

**SKEPTIC  
ZONE**



THINKING CAPS  
MUST BE WORN  
IN THIS AREA

The  
Podcast  
from  
Australia  
for  
Science  
and  
Reason

[www.skepticzone.tv](http://www.skepticzone.tv)

1  
00:00:27,060 --> 00:00:23,410  
hello and welcome to the skeptics own

2  
00:00:30,190 --> 00:00:27,070  
show number 27 for the 24th of April a

3  
00:00:33,040 --> 00:00:30,200  
special show with our guest Rob Morrison

4  
00:00:35,049 --> 00:00:33,050  
a lot of you will remember especially if

5  
00:00:37,689 --> 00:00:35,059  
you're in Australia will remember Rob

6  
00:00:39,340 --> 00:00:37,699  
Morrison from the Curiosity show but

7  
00:00:41,160 --> 00:00:39,350  
he's also a professorial fellow at

8  
00:00:44,830 --> 00:00:41,170  
Flinders University in South Australia

9  
00:00:46,450 --> 00:00:44,840  
specializing in zoology but in today's

10  
00:00:49,540 --> 00:00:46,460  
show he's going to talk to us all about

11  
00:00:52,899 --> 00:00:49,550  
the days of the Curiosity show and his

12  
00:00:54,880 --> 00:00:52,909  
other media interests also in today's

13  
00:00:57,009 --> 00:00:54,890

show we have a little adventure where

14

00:01:00,880 --> 00:00:57,019

dr. Rach you and I go on a search for

15

00:01:04,119 --> 00:01:00,890

hot salami more about that later and a

16

00:01:05,439 --> 00:01:04,129

grain of salt with Iran to give but

17

00:01:27,440 --> 00:01:05,449

let's start straight away without

18

00:01:27,450 --> 00:01:36,110

Oh

19

00:01:36,120 --> 00:01:51,770

you

20

00:01:56,789 --> 00:01:54,719

and now we're delighted to be here in

21

00:01:58,440 --> 00:01:56,799

beautiful Bridgewater in South Australia

22

00:02:00,899 --> 00:01:58,450

talking to rob morrison hello wrong

23

00:02:02,550 --> 00:02:00,909

today very great to be here what a

24

00:02:04,859 --> 00:02:02,560

beautiful place you have I'm looking out

25

00:02:06,840 --> 00:02:04,869

the window now too gorgeous view of the

26  
00:02:10,290 --> 00:02:06,850  
gum trees and everything but I I know

27  
00:02:13,559 --> 00:02:10,300  
you are a little bit wary of bushfire

28  
00:02:15,900 --> 00:02:13,569  
yes we have a lot of native scrub here

29  
00:02:18,120 --> 00:02:15,910  
and you can see it's a little five acre

30  
00:02:20,130 --> 00:02:18,130  
valley and you look out over it and then

31  
00:02:23,850 --> 00:02:20,140  
beyond that it goes into some of the

32  
00:02:25,050 --> 00:02:23,860  
rear patches of native scrub remaining

33  
00:02:26,789 --> 00:02:25,060  
in the air date Hills it's only got

34  
00:02:29,630 --> 00:02:26,799  
about three percent left of original

35  
00:02:32,220 --> 00:02:29,640  
forest so we look after pretty well but

36  
00:02:34,199 --> 00:02:32,230  
there is a reserve close to it which was

37  
00:02:36,570 --> 00:02:34,209  
on fire three times in the last week he

38  
00:02:37,890 --> 00:02:36,580

kept hearing up and we're rebuilding at

39

00:02:40,080 --> 00:02:37,900

the moment so you said on the roof

40

00:02:42,420 --> 00:02:40,090

trying to put things together while

41

00:02:43,830 --> 00:02:42,430

bombers flew overhead and helicopter

42

00:02:46,259 --> 00:02:43,840

zoom down on you and it was a bit like

43

00:02:48,240 --> 00:02:46,269

World War two but fortunately it didn't

44

00:02:51,270 --> 00:02:48,250

do a huge amount of damage the window is

45

00:02:53,280 --> 00:02:51,280

down sir in the aftermath of those

46

00:02:55,949 --> 00:02:53,290

terrible victorian fires everyone's very

47

00:02:57,750 --> 00:02:55,959

spooked yeah I'm sure they are I'm sure

48

00:02:59,970 --> 00:02:57,760

they are well let's go right back to the

49

00:03:02,640 --> 00:02:59,980

beginning because as I said in the

50

00:03:04,050 --> 00:03:02,650

introduction a lot of our Australian

51  
00:03:06,030 --> 00:03:04,060  
listeners will certainly remember you

52  
00:03:08,150 --> 00:03:06,040  
from the the curiosity show with the

53  
00:03:10,920 --> 00:03:08,160  
Dean huntin how did that all come about

54  
00:03:12,150 --> 00:03:10,930  
well it has its it's the only show i

55  
00:03:15,330 --> 00:03:12,160  
think which had about four different

56  
00:03:17,789 --> 00:03:15,340  
starts it began it's a long story i'll

57  
00:03:19,680 --> 00:03:17,799  
keep it as brief as I can Adelaide for

58  
00:03:21,690 --> 00:03:19,690  
some reason when television started

59  
00:03:24,090 --> 00:03:21,700  
always had children's television it's

60  
00:03:28,080 --> 00:03:24,100  
just something that the channels did and

61  
00:03:30,090 --> 00:03:28,090  
a channel nine particularly due to think

62  
00:03:31,710 --> 00:03:30,100  
of Channel 9's was it was just something

63  
00:03:33,870 --> 00:03:31,720

that they chose to do and I think there

64

00:03:35,400 --> 00:03:33,880

are really unique in doing it Humphrey

65

00:03:38,400 --> 00:03:35,410

the bear is no no there was another

66

00:03:40,379 --> 00:03:38,410

thing the a lot of them had preschooler

67

00:03:41,970 --> 00:03:40,389

programs yeah and Humphrey was Channel

68

00:03:43,590 --> 00:03:41,980

Nine's and there was a fat cat one on

69

00:03:45,059 --> 00:03:43,600

channel seven a lot of the channels had

70

00:03:48,690 --> 00:03:45,069

preschool programs which were designed

71

00:03:50,789 --> 00:03:48,700

to be played during the day and in the

72

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:50,799

morning you know when older kids were in

73

00:03:57,000 --> 00:03:54,010

school but the broadcast control board

74

00:03:59,699 --> 00:03:57,010

brought out of edict which said suddenly

75

00:04:01,649 --> 00:03:59,709

you will now start making programs for

76

00:04:02,970 --> 00:04:01,659

children of school going age and they

77

00:04:05,160 --> 00:04:02,980

will be played in out of school

78

00:04:08,490 --> 00:04:05,170

there's so suddenly they were after an

79

00:04:10,619 --> 00:04:08,500

older school child with its own time

80

00:04:12,600 --> 00:04:10,629

slot which is called the sea slot on us

81

00:04:17,099 --> 00:04:12,610

I think it was four to five on weekdays

82

00:04:18,840 --> 00:04:17,109

oh yeah and the channels all suddenly

83

00:04:20,969 --> 00:04:18,850

found they had to start making programs

84

00:04:23,850 --> 00:04:20,979

for that with this about the early 70s

85

00:04:27,330 --> 00:04:23,860

was it we're talking um it was yes it

86

00:04:29,820 --> 00:04:27,340

would have been early 70s yes early 70s

87

00:04:31,469 --> 00:04:29,830

that's right yeah now they didn't know

88

00:04:34,170 --> 00:04:31,479

what to do with this and Channel Nine's

89

00:04:36,150 --> 00:04:34,180

response was to say well we'll keep a

90

00:04:38,760 --> 00:04:36,160

Humphrey program but we pulled older

91

00:04:41,790 --> 00:04:38,770

stuff into it which was a pretty

92

00:04:43,230 --> 00:04:41,800

appalling notion because Heth so he had

93

00:04:45,090 --> 00:04:43,240

Humphrey who couldn't speak and

94

00:04:47,219 --> 00:04:45,100

everything was mime and gesticulation

95

00:04:49,170 --> 00:04:47,229

and then you had people like me who are

96

00:04:50,610 --> 00:04:49,180

aiming for 10 to 13 year olds try to do

97

00:04:53,219 --> 00:04:50,620

serious stuff with this idiot there

98

00:04:55,439 --> 00:04:53,229

behind you upstaging not exactly doing

99

00:04:57,300 --> 00:04:55,449

gravity is but the next piece think the

100

00:04:59,129 --> 00:04:57,310

three euros in fact I have the dubious

101

00:05:01,650 --> 00:04:59,139

distinction of being I think the only

102

00:05:03,990 --> 00:05:01,660

person who's ever made Humphrey talk on

103

00:05:06,480 --> 00:05:04,000

television it's not a nice story but if

104

00:05:09,360 --> 00:05:06,490

presto i'll give it to you but anyway so

105

00:05:11,310 --> 00:05:09,370

we had this this strange hybrid and for

106

00:05:13,950 --> 00:05:11,320

many years my papers are in the archives

107

00:05:15,810 --> 00:05:13,960

now and the running sheets of these

108

00:05:17,550 --> 00:05:15,820

programs also the if program because

109

00:05:19,379 --> 00:05:17,560

that's what they said when they fell

110

00:05:21,540 --> 00:05:19,389

they had to make this thing however

111

00:05:25,350 --> 00:05:21,550

years it was known as Humphrey BB is if

112

00:05:27,150 --> 00:05:25,360

program and then the f protein and I had

113

00:05:28,560 --> 00:05:27,160

a church of fellowship and 72 to go

114

00:05:32,219 --> 00:05:28,570

overseas and I was working on the

115

00:05:33,810 --> 00:05:32,229

program for a year and I was really

116

00:05:35,700 --> 00:05:33,820

working at getting rid of the beer

117

00:05:38,550 --> 00:05:35,710

because the B is terrific for his age

118

00:05:41,100 --> 00:05:38,560

group is silly to try and ecstatic and

119

00:05:44,400 --> 00:05:41,110

so that happened and then we became a

120

00:05:45,990 --> 00:05:44,410

program for 10 to 13 year olds and for

121

00:05:48,240 --> 00:05:46,000

quite some time it was a pretty awful

122

00:05:49,650 --> 00:05:48,250

program as an hour long and all things

123

00:05:51,360 --> 00:05:49,660

to all children which are done that you

124

00:05:54,810 --> 00:05:51,370

can be in quite a lot of presenters and

125

00:05:57,930 --> 00:05:54,820

no clear focus and Dean and I grew so

126

00:05:59,339 --> 00:05:57,940

unhappy with this at one stage we said

127

00:06:01,920 --> 00:05:59,349

look we don't really want to do this

128

00:06:03,990 --> 00:06:01,930

anymore but we suggest you do this we

129

00:06:05,670 --> 00:06:04,000

suggested two half-hour program with a

130

00:06:07,950 --> 00:06:05,680

science and technology base that we

131

00:06:09,930 --> 00:06:07,960

would do leaving all the other stuff to

132

00:06:12,300 --> 00:06:09,940

go into the channel niners which was a

133

00:06:13,680 --> 00:06:12,310

much more happy arrangement because it

134

00:06:15,540 --> 00:06:13,690

was the mix of all things to all people

135

00:06:16,510 --> 00:06:15,550

and we took the Science and Technology

136

00:06:17,980 --> 00:06:16,520

in men with that

137

00:06:20,050 --> 00:06:17,990

and that's the Curiosity Shop I'm glad

138

00:06:22,089 --> 00:06:20,060

to say that people remember bra that's

139

00:06:23,589 --> 00:06:22,099

the one that the went overseas to 14

140

00:06:26,080 --> 00:06:23,599

countries and when the awards and

141

00:06:28,059 --> 00:06:26,090

because I remember the curiosities show

142

00:06:30,129 --> 00:06:28,069

with more people in it was it Ezra was

143

00:06:33,219 --> 00:06:30,139

it called the curiosity show more people

144

00:06:34,899 --> 00:06:33,229

yes something else yes it was and that's

145

00:06:37,029 --> 00:06:34,909

right you you're remembering the early

146

00:06:39,450 --> 00:06:37,039

one hour all things to all people right

147

00:06:42,010 --> 00:06:39,460

because they had females in it and saw

148

00:06:44,020 --> 00:06:42,020

yes yes and that was it that was the

149

00:06:47,350 --> 00:06:44,030

direct spinoff from Humphrey then I

150

00:06:49,719 --> 00:06:47,360

think it was memory fails me a bit but i

151  
00:06:51,969 --> 00:06:49,729  
think was about 80 for now must be her

152  
00:06:53,649 --> 00:06:51,979  
Lea we moved it to this half-hour

153  
00:06:55,240 --> 00:06:53,659  
program all must have been early that

154  
00:06:58,450 --> 00:06:55,250  
anymore I won't they do would have been

155  
00:07:01,420 --> 00:06:58,460  
yeah but this was was this when Rob you

156  
00:07:03,640 --> 00:07:01,430  
were doing it in your spare time outside

157  
00:07:05,529 --> 00:07:03,650  
of your full-time job yes I was lucky

158  
00:07:07,749 --> 00:07:05,539  
and the mayor University a lot of

159  
00:07:09,370 --> 00:07:07,759  
universities took the line that you know

160  
00:07:11,230 --> 00:07:09,380  
if you're serious academic in science

161  
00:07:13,719 --> 00:07:11,240  
you didn't talk to the media the kind of

162  
00:07:15,990 --> 00:07:13,729  
mantra we grew up with was talk to media

163  
00:07:17,860 --> 00:07:16,000

and professionally you finished now

164

00:07:20,770 --> 00:07:17,870

scientists have been told if you don't

165

00:07:22,629 --> 00:07:20,780

talk to the media be necessary but in

166

00:07:24,550 --> 00:07:22,639

those days it wasn't like that but I was

167

00:07:25,959 --> 00:07:24,560

more in the teaching liner I did

168

00:07:30,490 --> 00:07:25,969

research but I was particularly

169

00:07:32,379 --> 00:07:30,500

interested in teaching and I had started

170

00:07:34,749 --> 00:07:32,389

how I got into this was complete

171

00:07:37,719 --> 00:07:34,759

accident the students come up so how do

172

00:07:39,999 --> 00:07:37,729

we get into television my example is not

173

00:07:43,120 --> 00:07:40,009

fun you'd want to follow because I done

174

00:07:45,550 --> 00:07:43,130

a bit with ABC educational television

175

00:07:46,959 --> 00:07:45,560

and I thought I knew how this worked you

176

00:07:49,029 --> 00:07:46,969

came in and you talked it through and

177

00:07:51,580 --> 00:07:49,039

you had a cup of tea and then you set

178

00:07:53,740 --> 00:07:51,590

the lights have another talk and have a

179

00:07:56,110 --> 00:07:53,750

cup of tea and then have a bit of a

180

00:07:57,879 --> 00:07:56,120

rehearsal and break for lunch then you

181

00:08:00,219 --> 00:07:57,889

come back and reset the lights of dual

182

00:08:01,600 --> 00:08:00,229

that have a couple of tapes then finally

183

00:08:03,209 --> 00:08:01,610

do you know the end of the day you're

184

00:08:07,089 --> 00:08:03,219

done a really good one and off you win

185

00:08:09,430 --> 00:08:07,099

so having done that I was rearing hand

186

00:08:11,019 --> 00:08:09,440

reading a little possum they used to

187

00:08:12,339 --> 00:08:11,029

Henry a lot of animals here the bite

188

00:08:16,120 --> 00:08:12,349

marks you can see in the seed around

189

00:08:18,189 --> 00:08:16,130

this room a wombat oh really the

190

00:08:21,370 --> 00:08:18,199

sensation is thinking these huge in

191

00:08:22,839 --> 00:08:21,380

services in to see that in the back of a

192

00:08:25,329 --> 00:08:22,849

bag of the cheese

193

00:08:27,249 --> 00:08:25,339

couldn't they loved it but I was Harry

194

00:08:29,829 --> 00:08:27,259

during this possum and the woman who was

195

00:08:32,620 --> 00:08:29,839

on Humphrey said would you come in and

196

00:08:34,629 --> 00:08:32,630

talk about possum and I said sure so I

197

00:08:36,670 --> 00:08:34,639

went in and there was the presenter who

198

00:08:39,699 --> 00:08:36,680

actually then became the presenter on

199

00:08:41,469 --> 00:08:39,709

curiosity show right but I sat down

200

