

Episode 538

THE
**SKEPTIC
ZONE**
PODCAST

10 Feb 2019

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The Skeptic Zone Podcast



Prof. Richard Wiseman

Episode **538** - 10 Feb 2019

Prof. Richard Wiseman
has a new book

Friends of Science in Medicine
has a new President

Citizen Science, a new hope

Australian Skeptics
hear a new excuse for failure

Skeptics in the Pub... I knew it!

International bestselling author of *59 Seconds*
RICHARD WISEMAN

SHOOT
FOR THE
MOON

Achieve the impossible
with the Apollo Mindset

1
00:00:11,910 --> 00:00:09,110
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2
00:00:22,669 --> 00:00:11,920
from Australia for science and reason

3
00:00:25,109 --> 00:00:22,679
[Music]

4
00:00:28,290 --> 00:00:25,119
yes it's the skeptics own podcast

5
00:00:31,620 --> 00:00:28,300
episode number 538 for the 10th of

6
00:00:34,590 --> 00:00:31,630
February 2019 which edit Saunders here

7
00:00:37,530 --> 00:00:34,600
with you from Sydney Australia it's been

8
00:00:39,389 --> 00:00:37,540
very hot and muggy over the last week

9
00:00:43,649 --> 00:00:39,399
yesterday was particularly mucky it

10
00:00:45,299 --> 00:00:43,659
seemed today is a bit cooler now coming

11
00:00:48,869 --> 00:00:45,309
up on this week's show we talked to

12
00:00:51,420 --> 00:00:48,879
Professor Richard Wiseman who has just

13
00:00:54,149 --> 00:00:51,430

released a new book called shoot for the

14

00:00:55,920 --> 00:00:54,159

moon Richards going to tell us what this

15

00:00:58,799 --> 00:00:55,930

books all about why it's called shoot

16

00:01:01,200 --> 00:00:58,809

for the moon and what inspired him to

17

00:01:03,600 --> 00:01:01,210

write it always a pleasure to speak to

18

00:01:06,359 --> 00:01:03,610

Professor Richard Wiseman and I have

19

00:01:09,149 --> 00:01:06,369

been using his material from quirkology

20

00:01:12,450 --> 00:01:09,159

which we also speak about in the science

21

00:01:14,609 --> 00:01:12,460

presentations for many many years the

22

00:01:17,850 --> 00:01:14,619

court jester of science professor

23

00:01:20,280 --> 00:01:17,860

Richard Wiseman also on this week's show

24

00:01:23,850 --> 00:01:20,290

we bring you news of a new president for

25

00:01:25,880 --> 00:01:23,860

the Friends of Science in medicine the

26

00:01:28,710 --> 00:01:25,890

Friends of science in medicine is a very

27

00:01:32,430 --> 00:01:28,720

necessary and worthwhile organization

28

00:01:35,760 --> 00:01:32,440

here in Australia promoting good science

29

00:01:38,969 --> 00:01:35,770

in medicine and battling quackery and

30

00:01:41,550 --> 00:01:38,979

fakery then I speak to Paul Fleming's

31

00:01:42,750 --> 00:01:41,560

from the Australian Museum and Patrick

32

00:01:46,080 --> 00:01:42,760

Tuohey --get from the Office of

33

00:01:48,240 --> 00:01:46,090

environment and heritage about citizen

34

00:01:51,030 --> 00:01:48,250

science they both gave a presentation

35

00:01:53,340 --> 00:01:51,040

the other day a few days ago at skeptics

36

00:01:56,520 --> 00:01:53,350

in the pub here in Sydney to talk about

37

00:01:59,100 --> 00:01:56,530

how you me and everybody else as

38

00:02:01,770 --> 00:01:59,110

citizens can help contribute to good

39

00:02:03,600 --> 00:02:01,780

science and then from the pages of the

40

00:02:06,359 --> 00:02:03,610

skeptic magazine the journal from

41

00:02:09,389 --> 00:02:06,369

Australian skeptics we revisit the time

42

00:02:11,759 --> 00:02:09,399

Australian skeptics attempted to test a

43

00:02:14,880 --> 00:02:11,769

man who claimed to have something like

44

00:02:18,890 --> 00:02:14,890

paranormal powers and this is a report

45

00:02:22,350 --> 00:02:18,900

by our challenge coordinator Ian Bryce

46

00:02:24,869 --> 00:02:22,360

did we discover psychic powers find out

47

00:02:27,300 --> 00:02:24,879

later on and to round off the show it's

48

00:02:29,459 --> 00:02:27,310

Trish and chips with our new reporter

49

00:02:31,180 --> 00:02:29,469

Trish Hann Trish was at skeptics in the

50

00:02:34,600 --> 00:02:31,190

pub as well

51
00:02:38,170 --> 00:02:34,610
and was asking the the pub goes the big

52
00:02:41,830 --> 00:02:38,180
question who should be the patron saint

53
00:02:43,540 --> 00:02:41,840
of skepticism stay tuned at the end of

54
00:02:46,900 --> 00:02:43,550
the show for some more announcements and

55
00:02:48,670 --> 00:02:46,910
upcoming events but right now right now

56
00:02:53,320 --> 00:02:48,680
it's time for me to run downstairs and

57
00:02:56,170 --> 00:02:53,330
make myself a cheese and spinach toasty

58
00:03:15,130 --> 00:02:56,180
while I do that I hope you enjoy the

59
00:03:17,140 --> 00:03:15,140
skeptic zone and joining me now all the

60
00:03:19,330 --> 00:03:17,150
way from wonderful beautiful Edinburgh

61
00:03:22,270 --> 00:03:19,340
is Professor Richard Wiseman hello

62
00:03:24,580 --> 00:03:22,280
Richard hello there how are you I'm very

63
00:03:26,440 --> 00:03:24,590

well it's really wonderful to catch up

64

00:03:28,600 --> 00:03:26,450

with you we seem to do this oh I don't

65

00:03:31,510 --> 00:03:28,610

know at least every year or maybe every

66

00:03:33,700 --> 00:03:31,520

other year to find out your latest

67

00:03:35,740 --> 00:03:33,710

adventures first of all first of all I

68

00:03:38,590 --> 00:03:35,750

noticed that quirkology is still

69

00:03:40,479 --> 00:03:38,600

steaming on the video series you must

70

00:03:42,580 --> 00:03:40,489

have so much fun making that well it's

71

00:03:44,140 --> 00:03:42,590

astonishing I mean actually nowadays we

72

00:03:45,850 --> 00:03:44,150

don't make that many videos we've just

73

00:03:48,160 --> 00:03:45,860

posted one actually to promote the new

74

00:03:50,260 --> 00:03:48,170

book but normally we don't and the

75

00:03:52,750 --> 00:03:50,270

astonishing thing is this you say it

76

00:03:53,949 --> 00:03:52,760

still continues still going I don't know

77

00:03:56,260 --> 00:03:53,959

what it is hundreds of thousands of

78

00:03:59,830 --> 00:03:56,270

views a week so thank you to everyone

79

00:04:02,140 --> 00:03:59,840

who watches and I still get emails about

80

00:04:05,470 --> 00:04:02,150

videos that I made probably a decade ago

81

00:04:08,380 --> 00:04:05,480

from the salon say yeah get onto YouTube

82

00:04:12,460 --> 00:04:08,390

you live on you live on eternally on

83

00:04:14,320 --> 00:04:12,470

there you do and I love quirkology there

84

00:04:18,610 --> 00:04:14,330

are so many good videos up there to see

85

00:04:21,099 --> 00:04:18,620

but the creativity that and the time and

86

00:04:23,260 --> 00:04:21,109

the effort that you do or you have done

87

00:04:25,510 --> 00:04:23,270

in the past to make those incredible

88

00:04:27,490 --> 00:04:25,520

videos where the impossible happens and

89

00:04:29,350 --> 00:04:27,500

you can hit pause and wonder about it

90

00:04:32,350 --> 00:04:29,360

for a week and then watch the conclusion

91

00:04:34,540 --> 00:04:32,360

and see behind the scenes there must

92

00:04:35,770 --> 00:04:34,550

have been joyful and frustrating at the

93

00:04:38,200 --> 00:04:35,780

same time to make all those oh

94

00:04:39,820 --> 00:04:38,210

absolutely is I mean in exactly equal

95

00:04:42,130 --> 00:04:39,830

measure so when you get it you kind of

96

00:04:43,029 --> 00:04:42,140

go yes and then what you wipe out your

97

00:04:45,219 --> 00:04:43,039

memory thanking

98

00:04:47,709 --> 00:04:45,229

for the joys of a FAL ability of memory

99

00:04:49,719 --> 00:04:47,719

in this instance is issues next year or

100

00:04:51,730 --> 00:04:49,729

so you forget the hundreds of takes that

101
00:04:53,920 --> 00:04:51,740
didn't work the huge arguments you had

102
00:04:55,600 --> 00:04:53,930
over it the convincing of that the you

103
00:04:57,189 --> 00:04:55,610
it was actually impossible at some point

104
00:04:59,619 --> 00:04:57,199
in that process for carrying on the

105
00:05:01,989 --> 00:04:59,629
perseverance and all of that so now is

106
00:05:04,899 --> 00:05:01,999
great I mean every single one you know I

107
00:05:07,329 --> 00:05:04,909
can remember doing because we did it so

108
00:05:08,980 --> 00:05:07,339
many times basically yeah yeah because

109
00:05:10,929 --> 00:05:08,990
at the end of most videos there are a

110
00:05:13,239 --> 00:05:10,939
couple of what we could call outtakes I

111
00:05:15,249 --> 00:05:13,249
suppose where it failed where the person

112
00:05:17,019 --> 00:05:15,259
hiding behind the chair or whatever it

113
00:05:21,339 --> 00:05:17,029

was sneezed or coughed or something fell

114

00:05:23,230 --> 00:05:21,349

over it's hilarious yeah yes yeah

115

00:05:24,549 --> 00:05:23,240

and it's it's great me funny enough

116

00:05:26,969 --> 00:05:24,559

actually was just filming it wasn't a

117

00:05:29,260 --> 00:05:26,979

quick ology video with I involved in

118

00:05:31,179 --> 00:05:29,270

putting some magic into a West End show

119

00:05:34,360 --> 00:05:31,189

and I was just filming something they

120

00:05:36,429 --> 00:05:34,370

pour yesterday for them and we did it I

121

00:05:39,159 --> 00:05:36,439

think two takes there was a levitating

122

00:05:41,109 --> 00:05:39,169

suitcase we did it in two takes and they

123

00:05:42,820 --> 00:05:41,119

were like okay fine I was gonna need you

124

00:05:44,439 --> 00:05:42,830

understand normally we do like two

125

00:05:46,449 --> 00:05:44,449

hundred takes to get something like this

126

00:05:48,579 --> 00:05:46,459

and we're just going credibly lucky

127

00:05:50,739 --> 00:05:48,589

early on and then they just thought that

128

00:05:52,510 --> 00:05:50,749

was the process so I was going no no no

129

00:05:55,420 --> 00:05:52,520

we're we're normally we bring sandwiches

130

00:05:56,499 --> 00:05:55,430

when we do a dua shoots because we know

131

00:05:58,719 --> 00:05:56,509

we're going to be there for a very long

132

00:06:01,360 --> 00:05:58,729

time now folks if you haven't seen the

133

00:06:02,860 --> 00:06:01,370

range of videos at quirkology on youtube

134

00:06:05,920 --> 00:06:02,870

there will be a link in this week's show

135

00:06:08,860 --> 00:06:05,930

notes and i strongly advise you to do it

136

00:06:10,209 --> 00:06:08,870

because the other thing i'm involved

137

00:06:11,889 --> 00:06:10,219

with one of the other things is of

138

00:06:13,570 --> 00:06:11,899

course of the mystery investigators live

139

00:06:15,820 --> 00:06:13,580

show for schools and for i don't know

140

00:06:17,290 --> 00:06:15,830

five six seven years now richard we have

141

00:06:20,649 --> 00:06:17,300

been playing as part of the live

142

00:06:24,759 --> 00:06:20,659

presentation your video on and now is it

143

00:06:26,889 --> 00:06:24,769

perceptions it's um with the assumptions

144

00:06:28,659 --> 00:06:26,899

i big upon assumptions of course with

145

00:06:30,100 --> 00:06:28,669

the giant coffee cup and the and the

146

00:06:32,350 --> 00:06:30,110

pictures on the wall and all that so I

147

00:06:34,839 --> 00:06:32,360

know that one actually was I think two

148

00:06:37,449 --> 00:06:34,849

or three takes it really was set it up

149

