

BtN: Episode 2 Transcript 11/2/14

On this week's Behind the News

- Find out why some people reckon Australia needs to change its rule book.
- Get on your bike with some kids who are learning to take on traffic safely.
- Or if a broomstick is more your style join Matt for a quick game of Quidditch.

We'll have those stories and more coming up soon. But first let's take a look at some of the biggest stories in Australia right now. Here's Emma.

The Wire

Fire fighters across Victoria have spent the weekend battling blazes which have already destroyed 20 homes. Thousands of people were evacuated across the state as extreme heat and strong winds made for the worst fire conditions since the Black Saturday fires in 2009.

South Australia also had some bushfires on the weekend including a big one which is still burning in the Flinders Ranges. So far it's scorched around 30,000 hectares and is threatening towns. And with the weather set to heat up again this week, people are being told to put their fire plans into action.

Over the past week you might have heard a lot about Schapelle Corby. She's an Australian who was arrested for smuggling illegal drugs into Bali in Indonesia back in 2005. It was a huge news story back then and lots of people have been following her case ever since. Schapelle was sentenced to 20 years in jail. But last week Indonesian authorities gave her permission to leave jail as long as she reports to authorities in Bali once a month and stays away from drugs.

Back South Australia there was a fatal shark attack on Sunday. A 28-year-old high school teacher was killed while spear-fishing with his friends. It's the first fatal attack in the state since 2011.

Olympic Security

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: The other big story of the week was the start of the Winter Olympic Games in the Russian city of Sochi. Heaps of people are over there to cheer on the athletes. But some reckon crowds are down a bit this year because people are worried about security in Russia. Matt finds out why the country's history has sometimes made it a target.

MATTHEW HOLBROOK, REPORTER: If you're a winter sports fan, you've probably been counting down the days to the Olympics. You might have even been dreaming of packing your beanie and earmuffs, and heading off to Russia.

But a look at Australia's travel website might make you think twice.

VOICE OVER: Exercise a high degree of caution. Do not travel. Terrorist activity. Criminal activity.

It seems like Russia's not the safest place to be right now. So is it still OK to go? Well, it hasn't stopped lots of other people from making the journey to Sochi to enjoy the games.

Australia's athletes have arrived. And while they're excited to compete, not all of them are completely relaxed.

SCOTTY: I kind of made the decision with my family that they weren't going to come this time, cause obviously I didn't want to be riding the whole time hoping that my family were gonna be safe.

Scotty's nineteen, this is his second Olympics. But it'll be his first without his parents watching on the sidelines. So is there really a danger? What's there to be worried about?

Let's take a look at Russia. Yep, it's a big place. And the games are going on here in the city of Sochi. Just near Sochi, is a region called North Caucasus. It's known for its spectacular mountains, and it's seen as the border between Russia and Asia. But it's also been the site of a lot of violence over the years.

Much of it has centred on this place called Chechnya. Chechnya has its own history, culture, and beliefs, and even its own language. Back in the nineties, there was a war between Russia and Chechnya over its independence. Tens of thousands of people were killed. Chechnya remained a part of Russia, but the violence never really stopped. Many were angry at the way the Chechen people were treated. In response, terrorists have attacked innocent people in Russia. In the past couple of months

thirty four people died in two deadly attacks, and terrorists have threatened to target the games.

Some say the games should never have been held here, like Scotty's parents.

SCOTTY'S DAD: Why would you put your Olympic Games in an area that's had conflict for hundreds and hundreds of years?

But Russia says it's spent so much on security that these will be the safest games ever. A huge amount of security has been put in around Sochi. President, Vladimir Putin has called it his "ring of steel".

He's got drones, missiles, and even patrol boats on the coast! Not to mention soldiers, police, and secret agents. All up, more than fifty thousand people whose job it is to protect Sochi.

The athletes are taking precautions, too. Australia's Olympic team has even been banned from leaving the Olympic zone. Everyone's being really careful and hoping these games will be remembered for all the right reasons.

Fighting Cancer

Reporter: Rebecca Opie

INTRO: Cancer is a disease which affects millions of Aussies in one way or another. Last week we found out that it's overtaken heart disease as the country's biggest killer. So what is cancer? How do you get it and what can be done to treat it? Bec finds out more.

