

Show 501

THE  
**SKEPTIC  
ZONE**  
PODCAST

27 May 2018

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

Sharon Hill



**The Skeptic Zone Podcast**  
Show 501 - 27 May 2018

Interview with Sharon Hill  
about her tour of Australia

Choice Magazine calls out "dodgy" claims on  
complementary medicine products

The Cass Files - With Dr Cassandra Perryman  
Why people reject the truth

1  
00:00:09,080 --> 00:00:05,920

[Music]

2  
00:00:11,840 --> 00:00:09,090

welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

3  
00:00:13,910 --> 00:00:11,850

from Australia for science and reason

4  
00:00:16,840 --> 00:00:13,920

[Music]

5  
00:00:22,160 --> 00:00:16,850

[Applause]

6  
00:00:24,690 --> 00:00:22,170

[Music]

7  
00:00:29,850 --> 00:00:24,700

yes it's the skeptic zone podcast

8  
00:00:32,280 --> 00:00:29,860

episode number 501 over the 500 mark

9  
00:00:34,500 --> 00:00:32,290

here we go let's see what snakes huh

10  
00:00:38,760 --> 00:00:34,510

1,000 yes we'll get to that presently

11  
00:00:40,799 --> 00:00:38,770

mm-hmm 501 for the 27th of May 2018

12  
00:00:42,570 --> 00:00:40,809

Richard Saunders here with you from

13  
00:00:47,610 --> 00:00:42,580

Sydney Australia on a very nice-looking

14

00:00:51,240 --> 00:00:47,620

day outside I'm a little bit a little

15

00:00:53,610 --> 00:00:51,250

bit tired had a late shift last night

16

00:00:55,799 --> 00:00:53,620

doing some research work for the New

17

00:00:59,660 --> 00:00:55,809

South Wales government at the vivid

18

00:01:01,890 --> 00:00:59,670

festival of lights in Sydney we have

19

00:01:03,840 --> 00:01:01,900

thousands and thousands of people

20

00:01:06,690 --> 00:01:03,850

crowded downtown to look at light

21

00:01:09,120 --> 00:01:06,700

displays and feel very late and it's

22

00:01:10,980 --> 00:01:09,130

quite an event coming up on this week's

23

00:01:13,830 --> 00:01:10,990

show where you're getting to interview

24

00:01:16,260 --> 00:01:13,840

an old friend of mine Sharon Hill Sharon

25

00:01:18,390 --> 00:01:16,270

Hill who unfurl recently was doing

26

00:01:20,580 --> 00:01:18,400

doubtful news still doing lots of

27

00:01:22,500 --> 00:01:20,590

skeptical stuff and Sharon Hill is

28

00:01:26,160 --> 00:01:22,510

coming to Australia to take part in

29

00:01:28,710 --> 00:01:26,170

Paracon coming up next month and she'll

30

00:01:31,290 --> 00:01:28,720

also be visiting Melbourne all the

31

00:01:33,450 --> 00:01:31,300

details coming up with Sharon Hill at

32

00:01:36,960 --> 00:01:33,460

the top of the show following that we

33

00:01:40,800 --> 00:01:36,970

have a report or a plea a call for help

34

00:01:42,480 --> 00:01:40,810

from choice magazine who are fighting

35

00:01:45,510 --> 00:01:42,490

the good fight when it comes to

36

00:01:48,210 --> 00:01:45,520

regulation concerning packaging on

37

00:01:50,820 --> 00:01:48,220

medicine how should it be labeled what

38

00:01:53,850 --> 00:01:50,830

claims can it make what claims should it

39

00:01:56,850 --> 00:01:53,860

make or should not make and how you if

40

00:01:59,370 --> 00:01:56,860

you're in Australia can help with this

41

00:02:01,710 --> 00:01:59,380

choice campaign then to round off the

42

00:02:05,480 --> 00:02:01,720

show the return of the cast's files with

43

00:02:09,690 --> 00:02:05,490

dr. Cassandra Perryman she's going to be

44

00:02:11,670 --> 00:02:09,700

looking at what is truth or more

45

00:02:14,699 --> 00:02:11,680

importantly why do people hang on to

46

00:02:17,130 --> 00:02:14,709

lies or why do people keep believing

47

00:02:18,720 --> 00:02:17,140

things that are the monster bleah untrue

48

00:02:21,420 --> 00:02:18,730

or you know I think I can you get the

49

00:02:23,309 --> 00:02:21,430

idea it's always a psychological

50

00:02:25,460 --> 00:02:23,319

adventure with dr. Cassandra Perryman

51  
00:02:29,070 --> 00:02:25,470  
and that's coming up to wrap up the show

52  
00:02:33,540 --> 00:02:29,080  
now folks is a little reward to myself

53  
00:02:33,790 --> 00:02:33,550  
after the last show 500 went out to the

54  
00:02:35,800 --> 00:02:33,800  
way

55  
00:02:38,740 --> 00:02:35,810  
in world I took a few days off and

56  
00:02:39,220 --> 00:02:38,750  
visited my friend Jim Wilshire he's this

57  
00:02:42,220 --> 00:02:39,230  
man

58  
00:02:44,800 --> 00:02:42,230  
welcome to the skeptic Zone the podcast

59  
00:02:48,100 --> 00:02:44,810  
from Australia for science and reason

60  
00:02:51,340 --> 00:02:48,110  
and he lives on a little property little

61  
00:02:53,200 --> 00:02:51,350  
farmhouse near the city of Aubry in New

62  
00:02:56,050 --> 00:02:53,210  
South Wales along the beautiful Murray

63  
00:02:57,670 --> 00:02:56,060

River and what a treat it is to relax

64

00:02:59,410 --> 00:02:57,680

down there on a farm for a few days

65

00:03:01,390 --> 00:02:59,420

after five hundred episodes I think I

66

00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:01,400

deserved a few days to get myself

67

00:03:06,610 --> 00:03:04,910

together thanks Jim I hope to see you

68

00:03:08,800 --> 00:03:06,620

again a bit later on in the year and

69

00:03:12,460 --> 00:03:08,810

thank you to all the people who send in

70

00:03:15,730 --> 00:03:12,470

messages of congratulations on Facebook

71

00:03:17,320 --> 00:03:15,740

and in person and on Twitter and

72

00:03:21,780 --> 00:03:17,330

everywhere else for the sceptic zone

73

00:03:24,550 --> 00:03:21,790

reaching me 500 episode milestone mark

74

00:03:27,580 --> 00:03:24,560

stay tuned at the end of the show for

75

00:03:30,400 --> 00:03:27,590

more messages from me but now it's time

76  
00:03:34,570 --> 00:03:30,410  
for me to run downstairs and have some

77  
00:03:36,130 --> 00:03:34,580  
lemon tea Oh feeling still a little bit

78  
00:03:38,380 --> 00:03:36,140  
tired after last night it was a very

79  
00:03:42,640 --> 00:03:38,390  
late night and I'm up early this morning

80  
00:03:45,670 --> 00:03:42,650  
to record the introduction for the show

81  
00:03:48,160 --> 00:03:45,680  
before before the flight path or the

82  
00:03:50,250 --> 00:03:48,170  
flight corridor which goes over the

83  
00:03:53,229 --> 00:03:50,260  
studios opens up for Sydney Airport

84  
00:03:57,190 --> 00:03:53,239  
because then every three or four minutes

85  
00:03:59,770 --> 00:03:57,200  
a whacking great jumbo jet or her a380

86  
00:04:02,080 --> 00:03:59,780  
or whatever comes over but while I enjoy

87  
00:04:04,630 --> 00:04:02,090  
my lemon tea I might have lemon and

88  
00:04:04,900 --> 00:04:04,640

ginger tea I hope you enjoy the skeptic

89

00:04:24,540 --> 00:04:04,910

Sam

90

00:04:27,340 --> 00:04:24,550

[Music]

