

Episode **581**

THE
**SKEPTIC
ZONE**
PODCAST

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1 December 2019

The Skeptic Zone Podcast
Episode **581** - 1 December 2019



Skeptical Activism
on the streets of Sydney

Pint Sized Fun
SitP with Tim Mendham

Media reports on
The Bend Spoon Award

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Tim Mendham

1
00:00:13,920 --> 00:00:09,110
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2
00:00:16,900 --> 00:00:13,930
from Australia for science and reason

3
00:00:22,859 --> 00:00:16,910
[Applause]

4
00:00:25,359 --> 00:00:22,869
[Music]

5
00:00:29,019 --> 00:00:25,369
yes it's the skeptics own podcast

6
00:00:32,019 --> 00:00:29,029
episode number 581 for the 1st of

7
00:00:34,450 --> 00:00:32,029
December 2019 richardsaunders here with

8
00:00:36,700 --> 00:00:34,460
you from Sydney Australia coming up on

9
00:00:39,579 --> 00:00:36,710
this week's show skeptical activism

10
00:00:42,610 --> 00:00:39,589
getting out there getting up there in

11
00:00:46,119 --> 00:00:42,620
public doing something not sitting in

12
00:00:48,460 --> 00:00:46,129
your armchair being active I think you

13
00:00:51,880 --> 00:00:48,470

understand what I'm trying to say a week

14

00:00:54,700 --> 00:00:51,890

ago the talking to the dead performer

15

00:00:57,549 --> 00:00:54,710

John Edward was in Sydney and members of

16

00:00:59,710 --> 00:00:57,559

the Australian skeptics were on hand in

17

00:01:03,420 --> 00:00:59,720

the street to hand out information

18

00:01:07,929 --> 00:01:03,430

leaflets what happened was it a success

19

00:01:10,030 --> 00:01:07,939

what did we achieve did we have fun find

20

00:01:12,310 --> 00:01:10,040

out at the top of the show following

21

00:01:13,990 --> 00:01:12,320

that it's Tim Mendham the executive

22

00:01:16,480 --> 00:01:14,000

officer of Australian skeptics and

23

00:01:20,160 --> 00:01:16,490

editor of the skeptic magazine back

24

00:01:24,569 --> 00:01:20,170

again with a look at the history of

25

00:01:28,300 --> 00:01:24,579

skeptics in the pub in a segment called

26
00:01:31,690 --> 00:01:28,310
pint-sized fun and to round off the show

27
00:01:34,480 --> 00:01:31,700
in honor of the convention skeptic on

28
00:01:36,520 --> 00:01:34,490
coming up oh this time next week we'll

29
00:01:39,819 --> 00:01:36,530
be at skeptic on we're going to look at

30
00:01:42,340 --> 00:01:39,829
the media attention gained by the bent

31
00:01:44,169 --> 00:01:42,350
spoon award over the years other bent

32
00:01:46,209 --> 00:01:44,179
spoon award of course is awarded to the

33
00:01:49,029 --> 00:01:46,219
most preposterous piece of paranormal or

34
00:01:52,389 --> 00:01:49,039
pseudo scientific peer fall and if I

35
00:01:55,330 --> 00:01:52,399
remember now the very first Australian

36
00:02:00,090 --> 00:01:55,340
skeptics convention I attended was 20

37
00:02:03,099 --> 00:02:00,100
years ago 1999 it was in Adelaide and

38
00:02:05,499 --> 00:02:03,109

that year the winner of the bent spoon

39

00:02:08,350 --> 00:02:05,509

award was I think my Quilici the

40

00:02:11,650 --> 00:02:08,360

journalist my Quilici and the following

41

00:02:14,920 --> 00:02:11,660

year was a woman called yes machine or

42

00:02:18,190 --> 00:02:14,930

jazz Mahim a breatharian she claimed

43

00:02:20,949 --> 00:02:18,200

that she could live quite happily on air

44

00:02:23,800 --> 00:02:20,959

and she didn't need to eat or drink or

45

00:02:27,670 --> 00:02:23,810

anything like that anyway a rich history

46

00:02:30,400 --> 00:02:27,680

on the bent spoon find out some of the

47

00:02:31,620 --> 00:02:30,410

reports going back over the years later

48

00:02:34,330 --> 00:02:31,630

on in the show

49

00:02:35,740 --> 00:02:34,340

keep listening at the end of the show

50

00:02:38,530 --> 00:02:35,750

there's some more important

51
00:02:41,050 --> 00:02:38,540
announcements from me but now it's time

52
00:02:45,760 --> 00:02:41,060
for me to run downstairs and feed these

53
00:02:47,440 --> 00:02:45,770
to skeptics owned cats Henny Henrietta

54
00:02:49,510 --> 00:02:47,450
the skeptical cat one of the skeptical

55
00:02:52,870 --> 00:02:49,520
cats somehow managed to get herself

56
00:02:55,330 --> 00:02:52,880
locked in the studio last night and did

57
00:02:56,710 --> 00:02:55,340
a check but she was hiding somewhere so

58
00:02:59,110 --> 00:02:56,720
when I woke up this morning there were

59
00:03:00,850 --> 00:02:59,120
various meows coming from the door I

60
00:03:02,979 --> 00:03:00,860
opened it up in this little black and

61
00:03:04,509 --> 00:03:02,989
white streak of lightning zapped out of

62
00:03:07,750 --> 00:03:04,519
the room and ran downstairs for her

63
00:03:10,059 --> 00:03:07,760

breakfast sorry any okay you two come

64

00:03:13,300 --> 00:03:10,069

downstairs for breakfast while I do that

65

00:03:22,520 --> 00:03:13,310

I hope you enjoy the skeptic zone

66

00:03:31,839 --> 00:03:22,530

[Music]

67

00:03:38,990 --> 00:03:35,240

John Edward McGee known professionally

68

00:03:41,390 --> 00:03:39,000

as John Edward claims as do thousands of

69

00:03:46,250 --> 00:03:41,400

people around the world that he can talk

70

00:03:49,729 --> 00:03:46,260

with the dead not to the dead but with

71

00:03:52,759 --> 00:03:49,739

the dead in other words getting answers

72

00:03:55,099 --> 00:03:52,769

to questions or hearing messages from

73

00:03:57,430 --> 00:03:55,109

the dead Edward has been visiting

74

00:03:59,660 --> 00:03:57,440

Australia for many many many years

75

00:04:02,119 --> 00:03:59,670

usually coming in the middle of the year

76

00:04:05,330 --> 00:04:02,129

to do some speaking for the tour he

77

00:04:07,699 --> 00:04:05,340

conducts towards the end of the year it

78

00:04:11,259 --> 00:04:07,709

is a foregone conclusion that various

79

00:04:13,940 --> 00:04:11,269

media outlets magazines so on will

80

00:04:18,170 --> 00:04:13,950

automatically invite him on to be a

81

00:04:21,110 --> 00:04:18,180

guest and do the mind of the producer

82

00:04:24,590 --> 00:04:21,120

running a TV show or a magazine or a

83

00:04:27,560 --> 00:04:24,600

radio program a sceptical voice would

84

00:04:29,390 --> 00:04:27,570

only matter if they think that sceptical

85

00:04:32,150 --> 00:04:29,400

voice would add to the publicity in

86

00:04:36,050 --> 00:04:32,160

other words let's have a skeptic in to

87

00:04:37,480 --> 00:04:36,060

create some false balance other than

88

00:04:40,330 --> 00:04:37,490

that they know their audience and

89

00:04:44,120 --> 00:04:40,340

largely the audience wants to hear about

90

00:04:47,240 --> 00:04:44,130

people who talk to the dead inspired by

91

00:04:50,600 --> 00:04:47,250

actions taken in the UK Australian

92

00:04:53,870 --> 00:04:50,610

skeptics earlier this year fronted up to

93

00:04:55,760 --> 00:04:53,880

the performance of Sally Morgan a UK

94

00:04:58,640 --> 00:04:55,770

psychic who also does the rounds of

95

00:05:01,310 --> 00:04:58,650

Australia regularly and handed up flyers

96

00:05:03,020 --> 00:05:01,320

to people audience making their way in

97

00:05:06,200 --> 00:05:03,030

to see the show at the State Theatre

98

00:05:08,300 --> 00:05:06,210

here in Sydney a grand old theater

99

00:05:11,089 --> 00:05:08,310

I regret I was not available on that

100

00:05:13,070 --> 00:05:11,099

occasion however in the past week the

101
00:05:15,200 --> 00:05:13,080
occasion of John Edward appearing at the

102
00:05:17,300 --> 00:05:15,210
same Theatre arose and the Australian

103
00:05:20,899 --> 00:05:17,310
skeptics decided to front up once again

104
00:05:26,570 --> 00:05:20,909
it was thought best that me being a

105
00:05:28,370 --> 00:05:26,580
middle-aged man and could be conceived

106
00:05:30,980 --> 00:05:28,380
as being a bit intimidating although

107
00:05:33,500 --> 00:05:30,990
those who know me half would never think

108
00:05:34,540 --> 00:05:33,510
that however however to a stranger some

109
00:05:36,010 --> 00:05:34,550
tall bloke

110
00:05:38,050 --> 00:05:36,020
coming over with gray hair saying

111
00:05:40,510 --> 00:05:38,060
they'll do this or do that or whatever

112
00:05:42,280 --> 00:05:40,520
anyway it was decided that Trish and

113
00:05:44,680 --> 00:05:42,290

Lara would be the best to simply hand

114

00:05:45,220 --> 00:05:44,690

out flyers at the entrance to the State

115

00:05:48,430 --> 00:05:45,230

Theater

116

00:05:53,740 --> 00:05:48,440

I took position across the street to

117

00:05:56,260 --> 00:05:53,750

photograph and be on hand in case some

118

00:05:59,230 --> 00:05:56,270

people got particularly annoyed with

119

00:06:02,800 --> 00:05:59,240

Trish and Lara and there is a precedent

120

00:06:05,620 --> 00:06:02,810

for this because some years back at a

121

00:06:08,170 --> 00:06:05,630

Sally Morgan performance when skeptics

122

00:06:10,780 --> 00:06:08,180

were there to hand out flyers

123

00:06:13,900 --> 00:06:10,790

Sally Morgan's husband came out and was

124

00:06:16,180 --> 00:06:13,910

abusive and rude and threatening and

125

00:06:19,360 --> 00:06:16,190

this is all being captured on video

126

00:06:22,600 --> 00:06:19,370

nevertheless we pick up the story as I

127

00:06:30,460 --> 00:06:22,610

make my way to meet Lara and Trish at

128

00:06:33,790 --> 00:06:30,470

the Sydney Town Hall today is Sunday the

129

00:06:36,760 --> 00:06:33,800

24th of November 2019

130

00:06:39,670 --> 00:06:36,770

I'm downtown Sydney just outside of the

131

00:06:41,590 --> 00:06:39,680

Sydney Town Hall sitting at one of the

132

00:06:43,360 --> 00:06:41,600

new tram stops and the tram will start

133

00:06:46,930 --> 00:06:43,370

operating officially in about two weeks

134

00:06:49,900 --> 00:06:46,940

I think he comes one now under test

135

00:06:52,149 --> 00:06:49,910

there it goes gliding past

136

00:06:55,629 --> 00:06:52,159

[Music]

