



Episode **634**

THE
**SKEPTIC
ZONE**
PODCAST

www.skepticzone.tv

6 December 2020

Living a Skeptical Life

A look into Trove
for water divining in 1912

Australian Skeptics Newsletter



1
00:00:11,190 --> 00:00:08,390
welcome to the skeptic zone

2
00:00:16,840 --> 00:00:11,200
the podcast from australia for science

3
00:00:23,189 --> 00:00:16,850
and reason

4
00:00:25,109 --> 00:00:23,199
[Music]

5
00:00:27,910 --> 00:00:25,119
yes it's the skeptic's own podcast

6
00:00:31,189 --> 00:00:27,920
episode number 634

7
00:00:33,080 --> 00:00:31,199
for the 6th of december 2020 richard

8
00:00:34,310 --> 00:00:33,090
saunders coming to you from a

9
00:00:37,430 --> 00:00:34,320
[Music]

10
00:00:38,869 --> 00:00:37,440
looks like a nice warm sunny sunday day

11
00:00:41,030 --> 00:00:38,879
coming up

12
00:00:42,790 --> 00:00:41,040
and a little bit later on this morning

13
00:00:43,990 --> 00:00:42,800

i'm going to be heading downtown into

14

00:00:46,950 --> 00:00:44,000

the city

15

00:00:49,110 --> 00:00:46,960

to once again give blood i think they

16

00:00:51,270 --> 00:00:49,120

want platelets this time

17

00:00:53,830 --> 00:00:51,280

platelets or maybe plasma something like

18

00:00:55,430 --> 00:00:53,840

that and i'm so glad the birds outside

19

00:00:57,510 --> 00:00:55,440

the window approve i think i've

20

00:00:58,709 --> 00:00:57,520

all but given up trying to record in

21

00:01:01,029 --> 00:00:58,719

between

22

00:01:04,229 --> 00:01:01,039

birds i discovered they start singing at

23

00:01:08,550 --> 00:01:04,239

about four o'clock in the morning

24

00:01:10,550 --> 00:01:08,560

yeah hmm somebody told me that this year

25

00:01:12,310 --> 00:01:10,560

uh there's more birds than normal

26

00:01:14,310 --> 00:01:12,320

because of um

27

00:01:15,670 --> 00:01:14,320

possibly the fires earlier in the year

28

00:01:17,429 --> 00:01:15,680

or so i don't know

29

00:01:19,510 --> 00:01:17,439

honestly i don't know but sing away

30

00:01:21,670 --> 00:01:19,520

birds whatever

31

00:01:22,870 --> 00:01:21,680

coming up on this week's show no birds

32

00:01:24,950 --> 00:01:22,880

no more birds

33

00:01:26,789 --> 00:01:24,960

but we're going to be looking at

34

00:01:28,950 --> 00:01:26,799

something i wrote some years ago about

35

00:01:30,950 --> 00:01:28,960

living a skeptical life what's it like

36

00:01:33,749 --> 00:01:30,960

to be a skeptic what does it mean to be

37

00:01:36,069 --> 00:01:33,759

a skeptic how did i become a skeptic

38

00:01:38,149 --> 00:01:36,079

now this is part of a talk i gave in

39

00:01:40,550 --> 00:01:38,159

melbourne some years ago

40

00:01:42,069 --> 00:01:40,560

living a skeptical life coming up to

41

00:01:43,350 --> 00:01:42,079

start off this week's episode of the

42

00:01:45,670 --> 00:01:43,360

skeptic zone

43

00:01:47,510 --> 00:01:45,680

following that we go back once more we

44

00:01:49,990 --> 00:01:47,520

trip into trove

45

00:01:52,230 --> 00:01:50,000

from the national library of australia

46

00:01:55,749 --> 00:01:52,240

and we're going to start a two-part

47

00:01:56,870 --> 00:01:55,759

uh series on water divining looking for

48

00:02:00,389 --> 00:01:56,880

water divining

49

00:02:06,630 --> 00:02:00,399

today

50

00:02:09,749 --> 00:02:06,640

we have uh excerpts from the year 1912

51
00:02:11,510 --> 00:02:09,759
and next week from 1945.

52
00:02:13,270 --> 00:02:11,520
and to round off this week's episode

53
00:02:15,670 --> 00:02:13,280
it's a look at the latest

54
00:02:17,229 --> 00:02:15,680
newsletter from australian skeptics

55
00:02:20,390 --> 00:02:17,239
newsletter number

56
00:02:23,510 --> 00:02:20,400
112 written and

57
00:02:24,309 --> 00:02:23,520
compiled by none other oh yes none other

58
00:02:27,510 --> 00:02:24,319
than

59
00:02:29,430 --> 00:02:27,520
tim mendem now this week's show is

60
00:02:29,910 --> 00:02:29,440
slightly abbreviated it's about 10

61
00:02:32,070 --> 00:02:29,920
minutes

62
00:02:33,670 --> 00:02:32,080
shorter than the normal show i think

63
00:02:35,589 --> 00:02:33,680

something like that there's no set time

64

00:02:39,110 --> 00:02:35,599

for the skeptic zone each week

65

00:02:39,910 --> 00:02:39,120

i aim for anywhere from 45 minutes to an

66

00:02:42,070 --> 00:02:39,920

hour

67

00:02:43,190 --> 00:02:42,080

it can go over now sometimes sometimes

68

00:02:45,190 --> 00:02:43,200

it's much less

69

00:02:47,430 --> 00:02:45,200

it's just one of those things no set

70

00:02:50,470 --> 00:02:47,440

time partly because this week i

71

00:02:51,270 --> 00:02:50,480

spent a few days up visiting my friend

72

00:02:54,309 --> 00:02:51,280

maynard

73

00:02:57,110 --> 00:02:54,319

we

74

00:02:57,830 --> 00:02:57,120

put together maynard's christmas special

75

00:03:01,110 --> 00:02:57,840

which

76

00:03:02,790 --> 00:03:01,120

aired friday night a couple of nights

77

00:03:04,470 --> 00:03:02,800

ago if you want to see that christmas

78

00:03:05,990 --> 00:03:04,480

special for yourself

79

00:03:08,949 --> 00:03:06,000

you'll be brave but if you want to see

80

00:03:09,509 --> 00:03:08,959

it just head to maynard.com and you

81

00:03:12,790 --> 00:03:09,519

should

82

00:03:16,229 --> 00:03:12,800

see the christmas special

83

00:03:19,830 --> 00:03:18,309

birds and planes this morning okay plane

84

00:03:22,309 --> 00:03:19,840

i don't mind

85

00:03:22,949 --> 00:03:22,319

planes are flying again that's all right

86

00:03:27,110 --> 00:03:22,959

and

87

00:03:29,830 --> 00:03:27,120

if you do go to maynard.com.u also

88

00:03:30,869 --> 00:03:29,840

take advantage of the free calendar

89

00:03:35,509 --> 00:03:30,879

maynard's free

90

00:03:38,710 --> 00:03:35,519

2021 calendar ready to download yes

91

00:03:40,789 --> 00:03:38,720

spend 2021 with maynard

92

00:03:42,309 --> 00:03:40,799

stay tuned at the end of the episode we

93

00:03:42,949 --> 00:03:42,319

don't really stay tuned you just keep

94

00:03:44,710 --> 00:03:42,959

listening

95

00:03:47,270 --> 00:03:44,720

at the end of the episode for more

96

00:03:49,110 --> 00:03:47,280

announcements from me

97

00:03:51,670 --> 00:03:49,120

and no matter where you're listening to

98

00:03:54,949 --> 00:03:51,680

us from biannual series to

99

00:03:58,830 --> 00:03:54,959

madagascar to kyoto

100

00:04:01,750 --> 00:03:58,840

maybe i hear that's a nice place kyoto

101
00:04:05,110 --> 00:04:01,760
hmm maybe when this is all

102
00:04:07,190 --> 00:04:05,120
over a nice trip through japan to learn

103
00:04:08,309 --> 00:04:07,200
some origami would be a good idea i

104
00:04:09,670 --> 00:04:08,319
don't know

105
00:04:10,949 --> 00:04:09,680
anyway no matter where you're listening

106
00:04:12,390 --> 00:04:10,959
to the show i hope you enjoyed this

107
00:04:13,509 --> 00:04:12,400
week's episode but now it's time for me

108
00:04:16,229 --> 00:04:13,519
to run downstairs

109
00:04:17,590 --> 00:04:16,239
and follow the advice sent to me by the

110
00:04:20,550 --> 00:04:17,600
blood bank

111
00:04:22,390 --> 00:04:20,560
which is they sent me a text message and

112
00:04:24,390 --> 00:04:22,400
let me have a look

113
00:04:25,670 --> 00:04:24,400

hi richard we're ready for your blood

114

00:04:29,030 --> 00:04:25,680

donation

115

00:04:31,030 --> 00:04:29,040

that's great it says

116

00:04:32,310 --> 00:04:31,040

oh and in the three hours before you

117

00:04:35,030 --> 00:04:32,320

come in eat

118

00:04:36,310 --> 00:04:35,040

something savory and drink 750

119

00:04:39,189 --> 00:04:36,320

milliliters

120

00:04:41,030 --> 00:04:39,199

of water about three glasses eat

121

00:04:42,950 --> 00:04:41,040

something savory

122

00:04:44,950 --> 00:04:42,960

while i run downstairs and eat something

123

00:04:56,100 --> 00:04:44,960

savory i hope you enjoy

124

00:05:06,160 --> 00:04:56,110

the skeptic zone

125

00:05:09,909 --> 00:05:07,830

[Music]

126

00:05:11,749 --> 00:05:09,919

about 10 years ago i was the guest of

127

00:05:13,749 --> 00:05:11,759

the victorian skeptics

128

00:05:15,430 --> 00:05:13,759

and i think we met in a little

129

00:05:17,270 --> 00:05:15,440

restaurant in lygon street

130

00:05:19,270 --> 00:05:17,280

victorian skeptics people if you

131

00:05:21,270 --> 00:05:19,280

remember that

132

00:05:23,270 --> 00:05:21,280

lenote i think that was the name of the

133

00:05:25,510 --> 00:05:23,280

cafe the restaurant

134

00:05:26,790 --> 00:05:25,520

and i spent many many meetings there

135

00:05:29,749 --> 00:05:26,800

actually over the years

136

00:05:31,590 --> 00:05:29,759

and what a delight that was in one year

137

00:05:34,390 --> 00:05:31,600

i was asked to give a talk

138

00:05:35,830 --> 00:05:34,400

and i penned something called what does

139

00:05:41,670 --> 00:05:35,840

it mean to live

140

00:05:49,110 --> 00:05:44,070

revamped a little bit over the years

141

00:05:52,070 --> 00:05:49,120

[Music]

