

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,509  
this is James Randi and you're listening

2  
00:00:02,189 --> 00:00:05,509  
to the skeptic zone

3  
00:00:08,080 --> 00:00:10,530  
me

4  
00:00:16,239 --> 00:00:18,239  
Oh

5  
00:00:23,820 --> 00:00:30,060  
hello and welcome to the skeptic zone

6  
00:00:26,620 --> 00:00:33,189  
show number 46 for the 4th of sep tember

7  
00:00:30,059 --> 00:00:35,350  
2009 Richard Saunders here with you from

8  
00:00:33,189 --> 00:00:37,839  
Sydney Australia and through the

9  
00:00:35,350 --> 00:00:41,500  
paranormal magic of the supernatural i'm

10  
00:00:37,840 --> 00:00:43,600  
also a dragon con atlanta USA and see

11  
00:00:41,500 --> 00:00:45,609  
the paranormal magic of the supernatural

12  
00:00:43,600 --> 00:00:47,320  
or the fact that i'm recording this

13  
00:00:45,609 --> 00:00:49,570  
earlier than the shows going out look

14  
00:00:47,320 --> 00:00:52,149  
you decide it's one or the other but

15  
00:00:49,570 --> 00:00:55,000  
we're having a great time at Dragon Con

16  
00:00:52,149 --> 00:00:56,979  
dr. Reggie Kylie Sturgis and I and we're

17  
00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:58,988  
getting some good interviews look out