137

00:06:58,809 --> 00:06:55,639

I'm here to take part in a little

138

00:07:03,639 --> 00:06:58,819

exercise we're going to be handing out

139

00:07:05,199 --> 00:07:03,649

skeptical fliers to people outside the

140

00:07:08,439 --> 00:07:05,209

state theater because of the state

141

00:07:11,559 --> 00:07:08,449

theater none other than John Edward is

142

00:07:13,479 --> 00:07:11,569

appearing this afternoon John Edward who

143

00:07:20,399 --> 00:07:13,489

has been coming to Australia for roughly

144

00:07:22,959 --> 00:07:20,409

20 years and I think without fail every

145

00:07:24,699 --> 00:07:22,969

six months during those 20 years he

146

00:07:27,309 --> 00:07:24,709

appears once in the middle of the year

147

00:07:29,379 --> 00:07:27,319

to do a little bit of media and spooking

148

00:07:36,089 --> 00:07:29,389

and then that towards the end of the

149

00:07:41,900 --> 00:07:36,099

year to perform his stage routine

150

00:07:46,250 --> 00:07:41,910

talking to the dead talking to the dead

151
00:07:47,990 --> 00:07:46,260
and for years there's I guess the

152
00:07:49,520 --> 00:07:48,000
attitude is well what can we do this

153
00:07:53,840 --> 00:07:49,530
happens here after year after year after

154
00:07:58,130 --> 00:07:53,850
year many years ago many years ago the

155
00:08:02,120 --> 00:07:58,140
TV took an interest in a skeptical angle

156
00:08:05,140 --> 00:08:02,130
and I appeared on one of the TV shows

157
00:08:08,780 --> 00:08:05,150
about it but that was over a decade ago

158
00:08:11,390 --> 00:08:08,790
easily over a decade ago the investor

159
00:08:15,880 --> 00:08:11,400
with media don't care anymore he's just

160
00:08:19,280 --> 00:08:15,890
a fixture and he always gets a run on

161
00:08:21,380 --> 00:08:19,290
other media you know the good morning

162
00:08:24,230 --> 00:08:21,390
chat shows or this doubt of the women's

163
00:08:27,160 --> 00:08:24,240

magazines I don't want to sound make

164

00:08:31,719 --> 00:08:27,170

that sound the way it came out that

165

00:08:35,089 --> 00:08:31,729

trashy magazines usually aimed at women

166

00:08:40,020 --> 00:08:35,099

fashions and royal mews and Hollywood

167

00:08:47,110 --> 00:08:43,600

anyway that's his his territory is the

168

00:08:51,730 --> 00:08:47,120

tram sails away so I'm going to be

169

00:08:56,590 --> 00:08:51,740

meeting Lara from the committee and

170

00:08:59,310 --> 00:08:56,600

Trish Han and we'll see how it goes

171

00:09:01,390 --> 00:08:59,320

at the moment I'm scheduled to sort of

172

00:09:04,090 --> 00:09:01,400

hang in the background a little bit

173

00:09:07,090 --> 00:09:04,100

because for me to appear outside a

174

00:09:08,860 --> 00:09:07,100

psychic show like John Edward I my face

175

00:09:10,630 --> 00:09:08,870

is still after all these he's still

176

00:09:15,430 --> 00:09:10,640

reasonably known so it that might

177

00:09:17,200 --> 00:09:15,440

backfire and it was thought that it

178

00:09:20,260 --> 00:09:17,210

would be better not to have the

179

00:09:21,760 --> 00:09:20,270

middle-aged man trying to hand out

180

00:09:25,780 --> 00:09:21,770

leaflets at one of these things it would

181

00:09:30,550 --> 00:09:25,790

be a better approach to have young

182

00:09:34,600 --> 00:09:30,560

younger people anyway I can see Trish

183

00:09:35,980 --> 00:09:34,610

sitting on the steps we'll see how it

184

00:09:38,730 --> 00:09:35,990

goes it should be a very interesting

185

00:09:43,420 --> 00:09:41,230

Trish Han we were just approached by

186

00:09:46,150 --> 00:09:43,430

this kite handing out Scientology

187

00:09:48,580 --> 00:09:46,160

literature how about that yeah weird as

188

00:09:50,470 --> 00:09:48,590

right in the middle of town hall on the

189

00:09:52,210 --> 00:09:50,480

steps there's all sorts of things going

190

00:09:53,860 --> 00:09:52,220

on here there's no people protesting

191

00:09:55,210 --> 00:09:53,870

down there there's people going about

192

00:09:56,590 --> 00:09:55,220

their business and this dude's just

193

00:09:57,730 --> 00:09:56,600

handling it real casually yeah

194

00:10:01,120 --> 00:09:57,740

occasionally just handing out

195

00:10:03,250 --> 00:10:01,130

Scientology players yeah happy happy as

196

00:10:04,940 --> 00:10:03,260

Larry we might say now you've been

197

00:10:07,310 --> 00:10:04,950

involved with

198

00:10:09,170 --> 00:10:07,320

something similar to what we're going to

199

00:10:11,900 --> 00:10:09,180

do this afternoon in fact here in this

200

00:10:16,519 --> 00:10:11,910

country and also in the UK with Sally

201
00:10:18,980 --> 00:10:16,529
Morgan indeed yes so yeah it was back in

202
00:10:22,250 --> 00:10:18,990
in the winter so I think it was July I

203
00:10:25,069 --> 00:10:22,260
want to say she was here doing a show it

204
00:10:26,509 --> 00:10:25,079
didn't sell very well it was maybe two

205
00:10:28,699 --> 00:10:26,519
three hundred seats I think something

206
00:10:29,900 --> 00:10:28,709
like that in Sydney so we came along and

207
00:10:32,509 --> 00:10:29,910
we handed out the same flyers over

208
00:10:34,460 --> 00:10:32,519
handing out tonight just informing

209
00:10:37,100 --> 00:10:34,470
people of what to look for in with

210
00:10:38,960 --> 00:10:37,110
regards to you know cold reading and the

211
00:10:41,120 --> 00:10:38,970
usual things that the psychics go for

212
00:10:42,860 --> 00:10:41,130
that's not a sound effect by the way

213
00:10:44,360 --> 00:10:42,870

folks it's a real town hall clock chime

214

00:10:48,470 --> 00:10:44,370

proved that we're in town hall and we're

215

00:10:49,910 --> 00:10:48,480

not in a soundstage yeah so it's just

216

00:10:51,650 --> 00:10:49,920

about things like to look out for like

217

00:10:53,600 --> 00:10:51,660

one of the usual predatory things they

218

00:10:54,829 --> 00:10:53,610

go for and also to actually just look

219

00:10:57,560 --> 00:10:54,839

after yourself and make sure that you're

220

00:11:00,110 --> 00:10:57,570

not being vulnerable yes and and we're

221

00:11:02,930 --> 00:11:00,120

not being what's the word we're not

222

00:11:05,420 --> 00:11:02,940

being pigheaded about it bombastic no

223

00:11:07,460 --> 00:11:05,430

it's very it's very general I hope yeah

224

00:11:08,990 --> 00:11:07,470

I mean the whole idea of it is is to

225

00:11:10,880 --> 00:11:09,000

educate people and you don't educate

226

00:11:12,560 --> 00:11:10,890

them by either scaring them or

227

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:12,570

threatening them yeah so the way that

228

00:11:15,350 --> 00:11:14,010

you educate people is by saying like hey

229

00:11:17,090 --> 00:11:15,360

have you considered this have you looked

230

00:11:18,980 --> 00:11:17,100

at this and the good thing as well is

231

00:11:22,130 --> 00:11:18,990

the wording of the leaflet is it's very

232

00:11:23,960 --> 00:11:22,140

its benign like it's not accusatory in

233

00:11:25,819 --> 00:11:23,970

any way it's just hey look here some

234

00:11:26,870 --> 00:11:25,829

things to look out for see if you spot

235

00:11:27,949 --> 00:11:26,880

any of them and if you don't then

236

00:11:30,079 --> 00:11:27,959

fantastic you're gonna have an

237

00:11:31,639 --> 00:11:30,089

entertaining night but here are some red

238

00:11:34,730 --> 00:11:31,649

flags that you need to be aware of yeah

239

00:11:36,110 --> 00:11:34,740

yeah now you you worked on that I worked

240

00:11:37,759 --> 00:11:36,120

on that some other people worked on that

241

00:11:39,799 --> 00:11:37,769

and I think is pretty good the flyer

242

00:11:42,259 --> 00:11:39,809

yeah it just points out some things give

243

00:11:43,819 --> 00:11:42,269

some URLs and so on yeah it gets taken

244

00:11:45,559 --> 00:11:43,829

from a fly that was having that I won't

245

00:11:48,889 --> 00:11:45,569

name the guy but a few years back in

246

00:11:51,019 --> 00:11:48,899

London I was involved in a an event

247

00:11:52,910 --> 00:11:51,029

shall we say where a guy handed out

248

00:11:54,650 --> 00:11:52,920

flyers outside of a selling Morgan event

249

00:11:56,539 --> 00:11:54,660

in London and it all went a bit south

250

00:11:58,819 --> 00:11:56,549

because Sonny Morgan's husband came out

251
00:12:01,249 --> 00:11:58,829
and threatened really really very

252
00:12:02,780 --> 00:12:01,259
aggressively and so I was there like all

253
00:12:04,699 --> 00:12:02,790
the people there filming just so she see

254
00:12:06,379 --> 00:12:04,709
it happened before at a previous date

255
00:12:08,329 --> 00:12:06,389
and he wanted to get some backup this

256
00:12:11,269 --> 00:12:08,339
time so he filmed it and it was pretty

257
00:12:13,280 --> 00:12:11,279
horrific to watch actually yeah so yeah

258
00:12:16,179 --> 00:12:13,290
the wording is very very well thought

259
00:12:20,509 --> 00:12:18,350
it's all happening here at the Town Hall

260
00:12:21,979 --> 00:12:20,519
steps folks it's it's a popular meeting

261
00:12:26,539 --> 00:12:21,989
place here in Sydney and all sorts of

262
00:12:29,019 --> 00:12:26,549
things are happening is that all no

263
00:12:35,929 --> 00:12:29,029

there's a proposal

264

00:12:38,359 --> 00:12:35,939

look at this that was funny or yet now

265

00:12:40,160 --> 00:12:38,369

you're just getting back to yes so Sally

266

00:12:42,350 --> 00:12:40,170

Morgan's husband who in a bit ballistic

267

00:12:45,139 --> 00:12:42,360

and I must say a similar thing happened

268

00:12:47,299 --> 00:12:45,149

to me in a respect years and years ago I

269

00:12:50,629 --> 00:12:47,309

went to mind buddy wallet and I was

270

00:12:52,850 --> 00:12:50,639

pointing out something to one of the

271

00:12:58,489 --> 00:12:52,860

people selling a certain brand of Magic

272

00:13:01,309 --> 00:12:58,499

Band and he got very short with me very

273

00:13:03,379 --> 00:13:01,319

quickly and said a very rude word to be

274

00:13:04,939 --> 00:13:03,389

indeed and told me basically will you

275

00:13:09,400 --> 00:13:04,949

please remove yourself from my vicinity

276

00:13:12,410 --> 00:13:09,410

or the way he broke was nice a bit more

277

00:13:14,900 --> 00:13:12,420

so and I thought it could me later of

278

00:13:15,259 --> 00:13:14,910

course they don't want someone like you

279

00:13:17,119 --> 00:13:15,269

or me

280

00:13:19,429 --> 00:13:17,129

tumbling now there you're threatening

281

00:13:22,249 --> 00:13:19,439

their livelihood and the thing is as

282

00:13:23,720 --> 00:13:22,259

well it's it's a go-to reaction of

283

00:13:25,970 --> 00:13:23,730

people that know that they are actually

284

00:13:27,199 --> 00:13:25,980

in the wrong if you if you're in the

285

00:13:28,699 --> 00:13:27,209

right then you'll usually counter it

286

00:13:30,139 --> 00:13:28,709

with like the proof that you're in the

287

00:13:31,850 --> 00:13:30,149

right and their evidence and that kind

288

00:13:33,289 --> 00:13:31,860

of stuff and like maybe you get a bit

289

00:13:34,850 --> 00:13:33,299

exasperated and then you start swearing

290

00:13:36,289 --> 00:13:34,860

later on but if your first option is to

291

00:13:38,179 --> 00:13:36,299

start throwing punches and start getting

292

00:13:40,460 --> 00:13:38,189

aggressive you know that you're on

293

00:13:42,070 --> 00:13:40,470

totally yeah and it's a dead giveaway to

294

00:13:43,750 --> 00:13:42,080

us

295

00:13:46,030 --> 00:13:43,760

I think that would be the case see if

296

00:13:48,370 --> 00:13:46,040

you truly believe in something a lot of

297

00:13:50,380 --> 00:13:48,380

the times you want to try and impart

298

