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The AIPR Mini-Conference 2017 by Camilla Whaitiri (pp. 1-2). Sydney psychic consultant and spiritual advisor, Camilla Whaitiri, gives a full report on the 4th AIPR ‘Mini-Con’, held on December 2, 2017, at the North Sydney Community Centre, Sydney, NSW.

Radio Interview on ABC Nightlife Radio by Joy Bok (pp. 2-4). On Saturday July 22, 2017, Psychologist Joy Bok was interviewed on ABC Nightlife Radio as part of a panel of speakers chaired by Sarah McDonald. On the topic of all things parapsychological, Joy tells of her harrowing experiences navigating the heady waters of her very first radio interview.

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The AIPR Mini-Con 2017, held at the North Sydney Community Centre, December 2nd, was advertised as “Four Lectures on ‘Otherreal’ Experiences”, and was chaired by Dr. Vladimir Dubaj, a paranormal investigator from Melbourne, Victoria. Dr. Tony Jinks, psychologist at Western Sydney University, coined the term ‘otherreal’, and he started proceedings with a lecture titled, ‘The Otherreal: Reality, Altered States of Consciousness, and Paranormal Experience’.

Dr. Jinks’s talk provided an overview of reality and altered states of consciousness (ASCs). He discussed how analogies may assist our understanding of ‘otherreal’ experiences.

Dr. Jinks did well, though he lost me a couple of times. I can see what he was trying to do, and appreciate how difficult it is to ‘hone down’ one’s many findings and present them in a short space of 50 minutes.

Mr. John Dixon, also a paranormal investigator, followed Dr. Jinks with a lecture titled ‘Poltergeists vs. Haunts: What’s the Difference?’ From his own experience working in a haunted bar in Sydney, NSW, Dixon asked whether haunting cases and poltergeist cases could be differentiated statistically.

John Dixon was great. I enjoyed his talk a lot and appreciated the humour in delivering his information.

Not advertised, and apparently a late addition to the programme, we had a brief outline on reincarnation research from Dr. Terry Olesen, who is the Australian representative of the Reincarnation Research Foundation in San Francisco, California.

Good on Terry for pushing his case, but personally, I thought it was very old information, though I suppose it may have been new for some people in the audience. However, I’m not sure what he was trying to achieve in only 10 minutes. Apparently, he made a special request to present, so the mini-con organisers gave him as much time as they could afford. I made eye contact with Dr. Olesen a few times, and I know he was trying to bring something forward, but he seemed awkward about it, or maybe he just felt rushed.

Dr. John Diamond (psychiatrist, healer, therapist, and author), gave a lecture called ‘A Doctor in Two Worlds: My Spiritual Project with Psychic Medium Owen Potts’, about his experiences with British medium Owen Potts.

Dr. Diamond’s talk was like a fire-side chat. That was ok. He was sitting next to me in the aisle, so I had it lined up to talk to him after the conference. However, his wife Susan jumped in to deal with most of my questions.

Dr. Diamond has done an incredible amount of study and work on various psychological and spiritual matters, and made a great contribution, but I observed that he’d go back to the same premise quite often in his talk—I put that down to the fact that he did not use PowerPoint slides to guide him like the other presenters did.

Interestingly, Dr. Diamond raised the issue of free will (he doesn’t believe in it); I have reached the same conclusion. However, he expressed a readiness to leave ‘this world’. I never got a chance to ask him, whilst there is only one way spiritually, ‘What about being human’, which after all is why we are.