91

00:04:29,350 --> 00:04:27,350

and joining me now all the way from

92

00:04:31,570 --> 00:04:29,360

Harrisburg Pennsylvania I have not

93

00:04:35,200 --> 00:04:31,580

visited Harrisburg Pennsylvania but if I

94

00:04:37,540 --> 00:04:35,210

do I'd certainly call on Sharon Hill

95

00:04:39,939 --> 00:04:37,550

hello Sharon hi Richard it's good to

96

00:04:43,900 --> 00:04:39,949

talk to you yes it's been a while since

97

00:04:45,279 --> 00:04:43,910

we've had a chat normally we I have the

98

00:04:47,110 --> 00:04:45,289

pleasure of bumping into you at

99

00:04:50,770 --> 00:04:47,120

something like the amazing meeting or

100

00:04:53,200 --> 00:04:50,780

various conventions but not not recently

101

00:04:56,529 --> 00:04:53,210

I don't think what is what as Sharon

102

00:04:58,029 --> 00:04:56,539

Hill been up to and I understand that

103

00:05:00,879 --> 00:04:58,039

you're not concentrating on doubtful

104

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:00,889

news at the moment that's right we sort

105

00:05:05,950 --> 00:05:04,010

of wrapped that up maybe it ran its

106

00:05:09,070 --> 00:05:05,960

course maybe the whole fake news thing

107

00:05:10,629 --> 00:05:09,080

just sort of overwhelmed everybody and I

108

00:05:13,659 --> 00:05:10,639

decided to move on to a couple new

109

00:05:16,810 --> 00:05:13,669

things and I finished a new book my

110

00:05:18,820 --> 00:05:16,820

first book called scientific Americans

111

00:05:22,810 --> 00:05:18,830

yeah and it's about the culture of

112

00:05:25,210 --> 00:05:22,820

amateur paranormal investigators so it's

113

00:05:26,620 --> 00:05:25,220

about how sort of like science and how

114

00:05:28,270 --> 00:05:26,630

they understand science how they try to

115

00:05:30,190 --> 00:05:28,280

use science so it's more lit more about

116

00:05:31,570 --> 00:05:30,200

the public understanding of science but

117

00:05:34,050 --> 00:05:31,580

focusing in on those paranormal

118

00:05:36,690 --> 00:05:34,060

researchers and what they do yeah and

119

00:05:40,330 --> 00:05:36,700

I've also started a new website called

120

00:05:41,620 --> 00:05:40,340

spooky geology dumb comm yeah and yeah

121

00:05:46,089 --> 00:05:41,630

we could talk about that

122

00:05:47,890 --> 00:05:46,099

and just been blogging on my own and

123

00:05:50,320 --> 00:05:47,900

reading lots of books and listening to

124

00:05:52,420 --> 00:05:50,330

podcasts and reading lots of magazines

125

00:05:54,909 --> 00:05:52,430

that's that's what I like to do that's

126

00:05:56,409 --> 00:05:54,919

it that doesn't sound too bad at all now

127

00:06:00,100 --> 00:05:56,419

let's have a chat about the book is that

128

00:06:02,370 --> 00:06:00,110

available right now yes absolutely mad

129

00:06:04,980 --> 00:06:02,380

at the very very end of last year and

130

00:06:07,540 --> 00:06:04,990

you know you can look it up on Amazon's

131

00:06:10,750 --> 00:06:07,550

scientific Americans sort of a play on

132

00:06:13,120 --> 00:06:10,760

scientific American's because what I saw

133

00:06:17,020 --> 00:06:13,130

these people doing was not quite science

134

00:06:17,290 --> 00:06:17,030

it was sort of scientific sciency

135

00:06:19,629 --> 00:06:17,300

stuff

136

00:06:22,959 --> 00:06:19,639

yes well look folks I will

137

00:06:25,450 --> 00:06:22,969

to the the link there to Sharon's book

138

00:06:27,100 --> 00:06:25,460

on the on this week's show notes but

139

00:06:28,570 --> 00:06:27,110

let's just chat about this for a little

140

00:06:31,360 --> 00:06:28,580

while Sharon because I find this a very

141

00:06:34,050 --> 00:06:31,370

fascinating topic and I have been on

142

00:06:36,719 --> 00:06:34,060

more than my fair share of ghost

143

00:06:39,490 --> 00:06:36,729

investigations with the paranormal crew

144

00:06:41,860 --> 00:06:39,500

right with their black t-shirts which

145

00:06:46,300 --> 00:06:41,870

they seem to like or their camouflage

146

00:06:48,369 --> 00:06:46,310

Agia lovely people by the way but we may

147

00:06:51,909 --> 00:06:48,379

hide a nine in fact and our friend

148

00:06:54,279 --> 00:06:51,919

ilithya Dean we went for a night here

149

00:06:57,219 --> 00:06:54,289

in Sydney in the fields of Mars Cemetery

150

00:07:00,249 --> 00:06:57,229

where all sorts of spooky things didn't

151  
00:07:03,309 --> 00:07:00,259  
really happen but they had no end of

152  
00:07:06,459 --> 00:07:03,319  
gadgets and gizmos and all sorts of

153  
00:07:08,230 --> 00:07:06,469  
things that made lights and noises right

154  
00:07:10,149 --> 00:07:08,240  
right that's part of the whole science

155  
00:07:12,249 --> 00:07:10,159  
ll thing they're sort of conjuring this

156  
00:07:16,409 --> 00:07:12,259  
image of scientific authority with the

157  
00:07:19,600 --> 00:07:16,419  
gadgets and with this sense of being

158  
00:07:23,350 --> 00:07:19,610  
systematic and and taking collecting

159  
00:07:25,570 --> 00:07:23,360  
data and getting evidence and and using

160  
00:07:27,579 --> 00:07:25,580  
a lot of jargon as well as the gadgets

161  
00:07:29,619 --> 00:07:27,589  
and these are the sort of ways that they

162  
00:07:32,140 --> 00:07:29,629  
conjure that scientific authority and

163  
00:07:34,570 --> 00:07:32,150

the public kind of falls for it they

164

00:07:37,140 --> 00:07:34,580

they tend to see them as some sort of

165

00:07:40,480 --> 00:07:37,150

paranormal experts and professionals and

166

00:07:42,339 --> 00:07:40,490

that's kind of unfortunate but it does

167

00:07:44,680 --> 00:07:42,349

show that these people are kind of

168

00:07:47,320 --> 00:07:44,690

trying to use science they're just

169

00:07:49,439 --> 00:07:47,330

falling short so I in the book I talk

170

00:07:52,329 --> 00:07:49,449

about not only ghost hunters but also

171

00:07:53,769 --> 00:07:52,339

cryptozoologist and ufologists who sort

172

00:07:55,450 --> 00:07:53,779

of do the same thing in a different way

173

00:07:57,730 --> 00:07:55,460

each each of the fields is slightly

174

00:07:59,379 --> 00:07:57,740

different and I talk about how science

175

00:08:02,079 --> 00:07:59,389

has sort of looked at these fields

176  
00:08:04,779 --> 00:08:02,089  
already and discovered that there isn't

177  
00:08:08,230 --> 00:08:04,789  
really anything there to investigate so

178  
00:08:10,209 --> 00:08:08,240  
when the scientists left the public is

179  
00:08:12,999 --> 00:08:10,219  
still really interested in this and the

180  
00:08:15,730 --> 00:08:13,009  
amateurs filled that void and now that

181  
00:08:17,649 --> 00:08:15,740  
if you think you've seen a Bigfoot or if

