

**SKEPTIC
ZONE**



**THINKING CAPS
MUST BE WORN
IN THIS AREA**

The
Podcast
from
Australia
for
Science
and
Reason

www.skepticzone.tv

1
00:00:08,070 --> 00:00:02,180
this is James Randi and you're listening

2
00:00:08,080 --> 00:00:16,230
me

3
00:00:16,240 --> 00:00:23,810
Oh

4
00:00:30,050 --> 00:00:26,610
hello and welcome to the skeptic zone

5
00:00:33,180 --> 00:00:30,060
show number 46 for the 4th of sep tember

6
00:00:35,340 --> 00:00:33,190
2009 Richard Saunders here with you from

7
00:00:37,830 --> 00:00:35,350
Sydney Australia and through the

8
00:00:41,490 --> 00:00:37,840
paranormal magic of the supernatural i'm

9
00:00:43,590 --> 00:00:41,500
also a dragon con atlanta USA and see

10
00:00:45,600 --> 00:00:43,600
the paranormal magic of the supernatural

11
00:00:47,310 --> 00:00:45,610
or the fact that i'm recording this

12
00:00:49,560 --> 00:00:47,320
earlier than the shows going out look

13
00:00:52,140 --> 00:00:49,570

you decide it's one or the other but

14

00:00:54,990 --> 00:00:52,150

we're having a great time at Dragon Con

15

00:00:56,970 --> 00:00:55,000

dr. Reggie Kylie Sturgis and I and we're

16

00:00:58,979 --> 00:00:56,980

getting some good interviews look out

17

00:01:01,170 --> 00:00:58,989

for those coming up over the next few

18

00:01:03,600 --> 00:01:01,180

weeks and while you're waiting for those

19

00:01:08,280 --> 00:01:03,610

I'll bring your attention to a new

20

00:01:10,860 --> 00:01:08,290

website grass roots skeptics dot org to

21

00:01:13,140 --> 00:01:10,870

quote the press release press release to

22

00:01:15,440 --> 00:01:13,150

these skeptics are getting serious there

23

00:01:18,110 --> 00:01:15,450

are a lot of passionate advocates and

24

00:01:20,670 --> 00:01:18,120

community groups working diligently to

25

00:01:24,390 --> 00:01:20,680

advance critical thinking said

26
00:01:26,010 --> 00:01:24,400
grassroots skeptics founder KO Myers we

27
00:01:28,380 --> 00:01:26,020
want to help increase their

28
00:01:30,720 --> 00:01:28,390
effectiveness by making it easier for

29
00:01:33,420 --> 00:01:30,730
them to find new members share resources

30
00:01:37,340 --> 00:01:33,430
and identify methods for getting their

31
00:01:40,620 --> 00:01:37,350
message out so why not check them out

32
00:01:44,100 --> 00:01:40,630
HTTP colon slash slash grass roots

33
00:01:45,780 --> 00:01:44,110
skeptics dot org and while you're

34
00:01:47,730 --> 00:01:45,790
surfing around the internet check out a

35
00:01:51,920 --> 00:01:47,740
new blip TV channel i have come across

36
00:01:57,000 --> 00:01:51,930
called quack TV HTTP colon slash slash

37
00:01:59,130 --> 00:01:57,010
quack TV blip TV and so to this week's

38
00:02:00,690 --> 00:01:59,140

episode of the skeptic zone it really

39

00:02:02,820 --> 00:02:00,700

should be called the iran so give

40

00:02:05,400 --> 00:02:02,830

skeptic zone this week iran sir give

41

00:02:07,590 --> 00:02:05,410

interviews Queensland skeptic Margaret

42

00:02:09,660 --> 00:02:07,600

kitson she talks about her life in

43

00:02:12,270 --> 00:02:09,670

skepticism and about the upcoming

44

00:02:14,820 --> 00:02:12,280

Australian skeptics national convention

45

00:02:17,759 --> 00:02:14,830

in Brisbane Queensland that'll be in

46

00:02:21,300 --> 00:02:17,769

November that's followed by a grain of

47

00:02:23,190 --> 00:02:21,310

salt with Iran sir give oh well sounds

48

00:02:35,010 --> 00:02:23,200

like an interesting show to me let's get

49

00:02:40,060 --> 00:02:37,900

Margaret kitson is a teacher librarian

50

00:02:42,190 --> 00:02:40,070

and a longtime skeptic she's currently

51
00:02:43,690 --> 00:02:42,200
the Secretary of Queensland skeptics and

52
00:02:46,690 --> 00:02:43,700
he's involved in the organization of the

53
00:02:49,150 --> 00:02:46,700
2009 skeptics convention which will be

54
00:02:51,310 --> 00:02:49,160
held in Brisbane I called Margaret to

55
00:02:58,449 --> 00:02:51,320
hear about her life skepticism and of

56
00:03:00,460 --> 00:02:58,459
course the convention hello our grits

57
00:03:02,680 --> 00:03:00,470
and welcome to the skeptic zone hello

58
00:03:05,290 --> 00:03:02,690
Iran it's lovely to be talking to you on

59
00:03:08,020 --> 00:03:05,300
what is a beautiful beautiful sunday in

60
00:03:09,880 --> 00:03:08,030
Brisbane it's all so beautiful in Sydney

61
00:03:12,190 --> 00:03:09,890
and we really should be outside rather

62
00:03:14,979 --> 00:03:12,200
than locked inside on the computer don't

63
00:03:16,840 --> 00:03:14,989

you think I think so I think so and I'm

64

00:03:19,660 --> 00:03:16,850

just really really hoping that at the

65

00:03:21,910 --> 00:03:19,670

end of the year when the Australian

66

00:03:24,310 --> 00:03:21,920

skeptics national convention comes to

67

00:03:27,370 --> 00:03:24,320

Brisbane for the first time since 2001

68

00:03:29,470 --> 00:03:27,380

that we have wonderful weather end of

69

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:29,480

spring hopefully it'll be really nice

70

00:03:35,410 --> 00:03:34,010

not too hot I hope so too mother let's

71

00:03:37,509 --> 00:03:35,420

let I want to talk to you about yourself

72

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:37,519

as together yes thank you involved with

73

00:03:41,920 --> 00:03:40,010

the skeptics for a very long time I had

74

00:03:44,320 --> 00:03:41,930

when you first become involved with the

75

00:03:46,360 --> 00:03:44,330

scriptures ok my first connection with

76
00:03:48,580 --> 00:03:46,370
the skeptics came when I was teaching at

77
00:03:51,460 --> 00:03:48,590
a school in Darwin and I saw a copy of

78
00:03:53,440 --> 00:03:51,470
the magazine and in a library at a

79
00:03:55,660 --> 00:03:53,450
school that I was working at and I

80
00:03:57,910 --> 00:03:55,670
looked at it because what jumped out at

81
00:04:01,630 --> 00:03:57,920
me was the front cover which had a

82
00:04:05,020 --> 00:04:01,640
wonderful cartoon dealing with creation

83
00:04:06,880 --> 00:04:05,030
science and earlier in my life in my

84
00:04:09,810 --> 00:04:06,890
professional career I'd had some

85
00:04:15,370 --> 00:04:09,820
encounters with creation scientists and

86
00:04:18,219 --> 00:04:15,380
I become a fade away yes an oxymoron

87
00:04:20,590 --> 00:04:18,229
indeed the creation and science don't

88
00:04:22,210 --> 00:04:20,600

belong in the same sentence together so

89

00:04:25,150 --> 00:04:22,220

that was when I became that came a

90

00:04:27,520 --> 00:04:25,160

subscriber around about 2,000 I went to

91

00:04:30,219 --> 00:04:27,530

my first convention which was the Big E

92

00:04:32,350 --> 00:04:30,229

that was held in Sydney the three-day

93

00:04:34,570 --> 00:04:32,360

which there was skeptical luminaries

94

00:04:37,839 --> 00:04:34,580

from all around the world which came to

95

00:04:40,300 --> 00:04:37,849

that Paul Kurtz james randi made a

96

00:04:45,460 --> 00:04:40,310

special guest appearance

97

00:04:47,410 --> 00:04:45,470

Joe Nickell and Richard Wiseman I really

98

00:04:50,230 --> 00:04:47,420

can't remember the Mott was absolutely

99

00:04:54,070 --> 00:04:50,240

an amazing event so that was when I

100

00:04:55,750 --> 00:04:54,080

became a conference junkie and I've been

101
00:04:59,410 --> 00:04:55,760
to just about every single one since

102
00:05:02,220 --> 00:04:59,420
then i went to tam 5 the amazing meeting

103
00:05:05,020 --> 00:05:02,230
I went to the one of those in January

104
00:05:07,090 --> 00:05:05,030
2007 and Las Vegas you mentioned that

105
00:05:08,770 --> 00:05:07,100
your first involvement with the skeptics

106
00:05:10,660 --> 00:05:08,780
was I had something to do with the

107
00:05:12,460 --> 00:05:10,670
creation scientists so-called gradient

108
00:05:14,890 --> 00:05:12,470
noticed can you elaborate on that and

109
00:05:17,410 --> 00:05:14,900
how that attracted you okay as I said

110
00:05:21,070 --> 00:05:17,420
that was why I became a subscriber to

111
00:05:22,840 --> 00:05:21,080
the magazine back in the 1970s I was

112
00:05:25,780 --> 00:05:22,850
teaching at a high school in the

113
00:05:28,240 --> 00:05:25,790

northern suburbs of brisbane and we had

114

00:05:31,660 --> 00:05:28,250

a very interesting political situation

115

00:05:35,490 --> 00:05:31,670

back in those days where certain people

116

00:05:38,320 --> 00:05:35,500

of certain religious persuasions had a

117

00:05:40,870 --> 00:05:38,330

real in with the certain people within

118

00:05:42,940 --> 00:05:40,880

the government which meant that it was

119

00:05:44,890 --> 00:05:42,950

the only time fortunately that the

120

00:05:47,560 --> 00:05:44,900

creation science movement had a lot of

121

00:05:49,450 --> 00:05:47,570

traction politically this particular

122

00:05:51,940 --> 00:05:49,460

school that I was working out I was

123

00:05:53,260 --> 00:05:51,950

working as a teacher librarian and one

124

00:05:55,720 --> 00:05:53,270

of the things that you have to do as a

125

00:05:59,380 --> 00:05:55,730

teacher librarian was to catalog books

126

00:06:01,470 --> 00:05:59,390

and I had a staff member who sadly was

127

00:06:04,540 --> 00:06:01,480

the head of science coming to me with

128

00:06:06,790 --> 00:06:04,550

some books on creation science it was my

129

00:06:10,180 --> 00:06:06,800

first encounter with any of the

130

00:06:13,930 --> 00:06:10,190

literature that was published by people

131

00:06:16,870 --> 00:06:13,940

with this particular agenda and told me

132

00:06:19,750 --> 00:06:16,880

that I needed to catalog books in the

133

00:06:22,720 --> 00:06:19,760

500s in the five 70s which is the gioi

134

00:06:26,530 --> 00:06:22,730

decimal number for life sciences so that

135

00:06:28,360 --> 00:06:26,540

they sat next to evolution and here was

136

00:06:31,360 --> 00:06:28,370

a head of science who should have known

137

00:06:35,530 --> 00:06:31,370

better telling me a humanities graduate

138

00:06:38,500 --> 00:06:35,540

that this stuff was science and it had

139

00:06:40,840 --> 00:06:38,510

to sit on this shelf next to science my

140

00:06:43,090 --> 00:06:40,850

argument to him was that no it's not a

141

00:06:45,520 --> 00:06:43,100

science it's actually a religious theory

142

00:06:49,440 --> 00:06:45,530

so therefore it belongs somewhere in the

143

00:06:51,940 --> 00:06:49,450

200s which was where those books

144

00:06:54,060 --> 00:06:51,950

anything on creation the correct number

145

00:06:59,610 --> 00:06:54,070

for its at 213 because that's

146

00:07:01,650 --> 00:06:59,620

for it so um set myths and legends no

147

00:07:03,960 --> 00:07:01,660

myths and legends tend to end up

148

00:07:07,590 --> 00:07:03,970

somewhere else to hundreds the hundred

149

00:07:09,270 --> 00:07:07,600

division and Joey free religions and we

150

00:07:12,600 --> 00:07:09,280

ended up having a couple of real set

151
00:07:15,240 --> 00:07:12,610
tues where I spoke my mind and he spoke

152
00:07:18,510 --> 00:07:15,250
use in the workroom in this particular

153
00:07:21,090 --> 00:07:18,520
library and I stuck to my guns but there

154
00:07:23,640 --> 00:07:21,100
was quite a lot of interference at that

155
00:07:26,010 --> 00:07:23,650
stage the year nine science program in

156
00:07:28,290 --> 00:07:26,020
Queensland schools there was the

157
00:07:32,580 --> 00:07:28,300
expectation that the two models actually

158
00:07:35,160 --> 00:07:32,590
be taught evolution and creation but

159
00:07:37,710 --> 00:07:35,170
that was and it was the old equal time

160
00:07:40,710 --> 00:07:37,720
argument and I suppose that was when I

161
00:07:43,560 --> 00:07:40,720
started to think what is creation

162
00:07:46,410 --> 00:07:43,570
science all about and why do I have a

163
00:07:48,180 --> 00:07:46,420

huge problem with it now I don't have a

164

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:48,190

science background but I do have a

165

00:07:52,590 --> 00:07:51,010

history background and I do have a

166

00:07:54,390 --> 00:07:52,600

background in ancient history i've

167

00:07:58,770 --> 00:07:54,400

taught senior ancient history for a

168

00:08:01,530 --> 00:07:58,780

number of years and do know that that

169

00:08:03,450 --> 00:08:01,540

area of history reasonably well one of

170

00:08:06,450 --> 00:08:03,460

the things that you do learn is that the

171

00:08:08,640 --> 00:08:06,460

story of Noah has come as written up in

172

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:08,650

the book of genesis in the Bible isn't

173

00:08:16,070 --> 00:08:12,010

even original it's an adaptation from a

174

00:08:19,290 --> 00:08:16,080

much Julius story that's you know in a

175

00:08:22,500 --> 00:08:19,300

very very early document called the epic

176
00:08:25,170 --> 00:08:22,510
of gilgamesh and Gilgamesh in one part

177
00:08:28,590 --> 00:08:25,180
goes off to meet this so-called napisz

178
00:08:32,400 --> 00:08:28,600
Tom who's supposedly got the secret of

179
00:08:34,680 --> 00:08:32,410
eternal life and wouldn't a push piston

180
00:08:36,870 --> 00:08:34,690
and the Babylonian version was the

181
00:08:39,150 --> 00:08:36,880
original Noah and then there's an even

182
00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:39,160
earlier Sumerian version back even

