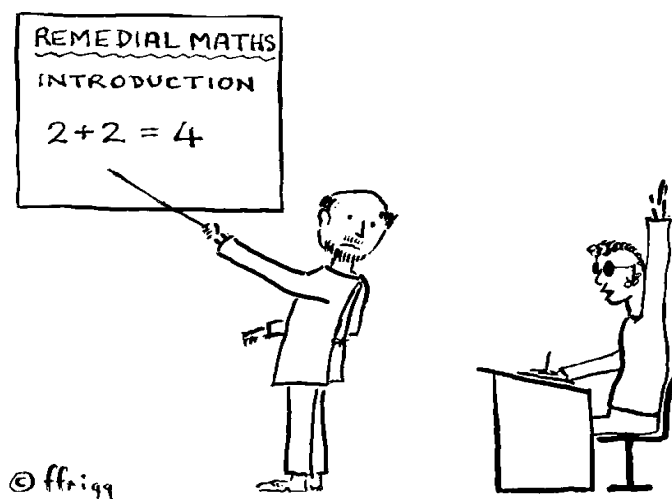


Young Skeptics' Afternoon National Skeptics Convention 2003

CSIRO Discovery Centre, Canberra, Friday 22 August

Canberra Skeptics is holding a Young Skeptics' Afternoon as part of the Australian Science Festival. All school pupils, teachers, parents and individuals are welcome.



Please Dr Griffio – do we need
to know that for the exam?

Seeking the Evidence

Program

- 12.30 Young Skeptics registration
- 1.00 *Welcome and introduction.* Dr Pete Griffith, President, Canberra Skeptics
- 1.10 *Seeing is believing - or is it?* Nicholas J Johnson - Magicians
- 1.35 *How do we know it is really so – was the moon landing faked?*
Peter Barrett, Vice - President, Canberra Skeptics
- 2.00 *The big topics in small bites - cults, telepathy and more.*
Lynne Kelly, Science, Maths and Technology teacher and writer
- 2.45 Tea break
- 3.10 *Blood and guts – the ins and outs of psychic surgery.* Pete Griffith & friends
- 3.35 *Aliens on Mars?* Dr Neal Newman, NASA representative to Australia

4.15 pm Skeptics Cartoon Competition

Selection of winners and award of prizes

All school classes and individuals are welcome.

Registration: \$4 each (\$2 for Double Helix Club Members) by 21st August

Phone Pete Griffith on 6296 4555 or email <igriffit@bigpond.net.au>

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Seeking the Evidence

CSIRO Discovery Centre, Canberra, Friday 22 August

12.30 Registration

1.00 Welcome and introduction.

Dr Pete Griffith, President, Canberra Skeptics

Pete arrived in Oz in 1964 as a PhD scholar at the ANU after a spell at Oxford (Balliol College) reading biochemistry. He taught pharmaceutical microbiology at the Victorian College of Pharmacy for many years before retiring in Canberra after a spell with the Commonwealth Department of Health. His past research interests in human virology, insect pathology, sheep blowfly, drug design, allergies and asthma, have proved valuable for his current interest in exposing quackery in the alternative health industry.

1.10 Seeing is believing - or is it?

Nicholas J Johnson - Magicians

Nick Johnson is an original, innovative and just plain weird entertainer. His sense of humour, extremely quick wit, quick hands and of course, his dashing good looks, will have you spellbound. As a magician he is prepared to break with tradition and tell you how you have been deceived -- but only with tricks already in the textbooks! The funnybones website, especially the time-wasters (which are definitely not for those with a weak heart), is an absolute treat.

1.35 How do we know it is really so – was the moon landing faked?

Peter Barrett, Vice - President, Canberra Skeptics

During work hours, Peter Barrett is a public servant, ensuring that the staff in his department is paid correctly. But he also has a range of interests that keep him occupied out of work. These include wargaming, writing science fiction, dancing and being a member of the Canberra Skeptics. Of course, if you have doubts about this, you're encouraged to check it out for yourself. Since joining the Skeptics, Peter has helped test water diviners, written pamphlets and magazine articles on a number of topics from a Skeptical point of view, given talks to various groups on a range of Skeptical topics, and extensively researched how a Moon landing might be faked.

2.00 The big topics in small bites - cults, telepathy and more.

Lynne Kelly, Science, Maths and Technology teacher and writer

Tangible claims which fail tangible tests, Astrology, the misuse of magic, yowies and gurus, will be subjected to a rash of reason. Every attendee will leave with the psychic ability to move life savers up rubber bands using the power of their minds alone! Lynne Kelly is a maths/science/technology teacher, working both online and in the real world. She is also the author of ten educational titles. Her first novel, Avenging Janie, has just been published for older teenagers and has a decidedly skeptical theme. Her book of scientific explanations for claims of the paranormal, The Great Debunk, will be published early in 2004. Lynne lives in Melbourne with husband and two dogs. <http://www.lynnekelly.com.au> lynnne@lynnekelly.com.au

2.45 Break

3.10 Blood and guts – the ins and outs of psychic surgery.

Pete Griffith & friends

Psychic "surgeons" exploit, usually for a fat fee, the desperate dying from incurable diseases by pretending to remove the diseased tissues/organs from the patient without actually cutting them open. It's all sleight of hand. Come and see how they do it.

3.35 Aliens on Mars?

Neal Newman, NASA representative to Australia

Dr Newman is the Australian and South-East Asia representative of NASA and is permanently based in Canberra. Australia has been involved in the NASA space exploration program since 1958 when the first tracking station was erected at Tidbinbilla. This now constitutes one-third of the NASA Deep Space Network for communicating with spacecraft that are in deep space such as the robotic landers and orbiters due to reach Mars shortly. Among other things, these are designed to answer the question is (or was) there life on Mars.