182  
00:08:19,480 --> 00:08:17,659  
you've spotted a UFO or if you think

183  
00:08:21,610 --> 00:08:19,490  
your house is haunted you call on these

184  
00:08:24,749 --> 00:08:21,620  
amateur investigators and they come

185  
00:08:28,420 --> 00:08:24,759  
right over now I don't want I'm not

186  
00:08:30,699 --> 00:08:28,430  
trying to be funny here well not

187  
00:08:32,199 --> 00:08:30,709  
necessarily but if folks just can

188  
00:08:33,550 --> 00:08:32,209

visualize maybe a scene from

189

00:08:35,980 --> 00:08:33,560

Ghostbusters where the

190

00:08:37,240 --> 00:08:35,990

the heroes strolling through the haunted

191

00:08:40,060 --> 00:08:37,250

location and they're looking at their

192

00:08:42,339 --> 00:08:40,070

gadgets in their arms and lights are

193

00:08:45,150 --> 00:08:42,349

flashing well it's it's not too far

194

00:08:48,220 --> 00:08:45,160

removed from that and I'm not trying to

195

00:08:52,390 --> 00:08:48,230

descend it up but just in reality that's

196

00:08:53,680 --> 00:08:52,400

what is the sort of thing again yeah I'd

197

00:08:55,870 --> 00:08:53,690

hate to say it but it's true that

198

00:09:01,240 --> 00:08:55,880

Ghostbusters has actually influenced a

199

00:09:02,980 --> 00:09:01,250

couple people looks really cool and have

200

00:09:05,500 --> 00:09:02,990

you come across these wonderful devices

201  
00:09:08,980 --> 00:09:05,510  
now what were they called I think it was

202  
00:09:11,470 --> 00:09:08,990  
called a spirit box which is a machine

203  
00:09:18,360 --> 00:09:11,480  
if we thinking about the same machine

204  
00:09:20,890 --> 00:09:18,370  
which rapidly scans am frequencies no

205  
00:09:22,420 --> 00:09:20,900  
chitraju like that then if it comes

206  
00:09:25,269 --> 00:09:22,430  
across a word it plays the word then

207  
00:09:26,980 --> 00:09:25,279  
moves on to the next frequency right you

208  
00:09:28,360 --> 00:09:26,990  
get those little snippets of sound and

209  
00:09:31,329 --> 00:09:28,370  
then your brain sort of puts them

210  
00:09:33,670 --> 00:09:31,339  
together and it feels like it makes

211  
00:09:36,730 --> 00:09:33,680  
sense it feels like something ethereal

212  
00:09:39,010 --> 00:09:36,740  
is speaking to you yeah there's a lot of

213  
00:09:41,230 --> 00:09:39,020

pareidolia involved in in ghost hunting

214

00:09:43,810 --> 00:09:41,240

in particular that in all their data

215

00:09:46,030 --> 00:09:43,820

they see something that isn't really

216

00:09:48,820 --> 00:09:46,040

there so they sort of imprint their in

217

00:09:50,290 --> 00:09:48,830

their entire worldview on it and they

218

00:09:53,410 --> 00:09:50,300

get something out of it where the rest

219

00:09:55,720 --> 00:09:53,420

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

220

00:09:57,880 --> 00:09:55,730

people I've had people send me EVPs

221

00:10:00,160 --> 00:09:57,890

electronic voice phenomenon you know

222

00:10:02,320 --> 00:10:00,170

that they record mm-hmm if they don't

223

00:10:04,480 --> 00:10:02,330

hear it when they record it but then

224

00:10:06,070 --> 00:10:04,490

they hear it afterwards I sort of like

225

00:10:07,960 --> 00:10:06,080

clicks and glitches and stuff but they

226

00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:07,970

hear words and I've had people send me

227

00:10:12,130 --> 00:10:10,010

these EVPs and says these is absolutely

228

00:10:15,820 --> 00:10:12,140

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

229

00:10:17,680 --> 00:10:15,830

just put my hand over the the YouTube

230

00:10:19,449 --> 00:10:17,690

clip which has the speech at the bottom

231

00:10:21,900 --> 00:10:19,459

translated and I'll try and listen to

232

00:10:24,310 --> 00:10:21,910

what it is and I can never make it out

233

00:10:27,240 --> 00:10:24,320

yeah now just for the benefit of

234

00:10:29,530 --> 00:10:27,250

listeners it may be new to the skeptical

235

00:10:31,360 --> 00:10:29,540

worlds and all this sort of thing can

236

00:10:35,470 --> 00:10:31,370

you give a brief overview of what

237

00:10:38,380 --> 00:10:35,480

pareidolia is right people have this

238

00:10:41,019 --> 00:10:38,390

tendency to see particular patterns in

239

00:10:43,390 --> 00:10:41,029

noise we have a particular tendency to

240

00:10:44,240 --> 00:10:43,400

see faces and things like trees and

241

00:10:47,630 --> 00:10:44,250

rocks and

242

00:10:49,370 --> 00:10:47,640

and inanimate objects and when it in the

243

00:10:51,950 --> 00:10:49,380

term pareidolia means that you are

244

00:10:54,530 --> 00:10:51,960

seeing a figure you're you're making

245

00:10:55,970 --> 00:10:54,540

sense of something that is isn't really

246

00:10:58,400 --> 00:10:55,980

what you think it is but your brain is

247

00:11:00,830 --> 00:10:58,410

sort of filling in the gaps and making

248

00:11:04,310 --> 00:11:00,840

it look like a face or an animal or a

249

00:11:06,380 --> 00:11:04,320

Bigfoot or in the case of sound it's

250

00:11:08,240 --> 00:11:06,390

also doing the same thing it's filling

251  
00:11:09,770 --> 00:11:08,250  
in those gaps and it's trying to match

252  
00:11:12,560 --> 00:11:09,780  
your brain is trying to match up with

253  
00:11:14,330 --> 00:11:12,570  
patterns that it already knows and it's

254  
00:11:16,730 --> 00:11:14,340  
just a human trait and it serves us

255  
00:11:18,590 --> 00:11:16,740  
pretty well especially if we're out in a

256  
00:11:22,520 --> 00:11:18,600  
dangerous situation and we encounter

257  
00:11:25,070 --> 00:11:22,530  
some sound or visual that could signal

258  
00:11:26,840 --> 00:11:25,080  
danger it's a good thing to have but of

259  
00:11:29,270 --> 00:11:26,850  
course in our society today we kind of

260  
00:11:31,750 --> 00:11:29,280  
go overboard with it we are so so much

261  
00:11:34,880 --> 00:11:31,760  
stimulus around us and we tend to see

262  
00:11:37,580 --> 00:11:34,890  
patterns in noise that aren't really

263  
00:11:40,220 --> 00:11:37,590

there yes that's so that's a very good

264

00:11:43,700 --> 00:11:40,230

explanation Sharon that's exactly what

265

00:11:45,890 --> 00:11:43,710

it is and as it happens folks I've got

266

00:11:47,690 --> 00:11:45,900

an example here of this thing we were

267

00:11:49,520 --> 00:11:47,700

discussing the spirit box which involves

268

00:11:51,950 --> 00:11:49,530

what we call audio pareidolia where you

269

00:11:54,140 --> 00:11:51,960

hear random sounds and your brain tries

270

00:11:54,480 --> 00:11:54,150

to make sense of them I have a listen to

271

00:12:04,470 --> 00:11:54,490

this

272

00:12:04,480 --> 00:12:39,100

[Laughter]

