

**The Skeptic Zone**  
**Show 342 - 10 May 2015**



**Richard Saunders**

1  
00:00:21,940 --> 00:00:09,110  
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2  
00:00:28,390 --> 00:00:24,830  
hello and welcome to the skeptic zone

3  
00:00:32,330 --> 00:00:28,400  
episode number 342 for the tenth of may

4  
00:00:35,510 --> 00:00:32,340  
2015 and if it's your birthday today

5  
00:00:38,869 --> 00:00:35,520  
happy birthday Richard Saunders here

6  
00:00:44,750 --> 00:00:38,879  
with you from Sydney Australia with Fred

7  
00:00:47,450 --> 00:00:44,760  
the cat hello Fred oh that's the sound

8  
00:00:50,540 --> 00:00:47,460  
of a cat sniffing a microphone yeah he's

9  
00:00:53,899 --> 00:00:50,550  
not very chatty tonight what's coming up

10  
00:00:56,479 --> 00:00:53,909  
on this week's show the raw skeptic

11  
00:00:58,579 --> 00:00:56,489  
report with highly Robinson Heidi is

12  
00:01:01,610 --> 00:00:58,589  
going to review do a book review she's

13  
00:01:04,670 --> 00:01:01,620

going to review the book relax it's just

14

00:01:07,280 --> 00:01:04,680

God bye Wendy thomas russell now this is

15

00:01:08,510 --> 00:01:07,290

a book aimed at parents everywhere about

16

00:01:10,850 --> 00:01:08,520

what it's like to have that conversation

17

00:01:14,030 --> 00:01:10,860

with your kids when they ask about God

18

00:01:16,880 --> 00:01:14,040

and religion and what should the

19

00:01:19,310 --> 00:01:16,890

skeptical parents say what should the

20

00:01:21,609 --> 00:01:19,320

skeptical parents a highly reviews the

21

00:01:24,560 --> 00:01:21,619

book and give some of her own insights

22

00:01:26,510 --> 00:01:24,570

along the way from her own experience

23

00:01:28,160 --> 00:01:26,520

really interesting stuff following that

24

00:01:29,630 --> 00:01:28,170

it's a week in science for our good

25

00:01:34,030 --> 00:01:29,640

friends at the Royal Institution of

26

00:01:40,970 --> 00:01:38,780

www.start all day you know not and to

27

00:01:44,540 --> 00:01:40,980

round off the show it's an interview I

28

00:01:47,660 --> 00:01:44,550

did last year late last year with James

29

00:01:49,430 --> 00:01:47,670

Valentine on Sydney radio 702 now this

30

00:01:53,030 --> 00:01:49,440

was just before the national convention

31

00:01:56,180 --> 00:01:53,040

last year and James asked me about that

32

00:01:58,580 --> 00:01:56,190

but also lots of really wide ranging

33

00:02:01,210 --> 00:01:58,590

skeptical comments and talk and general

34

00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:01,220

stuff and I take some call back

35

00:02:07,999 --> 00:02:04,320

questions as well now for those people

36

00:02:10,820 --> 00:02:08,009

in Sydney I'm pleased to say that well

37

00:02:12,759 --> 00:02:10,830

from right now in other words night time

38

00:02:15,949 --> 00:02:12,769

when i'm recording this but if you go to

39

00:02:18,790 --> 00:02:15,959

204 to cafe and deli in King Street

40

00:02:21,890 --> 00:02:18,800

Newtown you can see some of my

41

00:02:24,199 --> 00:02:21,900

photography on display on the wall and

42

00:02:26,570 --> 00:02:24,209

in fact you could even buy some if you

43

00:02:28,610 --> 00:02:26,580

feel so inclined that money goes to help

44

00:02:31,190 --> 00:02:28,620

the skeptic zone or just go along for a

45

00:02:32,130 --> 00:02:31,200

coffee they make wonderful hamburgers

46

00:02:34,140 --> 00:02:32,140

and

47

00:02:38,460 --> 00:02:34,150

their eggs benedict to salmon is really

48

00:02:40,440 --> 00:02:38,470

good to check it out it's very exciting

49

00:02:43,080 --> 00:02:40,450

first time I've had a photography

50

00:02:45,270 --> 00:02:43,090

exhibition also I'd like to give a big

51  
00:02:47,670 --> 00:02:45,280  
shout out to our friends then Morty

52  
00:02:49,620 --> 00:02:47,680  
skeptics down there in Victoria just

53  
00:02:52,710 --> 00:02:49,630  
south of Melbourne if you're in that

54  
00:02:55,920 --> 00:02:52,720  
area and Google Morty skeptics mor di

55  
00:02:58,860 --> 00:02:55,930  
skeptics what a what a welcoming Bunch

56  
00:03:01,260 --> 00:02:58,870  
they are and they have usually have a

57  
00:03:03,570 --> 00:03:01,270  
good lineup of speakers throughout the

58  
00:03:05,640 --> 00:03:03,580  
year as do our friends in the camera the

59  
00:03:07,229 --> 00:03:05,650  
Canberra skeptics it's one of the most

60  
00:03:08,310 --> 00:03:07,239  
pleasing things about being a skeptic I

61  
00:03:10,590 --> 00:03:08,320  
think knowing there are lots of

62  
00:03:12,840 --> 00:03:10,600  
like-minded people out there not just

63  
00:03:14,610 --> 00:03:12,850

sitting at home but getting out there

64

00:03:16,650 --> 00:03:14,620

and putting on talks inviting people

65

00:03:19,259 --> 00:03:16,660

having a good time skeptics in the pub

66

00:03:21,960 --> 00:03:19,269

is a wonderful a wonderful initiative I

67

00:03:24,750 --> 00:03:21,970

think ah later this month we've got a

68

00:03:27,120 --> 00:03:24,760

Sydney skeptic camp I would certainly be

69

00:03:29,100 --> 00:03:27,130

there to report I uncle hope mean art

70

00:03:32,370 --> 00:03:29,110

and Joe alabaster will be there as well

71

00:03:34,650 --> 00:03:32,380

but as ever you can just google your

72

00:03:37,440 --> 00:03:34,660

local skeptics in the pub or skeptical

73

00:03:39,210 --> 00:03:37,450

activity wherever you are in the world

74

00:03:42,420 --> 00:03:39,220

and if there is no skeptics in the pub

75

00:03:45,020 --> 00:03:42,430

where you are well why not start one and

76

00:03:48,780 --> 00:03:45,030

a big shout out to our friends in in

77

00:03:52,560 --> 00:03:48,790

Scandinavia my goodness me the Swedish

78

00:03:53,970 --> 00:03:52,570

skeptics the Norwegian skeptics I think

79

00:03:55,620 --> 00:03:53,980

pretty soon we're going to be hearing

80

00:03:56,940 --> 00:03:55,630

from the finish skeptics although is

81

00:04:00,030 --> 00:03:56,950

that Scandinavia I don't think it's

82

00:04:03,509 --> 00:04:00,040

quite anything whatever whoa here for

83

00:04:06,030 --> 00:04:03,519

the case is all around the world huh so

84

00:04:09,620 --> 00:04:06,040

but enough of that it's time for me not

85

00:04:15,060 --> 00:04:09,630

to run anywhere because right here i

86

00:04:18,360 --> 00:04:15,070

have my what is it curry and rice curry

87

00:04:20,610 --> 00:04:18,370

and rice lentil curry I think while I'm

88

00:04:41,070 --> 00:04:20,620

enjoying that I hope you enjoy the

89

00:04:52,300 --> 00:04:45,040

it's the raw skeptic report with Heidi

90

00:05:00,170 --> 00:04:57,350

hi everyone background noises you may or

91

00:05:04,910 --> 00:05:00,180

may not hear this week come to you

92

00:05:09,740 --> 00:05:04,920

courtesy over my dogs and my children

93

00:05:11,510 --> 00:05:09,750

let's see how we go this week I'm going

94

00:05:14,150 --> 00:05:11,520

to chat about a book I've just finished

95

00:05:17,630 --> 00:05:14,160

the book was sent to Richard a few weeks

96

00:05:19,370 --> 00:05:17,640

ago by the author's PR person and I put

97

00:05:21,740 --> 00:05:19,380

my hand up to read it and have a talk

98

00:05:24,080 --> 00:05:21,750

about it on the skeptic zone it

99

00:05:27,110 --> 00:05:24,090

interested me in particular as I'm at a

100

00:05:28,840 --> 00:05:27,120

point as a skeptical parent at which the

101  
00:05:34,460 --> 00:05:28,850  
subject matter is becoming increasingly

102  
00:05:38,120 --> 00:05:34,470  
relevant for me the book is titled relax

103  
00:05:40,550 --> 00:05:38,130  
it's just God how and why to talk to

104  
00:05:44,380 --> 00:05:40,560  
your kids about religion when you're not

105  
00:05:46,940 --> 00:05:44,390  
religious bye Wendy thomas russell

106  
00:05:48,650 --> 00:05:46,950  
religion is somewhat of a difficult

107  
00:05:50,870 --> 00:05:48,660  
subject to tackle at the best of times

108  
00:05:53,060 --> 00:05:50,880  
in the sense that the issue generates

109  
00:05:56,210 --> 00:05:53,070  
strong opinions that can sometimes make

110  
00:05:59,260 --> 00:05:56,220  
for passionate and sometimes unpleasant

111  
00:06:01,490 --> 00:05:59,270  
dialogue amongst many people I

112  
00:06:05,540 --> 00:06:01,500  
appreciate that there are some skeptics

113  
00:06:08,060 --> 00:06:05,550

that are atheists some agnostic some who

114

00:06:11,390 --> 00:06:08,070

described themselves as humanists free

115

00:06:14,120 --> 00:06:11,400

thinkers pluralists whilst some

116

00:06:17,030 --> 00:06:14,130

altogether indifferent it's just not an

117

00:06:18,560 --> 00:06:17,040

important part of their lives and of

118

00:06:20,270 --> 00:06:18,570

course there are others who don't really

119

00:06:22,730 --> 00:06:20,280

fit into any of those so-called

120

00:06:25,310 --> 00:06:22,740

categories of course there are also

121

00:06:29,110 --> 00:06:25,320

skeptics and scientists who have strong

122

00:06:31,730 --> 00:06:29,120

religious beliefs we are a diverse Bunch

123

00:06:33,710 --> 00:06:31,740

my own views on religion have changed

124

00:06:36,760 --> 00:06:33,720

over the years and the relevant question

125

00:06:40,850 --> 00:06:36,770

for me now as a skeptic parent and

126  
00:06:44,360 --> 00:06:40,860  
atheist is how and why I should educate

127  
00:06:46,400 --> 00:06:44,370  
my children about religion or even if I

128  
00:06:48,710 --> 00:06:46,410  
should at all I would love some feedback

129  
00:06:50,720 --> 00:06:48,720  
from you after you hear this report

130  
00:06:53,870 --> 00:06:50,730  
about whether you agree with the author

131  
00:06:56,900 --> 00:06:53,880  
disagree and what your own experiences

132  
00:06:58,550 --> 00:06:56,910  
and opinions are and have been i'll give

133  
00:07:00,260 --> 00:06:58,560  
you the contact details at the end of

134  
00:07:03,290 --> 00:07:00,270  
this report if you'd like to get in

135  
00:07:05,830 --> 00:07:03,300  
touch Wendy thomas russell the author

136  
00:07:08,980 --> 00:07:05,840  
describes herself as quote

137  
00:07:11,390 --> 00:07:08,990  
science-minded non-believer an

138  
00:07:15,730 --> 00:07:11,400