142

00:05:52,629 --> 00:05:52,080

what does it mean to live a skeptical

143

00:05:55,270 --> 00:05:52,639

life

144

00:05:57,909 --> 00:05:55,280

before i cover what living a skeptical

145

00:06:00,469 --> 00:05:57,919

life might mean for people in general

146

00:06:03,430 --> 00:06:00,479

let me at least try to give you some

147

00:06:06,710 --> 00:06:03,440

idea of what it means for me

148

00:06:08,710 --> 00:06:06,720

first of all i have been and still am a

149

00:06:11,270 --> 00:06:08,720

bigfoot skeptic

150

00:06:11,909 --> 00:06:11,280

this is a relatively new term that sums

151
00:06:15,110 --> 00:06:11,919
me up

152
00:06:17,670 --> 00:06:15,120
to a certain degree rather well

153
00:06:20,150 --> 00:06:17,680
for those of you not familiar with this

154
00:06:21,909 --> 00:06:20,160
term it means more or less

155
00:06:23,909 --> 00:06:21,919
someone who is interested in

156
00:06:25,590 --> 00:06:23,919
investigating claims of the paranormal

157
00:06:27,350 --> 00:06:25,600
and the supernatural such as spoon

158
00:06:27,909 --> 00:06:27,360
bending talking to the dead new age

159
00:06:31,350 --> 00:06:27,919
energies

160
00:06:36,309 --> 00:06:31,360
strange creatures i only have

161
00:06:38,309 --> 00:06:36,319
a passing interest in gods and religion

162
00:06:40,070 --> 00:06:38,319
but by and large i leave that topic to

163
00:06:41,110 --> 00:06:40,080

other people who find it far more

164

00:06:44,230 --> 00:06:41,120

interesting

165

00:06:46,950 --> 00:06:44,240

and important there are cases

166

00:06:48,390 --> 00:06:46,960

where i do stray into those waters

167

00:06:50,870 --> 00:06:48,400

creationism

168

00:06:52,950 --> 00:06:50,880

faith healing and claims of such things

169

00:06:55,430 --> 00:06:52,960

as weeping statues

170

00:06:57,430 --> 00:06:55,440

now there is some unrest within the

171

00:06:57,909 --> 00:06:57,440

movement from those who regard people

172

00:07:01,110 --> 00:06:57,919

like

173

00:07:03,589 --> 00:07:01,120

me as somehow being less than worthy

174

00:07:06,710 --> 00:07:03,599

because i don't focus on religion and

175

00:07:08,150 --> 00:07:06,720

such well to each their own i really

176

00:07:11,189 --> 00:07:08,160

don't mind if

177

00:07:14,230 --> 00:07:11,199

they are not interested in claims of

178

00:07:17,430 --> 00:07:14,240

poltergeists and things like that

179

00:07:20,469 --> 00:07:17,440

i'm known for many things i guess tv

180

00:07:23,670 --> 00:07:20,479

appearances books i've written

181

00:07:24,309 --> 00:07:23,680

podcasting and even morigami but above

182

00:07:26,790 --> 00:07:24,319

all

183

00:07:27,909 --> 00:07:26,800

i'm known for being a skeptic my

184

00:07:31,990 --> 00:07:27,919

skeptical life

185

00:07:34,950 --> 00:07:32,000

is just that a lifestyle of skepticism

186

00:07:35,749 --> 00:07:34,960

it's not a hobby it's not a recreational

187

00:07:39,189 --> 00:07:35,759

interest

188

00:07:42,550 --> 00:07:39,199

it's largely who i am and what i do

189

00:07:45,029 --> 00:07:42,560

it's what i deal with every day in some

190

00:07:47,909 --> 00:07:45,039

form or another and hardly without

191

00:07:49,110 --> 00:07:47,919

exception skepticism has taken me all

192

00:07:52,710 --> 00:07:49,120

around the world

193

00:07:54,469 --> 00:07:52,720

from alaska to new zealand to norway to

194

00:07:57,110 --> 00:07:54,479

the czech republic to the uk

195

00:07:59,510 --> 00:07:57,120

to ireland and many other countries my

196

00:08:02,150 --> 00:07:59,520

opinion is sought after in the media

197

00:08:03,589 --> 00:08:02,160

my face is used to promote conventions

198

00:08:07,189 --> 00:08:03,599

and meetings

199

00:08:09,749 --> 00:08:07,199

i am on the dart board of many

200

00:08:11,029 --> 00:08:09,759

psychics and alternative medicine

201

00:08:13,189 --> 00:08:11,039

practitioners

202

00:08:15,110 --> 00:08:13,199

well to be honest i don't think i really

203

00:08:18,070 --> 00:08:15,120

am on the dart board of these people

204

00:08:19,189 --> 00:08:18,080

but it is a metaphor for some of the

205

00:08:23,110 --> 00:08:19,199

hate and anger

206

00:08:24,950 --> 00:08:23,120

that comes my way my skeptical

207

00:08:27,270 --> 00:08:24,960

maybe i should say my questioning life

208

00:08:30,070 --> 00:08:27,280

began in the 1970s

209

00:08:31,350 --> 00:08:30,080

when there was an explosion of the

210

00:08:33,589 --> 00:08:31,360

paranormal

211

00:08:35,509 --> 00:08:33,599

or at least it seemed that way to me

212

00:08:37,110 --> 00:08:35,519

yuri gellar was stunning the world's

213

00:08:40,149 --> 00:08:37,120

press with

214

00:08:41,750 --> 00:08:40,159

magic tricks ufos were posing a real

215

00:08:43,589 --> 00:08:41,760

danger to airlines

216

00:08:45,030 --> 00:08:43,599

i mean there was just so many of them

217

00:08:47,350 --> 00:08:45,040

buzzing about

218

00:08:49,750 --> 00:08:47,360

and bigfoot was going to be caught and

219

00:08:53,430 --> 00:08:49,760

proved real

220

00:08:57,590 --> 00:08:53,440

any day now in my early teens i

221

00:09:01,110 --> 00:08:57,600

lapped it all up and believed it why not

222

00:09:03,190 --> 00:09:01,120

why not mainly i suggest it was because

223

00:09:04,550 --> 00:09:03,200

that's the way the media presented these

224

00:09:06,790 --> 00:09:04,560

stories

225

00:09:08,230 --> 00:09:06,800

there was also the great plural of

226

00:09:11,269 --> 00:09:08,240

knowing the unknown

227

00:09:12,790 --> 00:09:11,279

or revealing the mystery of having the

228

00:09:15,829 --> 00:09:12,800

inside knowledge that

229

00:09:18,470 --> 00:09:15,839

that was far more exciting and

230

00:09:21,110 --> 00:09:18,480

that's what sold newspapers that's what

231

00:09:24,150 --> 00:09:21,120

brought people to watch tv shows

232

00:09:27,269 --> 00:09:24,160

it was in essence using our own

233

00:09:30,230 --> 00:09:27,279

curiosity against us

234

00:09:31,030 --> 00:09:30,240

tv shows like in search of with lennon

235

00:09:33,430 --> 00:09:31,040

nimoy

236

00:09:34,389 --> 00:09:33,440

gave the impression at least to a young

237

00:09:38,150 --> 00:09:34,399

boy

238

00:09:39,829 --> 00:09:38,160

of being factual documentaries

239

00:09:42,470 --> 00:09:39,839

there was also a sitcom made in the

240

00:09:43,750 --> 00:09:42,480

early 70s based on a woman with

241

00:09:46,949 --> 00:09:43,760

paranormal powers

242

00:09:50,790 --> 00:09:46,959

called the girl with something extra

243

00:09:53,230 --> 00:09:50,800

starring sally fields movies like close

244

00:09:53,730 --> 00:09:53,240

encounters of the third

245

00:09:55,400 --> 00:09:53,740

[Applause]

246

00:10:02,829 --> 00:09:55,410

[Music]

247

00:10:08,949 --> 00:10:04,870

kind

248

00:10:11,269 --> 00:10:08,959

rode the ufo craze and like a space

249

00:10:12,150 --> 00:10:11,279

probe gaining speed from a slingshot

250

00:10:14,150 --> 00:10:12,160

maneuver

251
00:10:15,590 --> 00:10:14,160
propelling the idea of visiting aliens

252
00:10:18,069 --> 00:10:15,600
to greater heights

253
00:10:19,670 --> 00:10:18,079
all this was a reflection of the mood

254
00:10:22,710 --> 00:10:19,680
and the expectation

255
00:10:24,870 --> 00:10:22,720
of the times but you can see for

256
00:10:25,990 --> 00:10:24,880
yourself a bit of what those days were

257
00:10:28,310 --> 00:10:26,000
like

258
00:10:29,030 --> 00:10:28,320
just go to youtube and you'll be able to

259
00:10:32,870 --> 00:10:29,040
marvel

260
00:10:36,870 --> 00:10:32,880
at such documentaries as ufos

261
00:10:39,269 --> 00:10:36,880
it has begun the mysterious monsters

262
00:10:40,069 --> 00:10:39,279
with peter graves and of course many

263
00:10:43,509 --> 00:10:40,079

episodes of

264

00:10:47,190 --> 00:10:43,519

in search of these documentaries did

265

00:10:50,470 --> 00:10:47,200

from time to time include a skeptic but

266

00:10:51,190 --> 00:10:50,480

only as a passing naysayer here is a

267

00:10:54,630 --> 00:10:51,200

clip from

268

00:10:56,790 --> 00:10:54,640

the mysterious monsters made in 1975.

269

00:11:00,230 --> 00:10:56,800

you might like to try and count the

270

00:11:02,630 --> 00:11:00,240

logical fallacies you're about to hear

271

00:11:05,030 --> 00:11:02,640

ranging from straw man to the appeal to

272

00:11:05,750 --> 00:11:05,040

authority to special pleading

273

00:11:08,310 --> 00:11:05,760

and so on

274

00:11:10,389 --> 00:11:08,320

[Music]

