

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,089
[Music]

2
00:00:05,929 --> 00:00:11,849
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

3
00:00:09,089 --> 00:00:13,919
from Australia for science and reason

4
00:00:11,849 --> 00:00:16,850
[Music]

5
00:00:13,919 --> 00:00:22,170
[Applause]

6
00:00:16,850 --> 00:00:24,700
[Music]

7
00:00:22,170 --> 00:00:29,860
yes it's the skeptic zone podcast

8
00:00:24,699 --> 00:00:32,289
episode number 501 over the 500 mark

9
00:00:29,859 --> 00:00:34,509
here we go let's see what snakes huh

10
00:00:32,289 --> 00:00:38,769
1,000 yes we'll get to that presently

11
00:00:34,509 --> 00:00:40,808
mm-hmm 501 for the 27th of May 2018

12
00:00:38,770 --> 00:00:42,580
Richard Saunders here with you from

13
00:00:40,808 --> 00:00:47,619
Sydney Australia on a very nice-looking

14
00:00:42,579 --> 00:00:51,250
day outside I'm a little bit a little

15
00:00:47,619 --> 00:00:53,619
bit tired had a late shift last night

16
00:00:51,250 --> 00:00:55,808
doing some research work for the New

17
00:00:53,619 --> 00:00:59,669
South Wales government at the vivid

18
00:00:55,808 --> 00:01:01,899
festival of lights in Sydney we have

19
00:00:59,670 --> 00:01:03,850
thousands and thousands of people

20
00:01:01,899 --> 00:01:06,700
crowded downtown to look at light

21
00:01:03,850 --> 00:01:09,129
displays and feel very late and it's

22
00:01:06,700 --> 00:01:10,990
quite an event coming up on this week's

23
00:01:09,129 --> 00:01:13,839
show where you're getting to interview

24
00:01:10,989 --> 00:01:16,269
an old friend of mine Sharon Hill Sharon

25
00:01:13,840 --> 00:01:18,400
Hill who unfurl recently was doing

26
00:01:16,269 --> 00:01:20,590
doubtful news still doing lots of

27
00:01:18,400 --> 00:01:22,510
skeptical stuff and Sharon Hill is

28
00:01:20,590 --> 00:01:26,170
coming to Australia to take part in

29

00:01:22,510 --> 00:01:28,719
Paracon coming up next month and she'll

30
00:01:26,170 --> 00:01:31,299
also be visiting Melbourne all the

31
00:01:28,719 --> 00:01:33,459
details coming up with Sharon Hill at

32
00:01:31,299 --> 00:01:36,969
the top of the show following that we

33
00:01:33,459 --> 00:01:40,809
have a report or a plea a call for help

34
00:01:36,969 --> 00:01:42,489
from choice magazine who are fighting

35
00:01:40,810 --> 00:01:45,519
the good fight when it comes to

36
00:01:42,489 --> 00:01:48,219
regulation concerning packaging on

37
00:01:45,519 --> 00:01:50,829
medicine how should it be labeled what

38
00:01:48,219 --> 00:01:53,859
claims can it make what claims should it

39
00:01:50,829 --> 00:01:56,859
make or should not make and how you if

40
00:01:53,859 --> 00:01:59,379
you're in Australia can help with this

41
00:01:56,859 --> 00:02:01,719
choice campaign then to round off the

42
00:01:59,379 --> 00:02:05,489
show the return of the cast's files with

43
00:02:01,719 --> 00:02:09,699

dr. Cassandra Perryman she's going to be

44

00:02:05,489 --> 00:02:11,680
looking at what is truth or more

45

00:02:09,699 --> 00:02:14,709
importantly why do people hang on to

46

00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:17,140
lies or why do people keep believing

47

00:02:14,709 --> 00:02:18,729
things that are the monster bleah untrue

48

00:02:17,139 --> 00:02:21,429
or you know I think I can you get the

49

00:02:18,729 --> 00:02:23,318
idea it's always a psychological

50

00:02:21,430 --> 00:02:25,469
adventure with dr. Cassandra Perryman

51

00:02:23,318 --> 00:02:29,079
and that's coming up to wrap up the show

52

00:02:25,469 --> 00:02:33,550
now folks is a little reward to myself

53

00:02:29,080 --> 00:02:33,800
after the last show 500 went out to the

54

00:02:33,550 --> 00:02:35,810
way

55

00:02:33,800 --> 00:02:38,750
in world I took a few days off and

56

00:02:35,810 --> 00:02:39,229
visited my friend Jim Wilshire he's this

57

00:02:38,750 --> 00:02:42,229
man

58
00:02:39,229 --> 00:02:44,810
welcome to the skeptic Zone the podcast

59
00:02:42,229 --> 00:02:48,109
from Australia for science and reason

60
00:02:44,810 --> 00:02:51,349
and he lives on a little property little

61
00:02:48,110 --> 00:02:53,210
farmhouse near the city of Aubry in New

62
00:02:51,349 --> 00:02:56,060
South Wales along the beautiful Murray

63
00:02:53,210 --> 00:02:57,680
River and what a treat it is to relax

64
00:02:56,060 --> 00:02:59,420
down there on a farm for a few days

65
00:02:57,680 --> 00:03:01,400
after five hundred episodes I think I

66
00:02:59,419 --> 00:03:04,909
deserved a few days to get myself

67
00:03:01,400 --> 00:03:06,620
together thanks Jim I hope to see you

68
00:03:04,909 --> 00:03:08,810
again a bit later on in the year and

69
00:03:06,620 --> 00:03:12,469
thank you to all the people who send in

70
00:03:08,810 --> 00:03:15,740
messages of congratulations on Facebook

71
00:03:12,469 --> 00:03:17,330
and in person and on Twitter and

72
00:03:15,740 --> 00:03:21,790
everywhere else for the sceptic zone

73
00:03:17,330 --> 00:03:24,560
reaching me 500 episode milestone mark

74
00:03:21,789 --> 00:03:27,590
stay tuned at the end of the show for

75
00:03:24,560 --> 00:03:30,409
more messages from me but now it's time

76
00:03:27,590 --> 00:03:34,580
for me to run downstairs and have some

77
00:03:30,409 --> 00:03:36,139
lemon tea Oh feeling still a little bit

78
00:03:34,580 --> 00:03:38,390
tired after last night it was a very

79
00:03:36,139 --> 00:03:42,649
late night and I'm up early this morning

80
00:03:38,389 --> 00:03:45,679
to record the introduction for the show

81
00:03:42,650 --> 00:03:48,170
before before the flight path or the

82
00:03:45,680 --> 00:03:50,260
flight corridor which goes over the

83
00:03:48,169 --> 00:03:53,238
studios opens up for Sydney Airport

84
00:03:50,259 --> 00:03:57,199
because then every three or four minutes

85
00:03:53,239 --> 00:03:59,780
a whacking great jumbo jet or her a380

86

00:03:57,199 --> 00:04:02,089
or whatever comes over but while I enjoy

87
00:03:59,780 --> 00:04:04,640
my lemon tea I might have lemon and

88
00:04:02,090 --> 00:04:04,909
ginger tea I hope you enjoy the skeptic

89
00:04:04,639 --> 00:04:24,550
Sam

90
00:04:04,909 --> 00:04:27,350
[Music]