00:08:43,420 --> 00:08:41,479

beside her and she started to talk about

201  
00:08:45,430 --> 00:08:43,430  
this possum and I I thinking this was

202  
00:08:47,829 --> 00:08:45,440  
you know the initial talk through yes

203  
00:08:49,329 --> 00:08:47,839  
talked away about the possum then she

204  
00:08:50,439 --> 00:08:49,339  
said thank you I went out of the room I

205  
00:08:52,960 --> 00:08:50,449  
thought I must have got to get our

206  
00:08:54,430 --> 00:08:52,970  
makeup on and I still sitting mates came

207  
00:08:56,170 --> 00:08:54,440  
back have you still here I see ya

208  
00:08:57,910 --> 00:08:56,180  
waiting to do the segment thinking you

209  
00:09:01,300 --> 00:08:57,920  
know he had to block through sand set

210  
00:09:03,819 --> 00:09:01,310  
the lights on she's done it go go go get

211  
00:09:05,290 --> 00:09:03,829  
on it so I left most bemused wondering

212  
00:09:07,600 --> 00:09:05,300  
what I'd seen and they're aiming the

213  
00:09:10,720 --> 00:09:07,610

next day and said we couldn't help

214

00:09:12,249 --> 00:09:10,730

noticing you were extremely relaxed on

215

00:09:14,139 --> 00:09:12,259

camera we're looking for a presenter

216

00:09:15,730 --> 00:09:14,149

would you like to be mine and I at least

217

00:09:19,180 --> 00:09:15,740

had the wit not to say i didn't know i

218

00:09:21,639 --> 00:09:19,190

was on so I said yes I could do that and

219

00:09:23,980 --> 00:09:21,649

then I wasn't so relaxed when I got yes

220

00:09:26,650 --> 00:09:23,990

you do because the well so I really fell

221

00:09:29,769 --> 00:09:26,660

into it by accident right but that that

222

00:09:32,199 --> 00:09:29,779

was a it was terrific am Dean at that

223

00:09:33,519 --> 00:09:32,209

stage was an academic to write and so we

224

00:09:36,280 --> 00:09:33,529

would come in a Wednesday night have

225

00:09:39,009 --> 00:09:36,290

dinner and do the show and so our

226

00:09:41,769 --> 00:09:39,019

lifetime was our daytime activities were

227

00:09:43,540 --> 00:09:41,779

academic and night time was the

228

00:09:44,949 --> 00:09:43,550

curiosity how many shows weekends was

229

00:09:46,689 --> 00:09:44,959

getting ready for your segment how many

230

00:09:49,480 --> 00:09:46,699

shows would you would you do in a

231

00:09:52,569 --> 00:09:49,490

session it varied we probably did in the

232

00:09:54,759 --> 00:09:52,579

end I think it was 49 it vary depending

233

00:09:57,040 --> 00:09:54,769

on the contracts we were brought up by

234

00:09:58,660 --> 00:09:57,050

Germany are they then syndicated that so

235

00:10:00,970 --> 00:09:58,670

we went to 14 countries and they all

236

00:10:02,499 --> 00:10:00,980

wanted different numbers so sometimes

237

00:10:05,470 --> 00:10:02,509

they repeat sometimes are justified

238

00:10:10,150 --> 00:10:05,480

doing extra for a year but i think the

239

00:10:13,360 --> 00:10:10,160

the maximum was from memory 39 norley

240

00:10:16,090 --> 00:10:13,370

split status or 26 or 13 how long would

241

00:10:18,519 --> 00:10:16,100

you be stuck in the studio or da we

242

00:10:20,199 --> 00:10:18,529

would start we would have a working

243

00:10:22,329 --> 00:10:20,209

dinner to get ready for it they can go

244

00:10:24,759 --> 00:10:22,339

in and you'd finish your men to finish I

245

00:10:26,290 --> 00:10:24,769

think by 12 sometimes we didn't yeah and

246

00:10:27,550 --> 00:10:26,300

sometimes you'd then sit down and have

247

00:10:29,740 --> 00:10:27,560

the meeting for the next show because

248

00:10:33,429 --> 00:10:29,750

there no other time well but then you

249

00:10:34,900 --> 00:10:33,439

wake up your own segment and my workshop

250

00:10:35,890 --> 00:10:34,910

out there was the kind of place you'd

251  
00:10:39,610 --> 00:10:35,900  
prototype everything

252  
00:10:41,320 --> 00:10:39,620  
and then itself was had Dean and I we

253  
00:10:43,270 --> 00:10:41,330  
did a lot of making and doing stuff you

254  
00:10:45,970 --> 00:10:43,280  
did and I i said i didn't think we

255  
00:10:48,580 --> 00:10:45,980  
should ever put anything on that you

256  
00:10:50,230 --> 00:10:48,590  
couldn't see working because when i was

257  
00:10:51,820 --> 00:10:50,240  
a kid and you got these books on how to

258  
00:10:53,950 --> 00:10:51,830  
build airplanes and things i can

259  
00:10:55,810 --> 00:10:53,960  
remember struggling doing what i thought

260  
00:10:58,180 --> 00:10:55,820  
they were telling me how to do and then

261  
00:11:01,090 --> 00:10:58,190  
you wind up the propeller and let it go

262  
00:11:03,010 --> 00:11:01,100  
and it seemed like a bloody stuff you

263  
00:11:05,080 --> 00:11:03,020

ended up thinking I'm no good at this

264

00:11:07,750 --> 00:11:05,090

it's really undermining of your

265

00:11:08,950 --> 00:11:07,760

abilities now I look at those plans and

266

00:11:11,590 --> 00:11:08,960

they were obviously written by some

267

00:11:13,900 --> 00:11:11,600

drunk on a Friday get off for the

268

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:13,910

weekend or they could never work never

269

00:11:17,710 --> 00:11:16,010

work at a fit yeah or they didn't tell

270

00:11:19,330 --> 00:11:17,720

you how thick to make things or how

271

00:11:21,310 --> 00:11:19,340

strong the wire should be all those

272

00:11:24,070 --> 00:11:21,320

vital elements so they were really

273

00:11:26,430 --> 00:11:24,080

setting kids up for failure yeah so I

274

00:11:29,650 --> 00:11:26,440

said let's make sure that everything we

275

00:11:31,990 --> 00:11:29,660

tell children how to make we show

276

00:11:33,670 --> 00:11:32,000

working at the end a because they know

277

00:11:36,820 --> 00:11:33,680

it will work and be they'll see the

278

00:11:38,050 --> 00:11:36,830

limitations they make a propeller plane

279

00:11:39,940 --> 00:11:38,060

I think it's going to fly around the

280

00:11:43,060 --> 00:11:39,950

river ouse well it might have 10 seconds

281

00:11:44,530 --> 00:11:43,070

15 years yes and I made a thing called

282

00:11:46,660 --> 00:11:44,540

an ortho copter was actually the first

283

00:11:49,150 --> 00:11:46,670

mechanical device that ever flew under

284

00:11:51,460 --> 00:11:49,160

its own power designed by George Cayley

285

00:11:53,230 --> 00:11:51,470

it's with like a bow and arrow but

286

00:11:58,300 --> 00:11:53,240

instead of the arrow you have a spindle

287

00:12:00,400 --> 00:11:58,310

and it's got mine was made out of the

288

00:12:02,440 --> 00:12:00,410

spindle as a skewer and I put a cork on

289

00:12:05,380 --> 00:12:02,450

each end of it and then you put for

290

00:12:07,300 --> 00:12:05,390

Chuck fella the feathers in twisted so

291

00:12:09,880 --> 00:12:07,310

they're like a propeller but of course

292

00:12:12,130 --> 00:12:09,890

Chuck feathers because it's this action

293

00:12:13,660 --> 00:12:12,140

reaction being equal and opposite the

294

00:12:16,360 --> 00:12:13,670

top part will turn clockwise and I

295

00:12:18,130 --> 00:12:16,370

bottom power will turn the other way but

296

00:12:19,960 --> 00:12:18,140

you've got to get Chuck feathers which I

297

00:12:21,820 --> 00:12:19,970

have got the right camber and Chuck

298

00:12:23,710 --> 00:12:21,830

feathers are either right or left gambit

299

00:12:25,420 --> 00:12:23,720

oh I go to the week they have to

300

00:12:27,730 --> 00:12:25,430

scavenge these feathers and put them in

301

00:12:29,260 --> 00:12:27,740

but this thing you said it going and it

302

00:12:31,420 --> 00:12:29,270

will fly until the end come down again

303

00:12:33,100 --> 00:12:31,430

nothing about three seconds of that yeah

304

00:12:34,660 --> 00:12:33,110

now if you're going to make one of these

305

00:12:36,070 --> 00:12:34,670

you know what expected to be sort of

306

00:12:38,440 --> 00:12:36,080

zooming around the neighborhood secondly

307

00:12:40,300 --> 00:12:38,450

showing how things actually did work in

308

00:12:41,830 --> 00:12:40,310

the end was I think a really important

309

00:12:43,810 --> 00:12:41,840

thing and if we couldn't get it to that

310

00:12:45,430 --> 00:12:43,820

stage with abandon that that would

311

00:12:45,820 --> 00:12:45,440

sometimes be after a weekend of making

312

00:12:49,300 --> 00:12:45,830

proud

313

00:12:51,070 --> 00:12:49,310

yeah you it had civil stages you you

314

00:12:53,230 --> 00:12:51,080

think right I'm going to make a you know

315

00:12:55,630 --> 00:12:53,240

something that flies yes so you'd make

316

00:12:58,270 --> 00:12:55,640

it out of you nothing bolsa springs what

317

00:13:00,490 --> 00:12:58,280

if he had that would make it work then

318

00:13:01,870 --> 00:13:00,500

you had to deconstruct it and make it

319

00:13:04,030 --> 00:13:01,880

out of things a kid might have at home

320

00:13:06,040 --> 00:13:04,040

yes because there's no good being in

321

00:13:07,420 --> 00:13:06,050

Jamestown or somewhere and seeing this

322

00:13:08,950 --> 00:13:07,430

show on a Saturday afternoon when you

323

00:13:11,830 --> 00:13:08,960

haven't got a hobby shop you can't buy

324

00:13:14,950 --> 00:13:11,840

bolster and you heal the money so you'd

325

00:13:18,280 --> 00:13:14,960

find foam meat trays a very good

326

00:13:21,790 --> 00:13:18,290

substitute for boxer and you know

327

00:13:23,530 --> 00:13:21,800

shoo-shoo tins would shoot polished tins

328

00:13:26,260 --> 00:13:23,540

very good instead of a petri dish you

329

00:13:28,300 --> 00:13:26,270

use anything and then some of your

330

00:13:30,520 --> 00:13:28,310

prototype number two was using these

331

00:13:32,230 --> 00:13:30,530

irritate objects and then you say you'll

332

00:13:33,970 --> 00:13:32,240

find these around the Holman and do it

333

00:13:39,460 --> 00:13:33,980

likely i made a hovercraft from my

334

00:13:42,370 --> 00:13:39,470

margarine container sister um pedal pop

335

00:13:43,690 --> 00:13:42,380

sticks and a little electric motor okay

336

00:13:45,670 --> 00:13:43,700

yes right yeah yeah and it went across

337

00:13:47,740 --> 00:13:45,680

the floor is chopped down a friend was

338

00:13:53,110 --> 00:13:47,750

really Oh for our international listens

339

00:13:55,210 --> 00:13:53,120

a chuck is a chicken which I can

340

00:13:57,490 --> 00:13:55,220

hypnotize by the way I'm populist again

341

00:13:59,320 --> 00:13:57,500

and I had some fairly coming up and

342

00:14:01,240 --> 00:13:59,330

abusing me because he has the chick in

343

00:14:03,520 --> 00:14:01,250

front of his children and died I think

344

00:14:06,310 --> 00:14:03,530

was a very old chalk but it didn't come

345

00:14:08,620 --> 00:14:06,320

around again and long as I frontin now

346

00:14:11,680 --> 00:14:08,630

how did you work out the the split

347

00:14:13,420 --> 00:14:11,690

between the lovely things you could make

348

00:14:15,880 --> 00:14:13,430

and the children could make with you and

349

00:14:18,190 --> 00:14:15,890

the puzzles and the games and all the

350

00:14:20,320 --> 00:14:18,200

other things that you would explain on

351

00:14:22,870 --> 00:14:20,330

the show well it was an evolutionary

352

00:14:24,820 --> 00:14:22,880

process but the one that sort of settled

353

00:14:26,620 --> 00:14:24,830

on was that we would each Dean and I

354

00:14:28,930 --> 00:14:26,630

would do a four minute segment which is

355

00:14:31,030 --> 00:14:28,940

the big make and do a two minute segment

356

00:14:33,040 --> 00:14:31,040

and I think there's one or two one

357

00:14:34,540 --> 00:14:33,050

minute see only a four minute segment

358

00:14:37,450 --> 00:14:34,550

for the my content was half an hour

359

00:14:38,710 --> 00:14:37,460

program yeah so I mean you could extend

360

00:14:40,240 --> 00:14:38,720

that if you said look mines going to be

361

00:14:42,670 --> 00:14:40,250

a bit longer like to use my two-minute

362

00:14:44,710 --> 00:14:42,680

in my for you cause but just shows how

363

00:14:46,030 --> 00:14:44,720

the memory plays tricks because I would

364

00:14:47,770 --> 00:14:46,040

have SAT back and said to you now

365

00:14:49,930 --> 00:14:47,780

obviously when you made something that

366

00:14:51,460 --> 00:14:49,940

would taken at least 10 minutes my

367

00:14:52,870 --> 00:14:51,470

memory would tell me that but I'm really

368

00:14:55,360 --> 00:14:52,880

all right I'm that's where the phrase

369

00:15:01,070 --> 00:14:55,370

I've got one here that I prepared it

370

00:15:02,510 --> 00:15:01,080

I entered the lexicon these days of

371

00:15:04,070 --> 00:15:02,520

course you'd probably go to end his

372

00:15:06,260 --> 00:15:04,080

speed up and we were starting to do that

373

00:15:07,940 --> 00:15:06,270

but I mean we started when I started

374

00:15:11,480 --> 00:15:07,950

with the ABC we were using black and

375

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:11,490

white 16mm film then you went to black

376

00:15:16,190 --> 00:15:14,010

and white television during a video and

377

00:15:17,630 --> 00:15:16,200

then you step I mean we were think in

378

00:15:19,010 --> 00:15:17,640

Adelaide anywhere the first show in

379

00:15:20,840 --> 00:15:19,020

color because we've been making it in

380

00:15:23,390 --> 00:15:20,850

color for quite some time before Kelly

381

00:15:24,320 --> 00:15:23,400

hit the screen in fact I was in color in

382

00:15:27,620 --> 00:15:24,330

black and white there's a wonderful

383

00:15:29,420 --> 00:15:27,630

device you can cause you can make I wish

384

00:15:31,850 --> 00:15:29,430

I could show it here if your listeners

385

00:15:34,100 --> 00:15:31,860

but it's a thing called a binam disc

386

00:15:36,380 --> 00:15:34,110

named after the bloke who discovered it

387

00:15:38,420 --> 00:15:36,390

and you've probably seen it it's a just

388

00:15:41,390 --> 00:15:38,430

a disc which is sort of radiating black

389

00:15:43,730 --> 00:15:41,400

was this on the show yeah well I'm sure

390

00:15:46,160 --> 00:15:43,740

I remembered from the show yeah you may

391

00:15:47,570 --> 00:15:46,170

well have because in fact it's purely

392

00:15:51,040 --> 00:15:47,580

black and white but if you spin this

393

00:15:54,490 --> 00:15:51,050

thing yeah because these radiating flex

394

00:15:56,950 --> 00:15:54,500

sort of stripes and patterns are

395

00:15:59,720 --> 00:15:56,960

imagined and say it's it's a circle with

396

00:16:01,280 --> 00:15:59,730

them about four or five circles within

397

00:16:02,810 --> 00:16:01,290

it that's right it's got these little

398

00:16:05,150 --> 00:16:02,820

black bits and of course the flicker

399

00:16:07,610 --> 00:16:05,160

that they create on your retina will