275

00:11:12,829 --> 00:11:10,399

eyewitness testimony however has had

276

00:11:15,509 --> 00:11:12,839

little such effect on the scientific

277

00:11:16,389 --> 00:11:15,519

community eyewitness reports are not

278

00:11:18,550 --> 00:11:16,399

reliable

279

00:11:19,509 --> 00:11:18,560

people can think they see things their

280

00:11:21,110 --> 00:11:19,519

minds can

281

00:11:22,870 --> 00:11:21,120

play tricks on them the doctor tibbett

282

00:11:24,069 --> 00:11:22,880

so many people have seen bigfoot now is

283

00:11:25,509 --> 00:11:24,079

it possible that they're all

284

00:11:28,790 --> 00:11:25,519

hallucinating

285

00:11:30,310 --> 00:11:28,800

look see this skull now that's hard

286

00:11:33,350 --> 00:11:30,320

evidence something to test

287

00:11:35,990 --> 00:11:33,360

to deal with bring me a bone

288

00:11:37,509 --> 00:11:36,000

or a skull or a carcass and then maybe

289

00:11:40,230 --> 00:11:37,519

i'll believe in bigfoot

290

00:11:41,990 --> 00:11:40,240

but hundreds of uh law-abiding

291

00:11:43,190 --> 00:11:42,000

respectable people have testified that

292

00:11:44,870 --> 00:11:43,200

they've seen bigfoot

293

00:11:46,310 --> 00:11:44,880

they've signed affidavits to that effect

294

00:11:48,069 --> 00:11:46,320

they've even subjected themselves to

295

00:11:49,590 --> 00:11:48,079

examination under hypnosis

296

00:11:52,150 --> 00:11:49,600

and yet the scientific community

297

00:11:55,910 --> 00:11:52,160

completely disregards such testimony

298

00:11:56,870 --> 00:11:55,920

it's unreliable now isn't it possible

299

00:11:58,629 --> 00:11:56,880

that

300

00:12:00,870 --> 00:11:58,639

science doesn't know how to use oral

301
00:12:02,310 --> 00:12:00,880
evidence i mean how to evaluate it let's

302
00:12:04,389 --> 00:12:02,320
say the way the law does

303
00:12:06,230 --> 00:12:04,399
now isn't oral testimony the basis of

304
00:12:08,829 --> 00:12:06,240
our judicial system

305
00:12:10,310 --> 00:12:08,839
i don't know science needs something

306
00:12:12,150 --> 00:12:10,320
concrete

307
00:12:14,310 --> 00:12:12,160
why for instance hasn't a hunter ever

308
00:12:16,230 --> 00:12:14,320
been able to find the remains of a dead

309
00:12:18,550 --> 00:12:16,240
bigfoot in the forest

310
00:12:19,990 --> 00:12:18,560
i mean there have been so many people

311
00:12:24,949 --> 00:12:20,000
through the area where this thing

312
00:12:28,389 --> 00:12:24,959
supposedly has been seen yet nothing

313
00:12:30,790 --> 00:12:28,399

a valid question to find out the answer

314

00:12:32,230 --> 00:12:30,800

i talked to anthropologist dr lawrence

315

00:12:34,870 --> 00:12:32,240

bradley

316

00:12:37,190 --> 00:12:34,880

well in reality very few bones are ever

317

00:12:39,509 --> 00:12:37,200

found anywhere in the forest

318

00:12:40,949 --> 00:12:39,519

when an animal dies it's immediately

319

00:12:42,790 --> 00:12:40,959

eaten by another animal

320

00:12:44,310 --> 00:12:42,800

this is the disposal service of nature

321

00:12:45,750 --> 00:12:44,320

with work

322

00:12:47,430 --> 00:12:45,760

i go up in the woods in oregon and

323

00:12:49,430 --> 00:12:47,440

washington all the time

324

00:12:50,870 --> 00:12:49,440

and i've never seen the remains of bears

325

00:12:52,389 --> 00:12:50,880

or even mountain lions

326

00:12:54,870 --> 00:12:52,399

and these animals are in abundance up

327

00:12:56,389 --> 00:12:54,880

there dr bradley it's been suggested by

328

00:12:58,310 --> 00:12:56,399

some people that maybe the bigfoot

329

00:13:00,710 --> 00:12:58,320

creatures bury their dead

330

00:13:01,910 --> 00:13:00,720

that's remotely possible if bigfoot is

331

00:13:03,670 --> 00:13:01,920

as some of us think a

332

00:13:05,509 --> 00:13:03,680

humanoid a species of animal more

333

00:13:08,150 --> 00:13:05,519

man-like than beast

334

00:13:10,150 --> 00:13:08,160

but it is possible yes but it's a

335

00:13:11,430 --> 00:13:10,160

proposition completely rejected by my

336

00:13:17,509 --> 00:13:11,440

colleagues

337

00:13:21,910 --> 00:13:19,190

of course what you can't see is peter

338

00:13:24,949 --> 00:13:21,920

graves shaking his head

339

00:13:27,430 --> 00:13:24,959

when he's listening to the skeptic is it

340

00:13:28,310 --> 00:13:27,440

any wonder with movies and tv shows like

341

00:13:30,310 --> 00:13:28,320

this

342

00:13:32,949 --> 00:13:30,320

that jumped onto the bandwagon of the

343

00:13:36,790 --> 00:13:32,959

times that belief in the paranormal

344

00:13:39,590 --> 00:13:36,800

or things like bigfoot was so widespread

345

00:13:40,870 --> 00:13:39,600

i remember someone gave me a book about

346

00:13:44,069 --> 00:13:40,880

ufos

347

00:13:44,949 --> 00:13:44,079

it had in it a form that one could fill

348

00:13:47,990 --> 00:13:44,959

out

349

00:13:51,269 --> 00:13:48,000

strange

350

00:13:51,829 --> 00:13:51,279

objects or lights in the sky needless to

351
00:13:55,269 --> 00:13:51,839
say

352
00:13:58,310 --> 00:13:55,279
any such objects must be ufos

353
00:14:00,550 --> 00:13:58,320
and by that i mean alien spaceships

354
00:14:02,629 --> 00:14:00,560
the questions on the form included what

355
00:14:03,670 --> 00:14:02,639
time of the day or night was the

356
00:14:06,790 --> 00:14:03,680
sighting at what

357
00:14:08,949 --> 00:14:06,800
angle in the sky was the object were you

358
00:14:09,750 --> 00:14:08,959
alone can you draw a picture of what you

359
00:14:12,870 --> 00:14:09,760
saw

360
00:14:15,269 --> 00:14:12,880
and so on i copied the form out

361
00:14:16,150 --> 00:14:15,279
from the book by typing on a real

362
00:14:18,790 --> 00:14:16,160
typewriter

363
00:14:20,550 --> 00:14:18,800

on special paper that then could be used

364

00:14:23,990 --> 00:14:20,560

in the printing machine

365

00:14:26,310 --> 00:14:24,000

at the office in my father's church

366

00:14:27,910 --> 00:14:26,320

normally used for printing church

367

00:14:30,710 --> 00:14:27,920

newsletters and such

368

00:14:31,269 --> 00:14:30,720

i then sort out anyone i could find who

369

00:14:33,509 --> 00:14:31,279

saw

370

00:14:34,629 --> 00:14:33,519

something in the sky and had them fill

371

00:14:36,790 --> 00:14:34,639

out the form

372

00:14:38,310 --> 00:14:36,800

i cannot remember how many people filled

373

00:14:41,910 --> 00:14:38,320

out the forms

374

00:14:45,350 --> 00:14:41,920

and i guess after a time the forms were

375

00:14:48,870 --> 00:14:45,360

filed somewhere in my room but

376

00:14:52,310 --> 00:14:48,880

i was in a way investigating

377

00:14:55,350 --> 00:14:52,320

even though in a very unskeptical way

378

00:15:00,790 --> 00:14:55,360

any day now

379

00:15:03,350 --> 00:15:00,800

greet us

380

00:15:05,990 --> 00:15:03,360

any day now we would learn how to unlock

381

00:15:09,030 --> 00:15:06,000

the hidden potential of our minds

382

00:15:11,670 --> 00:15:09,040

to bend spoons and do other things like

383

00:15:12,949 --> 00:15:11,680

telekinesis i did eventually learn how

384

00:15:16,790 --> 00:15:12,959

to bend spoons

385

00:15:19,990 --> 00:15:16,800

and it seems i found the one true method

386

00:15:23,110 --> 00:15:20,000

by the end of the 1970s despite no

387

00:15:24,230 --> 00:15:23,120

big foots in zoos or ufos on the lawn of

388

00:15:26,629 --> 00:15:24,240

the white house

389

00:15:28,629 --> 00:15:26,639

i was still happy to accept the truth of

390

00:15:30,790 --> 00:15:28,639

all manner of strange claims

391

00:15:33,030 --> 00:15:30,800

i did not even think of them as merely

392

00:15:36,790 --> 00:15:33,040

claims as in my world view

393

00:15:38,470 --> 00:15:36,800

they were real then in 1980

394

00:15:41,670 --> 00:15:38,480

came along something that started to

395

00:15:45,030 --> 00:15:41,680

steer my mind my endless curiosity

396

00:15:46,389 --> 00:15:45,040

in a better direction one night on abc

397

00:15:50,150 --> 00:15:46,399

tv

398

00:15:54,150 --> 00:15:50,160

a show called cosmos aired

399

00:15:57,749 --> 00:15:54,160

stars a spaceship planets time travel

400

00:16:00,069 --> 00:15:57,759

ancient discoveries other dimensions

401
00:16:02,230 --> 00:16:00,079
it ticked all the boxes and excited the

402
00:16:06,230 --> 00:16:02,240
same parts of my mind that

403
00:16:09,430 --> 00:16:06,240
until then and i must admit continued to

404
00:16:11,670 --> 00:16:09,440
excite for some time had been taken over

405
00:16:14,790 --> 00:16:11,680
with paranormal things

406
00:16:16,389 --> 00:16:14,800
but maybe what gave cosmos that

407
00:16:20,310 --> 00:16:16,399
something extra

408
00:16:22,790 --> 00:16:20,320
was carl sagan's voice

409
00:16:23,670 --> 00:16:22,800
not only did he know what he was talking

410
00:16:25,990 --> 00:16:23,680
about

411
00:16:27,030 --> 00:16:26,000
he had the kind of voice to deliver the

412
00:16:30,870 --> 00:16:27,040
message

413
00:16:33,990 --> 00:16:30,880

it was hypnotizing

414

00:16:36,870 --> 00:16:34,000

maybe if you shut your eyes

415

00:16:38,470 --> 00:16:36,880

you can imagine what it was like for me

416

00:16:41,860 --> 00:16:38,480

to hear those words

417

00:16:50,470 --> 00:16:45,829

[Music]