18  
00:00:56,979 --> 00:01:01,179  
for those coming up over the next few

19  
00:00:58,988 --> 00:01:03,609  
weeks and while you're waiting for those

20  
00:01:01,179 --> 00:01:08,290  
I'll bring your attention to a new

21  
00:01:03,609 --> 00:01:10,870  
website grass roots skeptics dot org to

22  
00:01:08,290 --> 00:01:13,150  
quote the press release press release to

23  
00:01:10,870 --> 00:01:15,450  
these skeptics are getting serious there

24  
00:01:13,150 --> 00:01:18,120  
are a lot of passionate advocates and

25  
00:01:15,450 --> 00:01:20,680  
community groups working diligently to

26  
00:01:18,120 --> 00:01:24,400  
advance critical thinking said

27  
00:01:20,680 --> 00:01:26,020  
grassroots skeptics founder KO Myers we

28  
00:01:24,400 --> 00:01:28,390  
want to help increase their

29

00:01:26,019 --> 00:01:30,729  
effectiveness by making it easier for

30  
00:01:28,390 --> 00:01:33,430  
them to find new members share resources

31  
00:01:30,730 --> 00:01:37,350  
and identify methods for getting their

32  
00:01:33,430 --> 00:01:40,630  
message out so why not check them out

33  
00:01:37,349 --> 00:01:44,109  
HTTP colon slash slash grass roots

34  
00:01:40,629 --> 00:01:45,789  
skeptics dot org and while you're

35  
00:01:44,109 --> 00:01:47,739  
surfing around the internet check out a

36  
00:01:45,790 --> 00:01:51,930  
new blip TV channel i have come across

37  
00:01:47,739 --> 00:01:57,009  
called quack TV HTTP colon slash slash

38  
00:01:51,930 --> 00:01:59,140  
quack TV blip TV and so to this week's

39  
00:01:57,010 --> 00:02:00,700  
episode of the skeptic zone it really

40  
00:01:59,140 --> 00:02:02,829  
should be called the iran so give

41  
00:02:00,700 --> 00:02:05,409  
skeptic zone this week iran sir give

42  
00:02:02,829 --> 00:02:07,599  
interviews Queensland skeptic Margaret

43  
00:02:05,409 --> 00:02:09,669

kitson she talks about her life in

44

00:02:07,599 --> 00:02:12,280  
skepticism and about the upcoming

45

00:02:09,669 --> 00:02:14,829  
Australian skeptics national convention

46

00:02:12,280 --> 00:02:17,769  
in Brisbane Queensland that'll be in

47

00:02:14,830 --> 00:02:21,310  
November that's followed by a grain of

48

00:02:17,769 --> 00:02:23,200  
salt with Iran sir give oh well sounds

49

00:02:21,310 --> 00:02:25,439  
like an interesting show to me let's get

50

00:02:23,199 --> 00:02:25,439  
into it

51

00:02:35,020 --> 00:02:40,070  
Margaret kitson is a teacher librarian

52

00:02:37,909 --> 00:02:42,199  
and a longtime skeptic she's currently

53

00:02:40,069 --> 00:02:43,699  
the Secretary of Queensland skeptics and

54

00:02:42,199 --> 00:02:46,699  
he's involved in the organization of the

55

00:02:43,699 --> 00:02:49,159  
2009 skeptics convention which will be

56

00:02:46,699 --> 00:02:51,319  
held in Brisbane I called Margaret to

57

00:02:49,159 --> 00:02:58,459  
hear about her life skepticism and of

58  
00:02:51,319 --> 00:03:00,469  
course the convention hello our grits

59  
00:02:58,459 --> 00:03:02,689  
and welcome to the skeptic zone hello

60  
00:03:00,469 --> 00:03:05,300  
Iran it's lovely to be talking to you on

61  
00:03:02,689 --> 00:03:08,030  
what is a beautiful beautiful sunday in

62  
00:03:05,300 --> 00:03:09,890  
Brisbane it's all so beautiful in Sydney

63  
00:03:08,030 --> 00:03:12,199  
and we really should be outside rather

64  
00:03:09,889 --> 00:03:14,988  
than locked inside on the computer don't

65  
00:03:12,199 --> 00:03:16,849  
you think I think so I think so and I'm

66  
00:03:14,989 --> 00:03:19,670  
just really really hoping that at the

67  
00:03:16,849 --> 00:03:21,919  
end of the year when the Australian

68  
00:03:19,669 --> 00:03:24,319  
skeptics national convention comes to

69  
00:03:21,919 --> 00:03:27,379  
Brisbane for the first time since 2001

70  
00:03:24,319 --> 00:03:29,479  
that we have wonderful weather end of

71  
00:03:27,379 --> 00:03:34,009  
spring hopefully it'll be really nice

72  
00:03:29,479 --> 00:03:35,419  
not too hot I hope so too mother let's

73  
00:03:34,009 --> 00:03:37,518  
let I want to talk to you about yourself

74  
00:03:35,419 --> 00:03:40,009  
as together yes thank you involved with

75  
00:03:37,519 --> 00:03:41,930  
the skeptics for a very long time I had

76  
00:03:40,009 --> 00:03:44,329  
when you first become involved with the

77  
00:03:41,930 --> 00:03:46,370  
scriptures ok my first connection with

78  
00:03:44,330 --> 00:03:48,590  
the skeptics came when I was teaching at

79  
00:03:46,370 --> 00:03:51,469  
a school in Darwin and I saw a copy of

80  
00:03:48,590 --> 00:03:53,450  
the magazine and in a library at a

81  
00:03:51,469 --> 00:03:55,669  
school that I was working at and I

82  
00:03:53,449 --> 00:03:57,919  
looked at it because what jumped out at

83  
00:03:55,669 --> 00:04:01,639  
me was the front cover which had a

84  
00:03:57,919 --> 00:04:05,030  
wonderful cartoon dealing with creation

85  
00:04:01,639 --> 00:04:06,889  
science and earlier in my life in my

86

00:04:05,030 --> 00:04:09,819  
professional career I'd had some

87  
00:04:06,889 --> 00:04:15,379  
encounters with creation scientists and

88  
00:04:09,819 --> 00:04:18,228  
I become a fade away yes an oxymoron

89  
00:04:15,379 --> 00:04:20,600  
indeed the creation and science don't

90  
00:04:18,228 --> 00:04:22,219  
belong in the same sentence together so

91  
00:04:20,600 --> 00:04:25,160  
that was when I became that came a

92  
00:04:22,220 --> 00:04:27,530  
subscriber around about 2,000 I went to

93  
00:04:25,160 --> 00:04:30,229  
my first convention which was the Big E

94  
00:04:27,529 --> 00:04:32,359  
that was held in Sydney the three-day

95  
00:04:30,228 --> 00:04:34,579  
which there was skeptical luminaries

96  
00:04:32,360 --> 00:04:37,848  
from all around the world which came to

97  
00:04:34,579 --> 00:04:40,310  
that Paul Kurtz James Randi made a

98  
00:04:37,848 --> 00:04:45,469  
special guest appearance

99  
00:04:40,310 --> 00:04:47,420  
Joe Nickell and Richard Wiseman I really

100  
00:04:45,470 --> 00:04:50,240

can't remember the Mott was absolutely

101

00:04:47,420 --> 00:04:54,080

an amazing event so that was when I

102

00:04:50,240 --> 00:04:55,759

became a conference junkie and I've been

103

00:04:54,079 --> 00:04:59,419

to just about every single one since

104

00:04:55,759 --> 00:05:02,230

then i went to tam 5 the amazing meeting

105

00:04:59,420 --> 00:05:05,030

I went to the one of those in January

106

00:05:02,230 --> 00:05:07,100

2007 and Las Vegas you mentioned that

107

00:05:05,029 --> 00:05:08,779

your first involvement with the skeptics

108

00:05:07,100 --> 00:05:10,670

was I had something to do with the

109

00:05:08,779 --> 00:05:12,469

creation scientists so-called gradient

110

00:05:10,670 --> 00:05:14,900

noticed can you elaborate on that and

111

00:05:12,470 --> 00:05:17,420

how that attracted you okay as I said

112

00:05:14,899 --> 00:05:21,079

that was why I became a subscriber to

113

00:05:17,420 --> 00:05:22,850

the magazine back in the 1970s I was

114

00:05:21,079 --> 00:05:25,789

teaching at a high school in the

115  
00:05:22,850 --> 00:05:28,250  
northern suburbs of brisbane and we had

116  
00:05:25,790 --> 00:05:31,670  
a very interesting political situation

117  
00:05:28,250 --> 00:05:35,500  
back in those days where certain people

118  
00:05:31,670 --> 00:05:38,330  
of certain religious persuasions had a

119  
00:05:35,500 --> 00:05:40,879  
real in with the certain people within

120  
00:05:38,329 --> 00:05:42,949  
the government which meant that it was

121  
00:05:40,879 --> 00:05:44,899  
the only time fortunately that the

122  
00:05:42,949 --> 00:05:47,569  
creation science movement had a lot of

123  
00:05:44,899 --> 00:05:49,459  
traction politically this particular

124  
00:05:47,569 --> 00:05:51,949  
school that I was working out I was

125  
00:05:49,459 --> 00:05:53,269  
working as a teacher librarian and one

126  
00:05:51,949 --> 00:05:55,729  
of the things that you have to do as a

127  
00:05:53,269 --> 00:05:59,389  
teacher librarian was to catalog books

128  
00:05:55,730 --> 00:06:01,480  
and I had a staff member who sadly was

129  
00:05:59,389 --> 00:06:04,550  
the head of science coming to me with

130  
00:06:01,480 --> 00:06:06,800  
some books on creation science it was my

131  
00:06:04,550 --> 00:06:10,189  
first encounter with any of the

132  
00:06:06,800 --> 00:06:13,939  
literature that was published by people

133  
00:06:10,189 --> 00:06:16,879  
with this particular agenda and told me

134  
00:06:13,939 --> 00:06:19,759  
that I needed to catalog books in the

135  
00:06:16,879 --> 00:06:22,730  
500s in the five 70s which is the gioi

136  
00:06:19,759 --> 00:06:26,539  
decimal number for life sciences so that

137  
00:06:22,730 --> 00:06:28,370  
they sat next to evolution and here was

138  
00:06:26,540 --> 00:06:31,370  
a head of science who should have known

139  
00:06:28,370 --> 00:06:35,540  
better telling me a humanities graduate

140  
00:06:31,370 --> 00:06:38,509  
that this stuff was science and it had

141  
00:06:35,540 --> 00:06:40,850  
to sit on this shelf next to science my

142  
00:06:38,509 --> 00:06:43,099  
argument to him was that no it's not a

143

00:06:40,850 --> 00:06:45,530  
science it's actually a religious theory

144  
00:06:43,100 --> 00:06:49,450  
so therefore it belongs somewhere in the

145  
00:06:45,529 --> 00:06:51,949  
200s which was where those books

146  
00:06:49,449 --> 00:06:54,069  
anything on creation the correct number

147  
00:06:51,949 --> 00:06:59,620  
for its at 213 because that's

148  
00:06:54,069 --> 00:07:01,659  
for it so um set myths and legends no

149  
00:06:59,620 --> 00:07:03,970  
myths and legends tend to end up

150  
00:07:01,660 --> 00:07:07,600  
somewhere else to hundreds the hundred

151  
00:07:03,970 --> 00:07:09,280  
division and Joey free religions and we

152  
00:07:07,600 --> 00:07:12,610  
ended up having a couple of real set

153  
00:07:09,279 --> 00:07:15,250  
tues where I spoke my mind and he spoke

154  
00:07:12,610 --> 00:07:18,520  
use in the workroom in this particular

155  
00:07:15,250 --> 00:07:21,100  
library and I stuck to my guns but there

156  
00:07:18,519 --> 00:07:23,649  
was quite a lot of interference at that

157  
00:07:21,100 --> 00:07:26,020

stage the year nine science program in

158

00:07:23,649 --> 00:07:28,299

Queensland schools there was the

159

00:07:26,019 --> 00:07:32,589

expectation that the two models actually

160

00:07:28,300 --> 00:07:35,170

be taught evolution and creation but

161

00:07:32,589 --> 00:07:37,719

that was and it was the old equal time

162

00:07:35,170 --> 00:07:40,720

argument and I suppose that was when I

163

00:07:37,720 --> 00:07:43,570

started to think what is creation

164

00:07:40,720 --> 00:07:46,420

science all about and why do I have a

165

00:07:43,569 --> 00:07:48,189

huge problem with it now I don't have a

166

00:07:46,420 --> 00:07:51,009

science background but I do have a

167

00:07:48,189 --> 00:07:52,600