00:13:53,110 --> 00:13:50,390

your you want to evangelize you want to

299

00:13:55,930 --> 00:13:53,120

evangelize I saw this great movie let me

300

00:13:57,250 --> 00:13:55,940

tell you about exactly and that's the

301
00:14:00,220 --> 00:13:57,260
thing as well is that when these people

302
00:14:01,240 --> 00:14:00,230
are there at these events the last thing

303
00:14:03,070 --> 00:14:01,250
they want is for other people to

304
00:14:04,780 --> 00:14:03,080
overhear and eavesdrop on these

305
00:14:06,580 --> 00:14:04,790
conversations so they actually if they

306
00:14:08,680 --> 00:14:06,590
can threaten you really short and sharp

307
00:14:09,730 --> 00:14:08,690
get you gone then it's not a drawn-out

308
00:14:11,110 --> 00:14:09,740
thing ways if you're standing there

309
00:14:12,160 --> 00:14:11,120
asking questions over and over and over

310
00:14:14,200 --> 00:14:12,170
again people might be listening and

311
00:14:15,700 --> 00:14:14,210
going that's a very good point so I

312
00:14:17,290 --> 00:14:15,710
think it's in their interest actually to

313
00:14:20,020 --> 00:14:17,300

be really aggressive very very quickly

314

00:14:21,640 --> 00:14:20,030

so that you do disappear then the next

315

00:14:23,890 --> 00:14:21,650

you know the next mark can come along

316

00:14:26,290 --> 00:14:23,900

and be scanned and hopefully this this

317

00:14:29,800 --> 00:14:26,300

flyer what it says on it and things to

318

00:14:31,930 --> 00:14:29,810

look out for sadly you know why is the

319

00:14:33,640 --> 00:14:31,940

psychic asking so many questions and

320

00:14:33,850 --> 00:14:33,650

getting so much all sorts of things like

321

00:14:35,590 --> 00:14:33,860

that

322

00:14:37,360 --> 00:14:35,600

yeah and just little things as well like

323

00:14:39,130 --> 00:14:37,370

are you currently grieving are you

324

00:14:40,960 --> 00:14:39,140

currently vulnerable are you looking for

325

00:14:42,460 --> 00:14:40,970

actual answers to things or do you just

326

00:14:44,290 --> 00:14:42,470

want reassurance it's that kind of stuff

327

00:14:46,150 --> 00:14:44,300

as well because you know a term quite

328

00:14:48,340 --> 00:14:46,160

frequently used as their grief vampires

329

00:14:49,960 --> 00:14:48,350

and they absolutely are and my concern

330

00:14:52,420 --> 00:14:49,970

is that how many of these people going

331

00:14:54,580 --> 00:14:52,430

to the show are actually like suffering

332

00:14:56,170 --> 00:14:54,590

like how many of them have recently lost

333

00:14:57,550 --> 00:14:56,180

someone maybe there's someone they lost

334

00:14:58,420 --> 00:14:57,560

a long time ago and they just cannot

335

00:15:00,040 --> 00:14:58,430

deal with it

336

00:15:01,740 --> 00:15:00,050

they are absolutely vulnerable and

337

00:15:04,420 --> 00:15:01,750

they're paying like hundreds of dollars

338

00:15:06,100 --> 00:15:04,430

oftentimes to you know it'll be just

339

00:15:07,330 --> 00:15:06,110

your local person that you go along and

340

00:15:10,020 --> 00:15:07,340

chat to but sometimes it is for these

341

00:15:13,440 --> 00:15:10,030

big stage shows and they're very

342

00:15:16,890 --> 00:15:13,450

it's just so unscrupulous it really is

343

00:15:19,530 --> 00:15:16,900

it really is all right so let's see The

344

00:15:24,150 --> 00:15:19,540

Times just says Big Ben behind us just

345

00:15:25,680 --> 00:15:24,160

from 2:00 to 2:30 just after 2:30 there

346

00:15:28,020 --> 00:15:25,690

goes another one of these / new trams

347

00:15:30,030 --> 00:15:28,030

how about that in fact I was sitting at

348

00:15:31,440 --> 00:15:30,040

the trans stop just a minute ago and I

349

00:15:33,350 --> 00:15:31,450

had tourists coming up to me asking me

350

00:15:35,370 --> 00:15:33,360

where they could buy tickets not yet

351

00:15:37,680 --> 00:15:35,380

they're still under testing where they

352

00:15:40,530 --> 00:15:37,690

look great next month next month come to

353

00:15:43,110 --> 00:15:40,540

Sydney next month all right stay tuned

354

00:15:47,610 --> 00:15:43,120

in a moment we will find out what

355

00:15:52,470 --> 00:15:49,940

[Music]

356

00:15:54,810 --> 00:15:52,480

I'm standing on the opposite side of the

357

00:15:56,310 --> 00:15:54,820

state theatre on the other side of the

358

00:16:00,009 --> 00:15:56,320

door of the State Theatre the entrance

359

00:16:04,319 --> 00:16:02,230

they're pliers and they

360

00:16:06,600 --> 00:16:04,329

it's really working

361

00:16:09,890 --> 00:16:06,610

people are interested they're looking as

362

00:16:16,200 --> 00:16:13,490

live at the state psychic medium john

363

00:16:19,250 --> 00:16:16,210

edwards sunday 24th an event

364

00:16:22,210 --> 00:16:19,260

so far

365

00:16:26,040 --> 00:16:22,220

it's very low-key

366

00:16:30,830 --> 00:16:28,390

taking the Flyers

367

00:16:32,510 --> 00:16:30,840

we have a situation now that the crowds

368

00:16:35,600 --> 00:16:32,520

lined up outside the door person doors

369

00:16:41,280 --> 00:16:37,190

we've got a hundred people so waiting

370

00:16:47,360 --> 00:16:43,389

soon I think I'll open the doors and

371

00:16:51,940 --> 00:16:49,430

too many people wolf impossible to

372

00:16:57,750 --> 00:16:51,950

collect the clients

373

00:16:57,760 --> 00:17:07,199

80% of women

374

00:17:13,300 --> 00:17:08,639

the surprise I think that's the target

375

00:17:18,130 --> 00:17:16,300

okay a couple of couple women through

376

00:17:19,980 --> 00:17:18,140

their Flyers baguette races they cook

377

00:17:33,560 --> 00:17:19,990

together

378

00:17:39,299 --> 00:17:33,570

none unexpected I guess it's over Cheers

379

00:17:40,889 --> 00:17:39,309

hmm oh that's nice whoo Trish and Lara

380

00:17:43,409 --> 00:17:40,899

what a fantastic job it went very well

381

00:17:45,830 --> 00:17:43,419

it was brief but good yep it was about

382

00:17:48,210 --> 00:17:45,840

15 20 minutes

383

00:17:50,840 --> 00:17:48,220

it was about half an hour wasn't really

384

00:17:54,149 --> 00:17:50,850

a time flies when you're interested in

385

00:17:56,130 --> 00:17:54,159

how was it yeah I mean you all have that

386

00:17:57,389 --> 00:17:56,140

constant state of mild anxiety but

387

00:17:58,830 --> 00:17:57,399

someone's gonna punch you in the back of

388

00:18:00,389 --> 00:17:58,840

the head as they walk away and having

389

00:18:03,299 --> 00:18:00,399

read it and there were some people that

390

00:18:04,649 --> 00:18:03,309

were a bit annoyed but most people

391

00:18:06,240 --> 00:18:04,659

actually just read it and realize that

392

00:18:08,580 --> 00:18:06,250

it wasn't aggressive and it wasn't

393

00:18:10,380 --> 00:18:08,590

confrontational and I'm sure a lot of

394

00:18:13,799 --> 00:18:10,390

people just going for fun and therefore

395

00:18:16,019 --> 00:18:13,809

no worries yeah and you were giving up

396

00:18:17,909 --> 00:18:16,029

quite a few flies too you're on you're

397

00:18:19,529 --> 00:18:17,919

on the side where the people and the

398

00:18:21,139 --> 00:18:19,539

people most peculiar on your side Trish

399

00:18:23,430 --> 00:18:21,149

outside the door but you were still

400

00:18:24,899 --> 00:18:23,440

quite successfully giving away flies

401
00:18:26,610 --> 00:18:24,909
yeah so I was just having to try to

402
00:18:27,930 --> 00:18:26,620
guess who was going in and then ask them

403
00:18:30,510 --> 00:18:27,940
the question are you going into the show

404
00:18:32,220 --> 00:18:30,520
and they for the most part I didn't have

405
00:18:33,930 --> 00:18:32,230
the most negative thing I had happened

406
00:18:35,490 --> 00:18:33,940
was one lady had a bit of a read and

407
00:18:37,649 --> 00:18:35,500
handed it back to me extremely politely

408
00:18:40,799 --> 00:18:37,659
and then her the person she was with

409
00:18:42,180 --> 00:18:40,809
came and asked to take one anyway they

410
00:18:43,500 --> 00:18:42,190
were they were literally coming in like

411
00:18:45,330 --> 00:18:43,510
some people were coming in asking for a

412
00:18:47,190 --> 00:18:45,340
couple more for their friends so I

413
00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:47,200

didn't have any dramas at all well you

414

00:18:53,700 --> 00:18:51,010

said earlier to John Edward welcome

415

00:18:56,370 --> 00:18:53,710

skeptics yes so they should be delighted

416

00:18:58,169 --> 00:18:56,380

to get it like that and nothing on that

417

00:18:59,639 --> 00:18:58,179

flyer is much different from what he was

418

00:19:01,350 --> 00:18:59,649

saying himself about there are people

419

00:19:04,350 --> 00:19:01,360

out there who are predatory who make

420

00:19:06,210 --> 00:19:04,360

stuff up fantastic it accepts you know

421

00:19:07,769 --> 00:19:06,220

it's the whole thing of like atheists

422

00:19:11,460 --> 00:19:07,779

only believe in one less God than you do

423

00:19:13,500 --> 00:19:11,470

it's that whole kind of you know folks

424

00:19:15,539 --> 00:19:13,510

what I'll do is I'll put a link in this

425

00:19:19,320 --> 00:19:15,549

week's show notes to the flyer itself

426
00:19:21,149 --> 00:19:19,330
and next I'll see what we can do maybe

427
00:19:22,419 --> 00:19:21,159
we can have a generic version that has

428
00:19:24,430 --> 00:19:22,429
mmm

429
00:19:27,730 --> 00:19:24,440
without certain information on even

430
00:19:29,620 --> 00:19:27,740
Everland it was amazingly successful and

431
00:19:32,260 --> 00:19:29,630
what I hope what I hope is to inspire

432
00:19:34,049 --> 00:19:32,270
other people around the world to do the

433
00:19:42,220 --> 00:19:34,059
similar sort of thing so once again

434
00:19:44,440 --> 00:19:42,230
Trish and Lara cheers and build up if

435
00:19:47,169 --> 00:19:44,450
you're interested in printing out this

436
00:19:50,649 --> 00:19:47,179
flyer for yourself just follow the link

437
00:19:51,669 --> 00:19:50,659
in this week's show notes it's it's a

438
00:19:54,460 --> 00:19:51,679

good overview

439

00:19:58,659 --> 00:19:54,470

it's very gently written and you can

440

00:20:01,000 --> 00:19:58,669

download and print out the PDF it's not

441

00:20:03,639 --> 00:20:01,010

easy to front up and hand out flyers to

442

00:20:06,610 --> 00:20:03,649

people going into a psychic show with

443

00:20:08,110 --> 00:20:06,620

the ever-present thought in the back of

444

00:20:09,730 --> 00:20:08,120

your mind that somebody might take

445

00:20:13,750 --> 00:20:09,740

particular offense and get a beautiful

446

00:20:16,210 --> 00:20:13,760

rude or even worse I'm full of

447

00:20:20,500 --> 00:20:16,220

admiration for Trish Hann and Lara

448

00:20:23,019 --> 00:20:20,510

Benham and I suspect we'll be back next

449

00:20:26,889 --> 00:20:23,029

year to do it all over again because for

450

00:20:28,470 --> 00:20:26,899

john edward australia is indeed a very

451
00:20:41,830 --> 00:20:28,480
happy hunting ground

452
00:20:47,659 --> 00:20:44,960
hi everyone my name's sue you're Archie

453
00:20:49,789 --> 00:20:47,669
I'll be presenting at skeptic on this

454
00:20:53,720 --> 00:20:49,799
year what I'll be talking to you about

455
00:20:55,269 --> 00:20:53,730
is presenting anti-science bingo where

456
00:20:58,970 --> 00:20:55,279
we go through all of the most common

457
00:21:00,409 --> 00:20:58,980
anti science tropes I hope you debunk

458
00:21:02,539 --> 00:21:00,419
them and I'll give you all the

459
00:21:04,789 --> 00:21:02,549
information that you need to have a

460
00:21:07,400 --> 00:21:04,799
discussion at your next dinner party I

461
00:21:23,220 --> 00:21:07,410
look forward to seeing you there

462
00:21:25,960 --> 00:21:23,230
[Music]

