

Skeptics Dinner Meeting

Saturday November 1, 2008

The Chatswood Club

11 Help St Chatswood

7.00 for 7.30

\$40

Dr Krissy Wilson *On the Nature of Belief*

Dr Krissy Wilson recently emigrated from the UK to take up a position as lecturer in psychology at University of Tasmania. She completed her PhD at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her main areas of interest are the psychology of belief, the unreliable nature of eyewitness testimony, false memories and the impact of belief. She has published articles on these topics in psychology and parapsychology journals

In the UK, Krissy regularly appears on TV and on radio discussing a variety of paranormal subjects and hopes to do much of the same here. At the Hobart Skeptics Convention, Krissy's talk was regarded by many who attended as the Star Turn of the event.

Opinion polls repeatedly remind us that belief in the paranormal is extremely common among the general public and indeed appears to be on the increase. Anomalistic Psychology is the scientific exploration of the psychology of belief and attempts to explain why, despite very little scientific support, so many of us continue to believe in ghosts, mediumship, clairvoyance, and other related psychic phenomena. It would seem that very little evidence is required to convince us that these types of phenomena are real.

This talk will present some examples of how we are all susceptible to self – deception and explore psychological and physiological factors in why people believe in the weird and often not so wonderful. Is there for example, a ‘belief’ personality? Are some of us more prone to believe than others? What can these findings tell us about the human condition? Is it possible that belief might have some adaptive purpose? Dr Wilson will expand on the nature of belief and present some recent findings that suggest that belief itself might have some beneficial properties.

Please note the change of date

RSVP: Wednesday Oct 29

to the on-line shop at www.skeptics.com.au, or email editor@skeptics.com.au,

Ph 9417 2071, Fax 9417 7930 or mail to the address below.

Please advise the number (and names) of any guests you will be bringing along.

Australian Skeptics Dinner

PO Box 268

Roseville NSW 2069

Please reserve me [] places at the November 1 Dinner @ \$40 each.

Cheque/MO/Card details enclosed

Name: _____

Contact No: _____

Guests' Names: _____

Card details (MasterCard or Visa)

Name: _____

Expiry Date _____ / _____

Card No: _____ / _____ / _____

Amount \$ _____