418

00:16:53,590 --> 00:16:50,480

the cosmos is all that is or ever was

419

00:16:54,790 --> 00:16:53,600

or ever will be our contemplations of

420

00:16:58,150 --> 00:16:54,800

the cosmos stir

421

00:17:00,389 --> 00:16:58,160

us there's a

422

00:17:01,430 --> 00:17:00,399

tingling in the spine a catch in the

423

00:17:05,110 --> 00:17:01,440

voice

424

00:17:08,390 --> 00:17:05,120

a faint sensation as if a distant memory

425

00:17:09,189 --> 00:17:08,400

of fallen from a great height we know we

426

00:17:16,710 --> 00:17:09,199

are approaching

427

00:17:22,630 --> 00:17:19,750

the size and age of the cosmos

428

00:17:23,189 --> 00:17:22,640

are beyond ordinary human understanding

429

00:17:27,270 --> 00:17:23,199

lost

430

00:17:30,390 --> 00:17:27,280

somewhere between immensity and eternity

431

00:17:32,630 --> 00:17:30,400

is our tiny planetary home the earth

432

00:17:33,830 --> 00:17:32,640

for the first time we have the power to

433

00:17:36,549 --> 00:17:33,840

decide

434

00:17:38,630 --> 00:17:36,559

the fate of our planet and ourselves

435

00:17:41,909 --> 00:17:38,640

this is a time of great danger

436

00:17:45,029 --> 00:17:41,919

but our species is young and curious

437

00:17:47,029 --> 00:17:45,039

and brave it shows much promise

438

00:17:49,350 --> 00:17:47,039

in the last few millennia we have made

439

00:17:50,470 --> 00:17:49,360

the most astonishing and unexpected

440

00:17:53,909 --> 00:17:50,480

discoveries

441

00:17:56,630 --> 00:17:53,919

about the cosmos and our place within it

442

00:17:59,510 --> 00:17:56,640

i believe our future depends powerfully

443

00:18:02,789 --> 00:17:59,520

on how well we understand this cosmos

444

00:18:06,549 --> 00:18:02,799

in which we float like a mode of dust

445

00:18:11,510 --> 00:18:09,270

we're about to begin a journey through

446

00:18:14,230 --> 00:18:11,520

the cosmos

447

00:18:14,789 --> 00:18:14,240

we'll encounter galaxies and suns and

448

00:18:18,230 --> 00:18:14,799

planets

449

00:18:22,390 --> 00:18:18,240

life and consciousness coming into being

450

00:18:26,310 --> 00:18:22,400

evolving and perishing worlds of ice

451
00:18:27,430 --> 00:18:26,320
and stars of diamond atoms as massive as

452
00:18:30,710 --> 00:18:27,440
suns and

453
00:18:31,830 --> 00:18:30,720
universes smaller than atoms but it's

454
00:18:33,669 --> 00:18:31,840
also a story

455
00:18:35,830 --> 00:18:33,679
of our own planet and the plants and

456
00:18:39,029 --> 00:18:35,840
animals that share it with us

457
00:18:40,630 --> 00:18:39,039
and it's a story about us

458
00:18:42,630 --> 00:18:40,640
how we achieved our present

459
00:18:44,710 --> 00:18:42,640
understanding of cosmos

460
00:18:46,230 --> 00:18:44,720
how the cosmos has shaped our evolution

461
00:18:50,310 --> 00:18:46,240
and our culture

462
00:18:56,390 --> 00:18:53,909
around the same time another tv

463
00:18:57,909 --> 00:18:56,400

show appeared that also had a huge

464

00:19:00,070 --> 00:18:57,919

impact on me

465

00:19:02,070 --> 00:19:00,080

it was about the testing of a group of

466

00:19:02,870 --> 00:19:02,080

water diviners and featured a certain

467

00:19:05,669 --> 00:19:02,880

magician

468

00:19:07,909 --> 00:19:05,679

by the name of james randy in fact the

469

00:19:11,270 --> 00:19:07,919

documentary was called

470

00:19:14,630 --> 00:19:11,280

with great imagination james randy

471

00:19:16,950 --> 00:19:14,640

in australia to be honest i

472

00:19:19,029 --> 00:19:16,960

watched this documentary with the same

473

00:19:20,470 --> 00:19:19,039

uncritical attitude as i watched the

474

00:19:22,310 --> 00:19:20,480

paranormal ones

475

00:19:23,750 --> 00:19:22,320

the test was straightforward the

476

00:19:27,029 --> 00:19:23,760

conclusions clear

477

00:19:27,510 --> 00:19:27,039

and i just accepted it what struck me

478

00:19:30,310 --> 00:19:27,520

most

479

00:19:31,350 --> 00:19:30,320

was near the end after all the diviners

480

00:19:33,750 --> 00:19:31,360

had failed

481

00:19:35,190 --> 00:19:33,760

randy asked them if they still believed

482

00:19:38,310 --> 00:19:35,200

in divining

483

00:19:42,310 --> 00:19:38,320

to my utter amazement they

484

00:19:45,110 --> 00:19:42,320

all said they did i could not believe it

485

00:19:45,669 --> 00:19:45,120

how on earth after they all so clearly

486

00:19:48,549 --> 00:19:45,679

failed

487

00:19:51,110 --> 00:19:48,559

and divining was shown not to work how

488

00:19:52,950 --> 00:19:51,120

could they just keep on believing in it

489

00:19:55,190 --> 00:19:52,960

little did i know that in the years

490

00:19:56,950 --> 00:19:55,200

ahead i would see this fascinating

491

00:20:00,070 --> 00:19:56,960

ability of the human mind

492

00:20:03,430 --> 00:20:00,080

this disconnect from reality again

493

00:20:05,510 --> 00:20:03,440

and again and again and

494

00:20:07,830 --> 00:20:05,520

there matters rested more or less for

495

00:20:11,190 --> 00:20:07,840

the next 12 years more so

496

00:20:13,750 --> 00:20:11,200

i got on with school jobs and so on

497

00:20:15,750 --> 00:20:13,760

at one stage in the early 1990s my

498

00:20:17,909 --> 00:20:15,760

brother started subscribing to the

499

00:20:19,909 --> 00:20:17,919

skeptic magazine

500

00:20:21,590 --> 00:20:19,919

and i would read the issues but i i

501
00:20:23,830 --> 00:20:21,600
cannot say for sure

502
00:20:25,350 --> 00:20:23,840
when things really started to click with

503
00:20:28,549 --> 00:20:25,360
me it's all

504
00:20:31,909 --> 00:20:28,559
lost a bit in the mists of time

505
00:20:33,350 --> 00:20:31,919
in 1993 james randy gave a talk in

506
00:20:35,750 --> 00:20:33,360
sydney which i enjoyed

507
00:20:36,549 --> 00:20:35,760
and i even got his autograph i bought a

508
00:20:40,149 --> 00:20:36,559
copy of

509
00:20:42,470 --> 00:20:40,159
flim flam and i couldn't put it down

510
00:20:44,230 --> 00:20:42,480
and for someone who does not enjoy the

511
00:20:46,549 --> 00:20:44,240
act of reading per se

512
00:20:48,390 --> 00:20:46,559
it was quite something in fact i have

513
00:20:49,029 --> 00:20:48,400

struggled all my life with being a poor

514

00:20:51,510 --> 00:20:49,039

reader

515

00:20:52,230 --> 00:20:51,520

but every year i improve well with sheer

516

00:20:55,110 --> 00:20:52,240

practice

517

00:20:57,669 --> 00:20:55,120

and by doing what i'm doing right now

518

00:21:00,470 --> 00:20:57,679

reading aloud from a script

519

00:21:01,350 --> 00:21:00,480

anyway soon i sought out other books by

520

00:21:04,149 --> 00:21:01,360

randy

521

00:21:06,230 --> 00:21:04,159

and read them all the truth about yuri

522

00:21:09,270 --> 00:21:06,240

geller was quite an eye-opener

523

00:21:12,390 --> 00:21:09,280

in the early 1970s my brother and i

524

00:21:14,870 --> 00:21:12,400

hid tablespoons from the kitchen drawer

525

00:21:15,830 --> 00:21:14,880

as we were led to believe geller would

526
00:21:19,190 --> 00:21:15,840
bend them

527
00:21:22,549 --> 00:21:19,200
over the tv my interest was growing and

528
00:21:24,710 --> 00:21:22,559
by 1999 i decided to fly to

529
00:21:25,830 --> 00:21:24,720
adelaide to attend my first australian

530
00:21:28,950 --> 00:21:25,840
skeptics

531
00:21:30,789 --> 00:21:28,960
convention

532
00:21:32,789 --> 00:21:30,799
i really didn't know anyone apart from

533
00:21:33,510 --> 00:21:32,799
barry williams whom i'd met once or

534
00:21:35,909 --> 00:21:33,520
twice

535
00:21:37,270 --> 00:21:35,919
but nevertheless i enjoyed the event

536
00:21:39,750 --> 00:21:37,280
immensely

537
00:21:41,029 --> 00:21:39,760
i was so interested in the talks and the

538
00:21:43,590 --> 00:21:41,039

people i met

539

00:21:47,270 --> 00:21:43,600

not long after i joined the newly formed

540

00:21:49,510 --> 00:21:47,280

james randy educational foundation

541

00:21:50,310 --> 00:21:49,520

a year later and i couldn't wait to

542

00:21:52,789 --> 00:21:50,320

attend the

543

00:21:54,710 --> 00:21:52,799

third world skeptics convention in

544

00:21:57,590 --> 00:21:54,720

sydney a joint venture between

545

00:21:58,149 --> 00:21:57,600

cycop and the australian skeptics as i

546

00:22:00,070 --> 00:21:58,159

stood

547

00:22:01,430 --> 00:22:00,080

outside the venue waiting to get in the

548

00:22:04,870 --> 00:22:01,440

car pulled up

549

00:22:05,430 --> 00:22:04,880

and outstepped james randy oh well this

550

00:22:09,110 --> 00:22:05,440

time

551
00:22:10,950 --> 00:22:09,120
i was starstruck wow james randy

552
00:22:13,190 --> 00:22:10,960
within a couple of months after telling

553
00:22:15,750 --> 00:22:13,200
barry williams i could digitize all the

554
00:22:19,350 --> 00:22:15,760
back issues of the skeptic magazine

555
00:22:21,909 --> 00:22:19,360
i was invited to join the committee

556
00:22:23,029 --> 00:22:21,919
in the years since i have learnt so much

557
00:22:24,630 --> 00:22:23,039
about science

558
00:22:26,950 --> 00:22:24,640
critical thinking tricks of the

559
00:22:29,110 --> 00:22:26,960
paranormal the psychology and the

560
00:22:32,230 --> 00:22:29,120
mechanisms behind so-called psychic

561
00:22:33,110 --> 00:22:32,240
readings arguments from creationism and

562
00:22:35,909 --> 00:22:33,120
so on

563
00:22:36,310 --> 00:22:35,919

i have met many of what they call the

564

00:22:38,549 --> 00:22:36,320

skip

565

00:22:40,230 --> 00:22:38,559

famous and traveled all over the world

566

00:22:43,909 --> 00:22:40,240

giving talks

567

00:22:44,390 --> 00:22:43,919

enjoyable as it is it has not always

568

00:22:46,789 --> 00:22:44,400

been

569

00:22:48,870 --> 00:22:46,799

easy with battles lost endless

570

00:22:50,470 --> 00:22:48,880

frustration with believers and some

571

00:22:52,630 --> 00:22:50,480

skeptics too

572

00:22:54,789 --> 00:22:52,640

people are people and i have seen how

573

00:22:56,070 --> 00:22:54,799

some people whom i thought were bastions

574

00:22:58,789 --> 00:22:56,080

of reason

575

00:22:59,510 --> 00:22:58,799

have turned out to be anything but but i

576

00:23:02,950 --> 00:22:59,520

have also

577

00:23:04,710 --> 00:23:02,960

seen in fighting and i'm sure i have not

578

00:23:06,390 --> 00:23:04,720

helped the cause from time to time with

579

00:23:07,909 --> 00:23:06,400

my own shortcomings

580

00:23:09,750 --> 00:23:07,919

but hearkening back to what i said

581

00:23:12,789 --> 00:23:09,760

earlier about being on the

582

00:23:15,909 --> 00:23:12,799

dart board of various psychics and so on

583

00:23:16,950 --> 00:23:15,919

i try i know i don't always succeed but

584

00:23:19,029 --> 00:23:16,960

i try to be

585

00:23:20,149 --> 00:23:19,039

reasonable and polite to those on the

586

00:23:23,350 --> 00:23:20,159

other side

587

00:23:25,750 --> 00:23:23,360

this can work but not always

588

00:23:27,830 --> 00:23:25,760

for no matter how nice and reasonable

589

00:23:31,350 --> 00:23:27,840

and witty and charming and funny i

590

00:23:34,630 --> 00:23:31,360

am there are some who hate me

591

00:23:35,430 --> 00:23:34,640

like a zealot hates a heretic because to

592

00:23:38,870 --> 00:23:35,440

them

593

00:23:41,909 --> 00:23:38,880

i am a heretic at the end of the day

594

00:23:43,430 --> 00:23:41,919

what i am saying to these people is you

595

00:23:46,870 --> 00:23:43,440

are simply wrong

596

00:23:49,909 --> 00:23:46,880

and no one no one likes to be told that

597

00:23:50,390 --> 00:23:49,919

well let me explain that a little better

598

00:23:54,149 --> 00:23:50,400

what i

599

00:23:56,710 --> 00:23:54,159

usually mean is if you think that xyz

600

00:23:58,470 --> 00:23:56,720