91
00:04:24,550 --> 00:04:29,360
and joining me now all the way from

92
00:04:27,350 --> 00:04:31,580
Harrisburg Pennsylvania I have not

93
00:04:29,360 --> 00:04:35,210
visited Harrisburg Pennsylvania but if I

94
00:04:31,579 --> 00:04:37,550
do I'd certainly call on Sharon Hill

95
00:04:35,209 --> 00:04:39,948
hello Sharon hi Richard it's good to

96
00:04:37,550 --> 00:04:43,910
talk to you yes it's been a while since

97
00:04:39,949 --> 00:04:45,288
we've had a chat normally we I have the

98
00:04:43,910 --> 00:04:47,120
pleasure of bumping into you at

99
00:04:45,288 --> 00:04:50,779
something like the amazing meeting or

100
00:04:47,120 --> 00:04:53,209

various conventions but not not recently

101

00:04:50,779 --> 00:04:56,538

I don't think what is what as Sharon

102

00:04:53,209 --> 00:04:58,038

Hill been up to and I understand that

103

00:04:56,538 --> 00:05:00,889

you're not concentrating on doubtful

104

00:04:58,038 --> 00:05:04,009

news at the moment that's right we sort

105

00:05:00,889 --> 00:05:05,960

of wrapped that up maybe it ran its

106

00:05:04,009 --> 00:05:09,079

course maybe the whole fake news thing

107

00:05:05,959 --> 00:05:10,638

just sort of overwhelmed everybody and I

108

00:05:09,079 --> 00:05:13,668

decided to move on to a couple new

109

00:05:10,639 --> 00:05:16,819

things and I finished a new book my

110

00:05:13,668 --> 00:05:18,829

first book called scientific Americans

111

00:05:16,819 --> 00:05:22,819

yeah and it's about the culture of

112

00:05:18,829 --> 00:05:25,219

amateur paranormal investigators so it's

113

00:05:22,819 --> 00:05:26,629

about how sort of like science and how

114

00:05:25,220 --> 00:05:28,280

they understand science how they try to

115
00:05:26,629 --> 00:05:30,199
use science so it's more lit more about

116
00:05:28,279 --> 00:05:31,579
the public understanding of science but

117
00:05:30,199 --> 00:05:34,060
focusing in on those paranormal

118
00:05:31,579 --> 00:05:36,699
researchers and what they do yeah and

119
00:05:34,060 --> 00:05:40,339
I've also started a new website called

120
00:05:36,699 --> 00:05:41,629
spooky geology dumb comm yeah and yeah

121
00:05:40,339 --> 00:05:46,098
we could talk about that

122
00:05:41,629 --> 00:05:47,899
and just been blogging on my own and

123
00:05:46,098 --> 00:05:50,329
reading lots of books and listening to

124
00:05:47,899 --> 00:05:52,429
podcasts and reading lots of magazines

125
00:05:50,329 --> 00:05:54,918
that's that's what I like to do that's

126
00:05:52,430 --> 00:05:56,418
it that doesn't sound too bad at all now

127
00:05:54,918 --> 00:06:00,109
let's have a chat about the book is that

128
00:05:56,418 --> 00:06:02,379
available right now yes absolutely mad

129
00:06:00,110 --> 00:06:04,990
at the very very end of last year and

130
00:06:02,379 --> 00:06:07,550
you know you can look it up on Amazon's

131
00:06:04,990 --> 00:06:10,759
scientific Americans sort of a play on

132
00:06:07,550 --> 00:06:13,129
scientific American's because what I saw

133
00:06:10,759 --> 00:06:17,029
these people doing was not quite science

134
00:06:13,129 --> 00:06:17,300
it was sort of scientific sciency

135
00:06:17,029 --> 00:06:19,638
stuff

136
00:06:17,300 --> 00:06:22,968
yes well look folks I will

137
00:06:19,639 --> 00:06:25,460
to the the link there to Sharon's book

138
00:06:22,968 --> 00:06:27,110
on the on this week's show notes but

139
00:06:25,459 --> 00:06:28,579
let's just chat about this for a little

140
00:06:27,110 --> 00:06:31,370
while Sharon because I find this a very

141
00:06:28,579 --> 00:06:34,060
fascinating topic and I have been on

142
00:06:31,370 --> 00:06:36,728
more than my fair share of ghost

143

00:06:34,060 --> 00:06:39,500
investigations with the paranormal crew

144
00:06:36,728 --> 00:06:41,870
right with their black t-shirts which

145
00:06:39,500 --> 00:06:46,310
they seem to like or their camouflage

146
00:06:41,870 --> 00:06:48,379
Agia lovely people by the way but we may

147
00:06:46,310 --> 00:06:51,918
hide a nine in fact and our friend

148
00:06:48,379 --> 00:06:54,289
ilithyia Dean we went for a night here

149
00:06:51,918 --> 00:06:57,228
in Sydney in the fields of Mars Cemetery

150
00:06:54,288 --> 00:07:00,259
where all sorts of spooky things didn't

151
00:06:57,228 --> 00:07:03,318
really happen but they had no end of

152
00:07:00,259 --> 00:07:06,468
gadgets and gizmos and all sorts of

153
00:07:03,319 --> 00:07:08,240
things that made lights and noises right

154
00:07:06,468 --> 00:07:10,158
right that's part of the whole science

155
00:07:08,240 --> 00:07:12,259
II thing they're sort of conjuring this

156
00:07:10,158 --> 00:07:16,418
image of scientific authority with the

157
00:07:12,259 --> 00:07:19,610

gadgets and with this sense of being

158

00:07:16,418 --> 00:07:23,359

systematic and and taking collecting

159

00:07:19,610 --> 00:07:25,580

data and getting evidence and and using

160

00:07:23,360 --> 00:07:27,588

a lot of jargon as well as the gadgets

161

00:07:25,579 --> 00:07:29,628

and these are the sort of ways that they

162

00:07:27,588 --> 00:07:32,149

conjure that scientific authority and

163

00:07:29,629 --> 00:07:34,580

the public kind of falls for it they

164

00:07:32,149 --> 00:07:37,149

they tend to see them as some sort of

165

00:07:34,579 --> 00:07:40,490

paranormal experts and professionals and

166

00:07:37,149 --> 00:07:42,348

that's kind of unfortunate but it does

167

00:07:40,490 --> 00:07:44,689

show that these people are kind of

168

00:07:42,348 --> 00:07:47,329

trying to use science they're just

169

00:07:44,689 --> 00:07:49,449

falling short so I in the book I talk

170

00:07:47,329 --> 00:07:52,338

about not only ghost hunters but also

171

00:07:49,449 --> 00:07:53,778

cryptozoologist and ufologists who sort

172
00:07:52,338 --> 00:07:55,459
of do the same thing in a different way

173
00:07:53,778 --> 00:07:57,740
each each of the fields is slightly

174
00:07:55,459 --> 00:07:59,388
different and I talk about how science

175
00:07:57,740 --> 00:08:02,088
has sort of looked at these fields

176
00:07:59,389 --> 00:08:04,788
already and discovered that there isn't

177
00:08:02,088 --> 00:08:08,240
really anything there to investigate so

178
00:08:04,788 --> 00:08:10,218
when the scientists left the public is

179
00:08:08,240 --> 00:08:13,009
still really interested in this and the

180
00:08:10,218 --> 00:08:15,740
amateurs filled that void and now that

181
00:08:13,009 --> 00:08:17,658
if you think you've seen a Bigfoot or if

182
00:08:15,740 --> 00:08:19,490
you've spotted a UFO or if you think

183
00:08:17,658 --> 00:08:21,620
your house is haunted you call on these

184
00:08:19,490 --> 00:08:24,759
amateur investigators and they come

185
00:08:21,620 --> 00:08:28,430
right over now I don't want I'm not

186
00:08:24,759 --> 00:08:30,709
trying to be funny here well not

187
00:08:28,430 --> 00:08:32,209
necessarily but if folks just can

188
00:08:30,709 --> 00:08:33,560
visualize maybe a scene from

189
00:08:32,208 --> 00:08:35,989
Ghostbusters where the

190
00:08:33,559 --> 00:08:37,250
the heroes strolling through the haunted

191
00:08:35,990 --> 00:08:40,070
location and they're looking at their

192
00:08:37,250 --> 00:08:42,349
gadgets in their arms and lights are

193
00:08:40,070 --> 00:08:45,160
flashing well it's it's not too far

194
00:08:42,349 --> 00:08:48,230
removed from that and I'm not trying to

195
00:08:45,159 --> 00:08:52,399
descend it up but just in reality that's

196
00:08:48,230 --> 00:08:53,690
what is the sort of thing again yeah I'd

197
00:08:52,399 --> 00:08:55,879
hate to say it but it's true that

198
00:08:53,690 --> 00:09:01,250
Ghostbusters has actually influenced a

199
00:08:55,879 --> 00:09:02,990
couple people looks really cool and have

200

00:09:01,250 --> 00:09:05,509
you come across these wonderful devices

201
00:09:02,990 --> 00:09:08,990
now what were they called I think it was

202
00:09:05,509 --> 00:09:11,480
called a spirit box which is a machine

203
00:09:08,990 --> 00:09:18,370
if we thinking about the same machine

204
00:09:11,480 --> 00:09:20,899
which rapidly scans am frequencies no

205
00:09:18,370 --> 00:09:22,429
chitraju like that then if it comes

206
00:09:20,899 --> 00:09:25,278
across a word it plays the word then

207
00:09:22,429 --> 00:09:26,989
moves on to the next frequency right you

208
00:09:25,278 --> 00:09:28,370
get those little snippets of sound and

209
00:09:26,990 --> 00:09:31,339
then your brain sort of puts them

210
00:09:28,370 --> 00:09:33,679
together and it feels like it makes

211
00:09:31,339 --> 00:09:36,740
sense it feels like something ethereal

212
00:09:33,679 --> 00:09:39,019
is speaking to you yeah there's a lot of

213
00:09:36,740 --> 00:09:41,240
pareidolia involved in in ghost hunting

214
00:09:39,019 --> 00:09:43,819

in particular that in all their data

215

00:09:41,240 --> 00:09:46,039

they see something that isn't really

216

00:09:43,820 --> 00:09:48,830

there so they sort of imprint their in

217