Finally, Mr. Attila Kaldy, paranormal investigator and film-maker based in Sydney, NSW, presented his experiences in a talk called ‘The Search for Australia’s Big-foot: The Yowie’. For those who don’t know, the Yowie is Australia’s
**At My Desk**

The AIPR Mini-Con 2017 was a huge success and, I have to admit, it was quite by chance that it was “themed” around the concept of the ‘Otherreal’ (Dr. Tony Jinks’s term). While it does simplify my task promotion-wise, AIPR’s aim is not to set up AIPR Mini-Cons as if they could be a substitute for symposia, which have a common theme, but if the shoe fits from time to time, so be it. Long story short, Tony’s lecture on the Otherreal accorded itself quite well with the other presentations, and perhaps Attila Kady’s presentation was a natural culmination of the theme started by Tony, that progressed through John Dixon’s poltergeist-haunt talk, and John Diamond’s mediumistic experiences. I’ll give special attention to Yowie/Bigfoot-type phenomena because they represent the ultimate in ‘otherreal’. Ranging from Lloyd Pye’s literal interpretations, to Jungian psychological manifestations (which can be applied to UFOs and ET visitation too), we are in more than a quandary, for although we have these two main theoretical approaches, there’s so much psychophysical cross-over that we almost need a third way, as seems to be the case with quantum anomalies (check out physicist Tom Campbell on Youtube for examples). A spanner in the works courtesy of yours truly? You bet! But such phenomena are not called paranormal for nothing. **Ψ**

Got something to say about parapsychology or the paranormal? Submit your contribution to:

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or e-mail me at:

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Enjoy this edition of The A.I.P.R. News!

— Lance Storm

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**The AIPR Mini-Conference 2017 (cont’d) by Camilla Whaitiri**

equivalent to the North American Bigfoot. I liked Attila too. I have a friend who is a Yowie hunter, so I was avidly taking notes during Attila’s talk to share with my friend later.

Funnily enough, when I spotted Attila for the first time entering the community centre, my first thought was, that’s the Yowie researcher—maybe there’s a Yowie-researcher look.

I have another friend who lives at Springbrook, Queensland, where there is a museum on top of the mountain dedicated to Yowie sightings. She told me there are 14 waterfalls in that area which seem to have something to do with the Yowie’s presence there.

I must say too, I’ve only stayed with her once up there, but it is not easy getting to sleep there—you certainly feel you’re not alone, even when the plan is to be alone.

What really made the difference this year was the food and beverages provided on site; fortunate for everyone because it rained constantly throughout the afternoon (so no one had to risk getting wet searching for a café), but more so because it meant people didn’t disperse as they did at previous mini-cons. Also, it created a relaxing space for people to meet and mingle.

To cut a long story short, I think having refreshments on site will prove to be beneficial to the gathering—I am told it will be part of future mini-cons—but because of that chance to mingle, I came away with business cards for the first time, and I’m sure that no matter how slight the connection is, it can only be a good thing that we have connected, recognised our common interests, and supported the collective move toward consciousness development.

Overall, the conference went well. The speakers were interesting, just as I’ve found in the previous two years I’ve attended.

**Author Note: Camilla Whaitiri** has studied the paranormal, and practiced her psychic skills since childhood. She currently works as a psychic consultant and spiritual advisor in The Rocks, Sydney, where she has been for 18 years. She has been reading Tarot cards professionally for over 25 years.

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**Radio Interview on ABC Nightlife Radio by Joy Bok**

**Being Interviewed Live** and having your voice broadcast nationwide can be a very daunting experience for a first-timer! This is an account of my virginal experience of a brief brush with a conventional media organisation interviewing me giving a psychological perspective on Extra Sensory Perception (ESP) abilities of characters in popular media culture.

I was contacted by ABC Nightlife Radio and asked if I would be interested in taking part in an interview with a panel of speakers hosted by Sarah McDonald on Saturday July 22nd at 10:00pm. The panel consisted of a movie director in Sydney, and an author in the UK. They had seen that I had chaired the AIPR Mini-Conference 2016, and must have thought I would be a good candidate to talk about ESP from a psychological perspective. The topic was on Popular Culture and the Media, prompted by the rising popularity of TV series like Sense 8 (Netflix). They would also talk about other movies, books and TV shows with characters showing ESP abilities.

I myself, had never seen Sense 8, but the concept of eight people from different parts of the world who were connected psychically sounded very intriguing!

