

923
00:40:02,139 --> 00:40:06,368
method it was critical thinking in

924
00:40:03,789 --> 00:40:08,769
English this kind of thing so to me at

925
00:40:06,369 --> 00:40:10,450
the end of that period I was being told

926
00:40:08,769 --> 00:40:12,818
by the entire education system that I

927

00:40:10,449 --> 00:40:15,250
should be of a questioning mind why

928

00:40:12,818 --> 00:40:16,599
isn't everyone that's a good question i

929

00:40:15,250 --> 00:40:20,679
think partly because it's a lot easier

930

00:40:16,599 --> 00:40:22,720
not to be the default the position of

931

00:40:20,679 --> 00:40:26,949
the human brain when you hear something

932

00:40:22,719 --> 00:40:29,500
is to believe it and it takes a little

933

00:40:26,949 --> 00:40:31,629
bit extra effort to then start to

934

00:40:29,500 --> 00:40:33,429
question things it's just easier to

935

00:40:31,630 --> 00:40:35,019
believe interesting things you here and

936

00:40:33,429 --> 00:40:37,029
just say oh that must be true i heard it

937

00:40:35,019 --> 00:40:39,190
on the TV or the radio or i read it on

938

00:40:37,030 --> 00:40:41,470
the internet and you don't have to think

939

00:40:39,190 --> 00:40:43,568
much about it mmm Richard Saunders with

940

00:40:41,469 --> 00:40:46,179
us from the Australian skeptics Martin

941

00:40:43,568 --> 00:40:47,079
what did you want to raise Fisher said

942
00:40:46,179 --> 00:40:50,978
he was

943
00:40:47,079 --> 00:40:54,039
gets call about the anti-vaccine I

944
00:40:50,978 --> 00:40:59,618
wondered where they stood with all the

945
00:40:54,039 --> 00:41:02,410
renewable energy there was what has been

946
00:40:59,619 --> 00:41:04,959
proven now to have been a Neil founded

947
00:41:02,409 --> 00:41:08,108
story about wind turbine illness like

948
00:41:04,958 --> 00:41:11,440
that so I just wondered where they stood

949
00:41:08,108 --> 00:41:14,409
on some of the arguments that are being

950
00:41:11,440 --> 00:41:15,999
given against renewable energy hmm wind

951
00:41:14,409 --> 00:41:17,558
turbine illnesses perhaps in particular

952
00:41:15,998 --> 00:41:18,968
Richard that's a that's a very

953
00:41:17,559 --> 00:41:21,339
interesting one there is no credible

954
00:41:18,969 --> 00:41:24,028
evidence to suggest that people get sick

955
00:41:21,338 --> 00:41:27,219

because of wind turbines they might

956

00:41:24,028 --> 00:41:30,849
report horrible effects and feeling

957

00:41:27,219 --> 00:41:32,409
unwell as far as we can see that's more

958

00:41:30,849 --> 00:41:34,809
psychological and they work themselves

959

00:41:32,409 --> 00:41:37,118
up to it there's no mechanism that we

960

00:41:34,809 --> 00:41:39,099
know of that would a wind turbine would

961

00:41:37,119 --> 00:41:41,380
would have a very bad effect on

962

00:41:39,099 --> 00:41:42,789
somebody's health personally i don't

963

00:41:41,380 --> 00:41:45,068
mean the australian skeptics don't have

964

00:41:42,789 --> 00:41:46,420
a an official position on this sort of

965

00:41:45,068 --> 00:41:49,690
thing again it's sort of drifting

966

00:41:46,420 --> 00:41:51,338
outside our realm personally I'm all for

967

00:41:49,690 --> 00:41:53,139
it you know the more renewable energy of

968

00:41:51,338 --> 00:41:55,568
course the better and the science

969

00:41:53,139 --> 00:41:58,358
progresses using the skeptical method

970
00:41:55,568 --> 00:42:00,219
the better we get at developing

971
00:41:58,358 --> 00:42:01,989