award-winning journalist author and

139

00:07:18,499 --> 00:07:15,740

secular parenting blogger end quote

140

00:07:20,749 --> 00:07:18,509

she's a former newspaper reporter and

141

00:07:24,680 --> 00:07:20,759

lives with her husband and daughter in

142

00:07:26,960 --> 00:07:24,690

California the author begins by relating

143

00:07:29,360 --> 00:07:26,970

an incident with her then five-year-old

144

00:07:31,070 --> 00:07:29,370

daughter in which she was driving with

145

00:07:34,809 --> 00:07:31,080

her in the car when the daughter piped

146

00:07:40,010 --> 00:07:34,819

up out of the blue as five year olds do

147

00:07:42,350 --> 00:07:40,020

mummy you know what God made us to which

148

00:07:45,529 --> 00:07:42,360

mum became speechless with fear and

149

00:07:48,230 --> 00:07:45,539

anxiety she describes feeling totally

150

00:07:53,119 --> 00:07:48,240

unprepared and unsure of how to respond

151

00:07:56,510 --> 00:07:53,129

i can relate my son also recently piped

152

00:07:58,700 --> 00:07:56,520

up in the backseat of the car mum you

153

00:08:01,010 --> 00:07:58,710

know how ma says stuff before we eat

154

00:08:04,520 --> 00:08:01,020

dinner and then says are men at the end

155

00:08:08,629 --> 00:08:04,530

is I mean something to do with the x-men

156

00:08:11,209 --> 00:08:08,639

or what yep I nearly drove off the road

157

00:08:14,120 --> 00:08:11,219

and suddenly realized with not a small

158

00:08:16,730 --> 00:08:14,130

amount of guilty mother syndrome that my

159

00:08:21,469 --> 00:08:16,740

kids have no religious literacy

160

00:08:24,499 --> 00:08:21,479

whatsoever that son my eldest who is 8

161

00:08:27,939 --> 00:08:24,509

seems to have a naturally inquiring and

162

00:08:32,089 --> 00:08:27,949

skeptical mind when I explained that ma

163

00:08:35,659 --> 00:08:32,099

grandma believes in God he was quiet for

164

00:08:38,260 --> 00:08:35,669

a while before saying I don't get why

165

00:08:41,089 --> 00:08:38,270

adults need to have imaginary friends I

166

00:08:43,370 --> 00:08:41,099

had to stifle a giggle whilst at the

167

00:08:46,790 --> 00:08:43,380

same time wondering how I should tackle

168

00:08:48,949 --> 00:08:46,800

that I needn't have worried right then

169

00:08:50,870 --> 00:08:48,959

and there because he went on to ask what

170

00:08:53,510 --> 00:08:50,880

was for dinner and that was the end of

171

00:08:57,380 --> 00:08:53,520

that at least for the time being two

172

00:09:00,319 --> 00:08:57,390

weekends ago my son who is 6 that's my

173

00:09:02,960 --> 00:09:00,329

other son was looking at a piece of art

174

00:09:05,030 --> 00:09:02,970

at the markets depicting Jesus at the

175

00:09:08,780 --> 00:09:05,040

Last Supper with cartoon characters

176

00:09:11,360 --> 00:09:08,790

depicted in place of the disciples we

177

00:09:15,260 --> 00:09:11,370

went through who each cartoon character

178

00:09:17,150 --> 00:09:15,270

was with no trouble we came to Jesus he

179

00:09:20,809 --> 00:09:17,160

said in a loud voice

180

00:09:25,280 --> 00:09:20,819

he's no cartoon character who the hell

181

00:09:29,030 --> 00:09:25,290

is he to the somewhat amused glances of

182

00:09:31,189 --> 00:09:29,040

the people surrounding us hmm it seems I

183

00:09:35,119 --> 00:09:31,199

am at that point at which I can no

184

00:09:36,800 --> 00:09:35,129

longer ignore the issue what this book

185

00:09:38,689 --> 00:09:36,810

has helped me with is how I might

186

00:09:40,569 --> 00:09:38,699

approach the issue in a way that will

187

00:09:43,309 --> 00:09:40,579

encourage critical thinking without

188

00:09:46,400 --> 00:09:43,319

indoctrination into any one religion or

189

00:09:50,840 --> 00:09:46,410

in fact into indoctrination into my own

190

00:09:52,819 --> 00:09:50,850

lack of belief the author began her

191

00:09:54,710 --> 00:09:52,829

mission to find out how best to deal

192

00:09:57,019 --> 00:09:54,720

with the issue of religious literacy

193

00:09:59,689 --> 00:09:57,029

after her daughter's statement in the

194

00:10:02,379 --> 00:09:59,699

car she interviewed parents who were

195

00:10:05,889 --> 00:10:02,389

both religious and non-religious

196

00:10:09,050 --> 00:10:05,899

parenting experts religious scholars

197

00:10:13,040 --> 00:10:09,060

psychologists secular leaders and more

198

00:10:17,269 --> 00:10:13,050

the end result she says quote I wrote

199

00:10:19,639 --> 00:10:17,279

the book I wanted to read the issues the

200

00:10:21,710 --> 00:10:19,649

book looks at are specifically how to

201  
00:10:24,860 --> 00:10:21,720  
deal with young children about your

202  
00:10:28,550 --> 00:10:24,870  
beliefs or non beliefs in an open and

203  
00:10:31,249 --> 00:10:28,560  
truthful manner that quote promotes

204  
00:10:34,249 --> 00:10:31,259  
kindness compassion and critical

205  
00:10:37,460 --> 00:10:34,259  
thinking end quote how to deal with

206  
00:10:40,400 --> 00:10:37,470  
religious relatives how to teach kids to

207  
00:10:42,980 --> 00:10:40,410  
be tolerant of others beliefs how to

208  
00:10:45,800 --> 00:10:42,990  
talk about death without using religious

209  
00:10:48,410 --> 00:10:45,810  
imagery for backup and how to give kids

210  
00:10:51,470 --> 00:10:48,420  
religious literacy without boring them

211  
00:10:54,170 --> 00:10:51,480  
in speaking with parents Russell found

212  
00:10:56,689 --> 00:10:54,180  
10 main challenges that parents were

213  
00:10:59,870 --> 00:10:56,699

experiencing in discussing religion with

214

00:11:02,120 --> 00:10:59,880

their children I wonder if any of these

215

00:11:04,460 --> 00:11:02,130

points resonate with you as they did

216

00:11:07,929 --> 00:11:04,470

with me whether or not you have any

217

00:11:10,970 --> 00:11:07,939

religious beliefs number one

218

00:11:13,970 --> 00:11:10,980

indoctrination not knowing how to be

219

00:11:17,420 --> 00:11:13,980

honest without indoctrinating kids into

220

00:11:19,460 --> 00:11:17,430

one way of thinking number two language

221

00:11:21,710 --> 00:11:19,470

fear of saying something to their

222

00:11:25,759 --> 00:11:21,720

children that would be repeated in mixed

223

00:11:27,740 --> 00:11:25,769

company number three family having to

224

00:11:29,900 --> 00:11:27,750

contradict a religious family members

225

00:11:33,460 --> 00:11:29,910

while trying to keep peace in

226

00:11:37,220 --> 00:11:33,470

Emily number four age appropriateness

227

00:11:41,530 --> 00:11:37,230

not knowing what age appropriate for

228

00:11:44,540 --> 00:11:41,540

children to hear number five resentment

229

00:11:47,210 --> 00:11:44,550

keeping their own negative experiences

230

00:11:52,220 --> 00:11:47,220

or resentment out of conversations with

231

00:11:54,170 --> 00:11:52,230

their children number six death facing

232

00:11:56,650 --> 00:11:54,180

conversations about death without the

233

00:12:00,260 --> 00:11:56,660

comforts of heaven or an afterlife

234

00:12:02,630 --> 00:12:00,270

number seven tolerance separating the

235

00:12:05,390 --> 00:12:02,640

idea of religious tolerance from the

236

00:12:10,520 --> 00:12:05,400

idea of tolerating religious hatred or

237

00:12:14,530 --> 00:12:10,530

abuse number eight confusion fear of

238

00:12:16,910 --> 00:12:14,540

confusing a child number nine belief

239

00:12:20,570 --> 00:12:16,920

fear that if a child hears about

240

00:12:24,280 --> 00:12:20,580

religion she or he might start believing

241

00:12:26,600 --> 00:12:24,290

it and number ten religious literacy

242

00:12:30,410 --> 00:12:26,610

limited knowledge of religion or

243

00:12:32,480 --> 00:12:30,420

religious stories there were many other

244

00:12:34,660 --> 00:12:32,490

points in the book that struck a chord

245

00:12:38,570 --> 00:12:34,670

with me and I'll just mention a couple

246

00:12:40,730 --> 00:12:38,580

firstly a quote by Austin Klein a former

247

00:12:45,260 --> 00:12:40,740

director of the Council for secular

248

00:12:47,210 --> 00:12:45,270

humanism quote avoiding discussions

249

00:12:50,540 --> 00:12:47,220

about religion is like avoiding

250

00:12:52,970 --> 00:12:50,550

discussions about sex the parent isn't

251  
00:12:55,190 --> 00:12:52,980  
made to feel uncomfortable but the child

252  
00:12:59,990 --> 00:12:55,200  
is left on their own without rudder or

253  
00:13:02,150 --> 00:13:00,000  
guidance end quote he goes on to say

254  
00:13:04,220 --> 00:13:02,160  
that in some circumstances this will

255  
00:13:06,710 --> 00:13:04,230  
lead children into seeking their answers

256  
00:13:09,020 --> 00:13:06,720  
elsewhere and being vulnerable to all

257  
00:13:13,040 --> 00:13:09,030  
sorts of beliefs that may in extreme

258  
00:13:14,420 --> 00:13:13,050  
cases be potentially harmful the other

259  
00:13:16,940 --> 00:13:14,430  
point that really stood out for me was

260  
00:13:19,340 --> 00:13:16,950  
the fact that it is undeniable that

261  
00:13:23,750 --> 00:13:19,350  
religion whether or not we like it is

262  
00:13:27,320 --> 00:13:23,760  
everywhere it is quote in our art and

263  
00:13:30,380 --> 00:13:27,330

architecture music and literature plays

264

00:13:33,560 --> 00:13:30,390

poetry and movies it's steeped in our

265

00:13:35,300 --> 00:13:33,570

language expression and cliches it fills

266

00:13:39,740 --> 00:13:35,310

our history books and guides our

267

00:13:42,290 --> 00:13:39,750

politics and quote in not teaching our

268

00:13:43,950 --> 00:13:42,300

kids comparative religion do we run the

269

00:13:46,620 --> 00:13:43,960

risk of doing them a

270

00:13:48,290 --> 00:13:46,630

service by possibly denying them a

271

00:13:52,650 --> 00:13:48,300

deeper understanding of history

272

00:13:55,020 --> 00:13:52,660

philosophy art architecture and the rest

273

00:13:59,100 --> 00:13:55,030

of the aforementioned areas of culture

274

00:14:01,380 --> 00:13:59,110

and aspects of everyday life the author

275

00:14:02,730 --> 00:14:01,390

is supportive of parents who expose

276

00:14:05,850 --> 00:14:02,740

their children at an age appropriate

277