00:09:46,039 --> 00:09:50,299

their entire worldview on it and they

218

00:09:48,830 --> 00:09:53,420

get something out of it where the rest

219

00:09:50,299 --> 00:09:55,729

of us are like I don't see it I've had

220

00:09:53,419 --> 00:09:57,889

people I've had people send me EVPs

221

00:09:55,730 --> 00:10:00,170

electronic voice phenomenon you know

222

00:09:57,889 --> 00:10:02,330

that they record mm-hmm if they don't

223

00:10:00,169 --> 00:10:04,490

hear it when they record it but then

224

00:10:02,330 --> 00:10:06,080

they hear it afterwards I sort of like

225

00:10:04,490 --> 00:10:07,970

clicks and glitches and stuff but they

226

00:10:06,080 --> 00:10:10,009

hear words and I've had people send me

227

00:10:07,970 --> 00:10:12,139

these EVPs and says these is absolutely

228

00:10:10,009 --> 00:10:15,830

crystal clear and what I'll do is I'll

229
00:10:12,139 --> 00:10:17,689
just put my hand over the the YouTube

230
00:10:15,830 --> 00:10:19,459
clip which has the speech at the bottom

231
00:10:17,690 --> 00:10:21,910
translated and I'll try and listen to

232
00:10:19,458 --> 00:10:24,319
what it is and I can never make it out

233
00:10:21,909 --> 00:10:27,250
yeah now just for the benefit of

234
00:10:24,320 --> 00:10:29,540
listeners it may be new to the skeptical

235
00:10:27,250 --> 00:10:31,370
worlds and all this sort of thing can

236
00:10:29,539 --> 00:10:35,480
you give a brief overview of what

237
00:10:31,370 --> 00:10:38,389
pareidolia is right people have this

238
00:10:35,480 --> 00:10:41,028
tendency to see particular patterns in

239
00:10:38,389 --> 00:10:43,399
noise we have a particular tendency to

240
00:10:41,028 --> 00:10:44,250
see faces and things like trees and

241
00:10:43,399 --> 00:10:47,639
rocks and

242
00:10:44,250 --> 00:10:49,379
and inanimate objects and when it in the

243
00:10:47,639 --> 00:10:51,960
term pareidolia means that you are

244
00:10:49,379 --> 00:10:54,539
seeing a figure you're you're making

245
00:10:51,960 --> 00:10:55,980
sense of something that is isn't really

246
00:10:54,539 --> 00:10:58,409
what you think it is but your brain is

247
00:10:55,980 --> 00:11:00,840
sort of filling in the gaps and making

248
00:10:58,409 --> 00:11:04,319
it look like a face or an animal or a

249
00:11:00,840 --> 00:11:06,389
Bigfoot or in the case of sound it's

250
00:11:04,320 --> 00:11:08,250
also doing the same thing it's filling

251
00:11:06,389 --> 00:11:09,779
in those gaps and it's trying to match

252
00:11:08,250 --> 00:11:12,570
your brain is trying to match up with

253
00:11:09,779 --> 00:11:14,339
patterns that it already knows and it's

254
00:11:12,570 --> 00:11:16,740
just a human trait and it serves us

255
00:11:14,340 --> 00:11:18,600
pretty well especially if we're out in a

256
00:11:16,740 --> 00:11:22,529
dangerous situation and we encounter

257

00:11:18,600 --> 00:11:25,080
some sound or visual that could signal

258
00:11:22,529 --> 00:11:26,850
danger it's a good thing to have but of

259
00:11:25,080 --> 00:11:29,280
course in our society today we kind of

260
00:11:26,850 --> 00:11:31,759
go overboard with it we are so so much

261
00:11:29,279 --> 00:11:34,889
stimulus around us and we tend to see

262
00:11:31,759 --> 00:11:37,590
patterns in noise that aren't really

263
00:11:34,889 --> 00:11:40,230
there yes that's so that's a very good

264
00:11:37,590 --> 00:11:43,710
explanation Sharon that's exactly what

265
00:11:40,230 --> 00:11:45,899
it is and as it happens folks I've got

266
00:11:43,710 --> 00:11:47,700
an example here of this thing we were

267
00:11:45,899 --> 00:11:49,529
discussing the spirit box which involves

268
00:11:47,700 --> 00:11:51,960
what we call audio pareidolia where you

269
00:11:49,529 --> 00:11:54,149
hear random sounds and your brain tries

270
00:11:51,960 --> 00:11:54,490
to make sense of them I have a listen to

271
00:11:54,149 --> 00:12:00,340

this

272

00:11:54,490 --> 00:12:00,340
[Laughter]

273

00:12:04,480 --> 00:12:31,050
[Laughter]

274

00:12:39,110 --> 00:12:44,940
so there you go that was a spirit box on

275

00:12:42,120 --> 00:12:48,179
a ghost investigation a weird sort of

276

00:12:44,940 --> 00:12:52,830
sound the human mind is is fascinating

277

00:12:48,179 --> 00:12:55,159
on many levels Sharon but in our line we

278

00:12:52,830 --> 00:12:58,639
certainly see it put to work don't we

279

00:12:55,159 --> 00:13:01,889
right right like I said these people are

280

00:12:58,639 --> 00:13:05,490
very genuine they're passionate about

281

00:13:01,889 --> 00:13:07,289
what they do and they're sort of

282

00:13:05,490 --> 00:13:10,079
committed to the idea that the

283

00:13:07,289 --> 00:13:12,659
paranormal is out there and their intent

284

00:13:10,078 --> 00:13:15,689
on finding it yeah that I I think you're

285

00:13:12,659 --> 00:13:18,480
right and the ones I've met not only is

286
00:13:15,690 --> 00:13:20,880
it for them a social group they belong

287
00:13:18,480 --> 00:13:23,278
to of like-minded people which we all do

288
00:13:20,879 --> 00:13:24,750
which is very important for them you

289
00:13:23,278 --> 00:13:27,689
know we've evolved that way quite

290
00:13:24,750 --> 00:13:28,860
frankly but they feel they're doing

291
00:13:27,690 --> 00:13:30,870
something very important they're

292
00:13:28,860 --> 00:13:32,850
actually they are are actually

293
00:13:30,870 --> 00:13:35,339
contacting spirits or clearing out

294
00:13:32,850 --> 00:13:37,860
things or this is making new discoveries

295
00:13:35,339 --> 00:13:39,930
for science so I to them it gives them a

296
00:13:37,860 --> 00:13:42,659
very important sense of being I think

297
00:13:39,929 --> 00:13:44,458
very true and that I do discuss that in

298
00:13:42,659 --> 00:13:45,028
the book it's part becomes part of their

299
00:13:44,458 --> 00:13:47,039
identity

300
00:13:45,028 --> 00:13:49,169
it's how they identify with other people

301
00:13:47,039 --> 00:13:51,719
and how they interact with the rest of

302
00:13:49,169 --> 00:13:53,338
the world and it it makes them feel very

303
00:13:51,720 --> 00:13:55,980
special and I think that's really

304
00:13:53,339 --> 00:13:58,440
understandable and I like to converse

305
00:13:55,980 --> 00:14:00,810
with them I like to talk to them I hope

306
00:13:58,440 --> 00:14:05,850
that maybe just these types of exchanges

307
00:14:00,809 --> 00:14:08,099
between us could be a way to help foster

308
00:14:05,850 --> 00:14:11,339
understanding between the groups yeah

309
00:14:08,100 --> 00:14:13,710
and and and again I I really appreciate

310
00:14:11,339 --> 00:14:16,030
the fact that you've you

311
00:14:13,710 --> 00:14:17,879
acknowledge that this is important to

312
00:14:16,029 --> 00:14:20,829
them you know they're just acting like

313
00:14:17,879 --> 00:14:22,509
like we all do from time to time you

314

00:14:20,830 --> 00:14:25,060
know we glad to onto something which is

315
00:14:22,509 --> 00:14:27,909
important to us and and we have that

316
00:14:25,059 --> 00:14:29,500
social bonding so I can't wait you're

317
00:14:27,909 --> 00:14:31,600
very kindly sending me a copy of the

318
00:14:29,500 --> 00:14:33,840
book which I will read with with glee

319
00:14:31,600 --> 00:14:36,759
because I find these groups only

320
00:14:33,840 --> 00:14:38,230
endlessly fascinating and you often come

321
00:14:36,759 --> 00:14:41,860
across them

322
00:14:38,230 --> 00:14:43,509
when I do things like mind/body/spirit

323
00:14:41,860 --> 00:14:45,399
conventions and things right visit

324
00:14:43,509 --> 00:14:47,860
there'll be a table or two tables of the

325
00:14:45,399 --> 00:14:49,899
the so-and-so Ghost Hunters group or the

326
00:14:47,860 --> 00:14:51,460
paranormal investigations unit or the

327
00:14:49,899 --> 00:14:53,709
ghost of that you know that they give

328
00:14:51,460 --> 00:14:56,830

themselves these these names too right

329

00:14:53,710 --> 00:14:58,360

that's part of the authority they use

330

00:14:56,830 --> 00:15:01,509

they give themselves important names

331

00:14:58,360 --> 00:15:04,060

acronyms titles and makes them sound

332

00:15:01,509 --> 00:15:06,549

very credible it really does now what's

333

00:15:04,059 --> 00:15:08,919

this about geology well you know I am a

334

00:15:06,549 --> 00:15:11,199

geologist and I figured I probably

335

00:15:08,919 --> 00:15:14,319

should talk a little bit about geology

336

00:15:11,200 --> 00:15:17,680

in relation to paranormal topics because

337

00:15:14,320 --> 00:15:19,330

the two interact and they interact and

338

00:15:17,679 --> 00:15:21,819

it's sort of an interesting way I mean

339

00:15:19,330 --> 00:15:26,370

spookiness about geology I can think of

340

00:15:21,820 --> 00:15:29,260

a lot of topics that cover ideas about

341

00:15:26,370 --> 00:15:33,000

places and phenomena chiral phenomenon

342

00:15:29,259 --> 00:15:35,549

that people sometimes believe have

343
00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:39,669
magical or mystical or supernatural