have been proven then you're wrong i

601
00:24:00,310 --> 00:23:58,480
normally don't say xyz

602
00:24:02,630 --> 00:24:00,320
doesn't work however i am getting to

603
00:24:05,510 --> 00:24:02,640
that point with things like homeopathy

604
00:24:07,269 --> 00:24:05,520
but no matter how i say it many people

605
00:24:10,950 --> 00:24:07,279
take it to mean

606
00:24:14,230 --> 00:24:10,960
skeptics don't and won't believe

607
00:24:15,510 --> 00:24:14,240
that xyz happens no matter what you are

608
00:24:18,310 --> 00:24:15,520
close-minded

609
00:24:19,830 --> 00:24:18,320
that's what all you skeptics are i have

610
00:24:22,870 --> 00:24:19,840
also heard on more than

611
00:24:26,950 --> 00:24:22,880
a few occasions you skeptics once

612
00:24:33,029 --> 00:24:30,630
oh the irony in my many years in this

613
00:24:36,390 --> 00:24:33,039

game i have seen so many times

614

00:24:39,029 --> 00:24:36,400

what i might call the distorted mirror

615

00:24:42,710 --> 00:24:39,039

effect when believers impose upon

616

00:24:46,549 --> 00:24:42,720

us the very characteristics they

617

00:24:49,029 --> 00:24:46,559

themselves display it is the believers

618

00:24:52,230 --> 00:24:49,039

who are in fact close-minded

619

00:24:55,350 --> 00:24:52,240

once they latch onto a belief be it

620

00:24:57,990 --> 00:24:55,360

creationism reiki healing

621

00:24:59,269 --> 00:24:58,000

tarot cards or numerology or water

622

00:25:02,149 --> 00:24:59,279

divining

623

00:25:03,029 --> 00:25:02,159

then we'll be tied any skeptic who dares

624

00:25:04,789 --> 00:25:03,039

question

625

00:25:06,070 --> 00:25:04,799

let alone provide evidence to the

626
00:25:08,070 --> 00:25:06,080
contrary

627
00:25:09,669 --> 00:25:08,080
i have also heard many times that we

628
00:25:13,510 --> 00:25:09,679
skeptics are

629
00:25:13,990 --> 00:25:13,520
scared of the unknown and that is why we

630
00:25:16,390 --> 00:25:14,000
will not

631
00:25:17,669 --> 00:25:16,400
accept what whatever belief system they

632
00:25:19,990 --> 00:25:17,679
are pushing

633
00:25:20,710 --> 00:25:20,000
i find this scrawling at times as i

634
00:25:24,310 --> 00:25:20,720
certainly

635
00:25:27,110 --> 00:25:24,320
do not fear the unknown unlike some

636
00:25:29,269 --> 00:25:27,120
psychics i've met who fear to the point

637
00:25:30,470 --> 00:25:29,279
of being terrified going into what they

638
00:25:33,110 --> 00:25:30,480

consider to be

639

00:25:35,029 --> 00:25:33,120

a haunted house i on the other hand

640

00:25:35,990 --> 00:25:35,039

would have no fear about spending the

641

00:25:39,029 --> 00:25:36,000

night in

642

00:25:43,190 --> 00:25:39,039

australia's most haunted house

643

00:25:45,669 --> 00:25:43,200

wherever the hell that might be i guess

644

00:25:46,710 --> 00:25:45,679

i'm really not your average skeptic

645

00:25:50,070 --> 00:25:46,720

whatever being a

646

00:25:50,549 --> 00:25:50,080

skeptic is it's it's a major part of my

647

00:25:52,789 --> 00:25:50,559

life

648

00:25:54,070 --> 00:25:52,799

unlike what i might call the everyday

649

00:25:56,149 --> 00:25:54,080

skeptic someone who has an

650

00:25:58,230 --> 00:25:56,159

interest in the topic likes to read our

651
00:26:01,669 --> 00:25:58,240
magazine listens to the podcast

652
00:26:02,470 --> 00:26:01,679
enjoy skeptics in the pub i really like

653
00:26:03,990 --> 00:26:02,480
those people

654
00:26:06,070 --> 00:26:04,000
they are fun to be with and have a

655
00:26:08,549 --> 00:26:06,080
similar outlook to me

656
00:26:10,310 --> 00:26:08,559
but i would hope that each one spends

657
00:26:11,669 --> 00:26:10,320
time to study the topics they are

658
00:26:15,430 --> 00:26:11,679
skeptical of

659
00:26:18,789 --> 00:26:15,440
bending

660
00:26:22,070 --> 00:26:18,799
then one should at least know why and

661
00:26:23,510 --> 00:26:22,080
that means not only a graph of physics

662
00:26:26,549 --> 00:26:23,520
but also

663
00:26:28,310 --> 00:26:26,559

learning the trick there was one

664

00:26:30,390 --> 00:26:28,320

occasion many years ago

665

00:26:34,149 --> 00:26:30,400

when i was a guest at a public outreach

666

00:26:37,029 --> 00:26:34,159

event hosted by a local skeptical group

667

00:26:38,950 --> 00:26:37,039

somewhere in the world i was less than

668

00:26:40,549 --> 00:26:38,960

impressed when one of the local members

669

00:26:42,390 --> 00:26:40,559

answered a question from the public

670

00:26:45,909 --> 00:26:42,400

along these lines

671

00:26:47,909 --> 00:26:45,919

ghosts no we don't believe in ghosts we

672

00:26:49,029 --> 00:26:47,919

think it's all stupid there's no such

673

00:26:52,789 --> 00:26:49,039

thing

674

00:26:55,190 --> 00:26:52,799

well ultimately there is almost

675

00:26:56,950 --> 00:26:55,200

certainly no ghosts the answer and the

676
00:27:00,310 --> 00:26:56,960
way it was put

677
00:27:03,750 --> 00:27:00,320
made me cringe yes that local member

678
00:27:07,029 --> 00:27:03,760
was skeptical of ghosts but in an almost

679
00:27:08,710 --> 00:27:07,039
cartoon or stereotypical way we should

680
00:27:11,510 --> 00:27:08,720
never be skeptical of

681
00:27:12,549 --> 00:27:11,520
something unless we have good reason to

682
00:27:15,430 --> 00:27:12,559
be

683
00:27:16,630 --> 00:27:15,440
in recent times i have seen what changes

684
00:27:19,750 --> 00:27:16,640
can be made

685
00:27:21,830 --> 00:27:19,760
with people like ken harvey who take the

686
00:27:23,669 --> 00:27:21,840
skeptical concerns to the people who

687
00:27:27,750 --> 00:27:23,679
can't make a difference

688
00:27:31,269 --> 00:27:27,760

the government we can shout all we like

689

00:27:33,110 --> 00:27:31,279

we can get lots of media attention

690

00:27:35,669 --> 00:27:33,120

sometimes that works sometimes it

691

00:27:38,310 --> 00:27:35,679

doesn't but at the end of the day

692

00:27:39,669 --> 00:27:38,320

we're not the police how many times has

693

00:27:42,149 --> 00:27:39,679

someone said to me

694

00:27:43,909 --> 00:27:42,159

you skeptics should do something about

695

00:27:45,590 --> 00:27:43,919

xyz

696

00:27:47,029 --> 00:27:45,600

as if we could just storm in like a

697

00:27:50,389 --> 00:27:47,039

knight on a horse and

698

00:27:53,430 --> 00:27:50,399

fix things but i digress

699

00:27:55,830 --> 00:27:53,440

living a skeptical life is not what our

700

00:27:57,909 --> 00:27:55,840

opponents might imagine it to be

701
00:27:59,350 --> 00:27:57,919
that is walking around being skeptical

702
00:28:01,350 --> 00:27:59,360
of everything all the time

703
00:28:03,669 --> 00:28:01,360
being unwilling to believe in anything

704
00:28:07,510 --> 00:28:03,679
doubt everything being a naysayer

705
00:28:09,830 --> 00:28:07,520
just for the sake of being a naysayer

706
00:28:11,269 --> 00:28:09,840
living a skeptical life means being open

707
00:28:14,310 --> 00:28:11,279
being interested

708
00:28:15,750 --> 00:28:14,320
but knowing humans have shortcomings in

709
00:28:17,830 --> 00:28:15,760
reasoning abilities and

710
00:28:20,149 --> 00:28:17,840
knowing how the method of science helps

711
00:28:22,630 --> 00:28:20,159
us to overcome those shortcomings

712
00:28:23,590 --> 00:28:22,640
living a skeptical life means knowing

713
00:28:25,510 --> 00:28:23,600

your topic

714

00:28:27,750 --> 00:28:25,520

and knowing when you don't know your

715

00:28:30,870 --> 00:28:27,760

topic living a skeptical life

716

00:28:32,630 --> 00:28:30,880

means saying i don't know

717

00:28:34,549 --> 00:28:32,640

rather than trying to make up something

718

00:28:37,029 --> 00:28:34,559

on the spot

719

00:28:39,350 --> 00:28:37,039

living a skeptical life also means no

720

00:28:41,430 --> 00:28:39,360

matter how hard you try and no matter

721

00:28:43,750 --> 00:28:41,440

how much you know your topic

722

00:28:45,029 --> 00:28:43,760

you will be wrong from time to time and

723

00:28:48,149 --> 00:28:45,039

you will blunder

724

00:28:50,070 --> 00:28:48,159

in your answers living a skeptical life

725

00:28:52,870 --> 00:28:50,080

means you have to accept this

726

00:28:54,710 --> 00:28:52,880

even if it's disconcerting and

727

00:28:57,909 --> 00:28:54,720

unpleasant

728

00:29:01,110 --> 00:28:57,919

lastly as i say to the media and

729

00:29:02,230 --> 00:29:01,120

students living a skeptical life means i

730

00:29:07,269 --> 00:29:02,240

get to investigate

731

00:29:10,830 --> 00:29:07,279

monsters ghosts psychics and ufos

732

00:29:15,590 --> 00:29:10,840

sometimes it's like i'm still 15 years

733

00:29:26,900 --> 00:29:22,149

[Music]

734

00:29:33,510 --> 00:29:26,910

you told me that aliens

735

00:29:35,430 --> 00:29:33,520

[Music]

736

00:29:38,470 --> 00:29:35,440

did you know the european continent is

737

00:29:40,230 --> 00:29:38,480

home to almost 750 million people living

738

00:29:42,149 --> 00:29:40,240

in 50 different countries

739

00:29:43,350 --> 00:29:42,159

belonging to an even greater number of

740

00:29:45,350 --> 00:29:43,360

ethnicities and

741

00:29:47,269 --> 00:29:45,360

believe it or not only a handful of them

742

00:29:48,950 --> 00:29:47,279

list english as the first or at least

743

00:29:50,389 --> 00:29:48,960

one of the official languages

744

00:29:52,310 --> 00:29:50,399

and there's an amazing amount of

745

00:29:54,070 --> 00:29:52,320

skeptical activism going on out there

746

00:29:55,110 --> 00:29:54,080

that you are not aware of because it's

747

00:29:56,950 --> 00:29:55,120

not in english

748

00:29:58,389 --> 00:29:56,960

yeah because you know pseudoscience

749

00:30:00,389 --> 00:29:58,399

quackery and fake news

750

00:30:01,990 --> 00:30:00,399

do not stop at borders they get

751
00:30:03,990 --> 00:30:02,000
translated to other languages

752
00:30:06,070 --> 00:30:04,000
and transferred across the whole world

753
00:30:08,310 --> 00:30:06,080
so if you're interested in weekly

754
00:30:09,430 --> 00:30:08,320
updates on what's going on in some of

755
00:30:11,269 --> 00:30:09,440
the countries here

756
00:30:13,430 --> 00:30:11,279
providing you with all the interesting

757
00:30:14,230 --> 00:30:13,440
facts news and even some skeptical

758
00:30:16,070 --> 00:30:14,240
history

759
00:30:17,750 --> 00:30:16,080
or if you want to hear interviews in

760
00:30:19,510 --> 00:30:17,760
english with brilliant people you

761
00:30:21,750 --> 00:30:19,520
sometimes haven't even heard about

762
00:30:22,870 --> 00:30:21,760
then what you need is to subscribe to

763
00:30:25,190 --> 00:30:22,880

the esp

764

00:30:26,310 --> 00:30:25,200

extra sensory perception you must be

765

00:30:29,669 --> 00:30:26,320

really wrong

766

00:30:30,470 --> 00:30:29,679

no the espn the european skeptics

767

00:30:32,470 --> 00:30:30,480

podcast

768

00:30:33,909 --> 00:30:32,480

that's right and if you're wondering how

769

00:30:37,269 --> 00:30:33,919

you can find us online

770

00:30:37,909 --> 00:30:37,279

go to thesp.edu and you can also find us

771

00:30:40,870 --> 00:30:37,919

on twitter

772

00:30:41,990 --> 00:30:40,880

at espodcast underscore eu or you can

773

00:30:44,070 --> 00:30:42,000

like us on facebook

774

00:30:45,750 --> 00:30:44,080

and if you want to subscribe do a quick

775

00:30:47,590 --> 00:30:45,760

search on all the intertubes for the

776

00:30:49,909 --> 00:30:47,600

european skeptics podcast

777

00:30:52,389 --> 00:30:49,919

you'll find us on soundcloud itunes

778

00:30:55,269 --> 00:30:52,399

stitcher spotify and all the rest

779

00:31:05,230 --> 00:30:55,279

the european skeptics podcast the real

780

00:31:22,549 --> 00:31:05,240

esp experience

781

00:31:24,389 --> 00:31:22,559

[Music]