history background and I do have a

168

00:07:51,009 --> 00:07:54,399

background in ancient history i've

169

00:07:52,600 --> 00:07:58,780

taught senior ancient history for a

170

00:07:54,399 --> 00:08:01,539

number of years and do know that that

171

00:07:58,779 --> 00:08:03,459

area of history reasonably well one of

172  
00:08:01,540 --> 00:08:06,460  
the things that you do learn is that the

173  
00:08:03,459 --> 00:08:08,649  
story of Noah has come as written up in

174  
00:08:06,459 --> 00:08:12,009  
the book of genesis in the Bible isn't

175  
00:08:08,649 --> 00:08:16,079  
even original it's an adaptation from a

176  
00:08:12,009 --> 00:08:19,300  
much Julius story that's you know in a

177  
00:08:16,079 --> 00:08:22,509  
very very early document called the epic

178  
00:08:19,300 --> 00:08:25,180  
of gilgamesh and Gilgamesh in one part

179  
00:08:22,509 --> 00:08:28,599  
goes off to meet this so-called napsiz

180  
00:08:25,180 --> 00:08:32,409  
Tom who's supposedly got the secret of

181  
00:08:28,600 --> 00:08:34,690  
eternal life and wouldn't a push piston

182  
00:08:32,409 --> 00:08:36,879  
and the Babylonian version was the

183  
00:08:34,690 --> 00:08:39,160  
original Noah and then there's an even

184  
00:08:36,879 --> 00:08:42,009  
earlier Sumerian version back even

185  
00:08:39,159 --> 00:08:44,620  
further that's been found so I'm taking

186  
00:08:42,009 --> 00:08:48,370  
the Bible is literal fact and being able

187  
00:08:44,620 --> 00:08:50,560  
to say that it's science I know from my

188  
00:08:48,370 --> 00:08:53,919  
professional expertise is absolute

189  
00:08:50,559 --> 00:08:55,809  
nonsense and that's one thing that I've

190  
00:08:53,919 --> 00:08:58,120  
learnt in the meantime is about the

191  
00:08:55,809 --> 00:09:00,909  
scientific method that one of the great

192  
00:08:58,120 --> 00:09:04,120  
things when you get a scientific theory

193  
00:09:00,909 --> 00:09:05,769  
is that you get convergence of evidence

194  
00:09:04,120 --> 00:09:06,720  
evidence coming from lots of different

195  
00:09:05,769 --> 00:09:08,818  
source

196  
00:09:06,720 --> 00:09:11,579  
is that all end up pointing to the same

197  
00:09:08,818 --> 00:09:13,828  
conclusion and that's certainly the case

198  
00:09:11,578 --> 00:09:15,778  
with creation science that you don't

199  
00:09:13,828 --> 00:09:17,909  
need to be a scientist to be able to

200

00:09:15,778 --> 00:09:20,850  
turn round and say I'm sorry it's

201  
00:09:17,909 --> 00:09:23,009  
bollocks if you've got an understanding

202  
00:09:20,850 --> 00:09:25,459  
of history and how stories start and

203  
00:09:23,009 --> 00:09:28,379  
where they come from and how people

204  
00:09:25,458 --> 00:09:30,628  
adopt them and then move with them you

205  
00:09:28,379 --> 00:09:33,389  
realize that their stories in the Old

206  
00:09:30,629 --> 00:09:35,759  
Testament our lifted from earlier

207  
00:09:33,389 --> 00:09:39,778  
versions there's some you know new bits

208  
00:09:35,759 --> 00:09:42,509  
and pieces but to say that that the

209  
00:09:39,778 --> 00:09:45,958  
Bible and the book of Genesis is factors

210  
00:09:42,509 --> 00:09:49,139  
is nonsense and it should doesn't have

211  
00:09:45,958 --> 00:09:52,078  
any time in science so that was why I

212  
00:09:49,139 --> 00:09:54,659  
was passionate about it to start with

213  
00:09:52,078 --> 00:09:57,328  
and it's been to use the term an

214  
00:09:54,659 --> 00:09:59,669

evolution of my skepticism in the

215

00:09:57,328 --> 00:10:01,620

meantime I didn't necessarily realize

216

00:09:59,669 --> 00:10:05,759

that there were other people out there

217

00:10:01,620 --> 00:10:07,409

that had similar thought processes to me

218

00:10:05,759 --> 00:10:10,110

and it's been lovely in the intervening

219

00:10:07,409 --> 00:10:12,389

time to meet up with members of the

220

00:10:10,110 --> 00:10:15,419

skeptical community I've really really

221

00:10:12,389 --> 00:10:17,250

enjoyed it and it's all down to creation

222

00:10:15,419 --> 00:10:19,740

science is the reason it was the hook

223

00:10:17,250 --> 00:10:25,948

that got me on board way back in the

224

00:10:19,740 --> 00:10:27,930

1970s praise the Lord I want you to ask

225

00:10:25,948 --> 00:10:29,878

you about you mentioned that evolution

226

00:10:27,929 --> 00:10:32,159

of skeptics skeptical thought in yeah

227

00:10:29,879 --> 00:10:34,350

but it's quite obvious from what you're

228

00:10:32,159 --> 00:10:36,808

telling that you had been a skeptic

229  
00:10:34,350 --> 00:10:38,189  
before you knew there was a skeptical

230  
00:10:36,808 --> 00:10:40,318  
movement because you care for you became

231  
00:10:38,188 --> 00:10:42,058  
involved with the skeptic chantment yes

232  
00:10:40,318 --> 00:10:43,979  
you may be described how that happened

233  
00:10:42,058 --> 00:10:47,039  
how when you found out that you had

234  
00:10:43,980 --> 00:10:48,629  
skeptical inclinations when you were

235  
00:10:47,039 --> 00:10:50,698  
able to actually define it to yourself

236  
00:10:48,629 --> 00:10:53,308  
okay we'll have to go back very much

237  
00:10:50,698 --> 00:10:56,549  
earlier my family even though on the

238  
00:10:53,308 --> 00:10:59,399  
fourth generation Australian my family's

239  
00:10:56,549 --> 00:11:01,679  
heritage cultural heritage is Irish

240  
00:10:59,399 --> 00:11:04,889  
Catholic which meant that i went to the

241  
00:11:01,679 --> 00:11:07,318  
catholic school where you hear all the

242  
00:11:04,889 --> 00:11:09,899  
really neat stories i thoroughly enjoyed

243  
00:11:07,318 --> 00:11:12,028  
doing most of the stuff the First Holy

244  
00:11:09,899 --> 00:11:15,049  
Communion and all that sort of stuff was

245  
00:11:12,028 --> 00:11:18,088  
great fun confession really bothered me

246  
00:11:15,049 --> 00:11:21,448  
but that's for different reasons

247  
00:11:18,089 --> 00:11:24,180  
and I suppose it was finally when I was

248  
00:11:21,448 --> 00:11:27,179  
in grade five because we're we're

249  
00:11:24,179 --> 00:11:29,818  
looking at pre Vatican to hear so this

250  
00:11:27,179 --> 00:11:32,008  
is around about nineteen sixty when

251  
00:11:29,818 --> 00:11:35,448  
there was still the Latin Mass where

252  
00:11:32,009 --> 00:11:37,949  
pope pius the 12th was still the Pope

253  
00:11:35,448 --> 00:11:40,318  
where the power and control was still

254  
00:11:37,948 --> 00:11:42,719  
very much there where you were

255  
00:11:40,318 --> 00:11:45,028  
continually being told that you know you

256  
00:11:42,720 --> 00:11:48,089  
are so lucky that you have the one true

257

00:11:45,028 --> 00:11:49,828  
faith and we used to have this pair at

258  
00:11:48,089 --> 00:11:52,860  
the end of mass called the prayer for

259  
00:11:49,828 --> 00:11:55,859  
the conversion of Russia which I used to

260  
00:11:52,860 --> 00:11:58,740  
hear every sat sunday morning and I

261  
00:11:55,860 --> 00:12:01,159  
started to wonder I wonder if the

262  
00:11:58,740 --> 00:12:05,549  
children sitting in the classrooms in

263  
00:12:01,159 --> 00:12:08,068  
Moscow the godless atheists whether they

264  
00:12:05,549 --> 00:12:10,078  
have something equivalent to say that

265  
00:12:08,068 --> 00:12:12,149  
they don't believe in things like this

266  
00:12:10,078 --> 00:12:14,370  
and then from there going on further

267  
00:12:12,149 --> 00:12:18,269  
because I've always loved history and

268  
00:12:14,370 --> 00:12:20,100  
stories from history you learn a lot

269  
00:12:18,269 --> 00:12:22,620  
about the human condition through

270  
00:12:20,100 --> 00:12:24,389  
studying history and reading stories and

271  
00:12:22,620 --> 00:12:26,789

you discover at the end of the day that

272

00:12:24,389 --> 00:12:30,870

human nature hasn't really changed very

273

00:12:26,789 --> 00:12:33,240

much over time I started to think well

274

00:12:30,870 --> 00:12:37,019

you know all these religions thought

275

00:12:33,240 --> 00:12:41,549

they were rush and what makes this one

276

00:12:37,019 --> 00:12:44,339

special and from there basically the

277

00:12:41,549 --> 00:12:46,409

only reason I can see is you that you

278

00:12:44,339 --> 00:12:48,240

can come to is that you have to take I

279

00:12:46,409 --> 00:12:50,938

can't remember that was whether it was a

280

00:12:48,240 --> 00:12:54,149

Gustin or Aquinas said a leap of faith

281

00:12:50,938 --> 00:12:56,549

you have to want to believe in us and

282

00:12:54,149 --> 00:12:58,980

then your back would map to say here's

283

00:12:56,549 --> 00:13:01,859

the evidence and that was the step that

284

00:12:58,980 --> 00:13:04,860

I fell down on I am afraid that I

285

00:13:01,860 --> 00:13:07,379

couldn't accept that that I couldn't see

286  
00:13:04,860 --> 00:13:10,860  
that there was any evidence to accept

287  
00:13:07,379 --> 00:13:13,980  
the fact that this particular story was

288  
00:13:10,860 --> 00:13:16,139  
any truer in a literal sense that had

289  
00:13:13,980 --> 00:13:20,909  
the evidence with it than any other

290  
00:13:16,139 --> 00:13:24,539  
story but being ten years old and a girl

291  
00:13:20,909 --> 00:13:27,419  
in that kind of environment you didn't

292  
00:13:24,539 --> 00:13:30,000  
you learnt not necessarily to speak your

293  
00:13:27,419 --> 00:13:31,409  
mind or if you did speak your mind you

294  
00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:34,350  
ended up expecting

295  
00:13:31,409 --> 00:13:38,519  
would dance because i did get very very

296  
00:13:34,350 --> 00:13:41,940  
heavily put John by various people i

297  
00:13:38,519 --> 00:13:45,060  
must say that i'm extremely fond of most

298  
00:13:41,940 --> 00:13:47,310  
of the nuns who taught me because a lot

299  
00:13:45,059 --> 00:13:50,219  
of them were very very good human beings

300  
00:13:47,309 --> 00:13:53,878  
and I'm very very fond of both my

301  
00:13:50,220 --> 00:13:57,000  
parents so you have this mismatch where

302  
00:13:53,879 --> 00:13:59,399  
you don't know what what I believe is it

303  
00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:01,919  
odds with what these people whom I love

304  
00:13:59,399 --> 00:14:05,250  
respect admire and who were good people

305  
00:14:01,919 --> 00:14:07,078  
are telling me so you tend particularly

306  
00:14:05,250 --> 00:14:09,409  
when you're at that age and you don't

307  
00:14:07,078 --> 00:14:12,000  
necessarily have the confidence to

308  
00:14:09,409 --> 00:14:14,610  
advocate for what you believe in you

309  
00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:16,708  
tend to sort of just leave it in the

310  
00:14:14,610 --> 00:14:19,289  
background and you learn not to talk

311  
00:14:16,708 --> 00:14:21,000  
about it so I suppose that's what I

312  
00:14:19,289 --> 00:14:24,120  
ended up doing through the rest of my

313  
00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:27,360  
school career and also to a great degree