344
00:15:35,549 --> 00:15:43,329
causes but instead they may have actual

345
00:15:39,669 --> 00:15:45,189
physical geological causes so I decided

346
00:15:43,330 --> 00:15:47,230
to start a website and start researching

347
00:15:45,190 --> 00:15:51,040
these topics and see what I could find

348
00:15:47,230 --> 00:15:53,379
so what I talked about on this site are

349
00:15:51,039 --> 00:15:55,329
things like alternative geological

350
00:15:53,379 --> 00:15:57,789
explanations so like the Flat Earth

351
00:15:55,330 --> 00:16:00,270
which involves not only sometimes

352
00:15:57,789 --> 00:16:03,360
religious beliefs but also

353
00:16:00,269 --> 00:16:05,860
conspiratorial beliefs as well and

354
00:16:03,360 --> 00:16:07,659
things like earth energies people think

355
00:16:05,860 --> 00:16:10,149
that the earth has some sort of energy

356
00:16:07,659 --> 00:16:13,329
lines so that's connected to ideas of

357
00:16:10,149 --> 00:16:16,120
ghost lights such as your the minmin

358
00:16:13,330 --> 00:16:19,270
lights in in Queensland oh yes and of

359
00:16:16,120 --> 00:16:21,639
course dowsing is said to be following

360
00:16:19,269 --> 00:16:23,620
lines of energy in the earth and you

361
00:16:21,639 --> 00:16:26,990
have these energy vortexes where you can

362
00:16:23,620 --> 00:16:28,938
have these spiritual experiences

363
00:16:26,990 --> 00:16:32,178
there's also places that that have

364
00:16:28,938 --> 00:16:34,549
so-called mystical powers like Delphi in

365
00:16:32,178 --> 00:16:37,669
Greece or LaRue

366
00:16:34,549 --> 00:16:39,169
in Australia which is a very spiritual

367
00:16:37,669 --> 00:16:42,378
place and people feel that they have

368
00:16:39,169 --> 00:16:44,240
these these interesting experiences

369
00:16:42,379 --> 00:16:46,550
there absolutely I also talked about

370
00:16:44,240 --> 00:16:48,049
things like so-called gates to the

371

00:16:46,549 --> 00:16:49,609
underworld or people think that they

372
00:16:48,049 --> 00:16:53,149
could actually enter the underworld or

373
00:16:49,610 --> 00:16:56,449
gates to hell and a curious recent

374
00:16:53,149 --> 00:16:58,639
example that I just wrote about was the

375
00:16:56,448 --> 00:17:01,008
eruptions in Hawaii that are going on

376
00:16:58,639 --> 00:17:04,338
right now and they see is is the

377
00:17:01,009 --> 00:17:07,610
prompting of people to start making

378
00:17:04,338 --> 00:17:10,578
gifts to give to the goddess Pele to try

379
00:17:07,609 --> 00:17:13,038
to stop the eruptions and that's an

380
00:17:10,578 --> 00:17:15,288
interesting spiritual and mythical

381
00:17:13,038 --> 00:17:16,609
aspect to a very natural geologic

382
00:17:15,288 --> 00:17:18,259
phenomenon so those are the kind of

383
00:17:16,609 --> 00:17:21,379
things that I talk about well that's

384
00:17:18,259 --> 00:17:24,230
more there than I would have thought but

385
00:17:21,380 --> 00:17:25,760

you're absolutely right it does tie in a

386

00:17:24,230 --> 00:17:28,459

lot with the paranormal when we think of

387

00:17:25,759 --> 00:17:31,640

what they call the the ley lines for

388

00:17:28,459 --> 00:17:33,759

example right earth energies earase I've

389

00:17:31,640 --> 00:17:36,080

heard all this sort of thing and

390

00:17:33,759 --> 00:17:39,648

certainly around the world

391

00:17:36,079 --> 00:17:41,778

things like uluru ayres rock have strong

392

00:17:39,648 --> 00:17:44,389

spiritual connections to people so yeah

393

00:17:41,778 --> 00:17:45,919

what a fascinating topic I don't think

394

00:17:44,390 --> 00:17:48,770

I'll ever run out of topics for that

395

00:17:45,919 --> 00:17:52,880

because I I think that I've made my list

396

00:17:48,769 --> 00:17:56,298

complete and I just find more every day

397

00:17:52,880 --> 00:17:57,429

right now I'm working on a long piece it

398

00:17:56,298 --> 00:18:00,470

turned out to be longer than I thought

399

00:17:57,429 --> 00:18:03,620

about places with the devil in their

400
00:18:00,470 --> 00:18:07,038
name so devil places Devils Tower

401
00:18:03,619 --> 00:18:09,949
Devil's kitchen Devil's Den and why do

402
00:18:07,038 --> 00:18:11,419
they have those names so I I start to

403
00:18:09,950 --> 00:18:12,679
talk about that so that's what I'm

404
00:18:11,419 --> 00:18:15,740
working on right now that'll be my next

405
00:18:12,679 --> 00:18:19,159
post on the site that's interesting when

406
00:18:15,740 --> 00:18:22,940
I was a little boy growing up in a small

407
00:18:19,159 --> 00:18:24,950
country town there was a tiny River a

408
00:18:22,940 --> 00:18:26,960
couple of miles out of town where I used

409
00:18:24,950 --> 00:18:29,269
to go and my bike and we'd fish at

410
00:18:26,960 --> 00:18:35,200
devil's elbow which was just a bending

411
00:18:29,269 --> 00:18:38,269
right bend in the river I never knew why

412
00:18:35,200 --> 00:18:38,990
usually that the nasty bends are called

413
00:18:38,269 --> 00:18:39,980
Devil's elbow

414
00:18:38,990 --> 00:18:47,779
there's also Devils

415
00:18:39,980 --> 00:18:49,539
wind pipe and Devil's Backbone there

416
00:18:47,779 --> 00:18:54,918
must be many of them around the world

417
00:18:49,539 --> 00:18:57,740
too many I discovered we'll have to look

418
00:18:54,919 --> 00:19:00,650
some up now the exciting news for Sydney

419
00:18:57,740 --> 00:19:02,779
listeners and the terrible news for me

420
00:19:00,650 --> 00:19:06,350
is because I won't be here and I'm

421
00:19:02,779 --> 00:19:08,269
really regretting that because I I do so

422
00:19:06,349 --> 00:19:09,918
like to catch up with you however the

423
00:19:08,269 --> 00:19:14,000
good news for Sydney listeners is you're

424
00:19:09,919 --> 00:19:17,059
coming to town for Paracon Australia

425
00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:19,609
which is on the weekend of the 16th of