400

00:16:09,740 --> 00:16:07,620

fire some of your cone cells which are

401  
00:16:11,390 --> 00:16:09,750  
the ones that see color and you can if

402  
00:16:13,700 --> 00:16:11,400  
you speed this up and slow it down see

403  
00:16:15,500 --> 00:16:13,710  
every color in the rainbow the faint but

404  
00:16:18,320 --> 00:16:15,510  
they work any works on Baker motility

405  
00:16:21,650 --> 00:16:18,330  
all right so we can actually predict

406  
00:16:25,580 --> 00:16:21,660  
color sounds like a rock but it would be

407  
00:16:28,310 --> 00:16:25,590  
for two and ones and then you had a sort

408  
00:16:30,530 --> 00:16:28,320  
of hello and goodbye yeah which we

409  
00:16:32,480 --> 00:16:30,540  
usually a puzzle yes and that way we

410  
00:16:34,490 --> 00:16:32,490  
could get quite a lot of material in but

411  
00:16:38,030 --> 00:16:34,500  
also keep the variety upside and drag

412  
00:16:40,460 --> 00:16:38,040  
and we tended to use commercial breaks

413  
00:16:42,530 --> 00:16:40,470

we like to subvert them a bit by setting

414

00:16:43,790 --> 00:16:42,540

up a puzzle before them mm-hmm and then

415

00:16:45,860 --> 00:16:43,800

showing you the solution to the puzzle

416

00:16:47,150 --> 00:16:45,870

straight afterwards so you had a bit of

417

00:16:48,530 --> 00:16:47,160

thinking time if you didn't want to

418

00:16:50,330 --> 00:16:48,540

watch the commercial you could muck

419

00:16:51,920 --> 00:16:50,340

around with coins or imagine something

420

00:16:54,050 --> 00:16:51,930

of that kind of Airy good of course the

421

00:16:56,240 --> 00:16:54,060

beauty is now especially for our

422

00:16:57,860 --> 00:16:56,250

international listeners who are

423

00:17:00,500 --> 00:16:57,870

listening to this on their computers or

424

00:17:02,210 --> 00:17:00,510

whatever they can either right now or

425

00:17:05,750 --> 00:17:02,220

after the interview run to the youtube

426  
00:17:07,310 --> 00:17:05,760  
type in the curiosity show and see what

427  
00:17:08,189 --> 00:17:07,320  
we're talking about yes there are a few

428  
00:17:10,019 --> 00:17:08,199  
there

429  
00:17:11,970 --> 00:17:10,029  
we'll have pirate versions yeah starting

430  
00:17:13,860 --> 00:17:11,980  
to put him up and Dean and I have been

431  
00:17:16,379 --> 00:17:13,870  
thinking about releasing some stuff on

432  
00:17:18,269 --> 00:17:16,389  
DVD I was I think we'd better get at it

433  
00:17:21,960 --> 00:17:18,279  
because I was going to ask you about

434  
00:17:24,659 --> 00:17:21,970  
that is the show archive so you can do

435  
00:17:26,879 --> 00:17:24,669  
that yes a lot of it is and I've got

436  
00:17:28,950 --> 00:17:26,889  
boxes and boxes of vhss of the shows

437  
00:17:31,049 --> 00:17:28,960  
because we after a certain time asked if

438  
00:17:32,279 --> 00:17:31,059

we could monitor at a time they put a

439

00:17:34,470 --> 00:17:32,289

few things to hear that we didn't like

440

00:17:36,210 --> 00:17:34,480

that hadn't been corrected huh so we

441

00:17:38,159 --> 00:17:36,220

said let's have a VHS of each show and

442

00:17:41,220 --> 00:17:38,169

we could look at the home and say all

443

00:17:43,889 --> 00:17:41,230

this needs correction so i've got i

444

00:17:46,019 --> 00:17:43,899

suppose about 12 years worth of shows

445

00:17:47,970 --> 00:17:46,029

just sitting as VHS boxes did not know

446

00:17:50,850 --> 00:17:47,980

where to put him in this house yes it's

447

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:50,860

so you're suggesting that the show is

448

00:17:55,980 --> 00:17:54,010

archived but you have it well Dean and I

449

00:17:58,799 --> 00:17:55,990

have an archive of it on VHS not the

450

00:18:02,399 --> 00:17:58,809

network the network has an archive of it

451  
00:18:05,820 --> 00:18:02,409  
on you know the broad Karoo right tape

452  
00:18:07,620 --> 00:18:05,830  
yeah but we're rather lost track of that

453  
00:18:09,480 --> 00:18:07,630  
yeah and there is some trouble at the

454  
00:18:11,730 --> 00:18:09,490  
moment so we're not not not the nine

455  
00:18:14,129 --> 00:18:11,740  
with the production house that we made a

456  
00:18:15,360 --> 00:18:14,139  
program with so he we're trying to

457  
00:18:17,970 --> 00:18:15,370  
negotiate with them but we're not

458  
00:18:20,100 --> 00:18:17,980  
getting any responses we have to have to

459  
00:18:21,870 --> 00:18:20,110  
follow that one because it's something I

460  
00:18:24,570 --> 00:18:21,880  
found interesting i was watching a

461  
00:18:26,820 --> 00:18:24,580  
documentary about dads army a little

462  
00:18:29,580 --> 00:18:26,830  
while ago and they found some missing

463  
00:18:31,830 --> 00:18:29,590

episodes because the the BBC would reuse

464

00:18:33,690 --> 00:18:31,840

table you know the story of a lot of

465

00:18:35,340 --> 00:18:33,700

programs have been lost forever because

466

00:18:36,450 --> 00:18:35,350

at the time they were broadcast i

467

00:18:38,100 --> 00:18:36,460

thought well that's it we'll use the

468

00:18:42,509 --> 00:18:38,110

tape again for the blink show something

469

00:18:45,210 --> 00:18:42,519

and it occurs to people now the that's

470

00:18:48,299 --> 00:18:45,220

part of our cultural heritage and I mean

471

00:18:51,029 --> 00:18:48,309

I did I'm not here to unnecessarily

472

00:18:52,919 --> 00:18:51,039

flattered you but the curiosity show is

473

00:18:55,590 --> 00:18:52,929

part of australia's cultural heritage it

474

00:18:57,870 --> 00:18:55,600

really is the worst kind of you the the

475

00:19:01,590 --> 00:18:57,880

very early stuff i think it's gone I do

476  
00:19:02,850 --> 00:19:01,600  
have one or two very early tapes of it

477  
00:19:05,009 --> 00:19:02,860  
but you've got to find the machine it

478  
00:19:06,600 --> 00:19:05,019  
will play them there yeah but that's no

479  
00:19:08,730 --> 00:19:06,610  
loss to anyone I think though it's not a

480  
00:19:10,740 --> 00:19:08,740  
show I particularly want to be

481  
00:19:13,049 --> 00:19:10,750  
associated with for the later one we're

482  
00:19:15,659 --> 00:19:13,059  
proud of but we have a lot of that hmm

483  
00:19:17,789 --> 00:19:15,669  
and I think I mean the beauty about

484  
00:19:19,409 --> 00:19:17,799  
science is its timeless I was just about

485  
00:19:20,890 --> 00:19:19,419  
to say it doesn't you could release it

486  
00:19:22,840 --> 00:19:20,900  
now on a

487  
00:19:25,420 --> 00:19:22,850  
wonderful DVD collection and it would

488  
00:19:27,490 --> 00:19:25,430

still be absolutely relevant that marvel

489

00:19:32,410 --> 00:19:27,500

at the funny haircuts and strange shirts

490

00:19:33,820 --> 00:19:32,420

but Dean and I thought you know this is

491

00:19:37,240 --> 00:19:33,830

not a show where you try and project

492

00:19:40,720 --> 00:19:37,250

personality that our role is to be the

493

00:19:43,060 --> 00:19:40,730

medium of the stuff that we do and so

494

00:19:45,970 --> 00:19:43,070

you get the camera off you quite quickly

495

00:19:47,890 --> 00:19:45,980

onto your hands what you're doing and it

496

00:19:49,780 --> 00:19:47,900

was quite gratifying kids become the

497

00:19:51,610 --> 00:19:49,790

street and say hey Dean let's thing you

498

00:19:55,630 --> 00:19:51,620

made a nice all I'm actually Robbie said

499

00:19:57,370 --> 00:19:55,640

no no your D and then they talk about

500

00:19:58,510 --> 00:19:57,380

some segments that seemed like they

501  
00:20:00,120 --> 00:19:58,520  
couldn't actually remember which of us

502  
00:20:02,050 --> 00:20:00,130  
had done it and it didn't really matter

503  
00:20:04,450 --> 00:20:02,060  
because they were interested in what

504  
00:20:06,280 --> 00:20:04,460  
you'd done yeah and that to me was the

505  
00:20:07,840 --> 00:20:06,290  
show being success from our Valencia it

506  
00:20:10,180 --> 00:20:07,850  
was not the sort of show where you try

507  
00:20:11,710 --> 00:20:10,190  
and you know become an identity or

508  
00:20:13,570 --> 00:20:11,720  
anything like that and I think that's

509  
00:20:16,810 --> 00:20:13,580  
why it had a long life where we were on

510  
00:20:18,490 --> 00:20:16,820  
air for 18 years and that's a long time

511  
00:20:20,200 --> 00:20:18,500  
for sure but i think it's the material

512  
00:20:21,970 --> 00:20:20,210  
if you if you try and make it a

513  
00:20:26,140 --> 00:20:21,980

personality thing you might have a high

514

00:20:28,180 --> 00:20:26,150

peak but you're over in three so the

515

00:20:29,890 --> 00:20:28,190

material is in is timeless i mean you

516

00:20:32,370 --> 00:20:29,900

can go and take their segments i've done

517

00:20:35,440 --> 00:20:32,380

i've been working for nexus which is a

518

00:20:37,090 --> 00:20:35,450

asia-pacific television program and a

519

00:20:40,270 --> 00:20:37,100

lot of its recycle curiosity shape

520

00:20:43,510 --> 00:20:40,280

because yes color rainbows rephrase

521

00:20:46,810 --> 00:20:43,520

they're all stays in the sleet effective

522

00:20:50,830 --> 00:20:46,820

and very interesting and easy to show

523

00:20:52,450 --> 00:20:50,840

visually I'm it's it's true I remember

524

00:20:56,550 --> 00:20:52,460

very well one segment you did where you

525

00:20:59,710 --> 00:20:56,560

were discussing why some sand is squeaky

526

00:21:01,210 --> 00:20:59,720

dearmond I yesterday yeah in fact I was

527

00:21:04,210 --> 00:21:01,220

about to do that in a show the other day

528

00:21:06,370 --> 00:21:04,220

yeah that in quicksand yes he is walking

529

00:21:07,870 --> 00:21:06,380

along a creek squeak squeak squeak and

530

00:21:10,590 --> 00:21:07,880

you explain the different and I remember

531

00:21:13,240 --> 00:21:10,600

so clearly because of the rock the

532

00:21:15,310 --> 00:21:13,250

Normandy of the rock the grains well its

533

00:21:18,160 --> 00:21:15,320

courts rather chill chill sound when

534

00:21:20,200 --> 00:21:18,170

squeak but if it's ground down courts

535

00:21:21,880 --> 00:21:20,210

they're like little novels yes and that

536

00:21:23,200 --> 00:21:21,890

sad actually came from wilsons

537

00:21:25,270 --> 00:21:23,210

promontory there's a there's a beach

538

00:21:26,650 --> 00:21:25,280

called squeaky beach and I probably was

539

00:21:28,660 --> 00:21:26,660

not allowed to take it but I thought I

540

00:21:30,400 --> 00:21:28,670

can use this and I went away as a small

541

00:21:32,310 --> 00:21:30,410

container because when you when you did

542

00:21:34,470 --> 00:21:32,320

the segment and iron

543

00:21:37,249 --> 00:21:34,480

member thinking this at the time is he

544

00:21:39,450 --> 00:21:37,259

at the veg or is he in the studio

545

00:21:41,100 --> 00:21:39,460

because it was very well done it must

546

00:21:43,799 --> 00:21:41,110

have been with a green screen yeah we

547

00:21:45,659 --> 00:21:43,809

when that came in I mean you know we all

548

00:21:47,070 --> 00:21:45,669

these things were I think was the heyday

549

00:21:48,840 --> 00:21:47,080

of television because you had all these

550

00:21:51,600 --> 00:21:48,850

new technologies you could use them for

551  
00:21:53,970 --> 00:21:51,610  
the first time an experimental do

552  
00:21:56,039 --> 00:21:53,980  
wonderful things I still remember one

553  
00:21:57,960 --> 00:21:56,049  
newsreader once when they're using blue

554  
00:22:00,060 --> 00:21:57,970  
screens he had blue eyes and I think

555  
00:22:06,289 --> 00:22:00,070  
that assignment them and you can see

556  
00:22:09,539 --> 00:22:06,299  
sort of crowds rioting driving

557  
00:22:12,090 --> 00:22:09,549  
but yes it was a lot of fun so we think

558  
00:22:14,220 --> 00:22:12,100  
we might term I mean there is this

559  
00:22:17,220 --> 00:22:14,230  
strange audience that we didn't know

560  
00:22:18,840 --> 00:22:17,230  
about his is discussing up on YouTube I

561  
00:22:20,610 --> 00:22:18,850  
would have thought they're too young but

562  
00:22:22,740 --> 00:22:20,620  
they can remember it I mean did get

563  
00:22:25,619 --> 00:22:22,750

syndicated it went to went to

564

00:22:27,149 --> 00:22:25,629

ravensburger hmm and they dubbed it into

565

00:22:29,249 --> 00:22:27,159

German I've somebody saying that on

566

00:22:31,350 --> 00:22:29,259

YouTube life's I've sword in Germany I

567

00:22:33,119 --> 00:22:31,360

used to live in RI in the early 90s and

568

00:22:36,539 --> 00:22:33,129

flipping the channels one day there you

569

00:22:38,700 --> 00:22:36,549

were with dear hello leave a kinder with

570

00:22:40,499 --> 00:22:38,710

is Indian away with each other well it's

571

00:22:42,060 --> 00:22:40,509

very eerie because they're they're very

572

00:22:44,430 --> 00:22:42,070

good at it in Ravens oh yeah and they

573

00:22:48,180 --> 00:22:44,440

get actors with your voice so there's a

574

00:22:49,889 --> 00:22:48,190

German actor who has my voice and I my

575

00:22:52,289 --> 00:22:49,899

German is limited to a little bit of

576  
00:22:55,619 --> 00:22:52,299  
science gym and so I can't follow what

577  
00:22:58,350 --> 00:22:55,629  
I'm saying but I know what I did they

578  
00:23:01,320 --> 00:22:58,360  
look lip sync your intakes of breath if

579  
00:23:03,389 --> 00:23:01,330  
your life is normally good and it can

580  
00:23:05,340 --> 00:23:03,399  
lead to trouble because as as Alice key

581  
00:23:08,639 --> 00:23:05,350  
feebleness key field here with my

582  
00:23:10,560 --> 00:23:08,649  
students once and a German family came

583  
00:23:12,659 --> 00:23:10,570  
past very excited and calling out to me

584  
00:23:14,419 --> 00:23:12,669  
in Germany nothing I'm sorry I don't

585  
00:23:18,600 --> 00:23:14,429  
speak to you and they suggest you do we

586  
00:23:20,789 --> 00:23:18,610  
watch you saying yes Podesta no no you

587  
00:23:22,830 --> 00:23:20,799  
speak they thought I sort of pretending

588  
00:23:26,940 --> 00:23:22,840

not to none of them were just not at all

589

00:23:28,740 --> 00:23:26,950

the case and it's got not only Germany

590

00:23:30,690 --> 00:23:28,750

of course but you're saying other

591

00:23:33,389 --> 00:23:30,700

countries yes because then they sent a

592

00:23:36,539 --> 00:23:33,399

witness Switzerland and lots of Europe

593

00:23:39,119 --> 00:23:36,549

is quite tight in the soil overlap of

594

00:23:40,649 --> 00:23:39,129

who can see what I think I'm pirated to

595

00:23:43,160 --> 00:23:40,659

we know it's turned up in a few places

596

00:23:44,900 --> 00:23:43,170

as in copied or

597

00:23:46,760 --> 00:23:44,910

and that was probably and also we're

598

00:23:48,860 --> 00:23:46,770

just knocked off and people would do the