314

00:14:24,120 --> 00:14:30,899  
at University when I finally decided I

315  
00:14:27,360 --> 00:14:33,300  
suppose around about the age of 19 that

316  
00:14:30,899 --> 00:14:35,938  
no I really don't think this very much

317  
00:14:33,299 --> 00:14:39,059  
in this for me anymore I'm having a very

318  
00:14:35,938 --> 00:14:42,379  
hard time accepting what's being told to

319  
00:14:39,059 --> 00:14:45,208  
me and I just basically walked away

320  
00:14:42,379 --> 00:14:48,419  
didn't really walk to anything I must

321  
00:14:45,208 --> 00:14:50,638  
admit and that was why I suppose when

322  
00:14:48,419 --> 00:14:53,669  
when I did finally start doing some

323  
00:14:50,639 --> 00:14:56,370  
reading so that was the genesis of

324  
00:14:53,669 --> 00:14:58,979  
Margaret sort of heading down that

325  
00:14:56,370 --> 00:15:01,259  
direction right it's a case of not

326  
00:14:58,980 --> 00:15:02,879  
knowing what you want rather knowing

327  
00:15:01,259 --> 00:15:05,370  
what you are so you started with the

328  
00:15:02,879 --> 00:15:09,000

Genesis then you have the revelation yes

329

00:15:05,370 --> 00:15:11,370

okay okay so i won't say anything about

330

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:13,289

that I well I mean a metaphor as a

331

00:15:11,370 --> 00:15:15,120

metaphor and sometimes it's just a

332

00:15:13,289 --> 00:15:18,028

metaphor absolutely I have no problem

333

00:15:15,120 --> 00:15:20,009

with that I say Oh God and yes up like

334

00:15:18,028 --> 00:15:22,019

that all the time yeah now you're a

335

00:15:20,009 --> 00:15:24,688

teacher in the library and Eng still

336

00:15:22,019 --> 00:15:27,990

teach i am still teaching I've had a

337

00:15:24,688 --> 00:15:30,179

career change about seven years ago I

338

00:15:27,990 --> 00:15:31,860

spent a lot of bike teaching career

339

00:15:30,179 --> 00:15:34,979

teaching English and history in high

340

00:15:31,860 --> 00:15:37,829

schools which I absolutely adored I love

341

00:15:34,980 --> 00:15:39,720

teaching I would still really enjoyed it

342

00:15:37,828 --> 00:15:43,469

night I really enjoyed teaching

343  
00:15:39,720 --> 00:15:45,329  
teenagers to what's chased me and so

344  
00:15:43,470 --> 00:15:48,178  
many of my other colleagues out of the

345  
00:15:45,328 --> 00:15:50,818  
through the increasing layers of

346  
00:15:48,178 --> 00:15:54,499  
accountability and the paperwork that we

347  
00:15:50,818 --> 00:15:57,659  
get thrust upon us from outside and

348  
00:15:54,499 --> 00:16:00,329  
which takes us away from doing what is

349  
00:15:57,659 --> 00:16:01,969  
essentially our core business I have no

350  
00:16:00,328 --> 00:16:05,099  
problem with the issue of accountability

351  
00:16:01,970 --> 00:16:07,889  
that's fair enough but the how many

352  
00:16:05,100 --> 00:16:10,619  
times can you count something that's the

353  
00:16:07,889 --> 00:16:12,869  
thing that struck drive me nuts my last

354  
00:16:10,619 --> 00:16:16,470  
year teaching I had a 10 11 and 12

355  
00:16:12,869 --> 00:16:20,339  
english class and 11 and 12 h in history

356  
00:16:16,470 --> 00:16:22,949  
and i was pulling on occasion

357  
00:16:20,339 --> 00:16:25,199  
particularly at the end of term when you

358  
00:16:22,948 --> 00:16:28,139  
had to get marking done and generate

359  
00:16:25,198 --> 00:16:30,778  
reports and things like that it wasn't

360  
00:16:28,139 --> 00:16:35,639  
unusual for me to work a 70 or natl a

361  
00:16:30,778 --> 00:16:38,938  
week and at the end end of it i just ran

362  
00:16:35,639 --> 00:16:41,959  
out of energy teaching does to do it

363  
00:16:38,938 --> 00:16:45,298  
well you've got to care about it and

364  
00:16:41,958 --> 00:16:47,308  
that draws on emotional reserves where

365  
00:16:45,298 --> 00:16:49,918  
you are actually up in front of a class

366  
00:16:47,308 --> 00:16:52,438  
performing or engaging with kids and

367  
00:16:49,918 --> 00:16:55,619  
helping them learn that takes a lot out

368  
00:16:52,438 --> 00:16:58,769  
of you and at the end of it I was at

369  
00:16:55,619 --> 00:17:01,379  
very very pleased because as I said I'd

370  
00:16:58,769 --> 00:17:03,600  
always love stories and books that I was

371

00:17:01,379 --> 00:17:05,818  
able to get some teacher librarian

372  
00:17:03,600 --> 00:17:08,548  
qualification and then some library

373  
00:17:05,818 --> 00:17:11,129  
science qualification going to teach

374  
00:17:08,548 --> 00:17:14,099  
librarianship and then get very very

375  
00:17:11,130 --> 00:17:16,799  
lucky and become a teacher librarian in

376  
00:17:14,099 --> 00:17:18,388  
a primary school that means that i run a

377  
00:17:16,798 --> 00:17:21,418  
primary school library and one at

378  
00:17:18,388 --> 00:17:24,178  
brisbane is leafy suburb I've got 740

379  
00:17:21,419 --> 00:17:27,329  
lovely children who come borrow books

380  
00:17:24,179 --> 00:17:29,610  
and read I've got a great staff and I

381  
00:17:27,328 --> 00:17:32,548  
really enjoy my life as it is at the

382  
00:17:29,609 --> 00:17:34,500  
moment I could not be a primary

383  
00:17:32,548 --> 00:17:37,440  
classroom teacher I look at my

384  
00:17:34,500 --> 00:17:39,240  
colleagues in stunned admiration

385  
00:17:37,440 --> 00:17:42,330

particularly the ones with the early

386

00:17:39,240 --> 00:17:44,909

years people because I really do not

387

00:17:42,329 --> 00:17:46,079

know how they do what they do they often

388

00:17:44,909 --> 00:17:48,840

look at me and so don't know how you

389

00:17:46,079 --> 00:17:50,339

ever taught high school but I really

390

00:17:48,839 --> 00:17:53,038

love what I'm doing because I'm

391

00:17:50,339 --> 00:17:55,138

passionate about stories I'm passionate

392

00:17:53,038 --> 00:17:58,288

about sharing stories with children and

393

00:17:55,138 --> 00:17:59,048

the importance of stories just fire up

394

00:17:58,288 --> 00:18:02,019

kids

395

00:17:59,048 --> 00:18:03,730

imaginations the one thing we have this

396

00:18:02,019 --> 00:18:06,489

thing in queensland clerk called the

397

00:18:03,730 --> 00:18:08,860

queensland score core skills test which

398

00:18:06,489 --> 00:18:12,999

has done about halfway through year 12

399

00:18:08,859 --> 00:18:15,819

our final high school year and the best

400  
00:18:12,999 --> 00:18:18,009  
indicator that they've been able to find

401  
00:18:15,819 --> 00:18:20,888  
for children who do well I shouldn't say

402  
00:18:18,009 --> 00:18:23,409  
children at that stage for people to do

403  
00:18:20,888 --> 00:18:25,508  
well in that is wider reading that's it

404  
00:18:23,409 --> 00:18:27,730  
that's the the key thing that they've

405  
00:18:25,509 --> 00:18:29,829  
been able to correlate with successful

406  
00:18:27,730 --> 00:18:32,139  
outcomes that the kids that get the

407  
00:18:29,829 --> 00:18:34,538  
really good scores that then go on to

408  
00:18:32,138 --> 00:18:37,599  
university the one thing they all have

409  
00:18:34,538 --> 00:18:40,808  
in common is wider reading or a lot of

410  
00:18:37,599 --> 00:18:42,189  
them have in common so that's one thing

411  
00:18:40,808 --> 00:18:43,868  
that I'm really excited about

412  
00:18:42,190 --> 00:18:46,480  
particularly with the building the

413  
00:18:43,868 --> 00:18:49,658  
education revolution money the money

414  
00:18:46,480 --> 00:18:51,278  
going into schools for libraries and

415  
00:18:49,659 --> 00:18:54,730  
things like that because I think that's

416  
00:18:51,278 --> 00:18:57,099  
really really a key plank in education

417  
00:18:54,730 --> 00:18:59,230  
do you ever take your skepticism to

418  
00:18:57,099 --> 00:19:01,439  
class do you ever teach skepticism or

419  
00:18:59,230 --> 00:19:04,089  
teach critical thinking or somehow

420  
00:19:01,440 --> 00:19:06,249  
convey the message of skepticism at

421  
00:19:04,089 --> 00:19:09,608  
regal thinking to children yes you do

422  
00:19:06,249 --> 00:19:11,230  
because you do get to two children to

423  
00:19:09,608 --> 00:19:14,980  
seek the evidence that that's really

424  
00:19:11,230 --> 00:19:16,690  
really important and and you can do it

425  
00:19:14,980 --> 00:19:19,358  
to a degree in literature I mean the

426  
00:19:16,690 --> 00:19:21,700  
certain tools of skepticism that you can

427  
00:19:19,358 --> 00:19:25,808  
because skepticism is essentially a

428

00:19:21,700 --> 00:19:28,840  
process it's not a bully a belief

429  
00:19:25,808 --> 00:19:31,658  
position so to speak I think that's one

430  
00:19:28,839 --> 00:19:33,428  
reason I like it because it is a process

431  
00:19:31,659 --> 00:19:35,499  
it's a way of looking at the world like

432  
00:19:33,429 --> 00:19:38,499  
science and scientific methods of

433  
00:19:35,499 --> 00:19:42,009  
process it's not a belief position in

434  
00:19:38,499 --> 00:19:43,899  
the same way as being you know even a up

435  
00:19:42,009 --> 00:19:46,808  
your broncos supporter or a lion

436  
00:19:43,898 --> 00:19:50,558  
supporter or whatever sporting limits

437  
00:19:46,808 --> 00:19:54,908  
it's not or even preferring one

438  
00:19:50,558 --> 00:19:56,618  
political party over another and that's

439  
00:19:54,909 --> 00:19:58,869  
one thing that the principles of

440  
00:19:56,618 --> 00:20:01,089  
skepticism are ones that you incorporate

441  
00:19:58,868 --> 00:20:04,028  
India teaching all the time all the good

442  
00:20:01,089 --> 00:20:06,069

teachers do the importance within your

443

00:20:04,028 --> 00:20:08,108

subjects of seeking the evidence what's

444

00:20:06,069 --> 00:20:11,259

evidence in this particular discipline

445

00:20:08,108 --> 00:20:12,409

you make a hypothesis how do you find

446

00:20:11,259 --> 00:20:15,740

evidence

447

00:20:12,410 --> 00:20:17,330

a call think things which I so they

448

00:20:15,740 --> 00:20:21,140

aren't so what's the problem with this

449

00:20:17,329 --> 00:20:23,119

one is that based on a false premise can

450

00:20:21,140 --> 00:20:25,780

you believe what this purse is speaking

451

00:20:23,119 --> 00:20:28,339

let's track track stuff to its source

452

00:20:25,779 --> 00:20:30,589

that's one thing that I really wish

453

00:20:28,339 --> 00:20:33,409

would get profiled alura's history

454

00:20:30,589 --> 00:20:36,230

because there's a lot of skeptical steps

455

00:20:33,410 --> 00:20:38,740

in history that I think people on the

456

00:20:36,230 --> 00:20:41,509

side side tend to rather despised

457  
00:20:38,740 --> 00:20:44,180  
humanities people and say you know

458  
00:20:41,509 --> 00:20:49,879  
you're not you don't think critically

459  
00:20:44,180 --> 00:20:53,480  
and I do I'm just trying to think of a

460  
00:20:49,880 --> 00:20:56,410  
good example okay there is a wonderful

461  
00:20:53,480 --> 00:20:59,539  
urban legends webpage called snopes com

462  
00:20:56,410 --> 00:21:02,120  
which I have occasionally shown to

463  
00:20:59,539 --> 00:21:05,089  
students particularly if they come down

464  
00:21:02,119 --> 00:21:07,009  
with an urban legend and really like but

465  
00:21:05,089 --> 00:21:09,970  
so we go and learn and we have a look at

466  
00:21:07,009 --> 00:21:12,769  
it and say okay what's the urban legend

467  
00:21:09,970 --> 00:21:15,230  
there was one that I went through was

468  
00:21:12,769 --> 00:21:17,420  
some year seven kids a few years ago it

469  
00:21:15,230 --> 00:21:20,180  
was one about Michael Jackson hanging

470  
00:21:17,420 --> 00:21:22,730  
the kid out the window and let's go

471  
00:21:20,180 --> 00:21:24,799  
somewhere what's a reliable source will

472  
00:21:22,730 --> 00:21:27,319  
go to Snipes we'll have a look at it and

473  
00:21:24,799 --> 00:21:29,839  
this is because it deals with urban

474  
00:21:27,319 --> 00:21:31,939  
legends and the reason snakes is good is

475  
00:21:29,839 --> 00:21:35,299  
that it does take you back to the

476  
00:21:31,940 --> 00:21:38,269  
sources it evaluates the site is true or

477  
00:21:35,299 --> 00:21:42,109  
false or unproven and then at the end

478  
00:21:38,269 --> 00:21:45,680  
it's got a whole heap of references to

479  
00:21:42,109 --> 00:21:48,769  
show where things come from so in my

480  
00:21:45,680 --> 00:21:51,460  
position because resourcing the

481  
00:21:48,769 --> 00:21:53,960  
curriculums a key element of what I do

482  
00:21:51,460 --> 00:21:56,769  
apart from promoting through is it's the

483  
00:21:53,960 --> 00:22:01,250  
other key Achille key element to my role

484  
00:21:56,769 --> 00:22:02,660  
yes to making making sure that what's in

485

00:22:01,250 --> 00:22:06,230  
the collection is relevant and

486  
00:22:02,660 --> 00:22:09,470  
up-to-date so yes it's as I said it's a

487  
00:22:06,230 --> 00:22:11,809  
process it sits behind ear the whole

488  
00:22:09,470 --> 00:22:14,000  
time and and manifests occasionally

489  
00:22:11,809 --> 00:22:19,759  
rather than being something that you

490  
00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:22,339  
teach as a formal subject I mean it's as

491  
00:22:19,759 --> 00:22:24,960  
I said it's a process so it's I do use

492  
00:22:22,339 --> 00:22:27,898  
the tools of skepticism a lot

493  
00:22:24,960 --> 00:22:31,470  
in what I do in my engagements with my

494  
00:22:27,898 --> 00:22:35,278  
colleagues and also with the children

495  
00:22:31,470 --> 00:22:37,440  
the bill even a hedge pizza I think

496  
00:22:35,278 --> 00:22:39,028  
we're skeptics generally are aware that

497  
00:22:37,440 --> 00:22:42,659  
critical thinking of skepticism are not

498  
00:22:39,028 --> 00:22:46,829  
about science or not any specific topic

499  
00:22:42,659 --> 00:22:49,710

and it is something that pervades that

500

00:22:46,829 --> 00:22:54,329

is pervasive and permeates all of all of

501

00:22:49,710 --> 00:22:56,850

life there is one thing where I did butt

502

00:22:54,329 --> 00:22:58,710

heads with my school administration him

503

00:22:56,849 --> 00:23:02,490

i normally get on very well with i must

504

00:22:58,710 --> 00:23:06,659

add that we ended up with some awful

505

00:23:02,490 --> 00:23:08,759

rubbish pd a couple of years ago that

506

00:23:06,659 --> 00:23:12,720

suddenly emerged on our professional

507

00:23:08,759 --> 00:23:14,700

development calendar a dodgy prodigy for

508

00:23:12,720 --> 00:23:18,360

those were not teachers professional

509

00:23:14,700 --> 00:23:21,200

development pd professional development

510

00:23:18,359 --> 00:23:25,709

calendar a few years ago in February

511

00:23:21,200 --> 00:23:29,090

2006 i sat at the certain staff room

512

00:23:25,710 --> 00:23:32,429

with my colleagues listening to speakers

513

00:23:29,089 --> 00:23:36,449

talk about some flim flam by the name of

514  
00:23:32,429 --> 00:23:39,288  
brain gym and the most appalling

515  
00:23:36,450 --> 00:23:42,000  
nonsense was being peddled house and

516  
00:23:39,288 --> 00:23:47,730  
everybody just SAT there and cop dish

517  
00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:51,269  
and I made a huge mistake I challenge