463
00:21:28,210 --> 00:21:25,970

hi I'm Jim Enderman the executive

464

00:21:29,350 --> 00:21:28,220

officer of Australian skeptics and I'd

465

00:21:30,730 --> 00:21:29,360

like to talk to you about some of the

466

00:21:37,330 --> 00:21:30,740

stuff we've published in the skeptic

467

00:21:39,610 --> 00:21:37,340

magazine in the past this episode called

468

00:21:43,330 --> 00:21:39,620

pint-sized fun and it comes out of the

469

00:21:51,610 --> 00:21:43,340

skeptic magazine volume 37 number 4

470

00:21:53,620 --> 00:21:51,620

which was published in December 2017 in

471

00:21:55,630 --> 00:21:53,630

Australia we've had a long and close

472

00:21:57,790 --> 00:21:55,640

association with the history of those

473

00:22:00,880 --> 00:21:57,800

informal gatherings known as skeptics in

474

00:22:04,180 --> 00:22:00,890

the pub now wikipedia defines skeptics

475

00:22:06,190 --> 00:22:04,190

of the pub as quote an informal social

476
00:22:08,380 --> 00:22:06,200
event designed to promote fellowship and

477
00:22:10,180 --> 00:22:08,390
social networking among skeptics

478
00:22:11,590 --> 00:22:10,190
critical thinkers free thinkers

479
00:22:14,140 --> 00:22:11,600
rationalist and other like-minded

480
00:22:16,960 --> 00:22:14,150
individuals it provides an opportunity

481
00:22:18,820 --> 00:22:16,970
for skeptics to talk share ideas and

482
00:22:21,010 --> 00:22:18,830
have fun in a casual atmosphere and

483
00:22:24,220 --> 00:22:21,020
discuss whatever topic issues come to

484
00:22:26,800 --> 00:22:24,230
mind while promoting skepticism science

485
00:22:28,450 --> 00:22:26,810
and rationality now of course that

486
00:22:30,880 --> 00:22:28,460
leaves out a key ingredient which is the

487
00:22:32,440 --> 00:22:30,890
pub meeting in a convivial environment

488
00:22:34,390 --> 00:22:32,450

with drinks and hopefully a meal a

489

00:22:37,480 --> 00:22:34,400

speaker and probably some interesting

490

00:22:39,640 --> 00:22:37,490

intriguing and/or rude questions means

491

00:22:42,610 --> 00:22:39,650

the venue has to lend itself to such

492

00:22:44,350 --> 00:22:42,620

activities and generally not charging

493

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:44,360

for admission which means there aren't

494

00:22:49,360 --> 00:22:46,010

that many places where such gatherings

495

00:22:51,730 --> 00:22:49,370

can take place some are quite small a

496

00:22:54,370 --> 00:22:51,740

table in the corner may do and others

497

00:22:55,810 --> 00:22:54,380

require a room dedicated to the event so

498

00:22:58,060 --> 00:22:55,820

your choice of venue will be very much

499

00:23:00,790 --> 00:22:58,070

decided by what sort of meeting you

500

00:23:02,530 --> 00:23:00,800

intended to be the skeptics in the pub

501
00:23:05,740 --> 00:23:02,540
movement it's generally agreed to have

502
00:23:07,270 --> 00:23:05,750
started in London in 1999 and here's

503
00:23:09,880 --> 00:23:07,280
where the Australian connection raises

504
00:23:11,320 --> 00:23:09,890
its head doctor Scott Campbell was

505
00:23:13,180 --> 00:23:11,330
associate professor and reader in

506
00:23:16,720 --> 00:23:13,190
philosophy at the University of

507
00:23:18,760 --> 00:23:16,730
Nottingham a creeper tonicity was born

508
00:23:20,320 --> 00:23:18,770
in Tasmania he got his doctorate from

509
00:23:22,300 --> 00:23:20,330
the University of New South Wales in

510
00:23:24,490 --> 00:23:22,310
Sydney and was on the committee of

511
00:23:25,470 --> 00:23:24,500
Australian skeptics Inc in Sydney during

512
00:23:27,820 --> 00:23:25,480
the midnight

513
00:23:30,700 --> 00:23:27,830

he also spoke of the third-world

514

00:23:32,710 --> 00:23:30,710

skeptics convention in 2000 at that time

515

00:23:35,500 --> 00:23:32,720

the largest sceptical event ever held in

516

00:23:37,840 --> 00:23:35,510

Australia the London skeptic in the pub

517

00:23:40,510 --> 00:23:37,850

started in February 1999 with the first

518

00:23:42,340 --> 00:23:40,520

speaker being Wendy Grossman who was the

519

00:23:45,310 --> 00:23:42,350

founder and editor of the UK skeptic

520

00:23:47,800 --> 00:23:45,320

magazine Campbell based the idea around

521

00:23:50,110 --> 00:23:47,810

philosophy in the pub and science in the

522

00:23:52,930 --> 00:23:50,120

pub there were two groups which had been

523

00:23:54,340 --> 00:23:52,940

running in Australia for some time with

524

00:23:57,490 --> 00:23:54,350

the first London skeptic of the pub

525

00:24:00,790 --> 00:23:57,500

attracted 30 attendees it's still going

526
00:24:03,700 --> 00:24:00,800
and now joined by many others Wikipedia

527
00:24:05,950 --> 00:24:03,710
suggests more than 100 active satellite

528
00:24:07,990 --> 00:24:05,960
chapters around the world including more

529
00:24:10,930 --> 00:24:08,000
than 30 in the US and more than 40 in

530
00:24:11,860 --> 00:24:10,940
the UK calling them satellites of course

531
00:24:14,110 --> 00:24:11,870
is misleading

532
00:24:16,450 --> 00:24:14,120
while some skeptics in the pubs are

533
00:24:18,610 --> 00:24:16,460
activities run by more established

534
00:24:20,230 --> 00:24:18,620
skeptical groups one of the key aspects

535
00:24:23,740 --> 00:24:20,240
of skeptics in the pub is that they are

536
00:24:25,570 --> 00:24:23,750
informal and run their own programs the

537
00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:25,580
Glasgow skeptics decided to investigate