00:06:39,759 --> 00:06:37,459

and just did it oh that was unusually I

150

00:06:41,529 --> 00:06:39,769

filmed that one on my own and did it and

151
00:06:43,209 --> 00:06:41,539
that black one really did go in the can

152
00:06:44,949 --> 00:06:43,219
incredibly quickly and yeah it's been

153
00:06:47,529 --> 00:06:44,959
shared a lot on Facebook and Twitter so

154
00:06:50,139 --> 00:06:47,539
yeah a lot lots of fun lots of fun and

155
00:06:52,839 --> 00:06:50,149
the the series of bets you will always

156
00:06:54,909 --> 00:06:52,849
win is that also on the quirkology said

157
00:06:56,519 --> 00:06:54,919
yeah absolutely that they are the most

158
00:06:59,609 --> 00:06:56,529
popular videos I'd look to the other day

159
00:07:02,549 --> 00:06:59,619
we've got 34 million views and and they

160
00:07:04,499 --> 00:07:02,559
are science based bets that that you'll

161
00:07:06,089 --> 00:07:04,509
always win and for some reason it just

162
00:07:07,829 --> 00:07:06,099
caught fire as soon as we put those out

163
00:07:11,849 --> 00:07:07,839

there and then there's a book that came

164

00:07:13,739 --> 00:07:11,859

off of that as well so yeah all fun

165

00:07:16,499 --> 00:07:13,749

oh good clean fun that's what I like to

166

00:07:18,689 --> 00:07:16,509

say good clean science fun now let's

167

00:07:21,149 --> 00:07:18,699

talk about your new book which is called

168

00:07:24,689 --> 00:07:21,159

shoot for the moon an interesting angle

169

00:07:26,339 --> 00:07:24,699

on science and dare I say motivation can

170

00:07:27,629 --> 00:07:26,349

you tell me what inspired you to make

171

00:07:31,049 --> 00:07:27,639

this book and what's it all about

172

00:07:33,959 --> 00:07:31,059

well it's what it was based on a chance

173

00:07:36,389 --> 00:07:33,969

conversation so I was talking to a

174

00:07:40,439 --> 00:07:36,399

friend of mine who's Helen Keane who is

175

00:07:42,809 --> 00:07:40,449

a comedian but also a huge kind of space

176

00:07:45,329 --> 00:07:42,819

fan she does lots of science comedy and

177

00:07:48,329 --> 00:07:45,339

we're talking about Paulo and landing

178

00:07:49,799 --> 00:07:48,339

men on the moon and I said obviously has

179

00:07:52,109 --> 00:07:49,809

been huge amounts written about the

180

00:07:54,809 --> 00:07:52,119

technology but how much has been written

181

00:07:57,629 --> 00:07:54,819

about that the psychology the mindset

182

00:07:59,129 --> 00:07:57,639

that put us on the moon and she said

183

00:08:00,839 --> 00:07:59,139

well not very much actually hardly

184

00:08:02,399 --> 00:08:00,849

anything and I still don't be a fun

185

00:08:03,839 --> 00:08:02,409

project and she said well the people

186

00:08:05,399 --> 00:08:03,849

that you'd really want to speak to her

187

00:08:07,049 --> 00:08:05,409

what are called the Mission Control as

188

00:08:09,239 --> 00:08:07,059

this small group of people that sat at

189

00:08:11,549 --> 00:08:09,249

the heart of the Apollo missions and

190

00:08:15,209 --> 00:08:11,559

we're really there guiding Armstrong and

191

00:08:18,359 --> 00:08:15,219

Buzz Aldrin down and I said yeah but how

192

00:08:20,489 --> 00:08:18,369

how I'm gonna reach these people and she

193

00:08:22,589 --> 00:08:20,499

so he should talk to my friend Craig and

194

00:08:26,779 --> 00:08:22,599

I said always Craig connected with NASA

195

00:08:29,639 --> 00:08:26,789

and she said no he's a welder in Wales

196

00:08:32,159 --> 00:08:29,649

hello it right and she didn't know he's

197

00:08:34,649 --> 00:08:32,169

befriended all these mission controllers

198

00:08:36,869 --> 00:08:34,659

he's hugely passionate about Paulo go

199

00:08:38,819 --> 00:08:36,879

and talk to Craig so I got in touch with

200

00:08:40,829 --> 00:08:38,829

Craig and I told him how I was doing and

201
00:08:43,980 --> 00:08:40,839
Craig went yep I'll put you in touch

202
00:08:46,199 --> 00:08:43,990
with all these people and I say oh hold

203
00:08:49,650 --> 00:08:46,209
on a second it's the 50th anniversary of

204
00:08:52,110 --> 00:08:49,660
that happening so they must be very very

205
00:08:54,389 --> 00:08:52,120
very elderly people are they even still

206
00:08:56,579 --> 00:08:54,399
alive and this is why I found out the

207
00:08:59,040 --> 00:08:56,589
first amazing thing about Mission

208
00:09:01,650 --> 00:08:59,050
Control which is when Armstrong and

209
00:09:04,290 --> 00:09:01,660
Aldrin walked out onto the moon the

210
00:09:05,639 --> 00:09:04,300
average age in that room the group of

211
00:09:08,340 --> 00:09:05,649
people that were doing at the average

212
00:09:12,010 --> 00:09:08,350
age 26

213
00:09:14,770 --> 00:09:12,020

they are were a phenomenally young bunch

214

00:09:17,410 --> 00:09:14,780

of people and so therefore now they're

215

00:09:20,440 --> 00:09:17,420

in their late 70s a few Limor ladies and

216

00:09:22,420 --> 00:09:20,450

so I went and spoke to them and

217

00:09:23,530 --> 00:09:22,430

interviewed them and no one has asked

218

00:09:24,670 --> 00:09:23,540

them about the psychology before

219

00:09:27,550 --> 00:09:24,680

everyone had asked them about the

220

00:09:29,110 --> 00:09:27,560

technology and then sort of drew out the

221

00:09:31,420 --> 00:09:29,120

lessons of achievement and as you say

222

00:09:33,130 --> 00:09:31,430

sort of motivation and really the book

223

00:09:34,990 --> 00:09:33,140

is about not only how they did what they

224

00:09:36,730 --> 00:09:35,000

did but how you can incorporate those

225

00:09:38,830 --> 00:09:36,740

same lessons into your life when you

226

00:09:41,170 --> 00:09:38,840

want to do something well because of

227

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:41,180

course as you say it's 50 years coming

228

00:09:45,670 --> 00:09:43,010

up 50 years since the first moon

229

00:09:48,430 --> 00:09:45,680

landings and we've gone through the

230

00:09:51,430 --> 00:09:48,440

period in the last 20 years not so much

231

00:09:52,930 --> 00:09:51,440

now of course the moon hoaxers the

232

00:09:55,570 --> 00:09:52,940

people say that we never went to the

233

00:09:57,130 --> 00:09:55,580

moon and you two must be sick of this

234

00:09:58,900 --> 00:09:57,140

occasionally people will look at me and

235

00:10:00,280 --> 00:09:58,910

say you skeptics you don't even think we

236

00:10:10,780 --> 00:10:00,290

went to the moon that's where I tear my

237

00:10:13,630 --> 00:10:10,790

hair out yes yeah that's right of course

238

00:10:15,700 --> 00:10:13,640

an achievement of the ages it's still

239

00:10:17,770 --> 00:10:15,710

stunning to this day and what an

240

00:10:20,200 --> 00:10:17,780

interesting angle for a book it must

241

00:10:22,900 --> 00:10:20,210

have been endlessly fascinating to to

242

00:10:24,550 --> 00:10:22,910

talk to these people well it was a kind

243

00:10:28,690 --> 00:10:24,560

of I mean it was astonishing because

244

00:10:30,010 --> 00:10:28,700

I'll give you one example so you have I

245

00:10:31,480 --> 00:10:30,020

don't know how much people know about

246

00:10:33,580 --> 00:10:31,490

the moon landings but basically three

247

00:10:36,100 --> 00:10:33,590

astronauts blast off from the earth they

248

00:10:38,080 --> 00:10:36,110

go to the moon they orbit the moon and

249

00:10:39,640 --> 00:10:38,090

then two of them get into a small thing

250

00:10:42,430 --> 00:10:39,650

which is called the lunar lander and go

251

00:10:44,560 --> 00:10:42,440

down onto the moon and it's while the

252

00:10:48,340 --> 00:10:44,570

other one stays in the kind of orbiting

253

00:10:50,290 --> 00:10:48,350

craft and it is terrifying because the

254

00:10:51,730 --> 00:10:50,300

technology they're using you know the

255

00:10:52,900 --> 00:10:51,740

old Babbage is absolutely true that

256

00:10:54,880 --> 00:10:52,910

you've got more technology and

257

00:10:56,680 --> 00:10:54,890

modern-day smartphone then you've got

258

00:10:59,500 --> 00:10:56,690

involved in certainly involved in those

259

00:11:02,380 --> 00:10:59,510

spacecraft and no one has ever done this

260

00:11:03,910 --> 00:11:02,390

before so to put it into perspective at

261

00:11:05,800 --> 00:11:03,920

the time that Kennedy said let's go to

262

00:11:07,630 --> 00:11:05,810

the moon America had gone about a

263

00:11:10,300 --> 00:11:07,640

hundred miles away from the surface of

264

00:11:14,530 --> 00:11:10,310

the earth the space station and the

265

00:11:17,290 --> 00:11:14,540

shuttles they go about 250 miles the

266

00:11:20,260 --> 00:11:17,300

going to the moon is a quarter of a

267

00:11:22,180 --> 00:11:20,270

million miles and you've got to land

268

00:11:24,310 --> 00:11:22,190

and you've got to get out no one's ever

269

00:11:26,230 --> 00:11:24,320

got out in the atmosphere before they

270

00:11:28,449 --> 00:11:26,240

thought the dust may be so thick on the

271

00:11:31,120 --> 00:11:28,459

moon that you'd simply sink into it and

272

00:11:32,650 --> 00:11:31,130

die like quicksand and then you've got

273

00:11:35,199 --> 00:11:32,660

to get back on your craft to get back

274

00:11:37,900 --> 00:11:35,209

into that orbiting craft and get back to

275

00:11:41,380 --> 00:11:37,910

earth so you know it's an astonishing

276
00:11:42,940 --> 00:11:41,390
achievement and so imagine that Aldrin

277
00:11:45,310 --> 00:11:42,950
and Armstrong it gets into this tiny

278
00:11:48,310 --> 00:11:45,320
craft they're going down to the surface

279
00:11:51,880 --> 00:11:48,320
of the Moon and they're being watched by

280
00:11:54,160 --> 00:11:51,890
500 million people live is the biggest

281
00:11:56,530 --> 00:11:54,170
event in the history of humanity and

282
00:11:59,829 --> 00:11:56,540
there's a guy called Steve bales in

283
00:12:02,260 --> 00:11:59,839
Mission Control he's 26 and is his job

284
00:12:05,910 --> 00:12:02,270
to essentially guide them down he's a

285
00:12:10,079 --> 00:12:05,920
key part of that guidance team and

286
00:12:13,210 --> 00:12:10,089
suddenly a computer alarm comes up and

287
00:12:15,010 --> 00:12:13,220
he makes this historic decision about

288
00:12:17,829 --> 00:12:15,020

whether or not they should continue or

289

00:12:20,829 --> 00:12:17,839

abort and so I'm reading about this

290

00:12:24,040 --> 00:12:20,839

amazing piece of history 26 year old 500

291

00:12:25,930 --> 00:12:24,050

million people watching history in the

292

00:12:28,660 --> 00:12:25,940

making I'm reading about this and the

293

00:12:32,590 --> 00:12:28,670

next minute I'm talking to him you know

294

00:12:35,050 --> 00:12:32,600

I'm done talking to Steve bales who now

295

00:12:38,139 --> 00:12:35,060

is going yeah yeah did that one last 26

296

00:12:39,579 --> 00:12:38,149

yeah and I'm saying to him like how long

297

00:12:41,380 --> 00:12:39,589

did you have to decide you know this

298

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:41,390

alarm flashes up how long did you have

299

00:12:44,740 --> 00:12:43,010

and he said well I think if you listen

300

00:12:48,519 --> 00:12:44,750

to the audio I think it's probably three

301
00:12:50,139 --> 00:12:48,529
seconds and you're going oh my goodness

302