273

00:12:44,930 --> 00:12:42,110

so there you go that was a spirit box on

274

00:12:48,170 --> 00:12:44,940

a ghost investigation a weird sort of

275

00:12:52,820 --> 00:12:48,180

sound the human mind is is fascinating

276

00:12:55,150 --> 00:12:52,830

on many levels Sharon but in our line we

277

00:12:58,630 --> 00:12:55,160

certainly see it put to work don't we

278

00:13:01,880 --> 00:12:58,640

right right like I said these people are

279

00:13:05,480 --> 00:13:01,890

very genuine they're passionate about

280

00:13:07,280 --> 00:13:05,490

what they do and they're sort of

281

00:13:10,069 --> 00:13:07,290

committed to the idea that the

282

00:13:12,650 --> 00:13:10,079

paranormal is out there and their intent

283

00:13:15,680 --> 00:13:12,660

on finding it yeah that I I think you're

284

00:13:18,470 --> 00:13:15,690

right and the ones I've met not only is

285

00:13:20,870 --> 00:13:18,480

it for them a social group they belong

286

00:13:23,269 --> 00:13:20,880

to of like-minded people which we all do

287

00:13:24,740 --> 00:13:23,279

which is very important for them you

288

00:13:27,680 --> 00:13:24,750

know we've evolved that way quite

289

00:13:28,850 --> 00:13:27,690

frankly but they feel they're doing

290

00:13:30,860 --> 00:13:28,860

something very important they're

291

00:13:32,840 --> 00:13:30,870

actually they are are actually

292

00:13:35,329 --> 00:13:32,850

contacting spirits or clearing out

293

00:13:37,850 --> 00:13:35,339

things or this is making new discoveries

294

00:13:39,920 --> 00:13:37,860

for science so I to them it gives them a

295

00:13:42,650 --> 00:13:39,930

very important sense of being I think

296

00:13:44,449 --> 00:13:42,660

very true and that I do discuss that in

297

00:13:45,019 --> 00:13:44,459

the book it's part becomes part of their

298

00:13:47,030 --> 00:13:45,029

identity

299

00:13:49,160 --> 00:13:47,040

it's how they identify with other people

300

00:13:51,710 --> 00:13:49,170

and how they interact with the rest of

301  
00:13:53,329 --> 00:13:51,720  
the world and it it makes them feel very

302  
00:13:55,970 --> 00:13:53,339  
special and I think that's really

303  
00:13:58,430 --> 00:13:55,980  
understandable and I like to converse

304  
00:14:00,800 --> 00:13:58,440  
with them I like to talk to them I hope

305  
00:14:05,840 --> 00:14:00,810  
that maybe just these types of exchanges

306  
00:14:08,090 --> 00:14:05,850  
between us could be a way to help foster

307  
00:14:11,329 --> 00:14:08,100  
understanding between the groups yeah

308  
00:14:13,700 --> 00:14:11,339  
and and and again I I really appreciate

309  
00:14:16,020 --> 00:14:13,710  
the fact that you've you

310  
00:14:17,870 --> 00:14:16,030  
acknowledge that this is important to

311  
00:14:20,820 --> 00:14:17,880  
them you know they're just acting like

312  
00:14:22,500 --> 00:14:20,830  
like we all do from time to time you

313  
00:14:25,050 --> 00:14:22,510

know we glad to onto something which is

314

00:14:27,900 --> 00:14:25,060

important to us and and we have that

315

00:14:29,490 --> 00:14:27,910

social bonding so I can't wait you're

316

00:14:31,590 --> 00:14:29,500

very kindly sending me a copy of the

317

00:14:33,830 --> 00:14:31,600

book which I will read with with glee

318

00:14:36,750 --> 00:14:33,840

because I find these groups only

319

00:14:38,220 --> 00:14:36,760

endlessly fascinating and you often come

320

00:14:41,850 --> 00:14:38,230

across them

321

00:14:43,500 --> 00:14:41,860

when I do things like mind/body/spirit

322

00:14:45,390 --> 00:14:43,510

conventions and things right visit

323

00:14:47,850 --> 00:14:45,400

there'll be a table or two tables of the

324

00:14:49,890 --> 00:14:47,860

the so-and-so Ghost Hunters group or the

325

00:14:51,450 --> 00:14:49,900

paranormal investigations unit or the

326

00:14:53,700 --> 00:14:51,460

ghost of that you know that they give

327

00:14:56,820 --> 00:14:53,710

themselves these these names too right

328

00:14:58,350 --> 00:14:56,830

that's part of the authority they use

329

00:15:01,500 --> 00:14:58,360

they give themselves important names

330

00:15:04,050 --> 00:15:01,510

acronyms titles and makes them sound

331

00:15:06,540 --> 00:15:04,060

very credible it really does now what's

332

00:15:08,910 --> 00:15:06,550

this about geology well you know I am a

333

00:15:11,190 --> 00:15:08,920

geologist and I figured I probably

334

00:15:14,310 --> 00:15:11,200

should talk a little bit about geology

335

00:15:17,670 --> 00:15:14,320

in relation to paranormal topics because

336

00:15:19,320 --> 00:15:17,680

the two interact and they interact and

337

00:15:21,810 --> 00:15:19,330

it's sort of an interesting way I mean

338

00:15:26,360 --> 00:15:21,820

spookiness about geology I can think of

339

00:15:29,250 --> 00:15:26,370

a lot of topics that cover ideas about

340

00:15:32,990 --> 00:15:29,260

places and phenomena chiral phenomenon

341

00:15:35,540 --> 00:15:33,000

that people sometimes believe have

342

00:15:39,660 --> 00:15:35,550

magical or mystical or supernatural

343

00:15:43,320 --> 00:15:39,670

causes but instead they may have actual

344

00:15:45,180 --> 00:15:43,330

physical geological causes so I decided

345

00:15:47,220 --> 00:15:45,190

to start a website and start researching

346

00:15:51,030 --> 00:15:47,230

these topics and see what I could find

347

00:15:53,370 --> 00:15:51,040

so what I talked about on this site are

348

00:15:55,320 --> 00:15:53,380

things like alternative geological

349

00:15:57,780 --> 00:15:55,330

explanations so like the Flat Earth

350

00:16:00,260 --> 00:15:57,790

which involves not only sometimes

351

00:16:03,350 --> 00:16:00,270

religious beliefs but also

352

00:16:05,850 --> 00:16:03,360

conspiratorial beliefs as well and

353

00:16:07,650 --> 00:16:05,860

things like earth energies people think

354

00:16:10,140 --> 00:16:07,660

that the earth has some sort of energy

355

00:16:13,320 --> 00:16:10,150

lines so that's connected to ideas of

356

00:16:16,110 --> 00:16:13,330

ghost lights such as your the minmin

357

00:16:19,260 --> 00:16:16,120

lights in in Queensland oh yes and of

358

00:16:21,630 --> 00:16:19,270

course dowsing is said to be following

359

00:16:23,610 --> 00:16:21,640

lines of energy in the earth and you

360

00:16:26,980 --> 00:16:23,620

have these energy vortexes where you can

361

00:16:28,929 --> 00:16:26,990

have these spiritual experiences

362

00:16:32,169 --> 00:16:28,939

there's also places that that have

363

00:16:34,540 --> 00:16:32,179

so-called mystical powers like Delphi in

364

00:16:37,660 --> 00:16:34,550

Greece or LaRue

365

00:16:39,160 --> 00:16:37,670

in Australia which is a very spiritual

366

00:16:42,369 --> 00:16:39,170

place and people feel that they have

367

00:16:44,230 --> 00:16:42,379

these these interesting experiences

368

00:16:46,540 --> 00:16:44,240

there absolutely I also talked about

369

00:16:48,040 --> 00:16:46,550

things like so-called gates to the

370

00:16:49,600 --> 00:16:48,050

underworld or people think that they

371

00:16:53,139 --> 00:16:49,610

could actually enter the underworld or

372

00:16:56,439 --> 00:16:53,149

gates to hell and a curious recent

373

00:16:58,629 --> 00:16:56,449

example that I just wrote about was the

374

00:17:00,999 --> 00:16:58,639

eruptions in Hawaii that are going on

375

00:17:04,329 --> 00:17:01,009

right now and they see is is the

376

00:17:07,600 --> 00:17:04,339

prompting of people to start making

377

00:17:10,569 --> 00:17:07,610

gifts to give to the goddess Pele to try

378

00:17:13,029 --> 00:17:10,579

to stop the eruptions and that's an

379

00:17:15,279 --> 00:17:13,039

interesting spiritual and mythical

380

00:17:16,600 --> 00:17:15,289

aspect to a very natural geologic

381

00:17:18,250 --> 00:17:16,610

phenomenon so those are the kind of

382

00:17:21,370 --> 00:17:18,260

things that I talk about well that's

383

00:17:24,220 --> 00:17:21,380

more there than I would have thought but

384

00:17:25,750 --> 00:17:24,230

you're absolutely right it does tie in a

385

00:17:28,449 --> 00:17:25,760

lot with the paranormal when we think of

386

00:17:31,630 --> 00:17:28,459

what they call the the ley lines for

387

00:17:33,750 --> 00:17:31,640

example right earth energies earase I've

388

00:17:36,070 --> 00:17:33,760

heard all this sort of thing and

389

00:17:39,639 --> 00:17:36,080

certainly around the world

390

00:17:41,769 --> 00:17:39,649

things like uluru ayres rock have strong

391

00:17:44,380 --> 00:17:41,779

spiritual connections to people so yeah

392

00:17:45,909 --> 00:17:44,390

what a fascinating topic I don't think

393

00:17:48,760 --> 00:17:45,919

I'll ever run out of topics for that

394

00:17:52,870 --> 00:17:48,770

because I I think that I've made my list

395

00:17:56,289 --> 00:17:52,880

complete and I just find more every day

396

00:17:57,419 --> 00:17:56,299

right now I'm working on a long piece it

397

00:18:00,460 --> 00:17:57,429

turned out to be longer than I thought

398

00:18:03,610 --> 00:18:00,470

about places with the devil in their

399

00:18:07,029 --> 00:18:03,620

name so devil places Devils Tower

400

00:18:09,940 --> 00:18:07,039

Devil's kitchen Devil's Den and why do

401  
00:18:11,409 --> 00:18:09,950  
they have those names so I I start to

402  
00:18:12,669 --> 00:18:11,419  
talk about that so that's what I'm

403  
00:18:15,730 --> 00:18:12,679  
working on right now that'll be my next

404  
00:18:19,149 --> 00:18:15,740  
post on the site that's interesting when

405  