I had never done a live radio show with a well-known and conventional organisation before and thus, felt very nervous at the idea of people all over Australia hearing what I had to say. I reassured myself that it can only be a good thing that we have connected, recognised our common interests, and supported the collective move toward consciousness development.

The spacious building with minimal furniture was manned by two people at reception. There was no one else around in this very quiet building. I had brought my partner with me for support and we made our way upstairs.

We couldn’t see anyone until I peered in the window of the radio room and saw one man there. I didn’t want to disturb him. We just sat quietly in anticipation. He eventually came out and let us into the radio room.

The room was small, dark and had a very large microphone.
Radio Interview on ABC Nightlife Radio (cont’d) by Joy Bok

Again, the room was very Spartan with hardly any furniture or objects.

The moment had come and all the deep breathing and affirmations went out the window! The nerves took a life of their own.

A voice came over the headphones, greeting me from Sydney. She counted down. I thought about the questions that were given beforehand. At least I had time to prepare my answers, or so I thought!

3, 2, 1 ... and I was live on air! The music and introduction came in. My heart was beating fast. Sarah’s first question to me or rather a statement, was that in Psychology, there was no evidence of ESP and that it does not exist!

Hang on, that question wasn’t on the list given to me! In fact, none of the questions that were given to me beforehand were asked! Oh, breath slowly, think quick! I responded by saying that perhaps Western mainstream Psychology stated that there’s no experience, but there is a branch of Psychology called Parapsychology which has done numerous research and experiments and had shown that there is evidence of ESP. Well, something to this effect anyway as I felt that I had not said it quite as coherently as that and with a lot of ‘ums’ and ‘arrhs.’

Sarah McDonald sounded surprised and asked about the research and was there really evidence. I proceeded to talk about J. B. Rhine’s research because I thought that was what was most well known. I also mentioned the meta-analysis of the numerous research done showing positive results. I then mentioned that some of my clients had told me of their ESP experiences.

She then emphasised, “Every client? Every client?”Oops, did I say ‘every client’? I quickly retracted and said “most” clients and that it doesn’t have to be something “big.” It could be as simple as thinking about someone and then that person rings. I continued to say that it could be an innate ability that we all could develop. The movie director then mentioned ESP being an “innate ability,” which may be why we are so fascinated in the subject. Sarah, however, appeared more sceptical.

Then there were the breaks when Sarah was talking to the other two guests. I was distracted by my partner who was giving me signals and mouthing silent words which I could not comprehend. He found the “cough” button and suggested some things to say. However, that just made me more nervous.

Sarah then came back to me and asked me what the research said about the difference between men and women. I didn’t know of the research between the genders, but gave my opinion from my experience that women show more ESP abilities and it could be because women are more in touch with their feelings and intuitions, especially being mothers. Often, they would have developed some (telepathic) connection with their babies. I also mentioned something about twins which Sarah seemed to like.

I was being asked questions about research, and since I wasn’t an academic, I didn’t feel confident to answer them properly. I mentioned that I was a member of the AIPR but I wasn’t an academic. I really wanted to mention more about the AIPR for listeners who were interested in finding out more and about the annual mini-conference. However, I felt pressured for time and Sarah took the lead to keep the answer time short and sharp.

When they talked about Sense 8, I managed to utter something about Jung’s collective unconscious as one theory to explain our connectedness. However, I felt rushed and didn’t feel like I had enough space to explore this further.

Then in the final moments, Sarah asked me if I had a book I could recommend about telepathy. I had a book in mind to recommend called ‘Psychic Warrior’ by David Morehouse about his career as a CIA spy in remote viewing. However, I said “No, I don’t have a book in mind.” Duh! I was kicking myself as to why I didn’t mention that book.

The interview ended promptly. I felt like I was taken for a ride, but there was no destination. Perhaps it was because there was so much more I wanted to say and I wasn’t able to say them. I was being guided to talk about certain points rather than it being left open for me to talk about the depth of the subject and my experiences.

I felt like I was just representing the mainstream ‘psychologist’ view rather than my experiences in private practice of clients who had experienced ESP. There was also no interest in me as a person. Then there was the unpreparedness of the questions asked, as they were not the ones given to me beforehand.