00:14:08,220 --> 00:14:05,860

level two religions and beliefs as well

278

00:14:10,230 --> 00:14:08,230

as non religious philosophies of all

279

00:14:11,880 --> 00:14:10,240

kinds in a manner that invites

280

00:14:14,280 --> 00:14:11,890

questioning tolerance and an

281

00:14:16,350 --> 00:14:14,290

understanding of how religion or non

282

00:14:19,920 --> 00:14:16,360

religion fits into their own culture and

283

00:14:22,410 --> 00:14:19,930

others she argues that in resisting the

284

00:14:25,010 --> 00:14:22,420

urge to sway our children's beliefs and

285

00:14:27,990 --> 00:14:25,020

opinions so that they align with our own

286

00:14:30,150 --> 00:14:28,000

we are empowering them by allowing them

287

00:14:32,820 --> 00:14:30,160

to realize that their own opinions are

288

00:14:35,130 --> 00:14:32,830

important and that the process by which

289

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:35,140

they come to form those opinions is

290

00:14:40,950 --> 00:14:39,010

equally if not more important it is this

291

00:14:43,560 --> 00:14:40,960

process of critical thinking that

292

00:14:45,600 --> 00:14:43,570

parents can teach their kids and in so

293

00:14:47,790 --> 00:14:45,610

doing trust that their kids will form

294

00:14:52,140 --> 00:14:47,800

their own world views with intelligence

295

00:14:54,450 --> 00:14:52,150

and a healthy dose of skepticism she

296

00:14:57,150 --> 00:14:54,460

gives practical tips on how to talk to

297

00:14:58,920 --> 00:14:57,160

kids for example not to overwhelm them

298

00:15:01,740 --> 00:14:58,930

with information but rather let the

299

00:15:04,620 --> 00:15:01,750

child take the lead and ask questions as

300

00:15:07,860 --> 00:15:04,630

they come up to use opportunities in

301  
00:15:09,630 --> 00:15:07,870  
everyday life to educate and inform for

302  
00:15:11,840 --> 00:15:09,640  
instance if a child sees a person

303  
00:15:14,790 --> 00:15:11,850  
dressed in traditional religious attire

304  
00:15:16,800 --> 00:15:14,800  
use that as an example to talk to the

305  
00:15:18,750 --> 00:15:16,810  
child about why they dress that way and

306  
00:15:22,890 --> 00:15:18,760  
the basis of the beliefs that lead them

307  
00:15:25,500 --> 00:15:22,900  
to do so to recognize not only Christmas

308  
00:15:28,320 --> 00:15:25,510  
and Easter but all religious holidays

309  
00:15:32,820 --> 00:15:28,330  
and educate them about what they mean to

310  
00:15:35,660 --> 00:15:32,830  
those groups of people the book is 173

311  
00:15:38,130 --> 00:15:35,670  
pages of easy-to-read practical and

312  
00:15:41,940 --> 00:15:38,140  
informative information for parents who

313  
00:15:45,060 --> 00:15:41,950

are unsure of how to or how not to bring

314

00:15:47,700 --> 00:15:45,070

their kids up with religion it's written

315

00:15:49,950 --> 00:15:47,710

in the style of one parent talking to

316

00:15:52,620 --> 00:15:49,960

another parent with examples of the

317

00:15:55,100 --> 00:15:52,630

authors and others experiences thrown in

318

00:15:57,750 --> 00:15:55,110

to illustrate some of the points made

319

00:16:00,090 --> 00:15:57,760

it's useful also for those

320

00:16:02,090 --> 00:16:00,100

who are religious in opening up avenues

321

00:16:04,470 --> 00:16:02,100

of thought about religious tolerance

322

00:16:07,200 --> 00:16:04,480

giving them an understanding about what

323

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:07,210

secular parents may be worried about in

324

00:16:12,300 --> 00:16:09,010

relation to their children's religious

325

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:12,310

upbringing or lack thereof and as he's

326

00:16:17,940 --> 00:16:15,010

mentioned in the book basic guidelines

327

00:16:23,010 --> 00:16:17,950

about how not to be a dick about the

328

00:16:25,680 --> 00:16:23,020

subject I have so far avoided taking my

329

00:16:27,450 --> 00:16:25,690

children to a church because of an

330

00:16:29,730 --> 00:16:27,460

incident that occurred at my son's

331

00:16:32,220 --> 00:16:29,740

school during the one and only religious

332

00:16:34,800 --> 00:16:32,230

education session he had at his

333

00:16:38,460 --> 00:16:34,810

government school he was five years old

334

00:16:40,230 --> 00:16:38,470

and came home visibly upset I finally

335

00:16:44,880 --> 00:16:40,240

got it out of him that he had been told

336

00:16:47,460 --> 00:16:44,890

that Jesus died for his sins even now

337

00:16:50,460 --> 00:16:47,470

three years later he sometimes brings

338

00:16:53,520 --> 00:16:50,470

that up still unsure of how he might

339

00:16:56,820 --> 00:16:53,530

have caused someone else to die despite

340

00:16:58,260 --> 00:16:56,830

my efforts at reassuring him I'm now in

341

00:17:00,060 --> 00:16:58,270

a position where I've realized that I

342

00:17:02,550 --> 00:17:00,070

want to be the one in charge of his

343

00:17:04,350 --> 00:17:02,560

religious education I want to be the one

344

00:17:07,500 --> 00:17:04,360

to guide him and his brother in this

345

00:17:09,660 --> 00:17:07,510

it's too important to ignore it's too

346

00:17:12,329 --> 00:17:09,670

important to be scared of it or heaven

347

00:17:16,170 --> 00:17:12,339

forbid excuse the pun leave it up to

348

00:17:17,970 --> 00:17:16,180

others to do it it's certainly not only

349

00:17:20,340 --> 00:17:17,980

Christianity that I will be talking to

350

00:17:22,949 --> 00:17:20,350

them about I'll tell them the good the

351

00:17:26,120 --> 00:17:22,959

bad and the ugly at appropriate times

352

00:17:28,680 --> 00:17:26,130

I'll educate myself more in the process

353

00:17:31,500 --> 00:17:28,690

about the different religions and try to

354

00:17:33,510 --> 00:17:31,510

be as honest with them as I can letting

355

00:17:36,030 --> 00:17:33,520

their critical thinking skills develop

356

00:17:39,240 --> 00:17:36,040

without trying to sway them in any one

357

00:17:41,640 --> 00:17:39,250

direction I need to let them see that I

358

00:17:44,340 --> 00:17:41,650

value their opinions their questions and

359

00:17:47,940 --> 00:17:44,350

that as their mum I will support them

360

00:17:51,590 --> 00:17:47,950

throughout except if they decide to

361

00:17:56,160 --> 00:17:51,600

study homeopathy then all bets are off

362

00:17:58,080 --> 00:17:56,170

just kidding I'm taking baby steps and

363

00:17:59,820 --> 00:17:58,090

like a toddler taking baby steps I'm

364

00:18:02,730 --> 00:17:59,830

sure I'll trip up along the way and

365

00:18:05,340 --> 00:18:02,740

probably have the odd tantrum hopefully

366

00:18:07,860 --> 00:18:05,350

not in front of the kids I've already

367

00:18:11,330 --> 00:18:07,870

got Daniel Loxton 'he's evolution book

368

00:18:14,150 --> 00:18:11,340

for kids and right alongside it is

369

00:18:17,840 --> 00:18:14,160

runs book of world religions they'll be

370

00:18:20,180 --> 00:18:17,850

getting the lot including pastafarian

371

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:20,190

ism I'm sure the flying spaghetti

372

00:18:27,200 --> 00:18:23,010

monster will delight them as much as it

373

00:18:29,570 --> 00:18:27,210

has for me so once again if you're

374

00:18:32,510 --> 00:18:29,580

interested the book is relax it's just

375

00:18:34,670 --> 00:18:32,520

God how and why to talk to your kids

376

00:18:39,560 --> 00:18:34,680

about religion when you're not religious

377

00:18:42,050 --> 00:18:39,570

bye Wendy thomas russell if you're a

378

00:18:43,970 --> 00:18:42,060

parent how have you tackled the religion

379

00:18:46,550 --> 00:18:43,980

and kids thing if you're not a parent

380

00:18:48,650 --> 00:18:46,560

what do you think if you're a skeptic

381

00:18:51,590 --> 00:18:48,660

and hold religious beliefs what are your

382

00:18:54,530 --> 00:18:51,600

thoughts if you'd like to share your own

383

00:18:56,360 --> 00:18:54,540

opinions and/or experiences about

384

00:18:58,870 --> 00:18:56,370

bringing kids up with or without

385

00:19:01,760 --> 00:18:58,880

religion we'd love to hear from you

386

00:19:04,340 --> 00:19:01,770

visit the skeptic zone podcast on

387

00:19:06,910 --> 00:19:04,350

facebook and leave your comments on the

388

00:19:09,410 --> 00:19:06,920

thread we will post on this subject

389

00:19:13,040 --> 00:19:09,420

alternatively the skeptic zone can be

390

00:19:20,600 --> 00:19:13,050

found on twitter as can I at the twitter

391

00:19:26,150 --> 00:19:20,610

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

392

00:19:28,610 --> 00:19:26,160

I thanks everyone bye for now I'm off to

393

00:19:37,040 --> 00:19:28,620

put a colander on my head and play with

394

00:19:40,430 --> 00:19:37,050

the kids on Maynard calm da are you a

395

00:19:42,770 --> 00:19:40,440

burger why the inner city is even

396

00:19:45,110 --> 00:19:42,780

involved in making decisions about what

397

00:19:46,670 --> 00:19:45,120

happens in the country it eludes me

398

00:19:49,070 --> 00:19:46,680

somebody said all your butt fracking

399

00:19:52,250 --> 00:19:49,080

gets into the water systems does it

400

00:19:54,170 --> 00:19:52,260

prove it no doubt you already got your

401  
00:19:56,270 --> 00:19:54,180  
umbrage on you've got your chest puffed

402  
00:19:58,190 --> 00:19:56,280  
out and you can't believe that someone

403  
00:20:01,400 --> 00:19:58,200  
would say this the trouble with fracking

404  
00:20:06,200 --> 00:20:01,410  
is it's still going on and its ongoing

405  
00:20:09,590 --> 00:20:06,210  
and the problems it's causing are yet to

406  
00:20:11,600 --> 00:20:09,600  
be clearly defined you clearly define

407  
00:20:13,970 --> 00:20:11,610  
those and no government will be able to

408  
00:20:16,460 --> 00:20:13,980  
allow it at the moment there's too much

409  
00:20:20,060 --> 00:20:16,470  
wiggle room in the effects of fracking

410  
00:20:23,030 --> 00:20:20,070  
so nail it and then when the the

411  
00:20:23,940 --> 00:20:23,040  
argument but at the moment farmers many

412  
00:20:26,129 --> 00:20:23,950  
of them are

413  
00:20:28,320 --> 00:20:26,139