00:18:22,930 --> 00:18:19,159  
I was a little boy growing up in a small

406  
00:18:24,940 --> 00:18:22,940  
country town there was a tiny River a

407  
00:18:26,950 --> 00:18:24,950  
couple of miles out of town where I used

408  
00:18:29,260 --> 00:18:26,960  
to go and my bike and we'd fish at

409  
00:18:35,190 --> 00:18:29,270  
devil's elbow which was just a bending

410  
00:18:38,260 --> 00:18:35,200  
right bend in the river I never knew why

411  
00:18:38,980 --> 00:18:38,270  
usually that the nasty bends are called

412  
00:18:39,970 --> 00:18:38,990  
Devil's elbow

413  
00:18:47,770 --> 00:18:39,980

there's also Devils

414

00:18:49,530 --> 00:18:47,780

wind pipe and Devil's Backbone there

415

00:18:54,909 --> 00:18:49,540

must be many of them around the world

416

00:18:57,730 --> 00:18:54,919

too many I discovered we'll have to look

417

00:19:00,640 --> 00:18:57,740

some up now the exciting news for Sydney

418

00:19:02,770 --> 00:19:00,650

listeners and the terrible news for me

419

00:19:06,340 --> 00:19:02,780

is because I won't be here and I'm

420

00:19:08,260 --> 00:19:06,350

really regretting that because I I do so

421

00:19:09,909 --> 00:19:08,270

like to catch up with you however the

422

00:19:13,990 --> 00:19:09,919

good news for Sydney listeners is you're

423

00:19:17,049 --> 00:19:14,000

coming to town for Paracon Australia

424

00:19:19,600 --> 00:19:17,059

which is on the weekend of the 16th of

425

00:19:21,880 --> 00:19:19,610

June and you're going to be talking

426

00:19:23,860 --> 00:19:21,890

that's at the manly quarantine station

427

00:19:26,560 --> 00:19:23,870

folks for those Sydney listeners that

428

00:19:28,690 --> 00:19:26,570

looks to be an exciting time I've spoken

429

00:19:30,460 --> 00:19:28,700

at this conference myself before a

430

00:19:31,690 --> 00:19:30,470

couple of years back I was one of the

431

00:19:33,880 --> 00:19:31,700

guest speakers and I had a wonderful

432

00:19:35,230 --> 00:19:33,890

time with great people I saw all sorts

433

00:19:37,480 --> 00:19:35,240

of all sorts of interesting things

434

00:19:40,240 --> 00:19:37,490

especially ghost hunters and I bought a

435

00:19:42,730 --> 00:19:40,250

ghost laser I must admit I bought a

436

00:19:43,930 --> 00:19:42,740

laser which is designed to detect ghosts

437

00:19:46,419 --> 00:19:43,940

which I have which i think is really

438

00:19:48,669 --> 00:19:46,429

great what can people expect when you

439

00:19:52,780 --> 00:19:48,679

come out cheran well I'm really excited

440

00:19:54,520 --> 00:19:52,790

that the first day I'm giving a talk in

441

00:19:56,530 --> 00:19:54,530

the morning about misadventures and

442

00:19:58,240 --> 00:19:56,540

paranormal investigation so it does so

443

00:20:00,600 --> 00:19:58,250

to focus on the things that I talk about

444

00:20:02,710 --> 00:20:00,610

in the book but it also includes some

445

00:20:05,260 --> 00:20:02,720

well what I'm trying to do is just

446

00:20:07,960 --> 00:20:05,270

develop a rapport with with this crowd

447

00:20:10,270 --> 00:20:07,970

which is a they're all most mostly going

448

00:20:11,890 --> 00:20:10,280

to be paranormal investigators so it's

449

00:20:13,630 --> 00:20:11,900

very different crowd that I normally

450

00:20:15,909 --> 00:20:13,640

speak to so I want to make that

451  
00:20:18,549 --> 00:20:15,919  
connection and I want to be able to have

452  
00:20:20,590 --> 00:20:18,559  
these discussions with them and and sort

453  
00:20:21,940 --> 00:20:20,600  
of figure out what they're all about and

454  
00:20:23,770 --> 00:20:21,950  
maybe they could figure out what I'm all

455  
00:20:26,020 --> 00:20:23,780  
about and we can meet at some level and

456  
00:20:29,159 --> 00:20:26,030  
have some some cool discussions so I'm

457  
00:20:32,909 --> 00:20:29,169  
really looking forward to that and then

458  
00:20:37,480 --> 00:20:32,919  
the second day I'm going to be giving a

459  
00:20:41,049 --> 00:20:37,490  
lunch talk on spooky geology and we're

460  
00:20:42,909 --> 00:20:41,059  
also doing a panel me and Paul cropper

461  
00:20:45,130 --> 00:20:42,919  
and Toni Healy we're doing a panel about

462  
00:20:48,130 --> 00:20:45,140  
the Yowie so I'm really excited about

463  
00:20:50,320 --> 00:20:48,140

that maybe I should change my plans I'm

464

00:20:52,900 --> 00:20:50,330

so sorry I won't be there I'm going to

465

00:20:56,770 --> 00:20:52,910

send me not our reporter may not

466

00:20:58,690 --> 00:20:56,780

yes the goose of the skeptics and he

467

00:21:01,330 --> 00:20:58,700

should be there and I guess again I'm

468

00:21:03,820 --> 00:21:01,340

very jealous and unfortunately I won't

469

00:21:07,290 --> 00:21:03,830

be there I really want if you want to

470

00:21:10,030 --> 00:21:07,300

see Sharon he'll live in Australia and

471

00:21:11,470 --> 00:21:10,040

it's worth really she's worth scenes

472

00:21:13,050 --> 00:21:11,480

he's a great speaker I've had the

473

00:21:16,840 --> 00:21:13,060

pleasure of seeing her speak many times

474

00:21:18,670 --> 00:21:16,850

para con Australia calm is the website

475

00:21:20,380 --> 00:21:18,680

to go to for more information to get

476

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:20,390

your tickets and I'll certainly link to

477

00:21:24,880 --> 00:21:22,010

that in the show notes

478

00:21:28,420 --> 00:21:24,890

let me just add for your Melbourne

479

00:21:30,970 --> 00:21:28,430

listeners who I will be making a side

480

00:21:33,880 --> 00:21:30,980

trip to Melbourne for the Australian

481

00:21:37,210 --> 00:21:33,890

skeptics in Victoria meeting on Monday

482

00:21:38,830 --> 00:21:37,220

the 18th of June that's great great

483

00:21:40,990 --> 00:21:38,840

Melbourne listeners there you are you

484

00:21:43,300 --> 00:21:41,000

don't have to buy your plane tickets to

485

00:21:45,580 --> 00:21:43,310

Sydney after all this yeah Sharon Hill

486

00:21:47,290 --> 00:21:45,590

and the Vic skeptics are a wonderful

487

00:21:50,230 --> 00:21:47,300

group of people I've had the pleasure of

488

00:21:52,690 --> 00:21:50,240

speaking down there myself quite a few

489

00:21:54,310 --> 00:21:52,700

times and I again I will link to that on

490

00:21:56,100 --> 00:21:54,320

the show notes so there you are Sydney

491

00:21:58,360 --> 00:21:56,110

and Melbourne you're in for a treat

492

00:22:00,100 --> 00:21:58,370

change your plans you know if you're

493

00:22:02,530 --> 00:22:00,110

getting married that day forget about it

494

00:22:04,390 --> 00:22:02,540

just cancel the wedding it's worth it to

495

00:22:07,090 --> 00:22:04,400

see Sharon Hill Sharon Hill all the way

496

00:22:09,130 --> 00:22:07,100

from Harrisburg in Pennsylvania thank

497

00:22:11,350 --> 00:22:09,140

you very much for being on the skipping

498

00:22:12,610 --> 00:22:11,360

zone oh you're very welcome was

499

00:22:27,440 --> 00:22:12,620

wonderful talk to you Richard

500

00:22:30,390 --> 00:22:27,450

[Music]

501  
00:22:36,460 --> 00:22:34,330  
so yes simply hey Sal you guys guys I

502  
00:22:38,470 --> 00:22:36,470  
just had the most amazing experience

503  
00:22:40,120 --> 00:22:38,480  
what experience under us under heavy

504  
00:22:42,250 --> 00:22:40,130  
been to the pub children not to hang out

505  
00:22:44,680 --> 00:22:42,260  
with mash you know she was blessed by

506  
00:22:47,530 --> 00:22:44,690  
peter Popoff no Jelena I'm not talking

507  
00:22:49,510 --> 00:22:47,540  
about psychics it was a really SP

508  
00:22:51,040 --> 00:22:49,520  
experience now you have been to the pub

509  
00:22:51,640 --> 00:22:51,050  
either that or you've been smoking

510  
00:22:54,250 --> 00:22:51,650  
something

511  
00:22:56,470 --> 00:22:54,260  
no punters the ESB is the European

512  
00:22:58,630 --> 00:22:56,480  
sceptics podcast it's the most amazing

513  
00:23:00,370 --> 00:22:58,640

thing you get to know so much about

514

00:23:03,370 --> 00:23:00,380

sceptics and their activities across

515

00:23:05,140 --> 00:23:03,380

Europe you know events hot topics and

516

00:23:07,390 --> 00:23:05,150

interviews with lots of interesting

517

00:23:08,680 --> 00:23:07,400

people oh wow cool by the way punters

518

00:23:11,350 --> 00:23:08,690

you just come into the false dichotomy

519

00:23:13,060 --> 00:23:11,360

fallacy I guess that means I'm really

520

00:23:14,560 --> 00:23:13,070

wrong yep

521

00:23:16,510 --> 00:23:14,570

then you can even learn about those

522

00:23:19,030 --> 00:23:16,520

fallacies in the show and hear about

523

00:23:21,610 --> 00:23:19,040

people spreading silly ideas you should

524

00:23:24,550 --> 00:23:21,620

really check it out it's the ESP the

525

00:23:27,400 --> 00:23:24,560

European sceptics podcast it's on never

526

00:23:29,770 --> 00:23:27,410

weak alright so where can I get this is

527

00:23:32,770 --> 00:23:29,780

the experience it sounds good you can go

528

00:23:36,160 --> 00:23:32,780

online at the ESP door to you follow it

529

00:23:39,130 --> 00:23:36,170

on twitter at es podcast underscore EU

530

00:23:40,840 --> 00:23:39,140

or like the podcast and Facebook oh and

531

00:23:45,610 --> 00:23:40,850

you can also contact the show by sending

532

00:23:48,100 --> 00:23:45,620

them an email to info at the ESPE you

533

00:23:50,800 --> 00:23:48,110

and if you want to subscribe do a quick

534

00:23:57,160 --> 00:23:50,810

search for the European skeptic podcast

535

00:24:02,460 --> 00:23:57,170

on soundcloud iTunes or stitcher I don't

536

00:24:16,919 --> 00:24:13,069

[Music]