782

00:31:26,070 --> 00:31:24,399

now it's time once again to dive into

783

00:31:30,389 --> 00:31:26,080

the treasure trove of

784

00:31:32,470 --> 00:31:30,399

information at trove.nla.gov.edu

785

00:31:33,590 --> 00:31:32,480

the online digital library of magazines

786

00:31:36,950 --> 00:31:33,600

newspapers and

787

00:31:39,350 --> 00:31:36,960

so on collected over many years i'm sure

788

00:31:40,630 --> 00:31:39,360

in fact it's a huge undertaking and

789

00:31:41,590 --> 00:31:40,640

we've been looking in the past for

790

00:31:46,310 --> 00:31:41,600

classic uh

791

00:31:50,389 --> 00:31:46,320

skeptical terms like esp

792

00:31:52,230 --> 00:31:50,399

ouija boards ghosts ufos

793

00:31:53,509 --> 00:31:52,240

that sort of thing and today i ran a

794

00:31:56,470 --> 00:31:53,519

search and was looking for

795

00:31:57,909 --> 00:31:56,480

references in the past to water divining

796

00:32:01,190 --> 00:31:57,919

or water dowsing

797

00:32:03,590 --> 00:32:01,200

now that returned many many many

798

00:32:04,230 --> 00:32:03,600

uh results which was quite interesting

799

00:32:07,350 --> 00:32:04,240

so i

800

00:32:09,669 --> 00:32:07,360

sort of played around with the search a

801
00:32:12,870 --> 00:32:09,679
bit and i added the word

802
00:32:13,590 --> 00:32:12,880
skeptical so water defining what dowsing

803
00:32:17,110 --> 00:32:13,600
plus

804
00:32:19,350 --> 00:32:17,120
skeptical spelled with a c because that's

805
00:32:21,909 --> 00:32:19,360
how it's normally spelled in australia

806
00:32:24,710 --> 00:32:21,919
apart from australian skeptics and

807
00:32:25,190 --> 00:32:24,720
anyway that's another story so here's

808
00:32:28,870 --> 00:32:25,200
one

809
00:32:32,470 --> 00:32:28,880
and we'll begin in 1912

810
00:32:34,870 --> 00:32:32,480
1912 this was printed in the sun

811
00:32:36,230 --> 00:32:34,880
which was a newspaper here in sydney on

812
00:32:38,950 --> 00:32:36,240
october the 26th

813
00:32:39,830 --> 00:32:38,960

1912 and it talks about the city of

814

00:32:42,630 --> 00:32:39,840

bathurst

815

00:32:44,710 --> 00:32:42,640

which is uh inland from sydney about

816

00:32:48,149 --> 00:32:44,720

four or five hours

817

00:32:51,269 --> 00:32:48,159

divining rod expert bathurst

818

00:32:54,230 --> 00:32:51,279

saturday mr charles cobb

819

00:32:55,990 --> 00:32:54,240

of pastoral chambers sydney has written

820

00:32:58,389 --> 00:32:56,000

to the baptist council

821

00:33:01,430 --> 00:32:58,399

stating that he is prepared to give a

822

00:33:04,710 --> 00:33:01,440

demonstration with the divining rod

823

00:33:05,350 --> 00:33:04,720

and could for certain locate water if

824

00:33:08,789 --> 00:33:05,360

there was

825

00:33:11,750 --> 00:33:08,799

any in the district as divining rods

826

00:33:12,070 --> 00:33:11,760

are rather a sore point at present with

827

00:33:19,190 --> 00:33:12,080

the

828

00:33:20,549 --> 00:33:19,200

caused amusement but it was decided not

829

00:33:23,029 --> 00:33:20,559

to do anything in

830

00:33:24,470 --> 00:33:23,039

connection with the application now

831

00:33:26,630 --> 00:33:24,480

that's interesting

832

00:33:28,470 --> 00:33:26,640

i wonder what the story is with the

833

00:33:32,230 --> 00:33:28,480

divining rods being a sore point with

834

00:33:34,070 --> 00:33:32,240

the bathurst council way back in 1912.

835

00:33:35,909 --> 00:33:34,080

now just two days later in the same

836

00:33:37,830 --> 00:33:35,919

newspaper the sun

837

00:33:39,750 --> 00:33:37,840

so this is published on monday october

838

00:33:42,389 --> 00:33:39,760

28th 1912.

839

00:33:43,909 --> 00:33:42,399

there seems to be a reply from somebody

840

00:33:47,029 --> 00:33:43,919

divining rod

841

00:33:48,789 --> 00:33:47,039

skeptic offers to beat it and this is

842

00:33:52,070 --> 00:33:48,799

somebody called

843

00:33:55,509 --> 00:33:52,080

rb so it says rb

844

00:33:57,669 --> 00:33:55,519

makes a sporting offer in your

845

00:34:00,070 --> 00:33:57,679

issue of october 26 i noticed a

846

00:34:03,509 --> 00:34:00,080

reference to the divining rod

847

00:34:05,190 --> 00:34:03,519

and an offer made by mr charles cobb of

848

00:34:06,950 --> 00:34:05,200

pastoral chambers sydney

849

00:34:09,669 --> 00:34:06,960

to the bathurst council to give a

850

00:34:12,710 --> 00:34:09,679

demonstration with the divining rod

851
00:34:15,030 --> 00:34:12,720
and locate water for a certainty

852
00:34:15,909 --> 00:34:15,040
if there was any to be found in that

853
00:34:18,629 --> 00:34:15,919
district

854
00:34:19,589 --> 00:34:18,639
the divining rod is either a scientific

855
00:34:22,710 --> 00:34:19,599
truth

856
00:34:26,310 --> 00:34:22,720
as a means of finding water or

857
00:34:28,230 --> 00:34:26,320
it is a fraud if a truth we should know

858
00:34:30,629 --> 00:34:28,240
more about its value

859
00:34:31,909 --> 00:34:30,639
for its value as a means of finding

860
00:34:35,109 --> 00:34:31,919
water could then

861
00:34:36,869 --> 00:34:35,119
scarcely be estimated if a fraud

862
00:34:39,990 --> 00:34:36,879
it should be silenced by the proper

863
00:34:43,190 --> 00:34:40,000

means as it is becoming a nuisance

864

00:34:46,790 --> 00:34:43,200

in the columns of every newspaper not

865

00:34:47,430 --> 00:34:46,800

one of the reputed diviners ventures to

866

00:34:50,149 --> 00:34:47,440

state

867

00:34:51,349 --> 00:34:50,159

the exact depth at which water can be

868

00:34:53,349 --> 00:34:51,359

found

869

00:34:55,669 --> 00:34:53,359

now i'll say quickly in the years since

870

00:34:59,430 --> 00:34:55,679

then we have discovered that

871

00:35:01,589 --> 00:34:59,440

many diviners will claim they can

872

00:35:03,589 --> 00:35:01,599

use their divining rods not only to find

873

00:35:04,310 --> 00:35:03,599

water but tell you exactly how deep it

874

00:35:08,230 --> 00:35:04,320

is

875

00:35:10,790 --> 00:35:08,240

it goes on

876

00:35:12,470 --> 00:35:10,800

in the case of the hawkesbury district

877

00:35:15,190 --> 00:35:12,480

and that's just north of sydney

878

00:35:15,990 --> 00:35:15,200

or the bathurst district it would not be

879

00:35:18,230 --> 00:35:16,000

easy for one

880

00:35:19,109 --> 00:35:18,240

to be wrong in stating where water could

881

00:35:25,750 --> 00:35:19,119

be found

882

00:35:28,390 --> 00:35:25,760

it could at another some say that the

883

00:35:29,030 --> 00:35:28,400

rod is affected in a downward direction

884

00:35:31,349 --> 00:35:29,040

by the

885

00:35:32,470 --> 00:35:31,359

presence of water others say the

886

00:35:34,710 --> 00:35:32,480

opposite

887

00:35:36,470 --> 00:35:34,720

it is also stated that when water is

888

00:35:38,790 --> 00:35:36,480

present the rod cannot be held

889

00:35:40,069 --> 00:35:38,800

so tight as to prevent it from

890

00:35:42,230 --> 00:35:40,079

responding

891

00:35:43,589 --> 00:35:42,240

well i have seen several so-called

892

00:35:46,310 --> 00:35:43,599

divining rods

893

00:35:48,630 --> 00:35:46,320

i have also seen diagrams of them

894

00:35:51,829 --> 00:35:48,640

published through the newspapers

895

00:35:53,030 --> 00:35:51,839

i am prepared to demonstrate that i will

896

00:35:55,829 --> 00:35:53,040

hold the rod

897

00:35:57,349 --> 00:35:55,839

in the manner described and prevent the

898

00:36:00,870 --> 00:35:57,359

presence of water from

899

00:36:02,150 --> 00:36:00,880

affecting it in any way i will cause it

900

00:36:05,829 --> 00:36:02,160

to operate either up

901
00:36:08,950 --> 00:36:05,839
or down where there is no water or

902
00:36:10,069 --> 00:36:08,960
provided the fork is short enough cause

903
00:36:13,589 --> 00:36:10,079
the rod to

904
00:36:14,710 --> 00:36:13,599
describe a circle whether there is water

905
00:36:17,990 --> 00:36:14,720
or not

906
00:36:18,550 --> 00:36:18,000
this being so there is much room for

907
00:36:21,190 --> 00:36:18,560
doubt

908
00:36:23,270 --> 00:36:21,200
as to the scientific soundness of the

909
00:36:28,150 --> 00:36:23,280
theory of finding water

910
00:36:31,589 --> 00:36:28,160
by the divining rod wow a very skeptical

911
00:36:34,390 --> 00:36:31,599
uh correspondent there whoever r b was

912
00:36:36,069 --> 00:36:34,400
way back in 1912. might be worth uh

913
00:36:37,190 --> 00:36:36,079

doing some more searching to see if i

914

00:36:40,690 --> 00:36:37,200

can find some of those

915

00:36:45,109 --> 00:36:40,700

diagrams that rb spoke of

916

00:36:49,109 --> 00:36:46,710

on next week's show i'll bring you a

917

00:36:51,510 --> 00:36:49,119

very interesting series of

918

00:36:52,310 --> 00:36:51,520

letters to the editor about water

919

00:36:57,510 --> 00:36:52,320

divining

920

00:37:03,850 --> 00:36:59,320

[Music]

921

00:37:06,829 --> 00:37:03,860

[Applause]

922

00:37:08,870 --> 00:37:06,839

[Music]