with fracking because it's keeping them

414

00:20:30,600 --> 00:20:28,330

alive thanks very much to all those

415

00:20:32,580 --> 00:20:30,610

people in the inner city but start

416

00:20:34,409 --> 00:20:32,590

putting your thinking caps on and get

417

00:20:36,299 --> 00:20:34,419

out of your VW and start walking like

418

00:20:41,509 --> 00:20:36,309

real people quickly let's move on to

419

00:20:49,529 --> 00:20:45,659

what's gonna happen now on Manor calm da

420

00:20:51,509 --> 00:20:49,539

are you welcome to a week in science

421

00:20:53,700 --> 00:20:51,519

from our iOS bringing you the science

422

00:20:56,310 --> 00:20:53,710

you need to know the moon landing was

423

00:20:58,289 --> 00:20:56,320

faked 9-11 was an inside job and Barack

424

00:20:59,940 --> 00:20:58,299

Obama was born in Kenya what do these

425

00:21:02,129 --> 00:20:59,950

things have in common well the

426

00:21:07,889 --> 00:21:02,139

conspiracy theories so why do people

427

00:21:09,810 --> 00:21:07,899

fall for such falsehoods we've all had

428

00:21:12,060 --> 00:21:09,820

outlandish tales of aliens the

429

00:21:14,070 --> 00:21:12,070

illuminati and lizard people but to

430

00:21:16,740 --> 00:21:14,080

really be considered a conspiracy theory

431

00:21:19,190 --> 00:21:16,750

the Act has to be secret planned and

432

00:21:22,169 --> 00:21:19,200

performed by a group with sinister aims

433

00:21:24,210 --> 00:21:22,179

the scientific method doesn't apply for

434

00:21:26,340 --> 00:21:24,220

conspiracy theorists as research has

435

00:21:28,320 --> 00:21:26,350

found their immune to evidence and any

436

00:21:30,870 --> 00:21:28,330

facts will be twisted to fit with the

437

00:21:34,340 --> 00:21:30,880

conspiracy theory no one of any age

438

00:21:37,409 --> 00:21:34,350

gender race income politics education

439

00:21:39,299 --> 00:21:37,419

occupation or intelligence level is more

440

00:21:41,460 --> 00:21:39,309

or less likely to believe in conspiracy

441

00:21:42,960 --> 00:21:41,470

theories but which conspiracy theories

442

00:21:45,240 --> 00:21:42,970

people believe in a more predictable

443

00:21:47,220 --> 00:21:45,250

those on the right wing tend not to

444

00:21:49,230 --> 00:21:47,230

trust institutions like universities and

445

00:21:50,909 --> 00:21:49,240

though the left of the spectrum are more

446

00:21:55,649 --> 00:21:50,919

likely to place blame on capitalist

447

00:21:57,570 --> 00:21:55,659

corporations while conspiracy theories

448

00:21:59,310 --> 00:21:57,580

themselves are immune to evidence the

449

00:22:01,590 --> 00:21:59,320

psychology behind why people believe

450

00:22:03,539 --> 00:22:01,600

them is not research has shown that

451  
00:22:05,639 --> 00:22:03,549  
conspiracy theories give people a sense

452  
00:22:07,950 --> 00:22:05,649  
of control often much needed after

453  
00:22:10,139 --> 00:22:07,960  
disasters or traumatic events which can

454  
00:22:12,629 --> 00:22:10,149  
cause stress anxiety and a loss of

455  
00:22:14,549 --> 00:22:12,639  
control conspiracy theorists are also

456  
00:22:17,070 --> 00:22:14,559  
more likely to experience cognitive

457  
00:22:19,590 --> 00:22:17,080  
dissonance this is the mental discomfort

458  
00:22:21,269 --> 00:22:19,600  
of holding two conflicting views the

459  
00:22:23,120 --> 00:22:21,279  
theories help explain how two different

460  
00:22:25,019 --> 00:22:23,130  
things could both be possible and

461  
00:22:27,330 --> 00:22:25,029  
conspiracy theorists are prone to

462  
00:22:29,370 --> 00:22:27,340  
confirmation bias where you tend to only

463  
00:22:31,529 --> 00:22:29,380

notice evidence which already supports

464

00:22:32,879 --> 00:22:31,539

your opinion well I'm pretty confident

465

00:22:36,060 --> 00:22:32,889

we don't have to bust out the tinfoil

466

00:22:37,139 --> 00:22:36,070

hats just yet but to be on the safe side

467

00:22:39,239 --> 00:22:37,149

I

468

00:22:41,849 --> 00:22:39,249

one welcome our new insect overlords and

469

00:22:46,320 --> 00:22:41,859

now for fast facts about conspiracy

470

00:22:48,509 --> 00:22:46,330

theories the term conspiracy theory has

471

00:22:51,079 --> 00:22:48,519

been in use for over a century making

472

00:22:53,700 --> 00:22:51,089

its first confirmed appearance in 1909

473

00:22:55,169 --> 00:22:53,710

originally a neutral term in the wake of

474

00:22:57,810 --> 00:22:55,179

president john f kennedy's assassination

475

00:22:59,969 --> 00:22:57,820

the phrase began to develop its current

476

00:23:01,619 --> 00:22:59,979

connotation with paranoia the most

477

00:23:03,239 --> 00:23:01,629

reliable way to predict whether someone

478

00:23:05,219 --> 00:23:03,249

will believe in a conspiracy theory is

479

00:23:07,289 --> 00:23:05,229

that they believe in other conspiracy

480

00:23:09,329 --> 00:23:07,299

theories one quick way to debunk a

481

00:23:11,519 --> 00:23:09,339

conspiracy theory is to ask does it

482

00:23:14,129 --> 00:23:11,529

affect the rich and powerful if so it's

483

00:23:16,440 --> 00:23:14,139

likely just a theory that's it for this

484

00:23:18,570 --> 00:23:16,450

week in science for more information on

485

00:23:23,190 --> 00:23:18,580

conspiracy theories go to the RI odds

486

00:23:25,529 --> 00:23:23,200

website RI aus org dot a you follow us

487

00:23:27,810 --> 00:23:25,539

on twitter at our iOS and like us on

488

00:23:43,450 --> 00:23:27,820

Facebook I'm Casey Harrigan and we'll

489

00:23:47,630 --> 00:23:45,830

hi there Rose Bowl chair with an

490

00:23:50,180 --> 00:23:47,640

Australian skeptics National Convention

491

00:23:51,800 --> 00:23:50,190

update this week we are excited to

492

00:23:54,470 --> 00:23:51,810

announce our final group of speakers

493

00:23:57,020 --> 00:23:54,480

from the USA we are joined by veteran

494

00:23:58,880 --> 00:23:57,030

skeptic campaigner Eugenie Scott we're

495

00:24:01,070 --> 00:23:58,890

also pleased to welcome fear Clark in

496

00:24:02,960 --> 00:24:01,080

Chrissy Wilson Dave Hawks will be

497

00:24:04,700 --> 00:24:02,970

joining our parenting skeptically panel

498

00:24:06,620 --> 00:24:04,710

and I am pleased to introduce your host

499

00:24:09,080 --> 00:24:06,630

for the event imaginary friend show

500

00:24:10,730 --> 00:24:09,090

producer Jake far Wharton and skeptical

501  
00:24:13,730 --> 00:24:10,740  
activist and writer chris stevenson

502  
00:24:16,670 --> 00:24:13,740  
don't forget our other speakers Brian

503  
00:24:19,760 --> 00:24:16,680  
Schmidt Joe Nickell Susan Kovac miles

504  
00:24:22,670 --> 00:24:19,770  
power Lynn Kelly catan Joshi Loretta

505  
00:24:25,400 --> 00:24:22,680  
Marin John Cook Mel Thompson Peter

506  
00:24:27,320 --> 00:24:25,410  
Ellerton cigna k Nepali worland and our

507  
00:24:29,630 --> 00:24:27,330  
parenting skeptically panel Joe

508  
00:24:31,490 --> 00:24:29,640  
alabaster Lauren Cochran and Allison

509  
00:24:33,440 --> 00:24:31,500  
Gaylord i'll also be giving a

510  
00:24:35,600 --> 00:24:33,450  
presentation make sure you arrive in

511  
00:24:37,670 --> 00:24:35,610  
Brisbane early hour Friday skeptic amp

512  
00:24:39,560 --> 00:24:37,680  
speaker roster is fully booked with some

513  
00:24:41,570 --> 00:24:39,570

great submissions and the welcome event

514

00:24:44,090 --> 00:24:41,580

has an evening packed with entertainment

515

00:24:47,270 --> 00:24:44,100

tickets are on sale now at convention

516

00:24:49,400 --> 00:24:47,280

brisbane skeptics dog ensure your seat

517

00:24:51,350 --> 00:24:49,410

at the front row with our premium and

518

00:24:52,940 --> 00:24:51,360

early bird tickets do you want to help a

519

00:24:55,460 --> 00:24:52,950

student or pension to attend the event

520

00:24:57,800 --> 00:24:55,470

you can donate a half or full concession

521

00:24:59,420 --> 00:24:57,810

ticket the australian skeptics national

522

00:25:01,280 --> 00:24:59,430

convention will take place on the

523

00:25:11,690 --> 00:25:01,290

sixteenth to the 18th of October this

524

00:25:16,049 --> 00:25:14,399

what should be skeptical of at the

525

00:25:17,820 --> 00:25:16,059

moment of their particular thing so I

526

00:25:19,979 --> 00:25:17,830

cuz i think is almost like trends and

527

00:25:22,589 --> 00:25:19,989

things we need to be skeptical oh oh

528

00:25:24,119 --> 00:25:22,599

there's certain things it might be you

529

00:25:26,489 --> 00:25:24,129

know maybe one point with tarot card

530

00:25:29,399 --> 00:25:26,499

readers and it's kind of spoon bending

531

00:25:32,159 --> 00:25:29,409

maybe now it's kind of like the kind of

532

00:25:33,479 --> 00:25:32,169

people that are contacting your deceased

533

00:25:35,129 --> 00:25:33,489

relatives although I think those are

534

00:25:36,899 --> 00:25:35,139

mediums have been around for a while but

535

00:25:38,369 --> 00:25:36,909

this needs to be television versions of

536

00:25:40,649 --> 00:25:38,379

that which perfectly popular at the

537

00:25:42,389 --> 00:25:40,659

moment so you may have some ideas their

538

00:25:44,070 --> 00:25:42,399

arm of things you've noticed we should

539

00:25:45,960 --> 00:25:44,080

be a perhaps a little skeptical off and

540

00:25:48,089 --> 00:25:45,970

then I'm also intrigued about what's the

541

00:25:51,180 --> 00:25:48,099

sort of is there a sort of level of

542

00:25:52,379 --> 00:25:51,190

skepticism that is a healthy level and

543

00:25:54,359 --> 00:25:52,389

at some point do you have to have a

544

00:25:56,489 --> 00:25:54,369

certain amount of trust and belief or

545

00:25:59,099 --> 00:25:56,499

you know should you just always be

546

00:26:01,139 --> 00:25:59,109

skeptical the good news is that I've got

547

00:26:03,529 --> 00:26:01,149

Richard Saunders is a life member and

548

00:26:05,909 --> 00:26:03,539

former president Australian skeptics to

549

00:26:08,999 --> 00:26:05,919

discuss these things with as well as you

550

00:26:11,129 --> 00:26:09,009

you can call 1 300 ripple 2702 if you'd

551  
00:26:12,810 --> 00:26:11,139  
like to if you'd like to join us our

552  