537

00:24:21,389 --> 00:24:16,929

from our friends at choice magazine put

538

00:24:23,129 --> 00:24:21,399

fact over fiction proposed laws could

539

00:24:25,879 --> 00:24:23,139

see dangerous and potentially misleading

540

00:24:27,959 --> 00:24:25,889

claims on therapeutic goods especially

541

00:24:30,949 --> 00:24:27,969

complementary and alternative medicines

542

00:24:33,419 --> 00:24:30,959

like herbal and homeopathic treatments

543

00:24:35,519 --> 00:24:33,429

it means that products can claim to

544

00:24:37,859 --> 00:24:35,529

decrease the time it takes to fall

545

00:24:40,079 --> 00:24:37,869

asleep or help maintain healthy heart

546

00:24:49,589 --> 00:24:40,089

function without having scientific

547

00:24:52,409 --> 00:24:49,599

evidence to back up their claims to get

548

00:24:55,649 --> 00:24:52,419

our leaders attention we've produced our

549

00:24:57,509 --> 00:24:55,659

own vitamin bottles and labeled them

550

00:24:59,669 --> 00:24:57,519

with the claims vitamin companies are

551  
00:25:02,519 --> 00:24:59,679  
able to get away with under the proposed

552  
00:25:05,369 --> 00:25:02,529  
laws if this legislation isn't stopped

553  
00:25:07,079 --> 00:25:05,379  
by the 25th of June 2018 products like

554  
00:25:09,959 --> 00:25:07,089  
these will be allowed to be sold in

555  
00:25:13,379 --> 00:25:09,969  
chemists and supermarkets tell senators

556  
00:25:15,599 --> 00:25:13,389  
to knock back these laws so Australians

557  
00:25:18,359 --> 00:25:15,609  
looking for vitamins and supplements can

558  
00:25:20,519 --> 00:25:18,369  
separate fact from fiction we photograph

559  
00:25:22,709 --> 00:25:20,529  
accompanying the website which I shall

560  
00:25:26,789 --> 00:25:22,719  
link to in the show notes as medicine

561  
00:25:31,319 --> 00:25:26,799  
bottles labeled bio essential heart

562  
00:25:31,979 --> 00:25:31,329  
health sleep well liver detox how did we

563  
00:25:35,879 --> 00:25:31,989

get here

564

00:25:38,759 --> 00:25:35,889

these laws arose from a 2015 review into

565

00:25:41,219 --> 00:25:38,769

medicines and medical devices the review

566

00:25:44,399 --> 00:25:41,229

recommended that when making product

567

00:25:46,560 --> 00:25:44,409

claims therapeutic goods companies must

568

00:25:49,560 --> 00:25:46,570

choose from a list of pre-approved

569

00:25:51,569 --> 00:25:49,570

claims it also recommended that there

570

00:25:54,329 --> 00:25:51,579

needed to be a disclaimer alongside

571

00:25:57,389 --> 00:25:54,339

claims to communicate to consumers that

572

00:26:00,359 --> 00:25:57,399

the efficacy of the product had not been

573

00:26:02,909 --> 00:26:00,369

independently assessed and/or is based

574

00:26:04,769 --> 00:26:02,919

on traditional use while the federal

575

00:26:07,619 --> 00:26:04,779

government agreed to this recommendation

576

00:26:10,859 --> 00:26:07,629

it was not implemented in the way it was

577

00:26:13,680 --> 00:26:10,869

envisaged rather than a concise list of

578

00:26:15,120 --> 00:26:13,690

claims backed by scientific evidence the

579

00:26:19,530 --> 00:26:15,130

list is long

580

00:26:23,010 --> 00:26:19,540

and contains 1017 claims for companies

581

00:26:24,690 --> 00:26:23,020

to use even more worryingly only a

582

00:26:27,240 --> 00:26:24,700

hundred and forty of the claims are

583

00:26:30,960 --> 00:26:27,250

backed by scientific evidence for the

584

00:26:33,600 --> 00:26:30,970

remaining 879 claims evidence of quote

585

00:26:36,660 --> 00:26:33,610

traditional and quote use is sufficient

586

00:26:39,270 --> 00:26:36,670

that is used for more than three

587

00:26:42,600 --> 00:26:39,280

generations in an alternative medical

588

00:26:46,080 --> 00:26:42,610

tradition such as Chinese medicine au

589

00:26:48,870 --> 00:26:46,090

vada or homeopathy what's in the bottles

590

00:26:52,260 --> 00:26:48,880

the vitamin bottles we've handed out are

591

00:26:55,800 --> 00:26:52,270

full of these sugary lollies urging

592

00:26:58,280 --> 00:26:55,810

senators to stop sour claims and support

593

00:27:01,620 --> 00:26:58,290

scientific evidence in therapeutic goods

594

00:27:04,020 --> 00:27:01,630

can the industry be trusted loose

595

00:27:06,780 --> 00:27:04,030

regulation on product claims on

596

00:27:10,260 --> 00:27:06,790

therapeutic goods only serves to benefit

597

00:27:14,010 --> 00:27:10,270

industry players in 2013 Swiss errs

598

00:27:16,620 --> 00:27:14,020

quote LT boost appetite suppressant

599

00:27:19,470 --> 00:27:16,630

unquote was delisted by the Therapeutic

600

00:27:21,360 --> 00:27:19,480

Goods Administration TGA due to quote

601  
00:27:23,940 --> 00:27:21,370  
insufficient evidence to support the

602  
00:27:26,580 --> 00:27:23,950  
claims on the product and quote within

603  
00:27:29,460 --> 00:27:26,590  
the same year Swiss then re listed the

604  
00:27:33,030 --> 00:27:29,470  
exact same product changing the label to

605  
00:27:35,580 --> 00:27:33,040  
include a quote traditional use in quote

606  
00:27:37,920 --> 00:27:35,590  
qualifier to evade the requirements that

607  
00:27:38,730 --> 00:27:37,930  
claims are to be based on scientific

608  
00:27:42,240 --> 00:27:38,740  
evidence

609  
00:27:44,250 --> 00:27:42,250  
what does choice want Australia is a

610  
00:27:46,320 --> 00:27:44,260  
multicultural country and it is

611  
00:27:48,690 --> 00:27:46,330  
appropriate that we respect and allow

612  
00:27:51,240 --> 00:27:48,700  
access to alternative medical traditions

613  
00:27:52,740 --> 00:27:51,250

however it is also important that

614

00:27:55,470 --> 00:27:52,750

Australians are protected from

615

00:27:57,690 --> 00:27:55,480

misleading claims for consumers to be

616

00:27:59,700 --> 00:27:57,700

able to make an informed choice about

617

00:28:02,250 --> 00:27:59,710

complementary medicines products

618

00:28:05,250 --> 00:28:02,260

displaying traditional use indications

619

00:28:07,470 --> 00:28:05,260

should be also required to display a

620

00:28:10,890 --> 00:28:07,480

prominent disclaimer on the label to the

621

00:28:12,840 --> 00:28:10,900

effect of quote this products

622

00:28:15,090 --> 00:28:12,850

traditional claims are based on

623

00:28:17,430 --> 00:28:15,100

alternative health practices that are

624

00:28:19,830 --> 00:28:17,440

not accepted by most modern medical

625

00:28:22,230 --> 00:28:19,840

experts there is no good scientific

626  
00:28:25,410 --> 00:28:22,240  
evidence that this product works and

627  
00:28:27,690 --> 00:28:25,420  
quote this is in line with disclaimers

628  
00:28:28,980 --> 00:28:27,700  
used by the United States Federal Trade

629  
00:28:31,590 --> 00:28:28,990  
Commission for

630  
00:28:33,720 --> 00:28:31,600  
homeopathic products keep therapeutic

631  
00:28:35,940 --> 00:28:33,730  
claims honest tell senators to knock

632  
00:28:38,310 --> 00:28:35,950  
back these proposed laws so that

633  
00:28:39,930 --> 00:28:38,320  
Australians looking for vitamins and

634  
00:28:43,080 --> 00:28:39,940  
supplements can separate fact from

635  
00:28:45,750 --> 00:28:43,090  
fiction this form and the form is right

636  
00:28:48,440 --> 00:28:45,760  
here on the website will let you email

637  
00:28:51,540 --> 00:28:48,450  
the senators in your state or territory

638  
00:29:01,350 --> 00:28:51,550

put your details below and click email

639

00:29:05,640 --> 00:29:01,360  
my senators as the message for

640

00:29:08,010 --> 00:29:05,650  
Australian listeners skeptic zone TV is

641

00:29:09,930 --> 00:29:08,020  
the website where I will include in this

642

00:29:12,210 --> 00:29:09,940  
week's show notes a link to this page

643

00:29:15,000 --> 00:29:12,220  
put out by choice magazine and you can

644

00:29:17,220 --> 00:29:15,010  
see the the lollies the candy they've

645

00:29:20,930 --> 00:29:17,230  
produced with these extravagant health

646

00:29:40,670 --> 00:29:20,940  
claims and you can email your senator

647

00:29:45,680 --> 00:29:42,980  
hey Richard dr. Paul II hear your

648

00:29:48,170 --> 00:29:45,690  
favorite legal drug deal I just wanted

649

00:29:51,860 --> 00:29:48,180  
to say B congratulations from reaching

650

00:29:55,120 --> 00:29:51,870  
500 episodes it's really no wonder that

651  
00:29:57,470 --> 00:29:55,130  
you're Australia's top skeptical icon

652  
00:29:59,750 --> 00:29:57,480  
and I hope you came rocking our

653  
00:30:01,540 --> 00:29:59,760  
skeptical minds for at least another 500

654  
00:30:15,460 --> 00:30:01,550  
episodes

655  
00:30:33,620 --> 00:30:23,930  
the cast files with dr. Cassandra

656  
00:30:36,950 --> 00:30:33,630  
Perryman hello and welcome back to the

657  
00:30:40,100 --> 00:30:36,960  
long overdue next episode of the cast

658  
00:30:43,490 --> 00:30:40,110  
files with dr. Cassandra Perryman today

659  
00:30:54,110 --> 00:30:43,500  
we're gonna ask why do people believe in