183
00:08:44,610 --> 00:08:42,010
further that's been found so I'm taking

184
00:08:48,360 --> 00:08:44,620
the Bible is literal fact and being able

185
00:08:50,550 --> 00:08:48,370
to say that it's science I know from my

186
00:08:53,910 --> 00:08:50,560
professional expertise is absolute

187
00:08:55,800 --> 00:08:53,920
nonsense and that's one thing that I've

188
00:08:58,110 --> 00:08:55,810

learnt in the meantime is about the

189

00:09:00,900 --> 00:08:58,120

scientific method that one of the great

190

00:09:04,110 --> 00:09:00,910

things when you get a scientific theory

191

00:09:05,760 --> 00:09:04,120

is that you get convergence of evidence

192

00:09:06,710 --> 00:09:05,770

evidence coming from lots of different

193

00:09:08,809 --> 00:09:06,720

source

194

00:09:11,569 --> 00:09:08,819

is that all end up pointing to the same

195

00:09:13,819 --> 00:09:11,579

conclusion and that's certainly the case

196

00:09:15,769 --> 00:09:13,829

with creation science that you don't

197

00:09:17,900 --> 00:09:15,779

need to be a scientist to be able to

198

00:09:20,840 --> 00:09:17,910

turn round and say I'm sorry it's

199

00:09:22,999 --> 00:09:20,850

bollocks if you've got an understanding

200

00:09:25,449 --> 00:09:23,009

of history and how stories start and

201
00:09:28,369 --> 00:09:25,459
where they come from and how people

202
00:09:30,619 --> 00:09:28,379
adopt them and then move with them you

203
00:09:33,379 --> 00:09:30,629
realize that their stories in the Old

204
00:09:35,749 --> 00:09:33,389
Testament our lifted from earlier

205
00:09:39,769 --> 00:09:35,759
versions there's some you know new bits

206
00:09:42,499 --> 00:09:39,779
and pieces but to say that that the

207
00:09:45,949 --> 00:09:42,509
Bible and the book of Genesis is factors

208
00:09:49,129 --> 00:09:45,959
is nonsense and it should doesn't have

209
00:09:52,069 --> 00:09:49,139
any time in science so that was why I

210
00:09:54,650 --> 00:09:52,079
was passionate about it to start with

211
00:09:57,319 --> 00:09:54,660
and it's been to use the term an

212
00:09:59,660 --> 00:09:57,329
evolution of my skepticism in the

213
00:10:01,610 --> 00:09:59,670

meantime I didn't necessarily realize

214

00:10:05,749 --> 00:10:01,620

that there were other people out there

215

00:10:07,400 --> 00:10:05,759

that had similar thought processes to me

216

00:10:10,100 --> 00:10:07,410

and it's been lovely in the intervening

217

00:10:12,379 --> 00:10:10,110

time to meet up with members of the

218

00:10:15,410 --> 00:10:12,389

skeptical community I've really really

219

00:10:17,240 --> 00:10:15,420

enjoyed it and it's all down to creation

220

00:10:19,730 --> 00:10:17,250

science is the reason it was the hook

221

00:10:25,939 --> 00:10:19,740

that got me on board way back in the

222

00:10:27,920 --> 00:10:25,949

1970s praise the Lord I want you to ask

223

00:10:29,869 --> 00:10:27,930

you about you mentioned that evolution

224

00:10:32,150 --> 00:10:29,879

of skeptics skeptical thought in yeah

225

00:10:34,340 --> 00:10:32,160

but it's quite obvious from what you're

226

00:10:36,799 --> 00:10:34,350

telling that you had been a skeptic

227

00:10:38,179 --> 00:10:36,809

before you knew there was a skeptical

228

00:10:40,309 --> 00:10:38,189

movement because you care for you became

229

00:10:42,049 --> 00:10:40,319

involved with the skeptic chantment yes

230

00:10:43,970 --> 00:10:42,059

you may be described how that happened

231

00:10:47,030 --> 00:10:43,980

how when you found out that you had

232

00:10:48,619 --> 00:10:47,040

skeptical inclinations when you were

233

00:10:50,689 --> 00:10:48,629

able to actually define it to yourself

234

00:10:53,299 --> 00:10:50,699

okay we'll have to go back very much

235

00:10:56,540 --> 00:10:53,309

earlier my family even though on the

236

00:10:59,389 --> 00:10:56,550

fourth generation Australian my family's

237

00:11:01,670 --> 00:10:59,399

heritage cultural heritage is Irish

238

00:11:04,879 --> 00:11:01,680

Catholic which meant that i went to the

239

00:11:07,309 --> 00:11:04,889

catholic school where you hear all the

240

00:11:09,889 --> 00:11:07,319

really neat stories i thoroughly enjoyed

241

00:11:12,019 --> 00:11:09,899

doing most of the stuff the First Holy

242

00:11:15,040 --> 00:11:12,029

Communion and all that sort of stuff was

243

00:11:18,079 --> 00:11:15,050

great fun confession really bothered me

244

00:11:21,439 --> 00:11:18,089

but that's for different reasons

245

00:11:24,170 --> 00:11:21,449

and I suppose it was finally when I was

246

00:11:27,170 --> 00:11:24,180

in grade five because we're we're

247

00:11:29,809 --> 00:11:27,180

looking at pre Vatican to hear so this

248

00:11:31,999 --> 00:11:29,819

is around about nineteen sixty when

249

00:11:35,439 --> 00:11:32,009

there was still the Latin Mass where

250

00:11:37,939 --> 00:11:35,449

pope pius the 12th was still the Pope

251

00:11:40,309 --> 00:11:37,949

where the power and control was still

252

00:11:42,710 --> 00:11:40,319

very much there where you were

253

00:11:45,019 --> 00:11:42,720

continually being told that you know you

254

00:11:48,079 --> 00:11:45,029

are so lucky that you have the one true

255

00:11:49,819 --> 00:11:48,089

faith and we used to have this pair at

256

00:11:52,850 --> 00:11:49,829

the end of mass called the prayer for

257

00:11:55,850 --> 00:11:52,860

the conversion of Russia which I used to

258

00:11:58,730 --> 00:11:55,860

hear every sat sunday morning and I

259

00:12:01,150 --> 00:11:58,740

started to wonder I wonder if the

260

00:12:05,540 --> 00:12:01,160

children sitting in the classrooms in

261

00:12:08,059 --> 00:12:05,550

Moscow the godless atheists whether they

262

00:12:10,069 --> 00:12:08,069

have something equivalent to say that

263

00:12:12,139 --> 00:12:10,079

they don't believe in things like this

264

00:12:14,360 --> 00:12:12,149

and then from there going on further

265

00:12:18,259 --> 00:12:14,370

because I've always loved history and

266

00:12:20,090 --> 00:12:18,269

stories from history you learn a lot

267

00:12:22,610 --> 00:12:20,100

about the human condition through

268

00:12:24,379 --> 00:12:22,620

studying history and reading stories and

269

00:12:26,780 --> 00:12:24,389

you discover at the end of the day that

270

00:12:30,860 --> 00:12:26,790

human nature hasn't really changed very

271

00:12:33,230 --> 00:12:30,870

much over time I started to think well

272

00:12:37,009 --> 00:12:33,240

you know all these religions thought

273

00:12:41,540 --> 00:12:37,019

they were rush and what makes this one

274

00:12:44,329 --> 00:12:41,550

special and from there basically the

275

00:12:46,400 --> 00:12:44,339

only reason I can see is you that you

276

00:12:48,230 --> 00:12:46,410

can come to is that you have to take I

277

00:12:50,929 --> 00:12:48,240

can't remember that was whether it was a

278

00:12:54,139 --> 00:12:50,939

Gustin or Aquinas said a leap of faith

279

00:12:56,540 --> 00:12:54,149

you have to want to believe in us and

280

00:12:58,970 --> 00:12:56,550

then your back would map to say here's

281

00:13:01,850 --> 00:12:58,980

the evidence and that was the step that

282

00:13:04,850 --> 00:13:01,860

I fell down on I am afraid that I

283

00:13:07,369 --> 00:13:04,860

couldn't accept that that I couldn't see

284

00:13:10,850 --> 00:13:07,379

that there was any evidence to accept

285

00:13:13,970 --> 00:13:10,860

the fact that this particular story was

286

00:13:16,129 --> 00:13:13,980

any truer in a literal sense that had

287

00:13:20,900 --> 00:13:16,139

the evidence with it than any other

288

00:13:24,530 --> 00:13:20,910

story but being ten years old and a girl

289

00:13:27,410 --> 00:13:24,540

in that kind of environment you didn't

290

00:13:29,990 --> 00:13:27,420

you learnt not necessarily to speak your

291

00:13:31,400 --> 00:13:30,000

mind or if you did speak your mind you

292

00:13:34,340 --> 00:13:31,410

ended up expecting

293

00:13:38,509 --> 00:13:34,350

would dance because i did get very very

294

00:13:41,930 --> 00:13:38,519

heavily put John by various people i

295

00:13:45,050 --> 00:13:41,940

must say that i'm extremely fond of most

296

00:13:47,300 --> 00:13:45,060

of the nuns who taught me because a lot

297