00:26:15,330 --> 00:26:12,820  
Richard Saunders good afternoon good

553  
00:26:17,820 --> 00:26:15,340  
afternoon again it's been a long time in

554  
00:26:23,279 --> 00:26:17,830  
fact i was on the afternoon show 25

555  
00:26:25,649 --> 00:26:23,289  
years ago doing origami with you this is

556  
00:26:29,369 --> 00:26:25,659  
the kids through the kids TV show is

557  
00:26:30,899 --> 00:26:29,379  
funny were you an origami expert i came

558  
00:26:32,639 --> 00:26:30,909  
in there was a section called keep it

559  
00:26:34,320 --> 00:26:32,649  
clean or something like that and you

560  
00:26:35,969 --> 00:26:34,330  
were suggesting instead of throwing

561  
00:26:37,830 --> 00:26:35,979  
paper away we could recycle it by

562  
00:26:39,690 --> 00:26:37,840  
turning it into Oregon [h\_\_h] that was

563  
00:26:40,799 --> 00:26:39,700

that there was a genius idea it was why

564

00:26:45,210 --> 00:26:40,809

wasn't that picked up at a national

565

00:26:47,339 --> 00:26:45,220

level i would thats very very funny uh

566

00:26:49,950 --> 00:26:47,349

Richard will lovely to talk to you again

567

00:26:53,609 --> 00:26:49,960

think of it let's do this every 25 years

568

00:26:55,019 --> 00:26:53,619

uh what so you the national conventions

569

00:26:57,659 --> 00:26:55,029

on what kind of things are only on the

570

00:27:00,570 --> 00:26:57,669

menu there everything from Consumer

571

00:27:02,609 --> 00:27:00,580

Affairs too spooky things to talking

572

00:27:04,409 --> 00:27:02,619

with the dead maybe alternative medicine

573

00:27:06,419 --> 00:27:04,419

certainly gets a mention in there in

574

00:27:08,339 --> 00:27:06,429

fact we're really lucky this year we've

575

00:27:09,659 --> 00:27:08,349

got some of the the checkout people the

576

00:27:11,940 --> 00:27:09,669

chase of people coming along for a

577

00:27:13,560 --> 00:27:11,950

consumer affairs panel with choice

578

00:27:16,320 --> 00:27:13,570

magazine looking forward to that yeah

579

00:27:18,599 --> 00:27:16,330

yep so skip your skepticism is not just

580

00:27:21,149 --> 00:27:18,609

say the paranormal all the old or the

581

00:27:23,369 --> 00:27:21,159

spooky your skepticism the Australian

582

00:27:24,330 --> 00:27:23,379

skeptics are about being well informed

583

00:27:26,789 --> 00:27:24,340

in all area

584

00:27:28,919 --> 00:27:26,799

that it absolutely i mean at hard the

585

00:27:32,159 --> 00:27:28,929

core and the reason we really formed

586

00:27:33,990 --> 00:27:32,169

over 30 years ago was the paranormal

587

00:27:35,610 --> 00:27:34,000

people were skeptical of the claims of

588

00:27:38,310 --> 00:27:35,620

the paranormal talking to the dead

589

00:27:40,470 --> 00:27:38,320

ghosts all that sort of stuff but over

590

00:27:43,460 --> 00:27:40,480

the years its encompassed a wide range

591

00:27:46,169 --> 00:27:43,470

of things a lot to do with claims of

592

00:27:47,760 --> 00:27:46,179

alternative medicine and the more and

593

00:27:49,710 --> 00:27:47,770

more consumer affairs I mean if you buy

594

00:27:51,299 --> 00:27:49,720

a product like choice magazine save is

595

00:27:54,450 --> 00:27:51,309

it if it's a shock then it should be

596

00:27:56,519 --> 00:27:54,460

called out mmm the I mean when I was

597

00:27:58,649 --> 00:27:56,529

form do you think the paranormal was

598

00:28:00,149 --> 00:27:58,659

more vigorous in a way or an interest in

599

00:28:02,760 --> 00:28:00,159

the paranormal is more more vigorous

600

00:28:04,590 --> 00:28:02,770

yeah it's never it's never completely

601  
00:28:06,570 --> 00:28:04,600  
gone away there are still lots of people

602  
00:28:08,789 --> 00:28:06,580  
out there who consult tarot card readers

603  
00:28:10,409 --> 00:28:08,799  
and go to astrologers or fortune tellers

604  
00:28:14,460 --> 00:28:10,419  
or even think people can talk with a

605  
00:28:16,669 --> 00:28:14,470  
dead and that's that that's something

606  
00:28:19,980 --> 00:28:16,679  
that's really hard to get on top of but

607  
00:28:22,110 --> 00:28:19,990  
we have really important issues you

608  
00:28:24,180 --> 00:28:22,120  
might say like the the vaccine deniers

609  
00:28:25,680 --> 00:28:24,190  
people who are encouraging parents not

610  
00:28:28,889 --> 00:28:25,690  
to vaccinate their children against

611  
00:28:31,200 --> 00:28:28,899  
deadly diseases we find something that

612  
00:28:33,120 --> 00:28:31,210  
deserves our attention right and is that

613  
00:28:36,120 --> 00:28:33,130

is that really would you rather have a

614

00:28:38,909 --> 00:28:36,130

focus on that then the then the ghosts

615

00:28:40,200 --> 00:28:38,919

ah personally I like the old-fashioned

616

00:28:42,360 --> 00:28:40,210

stuff that's why it's a big organization

617

00:28:47,310 --> 00:28:42,370

we've got people who can specialize I

618

00:28:49,350 --> 00:28:47,320

certainly thinks very strongly about the

619

00:28:51,090 --> 00:28:49,360

vaccination issue my itself in fact I

620

00:28:53,460 --> 00:28:51,100

made a free documentary which is online

621

00:28:54,810 --> 00:28:53,470

called the vaccination Chronicles and if

622

00:28:57,090 --> 00:28:54,820

you google that or YouTube that you'll

623

00:28:59,279 --> 00:28:57,100

find that all about vaccination but it's

624

00:29:02,399 --> 00:28:59,289

hard I love the old-fashioned type

625

00:29:04,139 --> 00:29:02,409

talking to the dead and mind reading and

626

00:29:07,110 --> 00:29:04,149

all that sort of stuff hang on you

627

00:29:10,230 --> 00:29:07,120

saying people can't do that I'm saying

628

00:29:12,840 --> 00:29:10,240

that the evidence is really crummy yeah

629

00:29:17,070 --> 00:29:12,850

but so you know I've seen a guy do it

630

00:29:18,720 --> 00:29:17,080

have you well look look to prove that

631

00:29:20,700 --> 00:29:18,730

we're not just a bunch of Wales is out

632

00:29:23,519 --> 00:29:20,710

there to spoil everybody's day we have a

633

00:29:25,470 --> 00:29:23,529

prize of a hundred thousand dollars to

634

00:29:28,169 --> 00:29:25,480

the first person who can show us under

635

00:29:30,350 --> 00:29:28,179

mutually agreed fair conditions all

636

00:29:33,720 --> 00:29:30,360

above board that they can do any

637

00:29:35,940 --> 00:29:33,730

paranormal or supernatural claim so all

638

00:29:37,640 --> 00:29:35,950

I have to do is you know turn up to the

639

00:29:39,020 --> 00:29:37,650

lab and

640

00:29:41,120 --> 00:29:39,030

is the objects around or read someone's

641

00:29:43,400 --> 00:29:41,130

mind or you know predict the fall of the

642

00:29:45,230 --> 00:29:43,410

cards and there's \$100,000 yet not even

643

00:29:47,210 --> 00:29:45,240

the lab they can do it in the comfort of

644

00:29:49,490 --> 00:29:47,220

their own home as long as everyone's

645

00:29:51,860 --> 00:29:49,500

happy with the conditions and you think

646

00:29:53,540 --> 00:29:51,870

after 30 plus years somebody would have

647

00:29:56,480 --> 00:29:53,550

collected the money by now notice the

648

00:29:58,340 --> 00:29:56,490

tests are designed for them to pass

649

00:30:01,520 --> 00:29:58,350

right if they have the powers right

650

00:30:03,730 --> 00:30:01,530

haven't found anyone yet not yet but the

651

00:30:06,050 --> 00:30:03,740

prizes there and if somebody gets it

652

00:30:07,910 --> 00:30:06,060

we'd be over the moon because it would

653

00:30:09,950 --> 00:30:07,920

mean that be a whole new branch of

654

00:30:12,380 --> 00:30:09,960

science open up and there'd be Nobel

655

00:30:13,970 --> 00:30:12,390

prizes in solve millions of dollars yeah

656

00:30:15,890 --> 00:30:13,980

I don't think it to be very exciting

657

00:30:17,660 --> 00:30:15,900

Richard Saunders with us from the

658

00:30:19,070 --> 00:30:17,670

Australian skeptics you might have

659

00:30:20,690 --> 00:30:19,080

something that you want to suggest we

660

00:30:23,420 --> 00:30:20,700

should be skeptical about you might have

661

00:30:25,040 --> 00:30:23,430

something that's perhaps you know it is

662

00:30:27,950 --> 00:30:25,050

a fashionable sort of thing we should be

663

00:30:28,970 --> 00:30:27,960

skeptical about Matt suggesting he's

664

00:30:31,340 --> 00:30:28,980

feeling fairly skeptical about

665

00:30:34,130 --> 00:30:31,350

superfoods and the kind of claims around

666

00:30:35,990 --> 00:30:34,140

the ancient grains Richard Saunders yeah

667

00:30:38,330 --> 00:30:36,000

that's I would be quite sceptical about

668

00:30:41,290 --> 00:30:38,340

those two any fad diet any fed news

669

00:30:44,600 --> 00:30:41,300

tabloid the latest thing this product

670

00:30:46,940 --> 00:30:44,610

the good things will be ironed out over

671

00:30:49,760 --> 00:30:46,950

the years the best advice would be to

672

00:30:51,560 --> 00:30:49,770

eat a well-balanced diet quite frankly I

673

00:30:53,960 --> 00:30:51,570

don't think there are any such things as

674

00:30:56,120 --> 00:30:53,970

superfoods it's the old thing people

675

00:30:57,920 --> 00:30:56,130

would rather take a magic pill or what

676

00:30:59,900 --> 00:30:57,930

they think is a superfood then changed

677

00:31:03,200 --> 00:30:59,910

their dietary habits and just eat

678

00:31:04,430 --> 00:31:03,210

healthy food and exercise more 1 302 702

679

00:31:07,640 --> 00:31:04,440

is the number if you'd like to join us

680

00:31:08,960 --> 00:31:07,650

is it is it like a healthy level of

681

00:31:11,440 --> 00:31:08,970

skepticism you think can you be too

682

00:31:14,030 --> 00:31:11,450

skeptical Richard yeah but that's not

683

00:31:16,580 --> 00:31:14,040

then you stop being skeptical you start

684

00:31:19,640 --> 00:31:16,590

being a believer once you once you start

685

00:31:21,230 --> 00:31:19,650

believing that something is the case no

686

00:31:23,750 --> 00:31:21,240

matter what that's not being a

687

00:31:26,120 --> 00:31:23,760

skepticism a skeptic skeptic is somebody

688

00:31:29,600 --> 00:31:26,130

who's open to new evidence but they need

689

00:31:31,790 --> 00:31:29,610

a good proof so i could say I'll never

690

00:31:34,130 --> 00:31:31,800