426
00:19:17,058 --> 00:19:21,889
June and you're going to be talking

427
00:19:19,609 --> 00:19:23,869
that's at the manly quarantine station

428

00:19:21,890 --> 00:19:26,570
folks for those Sydney listeners that

429
00:19:23,869 --> 00:19:28,699
looks to be an exciting time I've spoken

430
00:19:26,569 --> 00:19:30,470
at this conference myself before a

431
00:19:28,700 --> 00:19:31,700
couple of years back I was one of the

432
00:19:30,470 --> 00:19:33,890
guest speakers and I had a wonderful

433
00:19:31,700 --> 00:19:35,240
time with great people I saw all sorts

434
00:19:33,890 --> 00:19:37,490
of all sorts of interesting things

435
00:19:35,240 --> 00:19:40,250
especially ghost hunters and I bought a

436
00:19:37,490 --> 00:19:42,740
ghost laser I must admit I bought a

437
00:19:40,250 --> 00:19:43,940
laser which is designed to detect ghosts

438
00:19:42,740 --> 00:19:46,429
which I have which i think is really

439
00:19:43,940 --> 00:19:48,679
great what can people expect when you

440
00:19:46,429 --> 00:19:52,790
come out cheran well I'm really excited

441
00:19:48,679 --> 00:19:54,530
that the first day I'm giving a talk in

442
00:19:52,789 --> 00:19:56,539

the morning about misadventures and

443

00:19:54,529 --> 00:19:58,250

paranormal investigation so it does so

444

00:19:56,539 --> 00:20:00,609

to focus on the things that I talk about

445

00:19:58,250 --> 00:20:02,720

in the book but it also includes some

446

00:20:00,609 --> 00:20:05,269

well what I'm trying to do is just

447

00:20:02,720 --> 00:20:07,970

develop a rapport with with this crowd

448

00:20:05,269 --> 00:20:10,279

which is a they're all most mostly going

449

00:20:07,970 --> 00:20:11,900

to be paranormal investigators so it's

450

00:20:10,279 --> 00:20:13,639

very different crowd that I normally

451

00:20:11,900 --> 00:20:15,919

speak to so I want to make that

452

00:20:13,640 --> 00:20:18,559

connection and I want to be able to have

453

00:20:15,919 --> 00:20:20,600

these discussions with them and and sort

454

00:20:18,558 --> 00:20:21,950

of figure out what they're all about and

455

00:20:20,599 --> 00:20:23,779

maybe they could figure out what I'm all

456

00:20:21,950 --> 00:20:26,029

about and we can meet at some level and

457
00:20:23,779 --> 00:20:29,168
have some some cool discussions so I'm

458
00:20:26,029 --> 00:20:32,918
really looking forward to that and then

459
00:20:29,169 --> 00:20:37,490
the second day I'm going to be giving a

460
00:20:32,919 --> 00:20:41,059
lunch talk on spooky geology and we're

461
00:20:37,490 --> 00:20:42,919
also doing a panel me and Paul cropper

462
00:20:41,058 --> 00:20:45,139
and Toni Healy we're doing a panel about

463
00:20:42,919 --> 00:20:48,140
the Yowie so I'm really excited about

464
00:20:45,140 --> 00:20:50,330
that maybe I should change my plans I'm

465
00:20:48,140 --> 00:20:52,910
so sorry I won't be there I'm going to

466
00:20:50,329 --> 00:20:56,779
send me not our reporter may not

467
00:20:52,910 --> 00:20:58,700
yes the goose of the skeptics and he

468
00:20:56,779 --> 00:21:01,339
should be there and I guess again I'm

469
00:20:58,700 --> 00:21:03,830
very jealous and unfortunately I won't

470
00:21:01,339 --> 00:21:07,299
be there I really want if you want to

471
00:21:03,829 --> 00:21:10,039
see Sharon he'll live in Australia and

472
00:21:07,299 --> 00:21:11,480
it's worth really she's worth scenes

473
00:21:10,039 --> 00:21:13,059
he's a great speaker I've had the

474
00:21:11,480 --> 00:21:16,849
pleasure of seeing her speak many times

475
00:21:13,059 --> 00:21:18,679
para con Australia calm is the website

476
00:21:16,849 --> 00:21:20,389
to go to for more information to get

477
00:21:18,680 --> 00:21:22,009
your tickets and I'll certainly link to

478
00:21:20,390 --> 00:21:24,890
that in the show notes

479
00:21:22,009 --> 00:21:28,430
let me just add for your Melbourne

480
00:21:24,890 --> 00:21:30,980
listeners who I will be making a side

481
00:21:28,430 --> 00:21:33,890
trip to Melbourne for the Australian

482
00:21:30,980 --> 00:21:37,220
skeptics in Victoria meeting on Monday

483
00:21:33,890 --> 00:21:38,840
the 18th of June that's great great

484
00:21:37,220 --> 00:21:41,000
Melbourne listeners there you are you

485

00:21:38,839 --> 00:21:43,309
don't have to buy your plane tickets to

486
00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:45,589
Sydney after all this yeah Sharon Hill

487
00:21:43,309 --> 00:21:47,299
and the Vic skeptics are a wonderful

488
00:21:45,589 --> 00:21:50,240
group of people I've had the pleasure of

489
00:21:47,299 --> 00:21:52,700
speaking down there myself quite a few

490
00:21:50,240 --> 00:21:54,319
times and I again I will link to that on

491
00:21:52,700 --> 00:21:56,110
the show notes so there you are Sydney

492
00:21:54,319 --> 00:21:58,369
and Melbourne you're in for a treat

493
00:21:56,109 --> 00:22:00,109
change your plans you know if you're

494
00:21:58,369 --> 00:22:02,539
getting married that day forget about it

495
00:22:00,109 --> 00:22:04,399
just cancel the wedding it's worth it to

496
00:22:02,539 --> 00:22:07,099
see Sharon Hill Sharon Hill all the way

497
00:22:04,400 --> 00:22:09,140
from Harrisburg in Pennsylvania thank

498
00:22:07,099 --> 00:22:11,359
you very much for being on the skipping

499
00:22:09,140 --> 00:22:12,620

zone oh you're very welcome was

500

00:22:11,359 --> 00:22:27,449

wonderful talk to you Richard

501

00:22:12,619 --> 00:22:29,898

[Music]

502

00:22:27,450 --> 00:22:29,899

exist

503

00:22:30,400 --> 00:22:36,470

so yes simply hey Sal you guys guys I

504

00:22:34,339 --> 00:22:38,480

just had the most amazing experience

505

00:22:36,470 --> 00:22:40,130

what experience under us under heavy

506

00:22:38,480 --> 00:22:42,259

been to the pub children not to hang out

507

00:22:40,130 --> 00:22:44,690

with mash you know she was blessed by

508

00:22:42,259 --> 00:22:47,539

peter Popoff no Jelena I'm not talking

509

00:22:44,690 --> 00:22:49,519

about psychics it was a really SP

510

00:22:47,539 --> 00:22:51,049

experience now you have been to the pub

511

00:22:49,519 --> 00:22:51,650

either that or you've been smoking

512

00:22:51,049 --> 00:22:54,259

something

513

00:22:51,650 --> 00:22:56,480

no punters the ESB is the European

514
00:22:54,259 --> 00:22:58,640
sceptics podcast it's the most amazing

515
00:22:56,480 --> 00:23:00,380
thing you get to know so much about

516
00:22:58,640 --> 00:23:03,380
sceptics and their activities across

517
00:23:00,380 --> 00:23:05,150
Europe you know events hot topics and

518
00:23:03,380 --> 00:23:07,400
interviews with lots of interesting

519
00:23:05,150 --> 00:23:08,690
people oh wow cool by the way punters

520
00:23:07,400 --> 00:23:11,360
you just come into the false dichotomy

521
00:23:08,690 --> 00:23:13,070
fallacy I guess that means I'm really

522
00:23:11,359 --> 00:23:14,569
wrong yep

523
00:23:13,069 --> 00:23:16,519
then you can even learn about those

524
00:23:14,569 --> 00:23:19,039
fallacies in the show and hear about

525
00:23:16,519 --> 00:23:21,619
people spreading silly ideas you should

526
00:23:19,039 --> 00:23:24,559
really check it out it's the ESP the

527
00:23:21,619 --> 00:23:27,409
European sceptics podcast it's on never

528
00:23:24,559 --> 00:23:29,779
weak alright so where can I get this is

529
00:23:27,410 --> 00:23:32,779
the experience it sounds good you can go

530
00:23:29,779 --> 00:23:36,170
online at the ESP door to you follow it

531
00:23:32,779 --> 00:23:39,139
on twitter at es podcast underscore EU

532
00:23:36,170 --> 00:23:40,850
or like the podcast and Facebook oh and

533
00:23:39,140 --> 00:23:45,620
you can also contact the show by sending

534
00:23:40,849 --> 00:23:48,109
them an email to info at the ESPE you

535
00:23:45,619 --> 00:23:50,809
and if you want to subscribe do a quick

536
00:23:48,109 --> 00:23:57,169
search for the European skeptic podcast

537
00:23:50,809 --> 00:24:02,230
on soundcloud iTunes or stitcher I don't

538
00:23:57,170 --> 00:24:02,230
know how you can believe

539
00:24:02,470 --> 00:24:16,929
[Music]