660  
00:30:56,540 --> 00:30:54,120  
obvious lies today we're not going to

661  
00:30:58,820 --> 00:30:56,550  
talk about just any lies we're going to

662  
00:31:00,650 --> 00:30:58,830  
specifically talk about the lies told

663  
00:31:03,620 --> 00:31:00,660

about the current President of the

664

00:31:07,130 --> 00:31:03,630

United States yes we're gonna have a

665

00:31:10,040 --> 00:31:07,140

California and discuss Trump now voting

666

00:31:11,540 --> 00:31:10,050

tendencies a hide it's not hard to see

667

00:31:13,790 --> 00:31:11,550

that the man has been called out again

668

00:31:17,270 --> 00:31:13,800

again for telling inaccuracies of all

669

00:31:20,650 --> 00:31:17,280

sorts and severity zhh why then does he

670

00:31:23,750 --> 00:31:20,660

still have a stable 30 to 40% approval

671

00:31:26,600 --> 00:31:23,760

why on earth to his constituents perhaps

672

00:31:31,250 --> 00:31:26,610

better called followers still believe in

673

00:31:32,930 --> 00:31:31,260

and still believe him first we need to

674

00:31:35,210 --> 00:31:32,940

acknowledge that the US has entered an

675

00:31:37,700 --> 00:31:35,220

era of populism and potentially

676

00:31:39,470 --> 00:31:37,710

oligarchy this isn't the first time

677

00:31:42,200 --> 00:31:39,480

we've done it but this is perhaps the

678

00:31:44,300 --> 00:31:42,210

most detrimental to our culture the

679

00:31:47,080 --> 00:31:44,310

Gilded Age was also an era of populism

680

00:31:49,460 --> 00:31:47,090

and William Jennings Bryan also

681

00:31:53,120 --> 00:31:49,470

immortalized as the lion in The Wizard

682

00:31:55,700 --> 00:31:53,130

of Oz was populism master he was a

683

00:31:58,010 --> 00:31:55,710

phenomenal orator and he used the

684

00:32:00,530 --> 00:31:58,020

hallmark of populism he used plain

685

00:32:03,770 --> 00:32:00,540

speech charisma and emotion to dominate

686

00:32:05,840 --> 00:32:03,780

his audience as Bryan so famously said

687

00:32:08,330 --> 00:32:05,850

quote this is not a contest between

688

00:32:09,950 --> 00:32:08,340

persons the humblest citizen in all the

689

00:32:11,870 --> 00:32:09,960

land when clad in the armor of a

690

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:11,880

righteous cause is stronger than all the

691

00:32:15,830 --> 00:32:14,010

hosts of error I come to you in defense

692

00:32:20,120 --> 00:32:15,840

of a cause as holy as the cause of

693

00:32:20,840 --> 00:32:20,130

Liberty the cause of humanity now Sarah

694

00:32:23,090 --> 00:32:20,850

Palin

695

00:32:26,210 --> 00:32:23,100

let it later call that humanity Joe the

696

00:32:29,210 --> 00:32:26,220

Plumber and Trump would embrace the term

697

00:32:30,980 --> 00:32:29,220

deplorable which was first famously used

698

00:32:33,950 --> 00:32:30,990

as an insult by Clinton

699

00:32:36,800 --> 00:32:33,960

this wasn't Brian's most terrifying

700

00:32:38,990 --> 00:32:36,810

quote though I just need to say I think

701  
00:32:41,690 --> 00:32:39,000  
it must be quote if we have to either

702  
00:32:45,320 --> 00:32:41,700  
give up religion or education we should

703  
00:32:48,470 --> 00:32:45,330  
give up education thankfully Brian

704  
00:32:50,900 --> 00:32:48,480  
didn't win so what though does this have

705  
00:32:54,140 --> 00:32:50,910  
to do with now well it laid the

706  
00:32:57,290 --> 00:32:54,150  
groundwork for a second rise in blatant

707  
00:32:59,750 --> 00:32:57,300  
oration like I said thankfully Brian's

708  
00:33:01,850 --> 00:32:59,760  
lost his election but the groundwork was

709  
00:33:03,560 --> 00:33:01,860  
laid and honestly it was just a matter

710  
00:33:05,890 --> 00:33:03,570  
of time before we finally got our

711  
00:33:08,480 --> 00:33:05,900  
populist man behind the curtain

712  
00:33:10,820 --> 00:33:08,490  
the thing with populist is that they run

713  
00:33:13,460 --> 00:33:10,830

a cult of personality they throw out

714

00:33:16,040 --> 00:33:13,470

Hollow easy to understand but impossible

715

00:33:19,300 --> 00:33:16,050

to interpret catchphrases it's basically

716

00:33:21,770 --> 00:33:19,310

the astrology of politics like astrology

717

00:33:23,660 --> 00:33:21,780

those little bite-size morsels of

718

00:33:26,030 --> 00:33:23,670

goodness are very appealing to certain

719

00:33:28,130 --> 00:33:26,040

types of people when the quips are

720

00:33:30,200 --> 00:33:28,140

racist misogynistic religious and

721

00:33:32,630 --> 00:33:30,210

exclusionary you appeal to a very

722

00:33:36,140 --> 00:33:32,640

specific demographic within the United

723

00:33:38,570 --> 00:33:36,150

States namely most diehard Trump

724

00:33:40,400 --> 00:33:38,580

supporters now I can get into how it was

725

00:33:42,710 --> 00:33:40,410

probably not a matter of blatant racism

726

00:33:46,070 --> 00:33:42,720

I'm not saying Trump supporters are

727

00:33:47,930 --> 00:33:46,080

racist and misogynistic I am saying

728

00:33:51,170 --> 00:33:47,940

though that there is a lot more implicit

729

00:33:53,330 --> 00:33:51,180

bias within that group that is though

730

00:33:57,260 --> 00:33:53,340

unfortunately a talk for another day

731

00:34:00,260 --> 00:33:57,270

for now though just stay with me so what

732

00:34:03,350 --> 00:34:00,270

happens when you call out a populist

733

00:34:04,010 --> 00:34:03,360

leader when say the media says they're

734

00:34:07,220 --> 00:34:04,020

lying

735

00:34:09,260 --> 00:34:07,230

well you just attacked them see the

736

00:34:12,380 --> 00:34:09,270

individuals who loved those populist

737

00:34:15,440 --> 00:34:12,390

messages have a world that tends to be

738

00:34:17,390 --> 00:34:15,450

black and white compromises weakness and

739

00:34:18,620 --> 00:34:17,400

if you just stand your ground you can

740

00:34:21,260 --> 00:34:18,630

use the victim card

741

00:34:23,930 --> 00:34:21,270

it's common for populist messages to

742

00:34:25,430 --> 00:34:23,940

appeal to this desire to be correct so

743

00:34:27,950 --> 00:34:25,440

that an individual can maintain their

744

00:34:30,410 --> 00:34:27,960

black and white worldview see here's how

745

00:34:32,540 --> 00:34:30,420

you do it you frame something in the

746

00:34:34,139 --> 00:34:32,550

negative for example when talking to

747

00:34:35,730 --> 00:34:34,149

coal miners

748

00:34:38,069 --> 00:34:35,740

of them that the world is against them

749

00:34:40,109 --> 00:34:38,079

and that you're going to save them rant

750

00:34:41,789 --> 00:34:40,119

about how like Brian said they are the

751  
00:34:44,159 --> 00:34:41,799  
backbone of the country and they deserve

752  
00:34:45,779 --> 00:34:44,169  
better but all those big nasty cities

753  
00:34:48,869 --> 00:34:45,789  
are against their way of life

754  
00:34:51,240 --> 00:34:48,879  
now when you fail to deliver what's been

755  
00:34:52,859 --> 00:34:51,250  
promised you're still right the cities

756  
00:34:54,779 --> 00:34:52,869  
are still have to get those poor coal

757  
00:34:56,789 --> 00:34:54,789  
miners but you're the hero for trying

758  
00:34:59,579 --> 00:34:56,799  
your best even if you didn't try it all

759  
00:35:01,620 --> 00:34:59,589  
or there was no industry to save this

760  
00:35:04,019 --> 00:35:01,630  
preserves the individuals ability to

761  
00:35:05,760 --> 00:35:04,029  
believe don't ever just come out and

762  
00:35:07,920 --> 00:35:05,770  
tell the coal miners there industry is

763  
00:35:11,250 --> 00:35:07,930

in its dying throes because that doesn't

764

00:35:13,980 --> 00:35:11,260

fit into their worldview too many it's

765

00:35:17,789 --> 00:35:13,990

either go mine or do nothing and

766

00:35:19,980 --> 00:35:17,799

obviously they'd rather mine what

767

00:35:22,859 --> 00:35:19,990

happens then for those few who see the

768

00:35:26,269 --> 00:35:22,869

trap in the message will they have two

769

00:35:28,170 --> 00:35:26,279

choices they can change their view but

770

00:35:30,329 --> 00:35:28,180

remember again though that that's a

771

00:35:32,940 --> 00:35:30,339

compromise that doesn't fit well into a

772

00:35:35,039 --> 00:35:32,950

black and white perspective or they can

773

00:35:37,349 --> 00:35:35,049

justify their reason to continue to

774

00:35:39,660 --> 00:35:37,359

believe this process then is called

775

00:35:42,029 --> 00:35:39,670

cognitive dissonance cognitive

776

00:35:44,430 --> 00:35:42,039

dissonance is the individual state of

777

00:35:48,269 --> 00:35:44,440

having beliefs or attitudes that are at

778

00:35:50,039 --> 00:35:48,279

odds with behavior to simplify then in

779

00:35:51,960 --> 00:35:50,049

this instance the coal miners have this

780

00:35:54,150 --> 00:35:51,970

firm belief that the Republican Party

781

00:35:56,970 --> 00:35:54,160

will save them but then they have no job

782

00:35:59,010 --> 00:35:56,980

to go to if they'd been saved they would