518  
00:23:47,730 --> 00:23:55,048  
the speaker was rather rude got spoken

519  
00:23:51,269 --> 00:23:57,000  
to the next day by my principal he had

520  
00:23:55,048 --> 00:23:59,879  
the right to do because I had been rude

521  
00:23:57,000 --> 00:24:01,440  
but I refused to result in the position

522  
00:23:59,880 --> 00:24:04,320  
that what we were listening to was

523  
00:24:01,440 --> 00:24:07,679  
absolute rubbish and that we shouldn't

524  
00:24:04,319 --> 00:24:10,950  
have been forced to to listen to it I

525  
00:24:07,679 --> 00:24:13,649  
think the problem was that from the

526  
00:24:10,950 --> 00:24:16,288  
point of view of teachers as classroom

527  
00:24:13,648 --> 00:24:18,389  
practitioners they were just interested

528  
00:24:16,288 --> 00:24:20,490  
in finding some clues that would help

529  
00:24:18,390 --> 00:24:23,340  
them teach but and they didn't really

530  
00:24:20,490 --> 00:24:26,009  
care two hoots about what was behind it

531  
00:24:23,339 --> 00:24:27,480  
that brain 'jim is some fun exercises

532  
00:24:26,009 --> 00:24:28,919  
that you can do with your kids while

533  
00:24:27,480 --> 00:24:32,099  
they're basically sitting in their

534  
00:24:28,919 --> 00:24:34,470  
chairs or standing in their place so any

535  
00:24:32,099 --> 00:24:37,500  
activity that you can use to engage kids

536  
00:24:34,470 --> 00:24:38,650  
is great that's fine what I had the

537  
00:24:37,500 --> 00:24:42,069  
problem with was

538  
00:24:38,650 --> 00:24:44,259  
pseudoscience that was behind it and I

539  
00:24:42,069 --> 00:24:47,289  
very much doubt whether the rest of my

540  
00:24:44,259 --> 00:24:49,869  
colleagues good primary school nobody

541  
00:24:47,289 --> 00:24:52,450  
that a really science specialist says

542

00:24:49,869 --> 00:24:55,449  
sadly and then that is an issue a

543  
00:24:52,450 --> 00:24:58,180  
different issue probably weren't even

544  
00:24:55,450 --> 00:25:00,430  
paying any attention to the rest of the

545  
00:24:58,180 --> 00:25:03,220  
nonsense that this presenter was going

546  
00:25:00,430 --> 00:25:07,360  
out with it was also an extremely hot

547  
00:25:03,220 --> 00:25:08,950  
day in February it was after school we

548  
00:25:07,359 --> 00:25:12,269  
were probably sitting in a room with

549  
00:25:08,950 --> 00:25:16,330  
about that was at about 35 degrees and

550  
00:25:12,269 --> 00:25:19,420  
no air conditioning and very very humid

551  
00:25:16,329 --> 00:25:22,529  
so the rest of it we will probably would

552  
00:25:19,420 --> 00:25:25,090  
just practicing selective listening but

553  
00:25:22,529 --> 00:25:27,460  
that was one that I have kept plugging

554  
00:25:25,089 --> 00:25:29,709  
away at and I hope that I've won some

555  
00:25:27,460 --> 00:25:32,079  
people in the middle there are obviously

556  
00:25:29,710 --> 00:25:34,180

the true believers that accept all of

557

00:25:32,079 --> 00:25:36,119

the augment nonsense that gets paddled

558

00:25:34,180 --> 00:25:39,610

out and toddle off to their

559

00:25:36,119 --> 00:25:42,129

chiropractors and their naturopaths but

560

00:25:39,609 --> 00:25:44,740

hopefully the ones in the middle I hope

561

00:25:42,130 --> 00:25:46,600

I did get through to i dunno i got

562

00:25:44,740 --> 00:25:51,370

through to a couple of people because i

563

00:25:46,599 --> 00:25:53,439

got feedback afterwards about it so that

564

00:25:51,369 --> 00:25:56,289

was one example of where i actually did

565

00:25:53,440 --> 00:26:00,940

get very missionary as far as skepticism

566

00:25:56,289 --> 00:26:02,829

is concerned with mixed results I would

567

00:26:00,940 --> 00:26:04,660

use different tactics and future other

568

00:26:02,829 --> 00:26:06,939

than the ones that are used at that time

569

00:26:04,660 --> 00:26:09,310

and that's what you should all do we

570

00:26:06,940 --> 00:26:11,860

should all do we make a mistake we learn

571  
00:26:09,309 --> 00:26:14,289  
from it we take it on one and think well

572  
00:26:11,859 --> 00:26:16,389  
I won't go there next time I'll try to

573  
00:26:14,289 --> 00:26:18,279  
get the same outcome but that

574  
00:26:16,390 --> 00:26:20,620  
methodology didn't work let's try

575  
00:26:18,279 --> 00:26:22,869  
something different this time around and

576  
00:26:20,619 --> 00:26:24,429  
keep on doing it if I'm a comment

577  
00:26:22,869 --> 00:26:26,949  
specifically about that thing about

578  
00:26:24,430 --> 00:26:29,080  
being rude or how you how we approach

579  
00:26:26,950 --> 00:26:32,200  
people who peddle all kinds of nonsense

580  
00:26:29,079 --> 00:26:35,889  
I found that obviously being polite and

581  
00:26:32,200 --> 00:26:38,440  
being friendly always helps it makes you

582  
00:26:35,890 --> 00:26:40,390  
look more more approachable makes your

583  
00:26:38,440 --> 00:26:42,309  
the position that you're pushing more

584  
00:26:40,390 --> 00:26:44,950  
available yeah the problem is that

585  
00:26:42,309 --> 00:26:48,099  
sometimes it's very very difficult it's

586  
00:26:44,950 --> 00:26:49,750  
to be polite it is so I completely

587  
00:26:48,099 --> 00:26:50,319  
understand where you're coming from but

588  
00:26:49,750 --> 00:26:52,148  
as you

589  
00:26:50,319 --> 00:26:54,759  
said you make mistakes in you learn from

590  
00:26:52,148 --> 00:26:56,979  
them now I'd like to move to move again

591  
00:26:54,759 --> 00:26:58,778  
back to speaking about the skeptics and

592  
00:26:56,980 --> 00:27:00,579  
you're currently the secretary of the

593  
00:26:58,778 --> 00:27:03,038  
Queensland skeptics is that correct yes

594  
00:27:00,579 --> 00:27:04,480  
that's correct and you also have another

595  
00:27:03,038 --> 00:27:06,849  
role would you like to speak about that

596  
00:27:04,480 --> 00:27:09,819  
as well ok the other role is the

597  
00:27:06,849 --> 00:27:12,519  
convener for Bruce skepticon is that the

598  
00:27:09,819 --> 00:27:14,319  
one that you mean Iran okay Bruce

599

00:27:12,519 --> 00:27:17,409  
skepticon is the nickname that I've

600  
00:27:14,319 --> 00:27:20,168  
given to this year's Australian skeptics

601  
00:27:17,409 --> 00:27:22,990  
National Convention which is being held

602  
00:27:20,169 --> 00:27:26,019  
at in beautiful Brisbane in the last

603  
00:27:22,990 --> 00:27:30,128  
weekend of november this year that's the

604  
00:27:26,019 --> 00:27:32,589  
27th 28th and 29th of November after

605  
00:27:30,128 --> 00:27:36,158  
having been at convention junkie

606  
00:27:32,589 --> 00:27:38,589  
basically since 2000 I thought that it

607  
00:27:36,159 --> 00:27:41,289  
was about time the two things happened

608  
00:27:38,589 --> 00:27:43,750  
number one that a convention come back

609  
00:27:41,288 --> 00:27:47,589  
to Brisbane because there hasn't been a

610  
00:27:43,750 --> 00:27:54,190  
national convention held here since 2001

611  
00:27:47,589 --> 00:27:57,668  
and also that I'd like to use all of the

612  
00:27:54,190 --> 00:28:00,759  
experience that I've gained in attending

613  
00:27:57,669 --> 00:28:05,019

all these other conventions to have a go

614

00:28:00,759 --> 00:28:07,240

at running it to organizing it so last

615

00:28:05,019 --> 00:28:11,190

year I decided to put up my hand and

616

00:28:07,240 --> 00:28:13,450

volunteer my services to do so and

617

00:28:11,190 --> 00:28:18,009

basically since then I've had a lot of

618

00:28:13,450 --> 00:28:20,288

fun I'm getting it all organized and I'm

619

00:28:18,009 --> 00:28:21,308

pleased to say that things look as

620

00:28:20,288 --> 00:28:25,690

though they're coming together really

621

00:28:21,308 --> 00:28:28,058

really well fee I've had some fantastic

622

00:28:25,690 --> 00:28:31,389

help with some wonderful people in

623

00:28:28,058 --> 00:28:34,388

Brisbane who Peter relish in particular

624

00:28:31,388 --> 00:28:37,119

I'd like to mention he was last year's

625

00:28:34,388 --> 00:28:39,128

Australian skeptics winner of the

626

00:28:37,119 --> 00:28:42,428

Australian skeptics prize for critical

627

00:28:39,128 --> 00:28:46,269

thinking last year and he has set us up

628  
00:28:42,429 --> 00:28:50,440  
a Queensland skeptics website at just

629  
00:28:46,269 --> 00:28:53,288  
qld skeptics calm where amongst other

630  
00:28:50,440 --> 00:28:55,480  
things all the program information and

631  
00:28:53,288 --> 00:28:57,819  
other information about the convention

632  
00:28:55,480 --> 00:29:00,909  
is loaded including information about

633  
00:28:57,819 --> 00:29:02,529  
our guest speakers we've been very very

634  
00:29:00,909 --> 00:29:05,020  
lucky to attract

635  
00:29:02,529 --> 00:29:07,740  
a couple of really high-profile guest

636  
00:29:05,019 --> 00:29:10,779  
speakers it's a bit of a combo of

637  
00:29:07,740 --> 00:29:13,029  
Margaret's vision some people that I

638  
00:29:10,779 --> 00:29:17,079  
really think that I'd like the rest of

639  
00:29:13,029 --> 00:29:21,849  
my skeptical colleagues to listen to and

640  
00:29:17,079 --> 00:29:25,809  
also some old favorites and some

641  
00:29:21,849 --> 00:29:29,740  
Brisbane locals so a real combination

642  
00:29:25,809 --> 00:29:32,409  
but I suppose two key themes scientist

643  
00:29:29,740 --> 00:29:34,450  
science is important the skeptics we

644  
00:29:32,410 --> 00:29:37,390  
have a commitment to critical thinking

645  
00:29:34,450 --> 00:29:41,110  
and the scientific method so I'm wanting

646  
00:29:37,390 --> 00:29:44,520  
to focus on science and the Saturday

647  
00:29:41,109 --> 00:29:47,979  
program is looking into science-based

648  
00:29:44,519 --> 00:29:51,730  
things and the sunday program the focus

649  
00:29:47,980 --> 00:29:54,220  
is changing just a bit too to use the

650  
00:29:51,730 --> 00:29:57,430  
phrase I think first coined by michael

651  
00:29:54,220 --> 00:30:00,880  
shermer why people believe things weird

652  
00:29:57,430 --> 00:30:03,370  
things the focus is going more onto the

653  
00:30:00,880 --> 00:30:07,930  
nature of belief and why people accept

654  
00:30:03,369 --> 00:30:10,059  
things which just ain't so the theme of

655  
00:30:07,930 --> 00:30:14,140  
the convention is myth and misconception

656

00:30:10,059 --> 00:30:16,809  
because all evidence is not equal we've

657  
00:30:14,140 --> 00:30:19,660  
got dr. Carl grizzle Nikki kicking the

658  
00:30:16,809 --> 00:30:23,019  
show off on the Monday morning we're

659  
00:30:19,660 --> 00:30:26,350  
very lucky to get Carl services and he's

660  
00:30:23,019 --> 00:30:29,619  
keeping with that theme talking about a

661  
00:30:26,349 --> 00:30:32,769  
whole heap of misconceptions and on

662  
00:30:29,619 --> 00:30:34,629  
Sunday the other person that I've got

663  
00:30:32,769 --> 00:30:36,759  
that I've gone out and chased that I

664  
00:30:34,630 --> 00:30:39,310  
really wanted people to hear his

665  
00:30:36,759 --> 00:30:43,629  
associate associate professor Tony

666  
00:30:39,309 --> 00:30:46,000  
Taylor from Monash University I was in

667  
00:30:43,630 --> 00:30:47,890  
Melbourne in February and I picked up a

668  
00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:52,269  
book after I read a review and the age