599

00:23:51,620 --> 00:23:48,870

same sort of show with would that I

600

00:23:54,080 --> 00:23:51,630

think your people I think people road

601  
00:23:56,900 --> 00:23:54,090  
cast it who did when the wind painful I

602  
00:23:58,130 --> 00:23:56,910  
see right I didn't get copied yeah there

603  
00:23:59,810 --> 00:23:58,140  
is still some stuff called curiosity

604  
00:24:02,030 --> 00:23:59,820  
show out there which is nothing to do

605  
00:24:03,230 --> 00:24:02,040  
with us right right I mean it's a bit of

606  
00:24:05,600 --> 00:24:03,240  
a double-edged sword but that's in one

607  
00:24:07,160 --> 00:24:05,610  
way it's marvelous that people do that

608  
00:24:10,120 --> 00:24:07,170  
because at least it's still getting up

609  
00:24:13,130 --> 00:24:10,130  
the fun and the message but again it's

610  
00:24:15,410 --> 00:24:13,140  
well you can't be too precious about it

611  
00:24:17,210 --> 00:24:15,420  
yeah I mean we did invent quite a lot of

612  
00:24:19,160 --> 00:24:17,220  
things you see that you think that's

613  
00:24:21,350 --> 00:24:19,170

mine but on the other hand you picked up

614

00:24:26,120 --> 00:24:21,360

ideas from everywhere use them and so

615

00:24:28,340 --> 00:24:26,130

you know give and take a bit so yes you

616

00:24:29,870 --> 00:24:28,350

I mean one of the things that that

617

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:29,880

really took off for me was the mousetrap

618

00:24:33,650 --> 00:24:32,010

racer I don't know if you ever saw that

619

00:24:35,360 --> 00:24:33,660

it's it's it's a wonderful thing for

620

00:24:37,610 --> 00:24:35,370

children you can do a great deal with it

621

00:24:39,710 --> 00:24:37,620

to understanding gears and you know

622

00:24:41,660 --> 00:24:39,720

acceleration and things and it's you get

623

00:24:44,360 --> 00:24:41,670

a mousetrap and you put screweyes

624

00:24:46,370 --> 00:24:44,370

underneath it so you got imaginative for

625

00:24:49,280 --> 00:24:46,380

screweyes wants two at the corners hmm

626

00:24:51,080 --> 00:24:49,290

and there lie in front the back then you

627

00:24:52,880 --> 00:24:51,090

can put an axle through those right and

628

00:24:55,820 --> 00:24:52,890

little wheels up so you've got a

629

00:24:58,430 --> 00:24:55,830

mousetrap now just riding along on four

630

00:25:01,250 --> 00:24:58,440

wheels but if you rig it properly you

631

00:25:04,400 --> 00:25:01,260

can take a thread from the the bar of

632

00:25:05,900 --> 00:25:04,410

the mousetrap and wrap it cockmaster up

633

00:25:08,180 --> 00:25:05,910

then wrap that thread around the bay

634

00:25:10,760 --> 00:25:08,190

axle yes now when you sit the mousetrap

635

00:25:12,590 --> 00:25:10,770

off the bar tries to come forward it

636

00:25:14,450 --> 00:25:12,600

pulls on the thread that unwinds from

637

00:25:17,270 --> 00:25:14,460

the excellent think of me across the

638

00:25:19,790 --> 00:25:17,280

room or you hope it will sometimes it

639

00:25:22,070 --> 00:25:19,800

spins on the spot times the wheels spin

640

00:25:25,970 --> 00:25:22,080

but then you can work out how to make it

641

00:25:27,320 --> 00:25:25,980

work better do you go for distance in

642

00:25:28,940 --> 00:25:27,330

which case you won't get much speed you

643

00:25:31,660 --> 00:25:28,950

gave a speed which case won't get rid of

644

00:25:34,070 --> 00:25:31,670

and I've converted that into the

645

00:25:36,170 --> 00:25:34,080

mousetrap paddlewheeler which will check

646

00:25:40,130 --> 00:25:36,180

across a damn very nicely with cotton

647

00:25:43,370 --> 00:25:40,140

wheel and plastic plastic cut from an

648

00:25:45,760 --> 00:25:43,380

ice cream container lid make the paddles

649

00:25:49,310 --> 00:25:45,770

out of that and chugs along quite well

650

00:25:50,930 --> 00:25:49,320

and I and that got picked up and used in

651  
00:25:52,250 --> 00:25:50,940  
a National Science Week nationally and

652  
00:25:54,140 --> 00:25:52,260  
then it you've got used another

653  
00:25:56,080 --> 00:25:54,150  
television program I thought is my

654  
00:25:57,669 --> 00:25:56,090  
segment when I thought about it I

655  
00:26:00,010 --> 00:25:57,679  
she got it out of a magazine the

656  
00:26:03,490 --> 00:26:00,020  
children that a friend lent lee had been

657  
00:26:06,430 --> 00:26:03,500  
to America brazo right you know yet yes

658  
00:26:08,799 --> 00:26:06,440  
your debt really and I think people have

659  
00:26:11,080 --> 00:26:08,809  
to be expected to adapt your stuff and

660  
00:26:13,360 --> 00:26:11,090  
forgetting science it's it's everlasting

661  
00:26:16,180 --> 00:26:13,370  
it in their bodies is a certain amount

662  
00:26:17,830 --> 00:26:16,190  
of it's flattering if people think that

663  
00:26:19,690 --> 00:26:17,840

is so highly of what you've done and

664

00:26:22,830 --> 00:26:19,700

they knock it off or copy it I mean

665

00:26:26,769 --> 00:26:22,840

there is a certain amount of of that ah

666

00:26:28,930 --> 00:26:26,779

yeah I suppose there is it sir they have

667

00:26:30,820 --> 00:26:28,940

some things you I mean I see things now

668

00:26:35,169 --> 00:26:30,830

i go i wish the show we still going i

669

00:26:36,850 --> 00:26:35,179

could use that the bedchamber but you

670

00:26:38,169 --> 00:26:36,860

were doing some television recently

671

00:26:39,820 --> 00:26:38,179

robbed point you're doing the new

672

00:26:42,039 --> 00:26:39,830

inventors a little bit for them yes

673

00:26:45,250 --> 00:26:42,049

things i were asked to do some segments

674

00:26:48,279 --> 00:26:45,260

on that really explaining how everyday

675

00:26:52,330 --> 00:26:48,289

items were cool or not such everyday

676  
00:26:54,519 --> 00:26:52,340  
items our fridges work and happy you can

677  
00:26:56,380 --> 00:26:54,529  
crack macadamia nuts without cracking

678  
00:26:57,970 --> 00:26:56,390  
their nuts and stuff of that mm-hmm

679  
00:27:00,700 --> 00:26:57,980  
people would write in with questions and

680  
00:27:02,230 --> 00:27:00,710  
you'd feel them and then they stopped

681  
00:27:04,149 --> 00:27:02,240  
using us but they didn't stop asking the

682  
00:27:05,200 --> 00:27:04,159  
question so people just keep writing in

683  
00:27:07,690 --> 00:27:05,210  
christians wondering why we're not

684  
00:27:11,470 --> 00:27:07,700  
attending it's innocent unwinding oh

685  
00:27:13,389 --> 00:27:11,480  
well well we were in there it may come

686  
00:27:16,240 --> 00:27:13,399  
back again but i think you know finances

687  
00:27:18,490 --> 00:27:16,250  
got to everybody okay do you probably

688  
00:27:20,560 --> 00:27:18,500

get asked this a lot i mean why don't

689

00:27:22,570 --> 00:27:20,570

why don't you and Dean do another series

690

00:27:26,470 --> 00:27:22,580

because there's a lot of room pretty

691

00:27:29,019 --> 00:27:26,480

substandard TV up there well yes it's

692

00:27:30,789 --> 00:27:29,029

hard to know first of all you can't just

693

00:27:33,370 --> 00:27:30,799

say we want to do on and go and do what

694

00:27:36,820 --> 00:27:33,380

you've got interest in it work but

695

00:27:40,810 --> 00:27:36,830

networks are now everyone's worried

696

00:27:42,669 --> 00:27:40,820

about audience is turning off so why

697

00:27:44,799 --> 00:27:42,679

you're going to put money into a show

698

00:27:48,010 --> 00:27:44,809

when you can run a game show where you

699

00:27:50,470 --> 00:27:48,020

can have a mmm quiz show or something is

700

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:50,480

really cheap which pays for itself and

701  
00:27:54,070 --> 00:27:52,010  
the audience comes along and he's happy

702  
00:27:56,230 --> 00:27:54,080  
to participate or reality you can set up

703  
00:27:57,820 --> 00:27:56,240  
a few prizes that's yet give us but then

704  
00:28:01,000 --> 00:27:57,830  
again if you rigged it so people have to

705  
00:28:02,950 --> 00:28:01,010  
ring in you know a particular phone yes

706  
00:28:05,080 --> 00:28:02,960  
yes I think you make your money out of

707  
00:28:08,620 --> 00:28:05,090  
that says its cost neutral yes so an

708  
00:28:11,020 --> 00:28:08,630  
awful lot of television is now you know

709  
00:28:14,050 --> 00:28:11,030  
I think low end production values but

710  
00:28:16,360 --> 00:28:14,060  
also low in cost mm-hmm and it's pretty

711  
00:28:18,220 --> 00:28:16,370  
hard to get anybody who say well yes

712  
00:28:19,840 --> 00:28:18,230  
we'll run with this because it you know

713  
00:28:23,020 --> 00:28:19,850

what science we won't get a big audience

714

00:28:26,260 --> 00:28:23,030

and all those all those things we used

715

00:28:27,970 --> 00:28:26,270

to hear ya so I suspect that the days of

716

00:28:29,920 --> 00:28:27,980

shows like that are over but on the

717

00:28:32,010 --> 00:28:29,930

other hand there's not awful lot of

718

00:28:34,720 --> 00:28:32,020

stuff now on the internet oh yes and

719

00:28:36,310 --> 00:28:34,730

indeed if you like the sort of stuff we

720

00:28:37,630 --> 00:28:36,320

did you can go around the internet and

721

00:28:39,430 --> 00:28:37,640

find all sorts of stuff like it

722

00:28:41,770 --> 00:28:39,440

absolutely and people are doing it for

723

00:28:44,050 --> 00:28:41,780

nothing yeah and I think the days of of

724

00:28:46,300 --> 00:28:44,060

selling your content are probably gone I

725

00:28:49,480 --> 00:28:46,310

grew up in that a read books I did

726  
00:28:51,610 --> 00:28:49,490  
television and you sold your content now

727  
00:28:53,080 --> 00:28:51,620  
people are giving the content away free

728  
00:28:54,910 --> 00:28:53,090  
and they're making their money out of

729  
00:28:56,440 --> 00:28:54,920  
the advertising so if you've got a good

730  
00:28:58,360 --> 00:28:56,450  
website that lots of people are gonna

731  
00:29:01,090 --> 00:28:58,370  
come and watch because of the content

732  
00:29:02,110 --> 00:29:01,100  
you can sell advertising space mm-hmm so

733  
00:29:04,330 --> 00:29:02,120  
that's where people and now the

734  
00:29:06,160 --> 00:29:04,340  
entrepreneurs and Lee in the new age are

735  
00:29:08,320 --> 00:29:06,170  
making their money so I think all that's

736  
00:29:09,580 --> 00:29:08,330  
gone i think if you if you try and set

737  
00:29:12,400 --> 00:29:09,590  
up another show like that for

738  
00:29:14,020 --> 00:29:12,410

free-to-air television particularly is

739

00:29:17,800 --> 00:29:14,030

digital's coming in and people have so

740

00:29:19,840 --> 00:29:17,810

much choice yeah i don't think you'd you

741

00:29:22,480 --> 00:29:19,850

do off you will do you know if the show

742

00:29:25,030 --> 00:29:22,490

is still being repeated around the world

743

00:29:26,680 --> 00:29:25,040

at the moment I've heard that it's a

744

00:29:28,510 --> 00:29:26,690

rattled around and cable somewhere but

745

00:29:30,820 --> 00:29:28,520

we've lost track of any of anybody doing

746

00:29:37,850 --> 00:29:30,830

it properly I should know but we should

747

00:29:43,170 --> 00:29:40,950

coming up after the break where dr.

748

00:29:45,990 --> 00:29:43,180

Richie and I go on our search for hot

749

00:29:48,660 --> 00:29:46,000

salami Rob Morrison talks about some of

750

00:30:03,769 --> 00:29:48,670

his concerns with science reporting in

751

00:30:09,779 --> 00:30:06,960

hi I'm Theo Clark hosts can produce of

752

00:30:12,029 --> 00:30:09,789

the podcast hunting humbug 101 each week

753

00:30:13,950 --> 00:30:12,039

I'm joined by my father Jeff Clark and

754

00:30:16,049 --> 00:30:13,960

we discuss a particular logical fallacy

755

00:30:17,549 --> 00:30:16,059

with real-life examples of fallacies

756

00:30:19,950 --> 00:30:17,559

from pseudo science science

757

00:30:23,279 --> 00:30:19,960

misconceptions politics philosophy and

758

00:30:25,739 --> 00:30:23,289

the media hunting humbug 101 is a

759

00:30:27,810 --> 00:30:25,749

companion podcast to our book humbug the

760

00:30:30,269 --> 00:30:27,820

skeptics field guide to spotting

761

00:30:32,729 --> 00:30:30,279

fallacies in thinking you can download a

762

00:30:34,769 --> 00:30:32,739

mess and subscribe to our podcast obtain

763

00:30:36,989 --> 00:30:34,779

a free copy of the ebook version of our

764

00:30:39,210 --> 00:30:36,999

book humbug and see many more real

765

00:30:46,289 --> 00:30:39,220

examples of fallacious reasoning at our

766

00:30:56,310 --> 00:30:46,299

website WWE tix field guide dot net now

767

00:31:01,210 --> 00:30:59,200

Rachel can you believe it or the central

768

00:31:03,130 --> 00:31:01,220

markets in Emily yes we are is not

769

00:31:05,530 --> 00:31:03,140

incredible people everywhere it's

770

00:31:07,180 --> 00:31:05,540

beautiful yet it is amazing market I

771

00:31:10,390 --> 00:31:07,190

think it's one of the best as I said in

772

00:31:13,090 --> 00:31:10,400

Australia if not the world may be very

773

00:31:16,140 --> 00:31:13,100

famous and it's just it's wonderful

774

00:31:19,180 --> 00:31:16,150

they're looking lovely fruit and fresh

775

00:31:22,630 --> 00:31:19,190

corn come in the corn in front of it

776

00:31:24,580 --> 00:31:22,640

looks good like I do now we're here for

777

00:31:26,560 --> 00:31:24,590

a very special reason we're going to the

778

00:31:28,930 --> 00:31:26,570

Met workshop kid sweet haha we're gonna

779

00:31:30,640 --> 00:31:28,940

buy bum burners and fire fire starters

780

00:31:32,110 --> 00:31:30,650

you do you want to explain to the

781

00:31:35,170 --> 00:31:32,120

listeners what fire starters and bomb

782

00:31:37,870 --> 00:31:35,180

vendors original imagine a incredibly

783

00:31:41,680 --> 00:31:37,880

delicious salami the flavor is just to

784

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:41,690

die for that's a bum burn now imagine

785

00:31:48,610 --> 00:31:45,010

that same thing encased in Chile's

786

00:31:52,330 --> 00:31:48,620

that's a fire starter wrapped in chili

787

00:31:54,190 --> 00:31:52,340

flavor and chili flakes yep so let's not

788

00:31:56,200 --> 00:31:54,200

delay Rachel alright let's go to the

789

00:31:58,820 --> 00:31:56,210

Midwest shop I think it's probably down

790

00:32:04,430 --> 00:32:01,560

here we are we found it the Midwest shop

791

00:32:06,380 --> 00:32:04,440

I can say I look look

792

00:32:11,120 --> 00:32:06,390

can you believe I gotta take a picture

793

00:32:14,360 --> 00:32:11,130

of that I'm just taking a picture

794

00:32:21,350 --> 00:32:14,370

listeners of the the fire starters if

795

00:32:25,430 --> 00:32:21,360

you go to our website [www skeptics MTV](http://www.skepticsMTV.com)