00:12:51,910 --> 00:12:50,149
these people were history in the making

303
00:12:53,440 --> 00:12:51,920
and and you talk to them it's a

304
00:12:57,430 --> 00:12:53,450
different mindset to the one we have now

305
00:12:59,260 --> 00:12:57,440
in terms of success and I think you know

306
00:13:01,900 --> 00:12:59,270
in terms of talking to the thing the

307
00:13:05,170 --> 00:13:01,910
thing that really struck me was how

308
00:13:06,699 --> 00:13:05,180
humble they were you know I've spoken to

309
00:13:08,230 --> 00:13:06,709
lots of organizations about luck and

310
00:13:10,180 --> 00:13:08,240
success it's one of my areas of

311
00:13:14,350 --> 00:13:10,190
psychology this were a group of people

312
00:13:16,210 --> 00:13:14,360
who never used the I word it's we we did

313
00:13:17,650 --> 00:13:16,220

everything and when you try and talk to

314

00:13:18,850 --> 00:13:17,660

them about their achievements they keep

315

00:13:20,530 --> 00:13:18,860

trying to get you to talk to other

316

00:13:23,470 --> 00:13:20,540

people who are more important than they

317

00:13:27,460 --> 00:13:23,480

are in their mind and so it is an

318

00:13:29,800 --> 00:13:27,470

astoundingly humble group of people who

319

00:13:31,329 --> 00:13:29,810

did so much and and so the book is this

320

00:13:33,369 --> 00:13:31,339

kind of untold story I think of

321

00:13:35,199 --> 00:13:33,379

achievement before we go Richard

322

00:13:37,419 --> 00:13:35,209

there is a promotional video you made

323

00:13:40,929 --> 00:13:37,429

about the book where you actually sent

324

00:13:43,809 --> 00:13:40,939

the book itself into space that was that

325

00:13:45,999 --> 00:13:43,819

was a very very mad so there we found a

326

00:13:48,369 --> 00:13:46,009

company called sent into space in the UK

327

00:13:50,879 --> 00:13:48,379

I said could we launch a book into space

328

00:13:54,489 --> 00:13:50,889

and they went yes of course we can and

329

00:13:56,529 --> 00:13:54,499

so we we put it to arm to a balloon it

330

00:13:57,999 --> 00:13:56,539

goes up about 35 kilometers you get

331

00:14:00,549 --> 00:13:58,009

these amazing shots which are on the

332

00:14:02,829 --> 00:14:00,559

quirkology channel look within them the

333

00:14:05,829 --> 00:14:02,839

hold of the earth in the in the

334

00:14:07,719 --> 00:14:05,839

background and is incredible and it's

335

00:14:09,759 --> 00:14:07,729

amazing thing to do and then if you

336

00:14:13,899 --> 00:14:09,769

watch the video you will see right at

337

00:14:15,669 --> 00:14:13,909

the end that I say as a joke I say my

338

00:14:17,979 --> 00:14:15,679

calculations is that the book will stay

339

00:14:20,199 --> 00:14:17,989

up there for quite a long time and the

340

00:14:23,409 --> 00:14:20,209

idea was that somebody threw a book off

341

00:14:25,629 --> 00:14:23,419

camera and it landed just in front of me

342

00:14:27,429 --> 00:14:25,639

and what actually happens is they threw

343

00:14:30,549 --> 00:14:27,439

the book another astonishing astonishing

344

00:14:34,029 --> 00:14:30,559

luck bad luck it hits me very hard

345

00:14:36,719 --> 00:14:34,039

firmly on the head and so there's a lot

346

00:14:38,919 --> 00:14:36,729

of swearing from me so for all of the

347

00:14:40,239 --> 00:14:38,929

actual danger of launching something

348

00:14:43,269 --> 00:14:40,249

into space that went absolutely

349

00:14:45,340 --> 00:14:43,279

swimmingly and the real danger for me

350

00:14:49,569 --> 00:14:45,350

was idiot Wiseman trying to get a joke

351

00:14:51,249 --> 00:14:49,579

shot at the end of the no yes there's a

352

00:14:52,960 --> 00:14:51,259

fun video to make the amazing video an

353

00:14:55,090 --> 00:14:52,970

amazing work they do well you're not

354

00:14:56,859 --> 00:14:55,100

known as the court jester of science for

355

00:14:59,259 --> 00:14:56,869

nothing Richard and I'll put a link to

356

00:15:01,599 --> 00:14:59,269

all those things on this week's show

357

00:15:03,340 --> 00:15:01,609

notes but for now Richard Wiseman

358

00:15:05,349 --> 00:15:03,350

professor Richard Wiseman all the way

359

00:15:06,129 --> 00:15:05,359

over there in beautiful Edinburgh thank

360

00:15:06,990 --> 00:15:06,139

you very much

361

00:15:16,740 --> 00:15:07,000

pleasure thank you

362

00:15:21,879 --> 00:15:19,750

so what's quirkology all about well

363

00:15:23,189 --> 00:15:21,889

there are surefire bets that you can use

364

00:15:25,420 --> 00:15:23,199

to impress your friends

365

00:15:27,819 --> 00:15:25,430

incredible illusions that will blow your

366

00:15:30,579 --> 00:15:27,829

mind interactive experiments to

367

00:15:32,259 --> 00:15:30,589

bamboozle your brain magic tricks and we

368

00:15:34,090 --> 00:15:32,269

don't just perform the tricks but also

369

00:15:36,250 --> 00:15:34,100

take you backstage so you can see the

370

00:15:39,490 --> 00:15:36,260

secret practical jokes to make you laugh

371

00:15:44,470 --> 00:15:39,500

and lots of amazing science stunts that

372

00:15:47,139 --> 00:15:44,480

always work no kinda so subscribe now

373

00:15:49,090 --> 00:15:47,149

and watch our videos you won't believe

374

00:16:04,840 --> 00:15:49,100

your eyes

375

00:16:07,569 --> 00:16:04,850

[Music]

376

00:16:11,290 --> 00:16:07,579

now here's a message from our friends at

377

00:16:13,870 --> 00:16:11,300

the Friends of science in medicine this

378

00:16:17,370 --> 00:16:13,880

organization battles quackery and has

379

00:16:20,040 --> 00:16:17,380

been around for about six seven years

380

00:16:22,269 --> 00:16:20,050

battles quackery and promotes good

381

00:16:25,420 --> 00:16:22,279

science in medicine hence the name

382

00:16:28,660 --> 00:16:25,430

Friends of science and medicine their

383

00:16:30,579 --> 00:16:28,670

website is science in medicine org

384

00:16:34,059 --> 00:16:30,589

a you with links in this week's show

385

00:16:37,440 --> 00:16:34,069

notes and this statement comes to us

386

00:16:39,050 --> 00:16:37,450

published on the 6th of February 2019

387

00:16:41,700 --> 00:16:39,060

[Music]

388

00:16:45,200 --> 00:16:41,710

friends of science and medicine welcomes

389

00:16:50,870 --> 00:16:47,600

on Ash University associate professor

390

00:16:52,880 --> 00:16:50,880

Ken Harvey AM is the new president of

391

00:16:56,420 --> 00:16:52,890

Friends of science and medicine he

392

00:16:59,360 --> 00:16:56,430

replaces Professor John Dwyer a Oh the

393

00:17:02,030 --> 00:16:59,370

founding president Friends of science in

394

00:17:04,970 --> 00:17:02,040

medicine founded in 2011 has grown to

395

00:17:07,430 --> 00:17:04,980

become a major critic of unscientific

396

00:17:09,950 --> 00:17:07,440

health practices and fraudulent health

397

00:17:12,950 --> 00:17:09,960

claims it has advised governments and

398

00:17:15,620 --> 00:17:12,960

the media made numerous submissions to

399

00:17:17,930 --> 00:17:15,630

inquiries and provided extensive public

400

00:17:20,810 --> 00:17:17,940

advice concerning dubious health claims

401
00:17:23,290 --> 00:17:20,820
and practices it successfully advocated

402
00:17:26,840 --> 00:17:23,300
the removal of private health insurance

403
00:17:29,150 --> 00:17:26,850
taxpayer-funded rebates from natural

404
00:17:32,140 --> 00:17:29,160
therapies that lacked evidence of

405
00:17:34,190 --> 00:17:32,150
efficacy professor Harvey said quote

406
00:17:36,760 --> 00:17:34,200
valuing scientific riah

407
00:17:38,810 --> 00:17:36,770
is especially important in an age where

408
00:17:41,830 --> 00:17:38,820
unsubstantiated health claims are

409
00:17:44,600 --> 00:17:41,840
rampant and scientific consensus is

410
00:17:47,510 --> 00:17:44,610
imbalanced by the views of extremists

411
00:17:50,210 --> 00:17:47,520
unquote Friends of science in medicine

412
00:17:52,850 --> 00:17:50,220
campaigns against the unethical

413
00:17:56,080 --> 00:17:52,860

promotion of therapeutic goods and

414

00:17:58,610 --> 00:17:56,090

services to customers quote we critique

415

00:18:01,010 --> 00:17:58,620

unproven and exploitative services

416

00:18:04,460 --> 00:18:01,020

offered by medical practitioners such as

417

00:18:06,710 --> 00:18:04,470

the infusion of intravenous vitamins and

418

00:18:08,960 --> 00:18:06,720

collation therapy we are equally

419

00:18:11,390 --> 00:18:08,970

concerned about traditional Chinese

420

00:18:13,810 --> 00:18:11,400

medical practitioners claiming that

421

00:18:16,610 --> 00:18:13,820

acupuncture can treat infertility or

422

00:18:19,640 --> 00:18:16,620

naturopaths advocating homeopathy end

423

00:18:22,190 --> 00:18:19,650

quote said professor Harvey quote we

424

00:18:24,440 --> 00:18:22,200

encourage tertiary institutions and

425

00:18:27,320 --> 00:18:24,450

students of medicine and Health Sciences

426
00:18:29,600 --> 00:18:27,330
to critically appraise therapeutic

427
00:18:32,060 --> 00:18:29,610
products and services as part of the

428
00:18:34,580 --> 00:18:32,070
courses offered complementary medicines

429
00:18:37,460 --> 00:18:34,590
provide a fertile field for students to

430
00:18:40,930 --> 00:18:37,470
assess the often outrageous claims made

431
00:18:43,460 --> 00:18:40,940
and report regulatory breaches end quote

432
00:18:47,150 --> 00:18:43,470
last year the therapeutics Goods

433
00:18:50,270 --> 00:18:47,160
advertising Code Council and complaint

434
00:18:53,360 --> 00:18:50,280
resolution panel CRP were abolished and

435
00:18:56,450 --> 00:18:53,370
the Therapeutic Goods Administration TGA

436
00:18:58,909 --> 00:18:56,460
took over the advertising complaints

437
00:19:01,399 --> 00:18:58,919
system Health Minister Hunt sir

438
00:19:03,729 --> 00:19:01,409

these measures quote will enable

439

00:19:06,220 --> 00:19:03,739

potential harms from inappropriate

440

00:19:10,159 --> 00:19:06,230

advertising to be comprehensively

441

00:19:11,720 --> 00:19:10,169

prevented end quote quote researched by

442

00:19:14,570 --> 00:19:11,730

members of friends of science in

443

00:19:15,289 --> 00:19:14,580

medicine and consumers lack of trust in

444

00:19:17,810 --> 00:19:15,299

the TGA

445

00:19:19,909 --> 00:19:17,820

shows that the ministers assertion has

446

00:19:23,239 --> 00:19:19,919

not been realized and quote said

447

00:19:25,879 --> 00:19:23,249

professor Harvey he concluded quote the

448

00:19:28,279 --> 00:19:25,889

critique by Royal Commissioner Haynes on

449

00:19:31,249 --> 00:19:28,289

the regulatory failure in Australia's

450

00:19:34,190 --> 00:19:31,259

financial services industry is equally

451
00:19:36,470 --> 00:19:34,200
applicable to the TGA a failure to

452
00:19:38,979 --> 00:19:36,480
enforce the law undermines the authority

453
00:19:42,320 --> 00:19:38,989
of the regulator whose fundamental

454
00:19:44,359 --> 00:19:42,330
responsibility is to do just that it

455
00:19:46,930 --> 00:19:44,369
also encourages others to break the law

456
00:19:50,210 --> 00:19:46,940
leading to a race to the bottom and

457
00:19:54,230 --> 00:19:50,220
consumer detriment these are important

458
00:19:58,190 --> 00:19:54,240
federal election issues end quote

459
00:20:00,649 --> 00:19:58,200
[Laughter]