We walked out of the room and waved “goodbye” to the man in the other room, but I don’t know if he saw us. I looked to my partner for feedback. He reassured me that it sounded better than I thought. I was worried that my nervoussness was too obvious. I couldn’t sleep that night. Later, my friends who managed to listen to it told me it was coherent and that they enjoyed it.

Would I do it again? If you had asked me that night, I wouldn’t have said yes. I might have, but not now. Anyhow, I will be back on ABC Nightlife Radio soon.
would have said “No way!” But now, I would say, “Yes, definitely!”

It was an experience, and perhaps I would be a little more relaxed next time and just go with the flow, knowing you can never really prepare for it. I feel very appreciative of the opportunity for this experience.

What would my advice be for others in the same situation? Just to be prepared, but also be prepared for the unexpected, to be spontaneous, not to take it so seriously, and to remember that we are our own worst critics. I would say have fun; say whatever is on the edge of your mind at the time and just be yourself.

I would like to thank Lance Storm and Robb Tilley for their advice too!

**Author Note:** Joy Bok is a psychologist and clinical hypnotherapist. She has extensive experience in the mental health, education and community sectors. Ms. Bok has an active interest in parapsychology, and is a committee member of the AIPR.

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**Quid Nunc by Hannah Jenkins**

This is it—my final column. I fly off to Japan this afternoon (Sunday March 11th), and I am squeezing in the column write-up before I go.

That’s the main reason I’ve decided this has got to be the last one.

For me, the study of psi and contributions to the academic field of inquiry all have to be taken on outside of another career that pays a wage.

I know I am not alone in this, but I have finally reached a point where I don’t want to be constantly wondering how I am going to get time for it on top of all of my other non-negotiable obligations.

I started this column ten years ago almost to the day. During that time I’ve tracked my progress through this column. It is clear that I’ve failed to achieve what I thought I would in the decade between the first and this last one.

But I have had some small successes along the way, so I’d rather focus on these:

- I have received and successfully managed funds for two research projects.
- I’ve hosted a radio show for close to 10 years that provided a forum for discussing paranormal events without fear of favour.
- I’ve attended conferences and made some significant professional connections with people I admire.
- I’ve reviewed books, papers and theses and felt like a contributor to the ongoing attempts to explain what I still think is one of the most challenging and exciting aspects of our existence: psi.

I do feel that the work that the psi research academic community does is important. But I have felt for a long time that there are a lot of people talking and not many listening, especially outside of our community.

That is why I have decided to turn my attention to projects that aim to show how psi can be used successfully to solve real-world problems. I am hoping it may garner more attention this way.

I will develop ideas that I gained thanks to the Cardigan Fund which helped bring a project to completion last year.

The aim was to predict a binary choice future event successfully (above chance) over time (6 months) with the aim of getting 70%-80% correct. It was deliberately not a statistics-based, long-run experiment.

It was created to be agile and adaptive to the feedback of the participants as we worked together to develop a protocol using a mixture of bio-feedback and remote viewing protocols.

Happy to report that it worked! And far exceeded even my optimistic anticipations (we did get around 70% of the choices correct).

It was a massive effort and learning experience for all involved, but worth it.

So, though I am closing on a slightly sad note when I look back at what I had hoped to achieve 10 years ago (a career in parapsychology) I feel ok about it and optimistic about what might lie ahead when I can focus on applying psi for the sake of it.

I hope to be able to share my new adventures with psi before too long in another yet to be determined forum.

Thanks to all readers who have taken an interest in this column and to the AIPR for providing the space for it in the bulletin.

**Author Note:** Hannah Jenkins is the founder and director of QIPP (Quality Investigative Psi Projects) which is a research institute dedicated to discovering how to apply and explain psi.

QIPP is a self-funded institute able to support a small cross-disciplinary team of researchers.

QIPP is located in Hobart, Australia.

More information here:

www.qipp.com.au