00:13:50,210 --> 00:13:47,310

of them were very very good human beings

298

00:13:53,869 --> 00:13:50,220

and i'm very very fond of both my

299

00:13:56,990 --> 00:13:53,879

parents so you have this mismatch where

300

00:13:59,389 --> 00:13:57,000

you don't know what what I believe is it

301
00:14:01,910 --> 00:13:59,399
odds with what these people whom I love

302
00:14:05,240 --> 00:14:01,920
respect admire and who were good people

303
00:14:07,069 --> 00:14:05,250
are telling me so you tend particularly

304
00:14:09,400 --> 00:14:07,079
when you're at that age and you don't

305
00:14:11,990 --> 00:14:09,410
necessarily have the confidence to

306
00:14:14,600 --> 00:14:12,000
advocate for what you believe in you

307
00:14:16,699 --> 00:14:14,610
tend to sort of just leave it in the

308
00:14:19,280 --> 00:14:16,709
background and you learn not to talk

309
00:14:20,990 --> 00:14:19,290
about it so I suppose that's what I

310
00:14:24,110 --> 00:14:21,000
ended up doing through the rest of my

311
00:14:27,350 --> 00:14:24,120
school career and also to a great degree

312
00:14:30,889 --> 00:14:27,360
at University when I finally decided I

313
00:14:33,290 --> 00:14:30,899

suppose around about the age of 19 that

314

00:14:35,929 --> 00:14:33,300

no I really don't think this very much

315

00:14:39,050 --> 00:14:35,939

in this for me anymore I'm having a very

316

00:14:42,370 --> 00:14:39,060

hard time accepting what's being told to

317

00:14:45,199 --> 00:14:42,380

me and I just basically walked away

318

00:14:48,410 --> 00:14:45,209

didn't really walk to anything I must

319

00:14:50,629 --> 00:14:48,420

admit and that was why I suppose when

320

00:14:53,660 --> 00:14:50,639

when I did finally start doing some

321

00:14:56,360 --> 00:14:53,670

reading so that was the genesis of

322

00:14:58,970 --> 00:14:56,370

Margaret sort of heading down that

323

00:15:01,249 --> 00:14:58,980

direction right it's a case of not

324

00:15:02,870 --> 00:15:01,259

knowing what you want rather knowing

325

00:15:05,360 --> 00:15:02,880

what you are so you started with the

326

00:15:08,990 --> 00:15:05,370

Genesis then you have the revelation yes

327

00:15:11,360 --> 00:15:09,000

okay okay so i won't say anything about

328

00:15:13,280 --> 00:15:11,370

that I well I mean a metaphor as a

329

00:15:15,110 --> 00:15:13,290

metaphor and sometimes it's just a

330

00:15:18,019 --> 00:15:15,120

metaphor absolutely I have no problem

331

00:15:19,999 --> 00:15:18,029

with that I say Oh God and yes up like

332

00:15:22,009 --> 00:15:20,009

that all the time yeah now you're a

333

00:15:24,679 --> 00:15:22,019

teacher in the library and Eng still

334

00:15:27,980 --> 00:15:24,689

teach i am still teaching I've had a

335

00:15:30,170 --> 00:15:27,990

career change about seven years ago I

336

00:15:31,850 --> 00:15:30,180

spent a lot of bike teaching career

337

00:15:34,970 --> 00:15:31,860

teaching English and history in high

338

00:15:37,819 --> 00:15:34,980

schools which I absolutely adored I love

339

00:15:39,710 --> 00:15:37,829

teaching I would still really enjoyed it

340

00:15:43,460 --> 00:15:39,720

night I really enjoyed teaching

341

00:15:45,319 --> 00:15:43,470

teenagers to what's chased me and so

342

00:15:48,169 --> 00:15:45,329

many of my other colleagues out of the

343

00:15:50,809 --> 00:15:48,179

through the increasing layers of

344

00:15:54,489 --> 00:15:50,819

accountability and the paperwork that we

345

00:15:57,650 --> 00:15:54,499

get thrust upon us from outside and

346

00:16:00,319 --> 00:15:57,660

which takes us away from doing what is

347

00:16:01,960 --> 00:16:00,329

essentially our core business I have no

348

00:16:05,090 --> 00:16:01,970

problem with the issue of accountability

349

00:16:07,879 --> 00:16:05,100

that's fair enough but the how many

350

00:16:10,609 --> 00:16:07,889

times can you count something that's the

351

00:16:12,859 --> 00:16:10,619

thing that struck drive me nuts my last

352

00:16:16,460 --> 00:16:12,869

year teaching I had a 10 11 and 12

353

00:16:20,329 --> 00:16:16,470

english class and 11 and 12 h in history

354

00:16:22,939 --> 00:16:20,339

and i was pulling on occasion

355

00:16:25,189 --> 00:16:22,949

particularly at the end of term when you

356

00:16:28,129 --> 00:16:25,199

had to get marking done and generate

357

00:16:30,769 --> 00:16:28,139

reports and things like that it wasn't

358

00:16:35,629 --> 00:16:30,779

unusual for me to work a 70 or natl a

359

00:16:38,929 --> 00:16:35,639

week and at the end end of it i just ran

360

00:16:41,949 --> 00:16:38,939

out of energy teaching does to do it

361

00:16:45,289 --> 00:16:41,959

well you've got to care about it and

362

00:16:47,299 --> 00:16:45,299

that draws on emotional reserves where

363

00:16:49,909 --> 00:16:47,309

you are actually up in front of a class

364

00:16:52,429 --> 00:16:49,919

performing or engaging with kids and

365

00:16:55,609 --> 00:16:52,439

helping them learn that takes a lot out

366

00:16:58,759 --> 00:16:55,619

of you and at the end of it I was at

367

00:17:01,369 --> 00:16:58,769

very very pleased because as I said I'd

368

00:17:03,590 --> 00:17:01,379

always love stories and books that I was

369

00:17:05,809 --> 00:17:03,600

able to get some teacher librarian

370

00:17:08,539 --> 00:17:05,819

qualification and then some library

371

00:17:11,120 --> 00:17:08,549

science qualification going to teach

372

00:17:14,090 --> 00:17:11,130

librarianship and then get very very

373

00:17:16,789 --> 00:17:14,100

lucky and become a teacher librarian in

374

00:17:18,379 --> 00:17:16,799

a primary school that means that i run a

375

00:17:21,409 --> 00:17:18,389

primary school library and one at

376

00:17:24,169 --> 00:17:21,419

brisbane is leafy suburb I've got 740

377

00:17:27,319 --> 00:17:24,179

lovely children who come borrow books

378

00:17:29,600 --> 00:17:27,329

and read I've got a great staff and I

379

00:17:32,539 --> 00:17:29,610

really enjoy my life as it is at the

380

00:17:34,490 --> 00:17:32,549

moment I could not be a primary

381

00:17:37,430 --> 00:17:34,500

classroom teacher I look at my

382

00:17:39,230 --> 00:17:37,440

colleagues in stunned admiration

383

00:17:42,320 --> 00:17:39,240

particularly the ones with the early

384

00:17:44,899 --> 00:17:42,330

years people because I really do not

385

00:17:46,070 --> 00:17:44,909

know how they do what they do they often

386

00:17:48,830 --> 00:17:46,080

look at me and so don't know how you

387

00:17:50,330 --> 00:17:48,840

ever taught high school but I really

388

00:17:53,029 --> 00:17:50,340

love what I'm doing because I'm

389

00:17:55,129 --> 00:17:53,039

passionate about stories I'm passionate

390

00:17:58,279 --> 00:17:55,139

about sharing stories with children and

391

00:17:59,039 --> 00:17:58,289

the importance of stories just fire up

392

00:18:02,009 --> 00:17:59,049

kids

393

00:18:03,720 --> 00:18:02,019

imaginations the one thing we have this

394

00:18:06,479 --> 00:18:03,730

thing in queensland clerk called the

395

00:18:08,850 --> 00:18:06,489

queensland score core skills test which

396

00:18:12,989 --> 00:18:08,860

has done about halfway through year 12

397

00:18:15,810 --> 00:18:12,999

our final high school year and the best

398

00:18:17,999 --> 00:18:15,820

indicator that they've been able to find

399

00:18:20,879 --> 00:18:18,009

for children who do well I shouldn't say

400

00:18:23,399 --> 00:18:20,889

children at that stage for people to do

401

00:18:25,499 --> 00:18:23,409

well in that is wider reading that's it

402

00:18:27,720 --> 00:18:25,509

that's the the key thing that they've

403

00:18:29,820 --> 00:18:27,730

been able to correlate with successful

404

00:18:32,129 --> 00:18:29,830

outcomes that the kids that get the

405

00:18:34,529 --> 00:18:32,139

really good scores that then go on to

406

00:18:37,590 --> 00:18:34,539

university the one thing they all have

407

00:18:40,799 --> 00:18:37,600

in common is wider reading or a lot of

408

00:18:42,180 --> 00:18:40,809

them have in common so that's one thing

409

00:18:43,859 --> 00:18:42,190

that I'm really excited about

410

00:18:46,470 --> 00:18:43,869

particularly with the building the

411

00:18:49,649 --> 00:18:46,480

education revolution money the money