renewable energies and solar cells and

972
00:42:00,219 --> 00:42:03,400
things like that but the wind turbine

973
00:42:01,989 --> 00:42:06,039
lyst thing is also an interesting aspect

974
00:42:03,400 --> 00:42:08,019
in that in that people of a skeptical

975
00:42:06,039 --> 00:42:09,579
nature will happily believe they go yeah

976
00:42:08,018 --> 00:42:11,558
I thought so there would be something

977
00:42:09,579 --> 00:42:13,028
like that and when someone says no it's

978
00:42:11,559 --> 00:42:16,180
not actually found are they give it's

979
00:42:13,028 --> 00:42:18,699
been covered up by you know it's that

980
00:42:16,179 --> 00:42:21,219
sort of like it but what I mean is that

981
00:42:18,699 --> 00:42:23,199
you can be of inquiring mind yeah

982
00:42:21,219 --> 00:42:26,108
perfectly open the things but and so it

983
00:42:23,199 --> 00:42:29,289
will that that that narrative will fit

984
00:42:26,108 --> 00:42:31,808
into into your inquiring man view partly

985
00:42:29,289 --> 00:42:33,699
it's partly a problem with the word

986
00:42:31,809 --> 00:42:35,680
skeptic because all sorts of people love

987
00:42:33,699 --> 00:42:38,979
to use it we get people who say their

988
00:42:35,679 --> 00:42:40,808
911 skeptics or climate change skeptics

989
00:42:38,978 --> 00:42:42,429
or moon landing skeptics and we're

990
00:42:40,809 --> 00:42:44,619
sitting here saying no don't use that

991
00:42:42,429 --> 00:42:46,058
word don't use that word then there's

992
00:42:44,619 --> 00:42:48,759
people are tipping more into conspiracy

993
00:42:46,059 --> 00:42:50,349
theorist but the skeptic is a tricky

994
00:42:48,759 --> 00:42:52,599
word because it's used by a lot of

995
00:42:50,349 --> 00:42:54,269
people yeah I mean on the winter my

996
00:42:52,599 --> 00:42:57,640
think I feel like I heard the original

997
00:42:54,268 --> 00:43:00,449
interview with the there was an American

998

00:42:57,639 --> 00:43:03,210
doctor a woman who wrote a book

999
00:43:00,449 --> 00:43:05,578
was quickly debunked and the book was

1000
00:43:03,210 --> 00:43:07,380
based really on her own experience in

1001
00:43:05,579 --> 00:43:09,960
her own practice the internet she wasn't

1002
00:43:07,380 --> 00:43:11,400
really even a doctor if there was very

1003
00:43:09,960 --> 00:43:13,500
little to it at all and I remember her

1004
00:43:11,400 --> 00:43:15,269
being interviewed on yeah on ABC radio

1005
00:43:13,500 --> 00:43:16,829
people put her on but within a year or

1006
00:43:15,269 --> 00:43:18,449
so people were happily relaying the

1007
00:43:16,829 --> 00:43:20,430
story I'll know there's been studies

1008
00:43:18,449 --> 00:43:22,259
done us that there's there's wind

1009
00:43:20,429 --> 00:43:23,819
turbine problems either these are very

1010
00:43:22,260 --> 00:43:25,349
hardly this is where we come back to an

1011
00:43:23,820 --> 00:43:27,150
internet question isn't it the internet

1012
00:43:25,349 --> 00:43:29,880

actually just fuels this stuff man it

1013

00:43:27,150 --> 00:43:32,460

does then as the ABCs media what show us

1014

00:43:29,880 --> 00:43:34,260

many times during the year media outlets

1015

00:43:32,460 --> 00:43:37,619

will just pick up on a story because

1016

00:43:34,260 --> 00:43:39,240

it's sexy and Han fact-checking can wait

1017

00:43:37,619 --> 00:43:41,940

for later on this is a hot story let's

1018

00:43:39,239 --> 00:43:44,578

present it now as we'll worry about the

1019