believed in ghosts end the story go away

691

00:31:36,800 --> 00:31:34,140

that's not skeptical that's that's in

692

00:31:39,170 --> 00:31:36,810

the sense being a believer rise right so

693

00:31:41,090 --> 00:31:39,180

if someone can come along with

694

00:31:43,370 --> 00:31:41,100

convincing credible evidence for ghosts

695

00:31:45,380 --> 00:31:43,380

and I would have to change my mind it's

696

00:31:48,140 --> 00:31:45,390

as simple as that hmm i suppose what i

697

00:31:50,780 --> 00:31:48,150

mean though is like at some point you

698

00:31:51,500 --> 00:31:50,790

know it like if you're too if you're

699

00:31:53,810 --> 00:31:51,510

skeptical of

700

00:31:55,940 --> 00:31:53,820

every single moment in a sense then

701

00:31:57,620 --> 00:31:55,950

that's a that's a sort of harsh way to

702

00:31:59,270 --> 00:31:57,630

live or something or you know like this

703

00:32:01,130 --> 00:31:59,280

there'd be something that you'd be a

704

00:32:03,590 --> 00:32:01,140

hard person to be around if everything's

705

00:32:06,650 --> 00:32:03,600

being questioned at every possible time

706

00:32:08,390 --> 00:32:06,660

you would I haven't met anyone like I

707

00:32:09,980 --> 00:32:08,400

think we'd boo them out of the society

708

00:32:12,680 --> 00:32:09,990

I've quite frankly no you can't live

709

00:32:14,030 --> 00:32:12,690

life like that I mean I'm talking to you

710

00:32:15,830 --> 00:32:14,040

on the phone I might have SAT him

711

00:32:17,390 --> 00:32:15,840

through all if I touch that phone like

712

00:32:19,490 --> 00:32:17,400

it electrocuted I'm quite skeptical life

713

00:32:21,590 --> 00:32:19,500

doesn't work like that a lot of things

714

00:32:23,450 --> 00:32:21,600

you simply take as read and you get

715

00:32:25,340 --> 00:32:23,460

along with your life but when a claim

716

00:32:27,410 --> 00:32:25,350

comes along which contradicts the known

717

00:32:29,180 --> 00:32:27,420

laws of nature then your ears should

718

00:32:31,490 --> 00:32:29,190

prick up and you should be skeptical you

719

00:32:33,380 --> 00:32:31,500

should demand good evidence before you

720

00:32:35,710 --> 00:32:33,390

invest your emotions or your money into

721

00:32:37,640 --> 00:32:35,720

it mmm why are you just the Australian

722

00:32:39,620 --> 00:32:37,650

scientists group no I mean I mean

723

00:32:42,890 --> 00:32:39,630

basically you're just scientific method

724

00:32:44,180 --> 00:32:42,900

all down the line right yeah but we you

725

00:32:46,610 --> 00:32:44,190

know from the early days we've

726

00:32:48,560 --> 00:32:46,620

specialized in in the paranormal side of

727

00:32:51,470 --> 00:32:48,570

things lets you know that's the core of

728

00:32:53,270 --> 00:32:51,480

it it really grew out of the 1970s when

729

00:32:55,790 --> 00:32:53,280

people like uri geller or running around

730

00:32:58,250 --> 00:32:55,800

bending spoons and things like that and

731

00:33:00,500 --> 00:32:58,260

so do we still have is that sort of

732

00:33:02,240 --> 00:33:00,510

stuff as common as it once was spoon

733

00:33:03,980 --> 00:33:02,250

bending now you at you are for the

734

00:33:06,470 --> 00:33:03,990

younger generation what spoon bending

735

00:33:07,880 --> 00:33:06,480

illness is now look at you crazy you do

736

00:33:09,830 --> 00:33:07,890

for them they think it's a great trick

737

00:33:11,930 --> 00:33:09,840

but they haven't heard about it which

738

00:33:13,520 --> 00:33:11,940

goes to show that if it was real you

739

00:33:14,900 --> 00:33:13,530

know if the people back then could

740

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:14,910

really bend spoons with the power of

741

00:33:19,010 --> 00:33:17,010

their mind then it would be an accepted

742

00:33:20,960 --> 00:33:19,020

part of our society now what good it

743

00:33:22,520 --> 00:33:20,970

would do I'm not sure hmm so I'm trying

744

00:33:24,110 --> 00:33:22,530

to think of the equivalent like do we

745

00:33:25,760 --> 00:33:24,120

have an equivalent of spoon bending

746

00:33:28,340 --> 00:33:25,770

today you know what the spoon bending is

747

00:33:30,590 --> 00:33:28,350

morphed into ah that's a good question

748

00:33:33,530 --> 00:33:30,600

probably talking to the dead I mean we

749

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:33,540

get the hot shots coming out here from

750

00:33:36,890 --> 00:33:35,010

the states or whatever the case may be

751

00:33:38,450 --> 00:33:36,900

and claim they can actually talk to

752

00:33:41,270 --> 00:33:38,460

deceased people which is a pretty

753

00:33:44,870 --> 00:33:41,280

far-fetched claim they'll go on tabloid

754

00:33:48,620 --> 00:33:44,880

TV morning TV the women's magazines the

755

00:33:50,560 --> 00:33:48,630

the ok so the magazines and then they go

756

00:33:54,620 --> 00:33:50,570

home what is one of the tricks to that

757

00:33:56,150 --> 00:33:54,630

the tricks are many and various you can

758

00:33:59,630 --> 00:33:56,160

buy books about it it's a quite an

759

00:34:04,250 --> 00:33:59,640

interesting study the the thumbnail

760

00:34:05,510 --> 00:34:04,260

sketch is you ask questions and you fed

761

00:34:07,130 --> 00:34:05,520

back the information

762

00:34:09,139 --> 00:34:07,140

and then you feed that information you

763

00:34:11,540 --> 00:34:09,149

get back to the person as if you're

764

00:34:13,310 --> 00:34:11,550

getting it from divine means or from

765

00:34:15,770 --> 00:34:13,320

beyond the grave there's many many

766

00:34:17,810 --> 00:34:15,780

subtleties to it it's there are many

767

00:34:20,060 --> 00:34:17,820

ways like you could say to an audience

768

00:34:21,620 --> 00:34:20,070

I'm getting a strange sensation who is

769

00:34:23,480 --> 00:34:21,630

it I'm getting a father figure here

770

00:34:26,180 --> 00:34:23,490

who's the father figure and there's a

771

00:34:29,270 --> 00:34:26,190

red car now a father figure could mean a

772

00:34:31,550 --> 00:34:29,280

father a grandfather and uncle and older

773

00:34:34,399 --> 00:34:31,560

brother a good friend who's older a

774

00:34:37,310 --> 00:34:34,409

teacher and so on and so forth so you

775

00:34:38,270 --> 00:34:37,320

really throw out a lot of questions the

776

00:34:40,070 --> 00:34:38,280

audience and they're fed back

777

00:34:42,169 --> 00:34:40,080

information and they work from there but

778

00:34:44,270 --> 00:34:42,179

there are many ways to do it some of

779

00:34:46,040 --> 00:34:44,280

them use what we call hot reading so

780

00:34:47,750 --> 00:34:46,050

they know a little bit about the person

781

00:34:50,810 --> 00:34:47,760

before they step out onto the stage so

782

00:34:51,889 --> 00:34:50,820

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

783

00:34:54,139 --> 00:34:51,899

it's that sort of feeling of the

784

00:34:55,399 --> 00:34:54,149

questions and it doesn't do to us it

785

00:34:56,690 --> 00:34:55,409

doesn't look like they're doing that

786

00:34:59,510 --> 00:34:56,700

doesn't know what what you did then you

787

00:35:01,850 --> 00:34:59,520

think well I would see that that people

788

00:35:04,580 --> 00:35:01,860

don't this is really interesting people

789

00:35:07,340 --> 00:35:04,590

don't and people don't remember a

790

00:35:09,680 --> 00:35:07,350

reading the true nature of a reading

791

00:35:11,900 --> 00:35:09,690

after it's happened and though the

792

00:35:13,610 --> 00:35:11,910

questions I put before I'm sensing a

793

00:35:15,350 --> 00:35:13,620

father figure can anyone relate to that

794

00:35:18,890 --> 00:35:15,360

someone will say oh yeah my uncle Jim he

795

00:35:20,810 --> 00:35:18,900

just passed away when asked later they

796

00:35:23,060 --> 00:35:20,820

will most probably say that guy was

797

00:35:25,820 --> 00:35:23,070

amazing he contacted my uncle jim he

798

00:35:27,920 --> 00:35:25,830

knew about my uncle jim right they don't

799

00:35:30,440 --> 00:35:27,930

remember telling him yeah uncle yeah

800

00:35:32,300 --> 00:35:30,450

yeah and and that's we find that a very

801

00:35:34,100 --> 00:35:32,310

common thing but that's that's the way

802

00:35:38,180 --> 00:35:34,110

the human mind works the human mind is

803

00:35:40,970 --> 00:35:38,190

not an mp3 recorder of them an old VCR

804

00:35:43,010 --> 00:35:40,980

recorder memories reconstructions of the

805

00:35:44,450 --> 00:35:43,020

past they're not recording hmm Richard

806

00:35:45,980 --> 00:35:44,460

Saunders with us from the Australian

807

00:35:48,050 --> 00:35:45,990

skeptics yes they're still around and

808

00:35:52,250 --> 00:35:48,060

the skeptical is over 13 hundred triple

809

00:35:55,040 --> 00:35:52,260

2 702 is anima Gordon good I James look

810

00:35:57,380 --> 00:35:55,050

I think spoon bending is not too much of

811

00:35:58,910 --> 00:35:57,390

a problem it doesn't hurt anybody but I

812

00:36:01,550 --> 00:35:58,920

think the one thing that we should be

813

00:36:04,100 --> 00:36:01,560

really skeptical of is the notion

814

00:36:06,620 --> 00:36:04,110

although continuously growing economy

815

00:36:08,270 --> 00:36:06,630

hey don't use that's teresita knock that

816

00:36:09,710 --> 00:36:08,280

what are you talking about call yeah I'd

817

00:36:11,540 --> 00:36:09,720

like to know what the skeptics think

818

00:36:13,700 --> 00:36:11,550

about that one because I think all of us

819

00:36:17,150 --> 00:36:13,710

should be deeply concerned because we're

820

00:36:19,290 --> 00:36:17,160

a growing economy a continuously growing

821

00:36:22,050 --> 00:36:19,300

economies gonna spoil our planet total

822

00:36:24,600 --> 00:36:22,060

the universe is expanding Gordon why not

823

00:36:27,450 --> 00:36:24,610

the economy what a wonderful notion not

824

00:36:29,430 --> 00:36:27,460

only only I like to believe what i can

825

00:36:32,640 --> 00:36:29,440

see i think in line with most of the

826

00:36:34,890 --> 00:36:32,650

skeptics and i can't see the universe

827

00:36:37,020 --> 00:36:34,900

expanding from where i see it now that's

828