412

00:18:51,269 --> 00:18:49,659

going into schools for libraries and

413

00:18:54,720 --> 00:18:51,279

things like that because I think that's

414

00:18:57,090 --> 00:18:54,730

really really a key plank in education

415

00:18:59,220 --> 00:18:57,100

do you ever take your skepticism to

416

00:19:01,430 --> 00:18:59,230

class do you ever teach skepticism or

417

00:19:04,080 --> 00:19:01,440

teach critical thinking or somehow

418

00:19:06,239 --> 00:19:04,090

convey the message of skepticism at

419

00:19:09,599 --> 00:19:06,249

regal thinking to children yes you do

420

00:19:11,220 --> 00:19:09,609

because you do get to two children to

421

00:19:14,970 --> 00:19:11,230

seek the evidence that that's really

422

00:19:16,680 --> 00:19:14,980

really important and and you can do it

423

00:19:19,349 --> 00:19:16,690

to a degree in literature I mean the

424

00:19:21,690 --> 00:19:19,359

certain tools of skepticism that you can

425

00:19:25,799 --> 00:19:21,700

because skepticism is essentially a

426

00:19:28,830 --> 00:19:25,809

process it's not a bully a belief

427

00:19:31,649 --> 00:19:28,840

position so to speak I think that's one

428

00:19:33,419 --> 00:19:31,659

reason I like it because it is a process

429

00:19:35,489 --> 00:19:33,429

it's a way of looking at the world like

430

00:19:38,489 --> 00:19:35,499

science and scientific methods of

431

00:19:41,999 --> 00:19:38,499

process it's not a belief position in

432

00:19:43,889 --> 00:19:42,009

the same way as being you know even a up

433

00:19:46,799 --> 00:19:43,899

your broncos supporter or a lion

434

00:19:50,549 --> 00:19:46,809

supporter or whatever sporting limits

435

00:19:54,899 --> 00:19:50,559

it's not or even preferring one

436

00:19:56,609 --> 00:19:54,909

political party over another and that's

437

00:19:58,859 --> 00:19:56,619

one thing that the principles of

438

00:20:01,080 --> 00:19:58,869

skepticism are ones that you incorporate

439

00:20:04,019 --> 00:20:01,090

India teaching all the time all the good

440

00:20:06,060 --> 00:20:04,029

teachers do the importance within your

441

00:20:08,099 --> 00:20:06,070

subjects of seeking the evidence what's

442

00:20:11,249 --> 00:20:08,109

evidence in this particular discipline

443

00:20:12,400 --> 00:20:11,259

you make a hypothesis how do you find

444

00:20:15,730 --> 00:20:12,410

evidence

445

00:20:17,320 --> 00:20:15,740

a call think things which I so they

446

00:20:21,130 --> 00:20:17,330

aren't so what's the problem with this

447

00:20:23,110 --> 00:20:21,140

one is that based on a false premise can

448

00:20:25,770 --> 00:20:23,120

you believe what this purse is speaking

449

00:20:28,330 --> 00:20:25,780

let's track track stuff to its source

450

00:20:30,580 --> 00:20:28,340

that's one thing that I really wish

451

00:20:33,400 --> 00:20:30,590

would get profiled alura's history

452

00:20:36,220 --> 00:20:33,410

because there's a lot of skeptical steps

453

00:20:38,730 --> 00:20:36,230

in history that I think people on the

454

00:20:41,500 --> 00:20:38,740

side side tend to rather despised

455

00:20:44,170 --> 00:20:41,510

humanities people and say you know

456

00:20:49,870 --> 00:20:44,180

you're not you don't think critically

457

00:20:53,470 --> 00:20:49,880

and I do I'm just trying to think of a

458

00:20:56,400 --> 00:20:53,480

good example okay there is a wonderful

459

00:20:59,530 --> 00:20:56,410

urban legends webpage called snopes com

460

00:21:02,110 --> 00:20:59,540

which I have occasionally shown to

461

00:21:05,080 --> 00:21:02,120

students particularly if they come down

462

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:05,090

with an urban legend and really like but

463

00:21:09,960 --> 00:21:07,010

so we go and learn and we have a look at

464

00:21:12,760 --> 00:21:09,970

it and say okay what's the urban legend

465

00:21:15,220 --> 00:21:12,770

there was one that I went through was

466

00:21:17,410 --> 00:21:15,230

some year seven kids a few years ago it

467

00:21:20,170 --> 00:21:17,420

was one about Michael Jackson hanging

468

00:21:22,720 --> 00:21:20,180

the kid out the window and let's go

469

00:21:24,790 --> 00:21:22,730

somewhere what's a reliable source will

470

00:21:27,310 --> 00:21:24,800

go to Snipes we'll have a look at it and

471

00:21:29,830 --> 00:21:27,320

this is because it deals with urban

472

00:21:31,930 --> 00:21:29,840

legends and the reason snakes is good is

473

00:21:35,290 --> 00:21:31,940

that it does take you back to the

474

00:21:38,260 --> 00:21:35,300

sources it evaluates the site is true or

475

00:21:42,100 --> 00:21:38,270

false or unproven and then at the end

476
00:21:45,670 --> 00:21:42,110
it's got a whole heap of references to

477
00:21:48,760 --> 00:21:45,680
show where things come from so in my

478
00:21:51,450 --> 00:21:48,770
position because resourcing the

479
00:21:53,950 --> 00:21:51,460
curriculum a key element of what I do

480
00:21:56,760 --> 00:21:53,960
apart from promoting through is it's the

481
00:22:01,240 --> 00:21:56,770
other key Achille key element to my role

482
00:22:02,650 --> 00:22:01,250
yes to making making sure that what's in

483
00:22:06,220 --> 00:22:02,660
the collection is relevant and

484
00:22:09,460 --> 00:22:06,230
up-to-date so yes it's as I said it's a

485
00:22:11,800 --> 00:22:09,470
process it sits behind ear the whole

486
00:22:13,990 --> 00:22:11,810
time and and manifests occasionally

487
00:22:19,750 --> 00:22:14,000
rather than being something that you

488
00:22:22,330 --> 00:22:19,760

teach as a formal subject I mean it's as

489

00:22:24,950 --> 00:22:22,340

I said it's a process so it's I do use

490

00:22:27,889 --> 00:22:24,960

the tools of skepticism a lot

491

00:22:31,460 --> 00:22:27,899

in what I do in my engagements with my

492

00:22:35,269 --> 00:22:31,470

colleagues and also with the children

493

00:22:37,430 --> 00:22:35,279

the bill even a hedge pizza I think

494

00:22:39,019 --> 00:22:37,440

we're skeptics generally are aware that

495

00:22:42,649 --> 00:22:39,029

critical thinking of skepticism are not

496

00:22:46,820 --> 00:22:42,659

about science or not any specific topic

497

00:22:49,700 --> 00:22:46,830

and it is something that pervades that

498

00:22:54,320 --> 00:22:49,710

is pervasive and permeates all of all of

499

00:22:56,840 --> 00:22:54,330

life there is one thing where I did butt

500

00:22:58,700 --> 00:22:56,850

heads with my school administration him

501
00:23:02,480 --> 00:22:58,710
i normally get on very well with i must

502
00:23:06,649 --> 00:23:02,490
add that we ended up with some awful

503
00:23:08,750 --> 00:23:06,659
rubbish pd a couple of years ago that

504
00:23:12,710 --> 00:23:08,760
suddenly emerged on our professional

505
00:23:14,690 --> 00:23:12,720
development calendar a dodgy prodigy for

506
00:23:18,350 --> 00:23:14,700
those were not teachers professional

507
00:23:21,190 --> 00:23:18,360
development pd professional development

508
00:23:25,700 --> 00:23:21,200
calendar a few years ago in February

509
00:23:29,080 --> 00:23:25,710
2006 i sat at the certain staff room

510
00:23:32,419 --> 00:23:29,090
with my colleagues listening to speakers

511
00:23:36,440 --> 00:23:32,429
talk about some flim flam by the name of

512
00:23:39,279 --> 00:23:36,450
brain gym and the most appalling

513
00:23:41,990 --> 00:23:39,289

nonsense was being peddled house and

514

00:23:47,720 --> 00:23:42,000

everybody just SAT there and cop dish

515

00:23:51,260 --> 00:23:47,730

and I made a huge mistake I challenge

516

00:23:55,039 --> 00:23:51,270

the speaker was rather rude got spoken

517

00:23:56,990 --> 00:23:55,049

to the next day by my principal he had

518

00:23:59,870 --> 00:23:57,000

the right to do because I had been rude

519

00:24:01,430 --> 00:23:59,880

but I refused to result in the position

520

00:24:04,310 --> 00:24:01,440

that what we were listening to was

521

00:24:07,669 --> 00:24:04,320

absolute rubbish and that we shouldn't

522

00:24:10,940 --> 00:24:07,679

have been forced to to listen to it I

523

00:24:13,639 --> 00:24:10,950

think the problem was that from the

524

00:24:16,279 --> 00:24:13,649

point of view of teachers as classroom

525

00:24:18,380 --> 00:24:16,289

practitioners they were just interested