540
00:24:13,078 --> 00:24:21,398
from our friends at choice magazine put

541
00:24:16,929 --> 00:24:23,139
fact over fiction proposed laws could

542

00:24:21,398 --> 00:24:25,888
see dangerous and potentially misleading

543
00:24:23,138 --> 00:24:27,968
claims on therapeutic goods especially

544
00:24:25,888 --> 00:24:30,958
complementary and alternative medicines

545
00:24:27,969 --> 00:24:33,429
like herbal and homeopathic treatments

546
00:24:30,959 --> 00:24:35,528
it means that products can claim to

547
00:24:33,429 --> 00:24:37,869
decrease the time it takes to fall

548
00:24:35,528 --> 00:24:40,088
asleep or help maintain healthy heart

549
00:24:37,868 --> 00:24:49,598
function without having scientific

550
00:24:40,088 --> 00:24:52,418
evidence to back up their claims to get

551
00:24:49,598 --> 00:24:55,658
our leaders attention we've produced our

552
00:24:52,419 --> 00:24:57,519
own vitamin bottles and labeled them

553
00:24:55,659 --> 00:24:59,679
with the claims vitamin companies are

554
00:24:57,519 --> 00:25:02,528
able to get away with under the proposed

555
00:24:59,679 --> 00:25:05,379
laws if this legislation isn't stopped

556
00:25:02,528 --> 00:25:07,088

by the 25th of June 2018 products like

557

00:25:05,378 --> 00:25:09,968

these will be allowed to be sold in

558

00:25:07,088 --> 00:25:13,388

chemists and supermarkets tell senators

559

00:25:09,969 --> 00:25:15,609

to knock back these laws so Australians

560

00:25:13,388 --> 00:25:18,368

looking for vitamins and supplements can

561

00:25:15,608 --> 00:25:20,528

separate fact from fiction we photograph

562

00:25:18,368 --> 00:25:22,718

accompanying the website which I shall

563

00:25:20,528 --> 00:25:26,798

link to in the show notes as medicine

564

00:25:22,719 --> 00:25:31,328

bottles labeled bio essential heart

565

00:25:26,798 --> 00:25:31,989

health sleep well liver detox how did we

566

00:25:31,328 --> 00:25:35,888

get here

567

00:25:31,989 --> 00:25:38,769

these laws arose from a 2015 review into

568

00:25:35,888 --> 00:25:41,228

medicines and medical devices the review

569

00:25:38,769 --> 00:25:44,409

recommended that when making product

570

00:25:41,229 --> 00:25:46,569

claims therapeutic goods companies must

571
00:25:44,409 --> 00:25:49,570
choose from a list of pre-approved

572
00:25:46,569 --> 00:25:51,578
claims it also recommended that there

573
00:25:49,569 --> 00:25:54,338
needed to be a disclaimer alongside

574
00:25:51,578 --> 00:25:57,398
claims to communicate to consumers that

575
00:25:54,338 --> 00:26:00,368
the efficacy of the product had not been

576
00:25:57,398 --> 00:26:02,918
independently assessed and/or is based

577
00:26:00,368 --> 00:26:04,778
on traditional use while the federal

578
00:26:02,919 --> 00:26:07,629
government agreed to this recommendation

579
00:26:04,778 --> 00:26:10,868
it was not implemented in the way it was

580
00:26:07,628 --> 00:26:13,689
envisaged rather than a concise list of

581
00:26:10,868 --> 00:26:15,129
claims backed by scientific evidence the

582
00:26:13,690 --> 00:26:19,539
list is long

583
00:26:15,130 --> 00:26:23,020
and contains 1017 claims for companies

584
00:26:19,539 --> 00:26:24,700
to use even more worryingly only a

585
00:26:23,019 --> 00:26:27,250
hundred and forty of the claims are

586
00:26:24,700 --> 00:26:30,970
backed by scientific evidence for the

587
00:26:27,250 --> 00:26:33,609
remaining 879 claims evidence of quote

588
00:26:30,970 --> 00:26:36,670
traditional and quote use is sufficient

589
00:26:33,609 --> 00:26:39,279
that is used for more than three

590
00:26:36,670 --> 00:26:42,610
generations in an alternative medical

591
00:26:39,279 --> 00:26:46,089
tradition such as Chinese medicine au

592
00:26:42,609 --> 00:26:48,879
vada or homeopathy what's in the bottles

593
00:26:46,089 --> 00:26:52,269
the vitamin bottles we've handed out are

594
00:26:48,880 --> 00:26:55,810
full of these sugary lollies urging

595
00:26:52,269 --> 00:26:58,289
senators to stop sour claims and support

596
00:26:55,809 --> 00:27:01,629
scientific evidence in therapeutic goods

597
00:26:58,289 --> 00:27:04,029
can the industry be trusted loose

598
00:27:01,630 --> 00:27:06,790
regulation on product claims on

599

00:27:04,029 --> 00:27:10,269
therapeutic goods only serves to benefit

600
00:27:06,789 --> 00:27:14,019
industry players in 2013 Swiss errs

601
00:27:10,269 --> 00:27:16,629
quote LT boost appetite suppressant

602
00:27:14,019 --> 00:27:19,480
unquote was delisted by the Therapeutic

603
00:27:16,630 --> 00:27:21,370
Goods Administration TGA due to quote

604
00:27:19,480 --> 00:27:23,950
insufficient evidence to support the

605
00:27:21,369 --> 00:27:26,589
claims on the product and quote within

606
00:27:23,950 --> 00:27:29,470
the same year Swiss then re listed the

607
00:27:26,589 --> 00:27:33,039
exact same product changing the label to

608
00:27:29,470 --> 00:27:35,589
include a quote traditional use in quote

609
00:27:33,039 --> 00:27:37,930
qualifier to evade the requirements that

610
00:27:35,589 --> 00:27:38,740
claims are to be based on scientific

611
00:27:37,930 --> 00:27:42,250
evidence

612
00:27:38,740 --> 00:27:44,259
what does choice want Australia is a

613
00:27:42,250 --> 00:27:46,329

multicultural country and it is

614

00:27:44,259 --> 00:27:48,700

appropriate that we respect and allow

615

00:27:46,329 --> 00:27:51,250

access to alternative medical traditions

616

00:27:48,700 --> 00:27:52,750

however it is also important that

617

00:27:51,250 --> 00:27:55,480

Australians are protected from

618

00:27:52,750 --> 00:27:57,700

misleading claims for consumers to be

619

00:27:55,480 --> 00:27:59,710

able to make an informed choice about

620

00:27:57,700 --> 00:28:02,259

complementary medicines products

621

00:27:59,710 --> 00:28:05,259

displaying traditional use indications

622

00:28:02,259 --> 00:28:07,480

should be also required to display a

623

00:28:05,259 --> 00:28:10,900

prominent disclaimer on the label to the

624

00:28:07,480 --> 00:28:12,849

effect of quote this products

625

00:28:10,900 --> 00:28:15,100

traditional claims are based on

626

00:28:12,849 --> 00:28:17,439

alternative health practices that are

627

00:28:15,099 --> 00:28:19,839

not accepted by most modern medical

628
00:28:17,440 --> 00:28:22,240
experts there is no good scientific

629
00:28:19,839 --> 00:28:25,419
evidence that this product works and

630
00:28:22,240 --> 00:28:27,700
quote this is in line with disclaimers

631
00:28:25,420 --> 00:28:28,990
used by the United States Federal Trade

632
00:28:27,700 --> 00:28:31,600
Commission for

633
00:28:28,990 --> 00:28:33,730
homeopathic products keep therapeutic

634
00:28:31,599 --> 00:28:35,949
claims honest tell senators to knock

635
00:28:33,730 --> 00:28:38,319
back these proposed laws so that

636
00:28:35,950 --> 00:28:39,940
Australians looking for vitamins and

637
00:28:38,319 --> 00:28:43,089
supplements can separate fact from

638
00:28:39,940 --> 00:28:45,759
fiction this form and the form is right

639
00:28:43,089 --> 00:28:48,449
here on the website will let you email

640
00:28:45,759 --> 00:28:51,549
the senators in your state or territory

641
00:28:48,450 --> 00:29:01,360
put your details below and click email

642
00:28:51,549 --> 00:29:05,649
my senators as the message for

643
00:29:01,359 --> 00:29:08,019
Australian listeners skeptic zone TV is

644
00:29:05,650 --> 00:29:09,940
the website where I will include in this

645
00:29:08,019 --> 00:29:12,220
week's show notes a link to this page

646
00:29:09,940 --> 00:29:15,009
put out by choice magazine and you can

647
00:29:12,220 --> 00:29:17,230
see the the lollies the candy they've

648
00:29:15,009 --> 00:29:20,940
produced with these extravagant health

649
00:29:17,230 --> 00:29:39,239
claims and you can email your senator

650
00:29:20,940 --> 00:29:39,239
[Music]

651
00:29:40,680 --> 00:29:45,690
hey Richard dr. Paul II hear your

652
00:29:42,990 --> 00:29:48,180
favorite legal drug deal I just wanted

653
00:29:45,690 --> 00:29:51,870
to say B congratulations from reaching

654
00:29:48,180 --> 00:29:55,130
500 episodes it's really no wonder that

655
00:29:51,869 --> 00:29:57,479
you're Australia's top skeptical icon

656

00:29:55,130 --> 00:29:59,760
and I hope you came rocking our

657
00:29:57,480 --> 00:30:01,549
skeptical minds for at least another 500

658
00:29:59,759 --> 00:30:14,910
episodes

659
00:30:01,549 --> 00:30:14,909
[Music]