00:43:41,940 --> 00:43:49,260

facts later yeah Paul what did you want

1020

00:43:44,579 --> 00:43:52,200

to ask at me yep oh good very simple

1021

00:43:49,260 --> 00:43:54,390

question I or skeptic abs are all

1022

00:43:52,199 --> 00:43:56,730

skeptics atheists richardsaunders so in

1023

00:43:54,389 --> 00:43:59,039

fact we don't care if we have people in

1024

00:43:56,730 --> 00:44:00,240

the Australian skeptics who believe in

1025

00:43:59,039 --> 00:44:02,820

all sorts of religions that's not a

1026

00:44:00,239 --> 00:44:04,709

question we worry about we their

1027
00:44:02,820 --> 00:44:07,829
skepticism from what we're concerned

1028
00:44:04,710 --> 00:44:10,050
with is more about you know the testable

1029
00:44:07,829 --> 00:44:11,579
claims of the paranormal or alternative

1030
00:44:10,050 --> 00:44:14,160
medicine and and this sort of thing

1031
00:44:11,579 --> 00:44:16,380
consumer affairs a person's private

1032
00:44:14,159 --> 00:44:18,838
religious beliefs is completely they're

1033
00:44:16,380 --> 00:44:21,329
their own affair and it really doesn't

1034
00:44:18,838 --> 00:44:24,179
interfere with skepticism a lot of

1035
00:44:21,329 --> 00:44:28,019
skeptics would be I would imagine but

1036
00:44:24,179 --> 00:44:30,769
that's just how does it happens what the

1037
00:44:28,019 --> 00:44:34,199
pura skeptic position B agnosticism I

1038
00:44:30,769 --> 00:44:35,730
imagine so I imagine so but again we're

1039
00:44:34,199 --> 00:44:38,368
starting getting in the realms we leave

1040
00:44:35,730 --> 00:44:41,400
for people who are really interested in

1041
00:44:38,369 --> 00:44:42,780
that topic I mean we have the the

1042
00:44:41,400 --> 00:44:46,260
Australian atheists out there who can

1043
00:44:42,780 --> 00:44:49,950
give you a good talking about that again

1044
00:44:46,260 --> 00:44:51,960
we owe us it's a distraction you know if

1045
00:44:49,949 --> 00:44:53,578
people want to in their private hard one

1046
00:44:51,960 --> 00:44:55,318
to follow a certain religion that's

1047
00:44:53,579 --> 00:44:57,060
entirely their business you know it's

1048
00:44:55,318 --> 00:44:59,009
entirely their business let's get let's

1049
00:44:57,059 --> 00:45:01,349
both together go on a ghost hunt that's

1050
00:44:59,010 --> 00:45:02,970
more fun Richard nice talk to you and

1051
00:45:01,349 --> 00:45:04,200
thanks for your recovery this morning

1052
00:45:02,969 --> 00:45:06,209
good i have the convention goes well

1053
00:45:04,199 --> 00:45:09,059
thank you very much people can find out

1054
00:45:06,210 --> 00:45:10,740
about that skeptics calm day you and it

1055

00:45:09,059 --> 00:45:12,659
should be a great weekend Richard

1056
00:45:10,739 --> 00:45:26,759
Saunders former present of

1057
00:45:12,659 --> 00:45:30,779
Australian skeptics hey Heidi oh hi Joe

1058
00:45:26,760 --> 00:45:34,349
hi Heidi oh hi Maynard hi Maynard oh hi

1059
00:45:30,780 --> 00:45:37,859
Joe nice day in this park yeah yes great

1060
00:45:34,349 --> 00:45:40,170
weather oh look a unicorn a unicorn

1061
00:45:37,858 --> 00:45:44,038
there are no such things as unicorns

1062
00:45:40,170 --> 00:45:46,380
silly yes there are no there isn't hey

1063
00:45:44,039 --> 00:45:49,130
ladies what are you arguing about Joe

1064
00:45:46,380 --> 00:45:51,750
thinks unicorns are real they fo are

1065
00:45:49,130 --> 00:45:54,990
let's look this up in the skeptics

1066
00:45:51,750 --> 00:45:57,690
dictionary the word how can we do that