783

00:36:01,200 --> 00:35:59,020

be at work but since they're not at work

784

00:36:05,250 --> 00:36:01,210

their belief is incongruent with their

785

00:36:07,470 --> 00:36:05,260

behavior so what happens there well you

786

00:36:09,930 --> 00:36:07,480

can have a change in belief but again

787

00:36:12,410 --> 00:36:09,940

that's compromise or you can have a lot

788

00:36:16,490 --> 00:36:12,420

of mental uncomfortable gymnastics

789

00:36:19,410 --> 00:36:16,500

deflection blame anger a lot of anger

790

00:36:22,140 --> 00:36:19,420

anger towards the self and anger towards

791

00:36:23,779 --> 00:36:22,150

others you hear slogans like foreigners

792

00:36:26,960 --> 00:36:23,789

are coming to take our jobs or

793

00:36:29,220 --> 00:36:26,970

outsourcing destroys communities

794

00:36:31,559 --> 00:36:29,230

sticking with the coal miner example

795

00:36:34,170 --> 00:36:31,569

imagine now one throws back the curtain

796

00:36:35,730 --> 00:36:34,180

and sees the wizard they take off the

797

00:36:38,220 --> 00:36:35,740

glasses and they see the Emerald City is

798

00:36:40,829 --> 00:36:38,230

white okay there's still two choices

799

00:36:43,620 --> 00:36:40,839

they can just put the glasses back on

800

00:36:45,450 --> 00:36:43,630

and make the city green again or like

801  
00:36:47,579 --> 00:36:45,460  
Dorothy they can confront the wizard in

802  
00:36:49,440 --> 00:36:47,589  
this instance the coal miner can't

803  
00:36:50,999 --> 00:36:49,450  
correctly confront the actual wizard but

804  
00:36:54,209 --> 00:36:51,009  
they can change their perspective of

805  
00:36:58,079 --> 00:36:54,219  
them another choice though can be to use

806  
00:37:00,239 --> 00:36:58,089  
the idea of sunk cost basically the more

807  
00:37:02,339 --> 00:37:00,249  
you invest in our idea the harder it

808  
00:37:05,519 --> 00:37:02,349  
becomes to abandon it this is a very

809  
00:37:07,289 --> 00:37:05,529  
common logical fallacy you've spent your

810  
00:37:09,329 --> 00:37:07,299  
whole life being in a town of coal

811  
00:37:11,759 --> 00:37:09,339  
miners in an economy based on mining

812  
00:37:13,829 --> 00:37:11,769  
training to become a miner for right or

813  
00:37:16,140 --> 00:37:13,839

wrong at this point you're too invested

814

00:37:18,479 --> 00:37:16,150

in the past to make a different step in

815

00:37:21,329 --> 00:37:18,489

the future it's then easier to believe

816

00:37:23,999 --> 00:37:21,339

in the wizard because you're too deep to

817

00:37:26,519 --> 00:37:24,009

do otherwise now of course I've

818

00:37:28,380 --> 00:37:26,529

simplified things but the reality is

819

00:37:30,209 --> 00:37:28,390

that it's not hard for anyone to fall

820

00:37:31,920 --> 00:37:30,219

into the trap become a full-fledged

821

00:37:34,979 --> 00:37:31,930

believer and then stay there

822

00:37:36,779 --> 00:37:34,989

unfortunately the current administration

823

00:37:39,209 --> 00:37:36,789

is well aware of how to keep people in

824

00:37:41,670 --> 00:37:39,219

the personality trap you shut down other

825

00:37:43,950 --> 00:37:41,680

sources of information you slowly close

826

00:37:47,609 --> 00:37:43,960

the institution's effect and you hand

827

00:37:50,849 --> 00:37:47,619

out more glasses our current best hope

828

00:38:00,760 --> 00:37:50,859

then is it soon more people start seeing

829

00:38:00,770 --> 00:38:18,190

[Music]

830

00:38:25,310 --> 00:38:22,280

dr. Harriet Hall MD no into thousands as

831

00:38:28,430 --> 00:38:25,320

the skeptic a retired family physician

832

00:38:30,500 --> 00:38:28,440

and former Air Force flight surgeon she

833

00:38:32,200 --> 00:38:30,510

writes about medicine so-called

834

00:38:36,070 --> 00:38:32,210

complementary and alternative medicine

835

00:38:39,170 --> 00:38:36,080

science quackery and critical thinking

836

00:38:41,420 --> 00:38:39,180

Harriet now has a free course a series

837

00:38:44,780 --> 00:38:41,430

of 10 video lectures on science-based

838

00:38:46,790 --> 00:38:44,790

medicine and alternative medicine the

839

00:38:48,920 --> 00:38:46,800

videos and an accompanying course guide

840

00:38:52,850 --> 00:38:48,930

can be found by following the link at

841

00:38:55,390 --> 00:38:52,860

skeptic dot info or by visiting web

842

00:39:00,680 --> 00:38:55,400

brandies org slash

843

00:39:03,110 --> 00:39:00,690

educational - modules dot html' topics

844

00:39:05,780 --> 00:39:03,120

covered in the series are science-based

845

00:39:09,370 --> 00:39:05,790

medicine vs. evidence-based medicine

846

00:39:12,680 --> 00:39:09,380

what is Kam chiropractic acupuncture

847

00:39:15,440 --> 00:39:12,690

homeopathy naturopathy and herbal

848

00:39:18,170 --> 00:39:15,450

medicine energy medicine miscellaneous

849

00:39:21,170 --> 00:39:18,180

alternatives pitfalls in research and

850

00:39:24,920 --> 00:39:21,180

science based medicine in the media and

851

00:39:27,500 --> 00:39:24,930

politics Harriette covers each topic in

852

00:39:30,770 --> 00:39:27,510

a matter-of-fact no-nonsense way that

853

00:39:32,410 --> 00:39:30,780

sure to educate and entertain skeptic

854

00:39:51,480 --> 00:39:32,420

dot info

855

00:39:56,410 --> 00:39:53,800

thank you for listening to the skeptic

856

00:39:58,240 --> 00:39:56,420

zone now a couple of announcements from

857

00:39:59,980 --> 00:39:58,250

me don't forget the Australian skeptics

858

00:40:01,930 --> 00:39:59,990

National Convention is coming up later

859

00:40:06,250 --> 00:40:01,940

in the year here in Sydney in October

860

00:40:08,980 --> 00:40:06,260

visit [www.scosche.com](http://www.scosche.com) today youth for

861

00:40:11,400 --> 00:40:08,990

more details and over the coming months

862

00:40:14,770 --> 00:40:11,410

I will be presenting interviews from

863

00:40:16,240 --> 00:40:14,780

some of the speakers in fact only a

864

00:40:18,460 --> 00:40:16,250

couple of weeks ago you would have heard

865

00:40:20,770 --> 00:40:18,470

me interviewing dr. Pamela gay

866

00:40:23,589 --> 00:40:20,780

well more interviews coming up with some

867

00:40:24,849 --> 00:40:23,599

of the speakers that's very exciting I'm

868

00:40:26,710 --> 00:40:24,859

really looking forward to that I think

869

00:40:29,410 --> 00:40:26,720

the Australian skeptics have a top

870

00:40:33,040 --> 00:40:29,420

lineup of speakers this year and you'll

871

00:40:34,960 --> 00:40:33,050

be able to hear their story and look

872

00:40:37,480 --> 00:40:34,970

forward with me to meeting them in

873

00:40:40,210 --> 00:40:37,490

person later on in the year I look

874

00:40:43,960 --> 00:40:40,220

forward to meeting people in California

875

00:40:46,210 --> 00:40:43,970

you know only a few weeks at skeptic cow

876

00:40:48,609 --> 00:40:46,220

again links on the show notes in

877

00:40:51,160 --> 00:40:48,619

Berkeley that should be great fun I'm

878

00:40:54,910 --> 00:40:51,170

taking part in a quiz show a sceptical

879

00:40:55,870 --> 00:40:54,920

type Japanese type quiz show but I'll be

880

00:40:58,480 --> 00:40:55,880

running around with my microphone

881

00:41:00,520 --> 00:40:58,490

interviewing people and it'd be nice to

882

00:41:03,579 --> 00:41:00,530

see you if you're in the area more

883

00:41:06,690 --> 00:41:03,589

details at the skeptics own web page and

884

00:41:09,339 --> 00:41:06,700

finally for those people in Bend Oregon

885

00:41:12,400 --> 00:41:09,349

skeptoid media is arranging for me to

886

00:41:14,050 --> 00:41:12,410

give a talk in Bend Oregon so more

887

00:41:15,760 --> 00:41:14,060

details as soon as they come to hand

888

00:41:18,099 --> 00:41:15,770

would keep an eye on skeptics and on TV

889

00:41:21,760 --> 00:41:18,109

but I'll be telling you more probably in

890

00:41:23,920 --> 00:41:21,770

the next episode but for this week this

891

00:41:29,030 --> 00:41:23,930

is Richard Saunders signing off from

892

00:41:34,100 --> 00:41:31,190

you've been listening to the skeptic

893

00:41:40,790 --> 00:41:34,110

zone podcast please visit our website at

894

00:41:44,290 --> 00:41:40,800

wwlp.com tax and to access the bat

895

00:41:46,970 --> 00:41:44,300

catalog of episodes going back to 2008

896

00:41:50,240 --> 00:41:46,980

you can follow the skeptic zone podcast

897

00:41:52,520 --> 00:41:50,250

on twitter at skeptic zone visit our

898

00:41:53,410 --> 00:41:52,530

facebook page or leave a review on

899

00:41:56,090 --> 00:41:53,420

itunes

900

00:41:59,480 --> 00:41:56,100

you can also support the skeptic zone

901

00:42:02,200 --> 00:41:59,490

via patreon or paypal the skeptic zone

902

00:42:04,580 --> 00:42:02,210

podcast is an independent production

903

00:42:06,710 --> 00:42:04,590

reviews and opinions expressed on the

904

00:42:09,050 --> 00:42:06,720

skeptic zone and not necessarily those

905

00:42:10,860 --> 00:42:09,060

of Australian skeptics or any other