669  
00:30:47,890 --> 00:30:53,950  
called history betrayed and I was so

670  
00:30:52,269 --> 00:30:55,720

impressed with a review that I went out

671

00:30:53,950 --> 00:30:59,380

and bought a copy straight away and

672

00:30:55,720 --> 00:31:02,410

thought wow I want everybody to be aware

673

00:30:59,380 --> 00:31:05,680

of what this what this gentleman's

674

00:31:02,410 --> 00:31:07,810

talking about and his title of his talk

675

00:31:05,680 --> 00:31:09,039

was the art and craft of pseudo his

676

00:31:07,809 --> 00:31:11,980

strength

677

00:31:09,039 --> 00:31:14,409

denial history betrayed is actually a

678

00:31:11,980 --> 00:31:17,610

study of the ideology and the psychology

679

00:31:14,410 --> 00:31:20,110

of historical denial in modern history

680

00:31:17,609 --> 00:31:22,299

that he really wanted to get into the

681

00:31:20,109 --> 00:31:26,699

pathology of that and what lies behind

682

00:31:22,299 --> 00:31:29,109

it and why people and it can be a

683

00:31:26,700 --> 00:31:31,120

concussion why can't we get our heads

684

00:31:29,109 --> 00:31:33,789

around the fact that these things

685  
00:31:31,119 --> 00:31:36,399  
happened so I'm really looking forward

686  
00:31:33,789 --> 00:31:39,129  
to the opportunity for people to listen

687  
00:31:36,400 --> 00:31:41,950  
to tony and he's been really really

688  
00:31:39,130 --> 00:31:44,500  
helpful i'm really looking forward to

689  
00:31:41,950 --> 00:31:46,960  
meeting up with the gentleman and we've

690  
00:31:44,500 --> 00:31:48,940  
got some other wonderful locals we've

691  
00:31:46,960 --> 00:31:52,090  
got Loretta Marin the jelly bean lady

692  
00:31:48,940 --> 00:31:54,430  
who featured on a Current Affair earlier

693  
00:31:52,089 --> 00:31:59,009  
this year exposing a cancer quack up and

694  
00:31:54,430 --> 00:32:02,710  
makai we've got other people who have

695  
00:31:59,009 --> 00:32:07,119  
experience with I suppose the effects of

696  
00:32:02,710 --> 00:32:09,670  
what happens when people believe aunt

697  
00:32:07,119 --> 00:32:14,709  
met nonsense we've got some old

698  
00:32:09,670 --> 00:32:16,990  
tried-and-true ones as well so that's a

699  
00:32:14,710 --> 00:32:21,250  
quick snapshot of what's in the program

700  
00:32:16,990 --> 00:32:24,099  
and Jan I am really looking forward to

701  
00:32:21,250 --> 00:32:28,299  
it and catching up with everyone my

702  
00:32:24,099 --> 00:32:29,740  
great job to end this wonderful chat so

703  
00:32:28,299 --> 00:32:31,180  
can you please tell us again where it

704  
00:32:29,740 --> 00:32:34,720  
more information can be found about the

705  
00:32:31,180 --> 00:32:39,400  
convention okay the Australian skeptics

706  
00:32:34,720 --> 00:32:42,430  
website has got a link on the right hand

707  
00:32:39,400 --> 00:32:44,440  
side of its homepage or you can go

708  
00:32:42,430 --> 00:32:50,350  
straight to the Queensland skeptics

709  
00:32:44,440 --> 00:32:51,970  
website which is www and skeptics com

710  
00:32:50,349 --> 00:32:53,679  
it's been wonderful talking to you about

711  
00:32:51,970 --> 00:32:58,079  
it thank you very much for being on the

712  
00:32:53,680 --> 00:32:58,080  
skeptic zone logo keys ok thank you bye

713

00:33:07,230 --> 00:33:11,860  
examining the truth in exposing the

714  
00:33:09,369 --> 00:33:13,719  
frauds but psychics co uk is the website

715  
00:33:11,859 --> 00:33:15,819  
that critically examines mediums

716  
00:33:13,720 --> 00:33:17,650  
clairvoyants and psychics follow the

717  
00:33:15,819 --> 00:33:19,720  
controversies news and discussions in

718  
00:33:17,650 --> 00:33:21,250  
the lively forum community and now you

719  
00:33:19,720 --> 00:33:22,929  
can download your weekly fix of

720  
00:33:21,250 --> 00:33:25,298  
righteous indignation the official

721  
00:33:22,929 --> 00:33:26,559  
podcast of bad psychics khodet UK that

722  
00:33:25,298 --> 00:33:29,679  
talks hard and critically about

723  
00:33:26,558 --> 00:33:31,048  
paranormal bad psychics khodet UK the

724  
00:33:29,679 --> 00:33:39,370  
UK's largest and most respected

725  
00:33:31,048 --> 00:33:41,079  
skeptical site looking at psychics this

726  
00:33:39,369 --> 00:33:43,750  
is brian dunning from the sceptile

727  
00:33:41,079 --> 00:33:48,129

podcast been enjoying your critical

728

00:33:43,750 --> 00:33:50,769

thinking shows in audio only you've been

729

00:33:48,130 --> 00:33:55,600

missing half the fun check out my new

730

00:33:50,769 --> 00:34:00,639

video podcast in fact on itunes or click

731

00:33:55,599 --> 00:34:02,798

it on Sceptile com3 pilot episodes of in

732

00:34:00,640 --> 00:34:05,140

fact are available now for immediate

733

00:34:02,798 --> 00:34:07,599

viewing I'm looking for sponsorship to

734

00:34:05,140 --> 00:34:10,450

produce an entire first season of 13

735

00:34:07,599 --> 00:34:12,668

episodes and hopefully many more seasons

736

00:34:10,449 --> 00:34:14,799

to follow you can see the whole lineup

737

00:34:12,668 --> 00:34:17,918

and get all the other nuts and bolts if

738

00:34:14,800 --> 00:34:21,190

you go to sceptile calm and click on in

739

00:34:17,918 --> 00:34:22,989

fact and don't forget to come back to

740

00:34:21,190 --> 00:34:27,030

the skeptic zone when you're done

741

00:34:22,989 --> 00:34:29,829

watching I I think it's audio only but

742  
00:34:27,030 --> 00:34:40,060  
that's okay I still like it this is

743  
00:34:29,829 --> 00:34:42,878  
brian dunning from sceptile calm this

744  
00:34:40,059 --> 00:34:45,898  
will take this with a grain of salt is

745  
00:34:42,878 --> 00:34:45,898  
around second

746  
00:34:48,170 --> 00:34:52,950  
one of the least talked about aspects of

747  
00:34:50,730 --> 00:34:55,559  
medical science is its heavy reliance on

748  
00:34:52,949 --> 00:34:57,689  
statistics it is known to doctors and

749  
00:34:55,559 --> 00:34:59,309  
scientists in the field of course and I

750  
00:34:57,690 --> 00:35:02,340  
suspect many people have some vague

751  
00:34:59,309 --> 00:35:03,900  
notion that statistics is being used but

752  
00:35:02,340 --> 00:35:06,140  
very few people understand what it

753  
00:35:03,900 --> 00:35:08,730  
really means and how it may affect them

754  
00:35:06,139 --> 00:35:11,039  
the urge to talk about this topic right

755  
00:35:08,730 --> 00:35:13,409  
now is mostly due to our recent campaign

756  
00:35:11,039 --> 00:35:15,239  
against the avian in mayoral dories

757  
00:35:13,409 --> 00:35:17,009  
fully statement that we should not treat

758  
00:35:15,239 --> 00:35:19,559  
kids with an intervention that is not

759  
00:35:17,010 --> 00:35:21,300  
one hundred percent safe but the

760  
00:35:19,559 --> 00:35:23,730  
expectation that medicine should be as

761  
00:35:21,300 --> 00:35:26,880  
safe as that has been troubling me for a

762  
00:35:23,730 --> 00:35:29,820  
while people clearly don't realize just

763  
00:35:26,880 --> 00:35:31,140  
a foolish that expectation is it's not

764  
00:35:29,820 --> 00:35:32,519  
that people shouldn't expect a high

765  
00:35:31,139 --> 00:35:35,250  
level of safety in their medical

766  
00:35:32,519 --> 00:35:36,449  
treatment they absolutely should and for

767  
00:35:35,250 --> 00:35:39,090  
a treatment to be approved for general

768  
00:35:36,449 --> 00:35:41,069  
use it must pass stringent tests done

769  
00:35:39,090 --> 00:35:42,960  
only for efficacy but also for safety

770

00:35:41,070 --> 00:35:46,289  
but safety is also relative to the

771  
00:35:42,960 --> 00:35:48,720  
effect for example chemotherapy drugs

772  
00:35:46,289 --> 00:35:51,179  
are extremely toxic many of them are

773  
00:35:48,719 --> 00:35:52,649  
even carcinogenic in their own right yet

774  
00:35:51,179 --> 00:35:54,440  
cancer patients get them because

775  
00:35:52,650 --> 00:35:56,730  
unbalanced they do more good than harm

776  
00:35:54,440 --> 00:35:57,929  
you could refuse to take chemo on the

777  
00:35:56,730 --> 00:36:00,500  
grounds that it's not one hundred

778  
00:35:57,929 --> 00:36:03,719  
percent safe but then you die of cancer

779  
00:36:00,500 --> 00:36:06,210  
even benign drugs like paracetamol can

780  
00:36:03,719 --> 00:36:08,730  
and do have side effects but unbalanced

781  
00:36:06,210 --> 00:36:10,470  
they're worth using so it's always about

782  
00:36:08,730 --> 00:36:13,170  
weighing up the pros and cons and

783  
00:36:10,469 --> 00:36:14,939  
associated probabilities expecting one

784  
00:36:13,170 --> 00:36:17,539

hundred percent safety or one hundred

785

00:36:14,940 --> 00:36:19,710  
percent efficacy is foolish

786

00:36:17,539 --> 00:36:22,320  
unfortunately it's not only foolish it

787

00:36:19,710 --> 00:36:24,900  
is also harmful and it's harmful for two

788

00:36:22,320 --> 00:36:27,210  
main reasons one is that people refrain

789

00:36:24,900 --> 00:36:29,400  
from using certain treatments the best

790

00:36:27,210 --> 00:36:30,990  
known example is exceeds which have

791

00:36:29,400 --> 00:36:33,240  
extraordinary safety and efficacy

792

00:36:30,989 --> 00:36:35,189  
records yet some people choose not to

793

00:36:33,239 --> 00:36:36,779  
vaccinate their children because they

794

00:36:35,190 --> 00:36:39,210  
are not one hundred percent safe or

795

00:36:36,780 --> 00:36:41,640  
whatever other lies the avn tells them

796

00:36:39,210 --> 00:36:43,590  
about vaccines what they do not realize

797

00:36:41,639 --> 00:36:45,420  
is that they are placing their children

798

00:36:43,590 --> 00:36:47,940  
at much higher risk of contracting the

799

00:36:45,420 --> 00:36:50,190  
disease of course a lot of children are

800

00:36:47,940 --> 00:36:51,329  
protected by herd immunity but where the

801

00:36:50,190 --> 00:36:53,130  
propaganda machine of the

802

00:36:51,329 --> 00:36:53,889  
anti-vaccination Lobby has done its work

803

00:36:53,130 --> 00:36:56,170  
there

804

00:36:53,889 --> 00:36:58,900  
is now herd immunity and children get

805

00:36:56,170 --> 00:37:00,970  
sick the other reason that expecting one

806

00:36:58,900 --> 00:37:03,849  
hundred percent efficacy or safety is

807

00:37:00,969 --> 00:37:05,799  
harmful is more complex it has to do

808

00:37:03,849 --> 00:37:08,650  
with expectations and how people treat

809

00:37:05,800 --> 00:37:10,300  
failure in medical treatment because of

810

00:37:08,650 --> 00:37:12,070  
the high success rate of most modern

811

00:37:10,300 --> 00:37:13,570  
medical treatments and the

812

00:37:12,070 --> 00:37:15,670  
well-established human weakness in

813  
00:37:13,570 --> 00:37:17,080  
understanding probabilities when a

814  
00:37:15,670 --> 00:37:19,630  
doctor says to a patient that the

815  
00:37:17,079 --> 00:37:22,000  
procedures has say a ninety percent

816  
00:37:19,630 --> 00:37:23,820  
success rate the patient naturally

817  
00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:27,130  
expects to be in the much larger group