660
00:30:15,470 --> 00:30:33,630
the cast files with dr. Cassandra

661
00:30:23,940 --> 00:30:36,960
Perryman hello and welcome back to the

662
00:30:33,630 --> 00:30:40,110
long overdue next episode of the cast

663
00:30:36,960 --> 00:30:43,500
files with dr. Cassandra Perryman today

664
00:30:40,109 --> 00:30:54,119
we're gonna ask why do people believe in

665
00:30:43,500 --> 00:30:56,549
obvious lies today we're not going to

666
00:30:54,119 --> 00:30:58,829
talk about just any lies we're going to

667
00:30:56,549 --> 00:31:00,659
specifically talk about the lies told

668
00:30:58,829 --> 00:31:03,629
about the current President of the

669
00:31:00,660 --> 00:31:07,140
United States yes we're gonna have a

670
00:31:03,630 --> 00:31:10,050

California and discuss Trump now voting

671

00:31:07,140 --> 00:31:11,550

tendencies a hide it's not hard to see

672

00:31:10,049 --> 00:31:13,799

that the man has been called out again

673

00:31:11,549 --> 00:31:17,279

again for telling inaccuracies of all

674

00:31:13,799 --> 00:31:20,659

sorts and severity zhh why then does he

675

00:31:17,279 --> 00:31:23,759

still have a stable 30 to 40% approval

676

00:31:20,660 --> 00:31:26,610

why on earth to his constituents perhaps

677

00:31:23,759 --> 00:31:31,259

better called followers still believe in

678

00:31:26,609 --> 00:31:32,939

and still believe him first we need to

679

00:31:31,259 --> 00:31:35,220

acknowledge that the US has entered an

680

00:31:32,940 --> 00:31:37,710

era of populism and potentially

681

00:31:35,220 --> 00:31:39,480

oligarchy this isn't the first time

682

00:31:37,710 --> 00:31:42,210

we've done it but this is perhaps the

683

00:31:39,480 --> 00:31:44,309

most detrimental to our culture the

684

00:31:42,210 --> 00:31:47,090

Gilded Age was also an era of populism

685
00:31:44,309 --> 00:31:49,470
and William Jennings Bryan also

686
00:31:47,089 --> 00:31:53,129
immortalized as the lion in The Wizard

687
00:31:49,470 --> 00:31:55,710
of Oz was populism master he was a

688
00:31:53,130 --> 00:31:58,020
phenomenal orator and he used the

689
00:31:55,710 --> 00:32:00,539
hallmark of populism he used plain

690
00:31:58,019 --> 00:32:03,779
speech charisma and emotion to dominate

691
00:32:00,539 --> 00:32:05,849
his audience as Bryan so famously said

692
00:32:03,779 --> 00:32:08,339
quote this is not a contest between

693
00:32:05,849 --> 00:32:09,959
persons the humblest citizen in all the

694
00:32:08,339 --> 00:32:11,879
land when clad in the armor of a

695
00:32:09,960 --> 00:32:14,009
righteous cause is stronger than all the

696
00:32:11,880 --> 00:32:15,840
hosts of error I come to you in defense

697
00:32:14,009 --> 00:32:20,129
of a cause as holy as the cause of

698
00:32:15,839 --> 00:32:20,849
Liberty the cause of humanity now Sarah

699

00:32:20,130 --> 00:32:23,100

Palin

700

00:32:20,849 --> 00:32:26,219

let it later call that humanity Joe the

701

00:32:23,099 --> 00:32:29,219

Plumber and Trump would embrace the term

702

00:32:26,220 --> 00:32:30,990

deplorable which was first famously used

703

00:32:29,220 --> 00:32:33,960

as an insult by Clinton

704

00:32:30,990 --> 00:32:36,809

this wasn't Brian's most terrifying

705

00:32:33,960 --> 00:32:39,000

quote though I just need to say I think

706

00:32:36,809 --> 00:32:41,700

it must be quote if we have to either

707

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:45,329

give up religion or education we should

708

00:32:41,700 --> 00:32:48,480

give up education thankfully Brian

709

00:32:45,329 --> 00:32:50,909

didn't win so what though does this have

710

00:32:48,480 --> 00:32:54,150

to do with now well it laid the

711

00:32:50,910 --> 00:32:57,300

groundwork for a second rise in blatant

712

00:32:54,150 --> 00:32:59,759

oration like I said thankfully Brian's

713

00:32:57,299 --> 00:33:01,859
lost his election but the groundwork was

714
00:32:59,759 --> 00:33:03,569
laid and honestly it was just a matter

715
00:33:01,859 --> 00:33:05,899
of time before we finally got our

716
00:33:03,569 --> 00:33:08,490
populist man behind the curtain

717
00:33:05,900 --> 00:33:10,830
the thing with populist is that they run

718
00:33:08,490 --> 00:33:13,470
a cult of personality they throw out

719
00:33:10,829 --> 00:33:16,049
Hollow easy to understand but impossible

720
00:33:13,470 --> 00:33:19,309
to interpret catchphrases it's basically

721
00:33:16,049 --> 00:33:21,779
the astrology of politics like astrology

722
00:33:19,309 --> 00:33:23,669
those little bite-size morsels of

723
00:33:21,779 --> 00:33:26,039
goodness are very appealing to certain

724
00:33:23,670 --> 00:33:28,140
types of people when the quips are

725
00:33:26,039 --> 00:33:30,210
racist misogynistic religious and

726
00:33:28,140 --> 00:33:32,640
exclusionary you appeal to a very

727
00:33:30,210 --> 00:33:36,150

specific demographic within the United

728

00:33:32,640 --> 00:33:38,580

States namely most diehard Trump

729

00:33:36,150 --> 00:33:40,410

supporters now I can get into how it was

730

00:33:38,579 --> 00:33:42,720

probably not a matter of blatant racism

731

00:33:40,410 --> 00:33:46,080

I'm not saying Trump supporters are

732

00:33:42,720 --> 00:33:47,940

racist and misogynistic I am saying

733

00:33:46,079 --> 00:33:51,179

though that there is a lot more implicit

734

00:33:47,940 --> 00:33:53,340

bias within that group that is though

735

00:33:51,180 --> 00:33:57,269

unfortunately a talk for another day

736

00:33:53,339 --> 00:34:00,269

for now though just stay with me so what

737

00:33:57,269 --> 00:34:03,359

happens when you call out a populist

738

00:34:00,269 --> 00:34:04,019

leader when say the media says they're

739

00:34:03,359 --> 00:34:07,229

lying

740

00:34:04,019 --> 00:34:09,269

well you just attacked them see the

741

00:34:07,230 --> 00:34:12,389

individuals who loved those populist

742
00:34:09,269 --> 00:34:15,449
messages have a world that tends to be

743
00:34:12,389 --> 00:34:17,400
black and white compromises weakness and

744
00:34:15,449 --> 00:34:18,629
if you just stand your ground you can

745
00:34:17,400 --> 00:34:21,269
use the victim card

746
00:34:18,630 --> 00:34:23,940
it's common for populist messages to

747
00:34:21,269 --> 00:34:25,440
appeal to this desire to be correct so

748
00:34:23,940 --> 00:34:27,960
that an individual can maintain their

749
00:34:25,440 --> 00:34:30,420
black and white worldview see here's how

750
00:34:27,960 --> 00:34:32,550
you do it you frame something in the

751
00:34:30,420 --> 00:34:34,148
negative for example when talking to

752
00:34:32,550 --> 00:34:35,740
coal miners

753
00:34:34,148 --> 00:34:38,078
of them that the world is against them

754
00:34:35,739 --> 00:34:40,118
and that you're going to save them rant

755
00:34:38,079 --> 00:34:41,798
about how like Brian said they are the

756
00:34:40,119 --> 00:34:44,169
backbone of the country and they deserve

757
00:34:41,798 --> 00:34:45,788
better but all those big nasty cities

758
00:34:44,168 --> 00:34:48,878
are against their way of life

759
00:34:45,789 --> 00:34:51,250
now when you fail to deliver what's been

760
00:34:48,878 --> 00:34:52,868
promised you're still right the cities

761
00:34:51,250 --> 00:34:54,789
are still have to get those poor coal

762
00:34:52,869 --> 00:34:56,798
miners but you're the hero for trying

763
00:34:54,789 --> 00:34:59,589
your best even if you didn't try it all

764
00:34:56,798 --> 00:35:01,630
or there was no industry to save this

765
00:34:59,588 --> 00:35:04,028
preserves the individuals ability to

766
00:35:01,630 --> 00:35:05,769
believe don't ever just come out and

767
00:35:04,028 --> 00:35:07,929
tell the coal miners there industry is

768
00:35:05,769 --> 00:35:11,259
in its dying throes because that doesn't

769
00:35:07,929 --> 00:35:13,989
fit into their worldview too many it's

770

00:35:11,260 --> 00:35:17,799
either go mine or do nothing and

771
00:35:13,989 --> 00:35:19,989
obviously they'd rather mine what

772
00:35:17,798 --> 00:35:22,869
happens then for those few who see the

773
00:35:19,989 --> 00:35:26,278
trap in the message will they have two

774
00:35:22,869 --> 00:35:28,180
choices they can change their view but

775
00:35:26,278 --> 00:35:30,338
remember again though that that's a

776
00:35:28,179 --> 00:35:32,949
compromise that doesn't fit well into a

777
00:35:30,338 --> 00:35:35,048
black and white perspective or they can

778
00:35:32,949 --> 00:35:37,358
justify their reason to continue to

779
00:35:35,048 --> 00:35:39,670
believe this process then is called

780
00:35:37,358 --> 00:35:42,038
cognitive dissonance cognitive

781
00:35:39,670 --> 00:35:44,440
dissonance is the individual state of

782
00:35:42,039 --> 00:35:48,278
having beliefs or attitudes that are at

783
00:35:44,440 --> 00:35:50,048
odds with behavior to simplify then in

784
00:35:48,278 --> 00:35:51,969

this instance the coal miners have this

785

00:35:50,048 --> 00:35:54,159

firm belief that the Republican Party

786

00:35:51,969 --> 00:35:56,980

will save them but then they have no job

787

00:35:54,159 --> 00:35:59,019