460
00:20:03,259 --> 00:20:00,659
so congratulations to Professor Ken

461
00:20:05,180 --> 00:20:03,269
Harvey any worthwhile man in a

462
00:20:06,649 --> 00:20:05,190
worthwhile position and for more

463
00:20:10,840 --> 00:20:06,659

information I encourage you to visit

464

00:20:13,310 --> 00:20:10,850

science in medicine one-word org dot au

465

00:20:14,080 --> 00:20:13,320

where you can read a lot more about the

466

00:20:18,230 --> 00:20:14,090

organization

467

00:20:24,380 --> 00:20:21,700

[Laughter]

468

00:20:26,300 --> 00:20:24,390

hi I'm Darrin McKee one of the hosts of

469

00:20:28,040 --> 00:20:26,310

the reality check each week my co-host

470

00:20:29,690 --> 00:20:28,050

and I explore a range of controversies

471

00:20:31,130 --> 00:20:29,700

and curiosities using science and

472

00:20:33,050 --> 00:20:31,140

critical thinking you can find us on

473

00:20:34,640 --> 00:20:33,060

iTunes your favorite podcasting platform

474

00:20:36,200 --> 00:20:34,650

and on Facebook by searching for the

475

00:20:38,720 --> 00:20:36,210

reality check or by following us on

476
00:20:40,340 --> 00:20:38,730
Twitter at TRC underscore podcast until

477
00:20:44,380 --> 00:20:40,350
then keep an open mind but not so open

478
00:20:44,390 --> 00:20:52,279
[Music]

479
00:20:55,950 --> 00:20:54,509
it's kept this in the pub and we just

480
00:20:57,659 --> 00:20:55,960
had a wonderful talk about citizen

481
00:20:59,340 --> 00:20:57,669
science and who do we have here

482
00:21:00,810 --> 00:20:59,350
Paul Clemens manager of digital

483
00:21:03,269 --> 00:21:00,820
collections and citizen science at this

484
00:21:05,070 --> 00:21:03,279
frame is in and Patric Taylor one of the

485
00:21:07,499 --> 00:21:05,080
citizen science scientists at the office

486
00:21:08,220 --> 00:21:07,509
environment and heritage and I'll start

487
00:21:09,779 --> 00:21:08,230
with you Paul

488
00:21:11,669 --> 00:21:09,789

you were showing us interesting things

489

00:21:13,919 --> 00:21:11,679

about how citizens are collecting data

490

00:21:18,539 --> 00:21:13,929

points and one of the things that I

491

00:21:20,279 --> 00:21:18,549

found fascinating was the frogs is this

492

00:21:23,310 --> 00:21:20,289

really engaging to the public to find

493

00:21:25,680 --> 00:21:23,320

out about frogs Paul people love frogs

494

00:21:26,940 --> 00:21:25,690

doesn't everybody love frogs but

495

00:21:28,409 --> 00:21:26,950

certainly we've we've also we've got a

496

00:21:30,779 --> 00:21:28,419

great project team at the Museum and

497

00:21:32,519 --> 00:21:30,789

Jodie rally who was our herpetologist

498

00:21:35,099 --> 00:21:32,529

and frog expert at the museum is an

499

00:21:36,989 --> 00:21:35,109

extraordinary personality and the

500

00:21:39,060 --> 00:21:36,999

project lead and she does all she's

501
00:21:40,979 --> 00:21:39,070
tireless in her media work and that has

502
00:21:43,229 --> 00:21:40,989
a big impact in terms of promoting frog

503
00:21:44,909 --> 00:21:43,239
ID she's on the radio she's on the TV

504
00:21:46,739 --> 00:21:44,919
stand in the newspapers she's very

505
00:21:48,720 --> 00:21:46,749
knowledgeable she's got funny stories

506
00:21:49,649 --> 00:21:48,730
she does frog calls on Saturday mornings

507
00:21:52,200 --> 00:21:49,659
with Simon Marnie

508
00:21:53,970 --> 00:21:52,210
so she's an amazing benefit to the

509
00:21:56,039 --> 00:21:53,980
project also the project itself immense

510
00:21:57,180 --> 00:21:56,049
mobile phones mobile technology

511
00:21:59,489 --> 00:21:57,190
everybody's got a mobile phone

512
00:22:01,710 --> 00:21:59,499
everybody can download frog ID you can

513
00:22:03,389 --> 00:22:01,720

get everybody his frogs calling maybe

514

00:22:05,340 --> 00:22:03,399

not in daily life but it's not that hard

515

00:22:07,259 --> 00:22:05,350

to go out here a frog calling you record

516

00:22:10,200 --> 00:22:07,269

a frog call you get feedback on what

517

00:22:11,729 --> 00:22:10,210

sort of frog species that was you look

518

00:22:13,229 --> 00:22:11,739

at the project grow and how we're

519

00:22:15,090 --> 00:22:13,239

learning more and more about frogs we're

520

00:22:18,460 --> 00:22:15,100

learning about how some frogs are

521

00:22:19,930 --> 00:22:18,470

traveling because of transport of

522

00:22:22,240 --> 00:22:19,940

horticultural products and things like

523

00:22:24,700 --> 00:22:22,250

that some frogs are declining because of

524

00:22:26,740 --> 00:22:24,710

climate change we're finding new

525

00:22:30,070 --> 00:22:26,750

possible new species we're finding

526

00:22:31,419 --> 00:22:30,080

species extensions so it's really it's

527

00:22:33,430 --> 00:22:31,429

an amazing project we've got

528

00:22:34,840 --> 00:22:33,440

collaborating collaborators from all

529

00:22:37,960 --> 00:22:34,850

over Australia all the museums around

530

00:22:39,820 --> 00:22:37,970

Australia involved very passionate

531

00:22:41,409 --> 00:22:39,830

individuals from around the country

532

00:22:42,700 --> 00:22:41,419

which particularly the Northern

533

00:22:45,100 --> 00:22:42,710

Territory in Western Australia at the

534

00:22:48,570 --> 00:22:45,110

moment which mean that we get really

535

00:22:50,499 --> 00:22:48,580

good pictures of an understanding of the

536

00:22:52,240 --> 00:22:50,509

distributions of frogs in those areas

537

00:22:53,889 --> 00:22:52,250

which we haven't had a lot of data on

538

00:22:57,190 --> 00:22:53,899

before because they're relatively remote

539

00:22:58,840 --> 00:22:57,200

areas and so it's quite a phenomenal

540

00:23:01,330 --> 00:22:58,850

project it's a wonderful example of

541

00:23:03,669 --> 00:23:01,340

citizens during science and you are

542

00:23:07,090 --> 00:23:03,679

giving an example of how citizens doing

543

00:23:10,570 --> 00:23:07,100

science were examining the the effects

544

00:23:12,249 --> 00:23:10,580

on the coast our coastal regions yeah

545

00:23:13,930 --> 00:23:12,259

absolutely so that's the coast nap

546

00:23:15,909 --> 00:23:13,940

project which is a collaborative

547

00:23:18,399 --> 00:23:15,919

approach between the water wetlands and

548

00:23:20,830 --> 00:23:18,409

coast creative reh and also you know

549

00:23:22,690 --> 00:23:20,840

stubble use water research lab and the

550

00:23:24,310 --> 00:23:22,700

project is focusing at monitoring our

551

00:23:26,769 --> 00:23:24,320

shorelines and looking at the subtle

552

00:23:28,659 --> 00:23:26,779

changes while allowing the community to

553

00:23:31,210 --> 00:23:28,669

capture images from photo points and

554

00:23:33,190 --> 00:23:31,220

then give them to the researchers so

555

00:23:35,529 --> 00:23:33,200

they can do an image analysis on those

556

00:23:37,450 --> 00:23:35,539

images before providing the results of

557

00:23:38,889 --> 00:23:37,460

seeing how that sites changed and one

558

00:23:40,810 --> 00:23:38,899

thing I forgot to mention with the door

559

00:23:42,669 --> 00:23:40,820

because it's such a simple approach it's

560

00:23:46,029 --> 00:23:42,679

now global so from its humble beginnings

561

00:23:49,749 --> 00:23:46,039

in Sydney it's now in the UK USA and

562

00:23:51,909 --> 00:23:49,759

South America we've I believe more than

563

00:23:53,649 --> 00:23:51,919

10 News sites going to be put up in New

564

00:23:55,480 --> 00:23:53,659

South Wales not too long it's a

565

00:23:57,129 --> 00:23:55,490

fantastic idea because as you are

566

00:23:59,649 --> 00:23:57,139

describing it and showing us on the

567

00:24:01,450 --> 00:23:59,659

screen there's a set point along the

568

00:24:03,970 --> 00:24:01,460

coast and people can walk up put their

569

00:24:05,950 --> 00:24:03,980

mobile phones at this end point take a

570

00:24:07,299 --> 00:24:05,960

picture and then submit it yeah

571

00:24:08,950 --> 00:24:07,309

absolutely they could just be going to

572

00:24:10,480 --> 00:24:08,960

the beach for the swim and they can take

573

00:24:13,480 --> 00:24:10,490

a photo as they go we live in the

574

00:24:15,340 --> 00:24:13,490

Instagram age and just like that two

575

00:24:17,350 --> 00:24:15,350

seconds they've contributed important

576

00:24:18,820 --> 00:24:17,360

information for our researchers and that

577

00:24:19,779 --> 00:24:18,830

can influence how we manage our beaches

578

00:24:22,060 --> 00:24:19,789

going into the future

579

00:24:23,660 --> 00:24:22,070

I love citizen science how can people

580

00:24:25,250 --> 00:24:23,670

find out more about

581

00:24:27,230 --> 00:24:25,260

what you're doing at the Museum well

582

00:24:29,330 --> 00:24:27,240

they can get in touch with me the museum

583

00:24:30,590 --> 00:24:29,340

or look up this tree Museum website the

584

00:24:32,780 --> 00:24:30,600

Australian is incentive is citizen

585

00:24:34,850 --> 00:24:32,790

science I'd also recommend the

586

00:24:37,460 --> 00:24:34,860

Australian the Australian citizen

587

00:24:38,930 --> 00:24:37,470

science Association yeah which this

588

00:24:41,360 --> 00:24:38,940

website for that as well and it is

589

00:24:44,570 --> 00:24:41,370

coordinating citizen science Australia

590

00:24:46,610 --> 00:24:44,580

wide so you can register with the AXA

591

00:24:48,380 --> 00:24:46,620

you can be you can find out about what

592

00:24:50,300 --> 00:24:48,390

projects are available in your area it's

593

00:24:52,340 --> 00:24:50,310

a museum we've got obviously cog IDs

594

00:24:55,220 --> 00:24:52,350

national say can be involved in frog ID

595

00:24:57,550 --> 00:24:55,230

digi bowl is a international project so

596

00:24:59,810 --> 00:24:57,560

you can be involved online with digital

597

00:25:01,610 --> 00:24:59,820

Australasian fishes once again is online

598

00:25:02,900 --> 00:25:01,620

as well so all these projects wherever

599

00:25:05,480 --> 00:25:02,910

you are in Australia all around the

600

00:25:07,190 --> 00:25:05,490

world you can be involved and acts that

601
00:25:09,710 --> 00:25:07,200
has more projects you can find out more

602
00:25:11,030 --> 00:25:09,720
about you can actually work out find out

603
00:25:14,060 --> 00:25:11,040
how you can be involved in the process

604
00:25:15,920 --> 00:25:14,070
of governing citizen science in

605
00:25:18,350 --> 00:25:15,930
Australia and growing it and making it

606
00:25:20,660 --> 00:25:18,360
more reach more people and have more

607
00:25:22,550 --> 00:25:20,670
impact opportunities for everybody and

608
00:25:24,650 --> 00:25:22,560
how can people find out about what

609
00:25:25,850 --> 00:25:24,660
you're doing so they can check out the

610
00:25:27,830 --> 00:25:25,860
office of environment and heritage

611
00:25:29,630 --> 00:25:27,840
citizen science website where we have

612
00:25:31,880 --> 00:25:29,640
arranged different projects are looking

613
00:25:34,040 --> 00:25:31,890

at threatened species water quality and

614

00:25:35,660 --> 00:25:34,050

a range of other different initiatives

615

00:25:37,220 --> 00:25:35,670

and they can explore them and then get

616

00:25:38,600 --> 00:25:37,230

in contact with us and we can guide them

617

00:25:40,430 --> 00:25:38,610

in the right direction to the project

618

00:25:42,410 --> 00:25:40,440

coordinator or just get in touch with us

619

00:25:44,450 --> 00:25:42,420

just ago I have a great citizen science

620

00:25:46,280 --> 00:25:44,460

idea can you listen to me and explore

621

00:25:47,570 --> 00:25:46,290

what we can do in my backyard or my

622

00:25:49,550 --> 00:25:47,580

environment and we're happy to

623

00:25:51,500 --> 00:25:49,560

facilitate those conversations I mean

624

00:25:53,840 --> 00:25:51,510

even inspired me we should have a

625

00:26:06,960 --> 00:25:53,850

citizen skepticism and tell me a pizza

626
00:26:11,080 --> 00:26:08,220

[Music]