818  
00:37:23,820 --> 00:37:29,019  
when as inevitably happens ten percent

819  
00:37:27,130 --> 00:37:31,539  
of the patients find themselves on the

820  
00:37:29,019 --> 00:37:34,269  
side of failure many if not most of them

821  
00:37:31,539 --> 00:37:35,769  
do not take this too well what very

822  
00:37:34,269 --> 00:37:38,590  
often results is the demand for

823  
00:37:35,769 --> 00:37:40,150  
compensation I'll elaborate on the

824  
00:37:38,590 --> 00:37:42,700  
effects of the demand for compensation

825  
00:37:40,150 --> 00:37:44,889  
later but I want to talk first about the

826  
00:37:42,699 --> 00:37:47,829  
saying when it happens to you it's one

827

00:37:44,889 --> 00:37:49,779  
hundred percent of course that statement

828  
00:37:47,829 --> 00:37:51,219  
is true in a sense but that does not

829  
00:37:49,780 --> 00:37:54,300  
mean that we have to accept it as a

830  
00:37:51,219 --> 00:37:56,799  
society counter to many people's view

831  
00:37:54,300 --> 00:37:59,620  
society does put a price on things such

832  
00:37:56,800 --> 00:38:02,289  
as human life and well-being no society

833  
00:37:59,619 --> 00:38:03,639  
will save a life at any cost and only so

834  
00:38:02,289 --> 00:38:06,130  
much money you spend on things like

835  
00:38:03,639 --> 00:38:07,779  
improving road safety because the cost

836  
00:38:06,130 --> 00:38:10,119  
of reducing road deaths would make

837  
00:38:07,780 --> 00:38:12,910  
driving cars and realistically expensive

838  
00:38:10,119 --> 00:38:14,679  
so as a society we decided that a

839  
00:38:12,909 --> 00:38:16,569  
certain number of deaths per year is an

840  
00:38:14,679 --> 00:38:19,750  
acceptable price to pay for affordable

841  
00:38:16,570 --> 00:38:22,000

transportation now of course for each of

842

00:38:19,750 --> 00:38:24,429

the dead and maimed and their families

843

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:26,289

the price is unacceptable yet we rarely

844

00:38:24,429 --> 00:38:28,659

hear families of road accident victims

845

00:38:26,289 --> 00:38:30,579

demand that we make all roads dear lane

846

00:38:28,659 --> 00:38:32,679

fully separated roads with the

847

00:38:30,579 --> 00:38:36,069

technologically in for speed limit of 50

848

00:38:32,679 --> 00:38:38,199

km/h the reason is that even those

849

00:38:36,070 --> 00:38:41,080

affected realized the implications are

850

00:38:38,199 --> 00:38:43,899

unacceptable with medicine people often

851

00:38:41,079 --> 00:38:45,369

do not take the same approach the reason

852

00:38:43,900 --> 00:38:47,170

is not clear to me but it could be

853

00:38:45,369 --> 00:38:48,819

because people know a lot less about how

854

00:38:47,170 --> 00:38:50,769

medicine works than they do about road

855

00:38:48,820 --> 00:38:52,750

safety it could also be because

856  
00:38:50,769 --> 00:38:54,969  
emedicine there is almost invariably

857  
00:38:52,750 --> 00:38:57,550  
someone to blame as their medical

858  
00:38:54,969 --> 00:38:59,709  
professionals involved whatever the case

859  
00:38:57,550 --> 00:39:01,210  
may be can generally be said that people

860  
00:38:59,710 --> 00:39:03,880  
are much more willing to use the

861  
00:39:01,210 --> 00:39:05,679  
statement when it happens to you it's

862  
00:39:03,880 --> 00:39:06,970  
one hundred percent when discussing

863  
00:39:05,679 --> 00:39:09,639  
medical risk then

864  
00:39:06,969 --> 00:39:10,839  
when they discuss other risks basically

865  
00:39:09,639 --> 00:39:13,379  
there is a different standard for

866  
00:39:10,840 --> 00:39:16,090  
medicine and it's a much harsher one

867  
00:39:13,380 --> 00:39:19,090  
that harsh a standard also manifests

868  
00:39:16,090 --> 00:39:22,329  
itself in statements like 18,000 people

869  
00:39:19,090 --> 00:39:24,070  
a year die due to medical errors I will

870  
00:39:22,329 --> 00:39:26,469  
not venture to dispute the statistical

871  
00:39:24,070 --> 00:39:28,780  
figure I will for the sake of this talk

872  
00:39:26,469 --> 00:39:32,109  
assume that it is accurate the question

873  
00:39:28,780 --> 00:39:34,180  
that must be asked is this of the 18,000

874  
00:39:32,110 --> 00:39:37,450  
people how many would have died with no

875  
00:39:34,179 --> 00:39:39,460  
medical intervention at all as most of

876  
00:39:37,449 --> 00:39:41,710  
the information is based on estimates it

877  
00:39:39,460 --> 00:39:43,539  
is difficult to know for sure but I've

878  
00:39:41,710 --> 00:39:45,340  
done a little bit of research and it

879  
00:39:43,539 --> 00:39:47,469  
seems a large majority of those whose

880  
00:39:45,340 --> 00:39:49,660  
des des is attributed to medical error

881  
00:39:47,469 --> 00:39:51,879  
died did you to failure to provide

882  
00:39:49,659 --> 00:39:54,460  
appropriate medical treatment only a

883  
00:39:51,880 --> 00:39:56,619  
small minority died due to commission

884

00:39:54,460 --> 00:39:58,659  
rather than a mission and even in those

885  
00:39:56,619 --> 00:40:00,569  
cases it is not clear how they would

886  
00:39:58,659 --> 00:40:03,609  
have fared with no medical treatment so

887  
00:40:00,570 --> 00:40:05,170  
it is very rare indeed for someone to

888  
00:40:03,610 --> 00:40:07,360  
come to into a hospital with a non

889  
00:40:05,170 --> 00:40:10,389  
life-threatening condition and end up

890  
00:40:07,360 --> 00:40:13,660  
dead actual cases of real negligence are

891  
00:40:10,389 --> 00:40:15,579  
very rare too so next time proponents of

892  
00:40:13,659 --> 00:40:18,730  
alternative medicine quote that figure

893  
00:40:15,579 --> 00:40:21,699  
ask them these questions one how many

894  
00:40:18,730 --> 00:40:25,300  
people has medicine saved this year hint

895  
00:40:21,699 --> 00:40:27,189  
a lot more than 18,000 to how many of

896  
00:40:25,300 --> 00:40:30,400  
the 18,000 would have died without any

897  
00:40:27,190 --> 00:40:32,619  
treatment 3 what was the life expectancy

898  
00:40:30,400 --> 00:40:36,369

in China before scientific medicine and

899

00:40:32,619 --> 00:40:38,909

what is it now I referred earlier to the

900

00:40:36,369 --> 00:40:41,289

compensation demands in their effects

901

00:40:38,909 --> 00:40:43,509

doctors in the West pay huge amounts of

902

00:40:41,289 --> 00:40:45,279

money to insurance companies they pay

903

00:40:43,510 --> 00:40:47,350

those amounts because despite the

904

00:40:45,280 --> 00:40:49,570

overall rate of success being very high

905

00:40:47,349 --> 00:40:52,539

and despite the fact that failure is not

906

00:40:49,570 --> 00:40:54,190

only expected it is inevitable those few

907

00:40:52,539 --> 00:40:56,529

cases of failure are likely to see

908

00:40:54,190 --> 00:40:59,769

compensation and often win very

909

00:40:56,530 --> 00:41:01,390

significant amounts an obstetrician I

910

00:40:59,769 --> 00:41:02,980

spoke to some time ago said his

911

00:41:01,389 --> 00:41:05,980

insurance policy cost more than one

912

00:41:02,980 --> 00:41:08,949

hundred thousand dollars a year I let

913  
00:41:05,980 --> 00:41:12,579  
that sink in for a moment one hundred

914  
00:41:08,949 --> 00:41:14,769  
thousand dollars per year they're not

915  
00:41:12,579 --> 00:41:16,929  
many Australians who earn that much it

916  
00:41:14,769 --> 00:41:18,519  
is successful obstetrician pays this

917  
00:41:16,929 --> 00:41:19,169  
exorbitant amount because he will

918  
00:41:18,519 --> 00:41:21,329  
inevitably

919  
00:41:19,170 --> 00:41:23,608  
be sued and the question is only how

920  
00:41:21,329 --> 00:41:25,680  
much you will have to pay from an

921  
00:41:23,608 --> 00:41:28,469  
actuary perspective it is a wonder that

922  
00:41:25,679 --> 00:41:30,210  
he can get any insurance at all the

923  
00:41:28,469 --> 00:41:32,848  