526

00:24:20,480 --> 00:24:18,390

in finding some clues that would help

527

00:24:23,330 --> 00:24:20,490

them teach but and they didn't really

528

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:23,340

care two hoots about what was behind it

529

00:24:27,470 --> 00:24:26,010

that brain 'jim is some fun exercises

530

00:24:28,909 --> 00:24:27,480

that you can do with your kids while

531

00:24:32,090 --> 00:24:28,919

they're basically sitting in their

532

00:24:34,460 --> 00:24:32,100

chairs or standing in their place so any

533

00:24:37,490 --> 00:24:34,470

activity that you can use to engage kids

534

00:24:38,640 --> 00:24:37,500

is great that's fine what I had the

535

00:24:42,060 --> 00:24:38,650

problem with was

536

00:24:44,250 --> 00:24:42,070

pseudoscience that was behind it and I

537

00:24:47,280 --> 00:24:44,260

very much doubt whether the rest of my

538

00:24:49,860 --> 00:24:47,290

colleagues good primary school nobody

539

00:24:52,440 --> 00:24:49,870

that a really science specialist says

540

00:24:55,440 --> 00:24:52,450

sadly and then that is an issue a

541

00:24:58,170 --> 00:24:55,450

different issue probably weren't even

542

00:25:00,420 --> 00:24:58,180

paying any attention to the rest of the

543

00:25:03,210 --> 00:25:00,430

nonsense that this presenter was going

544

00:25:07,350 --> 00:25:03,220

out with it was also an extremely hot

545

00:25:08,940 --> 00:25:07,360

day in February it was after school we

546

00:25:12,260 --> 00:25:08,950

were probably sitting in a room with

547

00:25:16,320 --> 00:25:12,270

about that was at about 35 degrees and

548

00:25:19,410 --> 00:25:16,330

no air conditioning and very very humid

549

00:25:22,520 --> 00:25:19,420

so the rest of it we will probably would

550

00:25:25,080 --> 00:25:22,530

just practicing selective listening but

551
00:25:27,450 --> 00:25:25,090
that was one that I have kept plugging

552
00:25:29,700 --> 00:25:27,460
away at and I hope that I've won some

553
00:25:32,070 --> 00:25:29,710
people in the middle there are obviously

554
00:25:34,170 --> 00:25:32,080
the true believers that accept all of

555
00:25:36,110 --> 00:25:34,180
the augment nonsense that gets paddled

556
00:25:39,600 --> 00:25:36,120
out and toddle off to their

557
00:25:42,120 --> 00:25:39,610
chiropractors and their naturopaths but

558
00:25:44,730 --> 00:25:42,130
hopefully the ones in the middle I hope

559
00:25:46,590 --> 00:25:44,740
I did get through to i dunno i got

560
00:25:51,360 --> 00:25:46,600
through to a couple of people because i

561
00:25:53,430 --> 00:25:51,370
got feedback afterwards about it so that

562
00:25:56,280 --> 00:25:53,440
was one example of where i actually did

563
00:26:00,930 --> 00:25:56,290

get very missionary as far as skepticism

564

00:26:02,820 --> 00:26:00,940

is concerned with mixed results I would

565

00:26:04,650 --> 00:26:02,830

use different tactics and future other

566

00:26:06,930 --> 00:26:04,660

than the ones that are used at that time

567

00:26:09,300 --> 00:26:06,940

and that's what you should all do we

568

00:26:11,850 --> 00:26:09,310

should all do we make a mistake we learn

569

00:26:14,280 --> 00:26:11,860

from it we take it on one and think well

570

00:26:16,380 --> 00:26:14,290

I won't go there next time I'll try to

571

00:26:18,270 --> 00:26:16,390

get the same outcome but that

572

00:26:20,610 --> 00:26:18,280

methodology didn't work let's try

573

00:26:22,860 --> 00:26:20,620

something different this time around and

574

00:26:24,420 --> 00:26:22,870

keep on doing it if I'm a comment

575

00:26:26,940 --> 00:26:24,430

specifically about that thing about

576

00:26:29,070 --> 00:26:26,950

being rude or how you how we approach

577

00:26:32,190 --> 00:26:29,080

people who peddle all kinds of nonsense

578

00:26:35,880 --> 00:26:32,200

I found that obviously being polite and

579

00:26:38,430 --> 00:26:35,890

being friendly always helps it makes you

580

00:26:40,380 --> 00:26:38,440

look more more approachable makes your

581

00:26:42,300 --> 00:26:40,390

the position that you're pushing more

582

00:26:44,940 --> 00:26:42,310

available yeah the problem is that

583

00:26:48,090 --> 00:26:44,950

sometimes it's very very difficult it's

584

00:26:49,740 --> 00:26:48,100

to be polite it is so I completely

585

00:26:50,310 --> 00:26:49,750

understand where you're coming from but

586

00:26:52,139 --> 00:26:50,320

as you

587

00:26:54,749 --> 00:26:52,149

said you make mistakes in you learn from

588

00:26:56,970 --> 00:26:54,759

them now I'd like to move to move again

589

00:26:58,769 --> 00:26:56,980

back to speaking about the skeptics and

590

00:27:00,570 --> 00:26:58,779

you're currently the secretary of the

591

00:27:03,029 --> 00:27:00,580

Queensland skeptics is that correct yes

592

00:27:04,470 --> 00:27:03,039

that's correct and you also have another

593

00:27:06,840 --> 00:27:04,480

role would you like to speak about that

594

00:27:09,810 --> 00:27:06,850

as well ok the other role is the

595

00:27:12,509 --> 00:27:09,820

convener for Bruce skepticon is that the

596

00:27:14,310 --> 00:27:12,519

one that you mean Iran okay Bruce

597

00:27:17,399 --> 00:27:14,320

skepticon is the nickname that I've

598

00:27:20,159 --> 00:27:17,409

given to this year's Australian skeptics

599

00:27:22,980 --> 00:27:20,169

National Convention which is being held

600

00:27:26,009 --> 00:27:22,990

at in beautiful Brisbane in the last

601
00:27:30,119 --> 00:27:26,019
weekend of november this year that's the

602
00:27:32,580 --> 00:27:30,129
27th 28th and 29th of November after

603
00:27:36,149 --> 00:27:32,590
having been at convention junkie

604
00:27:38,580 --> 00:27:36,159
basically since 2000 I thought that it

605
00:27:41,279 --> 00:27:38,590
was about time the two things happened

606
00:27:43,740 --> 00:27:41,289
number one that a convention come back

607
00:27:47,580 --> 00:27:43,750
to Brisbane because there hasn't been a

608
00:27:54,180 --> 00:27:47,590
national convention held here since 2001

609
00:27:57,659 --> 00:27:54,190
and also that I'd like to use all of the

610
00:28:00,749 --> 00:27:57,669
experience that I've gained in attending

611
00:28:05,009 --> 00:28:00,759
all these other conventions to have a go

612
00:28:07,230 --> 00:28:05,019
at running it to organizing it so last

613
00:28:11,180 --> 00:28:07,240

year I decided to put up my hand and

614

00:28:13,440 --> 00:28:11,190

volunteer my services to do so and

615

00:28:17,999 --> 00:28:13,450

basically since then I've had a lot of

616

00:28:20,279 --> 00:28:18,009

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

617

00:28:21,299 --> 00:28:20,289

pleased to say that things look as

618

00:28:25,680 --> 00:28:21,309

though they're coming together really

619

00:28:28,049 --> 00:28:25,690

really well fee I've had some fantastic

620

00:28:31,379 --> 00:28:28,059

help with some wonderful people in

621

00:28:34,379 --> 00:28:31,389

Brisbane who Peter relish in particular

622

00:28:37,110 --> 00:28:34,389

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

623

00:28:39,119 --> 00:28:37,120

Australian skeptics winner of the

624

00:28:42,419 --> 00:28:39,129

Australian skeptics prize for critical

625

00:28:46,259 --> 00:28:42,429

thinking last year and he has set us up

626
00:28:50,430 --> 00:28:46,269
a Queensland skeptics website at just

627
00:28:53,279 --> 00:28:50,440
qld skeptics calm where amongst other

628
00:28:55,470 --> 00:28:53,289
things all the program information and

629
00:28:57,810 --> 00:28:55,480
other information about the convention

630
00:29:00,899 --> 00:28:57,820
is loaded including information about

631
00:29:02,520 --> 00:29:00,909
our guest speakers we've been very very

632
00:29:05,010 --> 00:29:02,530
lucky to attract

633
00:29:07,730 --> 00:29:05,020
a couple of really high-profile guest

634
00:29:10,770 --> 00:29:07,740
speakers it's a bit of a combo of

635
00:29:13,020 --> 00:29:10,780
Margaret's vision some people that I

636
00:29:17,070 --> 00:29:13,030
really think that I'd like the rest of

637
00:29:21,840 --> 00:29:17,080
my skeptical colleagues to listen to and

638
00:29:25,800 --> 00:29:21,850

also some old favorites and some

639

00:29:29,730 --> 00:29:25,810

Brisbane locals so a real combination

640