796

00:32:28,160 --> 00:32:25,440

and click the pictures of liquor big

797

00:32:30,350 --> 00:32:28,170

juice you can see this incredible side I

798

00:32:34,130 --> 00:32:30,360

think we should buy some let's buy some

799

00:32:37,580 --> 00:32:34,140

Richard oh we couldn't help ourselves

800

00:32:39,710 --> 00:32:37,590

good we bought thirty dollars worth of

801  
00:32:41,780 --> 00:32:39,720  
fire starters and we already had some

802  
00:32:44,930 --> 00:32:41,790  
didn't even hear we did and now we can't

803  
00:32:47,750 --> 00:32:44,940  
really speak for us the chili is wrong

804  
00:32:49,460 --> 00:32:47,760  
so the taster hmm I mean I mean the

805  
00:32:51,650 --> 00:32:49,470  
chili gives you a big whack but that

806  
00:32:53,990 --> 00:32:51,660  
beautiful flavor it is amazing wasn't it

807  
00:32:57,380 --> 00:32:54,000  
this is a free ad for the network shop

808  
00:33:03,350 --> 00:32:57,390  
I'm not sure google met worst networks

809  
00:33:07,040 --> 00:33:03,360  
job central market still 22 la yum so

810  
00:33:11,360 --> 00:33:07,050  
how much money did we spend today on net

811  
00:33:13,820 --> 00:33:11,370  
where's little bit thirty dollars on

812  
00:33:15,280 --> 00:33:13,830  
fire starters this morning yeah and then

813  
00:33:17,920 --> 00:33:15,290

we went away

814

00:33:21,460 --> 00:33:17,930

thank you who went away I thought about

815

00:33:25,150 --> 00:33:21,470

it yeah we came back and spend eight

816

00:33:26,740 --> 00:33:25,160

more dollars on 61 bonus yes so they've

817

00:33:28,030 --> 00:33:26,750

done quite well out of us today they

818

00:33:29,710 --> 00:33:28,040

have you make the games to discount

819

00:33:30,790 --> 00:33:29,720

Richard because with the second time we

820

00:33:32,530 --> 00:33:30,800

went back we should have had eleven

821

00:33:34,540 --> 00:33:32,540

dollars for the bomb bela's are very

822

00:33:35,920 --> 00:33:34,550

good well I'm sure they hadn't don't get

823

00:33:38,920 --> 00:33:35,930

many people coming up in mind thirty

824

00:33:40,480 --> 00:33:38,930

dollars worth of but they did say to us

825

00:33:43,500 --> 00:33:40,490

when we went back to the bum burners

826

00:33:46,300 --> 00:33:43,510

have you already finished those fires

827

00:33:48,520 --> 00:33:46,310

there's only been a few hours of new

828

00:33:50,350 --> 00:33:48,530

hours have elapsed since with mainly no

829

00:33:52,570 --> 00:33:50,360

now listen is probably wondering what

830

00:33:55,570 --> 00:33:52,580

this has to do with skepticism um

831

00:34:03,299 --> 00:33:55,580

nothing nothing it's just good fun it's

832

00:34:07,780 --> 00:34:05,680

the Rob you were going to tell us how

833

00:34:09,730 --> 00:34:07,790

you managed to get hopefully be bear the

834

00:34:14,740 --> 00:34:09,740

bear who doesn't normally speak to speak

835

00:34:16,450 --> 00:34:14,750

oh sorry I didn't mean to bother we had

836

00:34:18,430 --> 00:34:16,460

an outside broadcast you didn't get the

837

00:34:21,070 --> 00:34:18,440

van very often but sometimes it was free

838

00:34:22,359 --> 00:34:21,080

and let's he go and do it this is back

839

00:34:24,460 --> 00:34:22,369

in the very early days when he had

840

00:34:26,409 --> 00:34:24,470

Humphrey in the show so I said right

841

00:34:28,330 --> 00:34:26,419

we'll we'll take it out to my laboratory

842

00:34:31,149 --> 00:34:28,340

and we'll set that up during a day and

843

00:34:34,540 --> 00:34:31,159

we'll record in at night so we did that

844

00:34:37,480 --> 00:34:34,550

a lot of technical stuff of getting the

845

00:34:39,940 --> 00:34:37,490

three phasing and I dressed it with

846

00:34:41,889 --> 00:34:39,950

various interesting scientific gizmos

847

00:34:43,780 --> 00:34:41,899

including a Van de Graaff generator

848

00:34:45,250 --> 00:34:43,790

which has just been repaired and that's

849

00:34:47,590 --> 00:34:45,260

the one you see in science shows where

850

00:34:48,700 --> 00:34:47,600

children stand on a box and touch it and

851  
00:34:52,330 --> 00:34:48,710  
all the hair stands on him because

852  
00:34:55,629 --> 00:34:52,340  
generates a vast voltage and this had

853  
00:34:57,310 --> 00:34:55,639  
been going for some time and it was a

854  
00:34:58,810 --> 00:34:57,320  
nice dry night and the thing that just

855  
00:35:02,680 --> 00:34:58,820  
been overhauled so it was in good Nick

856  
00:35:04,390 --> 00:35:02,690  
and we had the Sigma dies I was doing

857  
00:35:06,940 --> 00:35:04,400  
something with insects I think and there

858  
00:35:08,740 --> 00:35:06,950  
was this Richard beer behind me I knew

859  
00:35:10,810 --> 00:35:08,750  
used behind me to stick you lading and

860  
00:35:12,490 --> 00:35:10,820  
pointing at things and trying to attract

861  
00:35:15,340 --> 00:35:12,500  
his three year olds not to look at my

862  
00:35:16,900 --> 00:35:15,350  
segment but at him and I out of the

863  
00:35:19,140 --> 00:35:16,910

corner of my eye could see him pointing

864

00:35:21,550 --> 00:35:19,150

these gizmos including the vandegraaff

865

00:35:23,530 --> 00:35:21,560

pointing quite close to the van I

866

00:35:26,950 --> 00:35:23,540

thought I won't say anything we'll see

867

00:35:28,870 --> 00:35:26,960

what happens here and hug here this

868

00:35:30,430 --> 00:35:28,880

little flurry of pony going on but I me

869

00:35:33,250 --> 00:35:30,440

and then there's suddenly there's a

870

00:35:36,160 --> 00:35:33,260

crack like a rifle shot and that's just

871

00:35:38,470 --> 00:35:36,170

turn around so I can blue fire about a

872

00:35:40,450 --> 00:35:38,480

meter long left from the vandegraaff

873

00:35:43,570 --> 00:35:40,460

into the outstretched digit of the

874

00:35:45,370 --> 00:35:43,580

unhappy beer you did a quick 316 from

875

00:35:49,570 --> 00:35:45,380

the depths of this woolly costume he

876

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:49,580

just hid huh I think it's the only thing

877

00:35:57,090 --> 00:35:52,010

ever he has ever said on television did

878

00:35:59,500 --> 00:35:57,100

that go to air it did faintly faintly

879

00:36:02,260 --> 00:35:59,510

wish that was on YouTube would love to

880

00:36:04,359 --> 00:36:02,270

find yes I wish I had a copy of that

881

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:04,369

program but he was then very subdued and

882

00:36:09,580 --> 00:36:07,010

gesticulate anymore didn't point of a

883

00:36:13,990 --> 00:36:09,590

nothing and I was able to finish my

884

00:36:15,970 --> 00:36:14,000

segment unmolested can you tell us Rob

885

00:36:17,090 --> 00:36:15,980

about the live shows that you do now you

886

00:36:19,280 --> 00:36:17,100

did one for this guy

887

00:36:21,110 --> 00:36:19,290

it's convention oh yeah late last year

888

00:36:23,030 --> 00:36:21,120

which was very successful and a great

889

00:36:26,300 --> 00:36:23,040

great fun as well well that was a sort

890

00:36:28,340 --> 00:36:26,310

of spin-off of one that we didn't and I

891

00:36:30,800 --> 00:36:28,350

do for science of life Santa life is a

892

00:36:33,200 --> 00:36:30,810

very big thing we have in national

893

00:36:37,130 --> 00:36:33,210

science we can add late and it's funded

894

00:36:39,200 --> 00:36:37,140

by the National Science Week in Canberra

895

00:36:40,550 --> 00:36:39,210

and they give grants to all states and

896

00:36:42,110 --> 00:36:40,560

they do it very well I think they try

897

00:36:44,390 --> 00:36:42,120

and get the maximum coverage of the

898

00:36:46,400 --> 00:36:44,400

maximum fairness but this is our premier

899

00:36:48,170 --> 00:36:46,410

event in South Australia and they fund

900

00:36:50,600 --> 00:36:48,180

that so we were able to put on this huge

901  
00:36:52,100 --> 00:36:50,610  
kind of it was two days and now three

902  
00:36:55,250 --> 00:36:52,110  
days because we make one day just for

903  
00:36:58,100 --> 00:36:55,260  
school but as focuses on science and

904  
00:36:59,540 --> 00:36:58,110  
technology and science as a career and

905  
00:37:02,480 --> 00:36:59,550  
the school space it's all about the

906  
00:37:03,740 --> 00:37:02,490  
science you can yeah all there but of

907  
00:37:05,690 --> 00:37:03,750  
course they need to keep people

908  
00:37:08,240 --> 00:37:05,700  
entertained so they have science shows

909  
00:37:12,050 --> 00:37:08,250  
and they will deal Dean and myself out

910  
00:37:13,640 --> 00:37:12,060  
the old curiosity gesture now which of

911  
00:37:16,820 --> 00:37:13,650  
course is half is a lot of what we did

912  
00:37:18,890 --> 00:37:16,830  
was was tabletop and finger tight you

913  
00:37:21,350 --> 00:37:18,900

know it's really close up you can do

914

00:37:25,360 --> 00:37:21,360

that for a crowd so we tend to rely upon

915

00:37:30,290 --> 00:37:25,370

the usual happy things of explosions of

916

00:37:32,840 --> 00:37:30,300

rising into the sky and so weird n 1 i

917

00:37:34,790 --> 00:37:32,850

think on demon i wrote for books on

918

00:37:36,260 --> 00:37:34,800

earth fire air and water wednesday which

919

00:37:38,600 --> 00:37:36,270

are all some projects she could do

920

00:37:42,610 --> 00:37:38,610

around it so we've modified that into a

921

00:37:46,490 --> 00:37:42,620

stage show and we modified as need

922

00:37:48,650 --> 00:37:46,500

demand it was very very well received at

923

00:37:50,630 --> 00:37:48,660

the convention when he did it down Isis

924

00:37:53,030 --> 00:37:50,640

and now and I thought it wasn't

925

00:37:56,800 --> 00:37:53,040

particularly nice for the demonstration

926

00:37:58,880 --> 00:37:56,810

of an earthquake all right very clever

927

00:38:00,500 --> 00:37:58,890

cables and everything that was that was

928

00:38:02,600 --> 00:38:00,510

one but you don't hope for some children

929

00:38:05,450 --> 00:38:02,610

you don't need many children in an

930

00:38:07,700 --> 00:38:05,460

audience and then the whole audience has

931

00:38:09,620 --> 00:38:07,710

a kind of a curious ten-year-olds

932

00:38:12,320 --> 00:38:09,630

interest in the show if you haven't got

933

00:38:13,610 --> 00:38:12,330

one you have to ask adults to pretend to

934

00:38:15,380 --> 00:38:13,620

be children right it doesn't work so

935

00:38:18,290 --> 00:38:15,390

well but if there's you know one or two

936

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:18,300

they all think are you know we we

937

00:38:22,100 --> 00:38:20,010

watching this through his eyes or here I

938

00:38:23,570 --> 00:38:22,110

yes yeah that works quite well so that's

939

00:38:27,890 --> 00:38:23,580

it you had a couple there for us that

940

00:38:29,630 --> 00:38:27,900

was good well a couple of years ago

941

00:38:31,309 --> 00:38:29,640

Robbie won the

942

00:38:33,529 --> 00:38:31,319

Australian skeptics prize for critical

943

00:38:38,390 --> 00:38:33,539

thinking and wonder if you can tell us

944

00:38:41,990 --> 00:38:38,400

about that what was your entry about it

945

00:38:47,210 --> 00:38:42,000

was about it was a bit of a mayor Cooper

946

00:38:50,210 --> 00:38:47,220

in some ways but I from a curiosity sho

947

00:38:51,799 --> 00:38:50,220

i keep doing academic staff and then

948

00:38:55,549 --> 00:38:51,809

Channel 10 News wanted the Science

949

00:38:56,900 --> 00:38:55,559

reporter to do features and again I tell

950

00:38:59,480 --> 00:38:56,910

students who want to get into television

951  
00:39:01,160 --> 00:38:59,490  
don't neglect science because o it never

952  
00:39:02,980 --> 00:39:01,170  
trained as a Jew know my father was a

953  
00:39:06,859 --> 00:39:02,990  
gla but I've never trained as a Jenner

954  
00:39:09,920 --> 00:39:06,869  
but for ten it was harder to find a Juno

955  
00:39:12,740 --> 00:39:09,930  
who could do science than it was to find

956  
00:39:14,779 --> 00:39:12,750  
a scientist who'd done television and I

957  
00:39:16,549 --> 00:39:14,789  
was the latter so I went into the

958  
00:39:19,279 --> 00:39:16,559  
newsroom and I spent ten years they just

959  
00:39:21,349 --> 00:39:19,289  
doing a segment a week a feature a week

960  
00:39:22,910 --> 00:39:21,359  
on science and technology and

961  
00:39:29,390 --> 00:39:22,920  
environment absolutely loved it was a

962  
00:39:32,240 --> 00:39:29,400  
great place to work and after that are

963  
00:39:35,660 --> 00:39:32,250

then I'd lift the university but by then

964

00:39:39,289 --> 00:39:35,670

and was too young to retire I think I'll

965

00:39:41,329 --> 00:39:39,299

always be to you then I like working but

966

00:39:43,370 --> 00:39:41,339

a job came up at our university in the

967

00:39:46,220 --> 00:39:43,380

media unit for science journalist and I

968

00:39:48,920 --> 00:39:46,230

thought well I forgot that and I got it

969

00:39:51,319 --> 00:39:48,930

was a two-year contract the brief was to

970

00:39:53,660 --> 00:39:51,329

get the university's research into the

971

00:39:55,670 --> 00:39:53,670

international media which sounds

972

00:39:58,460 --> 00:39:55,680

horrendous but is actually easy to do

973

00:40:00,319 --> 00:39:58,470

than getting into the local media yeah

974

00:40:02,180 --> 00:40:00,329

you have a parochial bottleneck

975

00:40:05,089 --> 00:40:02,190

sometimes from here there are mechanisms

976

00:40:07,039 --> 00:40:05,099

he can use which expose your story to

977

00:40:09,650 --> 00:40:07,049

the world and somebody says I like that

978

00:40:11,299 --> 00:40:09,660

and they'll grab it particularly

979

00:40:14,299 --> 00:40:11,309

freelancers who have to go scouting the

980

00:40:18,109 --> 00:40:14,309

stories that no one else is on T so that

981

00:40:20,450 --> 00:40:18,119

was a very happy time and I grew

982

00:40:23,359 --> 00:40:20,460

interested then in the mechanisms of

983

00:40:25,039 --> 00:40:23,369

getting a story I mean for 10 years I've

984

00:40:26,990 --> 00:40:25,049

been in the news room and press releases

985

00:40:30,170 --> 00:40:27,000

had come to me and I've had people

986

00:40:32,180 --> 00:40:30,180

saying use my story now I was on the

987

00:40:34,760 --> 00:40:32,190

other side the dark side because yeah

988

00:40:37,520 --> 00:40:34,770

right here's a story you ought to use

989

00:40:39,440 --> 00:40:37,530

instead of anybody else's and you start

990

00:40:42,530 --> 00:40:39,450

to get aware of other people doing it

991

00:40:44,599 --> 00:40:42,540

and the tricks that they're using and a

992

00:40:46,940 --> 00:40:44,609

lot of those are very effective in the

993

00:40:49,339 --> 00:40:46,950

short term but I think of the long term

994

00:40:51,530 --> 00:40:49,349

they lose their power but by then

995

00:40:54,770 --> 00:40:51,540

they've damaged science r you badly what

996

00:40:57,230 --> 00:40:54,780

do I mean well I recently looked up

997

00:41:00,500 --> 00:40:57,240

Eureka let the biggest probably the

998

00:41:02,960 --> 00:41:00,510

biggest of the most effective science

999

00:41:08,150 --> 00:41:02,970

news release website in the world and

1000

00:41:10,640 --> 00:41:08,160

it's very good but I looked up well I

1001  
00:41:13,099 --> 00:41:10,650  
think five thousand press releases I

1002  
00:41:14,990 --> 00:41:13,109  
looked up on it of which two thousand

1003  
00:41:20,510 --> 00:41:15,000  
two hundred and something had break

1004  
00:41:23,870 --> 00:41:20,520  
through about half half that had a

1005  
00:41:27,349 --> 00:41:23,880  
cutting edge yeah about as many had you

1006  
00:41:30,020 --> 00:41:27,359  
know leading-edge all know the sister

1007  
00:41:32,270 --> 00:41:30,030  
it's the kind of degraded currency of

1008  
00:41:35,000 --> 00:41:32,280  
trying to present science as really

1009  
00:41:37,609 --> 00:41:35,010  
important yeah so the sloppy journalists

1010  
00:41:39,230 --> 00:41:37,619  
or the sloppy PR merchant who says

1011  
00:41:41,120 --> 00:41:39,240  
crikey I've got to get something in the

1012  
00:41:43,609 --> 00:41:41,130  
media how do I make it interesting

1013  
00:41:45,740 --> 00:41:43,619

enough for them to want I call it break

1014

00:41:48,680 --> 00:41:45,750

through cutting-edge leading-edge world

1015

00:41:50,510 --> 00:41:48,690

first and so every story that comes out

1016

00:41:52,460 --> 00:41:50,520

is described as a break for you and it

1017

00:41:54,500 --> 00:41:52,470

could be just commonplace science the

1018

00:41:57,050 --> 00:41:54,510

sort thing gets done every day but that

1019

00:41:58,490 --> 00:41:57,060

gets called a breakthrough then what

1020

00:42:00,530 --> 00:41:58,500

happens when everything's our breaks for

1021

00:42:03,920 --> 00:42:00,540

you to the real breakthroughs you know

1022

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:03,930

that yeah they're sort of lost in this

1023

00:42:14,300 --> 00:42:08,010

sea of hyperbole so I started to get

1024

00:42:16,069 --> 00:42:14,310

worried about that I looked at there are

