

10-18 AUGUST 2013
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WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING
THIS NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK?



AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Encouraging critical thinking

Sceptics hold session on rational decision-making

PREPARE to face the dragons. A guide to critical thinking will be presented by the Launceston Sceptics as part of National Science Week.

The sceptics will show a free 40-minute documentary by science journalist Brian Dunning that seeks to expose common misconceptions and pseudoscience.

Here Be Dragons: An Introduction to Critical Thinking, explores modern-day dragons such as 9-11 conspiracies, spiritual healing and the perception of pseudoscience in the mass media.

The presentation will be held from 6pm to 7pm on Friday, August 16, at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery's Inveresk Nuala O'Flaherty auditorium.

Launceston Sceptics president Jin-oh Choi said the video would highlight the importance of logical thought.

"The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission reported that Australians lost \$93 million in 2012 to scams," Mr Choi said.

FAST FACTS

- WHAT:** Here Be Dragons: An Introduction to Critical Thinking.
- WHERE:** Nuala O'Flaherty Auditorium, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.
- WHEN:** 6pm to 7pm Friday, August 16.
- WHAT:** Extraordinary Claims Require Extraordinary Evidence.
- WHERE:** Brisbane Street Mall, Launceston.
- WHEN:** 11am to 3pm, Wednesday, August 14, and Saturday, August 17.

"The film is a gentle introduction to critical thinking and hopes to educate people to make rational decisions based on evidence. As we all have a natural need to believe things.

"We believe this is especially important when dealing with health, a field in which there are a large number of unqualified people claiming to be able to improve health with untested, implausible and sometimes expensive therapies.

"This can be particularly dangerous if people forgo proper



Launceston Sceptics president Jin-oh Choi is helping to educate people on making rational decisions based on evidence.

QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED

As part of National Science week the Launceston Sceptics ask:

- Are non-scientific alternatives better than healthcare?
- What is pseudoscience?
- Can you recognise good marketing from the bad?
- How does cognitive phenomena influence your perception on reality?

medical treatment for unproven alternative therapies."

The Launceston Sceptics will also hold two displays in Brisbane Street Mall from 11am to 3pm, Wednesday, August 14, and Saturday, August 17.