00:29:32,400 --> 00:29:29,740

but I suppose two key themes scientist

641

00:29:34,440 --> 00:29:32,410

science is important the skeptics we

642

00:29:37,380 --> 00:29:34,450

have a commitment to critical thinking

643

00:29:41,100 --> 00:29:37,390

and the scientific method so I'm wanting

644

00:29:44,510 --> 00:29:41,110

to focus on science and the Saturday

645

00:29:47,970 --> 00:29:44,520

program is looking into science-based

646

00:29:51,720 --> 00:29:47,980

things and the sunday program the focus

647

00:29:54,210 --> 00:29:51,730

is changing just a bit too to use the

648

00:29:57,420 --> 00:29:54,220

phrase I think first coined by michael

649

00:30:00,870 --> 00:29:57,430

shermer why people believe things weird

650

00:30:03,360 --> 00:30:00,880

things the focus is going more onto the

651
00:30:07,920 --> 00:30:03,370
nature of belief and why people accept

652
00:30:10,050 --> 00:30:07,930
things which just ain't so the theme of

653
00:30:14,130 --> 00:30:10,060
the convention is myth and misconception

654
00:30:16,800 --> 00:30:14,140
because all evidence is not equal we've

655
00:30:19,650 --> 00:30:16,810
got dr. Carl grizzle Nikki kicking the

656
00:30:23,010 --> 00:30:19,660
show off on the Monday morning we're

657
00:30:26,340 --> 00:30:23,020
very lucky to get Carl services and he's

658
00:30:29,610 --> 00:30:26,350
keeping with that theme talking about a

659
00:30:32,760 --> 00:30:29,620
whole heap of misconceptions and on

660
00:30:34,620 --> 00:30:32,770
Sunday the other person that I've got

661
00:30:36,750 --> 00:30:34,630
that I've gone out and chased that I

662
00:30:39,300 --> 00:30:36,760
really wanted people to hear his

663
00:30:43,620 --> 00:30:39,310

associate associate professor Tony

664

00:30:45,990 --> 00:30:43,630

Taylor from Monash University I was in

665

00:30:47,880 --> 00:30:46,000

Melbourne in February and I picked up a

666

00:30:52,260 --> 00:30:47,890

book after I read a review and the age

667

00:30:53,940 --> 00:30:52,270

called history betrayed and I was so

668

00:30:55,710 --> 00:30:53,950

impressed with a review that I went out

669

00:30:59,370 --> 00:30:55,720

and bought a copy straight away and

670

00:31:02,400 --> 00:30:59,380

thought wow I want everybody to be aware

671

00:31:05,670 --> 00:31:02,410

of what this what this gentleman's

672

00:31:07,800 --> 00:31:05,680

talking about and his title of his talk

673

00:31:09,030 --> 00:31:07,810

was the art and craft of pseudo his

674

00:31:11,970 --> 00:31:09,040

strength

675

00:31:14,400 --> 00:31:11,980

denial history betrayed is actually a

676
00:31:17,600 --> 00:31:14,410
study of the ideology and the psychology

677
00:31:20,100 --> 00:31:17,610
of historical denial in modern history

678
00:31:22,290 --> 00:31:20,110
that he really wanted to get into the

679
00:31:26,690 --> 00:31:22,300
pathology of that and what lies behind

680
00:31:29,100 --> 00:31:26,700
it and why people and it can be a

681
00:31:31,110 --> 00:31:29,110
concussion why can't we get our heads

682
00:31:33,780 --> 00:31:31,120
around the fact that these things

683
00:31:36,390 --> 00:31:33,790
happened so I'm really looking forward

684
00:31:39,120 --> 00:31:36,400
to the opportunity for people to listen

685
00:31:41,940 --> 00:31:39,130
to tony and he's been really really

686
00:31:44,490 --> 00:31:41,950
helpful i'm really looking forward to

687
00:31:46,950 --> 00:31:44,500
meeting up with the gentleman and we've

688
00:31:48,930 --> 00:31:46,960

got some other wonderful locals we've

689

00:31:52,080 --> 00:31:48,940

got Loretta Marin the jelly bean lady

690

00:31:54,420 --> 00:31:52,090

who featured on a Current Affair earlier

691

00:31:59,000 --> 00:31:54,430

this year exposing a cancer quack up and

692

00:32:02,700 --> 00:31:59,010

makai we've got other people who have

693

00:32:07,110 --> 00:32:02,710

experience with I suppose the effects of

694

00:32:09,660 --> 00:32:07,120

what happens when people believe aunt

695

00:32:14,700 --> 00:32:09,670

met nonsense we've got some old

696

00:32:16,980 --> 00:32:14,710

tried-and-true ones as well so that's a

697

00:32:21,240 --> 00:32:16,990

quick snapshot of what's in the program

698

00:32:24,090 --> 00:32:21,250

and Jan I am really looking forward to

699

00:32:28,290 --> 00:32:24,100

it and catching up with everyone my

700

00:32:29,730 --> 00:32:28,300

great job to end this wonderful chat so

701

00:32:31,170 --> 00:32:29,740

can you please tell us again where it

702

00:32:34,710 --> 00:32:31,180

more information can be found about the

703

00:32:39,390 --> 00:32:34,720

convention okay the Australian skeptics

704

00:32:42,420 --> 00:32:39,400

website has got a link on the right hand

705

00:32:44,430 --> 00:32:42,430

side of its homepage or you can go

706

00:32:50,340 --> 00:32:44,440

straight to the Queensland skeptics

707

00:32:51,960 --> 00:32:50,350

website which is [www](http://www.skeptics.com) and skeptics.com

708

00:32:53,670 --> 00:32:51,970

it's been wonderful talking to you about

709

00:33:07,220 --> 00:32:53,680

it thank you very much for being on the

710

00:33:11,850 --> 00:33:09,360

examining the truth in exposing the

711

00:33:13,710 --> 00:33:11,860

frauds but psychics.co.uk is the website

712

00:33:15,810 --> 00:33:13,720

that critically examines mediums

713

00:33:17,640 --> 00:33:15,820

clairvoyants and psychics follow the

714

00:33:19,710 --> 00:33:17,650

controversies news and discussions in

715

00:33:21,240 --> 00:33:19,720

the lively forum community and now you

716

00:33:22,919 --> 00:33:21,250

can download your weekly fix of

717

00:33:25,289 --> 00:33:22,929

righteous indignation the official

718

00:33:26,549 --> 00:33:25,299

podcast of bad psychics khodet UK that

719

00:33:29,669 --> 00:33:26,559

talks hard and critically about

720

00:33:31,039 --> 00:33:29,679

paranormal bad psychics khodet UK the

721

00:33:39,360 --> 00:33:31,049

UK's largest and most respected

722

00:33:41,070 --> 00:33:39,370

skeptical site looking at psychics this

723

00:33:43,740 --> 00:33:41,080

is brian dunning from the sceptile

724

00:33:48,120 --> 00:33:43,750

podcast been enjoying your critical

725

00:33:50,760 --> 00:33:48,130

thinking shows in audio only you've been

726
00:33:55,590 --> 00:33:50,770
missing half the fun check out my new

727
00:34:00,630 --> 00:33:55,600
video podcast in fact on itunes or click

728
00:34:02,789 --> 00:34:00,640
it on Sceptile com3 pilot episodes of in

729
00:34:05,130 --> 00:34:02,799
fact are available now for immediate

730
00:34:07,590 --> 00:34:05,140
viewing I'm looking for sponsorship to

731
00:34:10,440 --> 00:34:07,600
produce an entire first season of 13

732
00:34:12,659 --> 00:34:10,450
episodes and hopefully many more seasons

733
00:34:14,790 --> 00:34:12,669
to follow you can see the whole lineup

734
00:34:17,909 --> 00:34:14,800
and get all the other nuts and bolts if

735
00:34:21,180 --> 00:34:17,919
you go to sceptile calm and click on in

736
00:34:22,980 --> 00:34:21,190
fact and don't forget to come back to

737
00:34:27,020 --> 00:34:22,990
the skeptic zone when you're done

738
00:34:29,820 --> 00:34:27,030

watching I I think it's audio only but

739

00:34:40,050 --> 00:34:29,830

that's okay I still like it this is

740

00:34:42,869 --> 00:34:40,060

brian dunning from sceptile calm this

741

00:34:48,160 --> 00:34:42,879

will take this with a grain of salt is

742

00:34:52,940 --> 00:34:50,720

one of the least talked about aspects of

743

00:34:55,550 --> 00:34:52,950

medical science is its heavy reliance on

744

00:34:57,680 --> 00:34:55,560

statistics it is known to doctors and

745

00:34:59,300 --> 00:34:57,690

scientists in the field of course and I

746

00:35:02,330 --> 00:34:59,310

suspect many people have some vague

747

00:35:03,890 --> 00:35:02,340

notion that statistics is being used but

748

00:35:06,130 --> 00:35:03,900

very few people understand what it

749

00:35:08,720 --> 00:35:06,140

really means and how it may affect them

750

00:35:11,030 --> 00:35:08,730

the urge to talk about this topic right

751
00:35:13,400 --> 00:35:11,040
now is mostly due to our recent campaign

752
00:35:15,230 --> 00:35:13,410
against the avian in mayoral dories

753
00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:15,240
fully statement that we should not treat