1025

00:42:18,319 --> 00:42:16,079

a number of number of ways people hype

1026  
00:42:19,990 --> 00:42:18,329  
these science stories one is to not talk

1027  
00:42:22,940 --> 00:42:20,000  
about what has been discovered and

1028  
00:42:25,400 --> 00:42:22,950  
published in a refereed journal which

1029  
00:42:27,500 --> 00:42:25,410  
gives us some credibility but to talk

1030  
00:42:30,200 --> 00:42:27,510  
about sunset who's doing work on this

1031  
00:42:31,880 --> 00:42:30,210  
which may lead to and then off you go

1032  
00:42:34,370 --> 00:42:31,890  
you can say whatever you like right

1033  
00:42:36,950 --> 00:42:34,380  
we're even getting stories now on Sunday

1034  
00:42:39,859 --> 00:42:36,960  
who's won a prestigious grant to begin

1035  
00:42:42,470 --> 00:42:39,869  
work on X which if he's successful might

1036  
00:42:45,030 --> 00:42:42,480  
lead to Y which could cure as it yeah

1037  
00:42:47,220 --> 00:42:45,040  
and the story is about curing Zin

1038  
00:42:49,410 --> 00:42:47,230

so that if you look at a lot of stories

1039

00:42:53,430 --> 00:42:49,420

now they're not about honest research

1040

00:42:54,870 --> 00:42:53,440

well done and demonstrably well done

1041

00:42:57,990 --> 00:42:54,880

because there are the refereed journals

1042

00:43:00,690 --> 00:42:58,000

they're about work that might lead to

1043

00:43:03,210 --> 00:43:00,700

this might cure that and the stem cell

1044

00:43:06,630 --> 00:43:03,220

when I got that award I did an analysis

1045

00:43:09,060 --> 00:43:06,640

of stem cell publication and the way

1046

00:43:13,290 --> 00:43:09,070

they were being hyped and Eureka load

1047

00:43:15,150 --> 00:43:13,300

again ten stories three of them were

1048

00:43:16,980 --> 00:43:15,160

factual stories the other seven were all

1049

00:43:19,800 --> 00:43:16,990

this hyperbolic stuff about what stem

1050

00:43:21,030 --> 00:43:19,810

cells would then one day cure now

1051

00:43:23,310 --> 00:43:21,040

if you go to people in the street you

1052

00:43:27,360 --> 00:43:23,320

see what a stem cell is d they'll tell

1053

00:43:29,130 --> 00:43:27,370

you quite convinced that all these

1054

00:43:32,730 --> 00:43:29,140

things that they are cured now they're

1055

00:43:34,080 --> 00:43:32,740

starting to in some cases but in many

1056

00:43:37,500 --> 00:43:34,090

cases they're still years away from

1057

00:43:39,950 --> 00:43:37,510

clinical trials so the hyperbole gets

1058

00:43:42,090 --> 00:43:39,960

established in the mind as fact and then

1059

00:43:45,330 --> 00:43:42,100

you know doesn't come up with the goods

1060

00:43:46,380 --> 00:43:45,340

I mean biotechnology was where 20 years

1061

00:43:48,650 --> 00:43:46,390

ago if you're almost going to make

1062

00:43:50,910 --> 00:43:48,660

millions that's right there hardly any

1063

00:43:53,190 --> 00:43:50,920

biotechnology companies doing will of

1064

00:43:54,960 --> 00:43:53,200

the stock exchange hardly any a lot of

1065

00:43:56,820 --> 00:43:54,970

them are faltering a great many can't

1066

00:43:59,130 --> 00:43:56,830

get any money to develop the good

1067

00:44:00,840 --> 00:43:59,140

patents that they of God a lot of people

1068

00:44:03,870 --> 00:44:00,850

have lost money that made money on the

1069

00:44:06,780 --> 00:44:03,880

stock exchange so the hyperbole is read

1070

00:44:09,690 --> 00:44:06,790

amegy to science because it's it

1071

00:44:12,690 --> 00:44:09,700

degrades the currency and I think it's

1072

00:44:14,160 --> 00:44:12,700

happening more and more because we used

1073

00:44:15,480 --> 00:44:14,170

to just get our money for the government

1074

00:44:18,270 --> 00:44:15,490

or we could research more or less what

1075

00:44:19,770 --> 00:44:18,280

we liked in universities now there's

1076  
00:44:21,630 --> 00:44:19,780  
less of that money you've got to go and

1077  
00:44:23,130 --> 00:44:21,640  
find your money people are only going to

1078  
00:44:25,770 --> 00:44:23,140  
pay for stuff which is going to have a

1079  
00:44:27,570 --> 00:44:25,780  
payoff at the end a lot of it's coming

1080  
00:44:30,330 --> 00:44:27,580  
out of corporate bodies they've got

1081  
00:44:32,250 --> 00:44:30,340  
media units in them Pierre units they've

1082  
00:44:34,080 --> 00:44:32,260  
got to be seen to be active they've got

1083  
00:44:35,430 --> 00:44:34,090  
to get the name in the media so you've

1084  
00:44:37,740 --> 00:44:35,440  
got middle managers you don't give a

1085  
00:44:39,930 --> 00:44:37,750  
stuff about the science but they're

1086  
00:44:41,790 --> 00:44:39,940  
really keen on getting the company's

1087  
00:44:44,100 --> 00:44:41,800  
name into the media and they do it any

1088  
00:44:46,620 --> 00:44:44,110

way they can hmm so you take something

1089

00:44:50,690 --> 00:44:46,630

which is not worthy of a story call it a

1090

00:44:53,220 --> 00:44:50,700

breakthrough cutting-edge science yeah

1091

00:44:54,930 --> 00:44:53,230

imagine where it might one day go and

1092

00:44:57,300 --> 00:44:54,940

try and get your story out of there but

1093

00:44:58,589 --> 00:44:57,310

all the good stuff is then suddenly

1094

00:45:00,150 --> 00:44:58,599

dropping off off

1095

00:45:02,130 --> 00:45:00,160

the edge and there's a measure that

1096

00:45:03,569 --> 00:45:02,140

tells you how much that's happening if

1097

00:45:06,479 --> 00:45:03,579

you look at Eureka Lydia rates its

1098

00:45:08,430 --> 00:45:06,489

stories with relevance and in fact I've

1099

00:45:10,650 --> 00:45:08,440

just been doing some media lectures to

1100

00:45:12,509 --> 00:45:10,660

biotechnology students at one of our

1101

00:45:14,789 --> 00:45:12,519

universities and their task is to go

1102

00:45:17,190 --> 00:45:14,799

away to look at these stories look at

1103

00:45:19,140 --> 00:45:17,200

the relevance factor and evaluate the

1104

00:45:21,239 --> 00:45:19,150

news value of the story against the

1105

00:45:23,839 --> 00:45:21,249

science value because those two are now

1106

00:45:27,870 --> 00:45:23,849

diverging right and you can make a story

1107

00:45:29,249 --> 00:45:27,880

very effective in terms of news but when

1108

00:45:31,289 --> 00:45:29,259

you look at the science and it is crappy

1109

00:45:33,359 --> 00:45:31,299

yeah yeah and something which is really

1110

00:45:35,700 --> 00:45:33,369

strong scientifically may not be deemed

1111

00:45:38,190 --> 00:45:35,710

to be newsworthy and that's the danger

1112

00:45:40,019 --> 00:45:38,200

that at the time we tried to improve the

1113

00:45:43,259 --> 00:45:40,029

science the media there are these forces

1114

00:45:45,900 --> 00:45:43,269

which are really pushing one way for the

1115

00:45:48,180 --> 00:45:45,910

media impact another way for the

1116

00:45:50,519 --> 00:45:48,190

scientific validity so that's what your

1117

00:45:52,440 --> 00:45:50,529

price was about years we're sorry about

1118

00:45:55,410 --> 00:45:52,450

this yes it was about the problem and it

1119

00:45:57,120 --> 00:45:55,420

was about the analysis of it and thus or

1120

00:45:59,190 --> 00:45:57,130

research if you can call it that on how

1121

00:46:01,969 --> 00:45:59,200

I've done it and australasian science

1122

00:46:04,410 --> 00:46:01,979

picked it up and ran with it too and

1123

00:46:05,999 --> 00:46:04,420

there were I mean they get deadliest

1124

00:46:07,469 --> 00:46:06,009

with their stuff so they were quite

1125

00:46:09,499 --> 00:46:07,479

pleased to find somebody yeah yeah in

1126  
00:46:12,420 --> 00:46:09,509  
the case well what's your opinion about

1127  
00:46:14,549 --> 00:46:12,430  
scientific reporting in the sort of

1128  
00:46:17,759 --> 00:46:14,559  
mainstream media do you think that

1129  
00:46:19,709 --> 00:46:17,769  
there's a sort of it's done well or it's

1130  
00:46:22,469 --> 00:46:19,719  
done really badly because quite often it

1131  
00:46:24,150 --> 00:46:22,479  
seems that sort of not non-specialist

1132  
00:46:25,890 --> 00:46:24,160  
journalists tend to report this kind of

1133  
00:46:27,989 --> 00:46:25,900  
stuff and they maybe don't have a

1134  
00:46:29,940 --> 00:46:27,999  
scientific education in order to report

1135  
00:46:32,670 --> 00:46:29,950  
it very well do you think that's a

1136  
00:46:34,859 --> 00:46:32,680  
problem as well there's no clear answer

1137  
00:46:38,370 --> 00:46:34,869  
to that but there several bits I think

1138  
00:46:40,380 --> 00:46:38,380

which are all relevant and all important

1139

00:46:42,209 --> 00:46:40,390

perhaps five years ago I would have been

1140

00:46:45,180 --> 00:46:42,219

fairly pessimistic about the state of it

1141

00:46:47,579 --> 00:46:45,190

since then for three years we've had the

1142

00:46:49,079 --> 00:46:47,589

Australian science media center and I

1143

00:46:52,559 --> 00:46:49,089

have to declare an interest on the board

1144

00:46:54,180 --> 00:46:52,569

of there but it was started it was

1145

00:46:55,769 --> 00:46:54,190

modeled on the one that Baroness Susan

1146

00:46:58,079 --> 00:46:55,779

Greenfield started in Britain which is

1147

00:46:59,489 --> 00:46:58,089

the science media said and she came out

1148

00:47:03,089 --> 00:46:59,499

to Adelaide we have a program called

1149

00:47:06,299 --> 00:47:03,099

thinkers in residence where people in a

1150

00:47:08,099 --> 00:47:06,309

notable in some field get invited to add

1151

00:47:10,859 --> 00:47:08,109

later they spend some time and they work

1152

00:47:11,340 --> 00:47:10,869

on a problem relevant to the state and

1153

00:47:13,170 --> 00:47:11,350

the

1154

00:47:15,270 --> 00:47:13,180

produce reports and recommendations and

1155

00:47:16,830 --> 00:47:15,280

off they go go well Greenfield was

1156

00:47:18,690 --> 00:47:16,840

probably the most productive of all

1157

00:47:21,330 --> 00:47:18,700

because a huge amount came out of her

1158

00:47:23,490 --> 00:47:21,340

visit including the establishing of the

1159

00:47:24,840 --> 00:47:23,500

Australian science media center it's

1160

00:47:30,360 --> 00:47:24,850

based in Adelaide but it's a national

1161

00:47:32,790 --> 00:47:30,370

body it's got a very large board and it

1162

00:47:35,250 --> 00:47:32,800

probably has the we've got all the major

1163

00:47:39,690 --> 00:47:35,260

media players that are very high level

1164

00:47:41,310 --> 00:47:39,700

to sit on the board and its task is

1165

00:47:45,060 --> 00:47:41,320

really to improve the dialogue between

1166

00:47:46,980 --> 00:47:45,070

science and the media so it has this is

1167

00:47:48,540 --> 00:47:46,990

stable of people who are good in the

1168

00:47:50,340 --> 00:47:48,550

media scientists did good in the media

1169

00:47:52,430 --> 00:47:50,350

who can be called upon and I prepared to

1170

00:47:57,320 --> 00:47:52,440

be called upon at a moment's notice to

1171

00:48:00,990 --> 00:47:57,330

comment on issues of scientific interest

1172

00:48:02,970 --> 00:48:01,000

it sets up briefings online encourage

1173

00:48:04,650 --> 00:48:02,980

anyone to look at the website because

1174

00:48:06,210 --> 00:48:04,660

you can join in on the breathing she can

1175

00:48:08,910 --> 00:48:06,220

hear the stuff being discussed by

1176

00:48:10,500 --> 00:48:08,920

experts and most of the science you're

1177

00:48:11,820 --> 00:48:10,510

now finding in the media across

1178

00:48:15,470 --> 00:48:11,830

Australia is coming out of those

1179

00:48:18,210 --> 00:48:15,480

briefings heads up horizon scanning a

1180

00:48:19,890 --> 00:48:18,220

huge when they don't get their name in

1181

00:48:22,050 --> 00:48:19,900

it because they keep the science media

1182

00:48:25,170 --> 00:48:22,060

center named out they just catalyze the

1183

00:48:27,570 --> 00:48:25,180

coverage but it has been a particular

1184

00:48:29,550 --> 00:48:27,580

godsend to the Science reporter who is

1185

00:48:31,890 --> 00:48:29,560

not trained in science right the

1186

00:48:34,350 --> 00:48:31,900

journalist who has to cover science and

1187

00:48:37,830 --> 00:48:34,360

is often at see some of the science

1188

00:48:39,570 --> 00:48:37,840

reporters who especially a bit edgy

1189

00:48:41,690 --> 00:48:39,580

about it because of course they've built

1190

00:48:44,430 --> 00:48:41,700

up all their context yes they know we

1191

00:48:45,720 --> 00:48:44,440

make me a leg those are and then

1192

00:48:47,220 --> 00:48:45,730

suddenly come when it comes along and

1193

00:48:49,140 --> 00:48:47,230

makes it available to everybody they

1194

00:48:52,110 --> 00:48:49,150

think they've lost their edge but you

1195

00:48:55,170 --> 00:48:52,120

know I think that's a thin argument if I

1196

00:48:56,580 --> 00:48:55,180

can't find an extra edge in a story with

1197

00:48:59,370 --> 00:48:56,590

my science background I probably

1198

00:49:01,320 --> 00:48:59,380

shouldn't be in the front yeah and you

1199

00:49:03,150 --> 00:49:01,330

know you can get an online briefing with

1200

00:49:04,620 --> 00:49:03,160

all the experts ask the questions you

1201  
00:49:06,090 --> 00:49:04,630  
like everyone hears them but you can

1202  
00:49:07,620 --> 00:49:06,100  
also get them and say look could I have

1203  
00:49:08,970 --> 00:49:07,630  
a few words afterwards and get your

1204  
00:49:12,300 --> 00:49:08,980  
particular angle so you've got something

1205  
00:49:14,220 --> 00:49:12,310  
that no no Cisco so I think that's I

1206  
00:49:16,470 --> 00:49:14,230  
think it's been a huge force for good

1207  
00:49:18,240 --> 00:49:16,480  
and when you look at the coverage

1208  
00:49:18,710 --> 00:49:18,250  
because we we monitor what comes out of

1209  
00:49:21,170 --> 00:49:18,720  
those

1210  
00:49:22,970 --> 00:49:21,180  
things it is vast and the amount of

1211  
00:49:25,880 --> 00:49:22,980  
science that's getting reported now and

1212  
00:49:28,190 --> 00:49:25,890  
reported will its vast the briefings are

1213  
00:49:31,040 --> 00:49:28,200

good because if somebody wants to beat a

1214

00:49:33,560 --> 00:49:31,050

story up they in there beat up they know

1215

00:49:34,940 --> 00:49:33,570

that there were 10 other journalists who

1216

00:49:37,250 --> 00:49:34,950

were there who heard the same thing that

1217

00:49:39,230 --> 00:49:37,260

they did who'll be reporting it many of

1218

00:49:41,240 --> 00:49:39,240

them properly so it acts as a bit of a

1219

00:49:44,630 --> 00:49:41,250

dampener on the person he just wants to

1220

00:49:47,630 --> 00:49:44,640

extrapolate too much that's been

1221

00:49:49,250 --> 00:49:47,640

extremely good at the same time a lot of

1222

00:49:51,470 --> 00:49:49,260

media outlets are cutting back on

1223

00:49:55,940 --> 00:49:51,480

science reporters so we're losing the

1224

00:49:57,410 --> 00:49:55,950

specialist and I'm afraid that we're

1225

00:50:00,140 --> 00:49:57,420

also getting people who are better at

1226

00:50:02,930 --> 00:50:00,150

writing media releases hmm in a way that

1227

00:50:04,760 --> 00:50:02,940

is almost the story and I've seen a lot

1228

00:50:07,220 --> 00:50:04,770

of them that just make it straight from

1229

00:50:10,130 --> 00:50:07,230

Ed release into the media outlet with no

1230

00:50:11,810 --> 00:50:10,140

change yes so that's two on media what's

1231

00:50:14,599 --> 00:50:11,820

actually is yeah that's right that's

1232

00:50:16,099 --> 00:50:14,609

right and that's frightening because if

1233

00:50:17,780 --> 00:50:16,109

you write it will some little

1234

00:50:21,950 --> 00:50:17,790

journalists under pressure is wrong that

1235

00:50:24,140 --> 00:50:21,960

looks good to me yes yeah yeah yeah I've

1236

00:50:26,420 --> 00:50:24,150

had my media releases used word for word

1237

00:50:30,320 --> 00:50:26,430

with somebody else's name Alma zabala

1238

00:50:32,570 --> 00:50:30,330

and in a way it's legitimate because a

1239

00:50:34,370 --> 00:50:32,580

media release the ghost to a newsroom

1240

00:50:36,589 --> 00:50:34,380

can be treated as a journalist sees fit

1241

00:50:41,089 --> 00:50:36,599

but I think it's really peculiar in

1242

00:50:43,400 --> 00:50:41,099

every word it's my money I mean it

1243

00:50:45,140 --> 00:50:43,410

shouldn't ever be put the whole Espada's

1244

00:50:47,060 --> 00:50:45,150

anyway a journalist should say well ok

1245

00:50:50,120 --> 00:50:47,070

that's what these people say let's test

1246

00:50:52,220 --> 00:50:50,130

it yes they just a doctor plug and and

1247

00:50:54,530 --> 00:50:52,230

that's worrying because a lot of stuff

1248

00:50:57,290 --> 00:50:54,540

which is masquerading as science reports

1249

00:51:00,470 --> 00:50:57,300

is thinly disguised advertisements for

1250

00:51:05,480 --> 00:51:00,480

weight loss lyrics and drugs on the

1251  
00:51:07,310 --> 00:51:05,490  
market and yeah crank stuff sure yeah in

1252  
00:51:09,109 --> 00:51:07,320  
fact so i came across exactly what

1253  