1067
00:45:54,989 --> 00:45:59,639
in this park there are no computers here

1068
00:45:57,690 --> 00:46:02,490
you ladies probably don't know about the

1069
00:45:59,639 --> 00:46:05,338

skeptics dictionary app available now

1070

00:46:02,489 --> 00:46:07,889

for iPhone iPad and iPod touch in the

1071

00:46:05,338 --> 00:46:09,900

App Store yeah we do we've been

1072

00:46:07,889 --> 00:46:14,250

listening to the skeptic zone for years

1073

00:46:09,900 --> 00:46:16,170

you know yes ok the app lets you access

1074

00:46:14,250 --> 00:46:19,889

all the great skeptics dictionary

1075

00:46:16,170 --> 00:46:22,710

articles when you're on the go yeah let

1076

00:46:19,889 --> 00:46:25,650

me look up unicorns oh cool Heidi

1077

00:46:22,710 --> 00:46:28,108

prepare to be proven wrong it says here

1078

00:46:25,650 --> 00:46:31,470

the Unicorn is a creature from fables

1079

00:46:28,108 --> 00:46:32,969

aha actually I see now that someone just

1080

00:46:31,469 --> 00:46:35,519

dumped their ice cream cone on that

1081

00:46:32,969 --> 00:46:37,919

horse's head thanks skeptic ditching

1082

00:46:35,519 --> 00:46:40,369

their iphone app that's just some guy in

1083

00:46:37,920 --> 00:46:40,369

these undies

1084
00:46:50,219 --> 00:46:56,799
thank you for listening to the skeptic

1085
00:46:53,019 --> 00:46:59,590
zone and if you're coming to see my

1086
00:46:56,800 --> 00:47:03,480
photography exhibition in Sydney I hope

1087
00:46:59,590 --> 00:47:05,950
you do enjoy that 204 to cafe and deli

1088
00:47:03,480 --> 00:47:07,630
link is on the show notes for this week

1089
00:47:05,949 --> 00:47:11,679
episode although it's pretty easy to

1090
00:47:07,630 --> 00:47:13,630
find just south of Newtown train station

1091
00:47:11,679 --> 00:47:16,149
on King Street I'm looking forward to

1092
00:47:13,630 --> 00:47:18,280
seeing you at the amazing meeting in Las

1093
00:47:16,150 --> 00:47:20,170
Vegas in July if you're coming along if

1094
00:47:18,280 --> 00:47:22,900
you are coming along and you see me

1095
00:47:20,170 --> 00:47:25,210
please come up and say hello I I do

1096
00:47:22,900 --> 00:47:27,849
enjoy that but for this week this is

1097
00:47:25,210 --> 00:47:31,360
Richard Saunders and Fred the cat who is

1098
00:47:27,849 --> 00:47:37,630
now sound asleep signing off from Sydney

1099
00:47:31,360 --> 00:47:40,150
Australia you've been listening to the

1100
00:47:37,630 --> 00:47:43,990
skeptics own podcast visit our website

1101
00:47:40,150 --> 00:47:47,260
at wwc a petting zoo TV for contacts and

1102
00:47:43,989 --> 00:47:50,439
archive of all episodes since 2008 and

1103
00:47:47,260 --> 00:47:52,480
our online store please support the

1104
00:47:50,440 --> 00:47:55,840
skeptic zone by following us on twitter

1105
00:47:52,480 --> 00:47:59,349
at skeptic zone liking us on facebook

1106
00:47:55,840 --> 00:48:00,850
and leaving a review on iTunes you can

1107
00:47:59,349 --> 00:48:04,690
also show your support by subscribing

1108
00:48:00,849 --> 00:48:07,750
via paypal for as little as 99 cents a

1109
00:48:04,690 --> 00:48:09,369
week the skeptic zone is an independent

1110
00:48:07,750 --> 00:48:11,829
production the views and opinions

1111
00:48:09,369 --> 00:48:13,900
expressed on the skeptic zone and not

1112

00:48:11,829 --> 00:48:19,110
necessarily those of Australian skeptics

1113
00:48:13,900 --> 00:48:19,110
or any other skeptical organization

1114
00:48:19,588 --> 00:48:21,619
Oh