627
00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:11,090
you know I gotta say Bigfoot's BS but

628
00:26:14,500 --> 00:26:13,010
the chupacabra is totally the result of

629
00:26:17,110 --> 00:26:14,510
top-secret government genetic

630
00:26:19,510 --> 00:26:17,120
experiments on remote island taken

631
00:26:21,040 --> 00:26:19,520
medical advice from iguanas Paltrow like

632
00:26:23,470 --> 00:26:21,050
steaming your lady parts and putting

633
00:26:25,840 --> 00:26:23,480
Jade eggs all up in that is a great way

634
00:26:28,090 --> 00:26:25,850
to improve your health police from

635
00:26:30,700 --> 00:26:28,100
around the world regularly use psychics

636
00:26:33,220 --> 00:26:30,710
to solve crimes they just don't talk

637
00:26:35,920 --> 00:26:33,230
about it spontaneous human combustion

638
00:26:37,780 --> 00:26:35,930

is for sure a real thing I've read all

639

00:26:41,530 --> 00:26:37,790

about it on the internet and I worry

640

00:26:42,940 --> 00:26:41,540

someday it's going to happen to me we

641

00:26:45,340 --> 00:26:42,950

all have friends and family who believe

642

00:26:47,260 --> 00:26:45,350

these things and much more well if

643

00:26:49,030 --> 00:26:47,270

you're a rational thinker who is tired

644

00:26:50,980 --> 00:26:49,040

of arguing on social media and never

645

00:26:51,490 --> 00:26:50,990

getting anywhere we have a solution for

646

00:26:53,530 --> 00:26:51,500

you

647

00:26:55,840 --> 00:26:53,540

join the guerrilla skepticism on

648

00:26:58,390 --> 00:26:55,850

wikipedia team and we will teach you how

649

00:27:00,310 --> 00:26:58,400

to add reliable scientific and skeptical

650

00:27:03,460 --> 00:27:00,320

information to the world's number-one

651
00:27:05,410 --> 00:27:03,470
source of information Wikipedia we write

652
00:27:07,960 --> 00:27:05,420
new articles and improve existing ones

653
00:27:10,120 --> 00:27:07,970
we remove pseudoscience paranormal and

654
00:27:12,280 --> 00:27:10,130
altmed claims substituting the actual

655
00:27:14,980 --> 00:27:12,290
facts and we operate in many languages

656
00:27:17,320 --> 00:27:14,990
we've already reached tens of millions

657
00:27:19,330 --> 00:27:17,330
of people searching for information but

658
00:27:22,420 --> 00:27:19,340
as you can imagine we can never do

659
00:27:25,030 --> 00:27:22,430
enough so please join us all you need is

660
00:27:27,400 --> 00:27:25,040
a PC a Facebook account and the desire

661
00:27:29,050 --> 00:27:27,410
to help educate the planet in fact

662
00:27:29,710 --> 00:27:29,060
you'll be educating the world while you

663
00:27:34,260 --> 00:27:29,720

sleep

664

00:27:49,360 --> 00:27:34,270

click to us at PSO w team @ gmail.com

665

00:27:50,800 --> 00:27:49,370

guerrilla skepticism the time is now now

666

00:27:53,470 --> 00:27:50,810

recently we've been bringing you

667

00:27:54,910 --> 00:27:53,480

articles and reports from the skeptic

668

00:27:59,980 --> 00:27:54,920

magazine the journal from Australian

669

00:28:02,080 --> 00:27:59,990

skeptics which is available to you the

670

00:28:04,990 --> 00:28:02,090

entire collection by the last year going

671

00:28:08,500 --> 00:28:05,000

back nearly 40 years online at skeptics

672

00:28:10,960 --> 00:28:08,510

calm today you thousands upon thousands

673

00:28:13,300 --> 00:28:10,970

of reports and interviews and articles

674

00:28:16,390 --> 00:28:13,310

to read and I thought this week I would

675

00:28:19,180 --> 00:28:16,400

bring you a report of a test

676
00:28:21,370 --> 00:28:19,190
undertaken by Australian skeptics I know

677
00:28:23,049 --> 00:28:21,380
it's very interesting a lot of people

678
00:28:25,900 --> 00:28:23,059
find us intensely interesting to find

679
00:28:29,460 --> 00:28:25,910
out about testing psychics and so on

680
00:28:33,910 --> 00:28:29,470
which we do from time to time or do we

681
00:28:38,740 --> 00:28:33,920
will read on and find out from volume 31

682
00:28:41,040 --> 00:28:38,750
number one from March 2011 turning to

683
00:28:45,700 --> 00:28:41,050
page 10 a report by Ian Price

684
00:28:48,730 --> 00:28:45,710
message not received Ian Bryce reports

685
00:29:00,100 --> 00:28:48,740
on a test of telepathy with less than

686
00:29:02,470 --> 00:29:00,110
perfect communication in 1980 Australian

687
00:29:06,180 --> 00:29:02,480
skeptics announced that it would offer a

688
00:29:09,160 --> 00:29:06,190

monetary prize initially \$10,000 and now

689

00:29:11,500 --> 00:29:09,170

\$100,000 for any Australian resident who

690

00:29:14,710 --> 00:29:11,510

could prove a paranormal or psychic

691

00:29:17,500 --> 00:29:14,720

ability or phenomenon if such abilities

692

00:29:20,530 --> 00:29:17,510

or phenomena exist then the laws of

693

00:29:22,299 --> 00:29:20,540

science would need revision obviously

694

00:29:24,460 --> 00:29:22,309

this would be of great significance and

695

00:29:27,160 --> 00:29:24,470

we would wish such abilities to be

696

00:29:29,590 --> 00:29:27,170

scientifically investigated if on the

697

00:29:31,990 --> 00:29:29,600

other hand proponents of such abilities

698

00:29:34,600 --> 00:29:32,000

fail to perform as agreed then that

699

00:29:37,090 --> 00:29:34,610

would cast serious doubt on the ability

700

00:29:40,240 --> 00:29:37,100

of that claimant to perform their

701
00:29:42,880 --> 00:29:40,250
claimed ability that is not a universal

702
00:29:45,010 --> 00:29:42,890
negative but a body of similar examples

703
00:29:48,669 --> 00:29:45,020
over time will cast out in a more

704
00:29:51,100 --> 00:29:48,679
general sense our procedure is to have

705
00:29:53,380 --> 00:29:51,110
an initial less formal test to ascertain

706
00:29:55,930 --> 00:29:53,390
the nature of the claim including where

707
00:29:58,450 --> 00:29:55,940
relevant the claimants ability if this

708
00:30:00,700 --> 00:29:58,460
proves to be positive then we move to a

709
00:30:03,100 --> 00:30:00,710
formal test the nature of which is

710
00:30:05,080 --> 00:30:03,110
mutually prepared and agreed and if

711
00:30:08,020 --> 00:30:05,090
again this test is positive the claimant

712
00:30:11,200 --> 00:30:08,030
will win the award to dispose of how

713
00:30:13,720 --> 00:30:11,210

they see fit since 1980 we have had

714

00:30:16,980 --> 00:30:13,730

challenges from around 100 claimants

715

00:30:19,540 --> 00:30:16,990

about 30 of these have led to attempted

716

00:30:22,600 --> 00:30:19,550

demonstrations of paranormal powers and

717

00:30:27,010 --> 00:30:22,610

about 10 have progressed to formal tests

718

00:30:29,720 --> 00:30:27,020

a new test in January 2010 we received

719

00:30:32,390 --> 00:30:29,730

an application that was different

720

00:30:36,530 --> 00:30:32,400

from the norm in that the initial claim

721

00:30:38,990 --> 00:30:36,540

arrived a via a law firm embedded in the

722

00:30:41,180 --> 00:30:39,000

usual legal formalities was the

723

00:30:45,110 --> 00:30:41,190

statement that the clients ability was

724

00:30:47,990 --> 00:30:45,120

to transfer information by paranormal

725

00:30:50,800 --> 00:30:48,000

means from Australia the United States

726

00:30:52,730 --> 00:30:50,810

of America ie not through established

727

00:30:55,490 --> 00:30:52,740

telecommunications or other physical

728

00:30:58,520 --> 00:30:55,500

means we would call this quote clip

729

00:31:01,070 --> 00:30:58,530

a--they unquote although that was a term

730

00:31:03,590 --> 00:31:01,080

the claimant preferred not to use the

731

00:31:05,810 --> 00:31:03,600

Challenger was insistent that we prove

732

00:31:08,360 --> 00:31:05,820

our bona fide ease though this was not

733

00:31:11,140 --> 00:31:08,370

reciprocated the claimant was apparently

734

00:31:14,320 --> 00:31:11,150

reluctant to give his name address or

735

00:31:16,700 --> 00:31:14,330

identities of any assisting colleagues

736

00:31:19,250 --> 00:31:16,710

eventually we met the claimant and his

737

00:31:23,060 --> 00:31:19,260

lawyer at their letters office and found

738

00:31:26,660 --> 00:31:23,070

the claimant was Berryhill of Sydney he

739

00:31:28,340 --> 00:31:26,670

described his ability to us and we

740

00:31:30,110 --> 00:31:28,350

agreed on the following description

741

00:31:34,130 --> 00:31:30,120

although without using the term

742

00:31:36,530 --> 00:31:34,140

telepathy quote the claim is that the