REBECCA OPIE, REPORTER: Down here at the beach, doing what he loves, life's pretty good for Adam right now.

Adam: I also like, love the feeling of just the beach and the sand, and the water and everything; it's just amazing, especially down here where it's always perfect.

But things haven't always been so easy for Adam. He's had leukaemia three times.

Adam: I was 18 months old when I got my first, when I was diagnosed with leukaemia first up, and then I was six years old, or just before six years old, when I got diagnosed a second time and I was 10 when I got diagnosed the third time.

Leukaemia is one of many different types of cancer which can affect different parts of the body. In fact, the only body parts that can't get cancer are hair, teeth and nails.

But what exactly causes it? You can't catch it from anyone and it isn't caused by germs. When it comes to cancer, it's all about cells.

Our bodies are made up of trillions of cells.

Normal, healthy cells are programmed to grow, divide, and eventually die.

It's all part of a normal cell cycle and it's how we grow and stay healthy.

Cancer happens when something goes wrong in a cell's programming and it doesn't know when to die.

It keeps dividing and crowds out the healthy cells.

These bad cells can clump together to form a tumour or they can break away, get in the blood stream and spread to other parts of the body.

Adam had a type of cancer which affected his white blood cells the ones whose job it is to defend our body from diseases.

Adam: I had bone marrow leukaemia, so there was something wrong with my bone marrow, it didn't bring out all the white cells that a normal human body would, so I was actually defenceless.

Adam certainly isn't alone. In Australia more than 100,000 people are diagnosed each year with some sort of cancer and that's on the rise.

Scientists aren't sure what causes every type of cancer but there are some things that can increase your risk like; smoking, getting too many harmful sun rays or living an unhealthy lifestyle.

The good news is there are now many ways of treating cancer. To help his body fight the leukaemia, Adam was given chemotherapy. That works by using chemicals to kill off cancerous cells. The trouble is some healthy cells can also be affected.

Adam: It makes you lose your hair and it makes you feel yuck and all that kind of stuff.

When the cancer came back, Adam had an operation to give him new bone marrow. It was a success and now there's no sign of cancer.

Adam: I felt pretty happy but it's always kind of daunting, in the back of your mind, you don't really know until a good period of time has gone by that you start thinking positive thoughts. We do think positive thoughts but sometimes it's just still really hard to think that I'm not going to get it again.

For other people living with cancer, Adam has this message.

Adam: Just keep fighting, don't lose hope otherwise, you know, you will lose, it's all about trust and friendships and keeping hope.

Quiz 1

The human body's a pretty amazing thing so let's see how much you know about it.

The question is:

Which blood cells are responsible for carrying oxygen through your body?

Are they

White Blood Cells?

Red Blood Cells?

or Platelets?

Answer:

Red Blood Cells.

White blood cells help to protect you against diseases and platelets help your blood clot so, if you cut yourself, you stop bleeding.

Constitution

Reporter: Sarah Larsen

INTRO: Now to some comments the Prime Minister made recently about it being time to think about changing the constitution. You might think - no big deal, right? I mean politicians are always talking about changing laws. But the constitution is a bit more important than that. Let's have a look at what it is and why some people reckon it needs a bit of a tweak. And a warning to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers this story contains images of people who have died.

SARAH LARSEN, REPORTER: So you want to form a club? Well, first you'll need members. You might want a leader to help things run smoothly. You'll want a place to meet. What else do you need? How about something that says what your club stands for? A set of rules that can never be broken, no matter who the leader is. Something that defines you as a club. For that, you'll want a constitution.

If you think about it, Australia is a little bit like a club with 22 million members. It's got a leader, I guess you could call this a clubhouse of sorts, and like many clubs, Australia has a constitution.

REPORTER: This might not look like much but it's the most important legal document in the whole country. The constitution sets out just Australia works. How the government's put together, how the courts work, how the states work and what the government can and can't do.

No other law can over-rule the constitution and everyone has to obey it, including these guys and these guys.

Australia's constitution was drawn up in the 1890s, as leaders of the colonies were preparing to make Australia a nation. It was the first in the world to be voted in by ordinary people.