754
00:35:19,550 --> 00:35:17,010
kids with an intervention that is not

755
00:35:21,290 --> 00:35:19,560
one hundred percent safe but the

756
00:35:23,720 --> 00:35:21,300
expectation that medicine should be as

757
00:35:26,870 --> 00:35:23,730
safe as that has been troubling me for a

758
00:35:29,810 --> 00:35:26,880
while people clearly don't realize just

759
00:35:31,130 --> 00:35:29,820
a foolish that expectation is it's not

760
00:35:32,510 --> 00:35:31,140
that people shouldn't expect a high

761
00:35:35,240 --> 00:35:32,520
level of safety in their medical

762
00:35:36,440 --> 00:35:35,250
treatment they absolutely should and for

763
00:35:39,080 --> 00:35:36,450

a treatment to be approved for general

764

00:35:41,060 --> 00:35:39,090

use it must pass stringent tests done

765

00:35:42,950 --> 00:35:41,070

only for efficacy but also for safety

766

00:35:46,280 --> 00:35:42,960

but safety is also relative to the

767

00:35:48,710 --> 00:35:46,290

effect for example chemotherapy drugs

768

00:35:51,170 --> 00:35:48,720

are extremely toxic many of them are

769

00:35:52,640 --> 00:35:51,180

even carcinogenic in their own right yet

770

00:35:54,430 --> 00:35:52,650

cancer patients get them because

771

00:35:56,720 --> 00:35:54,440

unbalanced they do more good than harm

772

00:35:57,920 --> 00:35:56,730

you could refuse to take chemo on the

773

00:36:00,490 --> 00:35:57,930

grounds that it's not one hundred

774

00:36:03,710 --> 00:36:00,500

percent safe but then you die of cancer

775

00:36:06,200 --> 00:36:03,720

even benign drugs like paracetamol can

776
00:36:08,720 --> 00:36:06,210
and do have side effects but unbalanced

777
00:36:10,460 --> 00:36:08,730
they're worth using so it's always about

778
00:36:13,160 --> 00:36:10,470
weighing up the pros and cons and

779
00:36:14,930 --> 00:36:13,170
associated probabilities expecting one

780
00:36:17,530 --> 00:36:14,940
hundred percent safety or one hundred

781
00:36:19,700 --> 00:36:17,540
percent efficacy is foolish

782
00:36:22,310 --> 00:36:19,710
unfortunately it's not only foolish it

783
00:36:24,890 --> 00:36:22,320
is also harmful and it's harmful for two

784
00:36:27,200 --> 00:36:24,900
main reasons one is that people refrain

785
00:36:29,390 --> 00:36:27,210
from using certain treatments the best

786
00:36:30,980 --> 00:36:29,400
known example is exceeds which have

787
00:36:33,230 --> 00:36:30,990
extraordinary safety and efficacy

788
00:36:35,180 --> 00:36:33,240

records yet some people choose not to

789

00:36:36,770 --> 00:36:35,190

vaccinate their children because they

790

00:36:39,200 --> 00:36:36,780

are not one hundred percent safe or

791

00:36:41,630 --> 00:36:39,210

whatever other lies the avn tells them

792

00:36:43,580 --> 00:36:41,640

about vaccines what they do not realize

793

00:36:45,410 --> 00:36:43,590

is that they are placing their children

794

00:36:47,930 --> 00:36:45,420

at much higher risk of contracting the

795

00:36:50,180 --> 00:36:47,940

disease of course a lot of children are

796

00:36:51,320 --> 00:36:50,190

protected by herd immunity but where the

797

00:36:53,120 --> 00:36:51,330

propaganda machine of the

798

00:36:53,880 --> 00:36:53,130

anti-vaccination Lobby has done its work

799

00:36:56,160 --> 00:36:53,890

there

800

00:36:58,890 --> 00:36:56,170

is now herd immunity and children get

801
00:37:00,960 --> 00:36:58,900
sick the other reason that expecting one

802
00:37:03,840 --> 00:37:00,970
hundred percent efficacy or safety is

803
00:37:05,790 --> 00:37:03,850
harmful is more complex it has to do

804
00:37:08,640 --> 00:37:05,800
with expectations and how people treat

805
00:37:10,290 --> 00:37:08,650
failure in medical treatment because of

806
00:37:12,060 --> 00:37:10,300
the high success rate of most modern

807
00:37:13,560 --> 00:37:12,070
medical treatments and the

808
00:37:15,660 --> 00:37:13,570
well-established human weakness in

809
00:37:17,070 --> 00:37:15,670
understanding probabilities when a

810
00:37:19,620 --> 00:37:17,080
doctor says to a patient that the

811
00:37:21,990 --> 00:37:19,630
procedures has say a ninety percent

812
00:37:23,810 --> 00:37:22,000
success rate the patient naturally

813
00:37:27,120 --> 00:37:23,820

expects to be in the much larger group

814

00:37:29,010 --> 00:37:27,130

when as inevitably happens ten percent

815

00:37:31,530 --> 00:37:29,020

of the patients find themselves on the

816

00:37:34,260 --> 00:37:31,540

side of failure many if not most of them

817

00:37:35,760 --> 00:37:34,270

do not take this too well what very

818

00:37:38,580 --> 00:37:35,770

often results is the demand for

819

00:37:40,140 --> 00:37:38,590

compensation I'll elaborate on the

820

00:37:42,690 --> 00:37:40,150

effects of the demand for compensation

821

00:37:44,880 --> 00:37:42,700

later but I want to talk first about the

822

00:37:47,820 --> 00:37:44,890

saying when it happens to you it's one

823

00:37:49,770 --> 00:37:47,830

hundred percent of course that statement

824

00:37:51,210 --> 00:37:49,780

is true in a sense but that does not

825

00:37:54,290 --> 00:37:51,220

mean that we have to accept it as a

826

00:37:56,790 --> 00:37:54,300

society counter to many people's view

827

00:37:59,610 --> 00:37:56,800

society does put a price on things such

828

00:38:02,280 --> 00:37:59,620

as human life and well-being no society

829

00:38:03,630 --> 00:38:02,290

will save a life at any cost and only so

830

00:38:06,120 --> 00:38:03,640

much money you spend on things like

831

00:38:07,770 --> 00:38:06,130

improving road safety because the cost

832

00:38:10,110 --> 00:38:07,780

of reducing road deaths would make

833

00:38:12,900 --> 00:38:10,120

driving cars and realistically expensive

834

00:38:14,670 --> 00:38:12,910

so as a society we decided that a

835

00:38:16,560 --> 00:38:14,680

certain number of deaths per year is an

836

00:38:19,740 --> 00:38:16,570

acceptable price to pay for affordable

837

00:38:21,990 --> 00:38:19,750

transportation now of course for each of

838

00:38:24,420 --> 00:38:22,000

the dead and maimed and their families

839

00:38:26,280 --> 00:38:24,430

the price is unacceptable yet we rarely

840

00:38:28,650 --> 00:38:26,290

hear families of road accident victims

841

00:38:30,570 --> 00:38:28,660

demand that we make all roads dear lane

842

00:38:32,670 --> 00:38:30,580

fully separated roads with the

843

00:38:36,060 --> 00:38:32,680

technologically in for speed limit of 50

844

00:38:38,190 --> 00:38:36,070

km/h the reason is that even those

845

00:38:41,070 --> 00:38:38,200

affected realized the implications are

846

00:38:43,890 --> 00:38:41,080

unacceptable with medicine people often

847

00:38:45,360 --> 00:38:43,900

do not take the same approach the reason

848

00:38:47,160 --> 00:38:45,370

is not clear to me but it could be

849

00:38:48,810 --> 00:38:47,170

because people know a lot less about how

850

00:38:50,760 --> 00:38:48,820

medicine works than they do about road

851
00:38:52,740 --> 00:38:50,770
safety it could also be because

852
00:38:54,960 --> 00:38:52,750
emedicine there is almost invariably

853
00:38:57,540 --> 00:38:54,970
someone to blame as their medical

854
00:38:59,700 --> 00:38:57,550
professionals involved whatever the case

855
00:39:01,200 --> 00:38:59,710
may be can generally be said that people

856
00:39:03,870 --> 00:39:01,210
are much more willing to use the

857
00:39:05,670 --> 00:39:03,880
statement when it happens to you it's

858
00:39:06,960 --> 00:39:05,680
one hundred percent when discussing

859
00:39:09,630 --> 00:39:06,970
medical risk then

860
00:39:10,830 --> 00:39:09,640
when they discuss other risks basically

861
00:39:13,370 --> 00:39:10,840
there is a different standard for

862
00:39:16,080 --> 00:39:13,380
medicine and it's a much harsher one

863
00:39:19,080 --> 00:39:16,090

that harsh a standard also manifests

864

00:39:22,320 --> 00:39:19,090

itself in statements like 18,000 people

865

00:39:24,060 --> 00:39:22,330

a year die due to medical errors I will

866

00:39:26,460 --> 00:39:24,070

not venture to dispute the statistical

867

00:39:28,770 --> 00:39:26,470

figure I will for the sake of this talk

868

00:39:32,100 --> 00:39:28,780

assume that it is accurate the question

869

00:39:34,170 --> 00:39:32,110

that must be asked is this of the 18,000

870

00:39:37,440 --> 00:39:34,180

people how many would have died with no

871

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

medical intervention at all as most of

872

00:39:41,700 --> 00:39:39,460

the information is based on estimates it

873

00:39:43,530 --> 00:39:41,710

is difficult to know for sure but I've

874

00:39:45,330 --> 00:39:43,540

done a little bit of research and it

875

00:39:47,460 --> 00:39:45,340

seems a large majority of those whose

876

00:39:49,650 --> 00:39:47,470

des des is attributed to medical error

877

00:39:51,870 --> 00:39:49,660

died did you to failure to provide

878

00:39:54,450 --> 00:39:51,880

appropriate medical treatment only a

879

00:39:56,610 --> 00:39:54,460

small minority died due to commission

880

00:39:58,650 --> 00:39:56,620

rather than a mission and even in those

881

00:40:00,560 --> 00:39:58,660

cases it is not clear how they would

882

00:40:03,600 --> 00:40:00,570

have fared with no medical treatment so

883

00:40:05,160 --> 00:40:03,610

it is very rare indeed for someone to

884

00:40:07,350 --> 00:40:05,170

come to into a hospital with a non

885

00:40:10,380 --> 00:40:07,360

life-threatening condition and end up

886

00:40:13,650 --> 00:40:10,390

dead actual cases of real negligence are

887

00:40:15,570 --> 00:40:13,660