538
00:24:30,850 --> 00:24:28,010

the true status of the phenomenon and

539

00:24:33,700 --> 00:24:30,860

did a global survey of skeptics in the

540

00:24:36,220 --> 00:24:33,710

pub managers and organizers Glasgow

541

00:24:38,860 --> 00:24:36,230

sceptics itself was formed in 2009 and

542

00:24:41,380 --> 00:24:38,870

runs two pub meetings per month as well

543

00:24:44,140 --> 00:24:41,390

as other meetings and lectures the glass

544

00:24:46,210 --> 00:24:44,150

regions contacted 115 organizations

545

00:24:48,010 --> 00:24:46,220

around the world by the skeptics and the

546

00:24:50,500 --> 00:24:48,020

pub's own websites Facebook Twitter

547

00:24:55,090 --> 00:24:50,510

Email etc whatever means the particular

548

00:24:57,310 --> 00:24:55,100

si TP used they heard back from 53 of

549

00:25:00,430 --> 00:24:57,320

them in the UK Ireland they approached

550

00:25:02,170 --> 00:25:00,440

53 and had 28 responses both sets of

551
00:25:05,530 --> 00:25:02,180
responses can be seen to be a good

552
00:25:08,050 --> 00:25:05,540
representative sample of the entirety of

553
00:25:10,330 --> 00:25:08,060
the skeptics in the pub movement one

554
00:25:12,790 --> 00:25:10,340
issue is knowing whether those skeptics

555
00:25:15,010 --> 00:25:12,800
in the pub that did not respond or

556
00:25:17,320 --> 00:25:15,020
either inactive or just a bit apathetic

557
00:25:19,720 --> 00:25:17,330
it can be a frustration to would-be

558
00:25:22,750 --> 00:25:19,730
attendees if they visit a meet-up page

559
00:25:24,400 --> 00:25:22,760
and see little to indicate whether a

560
00:25:26,080 --> 00:25:24,410
meeting is on or not is even more

561
00:25:27,310 --> 00:25:26,090
frustrating if they take the plunge and

562
00:25:29,610 --> 00:25:27,320
turn up for a skeptics in the pub

563
00:25:31,840 --> 00:25:29,620

meeting and find there's no one there to

564

00:25:34,660 --> 00:25:31,850

a certain extent however this is

565

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:34,670

understandable skeptics in the pubs are

566

00:25:38,710 --> 00:25:37,010

launched with the best of intentions but

567

00:25:41,290 --> 00:25:38,720

because of various factors such

568

00:25:43,540 --> 00:25:41,300

there just isn't an audience or key

569

00:25:45,970 --> 00:25:43,550

organizers move on they can fall by the

570

00:25:47,650 --> 00:25:45,980

wayside there have been various like

571

00:25:50,140 --> 00:25:47,660

that in Australia though currently there

572

00:25:52,750 --> 00:25:50,150

are 19 groups listed in the pages of our

573

00:25:54,760 --> 00:25:52,760

skeptic magazine most of which but not

574

00:25:56,700 --> 00:25:54,770

all are active in holding meetings and

575

00:25:58,870 --> 00:25:56,710

sometimes take on more active roles

576

00:26:01,720 --> 00:25:58,880

should add DAC to you that the skeptics

577

00:26:05,110 --> 00:26:01,730

in the pub in Sydney was founded by your

578

00:26:07,630 --> 00:26:05,120

host Richard Saunders now the UK groups

579

00:26:09,610 --> 00:26:07,640

5 had only one organizer which puts

580

00:26:11,770 --> 00:26:09,620

groups at a risk of fading if that one

581

00:26:13,540 --> 00:26:11,780

person decides enough is enough gets

582

00:26:15,090 --> 00:26:13,550

transferred or for whatever reason pulls

583

00:26:17,440 --> 00:26:15,100

out of the organiser role

584

00:26:19,090 --> 00:26:17,450

conversely 8 groups had five or more

585

00:26:21,850 --> 00:26:19,100

organizers which implies a good backup

586

00:26:24,880 --> 00:26:21,860

for all contingencies and hopefully not

587

00:26:26,620 --> 00:26:24,890

many arguments over the direction 34 the

588

00:26:28,300 --> 00:26:26,630

skeptics and the pub's who responded

589

00:26:31,630 --> 00:26:28,310

have Facebook pages and tweety have

590

00:26:34,960 --> 00:26:31,640

Facebook groups three years 2030 to meet

591

00:26:39,130 --> 00:26:34,970

up nine years YouTube and three each for

592

00:26:40,570 --> 00:26:39,140

both Instagram and Google+ six groups

593

00:26:43,180 --> 00:26:40,580

frequently are always paid for

594

00:26:45,850 --> 00:26:43,190

advertising with five occasionally seven

595

00:26:49,330 --> 00:26:45,860

rarely and the vast majority 31 never

596

00:26:51,040 --> 00:26:49,340

using paid advertising but if they do

597

00:26:53,560 --> 00:26:51,050

use a wide range of media to promote

598

00:26:55,810 --> 00:26:53,570

events apart from facebook twitter and

599

00:26:58,450 --> 00:26:55,820

meetup there is promotion via other

600

00:27:01,300 --> 00:26:58,460

groups asking speakers to promote their

601
00:27:03,790 --> 00:27:01,310
own talk newsletters boosted Facebook

602
00:27:05,920 --> 00:27:03,800
events using keywords flyers selecting a

603
00:27:07,540 --> 00:27:05,930
couple of high-profile speakers during

604
00:27:10,240 --> 00:27:07,550
the year to encourage a regular audience

605
00:27:11,830 --> 00:27:10,250
and of course word of mouth one even

606
00:27:14,800 --> 00:27:11,840
resorted to using posters in the pub

607
00:27:18,550 --> 00:27:14,810
toilets with Facebook followers nine

608
00:27:21,160 --> 00:27:18,560
groups had 250 or less or less and four

609
00:27:24,790 --> 00:27:21,170
had more than 2,000 the rest are largely

610
00:27:27,250 --> 00:27:24,800
gathered around the 350 to 1000 mark so

611
00:27:30,400 --> 00:27:27,260
how often do they meet at the bottom end

612
00:27:33,490 --> 00:27:30,410
10 groups hosted 5 or less events per

613
00:27:35,470 --> 00:27:33,500

year at the top end two groups hosted

614

00:27:37,660 --> 00:27:35,480

more than 30 which is close to three per

615

00:27:40,990 --> 00:27:37,670

month it's a lot

616

00:27:42,820 --> 00:27:41,000

the vast majority hosts between 6 and 15

617

00:27:45,430 --> 00:27:42,830

events so we can say monthly meetings

618

00:27:46,720 --> 00:27:45,440

are the norm as to the size of the

619

00:27:49,450 --> 00:27:46,730

meetings 5 groups had an average

620

00:27:52,180 --> 00:27:49,460

attendance of 10 people or less which is

621

00:27:55,960 --> 00:27:52,190

intimate with 7 averaging more than

622

00:27:57,970 --> 00:27:55,970

50 the Sydney skeptics in the pub does

623

00:28:00,009 --> 00:27:57,980

get more than 50 on a general basis

624

00:28:02,560 --> 00:28:00,019

the rest are fairly evenly staggered

625

00:28:05,259 --> 00:28:02,570

between 11 and 15 in the UK the average

626

00:28:08,740 --> 00:28:05,269

donation made by 10 bees is 2 pounds and

627

00:28:10,119 --> 00:28:08,750

seventy pence in Australia we don't

628

00:28:13,720 --> 00:28:10,129

charge for attendance and will take

629

00:28:16,029 --> 00:28:13,730

anybody so what advice did these these

630

00:28:18,249 --> 00:28:16,039

groups and these managers of the STPs

631

00:28:20,499 --> 00:28:18,259

offer up for those who would like to set

632

00:28:23,619 --> 00:28:20,509

up a skeptics in the pub or get their

633

00:28:26,019 --> 00:28:23,629

running more smoothly consistency of

634

00:28:28,180 --> 00:28:26,029

timing and format is an important aspect

635

00:28:31,269 --> 00:28:28,190

of keeping audiences interested same

636

00:28:33,039 --> 00:28:31,279

venue same time same date said 1 UK

637

00:28:35,560 --> 00:28:33,049

group and that's pretty good advice

638

00:28:37,720 --> 00:28:35,570

generally one Australian sceptic in the

639

00:28:40,119 --> 00:28:37,730

pub put it promote early and promote

640

00:28:42,639 --> 00:28:40,129

often get on the podcast especially for

641

00:28:44,499 --> 00:28:42,649

bigger events like sketchy camps we

642

00:28:46,419 --> 00:28:44,509

rarely if ever pay for a promotion you

643

00:28:47,919 --> 00:28:46,429

share links into the regional skeptical

644

00:28:50,200 --> 00:28:47,929

groups we regularly get people from

645

00:28:52,690 --> 00:28:50,210

interstate for our sceptic amps we get

646

00:28:55,779 --> 00:28:52,700

people sharing the events another

647

00:28:57,460 --> 00:28:55,789

Australian group tip number one develop

648

00:29:00,430 --> 00:28:57,470

an ongoing relationship with a manager

649

00:29:02,110 --> 00:29:00,440

of the venue always bear in mind it is a

650

00:29:03,279 --> 00:29:02,120

business for them and holding your event

651
00:29:04,990 --> 00:29:03,289
has to be commercially viable

652
00:29:07,149 --> 00:29:05,000
particularly if they are putting on

653
00:29:08,499 --> 00:29:07,159
extra staff for the event for instance

654
00:29:10,330 --> 00:29:08,509
some will actually charge you to use the

655
00:29:13,299 --> 00:29:10,340
venue others will say you have to have a

656
00:29:14,889 --> 00:29:13,309
minimum spend on on booze and and meals

657
00:29:18,789 --> 00:29:14,899
and I know that I did my fair share

658
00:29:20,049 --> 00:29:18,799
relating to that minimum spend being

659
00:29:21,820 --> 00:29:20,059
properly prepared as a regular

660
00:29:24,460 --> 00:29:21,830
suggestion especially with appropriate

661
00:29:26,860 --> 00:29:24,470
seating theater-style or dinner and

662
00:29:29,440 --> 00:29:26,870
ensuring you have the correct AV for all

663
00:29:31,509 --> 00:29:29,450

occasions one group suggested providing

664

00:29:34,360 --> 00:29:31,519

laptops for presenters to make sure they

665

00:29:35,889 --> 00:29:34,370

are compatible with the venue having a

666

00:29:38,379 --> 00:29:35,899

well thought-out checklists for both

667

00:29:40,690 --> 00:29:38,389

prior and during the event is obviously

668

00:29:44,080 --> 00:29:40,700

vital make sure everyone knows what they

669

00:29:45,399 --> 00:29:44,090

have to do and they're prepared finding

670

00:29:47,769 --> 00:29:45,409

good speakers can be a challenge

671

00:29:49,419 --> 00:29:47,779

generally recommendations from attendees

672

00:29:52,090 --> 00:29:49,429

or committee members is a good starting

673

00:29:53,860 --> 00:29:52,100

point once you have one prepping them is

674

00:29:56,139 --> 00:29:53,870

important so they are aware of how much

675

00:29:57,490 --> 00:29:56,149

time they have what they can expect from

676

00:30:00,279 --> 00:29:57,500

the audience and what level of

677

00:30:01,749 --> 00:30:00,289

information they will need to have most

678

00:30:04,749 --> 00:30:01,759

sceptical audience are pretty well

679

00:30:06,070 --> 00:30:04,759

educated have an interest in science but

680

00:30:07,960 --> 00:30:06,080

few of them have PhDs in

681

00:30:09,430 --> 00:30:07,970

advanced mathematical theory so try and

682

00:30:12,820 --> 00:30:09,440

steer clear of the really heavy end of

683

00:30:15,159 --> 00:30:12,830

the scale always have a plan B it says

684

00:30:16,570 --> 00:30:15,169

one New Zealand group and most

685

00:30:19,860 --> 00:30:16,580

importantly is one Danish groups

686

00:30:22,149 --> 00:30:19,870

suggests a good place with decent beer

687

00:30:23,799 --> 00:30:22,159

after all the quantitative stuff and

688

00:30:26,680 --> 00:30:23,809

good advice the Glasgow survey allowed

689

00:30:29,230 --> 00:30:26,690

respondents free reign to wax lyrical on

690

00:30:30,100 --> 00:30:29,240

issues they faced sometimes you wonder

691

00:30:32,049 --> 00:30:30,110

why they do it

692

00:30:34,870 --> 00:30:32,059

for instance for one New Zealand group

693

00:30:37,299 --> 00:30:34,880

they said that was a cold rainy night

694

00:30:40,120 --> 00:30:37,309

and there was me and one other person

695

00:30:41,440 --> 00:30:40,130

who turned up so not a lot of

696

00:30:44,139 --> 00:30:41,450

interesting questions I don't think at

697

00:30:45,279 --> 00:30:44,149

that meeting they could be particularly

698

00:30:48,039 --> 00:30:45,289

embarrassing when you have a high

699

00:30:49,360 --> 00:30:48,049

profile speaker who arrives and there

700

00:30:52,029 --> 00:30:49,370

are more people behind the bar than in

701
00:30:53,169 --> 00:30:52,039
the audience when European group

702
00:30:56,110 --> 00:30:53,179
reported on a particularly challenging

703
00:30:59,080 --> 00:30:56,120
event we had a sceptical event about

704
00:31:01,750 --> 00:30:59,090
Satanism they said when two very drunk

705
00:31:03,970 --> 00:31:01,760
bonafide esata news turn up and ended

706
00:31:06,810 --> 00:31:03,980
up in a drunken fight that was

707
00:31:09,669 --> 00:31:06,820
interesting but the talk was very good

708
00:31:10,030 --> 00:31:09,679
if only they could all be as exciting as

709
00:31:25,800 --> 00:31:10,040
they

710
00:31:30,520 --> 00:31:28,300
the reason was the interview show from

711
00:31:31,870 --> 00:31:30,530
the Merseyside skeptic society where

712
00:31:33,820 --> 00:31:31,880
each month I speak to someone about

713
00:31:36,100 --> 00:31:33,830

their fringe beliefs over the Earth's

714

00:31:38,170 --> 00:31:36,110

are spoken to psychics UFO believers

715

00:31:40,300 --> 00:31:38,180

moon landing and ayahs flat earthers

716

00:31:42,160 --> 00:31:40,310

Hollow Earth as an all manner of unusual

717

00:31:44,590 --> 00:31:42,170

conspiracy theorists but I've also

718

00:31:46,300 --> 00:31:44,600

talked to a denialists white supremacist

719

00:31:47,830 --> 00:31:46,310

gay conversion therapy

720

00:31:49,690 --> 00:31:47,840

I even interviewed Jim Humble the

721

00:31:51,400 --> 00:31:49,700

inventor of miracle mineral supplement a

722

00:31:53,050 --> 00:31:51,410

form of industrial bleach that he and

723

00:31:55,780 --> 00:31:53,060

his followers used to treat cancer and

724

00:31:57,910 --> 00:31:55,790

HIV this isn't a debate show my aim

725

00:32:00,220 --> 00:31:57,920

isn't to win an argument but when we

726

00:32:02,350 --> 00:32:00,230

listen to how people promote and justify

727

00:32:04,360 --> 00:32:02,360

the ideas that we disagree with even the

728

00:32:06,070 --> 00:32:04,370

dangerous ones I think we become much

729

00:32:07,900 --> 00:32:06,080

more effective at countering those ideas

730

00:32:09,970 --> 00:32:07,910

if that sounds like something you'd be

731

00:32:11,950 --> 00:32:09,980

interested in look for be reasonable on

732

00:32:12,840 --> 00:32:11,960

Apple podcasts and everywhere else a

733

00:32:36,749 --> 00:32:12,850

podcast

734

00:32:39,999 --> 00:32:36,759

[Music]

735

00:32:42,129 --> 00:32:40,009

now by this time next week we will all

736

00:32:45,850 --> 00:32:42,139

know the winner of the Australian

737

00:32:48,489 --> 00:32:45,860

skeptics bent spoon award given annually

738

00:32:50,409 --> 00:32:48,499

at the National Convention for the most

739

00:32:54,070 --> 00:32:50,419

preposterous piece of pseudo scientific

740

00:32:54,690 --> 00:32:54,080

or paranormal piffle in the previous

741

00:32:56,859 --> 00:32:54,700

year

742

00:32:59,129 --> 00:32:56,869

so I thought it would be interesting to

743

00:33:02,830 --> 00:32:59,139

dive back through the pages of history

744

00:33:05,019 --> 00:33:02,840

to see what the Australian media have

745

00:33:08,289 --> 00:33:05,029

made of the bent spoon award over the

746

00:33:12,419 --> 00:33:08,299

years and a good place to do that is at

747

00:33:16,419 --> 00:33:12,429

a website called trove which is tea ROV

748

00:33:20,409 --> 00:33:16,429

en la for National Library of Australia

749

00:33:24,730 --> 00:33:20,419

but gov dot au a wonderful resource

750

00:33:26,859 --> 00:33:24,740

actually it's it's for anyone doing

751

00:33:30,159 --> 00:33:26,869

research it's probably one of your first

752

00:33:33,279 --> 00:33:30,169

ports of call documented newspapers and

753

00:33:36,310 --> 00:33:33,289

articles and journals going back over a

754

00:33:37,899 --> 00:33:36,320

century and in no particular order here

755

00:33:41,019 --> 00:33:37,909

are some of the references to the

756

00:33:48,190 --> 00:33:41,029

Australian skeptics bent spoon over the

757

00:33:53,440 --> 00:33:48,200

years the Canberra Times published on

758

00:33:55,869 --> 00:33:53,450

Sunday the 12th of June 1994 lavage

759

00:33:58,119 --> 00:33:55,879

takes out piffle honours the

760

00:34:00,369 --> 00:33:58,129

Commonwealth Attorney General has been

761

00:34:03,159 --> 00:34:00,379

awarded the Australian skeptics highest

762

00:34:04,810 --> 00:34:03,169

honor the bent spoon award for this

763

00:34:07,480 --> 00:34:04,820

year's most preposterous piece of

764

00:34:10,329 --> 00:34:07,490

paranormal piffle national president

765

00:34:12,129 --> 00:34:10,339

Barry Williams said yesterday talking

766

00:34:13,359 --> 00:34:12,139

from the Australian skeptics annual

767

00:34:16,030 --> 00:34:13,369

convention in Sydney

768

00:34:19,599 --> 00:34:16,040

mr.william said the award which bestowed

769

00:34:21,309 --> 00:34:19,609

great ignominy on the receiver was in

770

00:34:23,470 --> 00:34:21,319

recognition of the department's

771

00:34:26,770 --> 00:34:23,480

Enterprise Agreement that would allow

772

00:34:30,669 --> 00:34:26,780

staff to present sickness certificates

773

00:34:33,039 --> 00:34:30,679

from alternative practitioners rather

774

00:34:35,589 --> 00:34:33,049

than from medical practitioners the

775

00:34:37,990 --> 00:34:35,599

award which features a bent spoon

776

00:34:41,619 --> 00:34:38,000

mounted on a piece of wood from Noah's

777

00:34:44,079 --> 00:34:41,629

Ark has only been claimed once mr.