00:36:39,720 --> 00:36:37,030

true but but you know the scientists

829

00:36:41,550 --> 00:36:39,730

tell us that they are that it did it are

830

00:36:43,170 --> 00:36:41,560

and so therefore i were to think the

831

00:36:45,030 --> 00:36:43,180

economy could expand forever more to

832

00:36:47,340 --> 00:36:45,040

fill up that space at the universe it's

833

00:36:49,740 --> 00:36:47,350

providing am i right Richard Saunders it

834

00:36:52,170 --> 00:36:49,750

might well do that indeed but i'm afraid

835

00:36:56,120 --> 00:36:52,180

that expansion is out really out of our

836

00:36:58,230 --> 00:36:56,130

core level of expertise it's like we're

837

00:36:59,460 --> 00:36:58,240

analogy would be where dentist and

838

00:37:01,410 --> 00:36:59,470

someone comes along with the questions

839

00:37:03,300 --> 00:37:01,420

about the foot oh it's all very

840

00:37:05,040 --> 00:37:03,310

interesting but that's not where out

841

00:37:06,600 --> 00:37:05,050

skepticism lies are there ghosts

842

00:37:08,370 --> 00:37:06,610

involved there is there alternative

843

00:37:10,620 --> 00:37:08,380

medicine hmm we'll leave that question

844

00:37:12,840 --> 00:37:10,630

probably but the on the notion of an

845

00:37:15,690 --> 00:37:12,850

ever growing economies is that is that

846

00:37:17,910 --> 00:37:15,700

out of your yeah yeah yeah that's that's

847

00:37:19,260 --> 00:37:17,920

an interesting topic but fine for

848

00:37:20,700 --> 00:37:19,270

another day but it's not where the

849

00:37:22,290 --> 00:37:20,710

australian skeptic so place their

850

00:37:25,440 --> 00:37:22,300

interest caps for the for the economist

851

00:37:26,550 --> 00:37:25,450

1 300 triple 2 702 is that is there no

852

00:37:28,470 --> 00:37:26,560

if you're not things that you think we

853

00:37:30,030 --> 00:37:28,480

should be perhaps a skeptical about what

854

00:37:33,270 --> 00:37:30,040

you've seen people making these claims

855

00:37:37,100 --> 00:37:33,280

or saying things or or notion about how

856

00:37:41,660 --> 00:37:37,110

skeptical we should be in actual fact

857

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:41,670

hello there are darren i can okay should

858

00:37:47,850 --> 00:37:45,010

yes oh my question is I've sort of been

859

00:37:49,110 --> 00:37:47,860

listening to a few skeptics podcasts and

860

00:37:51,870 --> 00:37:49,120

just probably for the last couple of

861

00:37:53,790 --> 00:37:51,880

years or so and i'm just wondering with

862

00:37:56,790 --> 00:37:53,800

Richards long-term experience does he

863

00:38:00,030 --> 00:37:56,800

find the internet the x access to the

864

00:38:03,720 --> 00:38:00,040

internet you know answers on tap do you

865

00:38:05,970 --> 00:38:03,730

think that provides as much BS as it

866

00:38:10,110 --> 00:38:05,980

does answers and the people sort of like

867

00:38:12,840 --> 00:38:10,120

getting believing in more you know woo

868

00:38:14,790 --> 00:38:12,850

as I like to say what do you think yeah

869

00:38:16,260 --> 00:38:14,800

what's the bosses been the effect of the

870

00:38:18,750 --> 00:38:16,270

of the internet on our skepticism

871

00:38:20,040 --> 00:38:18,760

Richard both sides or it hinders both

872

00:38:23,040 --> 00:38:20,050

sides if you want to look at it that way

873

00:38:25,110 --> 00:38:23,050

it's a it's the most marvelous resource

874

00:38:26,910 --> 00:38:25,120

the planet the human society has ever

875

00:38:30,840 --> 00:38:26,920

known for information but that

876

00:38:33,180 --> 00:38:30,850

information is a mixed bag and as long

877

00:38:34,890 --> 00:38:33,190

as you approach it careful

878

00:38:37,670 --> 00:38:34,900

and with a certain amount of skepticism

879

00:38:40,849 --> 00:38:37,680

and you're diligent the internet is

880

00:38:43,410 --> 00:38:40,859

overflowing with really good information

881

00:38:45,690 --> 00:38:43,420

you just have to weed out the bad

882

00:38:47,790 --> 00:38:45,700

information not always easy not always

883

00:38:50,099 --> 00:38:47,800

easy and I think if you're looking for

884

00:38:51,510 --> 00:38:50,109

that which will confirm your view you

885

00:38:52,829 --> 00:38:51,520

will find it and then you will say but

886

00:38:55,319 --> 00:38:52,839

it's on the internet a very reputable

887

00:38:56,730 --> 00:38:55,329

site on a reputable site this is the

888

00:38:59,550 --> 00:38:56,740

informations the scientific information

889

00:39:01,349 --> 00:38:59,560

we all do that we all we all tend to

890

00:39:03,510 --> 00:39:01,359

look for information that confirms what

891

00:39:06,900 --> 00:39:03,520

we want to be true anyway that is part

892

00:39:09,569 --> 00:39:06,910

of being human mmm is it um you know are

893

00:39:11,400 --> 00:39:09,579

we is it a personality type to have a

894

00:39:13,380 --> 00:39:11,410

skeptical questioning mind somebody who

895

00:39:15,569 --> 00:39:13,390

wants the evidence somebody who is who

896

00:39:18,210 --> 00:39:15,579

is open to change and so therefore

897

00:39:20,130 --> 00:39:18,220

that's or is it something that is

898

00:39:22,829 --> 00:39:20,140

educated in to us do we do we learner

899

00:39:24,329 --> 00:39:22,839

there's a part of our if educated world

900

00:39:27,780 --> 00:39:24,339

and that's how we should end up isn't it

901  
00:39:29,849 --> 00:39:27,790  
yeah ideally i mean i've been in the the

902  
00:39:32,400 --> 00:39:29,859  
skeptical spheres now for quite a long

903  
00:39:35,520 --> 00:39:32,410  
time and i have met all sorts of people

904  
00:39:37,620 --> 00:39:35,530  
you can't peg somebody and say this is a

905  
00:39:40,680 --> 00:39:37,630  
skeptical personality type we have all

906  
00:39:42,780 --> 00:39:40,690  
sorts of people all nationalities both

907  
00:39:45,510 --> 00:39:42,790  
genders and other genders if they're out

908  
00:39:48,809 --> 00:39:45,520  
there and size and shapes and creeds and

909  
00:39:50,930 --> 00:39:48,819  
everyone all walks of life I make

910  
00:39:54,120 --> 00:39:50,940  
skeptics around the world so you I

911  
00:39:56,220 --> 00:39:54,130  
imagine it's access to good information

912  
00:39:58,710 --> 00:39:56,230  
I think I think I've said that my you

913  
00:40:00,150 --> 00:39:58,720

know if I think of the basics of my high

914

00:40:02,130 --> 00:40:00,160

school education without in worrying

915

00:40:03,780 --> 00:40:02,140

about University it was scientific

916

00:40:06,359 --> 00:40:03,790

method it was critical thinking in

917

00:40:08,760 --> 00:40:06,369

English this kind of thing so to me at

918

00:40:10,440 --> 00:40:08,770

the end of that period I was being told

919

00:40:12,809 --> 00:40:10,450

by the entire education system that I

920

00:40:15,240 --> 00:40:12,819

should be of a questioning mind why

921

00:40:16,589 --> 00:40:15,250

isn't everyone that's a good question i

922

00:40:20,670 --> 00:40:16,599

think partly because it's a lot easier

923

00:40:22,710 --> 00:40:20,680

not to be the default the position of

924

00:40:26,940 --> 00:40:22,720

the human brain when you hear something

925

00:40:29,490 --> 00:40:26,950

is to believe it and it takes a little

926

00:40:31,620 --> 00:40:29,500

bit extra effort to then start to

927

00:40:33,420 --> 00:40:31,630

question things it's just easier to

928

00:40:35,010 --> 00:40:33,430

believe interesting things you here and

929

00:40:37,020 --> 00:40:35,020

just say oh that must be true i heard it

930

00:40:39,180 --> 00:40:37,030

on the TV or the radio or i read it on

931

00:40:41,460 --> 00:40:39,190

the internet and you don't have to think

932

00:40:43,559 --> 00:40:41,470

much about it mmm Richard Saunders with

933

00:40:46,170 --> 00:40:43,569

us from the Australian skeptics Martin

934

00:40:47,069 --> 00:40:46,180

what did you want to raise Fisher said

935

00:40:50,969 --> 00:40:47,079

he was

936

00:40:54,029 --> 00:40:50,979

gets call about the anti-vaccine I

937

00:40:59,609 --> 00:40:54,039

wondered where they stood with all the

938

00:41:02,400 --> 00:40:59,619

renewable energy there was what has been

939

00:41:04,949 --> 00:41:02,410

proven now to have been a Neil founded

940

00:41:08,099 --> 00:41:04,959

story about wind turbine illness like

941

00:41:11,430 --> 00:41:08,109

that so I just wondered where they stood

942

00:41:14,400 --> 00:41:11,440

on some of the arguments that are being

943

00:41:15,989 --> 00:41:14,410

given against renewable energy hmm wind

944

00:41:17,549 --> 00:41:15,999

turbine illnesses perhaps in particular

945

00:41:18,959 --> 00:41:17,559

Richard that's a that's a very

946

00:41:21,329 --> 00:41:18,969

interesting one there is no credible

947

00:41:24,019 --> 00:41:21,339

evidence to suggest that people get sick

948

00:41:27,209 --> 00:41:24,029

because of wind turbines they might

949

00:41:30,839 --> 00:41:27,219

report horrible effects and feeling

950

00:41:32,400 --> 00:41:30,849

unwell as far as we can see that's more

951  
00:41:34,799 --> 00:41:32,410  
psychological and they work themselves

952  
00:41:37,109 --> 00:41:34,809  
up to it there's no mechanism that we

953  
00:41:39,089 --> 00:41:37,119  
know of that would a wind turbine would

954  
00:41:41,370 --> 00:41:39,099  
would have a very bad effect on

955  
00:41:42,779 --> 00:41:41,380  
somebody's health personally i don't

956  
00:41:45,059 --> 00:41:42,789  
mean the australian skeptics don't have

957  
00:41:46,410 --> 00:41:45,069  
a an official position on this sort of

958  
00:41:49,680 --> 00:41:46,420  
thing again it's sort of drifting

959  
00:41:51,329 --> 00:41:49,690  
outside our realm personally I'm all for

960  
00:41:53,130 --> 00:41:51,339  
it you know the more renewable energy of

961  
00:41:55,559 --> 00:41:53,140  
course the better and the science

962  
00:41:58,349 --> 00:41:55,569  
progresses using the skeptical method

963  
00:42:00,209 --> 00:41:58,359

the better we get at developing

964

00:42:01,979 --> 00:42:00,219

renewable energies and solar cells and

965

00:42:03,390 --> 00:42:01,989

things like that but the wind turbine

966