to go to if they'd been saved they would

788

00:35:56,980 --> 00:36:01,210

be at work but since they're not at work

789

00:35:59,019 --> 00:36:05,259

their belief is incongruent with their

790

00:36:01,210 --> 00:36:07,480

behavior so what happens there well you

791

00:36:05,260 --> 00:36:09,940

can have a change in belief but again

792

00:36:07,480 --> 00:36:12,420

that's compromise or you can have a lot

793

00:36:09,940 --> 00:36:16,500

of mental uncomfortable gymnastics

794

00:36:12,420 --> 00:36:19,420

deflection blame anger a lot of anger

795

00:36:16,500 --> 00:36:22,150

anger towards the self and anger towards

796

00:36:19,420 --> 00:36:23,789

others you hear slogans like foreigners

797

00:36:22,150 --> 00:36:26,970

are coming to take our jobs or

798

00:36:23,789 --> 00:36:29,230

outsourcing destroys communities

799

00:36:26,969 --> 00:36:31,568

sticking with the coal miner example

800

00:36:29,230 --> 00:36:34,179

imagine now one throws back the curtain

801

00:36:31,568 --> 00:36:35,739

and sees the wizard they take off the

802

00:36:34,179 --> 00:36:38,230

glasses and they see the Emerald City is

803

00:36:35,739 --> 00:36:40,838

white okay there's still two choices

804

00:36:38,230 --> 00:36:43,630

they can just put the glasses back on

805

00:36:40,838 --> 00:36:45,460

and make the city green again or like

806

00:36:43,630 --> 00:36:47,588

Dorothy they can confront the wizard in

807

00:36:45,460 --> 00:36:49,449

this instance the coal miner can't

808

00:36:47,588 --> 00:36:51,009

correctly confront the actual wizard but

809

00:36:49,449 --> 00:36:54,218

they can change their perspective of

810

00:36:51,009 --> 00:36:58,088

them another choice though can be to use

811

00:36:54,219 --> 00:37:00,249

the idea of sunk cost basically the more

812

00:36:58,088 --> 00:37:02,349

you invest in our idea the harder it

813
00:37:00,248 --> 00:37:05,528
becomes to abandon it this is a very

814
00:37:02,349 --> 00:37:07,298
common logical fallacy you've spent your

815
00:37:05,528 --> 00:37:09,338
whole life being in a town of coal

816
00:37:07,298 --> 00:37:11,768
miners in an economy based on mining

817
00:37:09,338 --> 00:37:13,838
training to become a miner for right or

818
00:37:11,768 --> 00:37:16,149
wrong at this point you're too invested

819
00:37:13,838 --> 00:37:18,489
in the past to make a different step in

820
00:37:16,150 --> 00:37:21,338
the future it's then easier to believe

821
00:37:18,489 --> 00:37:24,009
in the wizard because you're too deep to

822
00:37:21,338 --> 00:37:26,528
do otherwise now of course I've

823
00:37:24,009 --> 00:37:28,389
simplified things but the reality is

824
00:37:26,528 --> 00:37:30,219
that it's not hard for anyone to fall

825
00:37:28,389 --> 00:37:31,929
into the trap become a full-fledged

826
00:37:30,219 --> 00:37:34,989
believer and then stay there

827

00:37:31,929 --> 00:37:36,788
unfortunately the current administration

828
00:37:34,989 --> 00:37:39,219
is well aware of how to keep people in

829
00:37:36,789 --> 00:37:41,680
the personality trap you shut down other

830
00:37:39,219 --> 00:37:43,960
sources of information you slowly close

831
00:37:41,679 --> 00:37:47,618
the institution's effect and you hand

832
00:37:43,960 --> 00:37:50,858
out more glasses our current best hope

833
00:37:47,619 --> 00:37:55,739
then is it soon more people start seeing

834
00:37:50,858 --> 00:37:55,739
that the Emerald City is in fact white

835
00:38:00,769 --> 00:38:12,099
[Music]

836
00:38:18,199 --> 00:38:25,319
dr. Harriet Hall MD no into thousands as

837
00:38:22,289 --> 00:38:28,440
the skeptic a retired family physician

838
00:38:25,320 --> 00:38:30,510
and former Air Force flight surgeon she

839
00:38:28,440 --> 00:38:32,210
writes about medicine so-called

840
00:38:30,510 --> 00:38:36,080
complementary and alternative medicine

841
00:38:32,210 --> 00:38:39,179

science quackery and critical thinking

842

00:38:36,079 --> 00:38:41,429

Harriet now has a free course a series

843

00:38:39,179 --> 00:38:44,789

of 10 video lectures on science-based

844

00:38:41,429 --> 00:38:46,799

medicine and alternative medicine the

845

00:38:44,789 --> 00:38:48,929

videos and an accompanying course guide

846

00:38:46,800 --> 00:38:52,860

can be found by following the link at

847

00:38:48,929 --> 00:38:55,399

skeptic dot info or by visiting web

848

00:38:52,860 --> 00:39:00,690

brandies org slash

849

00:38:55,400 --> 00:39:03,119

educational - modules dot html' topics

850

00:39:00,690 --> 00:39:05,789

covered in the series are science-based

851

00:39:03,119 --> 00:39:09,380

medicine vs. evidence-based medicine

852

00:39:05,789 --> 00:39:12,690

what is Kam chiropractic acupuncture

853

00:39:09,380 --> 00:39:15,450

homeopathy naturopathy and herbal

854

00:39:12,690 --> 00:39:18,179

medicine energy medicine miscellaneous

855

00:39:15,449 --> 00:39:21,179

alternatives pitfalls in research and

856
00:39:18,179 --> 00:39:24,929
science based medicine in the media and

857
00:39:21,179 --> 00:39:27,509
politics Harriette covers each topic in

858
00:39:24,929 --> 00:39:30,779
a matter-of-fact no-nonsense way that

859
00:39:27,510 --> 00:39:32,420
sure to educate and entertain skeptic

860
00:39:30,780 --> 00:39:47,060
dot info

861
00:39:32,420 --> 00:39:47,059
[Music]

862
00:39:51,489 --> 00:39:56,419
thank you for listening to the skeptic

863
00:39:53,809 --> 00:39:58,250
zone now a couple of announcements from

864
00:39:56,420 --> 00:39:59,990
me don't forget the Australian skeptics

865
00:39:58,250 --> 00:40:01,940
National Convention is coming up later

866
00:39:59,989 --> 00:40:06,259
in the year here in Sydney in October

867
00:40:01,940 --> 00:40:08,990
visit www.scosche.com today youth for

868
00:40:06,260 --> 00:40:11,410
more details and over the coming months

869
00:40:08,989 --> 00:40:14,779
I will be presenting interviews from

870
00:40:11,409 --> 00:40:16,250
some of the speakers in fact only a

871
00:40:14,780 --> 00:40:18,470
couple of weeks ago you would have heard

872
00:40:16,250 --> 00:40:20,780
me interviewing dr. Pamela gay

873
00:40:18,469 --> 00:40:23,598
well more interviews coming up with some

874
00:40:20,780 --> 00:40:24,859
of the speakers that's very exciting I'm

875
00:40:23,599 --> 00:40:26,720
really looking forward to that I think

876
00:40:24,858 --> 00:40:29,420
the Australian skeptics have a top

877
00:40:26,719 --> 00:40:33,049
lineup of speakers this year and you'll

878
00:40:29,420 --> 00:40:34,970
be able to hear their story and look

879
00:40:33,050 --> 00:40:37,490
forward with me to meeting them in

880
00:40:34,969 --> 00:40:40,219
person later on in the year I look

881
00:40:37,489 --> 00:40:43,969
forward to meeting people in California

882
00:40:40,219 --> 00:40:46,219
you know only a few weeks at skeptic cow

883
00:40:43,969 --> 00:40:48,618
again links on the show notes in

884

00:40:46,219 --> 00:40:51,169
Berkeley that should be great fun I'm

885
00:40:48,619 --> 00:40:54,920
taking part in a quiz show a sceptical

886
00:40:51,170 --> 00:40:55,880
type Japanese type quiz show but I'll be

887
00:40:54,920 --> 00:40:58,490
running around with my microphone

888
00:40:55,880 --> 00:41:00,530
interviewing people and it'd be nice to

889
00:40:58,489 --> 00:41:03,588
see you if you're in the area more

890
00:41:00,530 --> 00:41:06,700
details at the skeptics own web page and

891
00:41:03,588 --> 00:41:09,349
finally for those people in Bend Oregon

892
00:41:06,699 --> 00:41:12,409
skeptoid media is arranging for me to

893
00:41:09,349 --> 00:41:14,059
give a talk in Bend Oregon so more

894
00:41:12,409 --> 00:41:15,769
details as soon as they come to hand

895
00:41:14,059 --> 00:41:18,108
would keep an eye on skeptics and on TV

896
00:41:15,769 --> 00:41:21,769
but I'll be telling you more probably in

897
00:41:18,108 --> 00:41:23,929
the next episode but for this week this

898
00:41:21,769 --> 00:41:26,769

is Richard Saunders signing off from

899

00:41:23,929 --> 00:41:26,769

Sydney Australia

900

00:41:29,039 --> 00:41:34,110

you've been listening to the skeptic

901

00:41:31,199 --> 00:41:40,799

zone podcast please visit our website at

902

00:41:34,110 --> 00:41:44,300

wwlp.com tax and to access the bat

903

00:41:40,800 --> 00:41:46,980

catalog of episodes going back to 2008

904

00:41:44,300 --> 00:41:50,250

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905

00:41:46,980 --> 00:41:52,530

on twitter at skeptic zone visit our

906

00:41:50,250 --> 00:41:53,420

facebook page or leave a review on

907

00:41:52,530 --> 00:41:56,100

itunes

908

00:41:53,420 --> 00:41:59,490

you can also support the skeptic zone

909

00:41:56,099 --> 00:42:02,210

via patreon or paypal the skeptic zone

910

00:41:59,489 --> 00:42:04,589

podcast is an independent production

911

00:42:02,210 --> 00:42:06,720

reviews and opinions expressed on the

912

00:42:04,590 --> 00:42:09,059

skeptic zone and not necessarily those

913

00:42:06,719 --> 00:42:10,869
of Australian skeptics or any other

914

00:42:09,059 --> 00:42:17,360
skeptical organisation

915

00:42:10,869 --> 00:42:17,359
[Music]