743

00:31:39,260 --> 00:31:36,540

claimant has the ability to send

744

00:31:42,020 --> 00:31:39,270

information to a remote receiver without

745

00:31:43,670 --> 00:31:42,030

using any communication means known to

746

00:31:47,510 --> 00:31:43,680

science end quote

747

00:31:49,340 --> 00:31:47,520

test protocol Hill had evidently spent

748

00:31:51,770 --> 00:31:49,350

some time with his lawyer working on a

749

00:31:54,440 --> 00:31:51,780

test procedure based on choosing from a

750

00:31:57,500 --> 00:31:54,450

list of shapes words and numbers over a

751
00:31:59,600 --> 00:31:57,510
few months we refined this into a simple

752
00:32:02,480 --> 00:31:59,610
protocol designed to provide quote

753
00:32:04,400 --> 00:32:02,490
proper observing conditions end quote so

754
00:32:07,790 --> 00:32:04,410
that there would be confidence in the

755
00:32:10,760 --> 00:32:07,800
results six lists of ten words were

756
00:32:13,310 --> 00:32:10,770
prepared animals Australian artists

757
00:32:16,550 --> 00:32:13,320
countries flowers Australian poets and

758
00:32:20,240 --> 00:32:16,560
at Hills insistence Native American

759
00:32:23,780 --> 00:32:20,250
peoples on the day a ten sided die would

760
00:32:26,930 --> 00:32:23,790
be used to select and mark one item from

761
00:32:29,810 --> 00:32:26,940
each list during the half hour test Hill

762
00:32:33,320 --> 00:32:29,820
would transmit the information to his

763
00:32:35,690 --> 00:32:33,330

receiver in New York who would mark the

764

00:32:38,120 --> 00:32:35,700

answers on their copy of the results

765

00:32:41,120 --> 00:32:38,130

sheet Hill expected a perfect score

766

00:32:42,410 --> 00:32:41,130

which could be expected only once in a

767

00:32:45,710 --> 00:32:42,420

million tests

768

00:32:49,040 --> 00:32:45,720

if chance alone operated logistics and

769

00:32:50,900 --> 00:32:49,050

security the skeptics normally request

770

00:32:53,660 --> 00:32:50,910

that claimants cover any costs incurred

771

00:32:56,120 --> 00:32:53,670

by either party in this case there was

772

00:32:59,090 --> 00:32:56,130

no significant costs other than time and

773

00:33:02,690 --> 00:32:59,100

effort the logistics required were

774

00:33:05,420 --> 00:33:02,700

considerable as was security we arranged

775

00:33:07,700 --> 00:33:05,430

our own team in New York made up of

776

00:33:10,310 --> 00:33:07,710

local skeptics in addition to our team

777

00:33:12,080 --> 00:33:10,320

in Sydney he'll arrange for legal

778

00:33:14,300 --> 00:33:12,090

representatives in both cities to

779

00:33:16,340 --> 00:33:14,310

witness the event the time difference

780

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:16,350

dictated an early start in Sydney and

781

00:33:23,090 --> 00:33:20,010

late afternoon in New York rooms for the

782

00:33:24,680 --> 00:33:23,100

tests were booked the exact location of

783

00:33:27,230 --> 00:33:24,690

which were known only to one person

784

00:33:29,030 --> 00:33:27,240

until the time of the test a meeting

785

00:33:31,250 --> 00:33:29,040

place within walking distance of each

786

00:33:33,890 --> 00:33:31,260

room was arranged in both cities and

787

00:33:34,430 --> 00:33:33,900

revealed to all parties 24 hours in

788

00:33:38,120 --> 00:33:34,440

advance

789

00:33:42,080 --> 00:33:38,130

once on-site electronic devices were to

790

00:33:45,650 --> 00:33:42,090

be surrendered with the option of frisk

791

00:33:48,050 --> 00:33:45,660

searches telephone communication was to

792

00:33:50,720 --> 00:33:48,060

be strictly controlled and not used

793

00:33:53,330 --> 00:33:50,730

during the 30-minute test period and

794

00:33:56,510 --> 00:33:53,340

dive would not be thrown until after

795

00:33:59,210 --> 00:33:56,520

lockdown at the end the receiving party

796

00:34:02,000 --> 00:33:59,220

would relay their received words and the

797

00:34:05,360 --> 00:34:02,010

results would be evident if the tests

798

00:34:07,700 --> 00:34:05,370

were successful or even significantly

799

00:34:10,790 --> 00:34:07,710

above chance we would offer a more

800

00:34:13,399 --> 00:34:10,800

formal retest at a later date following

801
00:34:16,580 --> 00:34:13,409
additional security procedures Hill

802
00:34:19,100 --> 00:34:16,590
readily agreed that if technical means

803
00:34:22,010 --> 00:34:19,110
were found to have been used after the

804
00:34:24,290 --> 00:34:22,020
event any prize paid would be refunded

805
00:34:27,320 --> 00:34:24,300
to his credit he requested that the

806
00:34:29,690 --> 00:34:27,330
prize be paid to nominated charities as

807
00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:29,700
the test date approached I asked hill to

808
00:34:35,380 --> 00:34:32,010
provide contact details for his New York

809
00:34:39,380 --> 00:34:35,390
receiver and her lawyer representative

810
00:34:42,380 --> 00:34:39,390
among various excuses all we were told

811
00:34:46,460 --> 00:34:42,390
was that his receiver was named sue and

812
00:34:49,790 --> 00:34:46,470
her lawyer Jamie and that communications

813
00:34:54,710 --> 00:34:49,800

would be available on the day test day

814

00:34:56,060 --> 00:34:54,720

at the designated time 6:30 a.m. Sydney

815

00:34:58,580 --> 00:34:56,070

time on November 4

816

00:35:00,710 --> 00:34:58,590

twenty ten teams on two sides of the

817

00:35:03,380 --> 00:35:00,720

world converged on their respective

818

00:35:05,330 --> 00:35:03,390

meeting places the skeptics team in

819

00:35:07,580 --> 00:35:05,340

Sydney consisted of Aaron Segev

820

00:35:09,890 --> 00:35:07,590

president of estranged skeptics Ian

821

00:35:12,710 --> 00:35:09,900

Bryce challenge coordinator Richard

822

00:35:14,480 --> 00:35:12,720

Saunders vice president Jessica singer

823

00:35:17,990 --> 00:35:14,490

lawyer and New South Wales committee

824

00:35:20,330 --> 00:35:18,000

member and Peter Rogers a magician five

825

00:35:22,790 --> 00:35:20,340

people from the skeptics was indicative

826

00:35:26,570 --> 00:35:22,800

of the thoroughness of our approach

827

00:35:29,360 --> 00:35:26,580

he'll arrived - his lawyer our New York

828

00:35:32,510 --> 00:35:29,370

team Lisa and Jacob made contact with a

829

00:35:34,970 --> 00:35:32,520

spy mobile phone they reported that they

830

00:35:37,460 --> 00:35:34,980

were still waiting on the specified

831

00:35:40,910 --> 00:35:37,470

corner for the claimants receiver and

832

00:35:43,580 --> 00:35:40,920

her representative to arrive the fact

833

00:35:46,280 --> 00:35:43,590

that it was winter in New York meant

834

00:35:49,250 --> 00:35:46,290

that this delay was considerably

835

00:35:52,430 --> 00:35:49,260

inconvenient for them we asked Hill for

836

00:35:54,170 --> 00:35:52,440

his pairs mobile phone number he told us

837

00:35:56,660 --> 00:35:54,180

that they did not have mobiles due to

838

00:35:59,210 --> 00:35:56,670

concerns over health a New York lawyer

839

00:36:02,990 --> 00:35:59,220

without a mobile phone and the alarm

840

00:36:05,660 --> 00:36:03,000

bells got louder at these tests start

841

00:36:07,790 --> 00:36:05,670

time of 7:00 a.m. we in Sydney walked

842

00:36:11,180 --> 00:36:07,800

into the booked room and commenced our

843

00:36:14,150 --> 00:36:11,190

security precautions at 7:20 the

844

00:36:17,120 --> 00:36:14,160

receiver pair had still not arrived and

845

00:36:19,880 --> 00:36:17,130

we gave Barry back his mobile phone and

846

00:36:22,030 --> 00:36:19,890

asked him to call them he insisted on

847

00:36:25,550 --> 00:36:22,040

doing this out of our sight and hearing

848

00:36:26,180 --> 00:36:25,560

he reported to us that quote they are on

849

00:36:29,360 --> 00:36:26,190

their way

850

00:36:32,420 --> 00:36:29,370

held up in transport and quote at 7:30

851
00:36:34,340 --> 00:36:32,430
Barry communicated again and reported

852
00:36:37,070 --> 00:36:34,350
that his team were stuck in an elevator

853
00:36:39,740 --> 00:36:37,080
in the lawyers building we asked to

854
00:36:42,260 --> 00:36:39,750
speak to them directly by phone no he

855
00:36:44,480 --> 00:36:42,270
replied this building had mobile phone

856
00:36:47,990 --> 00:36:44,490
blockage as a precaution since the 9/11

857
00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:48,000
attacks then how had he contacted them