00:51:10,400 --> 00:51:09,119  
you're talking about I'm last week in

1254  
00:51:12,800 --> 00:51:10,410  
the Sydney Morning Herald there was an

1255  
00:51:15,230 --> 00:51:12,810  
article in the health section that was

1256  
00:51:16,810 --> 00:51:15,240  
supposed to be about moisturizers for

1257  
00:51:19,670 --> 00:51:16,820  
women and it was a thinly veiled

1258  
00:51:21,890 --> 00:51:19,680  
advertisement for expensive photomatix

1259  
00:51:23,420 --> 00:51:21,900  
really it was just this product is four

1260  
00:51:24,829 --> 00:51:23,430  
hundred dollars compared to that one see

1261  
00:51:27,079 --> 00:51:24,839  
should use the four hundred dollar one

1262  
00:51:28,730 --> 00:51:27,089  
there was no critical analysis there was

1263  
00:51:30,859 --> 00:51:28,740

no science behind it there was nothing

1264

00:51:31,980 --> 00:51:30,869

and that's you know in The Herald and

1265

00:51:34,410 --> 00:51:31,990

for someone who

1266

00:51:35,520 --> 00:51:34,420

doesn't know much about science they'd

1267

00:51:38,490 --> 00:51:35,530

read that and go oh well they obviously

1268

00:51:40,230 --> 00:51:38,500

are better yeah yeah well I'm afraid

1269

00:51:43,560 --> 00:51:40,240

that's happening more and more so it's a

1270

00:51:45,810 --> 00:51:43,570

very mixed bag this the good stuff is

1271

00:51:47,790 --> 00:51:45,820

getting better there's more of the good

1272

00:51:49,680 --> 00:51:47,800

stuff there's also more of the bad stuff

1273

00:51:52,590 --> 00:51:49,690

and it's been less critically examined

1274

00:51:54,630 --> 00:51:52,600

yeah yeah so what else you doing now

1275

00:51:58,020 --> 00:51:54,640

Robbie on the board of the Australian

1276

00:52:00,720 --> 00:51:58,030

science mediation center it's still

1277

00:52:03,420 --> 00:52:00,730

itching as well aren't you know only

1278

00:52:06,090 --> 00:52:03,430

only an occasional election I'm cheer of

1279

00:52:07,530 --> 00:52:06,100

cyworld we had we're now I think the

1280

00:52:10,320 --> 00:52:07,540

only state that doesn't have a science

1281

00:52:11,730 --> 00:52:10,330

technology center we did have but the

1282

00:52:14,370 --> 00:52:11,740

board closed it they reckon they weren't

1283

00:52:15,900 --> 00:52:14,380

getting enough money ok we didn't want

1284

00:52:18,690 --> 00:52:15,910

to see in directive science finish here

1285

00:52:20,490 --> 00:52:18,700

so few of us brought those assets and we

1286

00:52:23,850 --> 00:52:20,500

keep going as best we can we haven't got

1287

00:52:26,340 --> 00:52:23,860

a premises but we we go out to other

1288

00:52:28,140 --> 00:52:26,350

people's premises and set up there we've

1289

00:52:30,780 --> 00:52:28,150

got a very nice grant we've established

1290

00:52:32,280 --> 00:52:30,790

a robotics unit with its own van so they

1291

00:52:36,330 --> 00:52:32,290

can go off to school just so that's it

1292

00:52:39,420 --> 00:52:36,340

wow that's view but a bit of a

1293

00:52:42,300 --> 00:52:39,430

shoestring operation but that takes a

1294

00:52:45,359 --> 00:52:42,310

bit of time don't you a bit of radio

1295

00:52:51,780 --> 00:52:45,369

work trying to keep busy the moment

1296

00:52:53,760 --> 00:52:51,790

building on the house that's a fool I'll

1297

00:52:56,400 --> 00:52:53,770

Rob Morrison what a pleasure it has been

1298

00:52:58,260 --> 00:52:56,410

to chat with you today and I'm sure our

1299

00:52:59,520 --> 00:52:58,270

listeners especially those in Australia

1300

00:53:01,950 --> 00:52:59,530

will get a thrill out of hearing your

1301  
00:53:04,830 --> 00:53:01,960  
stories of the curiosity show because I

1302  
00:53:06,480 --> 00:53:04,840  
was just saying to Rachel before there

1303  
00:53:10,230 --> 00:53:06,490  
are many people may be in my age group

1304  
00:53:12,630 --> 00:53:10,240  
with the 40's with young kids who would

1305  
00:53:15,990 --> 00:53:12,640  
be the curiosity show age kids

1306  
00:53:17,280 --> 00:53:16,000  
themselves now yes we we'd covered we

1307  
00:53:21,090 --> 00:53:17,290  
just don't have to cover sort two

1308  
00:53:23,849 --> 00:53:21,100  
generations hmm as a bit alarming I get

1309  
00:53:25,410 --> 00:53:23,859  
some bull middle-aged incoming I'm

1310  
00:53:31,200 --> 00:53:25,420  
saying I used to watch you when I was a

1311  
00:53:33,920 --> 00:53:31,210  
boy sorry frightening no I can't let you

1312  
00:53:36,510 --> 00:53:33,930  
go and I'm just reaching into my bag I

1313  
00:53:40,320 --> 00:53:36,520

have bought a book on the internet on

1314

00:53:41,970 --> 00:53:40,330

ebay supermind stretches oh well that's

1315

00:53:44,490 --> 00:53:41,980

actually what i did with Dean we did

1316

00:53:45,490 --> 00:53:44,500

about 10 together yeah and I think this

1317

00:53:47,830 --> 00:53:45,500

was the first

1318

00:53:49,960 --> 00:53:47,840

was back when Ashton scholastic was

1319

00:53:51,820 --> 00:53:49,970

producing a huge lot of is the work for

1320

00:53:55,180 --> 00:53:51,830

Ashton's I don't you run wells ago yeah

1321

00:53:56,860 --> 00:53:55,190

well so we started with with them and

1322

00:53:59,650 --> 00:53:56,870

then went to Jack around room we did

1323

00:54:00,940 --> 00:53:59,660

about I'd wrap tin together yeah I've

1324

00:54:04,330 --> 00:54:00,950

done if I have you know that cost me

1325

00:54:09,820 --> 00:54:04,340

about two dollars on me well money very

1326

00:54:11,290 --> 00:54:09,830

well spit so I'll be delighted if you

1327

00:54:13,240 --> 00:54:11,300

could autograph that for me would be

1328

00:54:14,830 --> 00:54:13,250

wonderful and of course as a thank you

1329

00:54:17,920 --> 00:54:14,840

for appearing today I'd like to give you

1330

00:54:19,570 --> 00:54:17,930

this DVD of Australian poetry ah thank

1331

00:54:21,760 --> 00:54:19,580

you very much you make sure it may well

1332

00:54:25,030 --> 00:54:21,770

enjoy by our voiceover menja moshe oh

1333

00:54:27,450 --> 00:54:25,040

let us all filmed in the beautiful

1334

00:54:29,950 --> 00:54:27,460

Murray River area down near Aubrey

1335

00:54:32,140 --> 00:54:29,960

rhyiming Australian perf yeah you might

1336

00:54:35,410 --> 00:54:32,150

want enjoy that yeah will indeed I've

1337

00:54:38,650 --> 00:54:35,420

just been well I'm not really a poet my

1338

00:54:40,210 --> 00:54:38,660

photos of hurt I'm a dog or a list I've

1339

00:54:43,060 --> 00:54:40,220

just done something for the science show

1340

00:54:45,100 --> 00:54:43,070

one on some lesser-known aspects of

1341

00:54:47,850 --> 00:54:45,110

Darwin's long illness to celebrate the

1342

00:54:50,440 --> 00:54:47,860

Darwin year and I've just completed a

1343

00:54:52,780 --> 00:54:50,450

well-written science has added a lot to

1344

00:54:55,840 --> 00:54:52,790

our lives but Shakespeare of course any

1345

00:54:58,000 --> 00:54:55,850

rate the seven ages of man it shakes be

1346

00:55:00,010 --> 00:54:58,010

himself popped off at 52 so he didn't

1347

00:55:02,020 --> 00:55:00,020

even get to the simin but i reckon

1348

00:55:03,880 --> 00:55:02,030

science has added such a lot that we

1349

00:55:08,260 --> 00:55:03,890

needed three more ages which are now

1350

00:55:20,569 --> 00:55:08,270

right now so why should I that very much

1351  
00:55:25,980 --> 00:55:23,550  
you're listening too far by George Arab

1352  
00:55:30,210 --> 00:55:25,990  
you can find out more about George her

1353  
00:55:34,050 --> 00:55:30,220  
ad by visit his website and WWJ ab dot

1354  
00:55:35,670 --> 00:55:34,060  
on blogspot com where you can even find

1355  
00:55:37,980 --> 00:55:35,680  
the lyrics to this song try singing

1356  
00:55:41,220 --> 00:55:37,990  
along with it of course he's singing

1357  
00:55:45,390 --> 00:55:41,230  
about the 365 days of astronomy podcast

1358  
00:55:49,050 --> 00:55:45,400  
one podcast every day for 2009 and you

1359  
00:55:52,710 --> 00:55:49,060  
can find that at 365 days of astronomy

1360  
00:56:01,930 --> 00:55:52,720  
onward or go check it out there'll be a

1361  
00:56:07,579 --> 00:56:05,640  
there by Carla today

1362  
00:56:19,450 --> 00:56:07,589  
just all stars ways are

1363  
00:56:31,010 --> 00:56:22,240

let's all take this with a grain of salt

1364

00:56:33,490 --> 00:56:31,020

seas around second hello this is a run

1365

00:56:36,260 --> 00:56:33,500

segev taking life with a grain of salt

1366

00:56:39,320 --> 00:56:36,270

in most countries formal education

1367

00:56:41,660 --> 00:56:39,330

starts at the age of five or six in many

1368

00:56:44,300 --> 00:56:41,670

countries formal education is free and

1369

00:56:46,010 --> 00:56:44,310

compulsory this is certainly true in the

1370

00:56:47,480 --> 00:56:46,020

developed world though it is also

1371

00:56:50,240 --> 00:56:47,490

increasing deterring the developing

1372

00:56:51,800 --> 00:56:50,250

world and even in the third world the

1373

00:56:54,560 --> 00:56:51,810

implication is that by the time they are

1374

00:56:55,970 --> 00:56:54,570

18 most people will have spent more than

1375

00:56:58,340 --> 00:56:55,980

two-thirds of their lives in an

1376

00:57:00,550 --> 00:56:58,350

educational setting there is little

1377

00:57:02,599 --> 00:57:00,560

doubt that education is a positive

1378

00:57:04,070 --> 00:57:02,609

education is strongly positively

1379

00:57:07,070 --> 00:57:04,080

correlated with higher socioeconomic

1380

00:57:09,590 --> 00:57:07,080

status wider choice of occasions and

1381

00:57:11,060 --> 00:57:09,600

even better health this positive

1382

00:57:13,700 --> 00:57:11,070

correlation has been shown to be almost

1383

00:57:15,410 --> 00:57:13,710

certainly causal in many studies for

1384

00:57:17,480 --> 00:57:15,420

example there is now little doubt

1385

00:57:19,070 --> 00:57:17,490

amongst researchers that one surefire

1386

00:57:21,349 --> 00:57:19,080

way of reducing the number of children

1387

00:57:23,300 --> 00:57:21,359

families have and this is true in

1388

00:57:25,940 --> 00:57:23,310

particular in the third world is by

1389

00:57:27,830 --> 00:57:25,950

educating women since having fewer

1390

00:57:29,420 --> 00:57:27,840

children is linked with reduced poverty

1391

00:57:32,090 --> 00:57:29,430

and increased health for the entire

1392

00:57:34,970 --> 00:57:32,100

family the positive effect of education

1393

00:57:37,190 --> 00:57:34,980

is easy to see in this scenario it is

1394

00:57:39,650 --> 00:57:37,200

worth noting that i use qualifying terms

1395

00:57:41,450 --> 00:57:39,660

like almost certainly because it is

1396

00:57:43,580 --> 00:57:41,460

impossible to unequivocally prove a

1397

00:57:46,370 --> 00:57:43,590

one-to-one causal relationship in such a

1398

00:57:48,230 --> 00:57:46,380

complex area however for all practical

1399

00:57:51,980 --> 00:57:48,240

purposes it can be seen as having been

1400

00:57:53,650 --> 00:57:51,990

proven in the privileged life of most of

1401  
00:57:56,870 --> 00:57:53,660  
the population of a developed country

1402  
00:57:58,520 --> 00:57:56,880  
education is taken as a given currency

1403  
00:58:00,200 --> 00:57:58,530  
is frowned upon and is illegal in many

1404  
00:58:02,120 --> 00:58:00,210  
countries and even in lower

1405  
00:58:04,280 --> 00:58:02,130  
socioeconomic circles the vast majority

1406  
00:58:06,950 --> 00:58:04,290  
of children attend school and usually

1407  
00:58:08,810 --> 00:58:06,960  
finish high school I will note in

1408  
00:58:10,460 --> 00:58:08,820  
parenthesis that the situation may be

1409  
00:58:12,230 --> 00:58:10,470  
very different in what could be called

1410  
00:58:14,120 --> 00:58:12,240  
third-world pockets in developed

1411  
00:58:16,280 --> 00:58:14,130  
countries such as some Aboriginal

1412  
00:58:18,410 --> 00:58:16,290  
communities in Australia but live in

1413  
00:58:20,930 --> 00:58:18,420

such subject poverty that the education

1414

00:58:22,490 --> 00:58:20,940

is not considered a priority though by

1415

00:58:24,170 --> 00:58:22,500

all rights it should be as

1416

00:58:27,620 --> 00:58:24,180

is no shorter way of rising out of

1417

00:58:29,390 --> 00:58:27,630

poverty than acquiring education with

1418

00:58:31,070 --> 00:58:29,400

such clear benefits talking about the

1419

00:58:33,380 --> 00:58:31,080

importance of education may not seem

1420

00:58:35,540 --> 00:58:33,390

like something as skeptics should do but

1421

00:58:37,010 --> 00:58:35,550

like in many areas of human endeavor in

1422

00:58:38,900 --> 00:58:37,020

education too there are trends

1423

00:58:42,380 --> 00:58:38,910

traditions and even fads and fashions

1424

00:58:44,180 --> 00:58:42,390

and these want a skeptical look I'll

1425

00:58:47,120 --> 00:58:44,190

start by looking at the importance of

1426  
00:58:49,040 --> 00:58:47,130  
academic achievement in Australia as in

1427  
00:58:50,450 --> 00:58:49,050  
many other countries a good school is

1428  
00:58:52,670 --> 00:58:50,460  
considered to be one in which the

1429  
00:58:53,900 --> 00:58:52,680  
average grades are high in some

1430  
00:58:55,910 --> 00:58:53,910  
countries there are school league tables

1431  
00:58:58,070 --> 00:58:55,920  
in which the average marks for each

1432  
00:59:00,530 --> 00:58:58,080  
school Ernie to place against other

1433  
00:59:02,750 --> 00:59:00,540  
schools it is considered a major honor

1434  
00:59:04,340 --> 00:59:02,760  
to be placed high in that table and for

1435  
00:59:06,770 --> 00:59:04,350  
private schools it can also mean a

1436  
00:59:08,090 --> 00:59:06,780  
significant revenue boost as parents are

1437  
00:59:09,590 --> 00:59:08,100  
willing to pay more for what is

1438  
00:59:12,140 --> 00:59:09,600

considered to be better education for

1439

00:59:14,360 --> 00:59:12,150

their children the question that needs

1440

00:59:16,970 --> 00:59:14,370

to be asked in this respect is where the

1441

00:59:19,100 --> 00:59:16,980

average marks really mean much after all

1442

00:59:21,350 --> 00:59:19,110

it is well known that some children just

1443

00:59:23,510 --> 00:59:21,360

don't do that well in exams even if they

1444

00:59:26,300 --> 00:59:23,520

are knowledgeable and clever and to an

1445

00:59:29,330 --> 00:59:26,310

extent exams simply measure the ability

1446

00:59:30,710 --> 00:59:29,340

to pass exams but even if we accept that

1447

00:59:32,840 --> 00:59:30,720

exams are a good way of assessing

1448

00:59:35,960 --> 00:59:32,850

knowledge is knowledge really the most

1449

00:59:37,850 --> 00:59:35,970

important educational outcome there is

1450

00:59:40,400 --> 00:59:37,860

some evidence that adults remember very

1451  
00:59:42,590 --> 00:59:40,410  
few facts from their school years my own

1452  
00:59:44,840 --> 00:59:42,600  
experience is that the one single fact I

1453  
00:59:47,080 --> 00:59:44,850  
remember from high school history is the

1454  
00:59:49,610 --> 00:59:47,090  
reason for the Italia be seen Ian wall

1455  
00:59:51,590 --> 00:59:49,620  
the reason I remember it so well is that

1456  
00:59:53,030 --> 00:59:51,600  
my first encounter with a historical

1457  
00:59:56,480 --> 00:59:53,040  
fact that such a war had ever taken

1458  
00:59:58,780 --> 00:59:56,490  
place was during my final exam and in my

1459  
01:00:01,460 --> 00:59:58,790  
shame I did some research afterwards

1460  
01:00:02,900 --> 01:00:01,470  
personal experience aside studies have

1461  
01:00:04,910 --> 01:00:02,910  
shown that adults have been able to

1462  
01:00:07,760 --> 01:00:04,920  
reconstruct knowledge but not reproduce

1463  
01:00:09,590 --> 01:00:07,770

it in other words the knowledge was gone

1464

01:00:11,210 --> 01:00:09,600

and what remained was some skill that

1465

01:00:13,240 --> 01:00:11,220

allowed the person to have a good guess

1466

01:00:15,830 --> 01:00:13,250

at what the knowledge might have been

1467

01:00:17,570 --> 01:00:15,840

this is not true of course if some

1468

01:00:19,610 --> 01:00:17,580

knowledge is used continuously after it

1469

01:00:21,080 --> 01:00:19,620

is learned and students that have a

1470

01:00:23,750 --> 01:00:21,090

particular affinity to a specific

1471

01:00:26,090 --> 01:00:23,760

subject tend to remember it better than

1472

01:00:27,650 --> 01:00:26,100

their average recollection but as a rule

1473

01:00:30,230 --> 01:00:27,660

it can be said that knowledge retention

1474

01:00:32,470 --> 01:00:30,240

is such that not much of it remains

1475

01:00:35,030 --> 01:00:32,480

several years after the end of school

1476

01:00:35,900 --> 01:00:35,040

let's go one step further and assume

1477

01:00:37,670 --> 01:00:35,910

that knowledge is very

1478

01:00:39,260 --> 01:00:37,680

important perhaps even the most

1479

01:00:41,870 --> 01:00:39,270

important thing for children to acquire

1480

01:00:44,599 --> 01:00:41,880

at school this brings up the question of

1481

01:00:46,490 --> 01:00:44,609

what knowledge should be taught of all

1482