result is that this successful and

924  
00:41:30,210 --> 00:41:34,650  
experienced doctor is available to only

925  
00:41:32,849 --> 00:41:36,390  
a very small minority of patients who

926  
00:41:34,650 --> 00:41:39,119  
can pay the fees that are required to

927  
00:41:36,389 --> 00:41:40,558  
cover the insurance the doctor hat also

928  
00:41:39,119 --> 00:41:42,568  
has to work privately as much as

929  
00:41:40,559 --> 00:41:44,579  
possible to finance this and other costs

930  
00:41:42,568 --> 00:41:47,039  
so we'll try to work as little as

931  
00:41:44,579 --> 00:41:49,200  
possible in the public system I believe

932  
00:41:47,039 --> 00:41:52,380  
the harm caused to society by cases such

933  
00:41:49,199 --> 00:41:54,568  
as this is obvious we go back to

934  
00:41:52,380 --> 00:41:56,608  
vaccines it's worth pointing out that

935  
00:41:54,568 --> 00:41:59,159  
but scenes are not and cannot be one

936  
00:41:56,608 --> 00:42:00,480  
hundred percent safe the avn make that

937  
00:41:59,159 --> 00:42:02,818  
statement as if it's some kind of

938  
00:42:00,480 --> 00:42:05,608  
conspiracy or secret but it's nothing of

939  
00:42:02,818 --> 00:42:08,190  
this sort information about risks and

940  
00:42:05,608 --> 00:42:09,960  
side effects is publicly available but

941

00:42:08,190 --> 00:42:12,298  
what it shows is that vaccines are so

942  
00:42:09,960 --> 00:42:14,690  
extremely safe that any concern raised

943  
00:42:12,298 --> 00:42:16,798  
by the anti-vaccine lobby are baseless

944  
00:42:14,690 --> 00:42:18,960  
personal anecdotes are used to provide

945  
00:42:16,798 --> 00:42:20,280  
an angle similar to the when it happens

946  
00:42:18,960 --> 00:42:23,130  
to you each one hundred percent thing

947  
00:42:20,280 --> 00:42:24,990  
but that is not how medicine works it

948  
00:42:23,130 --> 00:42:28,200  
works by using statistics on large

949  
00:42:24,989 --> 00:42:30,629  
numbers merrell dori for example claims

950  
00:42:28,199 --> 00:42:32,399  
that her son was injured by vaccines how

951  
00:42:30,630 --> 00:42:34,680  
does she know that well she just does

952  
00:42:32,400 --> 00:42:36,450  
and she does because she's as

953  
00:42:34,679 --> 00:42:38,250  
knowledgeable about statistics as she is

954  
00:42:36,449 --> 00:42:41,039  
about just science in general which is

955  
00:42:38,250 --> 00:42:44,429

not at all like many people she confuses

956

00:42:41,039 --> 00:42:46,170

correlation with causation I being an

957

00:42:44,429 --> 00:42:48,779

atheist and therefore completely lacking

958

00:42:46,170 --> 00:42:51,088

any moral compass decided to carry out

959

00:42:48,780 --> 00:42:52,500

an experiment and after my first son

960

00:42:51,088 --> 00:42:54,808

turned out to be on the autistic

961

00:42:52,500 --> 00:42:56,699

spectrum I decided to scientifically

962

00:42:54,809 --> 00:42:59,490

test the hypothesis that vaccines cause

963

00:42:56,699 --> 00:43:01,439

autism I recruited my second son and

964

00:42:59,489 --> 00:43:03,389

then the third to the experiment and

965

00:43:01,440 --> 00:43:05,818

subjected all three to the full schedule

966

00:43:03,389 --> 00:43:08,368

of vaccines based on this experiment

967

00:43:05,818 --> 00:43:10,108

with N equals 3 I can say that vaccines

968

00:43:08,369 --> 00:43:13,170

cause autism in one-third of all

969

00:43:10,108 --> 00:43:16,318

children or perhaps he one-third of all

970  
00:43:13,170 --> 00:43:19,829  
boys or perhaps in just one third of all

971  
00:43:16,318 --> 00:43:21,599  
my boys incidentally vaccines also

972  
00:43:19,829 --> 00:43:24,829  
caused shortsightedness in one-third of

973  
00:43:21,599 --> 00:43:27,059  
boys and asthma in a third of boys

974  
00:43:24,829 --> 00:43:31,140  
surprisingly vaccines do not cause any

975  
00:43:27,059 --> 00:43:33,190  
two of these in any one child jokes

976  
00:43:31,139 --> 00:43:35,139  
aside the only way to find out

977  
00:43:33,190 --> 00:43:37,720  
is really happening is using statistics

978  
00:43:35,139 --> 00:43:39,670  
which is what was done in a large number

979  
00:43:37,719 --> 00:43:41,980  
of real studies with real controls and

980  
00:43:39,670 --> 00:43:44,230  
proper statistics and they show that

981  
00:43:41,980 --> 00:43:46,510  
vaccines do not cause over to autism and

982  
00:43:44,230 --> 00:43:48,159  
are generally extremely safe except for

983  
00:43:46,510 --> 00:43:51,609  
people with some very specific and very

984  
00:43:48,159 --> 00:43:53,500  
rare genetic conditions society would be

985  
00:43:51,608 --> 00:43:56,108  
much better off if people realized how

986  
00:43:53,500 --> 00:43:57,670  
important statistics is in medicine how

987  
00:43:56,108 --> 00:43:59,710  
it makes the difference between useful

988  
00:43:57,670 --> 00:44:01,450  
and unuseful treatments and that one

989  
00:43:59,710 --> 00:44:03,190  
hundred percent is not a realistic

990  
00:44:01,449 --> 00:44:06,429  
expectation for the efficacy or safety

991  
00:44:03,190 --> 00:44:08,139  
of any treatment before deciding on

992  
00:44:06,429 --> 00:44:09,730  
medical treatment people should ask

993  
00:44:08,139 --> 00:44:12,429  
their doctors about the statistics

994  
00:44:09,730 --> 00:44:13,719  
related to the proposed treatment they

995  
00:44:12,429 --> 00:44:15,399  
should remember not to expect one

996  
00:44:13,719 --> 00:44:17,559  
hundred percent safety or efficacy and

997  
00:44:15,400 --> 00:44:20,200  
that they may end up being on the wrong

998

00:44:17,559 --> 00:44:22,659  
side of statistics those who consider

999  
00:44:20,199 --> 00:44:24,309  
such risks to be unacceptable should

1000  
00:44:22,659 --> 00:44:27,098  
look at other activities in their lives

1001  
00:44:24,309 --> 00:44:29,139  
such as driving cars and realize that we

1002  
00:44:27,099 --> 00:44:31,450  
all accept risks every day of our lives

1003  
00:44:29,139 --> 00:44:33,848  
when we consider the probability of

1004  
00:44:31,449 --> 00:44:37,169  
things going well to be good enough but

1005  
00:44:33,849 --> 00:44:37,170  
rarely one hundred percent

1006  
00:44:49,739 --> 00:44:53,579  
thank you for listening to the skeptic

1007  
00:44:51,840 --> 00:44:55,079  
zone over the next weeks we'll be

1008  
00:44:53,579 --> 00:44:57,719  
bringing you those interviews from

1009  
00:44:55,079 --> 00:44:59,610  
dragoncon until then you might want to

1010  
00:44:57,719 --> 00:45:05,849  
check out the website of Australian

1011  
00:44:59,610 --> 00:45:07,769  
skeptics ww skeptics com au and once

1012  
00:45:05,849 --> 00:45:09,960

you're there if you click the link at

1013  
00:45:07,769 --> 00:45:13,110  
the top of the page that says resources

1014  
00:45:09,960 --> 00:45:15,599  
you'll find the new videos page lots of

1015  
00:45:13,110 --> 00:45:18,480  
videos there including James Randi in

1016  
00:45:15,599 --> 00:45:20,579  
Australia and you'll see why one of the

1017  
00:45:18,480 --> 00:45:24,420  
reasons why the Australian skeptics

1018  
00:45:20,579 --> 00:45:26,849  
kicked off in 1980 so until next week or

1019  
00:45:24,420 --> 00:45:28,490  
possibly the week after hmm depends how

1020  
00:45:26,849 --> 00:45:30,839  
i feel after getting home with jet lag

1021  
00:45:28,489 --> 00:45:36,319  
this is Richard Saunders signing off

1022  
00:45:30,840 --> 00:45:36,320  
from Sydney Australia and Atlanta USA

1023  
00:45:37,190 --> 00:45:43,590  
you've been listening to the skeptic

1024  
00:45:39,599 --> 00:45:47,400  
zone visit our website at wwc a petting

1025  
00:45:43,590 --> 00:45:50,039  
zoo TV for comments contacts and extra

1026  
00:45:47,400 --> 00:45:53,610  
video reports

1027  
00:45:50,039 --> 00:45:53,610  
our skin

1028  
00:46:01,619 --> 00:46:03,680  
Oh

1029  
00:46:08,869 --> 00:46:10,930  
you