But it didn't treat all Australians the same. Even though Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had lived on the continent for more than 40,000 years before the constitution was drawn up, it said they weren't to be counted with the rest of Australian citizens and they couldn't be included in new Australian laws.

It stayed that way until 1967 when Australia had a referendum. A referendum where everyone over 18 votes; bit like an election, except instead of voting for people you vote on a change to the constitution. And you can only vote yes or no.

For a change to happen, you need a yes vote from more than half of the voters. But that alone isn't enough. You also need yes votes from more than half of the people in more than half of the states. It's not easy for a yes vote to win but in 1967 it did. Australians voted to get rid of two lines of the constitution which discriminated against Aboriginal people. It was seen as a big victory for equality in Australia. But some say it wasn't enough.

REPORTER: This isn't just a book of rules for Australia. It's seen by many as the country's birth certificate: A statement of its values agreed upon by all of its citizens.

But Australia's constitution doesn't recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the nation's first people and the Constitution still lets governments make laws which discriminate based on race. And for many years there's been push to change that.

It wouldn't be easy. We'd need another referendum. That would be expensive and it might not work. Not everyone agrees that changing the constitution is the best way to bring Australians together. But many say it's time to have a proper debate on the issue. They say it's important to have a constitution that everyone is happy with, so Australia can be a club that people are proud to belong to.

Safe Cycling

Reporter: Rebecca Opie

INTRO: Bike riding can be a lot of fun and it's great exercise too! But a recent study has shown that lots of Aussie kids aren't cycling because they don't feel confident riding in traffic. Bec found out about a program that's hoping to get more kids on their bikes by teaching them how to stay safe on the road.

REBECCA OPIE, REPORTER: With your own set of wheels, you can take on the world! Get to and from school and go on adventures! When you're younger you can cycle on the safety of the footpath but eventually you might have to make your way onto the road.

In four Aussie states kids over the age of 12 have to ride either on cycle paths or on the road. That can be scary and some are worried it's stopping people from using their bikes.

A recent study shows 70 per cent of parents don't let their kids ride their bikes to school because they're worried about their safety. That means lots of kids are being driven to school instead which means more cars on the road and less exercise.

BEC: These guys are learning everything they need to know from a bike safety program, that way they'll know exactly what to do when they're out on the roads.

During the first few weeks of the program, they learn how to check their bike to make sure it's safe to ride.

KID 1: "You have to check your air, your brakes, your chain and you have to drop it to make sure the wheels don't come undone."

And they learn important road skills like scanning.

KID 2: "That means to check if there's any cars coming behind you and you've got to scan behind your right shoulder"

KID 2: "It's easy except sometimes I get scared because I think I'm going to turn into the other way and turn into the cars."

Then it's time to hit the road and put all their new skills into action.

KID 3: "We've been learning how to cross roundabouts, do left turns, right turns, signals, passing cars."

Not only have they learned new skills the kids say their nerves are gone!

KID 3: "It was the cars and I wasn't very confident about looking over my shoulder but Bike Ed gave me the confidence"

Well, some would like to see a national program to teach road safety to all Aussie kids.

KAY, BIKE SA: "It would be great for all children to have bike education of some sort, whether it's their parents delivering that information or in schools, it would be fantastic for children and adults to receive that education, all we want is more people on bikes, more children on bikes, it's fun, it keeps you fit and it's a great way to get about."

So what about these guys, will knowing what to do on the road get them on their bikes more often?

KID 3: "Yes definitely"

KID 5: "I reckon I'll ride my bike to school more often."

KID 1: "I feel safer, knowing how to ride on the road properly."

With new skills and confidence, they're all geared up for fun, fitness and adventures!

Online Poll

So how do you guys feel about riding in traffic?

We thought we'd make that our poll for this week

The question is:

Do you feel confident riding your bike on the road?

To vote just head to our website.

Last week we asked Aussie kids whether they thought sharks should be culled and it looks like most of you are on the sharks' side!

89 percent said they shouldn't be culled

While 11 per cent said they should.

Right, time to check out some sports news. Here Emma with the score!