923

00:37:11,510 --> 00:37:08,880

1945

924

00:37:13,829 --> 00:37:11,520

skeptics cafe online from victoria

925

00:37:15,510 --> 00:37:13,839

australia

926
00:37:17,750 --> 00:37:15,520
no matter where you are in the world

927
00:37:18,630 --> 00:37:17,760
join us on monday the 21st of december

928
00:37:22,230 --> 00:37:18,640
2020

929
00:37:24,069 --> 00:37:22,240
for a live talk online recent highlights

930
00:37:28,710 --> 00:37:24,079
of australian paleontology

931
00:37:32,790 --> 00:37:30,550
there have been some significant

932
00:37:34,150 --> 00:37:32,800
developments in australian paleontology

933
00:37:36,550 --> 00:37:34,160
over the last years

934
00:37:37,589 --> 00:37:36,560
including important new finds of

935
00:37:40,230 --> 00:37:37,599
dinosaurs

936
00:37:40,790 --> 00:37:40,240
and other ancient beasts we'll take a

937
00:37:42,550 --> 00:37:40,800
brief

938
00:37:46,470 --> 00:37:42,560

review of some of the highlights of

939

00:37:50,150 --> 00:37:48,390

paul willis is known to millions of

940

00:37:53,270 --> 00:37:50,160

australians via his longtime

941

00:37:55,589 --> 00:37:53,280

science reporting on abc tv

942

00:37:57,670 --> 00:37:55,599

more recently he was the director of the

943

00:37:59,910 --> 00:37:57,680

royal institution of australia

944

00:38:00,870 --> 00:37:59,920

and now heads up media engagement

945

00:38:05,670 --> 00:38:00,880

services

946

00:38:08,710 --> 00:38:05,680

in 2003 he was named skeptic of the year

947

00:38:11,270 --> 00:38:08,720

join us via zoom 8 pm for a chat

948

00:38:14,230 --> 00:38:11,280

and then the talk begins at 8 30 pm

949

00:38:17,270 --> 00:38:14,240

australian eastern daylight time

950

00:38:20,630 --> 00:38:17,280

that's 9 am on the 21st uk time

951
00:38:26,230 --> 00:38:20,640
4 am on the 21st east coast usa time

952
00:38:32,069 --> 00:38:28,550
for more information and the zoom link

953
00:38:49,960 --> 00:38:32,079
just head to www.facebook.com

954
00:38:55,589 --> 00:38:53,910
[Music]

955
00:38:58,069 --> 00:38:55,599
now let's take a look at the newsletter

956
00:39:01,510 --> 00:38:58,079
from australian skeptics newsletter

957
00:39:04,390 --> 00:39:01,520
number 112. which

958
00:39:06,370 --> 00:39:04,400
reached my inbox on the 1st of december

959
00:39:08,950 --> 00:39:06,380
2020.

960
00:39:12,150 --> 00:39:08,960
[Music]

961
00:39:12,790 --> 00:39:12,160
hi all as we draw closer to the end of

962
00:39:14,950 --> 00:39:12,800
the year

963
00:39:15,829 --> 00:39:14,960

and the beginning of the silly season

964

00:39:20,069 --> 00:39:15,839

there is

965

00:39:23,030 --> 00:39:20,079

no one sillier than paleo pete evans

966

00:39:25,349 --> 00:39:23,040

he continues to amuse and confound us in

967

00:39:28,710 --> 00:39:25,359

even more absurd ways

968

00:39:30,630 --> 00:39:28,720

a deserving winner of the 2020 ben spoon

969

00:39:33,270 --> 00:39:30,640

we should also congratulate another

970

00:39:36,550 --> 00:39:33,280

winner dr norman swan

971

00:39:39,990 --> 00:39:36,560

whose corona cast program

972

00:39:42,950 --> 00:39:40,000

recently won walk lee and eureka awards

973

00:39:43,349 --> 00:39:42,960

and they are two very prestigious awards

974

00:39:45,829 --> 00:39:43,359

no

975

00:39:47,109 --> 00:39:45,839

doubt our wallaby award will take pride

976
00:39:49,510 --> 00:39:47,119
of place

977
00:39:51,990 --> 00:39:49,520
read on and of course this is compiled

978
00:39:55,510 --> 00:39:52,000
by tim mindum

979
00:39:57,750 --> 00:39:55,520
ken harvey resigns tga role can harvey

980
00:40:00,069 --> 00:39:57,760
has resigned from the medical watchdogs

981
00:40:02,710 --> 00:40:00,079
advertising committee citing years of

982
00:40:05,910 --> 00:40:02,720
frustration over its policing of fringe

983
00:40:08,150 --> 00:40:05,920
medicine and its kid glove treatments of

984
00:40:11,510 --> 00:40:08,160
complementary medicines

985
00:40:14,470 --> 00:40:11,520
eat evans neo-nazi symbol

986
00:40:15,270 --> 00:40:14,480
pete evans said he was ignorant of the

987
00:40:18,710 --> 00:40:15,280
meaning

988
00:40:19,910 --> 00:40:18,720

of a neo-nazi symbol on a cartoon he

989

00:40:22,470 --> 00:40:19,920

shed

990

00:40:24,950 --> 00:40:22,480

we would agree with the first part that

991

00:40:26,550 --> 00:40:24,960

paleo is ignorant but the situation is

992

00:40:28,950 --> 00:40:26,560

not as clear as the

993

00:40:31,190 --> 00:40:28,960

ignorant one would suggest and he's

994

00:40:33,990 --> 00:40:31,200

suffering financially because of it

995

00:40:35,750 --> 00:40:34,000

and of course that provides a link as do

996

00:40:37,109 --> 00:40:35,760

all these stories when you subscribe to

997

00:40:38,309 --> 00:40:37,119

the newsletter you get to read the

998

00:40:40,870 --> 00:40:38,319

little preci and then

999

00:40:41,829 --> 00:40:40,880

you can follow up the story and the next

1000

00:40:45,510 --> 00:40:41,839

story here says

1001
00:40:49,109 --> 00:40:45,520
german green party rejects homeopathy

1002
00:40:50,150 --> 00:40:49,119
edzard ernst on how the german greens

1003
00:40:51,750 --> 00:40:50,160
have agreed

1004
00:40:53,270 --> 00:40:51,760
that health insurers should only

1005
00:40:56,470 --> 00:40:53,280
reimburse treatments which

1006
00:40:59,510 --> 00:40:56,480
are quote medically reasonable

1007
00:41:02,309 --> 00:40:59,520
and justifiable and which

1008
00:41:02,710 --> 00:41:02,319
are supported by evidence of efficacy

1009
00:41:06,470 --> 00:41:02,720
and

1010
00:41:08,710 --> 00:41:06,480
is specifically proven end quote edzard

1011
00:41:11,349 --> 00:41:08,720
reckons this means homeopathy

1012
00:41:13,030 --> 00:41:11,359
quote after many years of supporting

1013
00:41:15,710 --> 00:41:13,040

homeopathy and other so-called

1014

00:41:19,510 --> 00:41:15,720

alternative medicines

1015

00:41:20,470 --> 00:41:19,520

s-c-a-m-s and after years of agonizing

1016

00:41:24,230 --> 00:41:20,480

about it

1017

00:41:26,790 --> 00:41:24,240

end quote weaponizing conspiracies

1018

00:41:28,390 --> 00:41:26,800

steve novella on how to use social media

1019

00:41:29,910 --> 00:41:28,400

and other outlets to weaponize

1020

00:41:31,910 --> 00:41:29,920

disinformation

1021

00:41:33,430 --> 00:41:31,920

it starts with the hard part coming up

1022

00:41:35,990 --> 00:41:33,440

with an idea that

1023

00:41:36,710 --> 00:41:36,000

resonates with the public a longish

1024

00:41:38,420 --> 00:41:36,720

piece but

1025

00:41:40,630 --> 00:41:38,430

worth the effort

1026

00:41:43,750 --> 00:41:40,640

[Music]

