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## **2005 Australian Skeptics Bent Spoon Award announced**

Every year since 1982, Australian Skeptics has awarded the prestigious Bent Spoon Trophy to the organisation or person who has been deemed to have been the “perpetrator of the most preposterous piece of paranormal or pseudoscientific piffle” in Australia during the preceding twelve months



As this award was designed to rival the Nobels, the Miles Franklins, the Oscars and the Ernies in its impact on public awareness, hardly any expense was spared in the construction of the trophy. A piece of timber, which we had no reason to doubt was an off cut of gopher wood from the Ark construction site, was polished to a high gloss and thereupon was affixed a spoon, which, rumour suggests, may have been used at the Last Supper. The spoon, having been tastefully bent into a graceful curve, by energies that are, we suspect, unknown to science, is plated with gold by means of a deposition process long thought lost with the submergence of Atlantis.

Previous winners have included Jasmuheen, the lady who lives only on light, the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia, Australia’s best-ever touring car driver, Peter Brock, the producers of the ABC television series “The New Inventors”, and journalist Mike Willessee (the only person to be honoured with both a Bent Spoon Award and a Skeptical Journalism prize, although not in the same year).

In 2005, Australian Skeptics is both proud and saddened to announce that the winner is yet another ABC television series, Second Opinion. Each week this show presents an uncritical (and even encouraging) look at an aspect of alternative medicine, usually at the less scientific and more quacky end of the spectrum. It is significant to note that the program received the highest number of Bent Spoon nominations since the award was instigated.

As is the usual practice, the winners have been notified by telepathy and are invited to collect their trophy by paranormal means.

For more information please contact Barry Williams  
editor@skeptics.com.au  
(02) 9417 2071  
www.skeptics.com.au