very rare too so next time proponents of

888

00:40:18,720 --> 00:40:15,580

alternative medicine quote that figure

889

00:40:21,690 --> 00:40:18,730

ask them these questions one how many

890

00:40:25,290 --> 00:40:21,700

people has medicine saved this year hint

891

00:40:27,180 --> 00:40:25,300

a lot more than 18,000 to how many of

892

00:40:30,390 --> 00:40:27,190

the 18,000 would have died without any

893

00:40:32,610 --> 00:40:30,400

treatment 3 what was the life expectancy

894

00:40:36,360 --> 00:40:32,620

in China before scientific medicine and

895

00:40:38,900 --> 00:40:36,370

what is it now I referred earlier to the

896

00:40:41,280 --> 00:40:38,910

compensation demands in their effects

897

00:40:43,500 --> 00:40:41,290

doctors in the West pay huge amounts of

898

00:40:45,270 --> 00:40:43,510

money to insurance companies they pay

899

00:40:47,340 --> 00:40:45,280

those amounts because despite the

900

00:40:49,560 --> 00:40:47,350

overall rate of success being very high

901
00:40:52,530 --> 00:40:49,570
and despite the fact that failure is not

902
00:40:54,180 --> 00:40:52,540
only expected it is inevitable those few

903
00:40:56,520 --> 00:40:54,190
cases of failure are likely to see

904
00:40:59,760 --> 00:40:56,530
compensation and often win very

905
00:41:01,380 --> 00:40:59,770
significant amounts an obstetrician I

906
00:41:02,970 --> 00:41:01,390
spoke to some time ago said his

907
00:41:05,970 --> 00:41:02,980
insurance policy cost more than one

908
00:41:08,940 --> 00:41:05,980
hundred thousand dollars a year I let

909
00:41:12,570 --> 00:41:08,950
that sink in for a moment one hundred

910
00:41:14,760 --> 00:41:12,580
thousand dollars per year they're not

911
00:41:16,920 --> 00:41:14,770
many Australians who earn that much it

912
00:41:18,510 --> 00:41:16,930
is successful obstetrician pays this

913
00:41:19,160 --> 00:41:18,520

exorbitant amount because he will

914

00:41:21,319 --> 00:41:19,170

inevitably

915

00:41:23,599 --> 00:41:21,329

be sued and the question is only how

916

00:41:25,670 --> 00:41:23,609

much you will have to pay from an

917

00:41:28,460 --> 00:41:25,680

actuary perspective it is a wonder that

918

00:41:30,200 --> 00:41:28,470

he can get any insurance at all the

919

00:41:32,839 --> 00:41:30,210

result is that this successful and

920

00:41:34,640 --> 00:41:32,849

experienced doctor is available to only

921

00:41:36,380 --> 00:41:34,650

a very small minority of patients who

922

00:41:39,109 --> 00:41:36,390

can pay the fees that are required to

923

00:41:40,549 --> 00:41:39,119

cover the insurance the doctor hat also

924

00:41:42,559 --> 00:41:40,559

has to work privately as much as

925

00:41:44,569 --> 00:41:42,569

possible to finance this and other costs

926

00:41:47,030 --> 00:41:44,579

so we'll try to work as little as

927

00:41:49,190 --> 00:41:47,040

possible in the public system I believe

928

00:41:52,370 --> 00:41:49,200

the harm caused to society by cases such

929

00:41:54,559 --> 00:41:52,380

as this is obvious we go back to

930

00:41:56,599 --> 00:41:54,569

vaccines it's worth pointing out that

931

00:41:59,150 --> 00:41:56,609

but scenes are not and cannot be one

932

00:42:00,470 --> 00:41:59,160

hundred percent safe the avn make that

933

00:42:02,809 --> 00:42:00,480

statement as if it's some kind of

934

00:42:05,599 --> 00:42:02,819

conspiracy or secret but it's nothing of

935

00:42:08,180 --> 00:42:05,609

this sort information about risks and

936

00:42:09,950 --> 00:42:08,190

side effects is publicly available but

937

00:42:12,289 --> 00:42:09,960

what it shows is that vaccines are so

938

00:42:14,680 --> 00:42:12,299

extremely safe that any concern raised

939

00:42:16,789 --> 00:42:14,690

by the anti-vaccine lobby are baseless

940

00:42:18,950 --> 00:42:16,799

personal anecdotes are used to provide

941

00:42:20,270 --> 00:42:18,960

an angle similar to the when it happens

942

00:42:23,120 --> 00:42:20,280

to you each one hundred percent thing

943

00:42:24,980 --> 00:42:23,130

but that is not how medicine works it

944

00:42:28,190 --> 00:42:24,990

works by using statistics on large

945

00:42:30,620 --> 00:42:28,200

numbers merrell dori for example claims

946

00:42:32,390 --> 00:42:30,630

that her son was injured by vaccines how

947

00:42:34,670 --> 00:42:32,400

does she know that well she just does

948

00:42:36,440 --> 00:42:34,680

and she does because she's as

949

00:42:38,240 --> 00:42:36,450

knowledgeable about statistics as she is

950

00:42:41,030 --> 00:42:38,250

about just science in general which is

951
00:42:44,420 --> 00:42:41,040
not at all like many people she confuses

952
00:42:46,160 --> 00:42:44,430
correlation with causation I being an

953
00:42:48,770 --> 00:42:46,170
atheist and therefore completely lacking

954
00:42:51,079 --> 00:42:48,780
any moral compass decided to carry out

955
00:42:52,490 --> 00:42:51,089
an experiment and after my first son

956
00:42:54,799 --> 00:42:52,500
turned out to be on the autistic

957
00:42:56,690 --> 00:42:54,809
spectrum I decided to scientifically

958
00:42:59,480 --> 00:42:56,700
test the hypothesis that vaccines cause

959
00:43:01,430 --> 00:42:59,490
autism I recruited my second son and

960
00:43:03,380 --> 00:43:01,440
then the third to the experiment and

961
00:43:05,809 --> 00:43:03,390
subjected all three to the full schedule

962
00:43:08,359 --> 00:43:05,819
of vaccines based on this experiment

963
00:43:10,099 --> 00:43:08,369

with N equals 3 I can say that vaccines

964

00:43:13,160 --> 00:43:10,109

cause autism in one-third of all

965

00:43:16,309 --> 00:43:13,170

children or perhaps he one-third of all

966

00:43:19,819 --> 00:43:16,319

boys or perhaps in just one third of all

967

00:43:21,589 --> 00:43:19,829

my boys incidentally vaccines also

968

00:43:24,819 --> 00:43:21,599

caused shortsightedness in one-third of

969

00:43:27,049 --> 00:43:24,829

boys and asthma in a third of boys

970

00:43:31,130 --> 00:43:27,059

surprisingly vaccines do not cause any

971

00:43:33,180 --> 00:43:31,140

two of these in any one child jokes

972

00:43:35,130 --> 00:43:33,190

aside the only way to find out

973

00:43:37,710 --> 00:43:35,140

is really happening is using statistics

974

00:43:39,660 --> 00:43:37,720

which is what was done in a large number

975

00:43:41,970 --> 00:43:39,670

of real studies with real controls and

976

00:43:44,220 --> 00:43:41,980

proper statistics and they show that

977

00:43:46,500 --> 00:43:44,230

vaccines do not cause over to autism and

978

00:43:48,150 --> 00:43:46,510

are generally extremely safe except for

979

00:43:51,599 --> 00:43:48,160

people with some very specific and very

980

00:43:53,490 --> 00:43:51,609

rare genetic conditions society would be

981

00:43:56,099 --> 00:43:53,500

much better off if people realized how

982

00:43:57,660 --> 00:43:56,109

important statistics is in medicine how

983

00:43:59,700 --> 00:43:57,670

it makes the difference between useful

984

00:44:01,440 --> 00:43:59,710

and unuseful treatments and that one

985

00:44:03,180 --> 00:44:01,450

hundred percent is not a realistic

986

00:44:06,420 --> 00:44:03,190

expectation for the efficacy or safety

987

00:44:08,130 --> 00:44:06,430

of any treatment before deciding on

988

00:44:09,720 --> 00:44:08,140

medical treatment people should ask

989

00:44:12,420 --> 00:44:09,730

their doctors about the statistics

990

00:44:13,710 --> 00:44:12,430

related to the proposed treatment they

991

00:44:15,390 --> 00:44:13,720

should remember not to expect one

992

00:44:17,550 --> 00:44:15,400

hundred percent safety or efficacy and

993

00:44:20,190 --> 00:44:17,560

that they may end up being on the wrong

994

00:44:22,650 --> 00:44:20,200

side of statistics those who consider

995

00:44:24,300 --> 00:44:22,660

such risks to be unacceptable should

996

00:44:27,089 --> 00:44:24,310

look at other activities in their lives

997

00:44:29,130 --> 00:44:27,099

such as driving cars and realize that we

998

00:44:31,440 --> 00:44:29,140

all accept risks every day of our lives

999

00:44:33,839 --> 00:44:31,450

when we consider the probability of

1000

00:44:49,730 --> 00:44:33,849

things going well to be good enough but

1001
00:44:53,570 --> 00:44:51,830
thank you for listening to the skeptic

1002
00:44:55,070 --> 00:44:53,580
zone over the next weeks we'll be

1003
00:44:57,710 --> 00:44:55,080
bringing you those interviews from

1004
00:44:59,600 --> 00:44:57,720
dragoncon until then you might want to

1005
00:45:05,840 --> 00:44:59,610
check out the website of Australian

1006
00:45:07,760 --> 00:45:05,850
skeptics ww skeptics com au and once

1007
00:45:09,950 --> 00:45:07,770
you're there if you click the link at

1008
00:45:13,100 --> 00:45:09,960
the top of the page that says resources

1009
00:45:15,590 --> 00:45:13,110
you'll find the new videos page lots of

1010
00:45:18,470 --> 00:45:15,600
videos there including James Randi in

1011
00:45:20,570 --> 00:45:18,480
Australia and you'll see why one of the

1012
00:45:24,410 --> 00:45:20,580
reasons why the Australian skeptics

1013
00:45:26,840 --> 00:45:24,420

kicked off in 1980 so until next week or

1014

00:45:28,480 --> 00:45:26,850

possibly the week after hmm depends how

1015

00:45:30,830 --> 00:45:28,490

i feel after getting home with jet lag

1016

00:45:37,180 --> 00:45:30,840

this is Richard Saunders signing off

1017

00:45:43,580 --> 00:45:39,590

you've been listening to the skeptic

1018

00:45:47,390 --> 00:45:43,590

zone visit our website at wwc a petting

1019

00:45:50,030 --> 00:45:47,400

zoo TV for comments contacts and extra

1020

00:46:01,609 --> 00:45:50,040

video reports