1027

00:41:45,510 --> 00:41:43,760

misinformation adapts uk skeptic

1028

00:41:47,349 --> 00:41:45,520

and project director of the good

1029

00:41:49,990 --> 00:41:47,359

thinking society michael marshall

1030

00:41:50,710 --> 00:41:50,000

on how misinformation from scam product

1031

00:41:53,430 --> 00:41:50,720

adds

1032

00:41:54,309 --> 00:41:53,440

to conspiracy theories always adapts to

1033

00:41:57,190 --> 00:41:54,319

survive

1034

00:41:59,270 --> 00:41:57,200

another long article but worth the read

1035

00:42:00,870 --> 00:41:59,280

the 2020 issue of the skeptic the

1036

00:42:02,870 --> 00:42:00,880

journal from australian skeptics is

1037

00:42:05,829 --> 00:42:02,880

going to the printers today

1038

00:42:07,510 --> 00:42:05,839

and digital copies will be sent out

1039

00:42:08,550 --> 00:42:07,520

later this week so if you haven't

1040

00:42:11,430 --> 00:42:08,560

subscribed

1041

00:42:13,270 --> 00:42:11,440

now is the time to do so the issue

1042

00:42:14,630 --> 00:42:13,280

includes a major feature on good

1043

00:42:17,750 --> 00:42:14,640

scientists going off

1044

00:42:21,109 --> 00:42:17,760

the track and an in-depth review of

1045

00:42:23,829 --> 00:42:21,119

judy wileyman's phd and how she uses it

1046

00:42:26,309 --> 00:42:23,839

to give her anti-vaxx views credibility

1047

00:42:28,390 --> 00:42:26,319

plus the usual panopy of interesting and

1048

00:42:31,589 --> 00:42:28,400

the weird the worrisome and the fun

1049

00:42:33,589 --> 00:42:31,599

including a summary of skepticon and

1050

00:42:35,349 --> 00:42:33,599

sadly we say goodbye to james the

1051

00:42:38,069 --> 00:42:35,359

amazing randy

1052

00:42:38,470 --> 00:42:38,079

events coming up on the 16th of december

1053

00:42:41,190 --> 00:42:38,480

perth

1054

00:42:42,790 --> 00:42:41,200

skeptics in the pub end of year comedy

1055

00:42:44,950 --> 00:42:42,800

night that sounds interesting

1056

00:42:46,630 --> 00:42:44,960

on the 18th of december adelaide

1057

00:42:51,030 --> 00:42:46,640

critical thinkers in the pub

1058

00:42:53,750 --> 00:42:51,040

benjamin on franklin it says 6pm onwards

1059

00:42:54,630 --> 00:42:53,760

and the 21st of december vic skeptics

1060

00:42:56,390 --> 00:42:54,640

cafe

1061

00:42:57,829 --> 00:42:56,400

recent highlights of australian

1062

00:43:00,710 --> 00:42:57,839

paleontology with

1063

00:43:02,309 --> 00:43:00,720

associate professor paul willis also

1064

00:43:03,589 --> 00:43:02,319

there are links to the canberra skeptics

1065

00:43:05,670 --> 00:43:03,599

the gold coast skeptics and the

1066

00:43:07,430 --> 00:43:05,680

queensland skeptics

1067

00:43:08,950 --> 00:43:07,440

and some items of interest at the end of

1068

00:43:12,069 --> 00:43:08,960

the newsletter

1069

00:43:15,109 --> 00:43:12,079

clash of the shamans in indonesia

1070

00:43:16,150 --> 00:43:15,119

paranormal has been actively banned as

1071

00:43:19,190 --> 00:43:16,160

shamans clash

1072

00:43:21,510 --> 00:43:19,200

in the search for missing children

1073

00:43:23,510 --> 00:43:21,520

shamans from across indonesia flocked to

1074

00:43:24,390 --> 00:43:23,520

their village to perform rituals to find

1075

00:43:26,630 --> 00:43:24,400

them

1076

00:43:29,190 --> 00:43:26,640

but their presence has angered the

1077

00:43:29,990 --> 00:43:29,200

police the local community and local

1078

00:43:32,069 --> 00:43:30,000

shamans

1079

00:43:34,710 --> 00:43:32,079

who say spirits in the area are not

1080

00:43:37,910 --> 00:43:34,720

cooperating because they're unhappy

1081

00:43:41,670 --> 00:43:37,920

well there you go and finally big cat

1082

00:43:44,150 --> 00:43:41,680

mystery in new zealand there have been

1083

00:43:46,309 --> 00:43:44,160

an increased number of sightings of big

1084

00:43:48,470 --> 00:43:46,319

cats in new zealand in recent months

1085

00:43:50,230 --> 00:43:48,480

we have sightings reported in canterbury

1086

00:43:52,550 --> 00:43:50,240

otago southland and

1087

00:43:53,670 --> 00:43:52,560

marlborough and recently in north

1088

00:43:56,710 --> 00:43:53,680

canterbury

1089

00:43:57,030 --> 00:43:56,720

the usual suggestions of animals escaped

1090

00:44:00,589 --> 00:43:57,040

from

1091

00:44:01,750 --> 00:44:00,599

zoos or circuses plus a report that in

1092

00:44:04,390 --> 00:44:01,760

1915

1093

00:44:04,870 --> 00:44:04,400

a ship from america was being unloaded

1094

00:44:07,270 --> 00:44:04,880

at a

1095

00:44:08,870 --> 00:44:07,280

new zealand port with a cargo of animals

1096

00:44:10,550 --> 00:44:08,880

bound for australia

1097

00:44:12,470 --> 00:44:10,560

apparently one of the cages was

1098

00:44:13,430 --> 00:44:12,480

accidentally broken open allowing its

1099

00:44:17,190 --> 00:44:13,440

occupants

1100

00:44:18,870 --> 00:44:17,200

a pregnant female puma to escape

1101

00:44:20,630 --> 00:44:18,880

with local officials making little

1102

00:44:23,990 --> 00:44:20,640

attempt to catch it

1103

00:44:26,790 --> 00:44:24,000

such reports always ignore the caveat

1104

00:44:27,589 --> 00:44:26,800

that it requires more than one animal

1105

00:44:30,150 --> 00:44:27,599

even more

1106

00:44:33,589 --> 00:44:30,160

than one pregnant one to keep a

1107

00:44:37,270 --> 00:44:35,349

and that's just a round up of some of

1108

00:44:39,510 --> 00:44:37,280

the stories in the

1109

00:44:41,270 --> 00:44:39,520

australian skeptics newsletter and you

1110

00:44:42,150 --> 00:44:41,280

can have that delivered to your inbox

1111

00:44:45,750 --> 00:44:42,160

every other week

1112

00:44:51,510 --> 00:44:45,760

just go to www.skeptics.com.edu

1113

00:45:06,309 --> 00:44:51,520

and you can sign up from there

1114

00:45:07,990 --> 00:45:06,319

[Music]

1115

00:45:10,230 --> 00:45:08,000

thank you for listening to the skeptic

1116

00:45:13,349 --> 00:45:10,240

zone and thank you to listener

1117

00:45:17,030 --> 00:45:13,359

william reddick who sent a note

1118

00:45:20,069 --> 00:45:17,040

my way saying that he was quite amused

1119

00:45:20,630 --> 00:45:20,079

listening to abc radio that the 2020

1120

00:45:23,750 --> 00:45:20,640

mind

1121

00:45:25,510 --> 00:45:23,760

body and psychic expo in adelaide was

1122

00:45:28,870 --> 00:45:25,520

cancelled

1123

00:45:31,190 --> 00:45:28,880

due to unforeseen circumstances and

1124

00:45:33,030 --> 00:45:31,200

that has happened quite a lot in the

1125

00:45:35,510 --> 00:45:33,040

year 2020 with psychic

1126

00:45:36,470 --> 00:45:35,520

fairs and expos and shows and and

1127

00:45:38,630 --> 00:45:36,480

whatnot

1128

00:45:41,670 --> 00:45:38,640

famous psychics doing tours which they

1129

00:45:45,190 --> 00:45:41,680

booked in advance in the year 2019

1130

00:45:47,589 --> 00:45:45,200

for 2020. i just can't fathom it

1131

00:45:49,990 --> 00:45:47,599

no i just can't understand how all the

1132

00:45:54,309 --> 00:45:50,000

best psychics in the world

1133

00:45:58,150 --> 00:45:54,319

didn't see 2020

1134

00:45:59,670 --> 00:45:58,160

or what 2020 had in store for us all

1135

00:46:01,270 --> 00:45:59,680

a big shout out to my friends in the

1136

00:46:02,710 --> 00:46:01,280

united states where i know

1137

00:46:05,750 --> 00:46:02,720

things aren't going so well at the

1138

00:46:08,390 --> 00:46:05,760

moment and in the uk and

1139

00:46:10,390 --> 00:46:08,400

europe and well many places around the

1140

00:46:11,750 --> 00:46:10,400

world i'm sad to say

1141

00:46:13,910 --> 00:46:11,760

but thank you to those people who

1142

00:46:16,390 --> 00:46:13,920

nevertheless continue to support the

1143

00:46:19,910 --> 00:46:16,400

skeptic's own patreon or paypal

1144

00:46:20,950 --> 00:46:19,920

by visiting www.skepticzone.tv and

1145

00:46:24,470 --> 00:46:20,960

clicking the

1146

00:46:26,470 --> 00:46:24,480

paypal patreon link and welcome to the

1147

00:46:28,790 --> 00:46:26,480

new patreons just in the last week

1148

00:46:30,230 --> 00:46:28,800

thank you very much i'm going to look

1149

00:46:32,950 --> 00:46:30,240

through and

1150

00:46:35,510 --> 00:46:32,960

see if you've requested i send you a

1151
00:46:36,550 --> 00:46:35,520
special card or a dvd or something like

1152
00:46:39,109 --> 00:46:36,560
that

1153
00:46:40,550 --> 00:46:39,119
but for this week this is richard

1154
00:46:46,630 --> 00:46:40,560
saunders signing off

1155
00:46:49,829 --> 00:46:48,390
you've been listening to the skeptic

1156
00:46:53,069 --> 00:46:49,839
zone podcast

1157
00:46:54,390 --> 00:46:53,079
please visit our website at

1158
00:46:57,510 --> 00:46:54,400
www.skepticzone.tv

1159
00:46:59,510 --> 00:46:57,520
for show notes contacts and to access

1160
00:47:03,030 --> 00:46:59,520
the back catalog of episodes

1161
00:47:05,109 --> 00:47:03,040
going back to 2008. you can follow the

1162
00:47:08,550 --> 00:47:05,119
skepticzone podcast on twitter

1163
00:47:12,069 --> 00:47:08,560

at skepticzone visit our facebook page

1164

00:47:13,510 --> 00:47:12,079

or leave a review on itunes you can also

1165

00:47:16,710 --> 00:47:13,520

support the skeptic zone

1166

00:47:17,430 --> 00:47:16,720

via patreon or paypal the skeptic zone

1167

00:47:20,390 --> 00:47:17,440

podcast

1168

00:47:22,150 --> 00:47:20,400

is an independent production the views

1169

00:47:22,549 --> 00:47:22,160

and opinions expressed on the skeptic

1170

00:47:24,549 --> 00:47:22,559

zone

1171

00:47:26,470 --> 00:47:24,559

are not necessarily those of australian

1172

00:47:40,790 --> 00:47:26,480

skeptics or any other

1173

00:47:44,710 --> 00:47:42,549

hello to the afterthoughts the people

1174

00:47:53,190 --> 00:47:44,720

who listen after the music

1175

00:47:55,190 --> 00:47:53,200

time to open the window

1176

00:47:57,190 --> 00:47:55,200

this is the more relaxed section of the

1177

00:47:57,990 --> 00:47:57,200

show the easter egg that sometimes comes

1178

00:48:01,109 --> 00:47:58,000

along

1179

00:48:01,589 --> 00:48:01,119

where i get to roll and die and you play

1180

00:48:04,069 --> 00:48:01,599

along

1181

00:48:05,270 --> 00:48:04,079

i'm going to roll this six-sided die the

1182

00:48:09,030 --> 00:48:05,280

classic

1183

00:48:11,030 --> 00:48:09,040

three times and when the birds chirp out

1184

00:48:14,549 --> 00:48:11,040

the window

1185

00:48:16,790 --> 00:48:14,559

blimey it's like an avery out there uh

1186

00:48:18,630 --> 00:48:16,800

okay here we go you've got the six sided

1187

00:48:20,309 --> 00:48:18,640

die i'm gonna roll it three times and

1188

00:48:22,309 --> 00:48:20,319

you can use your

1189

00:48:24,309 --> 00:48:22,319

dumb luck predicting power or this plane

1190

00:48:27,670 --> 00:48:24,319

coming now

1191

00:48:30,950 --> 00:48:27,680

another plane to guess the number

1192

00:48:34,460 --> 00:48:30,960

to guess the number all right

1193

00:48:35,829 --> 00:48:34,470

first roll here we go first roll

1194

00:48:39,349 --> 00:48:35,839

[Music]

1195

00:48:43,349 --> 00:48:39,359

and today's first number is susan gerbic

1196

00:48:45,510 --> 00:48:43,359

let's code for five five come up it is

1197

00:48:46,390 --> 00:48:45,520

i'm i'm not kidding you that's number

1198

00:48:57,910 --> 00:48:46,400

five

1199

00:49:02,870 --> 00:48:57,920

last roll of the dice did i the dice

1200

00:49:05,910 --> 00:49:02,880

i think that parrot wants to join in

1201
00:49:08,150 --> 00:49:05,920

oh and my

1202
00:49:10,069 --> 00:49:08,160

alerts went off because i don't know why

1203
00:49:13,589 --> 00:49:10,079

anyway five

1204
00:49:17,030 --> 00:49:13,599

how about that susan it's your lucky day

1205
00:49:19,270 --> 00:49:17,040

almost almost five five five almost

1206
00:49:20,230 --> 00:49:19,280

but honestly today's winning numbers are

1207
00:49:27,349 --> 00:49:20,240

five

1208
00:49:29,430 --> 00:49:27,359

susan gerbic from gorilla skepticism on

1209
00:49:31,750 --> 00:49:29,440

wikipedia

1210
00:49:34,230 --> 00:49:31,760

who helps with the prediction project

1211
00:49:36,309 --> 00:49:34,240

and does weekly quizzes and is

1212
00:49:37,900 --> 00:49:36,319

all around pretty fabulous let's go one

1213
00:49:39,670 --> 00:49:37,910

more one more here we go

1214

00:49:43,270 --> 00:49:39,680

[Music]

1215

00:49:45,270 --> 00:49:43,280

fell off the desk sorry one more here we

1216

00:49:47,990 --> 00:49:45,280

go

1217

00:49:49,109 --> 00:49:48,000

six all right never mind but you did

1218

00:49:52,390 --> 00:49:49,119

pretty well so five

1219

00:49:56,829 --> 00:49:52,400

one five and six

1220

00:49:59,109 --> 00:49:56,839

maybe i can get tim mendum to play next