778

00:34:45,790 --> 00:34:44,089

Williams said that was last year by the

779

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:45,800

tonight live television

780

00:34:51,909 --> 00:34:49,010

and was awarded for their widows stories

781

00:34:54,430 --> 00:34:51,919

the Attorney General Michael avouch was

782

00:34:57,580 --> 00:34:54,440

not invited to the ceremony to collect

783

00:34:59,350 --> 00:34:57,590

the award mr. William said he probably

784

00:35:02,980 --> 00:34:59,360

would have had us arrested for sedition

785

00:35:05,350 --> 00:35:02,990

on troubling mr. livadas not mentioned

786

00:35:07,630 --> 00:35:05,360

by name on the plaque knowing this

787

00:35:09,880 --> 00:35:07,640

government he'd probably be Foreign

788

00:35:12,100 --> 00:35:09,890

Minister by next week the award has been

789

00:35:14,800 --> 00:35:12,110

in existence since 1982

790

00:35:17,710 --> 00:35:14,810

this year's runner-up for the award was

791

00:35:20,530 --> 00:35:17,720

the Brisbane City Council for enacting

792

00:35:23,530 --> 00:35:20,540

an ordinance that directed that in all

793

00:35:25,960 --> 00:35:23,540

new developments the number-four was not

794

00:35:32,650 --> 00:35:25,970

to be used as a street number because

795

00:35:34,840 --> 00:35:32,660

the Chinese find it to be unlucky the

796

00:35:38,440 --> 00:35:34,850

next search result on the list is from

797

00:35:43,300 --> 00:35:38,450

again the Canberra Times this time

798

00:35:46,540 --> 00:35:43,310

Sunday the 19th of April 1987 skeptics

799

00:35:48,430 --> 00:35:46,550

award spoon to brach the Australian

800

00:35:50,770 --> 00:35:48,440

skeptics bent spoon award was awarded

801

00:35:52,990 --> 00:35:50,780

yesterday to racing driver and

802

00:35:55,720 --> 00:35:53,000

businessman mr. Peter Brock for his

803

00:35:57,490 --> 00:35:55,730

controversial energy polarizer the

804

00:35:59,470 --> 00:35:57,500

president of Australian skeptics mr.

805

00:36:03,280 --> 00:35:59,480

Barry Williams announcing the award now

806

00:36:06,180 --> 00:36:03,290

in its 50-year said it's sort of a Nobel

807

00:36:09,220 --> 00:36:06,190

Prize for nuttiness an Oscar for

808

00:36:12,280 --> 00:36:09,230

irrationality the polarizer when fitted

809

00:36:15,070 --> 00:36:12,290

to a car was said to realign the

810

00:36:17,050 --> 00:36:15,080

molecules to make the vehicle run more

811

00:36:20,349 --> 00:36:17,060

smoothly and improve its performance

812

00:36:23,770 --> 00:36:20,359

using energies unknown to science the

813

00:36:26,200 --> 00:36:23,780

skeptics first \$1,000 journalism award

814

00:36:28,960 --> 00:36:26,210

went to my Quilici for a two-part

815

00:36:31,410 --> 00:36:28,970

television investigation of the Jewish

816

00:36:33,790 --> 00:36:31,420

psychic mr. uri geller

817

00:36:36,099 --> 00:36:33,800

second prize in the category went to

818

00:36:37,990 --> 00:36:36,109

science writer Bob Beal of The Sydney

819

00:36:40,800 --> 00:36:38,000

Morning Herald for an article on

820

00:36:44,530 --> 00:36:40,810

creationists and the Museum of Australia

821

00:36:47,109 --> 00:36:44,540

about 100 people attended yesterday's

822

00:36:50,890 --> 00:36:47,119

convention at the Australian National

823

00:36:57,380 --> 00:36:55,160

and now we come to and I guess this

824

00:36:58,970 --> 00:36:57,390

search result does favor the Canberra

825

00:37:01,520 --> 00:36:58,980

Times because most of these returns are

826

00:37:04,670 --> 00:37:01,530

from the camera time so that's fine we

827

00:37:09,380 --> 00:37:04,680

come to the Edition published on

828

00:37:12,590 --> 00:37:09,390

Saturday the 31st of August 1985 why

829

00:37:14,900 --> 00:37:12,600

detector earns award the Melbourne and

830

00:37:18,170 --> 00:37:14,910

metropolitan Board of Works was awarded

831

00:37:20,300 --> 00:37:18,180

the bench spoon award for 1985 at the

832

00:37:22,760 --> 00:37:20,310

Congress yesterday the Australian

833

00:37:25,700 --> 00:37:22,770

skeptics a group dedicated to exposing

834

00:37:28,730 --> 00:37:25,710

bogus science gives the award as a

835

00:37:31,760 --> 00:37:28,740

reminder of the psychic spoon bending

836

00:37:34,130 --> 00:37:31,770

claims made by magician uri geller some

837

00:37:38,180 --> 00:37:34,140

years ago the Melbourne and metropolitan

838

00:37:41,060 --> 00:37:38,190

Board of Works employed an American

839

00:37:43,970 --> 00:37:41,070

designer to locate no longer visible

840

00:37:47,330 --> 00:37:43,980

buildings in a park near Melbourne the

841

00:37:50,780 --> 00:37:47,340

designer mrs. Karen hunt used a pair of

842

00:37:54,740 --> 00:37:50,790

coat hangers electro-magnetic photo

843

00:37:57,080 --> 00:37:54,750

field detectors to map out the park the

844

00:37:59,300 --> 00:37:57,090

president of the Australian skeptics mr.