01:00:48,950 --> 01:00:46,500

human knowledge only a tiny proportion

1483

01:00:50,450 --> 01:00:48,960

is taught in school when you have

1484

01:00:52,250 --> 01:00:50,460

bureaucrats making choices about

1485

01:00:53,480 --> 01:00:52,260

curriculum which means choosing a

1486

01:00:55,279 --> 01:00:53,490

fraction of a percent of all

1487

01:00:57,020 --> 01:00:55,289

possibilities and deciding that they are

1488

01:00:59,150 --> 01:00:57,030

the most important things children

1489

01:01:01,940 --> 01:00:59,160

should know how could we know that they

1490

01:01:03,890 --> 01:01:01,950

got it right in what way for example is

1491

01:01:05,059 --> 01:01:03,900

studying Ulysses more important than

1492

01:01:08,180 --> 01:01:05,069

learning the rules of the Chinese

1493

01:01:10,099 --> 01:01:08,190

strategy game go I will get back to this

1494

01:01:13,130 --> 01:01:10,109

question shortly but first I want to

1495

01:01:14,900 --> 01:01:13,140

offer an alternative view if knowledge

1496

01:01:17,960 --> 01:01:14,910

is not the most important thing learned

1497

01:01:19,849 --> 01:01:17,970

at school what is I contend that there

1498

01:01:22,010 --> 01:01:19,859

is more than one most important thing

1499

01:01:24,650 --> 01:01:22,020

but that all the important things are

1500

01:01:26,750 --> 01:01:24,660

skills learning skills social skills

1501

01:01:29,359 --> 01:01:26,760

work ethic independence

1502

01:01:31,490 --> 01:01:29,369

self-organization and also reading

1503

01:01:33,710 --> 01:01:31,500

writing and numeracy which are usually

1504

01:01:36,500 --> 01:01:33,720

considered as basic skills even though

1505

01:01:38,120 --> 01:01:36,510

they involve some knowledge referring

1506

01:01:40,460 --> 01:01:38,130

back to my question on James Joyce

1507

01:01:43,460 --> 01:01:40,470

versus Chinese games I want to present

1508

01:01:45,650 --> 01:01:43,470

the term pluralistic education the basic

1509

01:01:47,450 --> 01:01:45,660

idea of pluralistic education is that

1510

01:01:49,730 --> 01:01:47,460

curricula are not described in terms of

1511

01:01:52,220 --> 01:01:49,740

topics there are variations on the theme

1512

01:01:54,289 --> 01:01:52,230

but in general the idea is that as long

1513

01:01:57,380 --> 01:01:54,299

as children acquire skills it does not

1514

01:01:58,970 --> 01:01:57,390

matter how they do so for example the

1515

01:02:00,349 --> 01:01:58,980

skill of planning ahead in thinking

1516

01:02:02,750 --> 01:02:00,359

several steps beyond the current

1517

01:02:04,849 --> 01:02:02,760

situation can be learned or mastered by

1518

01:02:07,730 --> 01:02:04,859

planning and creating a scale model of a

1519

01:02:10,220 --> 01:02:07,740

famous building or plane go or through

1520

01:02:11,930 --> 01:02:10,230

numerous other activities each of the

1521

01:02:14,150 --> 01:02:11,940

activities will probably contribute to

1522

01:02:16,609 --> 01:02:14,160

more than one skill and probably be much

1523

01:02:18,349 --> 01:02:16,619

more interesting for the student for the

1524

01:02:20,210 --> 01:02:18,359

skill of wading through a thousand pages

1525

01:02:22,190 --> 01:02:20,220

of impenetrable language with grit and

1526  
01:02:24,589 --> 01:02:22,200  
determination there is probably nothing

1527  
01:02:26,720 --> 01:02:24,599  
that can equal Ulysses but for being

1528  
01:02:28,430 --> 01:02:26,730  
able to read a book and understand it at

1529  
01:02:30,289 --> 01:02:28,440  
the many levels that a good work of

1530  
01:02:32,510 --> 01:02:30,299  
literature operates on there are

1531  
01:02:34,640 --> 01:02:32,520  
literally thousands of options and the

1532  
01:02:36,200 --> 01:02:34,650  
choice of relatively small number is

1533  
01:02:38,569 --> 01:02:36,210  
related to the needs of bureaucracy

1534  
01:02:41,150 --> 01:02:38,579  
management and teachers not to those of

1535  
01:02:43,160 --> 01:02:41,160  
students and all that is said with a

1536  
01:02:44,900 --> 01:02:43,170  
charitable assumption that being able to

1537  
01:02:48,470 --> 01:02:44,910  
read a book this way is an important

1538  
01:02:49,640 --> 01:02:48,480

skill this focus our knowledge and more

1539

01:02:51,470 --> 01:02:49,650

importantly on a very

1540

01:02:53,299 --> 01:02:51,480

specific subset of human knowledge is

1541

01:02:55,579 --> 01:02:53,309

particularly troubling in a world that

1542

01:02:57,620 --> 01:02:55,589

is changing so quickly that there is no

1543

01:02:59,390 --> 01:02:57,630

practical way to know what knowledge the

1544

01:03:01,880 --> 01:02:59,400

students of today will need in 10 years

1545

01:03:04,940 --> 01:03:01,890

time or even if that knowledge exists

1546

01:03:06,559 --> 01:03:04,950

today do the perceived importance of

1547

01:03:08,089 --> 01:03:06,569

academic achievement and the actual

1548

01:03:10,870 --> 01:03:08,099

importance of skills Khan did it

1549

01:03:12,829 --> 01:03:10,880

contradict each other not entirely a

1550

01:03:15,140 --> 01:03:12,839

student who does well academically

1551

01:03:16,430 --> 01:03:15,150

across multiple subject is likely to

1552

01:03:18,529 --> 01:03:16,440

have a good measure of the skills

1553

01:03:20,299 --> 01:03:18,539

mentioned earlier although it is easy to

1554

01:03:22,940 --> 01:03:20,309

imagine a student with no social skills

1555

01:03:24,620 --> 01:03:22,950

independence or self-organization that

1556

01:03:27,500 --> 01:03:24,630

just gets by on the force of parental

1557

01:03:29,990 --> 01:03:27,510

threats conversely a student with all of

1558

01:03:33,319 --> 01:03:30,000

those skills but poor Rico or with fear

1559

01:03:35,299 --> 01:03:33,329

of exams might do very poorly in this

1560

01:03:37,819 --> 01:03:35,309

respect it might be said that academic

1561

01:03:40,640 --> 01:03:37,829

achievement on average is a fairly good

1562

01:03:42,470 --> 01:03:40,650

proxy for the skills I have mentioned my

1563

01:03:44,720 --> 01:03:42,480

gripe is mostly with the fact that most

1564

01:03:46,730 --> 01:03:44,730

people seem to so focus on academic

1565

01:03:48,650 --> 01:03:46,740

achievement that it becomes important in

1566

01:03:51,529 --> 01:03:48,660

its own right and not as a measure of

1567

01:03:53,630 --> 01:03:51,539

other achievements and abilities that

1568

01:03:55,730 --> 01:03:53,640

such a focus exists can easily be seen

1569

01:03:58,579 --> 01:03:55,740

in Australia in the high regard in which

1570

01:04:00,319 --> 01:03:58,589

single-sex schools are held a straw poll

1571

01:04:01,789 --> 01:04:00,329

I conducted for this talk amongst

1572

01:04:04,700 --> 01:04:01,799

parents whose high school children

1573

01:04:06,680 --> 01:04:04,710

attend to co-ed schools has shown that

1574

01:04:08,930 --> 01:04:06,690

almost all of them think that single-sex

1575

01:04:11,329 --> 01:04:08,940

schools are better it stands to reason

1576

01:04:13,490 --> 01:04:11,339

that the results would get closer to one

1577

01:04:15,670 --> 01:04:13,500

hundred percent had I also asked parents

1578

01:04:18,079 --> 01:04:15,680

of kids who attend single-sex schools

1579

01:04:19,880 --> 01:04:18,089

when asked why the almost universal

1580

01:04:22,370 --> 01:04:19,890

answer was that kids do better

1581

01:04:25,609 --> 01:04:22,380

academically without the interference of

1582

01:04:27,349 --> 01:04:25,619

attention to the opposite sex evidence

1583

01:04:30,079 --> 01:04:27,359

as to whether the last statement is true

1584

01:04:31,819 --> 01:04:30,089

has been hard to come by it is probably

1585

01:04:33,500 --> 01:04:31,829

telling that a lot of room to the

1586

01:04:35,990 --> 01:04:33,510

information comes from sites with all

1587

01:04:38,420 --> 01:04:36,000

revealing names such as single sex

1588

01:04:41,420 --> 01:04:38,430

schools org I think you know what you'll

1589

01:04:43,519 --> 01:04:41,430

find there I will reserve judgment on

1590

01:04:45,529 --> 01:04:43,529

that question for the time being due to

1591

01:04:47,599 --> 01:04:45,539

the lack of reliable evidence but I

1592

01:04:49,670 --> 01:04:47,609

can't help wondering how come this

1593

01:04:51,980 --> 01:04:49,680

social aspect of separating boys and

1594

01:04:55,039 --> 01:04:51,990

girls is ignored or at least considered

1595

01:04:57,079 --> 01:04:55,049

secondary being separated from the other

1596

01:04:59,089 --> 01:04:57,089

sex is a situation that children are

1597

01:05:01,039 --> 01:04:59,099

unlikely to encounter as any time during

1598

01:05:02,750 --> 01:05:01,049

the rest of their lives unless they

1599

01:05:03,270 --> 01:05:02,760

become professional footballers or some

1600

01:05:05,010 --> 01:05:03,280

other

1601  
01:05:07,650 --> 01:05:05,020  
profession were almost everybody around

1602  
01:05:09,000 --> 01:05:07,660  
is of the same sex yet the impact on

1603  
01:05:10,680 --> 01:05:09,010  
preparing them for adulthood is

1604  
01:05:12,060 --> 01:05:10,690  
generally not considered important

1605  
01:05:14,670 --> 01:05:12,070  
enough to warrant a mention and

1606  
01:05:16,320 --> 01:05:14,680  
certainly not important enough to see

1607  
01:05:18,630 --> 01:05:16,330  
single sex schools are potentially very

1608  
01:05:21,930 --> 01:05:18,640  
problematic in terms of social skills

1609  
01:05:23,700 --> 01:05:21,940  
acquired by the students one educational

1610  
01:05:26,310 --> 01:05:23,710  
philosophy which generally promotes

1611  
01:05:28,290 --> 01:05:26,320  
pluralistic education and puts a special

1612  
01:05:31,200 --> 01:05:28,300  
emphasis on social skills is the

1613  
01:05:32,880 --> 01:05:31,210

democratic education philosophy this is

1614

01:05:34,950 --> 01:05:32,890

very much a growing movement around the

1615

01:05:37,230 --> 01:05:34,960

world that the impact in Australia has

1616

01:05:38,880 --> 01:05:37,240

been minimal with only about 2,000

1617

01:05:41,730 --> 01:05:38,890

students in all of Australia attending

1618

01:05:43,320 --> 01:05:41,740

such schools it's worth noting that even

1619

01:05:45,720 --> 01:05:43,330

in schools that are not declared as

1620

01:05:47,310 --> 01:05:45,730

democratic there is often a move towards

1621

01:05:50,070 --> 01:05:47,320

implementing some of the philosophies of

1622

01:05:52,230 --> 01:05:50,080

this movement democratic education is

1623

01:05:55,070 --> 01:05:52,240

much bigger than other countries and in

1624

01:05:57,120 --> 01:05:55,080

particular in Europe ended in Israel

1625

01:05:59,280 --> 01:05:57,130

democratic schools are varied in their

1626

01:06:01,140 --> 01:05:59,290

approaches but they all share the common

1627

01:06:02,400 --> 01:06:01,150

view the children should have as much

1628

01:06:05,160 --> 01:06:02,410

control over their learning and

1629

01:06:07,170 --> 01:06:05,170

environment as possible in some schools

1630

01:06:08,970 --> 01:06:07,180

this is manifested as allowing children

1631

01:06:11,190 --> 01:06:08,980

to choose what they do on different days

1632

01:06:14,100 --> 01:06:11,200

of the week while leaving control over

1633

01:06:15,660 --> 01:06:14,110

the overall mix with the teachers in

1634

01:06:17,910 --> 01:06:15,670

other schools learning is not at all

1635

01:06:19,410 --> 01:06:17,920

compulsory as the view is that children

1636

01:06:22,320 --> 01:06:19,420

are eager to learn and will initiate

1637

01:06:24,300 --> 01:06:22,330

their own learning if left alone in yet

1638

01:06:26,520 --> 01:06:24,310

other such schools called Sudbury Valley

1639

01:06:28,350 --> 01:06:26,530

Schools it is considered a breach of

1640

01:06:30,270 --> 01:06:28,360

protocol to suggest the topic to

1641

01:06:32,520 --> 01:06:30,280

children if they want to learn something

1642

01:06:35,040 --> 01:06:32,530

they'll ask is the usual line of

1643

01:06:36,840 --> 01:06:35,050

reasoning high they will be exposed to

1644

01:06:39,960 --> 01:06:36,850

new information is not something I have

1645

01:06:42,210 --> 01:06:39,970

been able to determine however liberal

1646

01:06:43,800 --> 01:06:42,220

each school maybe and they're all very

1647

01:06:46,530 --> 01:06:43,810

liberal there are no conservative

1648

01:06:47,820 --> 01:06:46,540

Democratic schools to my knowledge they

1649

01:06:49,440 --> 01:06:47,830

all share the basic premise that

1650

01:06:51,030 --> 01:06:49,450

children can set their own boundaries

1651  
01:06:53,880 --> 01:06:51,040  
and should be given freedom to manage

1652  
01:06:55,500 --> 01:06:53,890  
their own lives I have to admit that i

1653  
01:06:57,870 --> 01:06:55,510  
find the philosophy behind this movement

1654  
01:06:59,730 --> 01:06:57,880  
appealing i've been involved with the

1655  
01:07:01,830 --> 01:06:59,740  
democratic schools movement in australia

1656  
01:07:03,900 --> 01:07:01,840  
for almost 10 years and I still run

1657  
01:07:06,960 --> 01:07:03,910  
their website and discussion groups or

1658  
01:07:08,430 --> 01:07:06,970  
I'm not an active participant despite my

1659  
01:07:10,530 --> 01:07:08,440  
close affiliation with those schools

1660  
01:07:13,110 --> 01:07:10,540  
I've been at loggerheads with several

1661  
01:07:13,880 --> 01:07:13,120  
participants usually teachers in the

1662  
01:07:15,290 --> 01:07:13,890  
past

1663  
01:07:16,850 --> 01:07:15,300

as I do not accept that children

1664

01:07:19,100 --> 01:07:16,860

intuitively know what they need to learn

1665

01:07:21,020 --> 01:07:19,110

and I contend that it is the

1666

01:07:22,730 --> 01:07:21,030

responsibility of adults to convey both

1667

01:07:25,520 --> 01:07:22,740

skills and essential knowledge to

1668

01:07:27,650 --> 01:07:25,530

children throughout human evolution

1669

01:07:29,870 --> 01:07:27,660

children were actively taught what to do

1670

01:07:31,670 --> 01:07:29,880

by adults around them they learned much

1671

01:07:34,840 --> 01:07:31,680

of the rest by observation and imitation

1672

01:07:36,980 --> 01:07:34,850

and a little bit by trial and error

1673

01:07:39,230 --> 01:07:36,990

learning too much by trial and error

1674

01:07:41,000 --> 01:07:39,240

would mean lots of errors at a time when

1675

01:07:43,700 --> 01:07:41,010

errors could cost a child's life much

1676

01:07:45,890 --> 01:07:43,710

more readily than they do today if

1677

01:07:47,570 --> 01:07:45,900

that's how we evolved there is a good

1678

01:07:50,210 --> 01:07:47,580

reason to believe that that's how we are

1679

01:07:52,010 --> 01:07:50,220

wired I'm not suggesting that we should

1680

01:07:54,950 --> 01:07:52,020

always follow our prime evil tendencies

1681

01:07:56,780 --> 01:07:54,960

but to suggest an educational philosophy

1682

01:07:58,790 --> 01:07:56,790

that is based on a feel-good concept

1683

01:08:00,800 --> 01:07:58,800

that is probably contradictory to the

1684

01:08:03,680 --> 01:08:00,810

way our learning ability works is

1685

01:08:05,660 --> 01:08:03,690

unlikely to be productive as a minimum i

1686

01:08:07,970 --> 01:08:05,670

would hope that anyone proposing such a

1687

01:08:10,670 --> 01:08:07,980

method will be able to provide evidence

1688

01:08:13,100 --> 01:08:10,680

that he works if I could have it my way

1689

01:08:15,650 --> 01:08:13,110

I would want to see education systems

1690

01:08:18,170 --> 01:08:15,660

that are pluralistic skill focused and

1691

01:08:33,010 --> 01:08:18,180

evidence-based but I'm afraid I'll have

1692

01:08:38,180 --> 01:08:35,059

thank you for joining me for this

1693

01:08:40,370 --> 01:08:38,190

episode of the skeptic zone our special

1694

01:08:43,689 --> 01:08:40,380

guest next week on the first of may show

1695

01:08:46,609 --> 01:08:43,699

number 28 is none other than Stephen Fry

1696

01:08:48,260 --> 01:08:46,619

sad but people naturally want to cut

1697

01:08:49,910 --> 01:08:48,270

corn as much as water wants to go the

1698

01:08:51,829 --> 01:08:49,920

shortest route to the sea so human

1699

01:08:53,779 --> 01:08:51,839

beings want to go the shortest route to

1700

01:08:55,459 --> 01:08:53,789

the truth unfortunately it takes on the

1701

01:08:57,019 --> 01:08:55,469

shortest route to to the great

1702

01:08:58,819 --> 01:08:57,029

ocean of that lies out there

1703

01:09:01,370 --> 01:08:58,829

and all those people have prepared to

1704

01:09:04,039 --> 01:09:01,380

make money out of them that's Stephen

1705

01:09:06,410 --> 01:09:04,049

Fry appearing next week on the skeptics

1706

01:09:12,319 --> 01:09:06,420

own until then this is Richard Saunders

1707

01:09:14,720 --> 01:09:12,329

signing off from Sydney Australia you've

1708

01:09:19,339 --> 01:09:14,730

been listening to the skeptic zone visit

1709

01:09:21,799 --> 01:09:19,349

our website at [www scripting zone](http://www.scriptingzone.com) TV for

1710

01:09:24,099 --> 01:09:21,809

comments contacts and extra video

1711

01:09:34,690 --> 01:09:24,109

reports