00:42:06,029 --> 00:42:03,400

lyst thing is also an interesting aspect

967

00:42:08,009 --> 00:42:06,039

in that in that people of a skeptical

968

00:42:09,569 --> 00:42:08,019

nature will happily believe they go yeah

969

00:42:11,549 --> 00:42:09,579

I thought so there would be something

970

00:42:13,019 --> 00:42:11,559

like that and when someone says no it's

971

00:42:16,170 --> 00:42:13,029

not actually found are they give it's

972

00:42:18,689 --> 00:42:16,180

been covered up by you know it's that

973

00:42:21,209 --> 00:42:18,699

sort of like it but what I mean is that

974

00:42:23,189 --> 00:42:21,219

you can be of inquiring mind yeah

975

00:42:26,099 --> 00:42:23,199

perfectly open the things but and so it

976

00:42:29,279 --> 00:42:26,109

will that that that narrative will fit

977

00:42:31,799 --> 00:42:29,289

into into your inquiring man view partly

978

00:42:33,689 --> 00:42:31,809

it's partly a problem with the word

979

00:42:35,670 --> 00:42:33,699

skeptic because all sorts of people love

980

00:42:38,969 --> 00:42:35,680

to use it we get people who say their

981

00:42:40,799 --> 00:42:38,979

911 skeptics or climate change skeptics

982

00:42:42,420 --> 00:42:40,809

or moon landing skeptics and we're

983

00:42:44,609 --> 00:42:42,430

sitting here saying no don't use that

984

00:42:46,049 --> 00:42:44,619

word don't use that word then there's

985

00:42:48,749 --> 00:42:46,059

people are tipping more into conspiracy

986

00:42:50,339 --> 00:42:48,759

theorist but the skeptic is a tricky

987

00:42:52,589 --> 00:42:50,349

word because it's used by a lot of

988

00:42:54,259 --> 00:42:52,599

people yeah I mean on the winter my

989

00:42:57,630 --> 00:42:54,269

think I feel like I heard the original

990

00:43:00,440 --> 00:42:57,640

interview with the there was an American

991

00:43:03,200 --> 00:43:00,450

doctor a woman who wrote a book

992

00:43:05,569 --> 00:43:03,210

was quickly debunked and the book was

993

00:43:07,370 --> 00:43:05,579

based really on her own experience in

994

00:43:09,950 --> 00:43:07,380

her own practice the internet she wasn't

995

00:43:11,390 --> 00:43:09,960

really even a doctor if there was very

996

00:43:13,490 --> 00:43:11,400

little to it at all and I remember her

997

00:43:15,260 --> 00:43:13,500

being interviewed on yeah on ABC radio

998

00:43:16,819 --> 00:43:15,270

people put her on but within a year or

999

00:43:18,440 --> 00:43:16,829

so people were happily relaying the

1000

00:43:20,420 --> 00:43:18,450

story I'll know there's been studies

1001  
00:43:22,250 --> 00:43:20,430  
done us that there's there's wind

1002  
00:43:23,810 --> 00:43:22,260  
turbine problems either these are very

1003  
00:43:25,339 --> 00:43:23,820  
hardly this is where we come back to an

1004  
00:43:27,140 --> 00:43:25,349  
internet question isn't it the internet

1005  
00:43:29,870 --> 00:43:27,150  
actually just fuels this stuff man it

1006  
00:43:32,450 --> 00:43:29,880  
does then as the ABCs media what show us

1007  
00:43:34,250 --> 00:43:32,460  
many times during the year media outlets

1008  
00:43:37,609 --> 00:43:34,260  
will just pick up on a story because

1009  
00:43:39,230 --> 00:43:37,619  
it's sexy and Han fact-checking can wait

1010  
00:43:41,930 --> 00:43:39,240  
for later on this is a hot story let's

1011  
00:43:44,569 --> 00:43:41,940  
present it now as we'll worry about the

1012  
00:43:49,250 --> 00:43:44,579  
facts later yeah Paul what did you want

1013  
00:43:52,190 --> 00:43:49,260

to ask at me yep oh good very simple

1014

00:43:54,380 --> 00:43:52,200

question I or skeptic abs are all

1015

00:43:56,720 --> 00:43:54,390

skeptics atheists richardsaunders so in

1016

00:43:59,030 --> 00:43:56,730

fact we don't care if we have people in

1017

00:44:00,230 --> 00:43:59,040

the Australian skeptics who believe in

1018

00:44:02,810 --> 00:44:00,240

all sorts of religions that's not a

1019

00:44:04,700 --> 00:44:02,820

question we worry about we their

1020

00:44:07,819 --> 00:44:04,710

skepticism from what we're concerned

1021

00:44:10,040 --> 00:44:07,829

with is more about you know the testable

1022

00:44:11,569 --> 00:44:10,050

claims of the paranormal or alternative

1023

00:44:14,150 --> 00:44:11,579

medicine and and this sort of thing

1024

00:44:16,370 --> 00:44:14,160

consumer affairs a person's private

1025

00:44:18,829 --> 00:44:16,380

religious beliefs is completely they're

1026

00:44:21,319 --> 00:44:18,839

their own affair and it really doesn't

1027

00:44:24,170 --> 00:44:21,329

interfere with skepticism a lot of

1028

00:44:28,010 --> 00:44:24,180

skeptics would be I would imagine but

1029

00:44:30,760 --> 00:44:28,020

that's just how does it happens what the

1030

00:44:34,190 --> 00:44:30,770

pura skeptic position B agnosticism I

1031

00:44:35,720 --> 00:44:34,200

imagine so I imagine so but again we're

1032

00:44:38,359 --> 00:44:35,730

starting getting in the realms we leave

1033

00:44:41,390 --> 00:44:38,369

for people who are really interested in

1034

00:44:42,770 --> 00:44:41,400

that topic I mean we have the the

1035

00:44:46,250 --> 00:44:42,780

Australian atheists out there who can

1036

00:44:49,940 --> 00:44:46,260

give you a good talking about that again

1037

00:44:51,950 --> 00:44:49,950

we owe us it's a distraction you know if

1038

00:44:53,569 --> 00:44:51,960

people want to in their private hard one

1039

00:44:55,309 --> 00:44:53,579

to follow a certain religion that's

1040

00:44:57,050 --> 00:44:55,319

entirely their business you know it's

1041

00:44:59,000 --> 00:44:57,060

entirely their business let's get let's

1042

00:45:01,339 --> 00:44:59,010

both together go on a ghost hunt that's

1043

00:45:02,960 --> 00:45:01,349

more fun Richard nice talk to you and

1044

00:45:04,190 --> 00:45:02,970

thanks for your recovery this morning

1045

00:45:06,200 --> 00:45:04,200

good i have the convention goes well

1046

00:45:09,050 --> 00:45:06,210

thank you very much people can find out

1047

00:45:10,730 --> 00:45:09,060

about that skeptics calm day you and it

1048

00:45:12,650 --> 00:45:10,740

should be a great weekend Richard

1049

00:45:26,750 --> 00:45:12,660

Saunders former present of

1050

00:45:30,770 --> 00:45:26,760

Australian skeptics hey Heidi oh hi Joe

1051  
00:45:34,339 --> 00:45:30,780  
hi Heidi oh hi Maynard hi Maynard oh hi

1052  
00:45:37,849 --> 00:45:34,349  
Joe nice day in this park yeah yes great

1053  
00:45:40,160 --> 00:45:37,859  
weather oh look a unicorn a unicorn

1054  
00:45:44,029 --> 00:45:40,170  
there are no such things as unicorns

1055  
00:45:46,370 --> 00:45:44,039  
silly yes there are no there isn't hey

1056  
00:45:49,120 --> 00:45:46,380  
ladies what are you arguing about Joe

1057  
00:45:51,740 --> 00:45:49,130  
thinks unicorns are real they fo are

1058  
00:45:54,980 --> 00:45:51,750  
let's look this up in the skeptics

1059  
00:45:57,680 --> 00:45:54,990  
dictionary the word how can we do that

1060  
00:45:59,630 --> 00:45:57,690  
in this park there are no computers here

1061  
00:46:02,480 --> 00:45:59,640  
you ladies probably don't know about the

1062  
00:46:05,329 --> 00:46:02,490  
skeptics dictionary app available now

1063  
00:46:07,880 --> 00:46:05,339

for iPhone iPad and iPod touch in the

1064

00:46:09,890 --> 00:46:07,890

App Store yeah we do we've been

1065

00:46:14,240 --> 00:46:09,900

listening to the skeptic zone for years

1066

00:46:16,160 --> 00:46:14,250

you know yes ok the app lets you access

1067

00:46:19,880 --> 00:46:16,170

all the great skeptics dictionary

1068

00:46:22,700 --> 00:46:19,890

articles when you're on the go yeah let

1069

00:46:25,640 --> 00:46:22,710

me look up unicorns oh cool Heidi

1070

00:46:28,099 --> 00:46:25,650

prepare to be proven wrong it says here

1071

00:46:31,460 --> 00:46:28,109

the Unicorn is a creature from fables

1072

00:46:32,960 --> 00:46:31,470

aha actually I see now that someone just

1073

00:46:35,510 --> 00:46:32,970

dumped their ice cream cone on that

1074

00:46:37,910 --> 00:46:35,520

horse's head thanks skeptic ditching

1075

00:46:50,210 --> 00:46:37,920

their iphone app that's just some guy in

1076

00:46:56,790 --> 00:46:53,010

thank you for listening to the skeptic

1077

00:46:59,580 --> 00:46:56,800

zone and if you're coming to see my

1078

00:47:03,470 --> 00:46:59,590

photography exhibition in Sydney I hope

1079

00:47:05,940 --> 00:47:03,480

you do enjoy that 204 to cafe and deli

1080

00:47:07,620 --> 00:47:05,950

link is on the show notes for this week

1081

00:47:11,670 --> 00:47:07,630

episode although it's pretty easy to

1082

00:47:13,620 --> 00:47:11,680

find just south of Newtown train station

1083

00:47:16,140 --> 00:47:13,630

on King Street I'm looking forward to

1084

00:47:18,270 --> 00:47:16,150

seeing you at the amazing meeting in Las

1085

00:47:20,160 --> 00:47:18,280

Vegas in July if you're coming along if

1086

00:47:22,890 --> 00:47:20,170

you are coming along and you see me

1087

00:47:25,200 --> 00:47:22,900

please come up and say hello I I do

1088

00:47:27,840 --> 00:47:25,210

enjoy that but for this week this is

1089

00:47:31,350 --> 00:47:27,850

Richard Saunders and Fred the cat who is

1090

00:47:37,620 --> 00:47:31,360

now sound asleep signing off from Sydney

1091

00:47:40,140 --> 00:47:37,630

Australia you've been listening to the

1092

00:47:43,980 --> 00:47:40,150

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1093

00:47:47,250 --> 00:47:43,990

at wwc a petting zoo TV for contacts and

1094

00:47:50,430 --> 00:47:47,260

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1095

00:47:52,470 --> 00:47:50,440

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00:47:55,830 --> 00:47:52,480

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00:47:59,340 --> 00:47:55,840

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00:48:00,840 --> 00:47:59,350

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1099

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00:48:11,820 --> 00:48:09,370

production the views and opinions

1103

00:48:13,890 --> 00:48:11,830

expressed on the skeptic zone and not