845

00:38:02,270 --> 00:37:59,310

Mark Plummer praised the board for its

846

00:38:04,370 --> 00:38:02,280

naivety and gullibility at the same

847

00:38:06,020 --> 00:38:04,380

session of the Congress mr. Ronald

848

00:38:08,800 --> 00:38:06,030

strong of the Australian Museum

849

00:38:12,109 --> 00:38:08,810

criticized creation scientists as

850

00:38:19,090 --> 00:38:12,119

duplicious authoritarian and anti

851

00:38:23,599 --> 00:38:19,100

intellectual and here's a result from

852

00:38:25,810 --> 00:38:23,609

1989 published on Sunday the 26th of

853

00:38:29,480 --> 00:38:25,820

March again in the Canberra Times

854

00:38:33,080 --> 00:38:29,490

skeptics scratch for silly claims and

855

00:38:37,250 --> 00:38:33,090

this is by Keith Scott there was a lack

856

00:38:39,920 --> 00:38:37,260

of silly claims in 1988 in fact 1988 was

857

00:38:42,320 --> 00:38:39,930

such a bad year for way-out suggestions

858

00:38:44,420 --> 00:38:42,330

that the Australian skeptics had trouble

859

00:38:47,690 --> 00:38:44,430

finding candidates for their annual been

860

00:38:49,790 --> 00:38:47,700

spoon award the skeptics presenter bent

861

00:38:52,520 --> 00:38:49,800

spoon annually to the person they judge

862

00:38:55,099 --> 00:38:52,530

makes the most preposterous paranormal

863

00:38:58,130 --> 00:38:55,109

or pseudo scientific claim of the year

864

00:39:01,099 --> 00:38:58,140

some previous awards have been given to

865

00:39:03,300 --> 00:39:01,109

Tom woods the world's silliest

866

00:39:05,190 --> 00:39:03,310

clairvoyant the Melbourne metro

867

00:39:07,650 --> 00:39:05,200

Politan Board of Works for endorsing a

868

00:39:10,140 --> 00:39:07,660

psychic archaeologists and dankbaar

869

00:39:13,230 --> 00:39:10,150

who claimed to have found the Colossus

870

00:39:16,650 --> 00:39:13,240

of Rhodes and Peter Brock for his energy

871

00:39:20,160 --> 00:39:16,660

polarizer this year however was shaping

872

00:39:23,610 --> 00:39:20,170

up to be an almost silly claim-free year

873

00:39:26,700 --> 00:39:23,620

until that is Diane McCann came up with

874

00:39:30,480 --> 00:39:26,710

quite a remarkable claim in the adelaide

875

00:39:33,360 --> 00:39:30,490

based magazine the Golden Age exploring

876

00:39:35,130 --> 00:39:33,370

new horizons in the New Age according to

877

00:39:38,610 --> 00:39:35,140

the president of Australian skeptics

878

00:39:41,970 --> 00:39:38,620

Barry Williams there was very little

879

00:39:45,050 --> 00:39:41,980

overt activity on the psychic paranormal

880

00:39:47,970 --> 00:39:45,060

and pseudo scientific fronts at all

881

00:39:49,950 --> 00:39:47,980

until miss McCann saved the skeptics

882

00:39:52,350 --> 00:39:49,960

from the embarrassing position of having

883

00:39:55,650 --> 00:39:52,360

nothing in particular to be skeptical

884

00:39:58,740 --> 00:39:55,660

about in an article in the Golden Age

885

00:40:01,040 --> 00:39:58,750

which also had a message from the Lord

886

00:40:04,500 --> 00:40:01,050

Mayor of Adelaide Steve Khandhas and

887

00:40:07,590 --> 00:40:04,510

stories on dolphins abductions by UFOs

888

00:40:09,930 --> 00:40:07,600

and palmistry miss McCann made the

889

00:40:12,840 --> 00:40:09,940

somewhat surprising claim that Adelaide

890

00:40:15,030 --> 00:40:12,850

was founded on one of the major temples

891

00:40:17,130 --> 00:40:15,040

of Atlantis Australian skeptics was

892

00:40:20,130 --> 00:40:17,140

unsure whether miss McCann meant that

893

00:40:22,110 --> 00:40:20,140

Adelaide was actually built on the site

894

00:40:24,540 --> 00:40:22,120

of one of the temples of Atlantis or

895

00:40:28,350 --> 00:40:24,550

whether she meant that the city's layout

896

00:40:30,960 --> 00:40:28,360

was the same as an Atlantean temple so

897

00:40:32,250 --> 00:40:30,970

it wrote to her and received a reply in

898

00:40:35,730 --> 00:40:32,260

the nick of time

899

00:40:39,030 --> 00:40:35,740

last week the reply as it turned out was

900

00:40:41,610 --> 00:40:39,040

even more surprising than the original

901
00:40:44,640 --> 00:40:41,620
article although it appeared miss McCann

902
00:40:46,620 --> 00:40:44,650
had changed her story a little in her

903
00:40:49,650 --> 00:40:46,630
letter she told the skeptics that I

904
00:40:52,470 --> 00:40:49,660
cannot give you any more information on

905
00:40:56,040 --> 00:40:52,480
the fact that Adelaide is built on an

906
00:40:56,310 --> 00:40:56,050
ancient the Marian site but it is dot

907
00:40:59,280 --> 00:40:56,320
dot

908
00:41:02,370 --> 00:40:59,290
it is well known amongst the psychic

909
00:41:04,800 --> 00:41:02,380
people and actually anyone who comes

910
00:41:07,710 --> 00:41:04,810
here is immediately impressed with the

911
00:41:11,070 --> 00:41:07,720
energy and the love this city generates

912
00:41:14,150 --> 00:41:11,080
Lemuria according to the Encyclopedia

913
00:41:16,800 --> 00:41:14,160

Britannica was a hypothetical

914

00:41:17,140 --> 00:41:16,810

prehistoric continent in the Indian

915

00:41:19,990 --> 00:41:17,150

Ocean

916

00:41:24,170 --> 00:41:20,000

supposedly now represented chiefly by

917

00:41:26,210 --> 00:41:24,180

Madagascar even more astonishing given

918

00:41:29,570 --> 00:41:26,220

miss McCann's claim about the ancient

919

00:41:31,820 --> 00:41:29,580

temple generating energy and love is the

920

00:41:34,430 --> 00:41:31,830

encyclopedias description of Lemure

921

00:41:37,640 --> 00:41:34,440

ians who are supposed to have inhabited

922

00:41:41,150 --> 00:41:37,650

the lost land Britannica hasn't that the

923

00:41:44,510 --> 00:41:41,160

Lemurians existed in Roman religion and

924

00:41:47,750 --> 00:41:44,520

peered in grotesque and terrifying forms

925

00:41:50,240 --> 00:41:47,760

haunted their former homes and visited

926
00:41:52,790 --> 00:41:50,250
relatives and friends sometimes causing

927
00:41:55,190 --> 00:41:52,800
them injury Australian skeptics did some

928
00:41:57,880 --> 00:41:55,200
checking of its own on MS McCann and

929
00:42:00,590 --> 00:41:57,890
discovered that she had a company called

930
00:42:03,140 --> 00:42:00,600
accelerated business technologies which

931
00:42:06,440 --> 00:42:03,150
handled the South Australian end of a

932
00:42:09,370 --> 00:42:06,450
business motivation course called money

933
00:42:12,650 --> 00:42:09,380
and you its parent group is the

934
00:42:15,560 --> 00:42:12,660
Accelerated Learning Institute which is

935
00:42:18,020 --> 00:42:15,570
trying to set up what it calls a global

936
00:42:21,890 --> 00:42:18,030
energy network to solve problems such as

937
00:42:23,930 --> 00:42:21,900
hunger trade and third-world poverty the

938
00:42:27,050 --> 00:42:23,940

Institute runs motivational courses

939

00:42:30,680 --> 00:42:27,060

which are very much a part of the

940

00:42:33,050 --> 00:42:30,690

so-called New Age as McCann is

941

00:42:36,530 --> 00:42:33,060

apparently qualified in neuro linguistic

942

00:42:40,010 --> 00:42:36,540

programming educational kinesiology

943

00:42:43,910 --> 00:42:40,020

psycho peristaltic massage chakra

944

00:42:46,700 --> 00:42:43,920

balancing and past life regression she

945

00:42:49,640 --> 00:42:46,710

is also the co-founder of the Australian

946

00:42:52,640 --> 00:42:49,650

Institute of rebirthing holds

947

00:42:54,890 --> 00:42:52,650

firewalking evenings and believes that

948

00:43:00,020 --> 00:42:54,900

when a critical mass of people are

949

00:43:02,060 --> 00:43:00,030

together major shifts occur addressing

950

00:43:03,860 --> 00:43:02,070

the skeptics annual convention at the

951
00:43:06,410 --> 00:43:03,870
Science and Technology Centre in

952
00:43:08,630 --> 00:43:06,420
Canberra yesterday mr. Williams said I

953
00:43:11,690 --> 00:43:08,640
have great delight in announcing that

954
00:43:14,840 --> 00:43:11,700
Miss McCann who may or may not be

955
00:43:17,690 --> 00:43:14,850
related to Terry McCann of minder is the

956
00:43:21,290 --> 00:43:17,700
recipient of the 1988 bench spoon award

957
00:43:23,300 --> 00:43:21,300
and as a quick aside from me for those

958
00:43:26,110 --> 00:43:23,310
of you who don't know minder was a very

959
00:43:28,730 --> 00:43:26,120
popular show in the 1970s and 1980s

960
00:43:31,400 --> 00:43:28,740
based in London about

961
00:43:35,299 --> 00:43:31,410
wheeler dealers and dodgy enterprises

962
00:43:37,640 --> 00:43:35,309
and things like that we read on the

963
00:43:39,349 --> 00:43:37,650

skeptics more serious award to the

964

00:43:41,569 --> 00:43:39,359

journalist who produced the most

965

00:43:44,180 --> 00:43:41,579

skeptical story of the year went to

966

00:43:46,970 --> 00:43:44,190

Robin Williams from ABC Radio's the

967

00:43:50,089 --> 00:43:46,980

science show mr. Barry Williams said

968

00:43:52,279 --> 00:43:50,099

that mr. Williams represented voice of

969

00:43:54,529 --> 00:43:52,289

rational thinking in Australia and

970

00:43:56,510 --> 00:43:54,539

produced high quality programs which

971

00:43:59,990 --> 00:43:56,520

maintained people's interest in science

972

00:44:01,640 --> 00:44:00,000

and rational thought mr. Williams said

973

00:44:04,099 --> 00:44:01,650

he believed that since Australian

974

00:44:06,170 --> 00:44:04,109

skeptics was founded the media in

975

00:44:08,720 --> 00:44:06,180

general apart from some tabloid

976
00:44:11,359 --> 00:44:08,730
newspapers had become more skeptical

977
00:44:13,579 --> 00:44:11,369
than it used to be and did not rush to

978
00:44:15,620 --> 00:44:13,589
interview visiting psychics with such

979
00:44:17,390 --> 00:44:15,630
frequency he said that the greatest

980
00:44:19,789 --> 00:44:17,400
perpetrators of a rational thought in

981
00:44:22,569 --> 00:44:19,799
Australia today were the New Age

982
00:44:25,299 --> 00:44:22,579
followers who promoted such things as

983
00:44:28,370 --> 00:44:25,309
numerology crystals astrology and

984
00:44:31,460 --> 00:44:28,380
dolphins and new earth people or

985
00:44:34,370 --> 00:44:31,470
creationists who deny the evolution of

986
00:44:38,180 --> 00:44:34,380
man and believe that human history is

987
00:44:40,430 --> 00:44:38,190
only 6,000 years old the ideas promoted

988
00:44:43,700 --> 00:44:40,440

by these people are the ideas of

989

00:44:46,670 --> 00:44:43,710

ignorance he said everything they are on

990

00:44:50,029 --> 00:44:46,680

about his old hat dressed up in modern

991

00:44:52,609 --> 00:44:50,039

super salesman jargon mr. Williams said

992

00:44:54,680 --> 00:44:52,619

later that the Australian skeptics was

993

00:44:57,440 --> 00:44:54,690

like a consumer protection agency

994

00:45:00,039 --> 00:44:57,450

against silly claims his greatest

995

00:45:03,039 --> 00:45:00,049

concern was that people who are already

996

00:45:06,049 --> 00:45:03,049

emotionally or psychologically disturbed

997

00:45:07,880 --> 00:45:06,059

sometimes come to greater harm by

998

00:45:11,150 --> 00:45:07,890

following the advice of cults or

999

00:45:13,010 --> 00:45:11,160

psychics we require evidence and the

1000

00:45:15,380 --> 00:45:13,020

evidence for most of these things we

1001

00:45:18,500 --> 00:45:15,390

criticize is pretty thin on the ground

1002

00:45:21,620 --> 00:45:18,510

he said the whole New Age phenomenon is

1003

00:45:24,559 --> 00:45:21,630

clearly the greatest sham of the late

1004

00:45:27,410 --> 00:45:24,569

1980s it tends to attract people like

1005

00:45:29,960 --> 00:45:27,420

Shirley MacLaine and other people think

1006

00:45:31,160 --> 00:45:29,970

that if someone like that is involved

1007

00:45:33,789 --> 00:45:31,170

then it must be good

1008

00:45:36,769 --> 00:45:33,799

I Spit when I see Japan killing dolphins

1009

00:45:39,200 --> 00:45:36,779

but that's not because I think dolphins

1010

00:45:42,220 --> 00:45:39,210

are spiritual beings

1011

00:45:46,130 --> 00:45:42,230

[Music]