The Score

Winter sports were big in the news last week as the Sochi Olympic Games kicked off. Australia's Torah Bright is one of our best hopes of winning a medal. So far she's come seventh in the women's snowboard slopestyle final. But not to worry, her best event's still ahead the halfpipe!

Australia's got some other big hopefuls, too, including Russ Henshaw in slopestyle skiing and snowboard cross world champion, Alex Pullin.

In tennis, Australia's shot through to the semi finals of the Federation Cup thrashing Russia four to zip.

“Australia makes it a clean sweep of Russia.”

The Fed Cup's the biggest team tournament in women's tennis. And it's the first time Australia's made it through to the semis in more than twenty years!

How's this for an extreme sport? It's called Flyboarding. And it used water jets to throw you into the air and under the waves. It was invented in 2011 and since then a growing number of fans have taken on the ups and downs of the flyboard.

Quiz 2

Speaking of sports here's a quiz on a game you might have heard of.

The question is:

In the game of Quidditch, which ball do beaters use?

Is it a snitch?

A quaffle?

Or a bludger?

Answer:

Bludger

Quidditch

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Of course, Quidditch is the magical game played on flying broomsticks by the characters of Harry Potter the books by JK Rowling. As in, it's made up! But try telling that to the growing numbers of Muggles whose lack of magical powers won't keep them off a broomstick. Here's Matt.

MATTHEW HOLBROOK, REPORTER: Presenting the star seeker for Gryffindor, Matt Holbrook! Well, I can dream, right? It's a dream Harry Potter fans the world over have shared, to play the wizarding game of Quidditch.

And while you may not be able to fly around, you can still give Quidditch a go. Well, the "muggle" version, anyway.

BRODIE: It's a really different sport, but it combines a few different sports. Mostly it's a bunch of fun, we get to hang out and throw a ball around with the broomsticks.

These guys are all pretty comfortable on a broomstick. There are the chasers, Kirsty, Alison, and Hayley. The beaters; Sarah and Brett. The keeper; Brodie. And finally, the seeker; Sarah. Together, they're the Flinders Phoenixes!

Quidditch is played between two teams of seven players. The idea, score as many points as you can through the opposing team's goals.

It's up to the chasers to throw the ball, called the Quaffle, through the goals. Meanwhile, the beaters try to stop them by throwing balls, called bludgers. The keeper defends the goals. And finally, there's the seeker. It's their job to find the golden snitch. When the snitch is caught, the game ends.

KIRSTY: Quidditch is pretty much three different games playing at once. Chasers like me are playing a cross rugby, handball, netballish kind of thing. Beaters play dodgeball, knock each other out; and the seekers run around playing hide and seek with the snitch.

In the movies, the golden snitch looks like this. But in muggle Quidditch.

MATT: I'm the snitch, so I'm a ball, and I have this in my pants. The idea is that someone just has to take it from me. I clearly don't want that to happen because this means a lot to me, so I have to run around like a maniac and avoid capture. Is that it?

BRODIE: That's it!

While it's clearly very different to the magical version. One thing is the same: you still need a good broomstick.

BRODIE: The whole point of the broomsticks is just a legacy to the Harry Potter books themselves. The rules are very different, but the brooms are just a throwback to the movies. Throughout the game you have to keep the brooms between your legs. If you dismount from the broomstick at any point you have to go back and touch the goals before you continue playing.

REFEREE: Red team ready? Blue team ready? The snitch is released.

I can go pretty much anywhere, but once they catch up to me, I'm doomed! And with the sock captured the game ends with thirty points awarded to the team who caught me.

MATT: I think I may have been a failed snitch. I didn't last very long, but I did help one of the teams win the game, so I suppose that's important?

Quidditch hasn't been around that long, less than ten years, but it's getting bigger all the time. There's now even an Australian league and international events!

So if you've always dreamed of being a star of the Quidditch pitch, here's your chance to pick up a broom and follow in Harry's footsteps!

Closer

I think Matt might have had a little bit too much fun there!

Well that's it for BtN this week. Nathan will be back next Tuesday for another episode. And in the meantime if you need an extra fix you can jump onto the website. It's at abc.net.au/btn and it's full of stories, activities and resources for kids and teachers.

I'm Sarah Larsen and I'll see you later!