858
00:36:52,310 --> 00:36:50,010
apparently to the lawyer's office

859
00:36:54,890 --> 00:36:52,320
landline Hill said who advised him that

860
00:36:58,070 --> 00:36:54,900
there was a lift stuck and his receivers

861
00:37:00,800 --> 00:36:58,080
were probably in it as the room booking

862
00:37:03,380 --> 00:37:00,810
expired after an hour the test was

863
00:37:06,620 --> 00:37:03,390

called off on us for his reaction hill

864

00:37:08,870 --> 00:37:06,630

said quote I'm as mystified as you are

865

00:37:10,010 --> 00:37:08,880

in quote we all went home

866

00:37:14,450 --> 00:37:10,020

very

867

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:14,460

appointed aftermath I later asked Hill

868

00:37:19,460 --> 00:37:17,010

for contact details of his New York team

869

00:37:21,650 --> 00:37:19,470

so we could verify what happened and

870

00:37:24,020 --> 00:37:21,660

provide an explanation for our American

871

00:37:26,120 --> 00:37:24,030

colleagues he refused and instead

872

00:37:29,150 --> 00:37:26,130

requested that we give him contact

873

00:37:31,910 --> 00:37:29,160

details of our team the mobile phone

874

00:37:33,980 --> 00:37:31,920

excuses were repeated both sue and Jamie

875

00:37:36,320 --> 00:37:33,990

refused to use mobile phones due to

876

00:37:38,420 --> 00:37:36,330

health concerns in addition Hill said

877

00:37:40,310 --> 00:37:38,430

that quote written advice of the lift

878

00:37:42,890 --> 00:37:40,320

failure cannot be obtained due to

879

00:37:45,110 --> 00:37:42,900

possible litigation end quote Hill

880

00:37:47,300 --> 00:37:45,120

offered no apology or explanation and

881

00:37:49,520 --> 00:37:47,310

instead demanded quote the tests will

882

00:37:53,360 --> 00:37:49,530

resume in the first quarter of 2011 in

883

00:37:56,060 --> 00:37:53,370

quote conclusion formally the tests

884

00:37:58,120 --> 00:37:56,070

failed because the claimant and his team

885

00:38:00,530 --> 00:37:58,130

did not perform as claimed an

886

00:38:03,140 --> 00:38:00,540

unfortunate result of the way Hill had

887

00:38:06,440 --> 00:38:03,150

handled all this is that we have no

888

00:38:09,530 --> 00:38:06,450

evidence to support his account of sue

889

00:38:12,260 --> 00:38:09,540

and Jamie's strange predicament or even

890

00:38:14,120 --> 00:38:12,270

of their existence there is a way is the

891

00:38:16,820 --> 00:38:14,130

possibility that the claimant might be

892

00:38:19,730 --> 00:38:16,830

delusional which is why we have

893

00:38:21,770 --> 00:38:19,740

preliminary tests this is not to say

894

00:38:25,700 --> 00:38:21,780

this was the situation in this case as

895

00:38:28,880 --> 00:38:25,710

the inability of the test to proceed may

896

00:38:31,040 --> 00:38:28,890

well have been due to misadventure but

897

00:38:33,860 --> 00:38:31,050

to date we have no information to

898

00:38:35,930 --> 00:38:33,870

substantiate that conclusion and Hill so

899

00:38:38,300 --> 00:38:35,940

far has refused to give us relevant

900

00:38:41,210 --> 00:38:38,310

contact details so we can undertake our

901
00:38:43,610 --> 00:38:41,220
own investigations this is a lesson for

902
00:38:46,640 --> 00:38:43,620
all tests to ensure that all parties

903
00:38:49,010 --> 00:38:46,650
have full information prior to any tests

904
00:38:51,290 --> 00:38:49,020
preceding Hill refused to give this

905
00:38:54,710 --> 00:38:51,300
information and despite the fact that it

906
00:38:57,100 --> 00:38:54,720
was our \$100,000 at risk we acquiesced

907
00:38:59,060 --> 00:38:57,110
as an indication of our goodwill

908
00:39:01,490 --> 00:38:59,070
claimants and supporters of the

909
00:39:04,070 --> 00:39:01,500
paranormal claims are often sometimes

910
00:39:06,700 --> 00:39:04,080
too ready to cast aspersions against the

911
00:39:09,530 --> 00:39:06,710
sceptic sincerity we feel that as

912
00:39:12,410 --> 00:39:09,540
indicated by the time nepheline to the

913
00:39:15,290 --> 00:39:12,420

test that this is a totally unfair and

914

00:39:18,410 --> 00:39:15,300

unwarranted suggestion we cannot always

915

00:39:20,720 --> 00:39:18,420

say the same for claimants despite Hills

916

00:39:23,630 --> 00:39:20,730

a unilateral statement that the tests

917

00:39:25,700 --> 00:39:23,640

would be refilled early this year from

918

00:39:28,430 --> 00:39:25,710

our point of view we will not resume

919

00:39:31,490 --> 00:39:28,440

another test of Hill for 12 months at

920

00:39:33,830 --> 00:39:31,500

least if at all any future tests will

921

00:39:36,830 --> 00:39:33,840

require complete unrestricted

922

00:39:38,920 --> 00:39:36,840

information supplied to us and direct

923

00:39:41,840 --> 00:39:38,930

contact with any assistance he may have

924

00:39:44,120 --> 00:39:41,850

we would sincerely like to thank our New

925

00:39:46,280 --> 00:39:44,130

York contacts Lisa and Jacob for

926
00:39:48,860 --> 00:39:46,290
volunteering to take part in this

927
00:39:52,070 --> 00:39:48,870
investigation and for their diligence

928
00:39:54,260 --> 00:39:52,080
and time it indicates the great value of

929
00:39:56,480 --> 00:39:54,270
having a network of skeptics around the

930
00:39:59,240 --> 00:39:56,490
world to investigate such claims

931
00:40:01,150 --> 00:39:59,250
wherever they would be willing to brave

932
00:40:03,380 --> 00:40:01,160
the New York City winter again

933
00:40:09,260 --> 00:40:03,390
particularly considering the failure of

934
00:40:11,540 --> 00:40:09,270
the test is up to them and that was

935
00:40:13,940 --> 00:40:11,550
message not received written by Ian

936
00:40:16,840 --> 00:40:13,950
Bryce and you can read that and many

937
00:40:20,660 --> 00:40:16,850
more articles for yourself by a visiting

938
00:40:32,120 --> 00:40:20,670

WWC upticks calm you and following the

939

00:40:33,740 --> 00:40:32,130

links to the magazine hi this is Heidi

940

00:40:37,010 --> 00:40:33,750

Robertson from the Northern Rivers

941

00:40:39,230 --> 00:40:37,020

vaccination supporters we are a group of

942

00:40:41,330 --> 00:40:39,240

concerned citizens dedicated to

943

00:40:43,970 --> 00:40:41,340

promoting good science and common sense

944

00:40:47,060 --> 00:40:43,980

in our region the far north coast of New

945

00:40:49,390 --> 00:40:47,070

South Wales this area are famous for its

946

00:40:52,580 --> 00:40:49,400

natural beauty and relaxed lifestyle

947

00:40:55,670 --> 00:40:52,590

also has the lowest rates of vaccination

948

00:40:57,350 --> 00:40:55,680

in Australia we are out to change that

949

00:41:00,080 --> 00:40:57,360

by challenging the myths and

950

00:41:02,300 --> 00:41:00,090

misinformation and by providing good

951
00:41:05,180 --> 00:41:02,310
evidence-based information to the

952
00:41:07,610 --> 00:41:05,190
community we'd love for you no matter

953
00:41:14,500 --> 00:41:07,620
where you are in the world to join our

954
00:41:18,080 --> 00:41:14,510
fight please visit our web page at WWF

955
00:41:19,120 --> 00:41:18,090
in folk we also have a link there to our

956
00:41:23,270 --> 00:41:19,130
Facebook page

957
00:41:24,350 --> 00:41:23,280
tweet us at in our FAQs supporters

958
00:41:26,750 --> 00:41:24,360
that's VA

959
00:41:28,720 --> 00:41:26,760
and check us out on Wikipedia by

960
00:41:43,790 --> 00:41:28,730
searching for Northern Rivers

961
00:41:58,530 --> 00:41:43,800
vaccination supporters thank you let's

962
00:42:05,220 --> 00:42:01,080
yes it's Trish and chips with Trish

963
00:42:06,990 --> 00:42:05,230

hello trees look congratulations and

964

00:42:08,640 --> 00:42:07,000

welcome aboard you've been on the

965

00:42:09,540 --> 00:42:08,650

skipping zone before for a while but now

966

00:42:11,970 --> 00:42:09,550

you're official

967

00:42:14,760 --> 00:42:11,980

well it's scary isn't it weird skeptics

968

00:42:16,830 --> 00:42:14,770

in the pub by the way and you and I are

969

00:42:18,930 --> 00:42:16,840

sitting here racking our brains trying

970

00:42:22,080 --> 00:42:18,940

to come up with this month's question

971

00:42:23,670 --> 00:42:22,090

but you're yeah you're seriously you're

972

00:42:25,380 --> 00:42:23,680

on Collin you could be whisked away at

973

00:42:27,840 --> 00:42:25,390

any moment yeah if that horrible thing

974

00:42:30,960 --> 00:42:27,850

starts bleeping then off I go what would

975

00:42:32,910 --> 00:42:30,970

you be doing when you go off oh so I'm

976

00:42:34,980 --> 00:42:32,920

on call for interventional radiology

977

00:42:37,610 --> 00:42:34,990

tonight which is basically if anyone in

978

00:42:40,680 --> 00:42:37,620

the Sydney surrounds has a stroke or

979

00:42:42,420 --> 00:42:40,690

starts unexplained bleeding or explained

980

00:42:47,430 --> 00:42:42,430

bleeding then that's where we go off and

981

00:42:50,340 --> 00:42:47,440

fix so you fly up down the stairs not to

982

00:42:51,780 --> 00:42:50,350

break both of my legs in the process and

983

00:42:53,160 --> 00:42:51,790

you don't go to the kitchen you go

984

00:42:55,590 --> 00:42:53,170

straight out what do you get a taxi to

985

00:42:57,570 --> 00:42:55,600

straight to the hospital yeah depending

986

00:42:59,550 --> 00:42:57,580

on the traffic anyway here we are at

987

00:43:00,930 --> 00:42:59,560

skeptics and it's filling up I must say

988

00:43:03,240 --> 00:43:00,940

skeptics in the pub would say it's a

989

00:43:05,940 --> 00:43:03,250

good thing is a Jessica Singer over

990

00:43:08,910 --> 00:43:05,950

there and waving abysses he's setting up

991

00:43:10,290 --> 00:43:08,920

we got a smattering of a committee

992

00:43:12,750 --> 00:43:10,300

members here tonight and I brought my

993

00:43:14,460 --> 00:43:12,760

spoons which is pretty cool when do you

994

00:43:17,030 --> 00:43:14,470

ever not have your spoon I don't know

995

00:43:23,490 --> 00:43:17,040

always your weight armed and dangerous

996

00:43:24,710 --> 00:43:23,500

spoon spoon so but folks you know every

997

00:43:27,360 --> 00:43:24,720

every month

998

00:43:28,770 --> 00:43:27,370

Skippy's and listeners know there's a

999

00:43:31,530 --> 00:43:28,780

report from skeptics in the pub and we

1000

00:43:33,090 --> 00:43:31,540

always have the skeptic girl question

1001
00:43:35,790 --> 00:43:33,100
the sceptical question of the month and

1002
00:43:39,210 --> 00:43:35,800
we can't think of one what are we going

1003
00:43:40,950 --> 00:43:39,220
to ask people tonight hey nice we're

1004
00:43:42,390 --> 00:43:40,960
boring Blaine's who knows maybe that

1005
00:43:45,090 --> 00:43:42,400
should be the question what what we

1006
00:43:49,490 --> 00:43:45,100
should we ask what's the question the

1007
00:43:56,220 --> 00:43:54,030
let's let's let's grab a drink and we'll

1008
00:44:01,050 --> 00:43:56,230
try to come up with tonight's question

1009
00:44:03,690 --> 00:44:01,060
that's a good plan so after racking our

1010
00:44:04,830 --> 00:44:03,700
brains for a few minutes I think I

1011
00:44:07,590 --> 00:44:04,840
finally come up with a question for

1012
00:44:09,360 --> 00:44:07,600
tonight and my first interviewee is

1013
00:44:13,680 --> 00:44:09,370

going to be Richard Saunders hello

1014

00:44:15,960 --> 00:44:13,690

Richard surprise how does it feel to be

1015

00:44:18,210 --> 00:44:15,970

on the receiving end oh I'm on the

1016

00:44:22,110 --> 00:44:18,220

receiving end of a lot of things no it's

1017

00:44:24,330 --> 00:44:22,120

great it's great okay so um obviously

1018

00:44:26,340 --> 00:44:24,340

next week is Valentine's Day the patron

1019

00:44:28,110 --> 00:44:26,350

saint of the lovers is st. Valentine who

1020

00:44:33,350 --> 00:44:28,120

in your opinion is the patron saint of

1021

00:44:39,180 --> 00:44:36,330

mean it would be tempting simply to say

1022

00:44:42,210 --> 00:44:39,190

James Randi and be done with it and it's

1023

00:44:45,150 --> 00:44:42,220

probably a good answer but I'd be also

1024

00:44:49,050 --> 00:44:45,160

tempted to say even before Randy would

1025

00:44:52,860 --> 00:44:49,060

be Carl Sagan that might come up a lot

1026
00:44:54,240 --> 00:44:52,870
too I think if you have two patron

1027
00:44:56,850 --> 00:44:54,250
saints it would have to be Randy and

1028
00:44:59,240 --> 00:44:56,860
Sagan I would think good question

1029
00:45:01,710 --> 00:44:59,250
excellent choices fantastic

1030
00:45:03,000 --> 00:45:01,720
so I'm now here with Jessica singer so

1031
00:45:05,280 --> 00:45:03,010
Jessica singer who would your patron

1032
00:45:07,290 --> 00:45:05,290
saint of skepticism be oh well I'd say

1033
00:45:09,180 --> 00:45:07,300