1012

00:45:50,930 --> 00:45:46,140

now we jump to another resource

1013

00:45:54,890 --> 00:45:50,940

altogether Google and one more one more

1014

00:45:57,320 --> 00:45:54,900

and slightly more recent this one comes

1015

00:46:01,250 --> 00:45:57,330

from Discovery magazine published on the

1016

00:46:03,320 --> 00:46:01,260

or at least online by none other than

1017

00:46:07,370 --> 00:46:03,330

dr. Phil Plait the bad astronomer third

1018

00:46:10,130 --> 00:46:07,380

of December 2009 Australian skeptics gia

1019

00:46:12,140 --> 00:46:10,140

Merrill Dori Merrill Dori

1020

00:46:14,000 --> 00:46:12,150

the truth impaired mouthpiece of the

1021

00:46:17,090 --> 00:46:14,010

Australian vaccination at work

1022

00:46:19,160 --> 00:46:17,100

a group of anti vaccination conspiracy

1023

00:46:21,500 --> 00:46:19,170

mongers who couldn't find reality with

1024

00:46:25,250 --> 00:46:21,510

both hands a compass and detailed

1025

00:46:27,710 --> 00:46:25,260

instructions was honored by the

1026
00:46:30,020 --> 00:46:27,720
Australian skeptics this week Richard

1027
00:46:32,600 --> 00:46:30,030
Saunders and Rachel Dunlop on behalf of

1028
00:46:35,930 --> 00:46:32,610
the Australian skeptics gave Dory their

1029
00:46:37,340 --> 00:46:35,940
annual bent spoon award awarded to the

1030
00:46:39,380 --> 00:46:37,350
perpetrator of the most preposterous

1031
00:46:43,160 --> 00:46:39,390
piece of paranormal or pseudo scientific

1032
00:46:45,650 --> 00:46:43,170
piffle Dory certainly fits the bill she

1033
00:46:48,230 --> 00:46:45,660
hasn't met a conspiracy theory she

1034
00:46:50,390 --> 00:46:48,240
hasn't loved or couldn't use to threaten

1035
00:46:52,250 --> 00:46:50,400
the public health with Merrill appeared

1036
00:46:55,250 --> 00:46:52,260
on national television telling a

1037
00:46:57,920 --> 00:46:55,260
reporter that we didn't die from these

1038
00:47:00,650 --> 00:46:57,930

diseases 30 years ago and we're not

1039

00:47:03,590 --> 00:47:00,660

going to die from them now juxtaposed

1040

00:47:05,840 --> 00:47:03,600

alongside footage of babies gasping for

1041

00:47:07,940 --> 00:47:05,850

breath as the journalist detailed the

1042

00:47:10,340 --> 00:47:07,950

story of the death of Dana McCaffrey

1043

00:47:14,540 --> 00:47:10,350

from the vaccine preventable disease

1044

00:47:17,180 --> 00:47:14,550

whooping cough Dory is also an HIV

1045

00:47:20,120 --> 00:47:17,190

denier and as you can see from reading

1046

00:47:22,220 --> 00:47:20,130

those links doing her darndest to

1047

00:47:24,950 --> 00:47:22,230

threaten Public Health it's a shame

1048

00:47:27,050 --> 00:47:24,960

someone like that has any voice at all

1049

00:47:29,090 --> 00:47:27,060

in the media and she spreads

1050

00:47:31,730 --> 00:47:29,100

misinformation that can lead to the

1051
00:47:34,850 --> 00:47:31,740
deaths of many people and we know for a

1052
00:47:37,190 --> 00:47:34,860
fact the drop in herd immunity in areas

1053
00:47:40,430 --> 00:47:37,200
where the AV end is loudest has resulted

1054
00:47:42,770 --> 00:47:40,440
in deaths from preventable diseases Dory

1055
00:47:44,750 --> 00:47:42,780
is going on the offensive issuing a

1056
00:47:47,990 --> 00:47:44,760
press release going on the radio and

1057
00:47:51,110 --> 00:47:48,000
being interviewed in papers saying that

1058
00:47:53,170 --> 00:47:51,120
she's proud to get this award since the

1059
00:47:56,200 --> 00:47:53,180
skeptics are obviously just

1060
00:47:59,920 --> 00:47:56,210
matic skills for Big Pharma Nick Sarah

1061
00:48:02,529 --> 00:47:59,930
and while she says this people including

1062
00:48:05,109 --> 00:48:02,539
babies stricken and some died due to

1063
00:48:08,529 --> 00:48:05,119

vaccine preventable illnesses

1064

00:48:15,430 --> 00:48:08,539

nice work dory I'm so glad you're proud

1065

00:48:17,470 --> 00:48:15,440

of the damage you've done and that's

1066

00:48:18,279 --> 00:48:17,480

just some of the press mentions I can

1067

00:48:20,769 --> 00:48:18,289

find online

1068

00:48:23,740 --> 00:48:20,779

of mentions of the Australian skeptics

1069

00:48:27,010 --> 00:48:23,750

bent spoon award in more recent years in

1070

00:48:29,769 --> 00:48:27,020

fact last year the current holder of the

1071

00:48:31,870 --> 00:48:29,779

been spoon is Sarah Stevenson who wrote

1072

00:48:34,450 --> 00:48:31,880

a blog I think she's probably still does

1073

00:48:37,480 --> 00:48:34,460

called Sarah's day for the promotion of

1074

00:48:40,000 --> 00:48:37,490

questionable natural health remedies via

1075

00:48:41,980 --> 00:48:40,010

her vast network of followers before

1076

00:48:45,010 --> 00:48:41,990

that the National Institute of

1077

00:48:47,740 --> 00:48:45,020

complementary medicine before that Julie

1078

00:48:49,930 --> 00:48:47,750

Y Lehman and Brian Martin and the

1079

00:48:52,329 --> 00:48:49,940

Faculty of science at the University of

1080

00:48:55,269 --> 00:48:52,339

Wollongong for awarding Y Lehman a

1081

00:48:58,210 --> 00:48:55,279

doctorate on the basis of a PhD riddled

1082

00:49:00,059 --> 00:48:58,220

with errors then there's Pete Evans the

1083

00:49:02,940 --> 00:49:00,069

celebrity chef for promoting

1084

00:49:05,079 --> 00:49:02,950

questionable diets and health advice

1085

00:49:08,470 --> 00:49:05,089

Larry Marshall who was the chief

1086

00:49:11,109 --> 00:49:08,480

executive of the CSIRO for his support

1087

00:49:13,750 --> 00:49:11,119

of water divining chiropractors

1088

00:49:16,750 --> 00:49:13,760

Association Fran Sheffield of homeopathy

1089

00:49:18,549 --> 00:49:16,760

plus for advocating the use of magical

1090

00:49:21,279 --> 00:49:18,559

sugar and water in the place of

1091

00:49:25,120 --> 00:49:21,289

tried-and-true vaccinations and on it

1092

00:49:28,480 --> 00:49:25,130

goes back into history a link to all

1093

00:49:33,640 --> 00:49:28,490

those interesting winners or we might

1094

00:49:33,650 --> 00:49:44,220

[Music]

1095

00:49:48,550 --> 00:49:47,320

i'm mick west in my podcast tells from

1096

00:49:49,900 --> 00:49:48,560

the rabbit-hole i have extended

1097

00:49:52,300 --> 00:49:49,910

conversations with people who've been

1098

00:49:53,890 --> 00:49:52,310

involved in conspiracy culture i do this

1099

00:49:55,270 --> 00:49:53,900

for a couple of reasons firstly because

1100

00:49:56,890 --> 00:49:55,280

it's really interesting these people

1101
00:49:58,510 --> 00:49:56,900
have great stories about how they fell

1102
00:50:00,430 --> 00:49:58,520
down the conspiracy theory rabbit hole

1103
00:50:02,170 --> 00:50:00,440
or they did down there and what it was

1104
00:50:03,940 --> 00:50:02,180
that helped them out sometimes i also

1105
00:50:05,020 --> 00:50:03,950
talk to people to investigate conspiracy

1106
00:50:06,580 --> 00:50:05,030
theories and they have equally

1107
00:50:08,860 --> 00:50:06,590
fascinating stories from the other side

1108
00:50:10,360 --> 00:50:08,870
secondly i want to understand how best

1109
00:50:11,890 --> 00:50:10,370
to prevent the spread of conspiracy

1110
00:50:13,450 --> 00:50:11,900
theories and misinformation which is an

1111
00:50:15,940 --> 00:50:13,460
increasing problem in a time when

1112
00:50:17,140 --> 00:50:15,950
alternative media is exploding the best

1113
00:50:19,480 --> 00:50:17,150

way to do this is to communicate

1114

00:50:21,670 --> 00:50:19,490

effectively with the people involved and

1115

00:50:24,820 --> 00:50:21,680

the best way to do that with a nice long

1116

00:50:27,880 --> 00:50:24,830

chat check it out tales from the rabbit

1117

00:50:42,380 --> 00:50:27,890

hole TFG rh calm

1118

00:50:47,190 --> 00:50:44,640

thank you for listening to the skeptic

1119

00:50:51,839 --> 00:50:47,200

zone and thank you to trish han and lara

1120

00:50:55,710 --> 00:50:51,849

Benham the real stars of the moment when

1121

00:50:58,549 --> 00:50:55,720

it came to handing out those flyers to

1122

00:51:01,710 --> 00:50:58,559

people attending the John Edward

1123

00:51:03,809 --> 00:51:01,720

performance and again in this week's

1124

00:51:07,410 --> 00:51:03,819

show notes you'll find the link that fly

1125

00:51:09,299 --> 00:51:07,420

yourself non-confrontational just here's

1126
00:51:12,450 --> 00:51:09,309
some information if you want to read it

1127
00:51:14,910 --> 00:51:12,460
that's fine it worked I think it worked

1128
00:51:16,829 --> 00:51:14,920
very well I mean I don't think we're

1129
00:51:20,249 --> 00:51:16,839
going to get John Edward or any of his

1130
00:51:22,489 --> 00:51:20,259
ilk standing on the stage holding one of

1131
00:51:24,870 --> 00:51:22,499
these flyers and saying to the audience

1132
00:51:27,059 --> 00:51:24,880
look I've got something to tell you you

1133
00:51:30,210 --> 00:51:27,069
know I really can't talk to the dead

1134
00:51:31,829 --> 00:51:30,220
it's all being a performance no that's

1135
00:51:35,519 --> 00:51:31,839
not going to happen will it bring the

1136
00:51:38,339 --> 00:51:35,529
industry down no will it change some

1137
00:51:42,029 --> 00:51:38,349
minds will it make people think I think

1138
00:51:43,499 --> 00:51:42,039

yes and that surely is worth it and we

1139

00:51:46,380 --> 00:51:43,509

can talk about that if you wish at

1140

00:51:48,900 --> 00:51:46,390

skeptic on in Melbourne this is the last

1141

00:51:53,339 --> 00:51:48,910

chance the last few days you have to get

1142

00:51:56,039 --> 00:51:53,349

tickets and just looking online now and

1143

00:51:57,210 --> 00:51:56,049

seeing the photographs from the first

1144

00:52:00,269 --> 00:51:57,220

day of the New Zealand

1145

00:52:02,279 --> 00:52:00,279

skeptics conference what a large turnout

1146

00:52:04,529 --> 00:52:02,289

and everyone seems to be having a great

1147

00:52:06,299 --> 00:52:04,539

time there and lots of the stars

1148

00:52:08,759 --> 00:52:06,309

appearing there will be appearing in

1149

00:52:10,739 --> 00:52:08,769

Melbourne our main art and I are heading

1150

00:52:12,630 --> 00:52:10,749

down to Melbourne you know and will in a

1151

00:52:16,499 --> 00:52:12,640

couple of days we're going to have a

1152

00:52:20,130 --> 00:52:16,509

sceptical road trip oh yes from Sydney

1153

00:52:22,279 --> 00:52:20,140

to Melbourne and in the skeptic 'mobile

1154

00:52:25,460 --> 00:52:22,289

the skeptic zona Beale will be carrying

1155

00:52:28,349 --> 00:52:25,470

the bent spoon award

1156

00:52:29,759 --> 00:52:28,359

mmm-hmm looking forward to seeing all

1157

00:52:32,220 --> 00:52:29,769

our friends in Melbourne and looking

1158

00:52:34,220 --> 00:52:32,230

forward to seeing you at the Australian

1159

00:52:36,630 --> 00:52:34,230

skeptics National Convention skeptic on

1160

00:52:39,420 --> 00:52:36,640

links in this week's show notes again

1161

00:52:41,299 --> 00:52:39,430

this is your last opportunity in the

1162

00:52:44,700 --> 00:52:41,309

coming week to get your tickets and

1163

00:52:47,400 --> 00:52:44,710

after next weekend you'll have to wait

1164

00:52:49,710 --> 00:52:47,410

till 2020 and I'm looking forward to

1165

00:52:52,079 --> 00:52:49,720

seeing the the skeptic zone report as I

1166

00:52:53,420 --> 00:52:52,089

rarely see Mandy Lee Noble Heidi

1167

00:52:55,880 --> 00:52:53,430

Robinson

1168

00:52:57,829 --> 00:52:55,890

our doctor Paulie it'll be great to see

1169

00:52:59,720 --> 00:52:57,839

you all and thank you to those people

1170

00:53:03,260 --> 00:52:59,730

who continue to support the skeptic zone

1171

00:53:05,630 --> 00:53:03,270

financially at PayPal patreon via

1172

00:53:07,970 --> 00:53:05,640

skeptic zone TV or should I say via

1173

00:53:10,190 --> 00:53:07,980

PayPal and patreon at skeptic zone TV I

1174

00:53:12,799 --> 00:53:10,200

think you know what I mean and thank you

1175

00:53:15,980 --> 00:53:12,809

to those people who just recently came

1176
00:53:18,319 --> 00:53:15,990
on board to help to support the show a

1177
00:53:20,480 --> 00:53:18,329
lot of people have decided that five

1178
00:53:22,160 --> 00:53:20,490
dollars a month is a good level to

1179
00:53:24,470 --> 00:53:22,170
support the show and I'm very grateful

1180
00:53:27,410 --> 00:53:24,480
for that and I'm very grateful to those

1181
00:53:29,630 --> 00:53:27,420
people who pay less or pay more every

1182
00:53:32,180 --> 00:53:29,640
cent thank you very much and the whole

1183
00:53:33,890 --> 00:53:32,190
team thanks you and The Skeptical Cats

1184
00:53:36,440 --> 00:53:33,900
thank you they've they're quite happy

1185
00:53:37,160 --> 00:53:36,450
they've just had their breakfast but for

1186
00:53:39,650 --> 00:53:37,170
this week

1187
00:53:46,339 --> 00:53:39,660
this is Richard Saunders signing off

1188
00:53:48,410 --> 00:53:46,349

from Sydney Australia you've been

1189

00:53:53,870 --> 00:53:48,420

listening to the skeptic zone podcast

1190

00:53:56,900 --> 00:53:53,880

please visit our website at WWDC because

1191

00:53:59,559 --> 00:53:56,910

your notes contacts and to access the

1192

00:54:02,870 --> 00:53:59,569

bat catalog of episodes going back to

1193

00:54:06,500 --> 00:54:02,880

2008 you can follow the skeptic zone

1194

00:54:08,900 --> 00:54:06,510

podcast on twitter at skeptic zone visit

1195

00:54:09,789 --> 00:54:08,910

our facebook page or leave a review on

1196

00:54:12,470 --> 00:54:09,799

itunes

1197

00:54:15,859 --> 00:54:12,480

you can also support the skeptic zone

1198

00:54:18,579 --> 00:54:15,869

via patreon or PayPal the skeptic zone

1199

00:54:20,960 --> 00:54:18,589

podcast is an independent production

1200

00:54:23,089 --> 00:54:20,970

reviews and opinions expressed on the

1201

00:54:25,430 --> 00:54:23,099

skeptic zone are not necessarily those

1202

00:54:27,260 --> 00:54:25,440

of Australian skeptics or any other