that begs the question of should

1034
00:45:13,950 --> 00:45:09,190
skeptics have a saint

1035
00:45:18,360 --> 00:45:13,960
at all and I know there's a lot of hero

1036
00:45:21,930 --> 00:45:18,370
worship in the movement and particularly

1037
00:45:25,890 --> 00:45:21,940
in the u.s. oh yeah and in Australia and

1038
00:45:27,690 --> 00:45:25,900

probably in in the UK as well a common

1039

00:45:30,150 --> 00:45:27,700

thread that runs through is that we

1040

00:45:34,500 --> 00:45:30,160

don't like that kind of hero worship and

1041

00:45:36,570 --> 00:45:34,510

it's all for our to uncritical and you

1042

00:45:40,710 --> 00:45:36,580

know just as a cult of personality right

1043

00:45:42,960 --> 00:45:40,720

yeah exactly exactly so I'd say we're

1044

00:45:47,130 --> 00:45:42,970

skeptics are no Saints there we go

1045

00:45:49,550 --> 00:45:47,140

controversial we turn the tables again

1046

00:45:51,080 --> 00:45:49,560

Trish who who do you think

1047

00:45:54,010 --> 00:45:51,090

who do you think could be up there on

1048

00:45:57,710 --> 00:45:54,020

the glass window as a patron saint's

1049

00:45:59,270 --> 00:45:57,720

skepticism well I'm kind of torn because

1050

00:46:04,490 --> 00:45:59,280

you know I think it should be someone

1051
00:46:07,910 --> 00:46:04,500
fairly photogenic oh yeah and so I think

1052
00:46:11,210 --> 00:46:07,920
it should be Tim mentioned Tim Minchin

1053
00:46:12,740 --> 00:46:11,220
yeah he's pretty good-looking he's not

1054
00:46:15,590 --> 00:46:12,750
bad to look at I'm on a stained-glass

1055
00:46:18,830 --> 00:46:15,600
window you can carry a tune absolutely

1056
00:46:22,370 --> 00:46:18,840
exactly exactly and you know he has sung

1057
00:46:26,060 --> 00:46:22,380
about the Pope so we have here embrace

1058
00:46:27,470 --> 00:46:26,070
in as you may or may not be aware next

1059
00:46:29,900 --> 00:46:27,480
week is Valentine's Day

1060
00:46:32,690 --> 00:46:29,910
oh okay the patron saint of the lovers

1061
00:46:34,640 --> 00:46:32,700
is st. Valentine in your opinion who

1062
00:46:39,590 --> 00:46:34,650
should be the patron saint of skepticism

1063
00:46:45,590 --> 00:46:39,600

the patron saint of skepticism I think

1064

00:46:47,540 --> 00:46:45,600

that's James Randi and why well he's

1065

00:46:49,640 --> 00:46:47,550

done more to promote skepticism I think

1066

00:46:52,270 --> 00:46:49,650

than most some Thomas Aquinas is often

1067

00:46:56,360 --> 00:46:52,280

mentioned but he his deaths were

1068

00:46:58,550 --> 00:46:56,370

mediocre he doesn't really know James

1069

00:47:03,350 --> 00:46:58,560

Randi okay he had the flim-flam no

1070

00:47:05,120 --> 00:47:03,360

that's the wrong to have the bleep was

1071

00:47:07,940 --> 00:47:05,130

that right and flim-flam was a

1072

00:47:10,760 --> 00:47:07,950

derogatory term for the whoo that he's

1073

00:47:12,800 --> 00:47:10,770

that he had the bling in presenting at

1074

00:47:14,579 --> 00:47:12,810

Southside James Randi excellent good

1075

00:47:17,910 --> 00:47:14,589

choice

1076

00:47:19,620 --> 00:47:17,920

I am now here with Tim Mendham the

1077

00:47:23,579 --> 00:47:19,630

executive officer for Australian

1078

00:47:26,309 --> 00:47:23,589

skeptics to give him his full title so

1079

00:47:29,130 --> 00:47:26,319

Tim what would you your answer for the

1080

00:47:32,459 --> 00:47:29,140

question tonight be well I've given this

1081

00:47:34,589 --> 00:47:32,469

a great deal of thought over the years I

1082

00:47:37,440 --> 00:47:34,599

must have spent at least five minutes on

1083

00:47:40,019 --> 00:47:37,450

it so but I would say obviously it has

1084

00:47:43,829 --> 00:47:40,029

to be William of Ockham known for his

1085

00:47:45,749 --> 00:47:43,839

shaving gear he's got a sharp wit it

1086

00:47:48,329 --> 00:47:45,759

very sharp wit he can cut yourself with

1087

00:47:51,329 --> 00:47:48,339

an AC so William of Occam's razor which

1088

00:47:52,680 --> 00:47:51,339

is a cos in Latin because of as oh there

1089

00:47:55,140 --> 00:47:52,690

under the cotton whether it is in Latin

1090

00:47:57,120 --> 00:47:55,150

but it's not billed desperandum no

1091

00:48:00,120 --> 00:47:57,130

something else but it obviously means do

1092

00:48:01,499 --> 00:48:00,130

not multiply solutions be unnecessary in

1093

00:48:04,319 --> 00:48:01,509

other words the simplest answer is

1094

00:48:05,670 --> 00:48:04,329

normally the best and basically don't

1095

00:48:08,339 --> 00:48:05,680

use explanations which are so

1096

00:48:09,719 --> 00:48:08,349

complicated they have to sort of you

1097

00:48:11,309 --> 00:48:09,729

have to change everything they make them

1098

00:48:13,589 --> 00:48:11,319

feel and this is why people like

1099

00:48:17,819 --> 00:48:13,599

creationists and all sorts of people do

1100

00:48:20,160 --> 00:48:17,829

they have to twist and turn in their

1101
00:48:21,719 --> 00:48:20,170
science in quotes together something

1102
00:48:24,180 --> 00:48:21,729
that works in the real world

1103
00:48:25,680 --> 00:48:24,190
where's often you just say up it's

1104
00:48:27,059 --> 00:48:25,690
pretty straightforward and this is the

1105
00:48:29,759 --> 00:48:27,069
answer and I would say he's within

1106
00:48:31,799 --> 00:48:29,769
welcome this is them make insane that's

1107
00:48:33,720 --> 00:48:31,809
pretty that's a unique artist night well

1108
00:48:36,400 --> 00:48:33,730
done congratulations

1109
00:48:39,250 --> 00:48:36,410
so I am now here with Jessica hazard

1110
00:48:41,110 --> 00:48:39,260
white Jessica as you may know it's

1111
00:48:43,270 --> 00:48:41,120
Valentine's Day next week and the patron

1112
00:48:47,050 --> 00:48:43,280
saint of the lovers is some Valentine

1113
00:48:48,700 --> 00:48:47,060

who is your patron saint of skepticism

1114

00:48:54,910 --> 00:48:48,710

you're gonna cringe at me when I say

1115

00:48:58,450 --> 00:48:54,920

this but Trish Hahn patron saint because

1116

00:49:00,760 --> 00:48:58,460

we need more smart young boldly women

1117

00:49:02,890 --> 00:49:00,770

and skepticism who don't take any

1118

00:49:11,350 --> 00:49:02,900

and that is what you do she just called

1119

00:49:16,360 --> 00:49:11,360

me on ok I'm changing my answer

1120

00:49:25,340 --> 00:49:16,370

so Jessica hazard white it's a skeptical

1121

00:49:25,350 --> 00:49:40,420

[Music]

1122

00:49:44,109 --> 00:49:41,669

[Applause]

1123

00:49:46,509 --> 00:49:44,119

thank you for listening to the skeptic

1124

00:49:48,309 --> 00:49:46,519

zone and now here's a note from our

1125

00:49:50,739 --> 00:49:48,319

friends in Canberra for Canberra

1126
00:49:55,029 --> 00:49:50,749
skeptics Canberra skeptics proudly

1127
00:49:56,739 --> 00:49:55,039
presents talking plain about GMOs now

1128
00:50:01,029 --> 00:49:56,749
this will be on Tuesday the tooth of

1129
00:50:03,009 --> 00:50:01,039
March 2019 starting at 6 p.m. and the

1130
00:50:05,439 --> 00:50:03,019
speaker is Jose barrio

1131
00:50:08,620 --> 00:50:05,449
the venue the Belconnen community

1132
00:50:11,259 --> 00:50:08,630
services 26 Chandler Street Belconnen in

1133
00:50:13,029 --> 00:50:11,269
the AC T and the cost is free humans

1134
00:50:14,859 --> 00:50:13,039
have been using breeding for thousands

1135
00:50:17,529 --> 00:50:14,869
of years to genetically modified plants

1136
00:50:19,660 --> 00:50:17,539
and animals since domestication started

1137
00:50:22,539 --> 00:50:19,670
but as the human population rapidly

1138
00:50:24,549 --> 00:50:22,549

heads towards 8 billion people the

1139

00:50:27,219 --> 00:50:24,559

challenges of feeding ourselves is

1140

00:50:29,589 --> 00:50:27,229

becoming greater genetically modified

1141

00:50:31,809 --> 00:50:29,599

organisms GMOs is an essential

1142

00:50:34,029 --> 00:50:31,819

technology to safely increase yields

1143

00:50:35,829 --> 00:50:34,039

while minimizing the use of resources

1144

00:50:38,319 --> 00:50:35,839

such as land or water

1145

00:50:41,229 --> 00:50:38,329

and reducing the need for fertilisers

1146

00:50:43,719 --> 00:50:41,239

and pesticides however only a handful of

1147

00:50:46,479 --> 00:50:43,729

GMOs are currently approved and used in

1148

00:50:48,900 --> 00:50:46,489

agriculture general public opposition to

1149

00:50:51,849 --> 00:50:48,910

GMOs is delaying the development and

1150

00:50:54,419 --> 00:50:51,859

legislation of a multitude of beneficial

1151
00:50:57,370 --> 00:50:54,429
GMOs and biotechnological applications

1152
00:51:00,339 --> 00:50:57,380
so find out more at that free talk and

1153
00:51:03,069 --> 00:51:00,349
for more information just head to

1154
00:51:05,739 --> 00:51:03,079
Canberra skeptics org

1155
00:51:07,870 --> 00:51:05,749
or look them up on Facebook with a link

1156
00:51:09,880 --> 00:51:07,880
in this week's show notes coming up on

1157
00:51:12,609 --> 00:51:09,890
next week's show we hope to bring you an

1158
00:51:15,479 --> 00:51:12,619
interview with mark Edward market Wood

1159
00:51:18,759 --> 00:51:15,489
who wrote the book psychic blues about

1160
00:51:21,009 --> 00:51:18,769
cold reading and psychic reading and all

1161
00:51:22,959 --> 00:51:21,019
that sort of thing also this week I'll

1162
00:51:24,729 --> 00:51:22,969
give the word around to my reporters see

1163
00:51:26,650 --> 00:51:24,739

what goodies they can come up with and

1164

00:51:28,900 --> 00:51:26,660

thank you to those people who recently

1165

00:51:31,299 --> 00:51:28,910

joined the skeptic zone of a hi patreon

1166

00:51:34,419 --> 00:51:31,309

you can do that at skipping zone dot TV

1167

00:51:38,019 --> 00:51:34,429

and your contribution will keep the show

1168

00:51:39,669 --> 00:51:38,029

going for everybody to enjoy but for

1169

00:51:45,570 --> 00:51:39,679

this week this is Richard Saunders

1170

00:51:50,980 --> 00:51:48,070

you've been listening to the skeptic

1171

00:51:57,670 --> 00:51:50,990

zone podcast please visit our website at

1172

00:52:01,170 --> 00:51:57,680

wwlp.com tax and to access the bat

1173

00:52:03,850 --> 00:52:01,180

catalog of episodes going back to 2008

1174

00:52:07,120 --> 00:52:03,860

you can follow the skeptic zone podcast

1175

00:52:09,400 --> 00:52:07,130

on twitter at skeptic zone visit our

1176

00:52:12,760 --> 00:52:09,410

facebook page or leave a review on

1177

00:52:16,150 --> 00:52:12,770

itunes you can also support the skeptic

1178

00:52:18,490 --> 00:52:16,160

zone via patreon or PayPal the skeptic

1179

00:52:20,440 --> 00:52:18,500

zone podcast is an independent

1180

00:52:22,660 --> 00:52:20,450

production reviews and opinions

1181

00:52:24,790 --> 00:52:22,670

expressed on the skeptic zone are not

1182

00:52:27,730 --> 00:52:24,800

necessarily those of Australian skeptics

1183

00:52:44,190 --> 00:52:27,740

or any other skeptical organisation

1184

00:52:49,809 --> 00:52:46,900

helloyou afterthought people the people

1185

00:52:51,700 --> 00:52:49,819

who hang around to play the dice game 10

1186

00:52:58,240 --> 00:52:51,710

sided die I've got it in a container

1187

00:53:00,040 --> 00:52:58,250

this week rattling around so the the

1188

00:53:02,800 --> 00:53:00,050

game is simple for those people who are

1189

00:53:06,970 --> 00:53:02,810

new to play every once in a while I'll

1190

00:53:10,660 --> 00:53:06,980

roll a tin sided die three times and you

1191

00:53:12,490 --> 00:53:10,670

have to use yourself you have to use

1192

00:53:16,420 --> 00:53:12,500

your psychic yes you have to use your

1193

00:53:18,849 --> 00:53:16,430

psychic predicting power to predict what

1194

00:53:20,920 --> 00:53:18,859

number will come up while you're

1195

00:53:22,630 --> 00:53:20,930

predicting the past drill it because

1196

00:53:24,730 --> 00:53:22,640

depending on when you're listening to

1197

00:53:26,980 --> 00:53:24,740

this this either happened a few days ago

1198

00:53:29,309 --> 00:53:26,990

a few weeks ago a few years ago a few

1199

00:53:31,870 --> 00:53:29,319

decades ago anyway here we go

1200

00:53:34,660 --> 00:53:31,880

dices in the little container the dive

1201

00:53:35,770 --> 00:53:34,670

gonna roll it rattle it three times and

1202

00:53:42,089 --> 00:53:35,780

see what number comes up are you

1203

00:53:46,960 --> 00:53:42,099

predicting here we go first number three

1204

00:53:53,130 --> 00:53:46,970

hmm number three ready again predict

1205

00:54:00,660 --> 00:53:53,140

away here we go and it stops on two

1206

00:54:04,870 --> 00:54:00,670

three and two one last time predict and

1207

00:54:07,690 --> 00:54:04,880

it stops again on number three so three